



Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report
JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2019

Prepared by
The Rogers Community Development Block Grant Office

For Submission to
The Department of Housing and Urban Development

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

Program Year 2019 is the second year of the current Five Year Consolidated Plan (2018-2022). Communities develop their own programs and funding priorities based on local needs using Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) established guidelines to define projects/activities that may be undertaken to ensure each project/activity meets one of the national objectives of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This report to HUD describes the use of Federal CDBG funds during this Program Year. The City of Rogers received \$459,576 in CDBG funding in Program Year 2019.

Housing rehabilitation continues to be a focus for using CDBG grant money to meet the City's housing goal of decent housing and objective of benefiting low and moderate income persons by improving the quality of owner housing which will increase the availability of permanent housing in good standard condition at an affordable cost and retain affordable housing stock. The City spent \$203,316.53 on housing rehabilitation. This cost also included funds spent on rehab administration and the City's paint program. Homeowners ranged from extremely low to low income. Some were married with children in the homes and some were married, but did not have children living in the home. One couple were grandparents raising their four grandchildren as both of their parents were in prison. Several of the homes had someone living in the home disabled. Five of the homes were female heads of households. Four of the homes were considered elderly. Work completed on these homes including bringing hot water heaters to code, energy efficient windows, doors and storm doors, energy efficient HVAC units, ductwork, and siding. Stoves and cabinets that would not work were replaced. All homes with suspected water damage and leaks were tested for mold and safe practices were used to clean those areas and remediate if any mold found. Houses were retested after work done for clearance. All testing was done by a certified mold inspector. Lead based paint testing was done on three houses and minor remediation was done on one of these houses where lead based paint was found on a door frame that was being replaced. No paint was disturbed in the other houses. All houses were retested after work done for clearance. All testing was done by a certified lead-based paint inspector.

The City provided funding for five public service projects meeting the City's goals of suitable living environments and benefiting low and moderate income persons by improving and increasing access to services; however, only four were actually funded in 2019. One public service project recipient did not return their funding agreements to the City in 2019 to allow funding to be released. We will release those funds in 2020. A grant to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) assisted Rogers' children living in foster care to receive advocacy. A transportation grant to Sunshine School and Development Center made it possible for extremely low and moderate income families to get their children to and

from the facility each day for therapy and learning. A grant to Open Avenues provided transportation for extremely low income physically and mentally disabled adults to be brought to the facility each day for employment and to receive services they needed. The City also continued their transportation assistance program to cover transportation costs for our low income residents to maintain their quality of life.

The City funded three public facility projects for 2019. Only one of those projects is under construction and will complete in 2020. One will start in 2020 and the other one will be cancelled due to a decision to build a new facility.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee’s program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Access to Publicly Supported Housing	Public Housing Authority Access	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1	0	0.00%			
Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1000	1320	132.00%	5757	1120	19.45%
Decent Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	5	10.00%	10	10	100.00%

Encourage Development of Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	0	0		5	0	0.00%
Encourage Development of Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	5	0	0.00%			
Increase Accessible Housing Units for Disabled	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	4	0	0.00%			
Preserve Affordable Housing in Downtown Rogers	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	40	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%
Provide Fair Housing Outreach and Education	Public Service, Fair Housing	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0		25	0	0.00%
Provide Fair Housing Outreach and Education	Public Service, Fair Housing	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	100	0	0.00%			

Public Facility - Souls Harbor	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	25	20	80.00%			
Public Facility - Souls Harbor	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	25	20	80.00%	35	20	57.14%
Public Service - Boys & Girls Club	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1100	259	23.55%	250		%
Public Service - Boys & Girls Club	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Other	Other						
Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	275	140	50.91%	49	91	185.71%

Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	0		0	0	
Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas	CDBG: \$	Other	Other						
Public Service - Open Avenues	Public Service - Open Avenues	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1000	115	11.50%	100	85	85.00%
Public Service - Open Avenues	Public Service - Open Avenues	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1000	0	0.00%			
Public Service - Sunshine School & Development	Public Service - Sunshine School & Development Center	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	405	184	45.43%	94	90	95.74%
Public Service - Sunshine School & Development	Public Service - Sunshine School & Development Center	CDBG: \$	Other	Other		0				

Public Service - Transportation Assistance	Transportation Assistance for Elderly and Disabled	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	500	238	47.60%	100	122	122.00%
Public Service - Transportation Assistance	Transportation Assistance for Elderly and Disabled	CDBG: \$	Other	Other		0				
Public Services - Community Clinic	Public Service - Community Clinic	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	85	262	308.24%			

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

Housing and emergency repairs comprised 42% of the grant funds used in Program Year 2019. It should be noted that 15% of that amount was allocated to housing rehab administration. The City of Rogers undertook ten houses for rehabilitation or emergency repair. A total of 32 individuals were helped by our housing rehabilitation program. The City earmarked 100% of their 2019 housing dollars on this objective. We have applications that were received in late 2019. Those will be processed in 2020 using 2019 funds and will be shown in the 2020 CAPER.

For service projects, the City allocated 13.16% of their funds. All service projects were completed except transportation assistance and Boys and Girls Club. We always carry over money each year for transportation assistance to keep that program running until we receive new funding. The Boys and Girls Club funding did not happen in 2019 as we were waiting on the signed funding agreement from Boys and Girls Club to release that funding. CASA, One-Child-One-Advocate, also received a 2019 grant providing advocacy that touched 91 lives in Rogers. Children had been removed from their homes because of abuse and put in foster care. Sunshine School and Development Center received a 2019 grant used to help provide transportation services to developmentally challenged children to be able to mainstream them into public schools. This grant

impacted 90 people. Open Avenues also received a grant to help with transportation costs to get their clients to the center each day for work. Open Avenues provides employment, job training, life skills training as well as job placement services for mentally and physically disabled adults. Open Avenues provides a place for disabled adults to achieve a sense of pride, belonging, and purpose. All this starts with their ability to get to Open Avenues each day. Eighty-five adults received this service. The 2018 grant to Community Clinic completed in 2019. Prior to the 2018 grant being made available, Community Clinic contacted the City about using the funding for a different purpose. The original intended purpose was no longer available to their clients. It took until 2019 to receive the scope change paperwork and make the approved changes. This grant impacted 262 people. Transportation assistance provided transportation to 122 of our residents who had no means of transportation to get them to doctor appointments, pharmacies, grocery stores, and just every day needs for quality of life.

The Souls Harbor facility project started in 2019 and will complete n 2020. The City spent 34% of their spending on this project in Program Year 2019. The Boys and Girls Club public facility project will start in 2020. The Samaritan Community Center public facility will be cancelled as the present facility will be put on the market to sell.

Administration accounted for 10.26% of the 2019 grant.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	1,049
Black or African American	21
Asian	6
American Indian or American Native	10
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	9
Total	1,095
Hispanic	487
Not Hispanic	608

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

According to the 2018 Census Quick Facts, 41% of Rogers' population is a minority race. Hispanics make up 33% of that population. As the table above indicates, 49% of the 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) participants (including Hispanics) were part of the minority population of Rogers. The American Fact Finder stats for 2018 show 59.7% of the population white, non-Hispanic, 1.6% of the population black or African American, 33.1% Hispanic, 3.2% Asian and/or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, .8% American Indian or American Native and 1.6% labeled as other.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	490,362	481,349

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The resources made available also includes program income received in 2019. The amount expended also includes funding spent on planning and administration in 2019.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Census Tracts			
Low Income Individuals or Families	100	100	Meet all criteria for CDBG funding regardless of where they live

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

In Program Year 2019, the City of Rogers supported core service activities that addressed community-wide concerns and needs while focusing on our housing rehabilitation projects as our main goal. The 2019 funding benefitted low income individuals and families who were 80% of the area median.

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

The City only receives CDBG funding as well as some program income we received from energy rebates and payoff of deferred loan agreements. The amount the City receives makes it difficult to leverage our funding, but we continue to look for ways to make that work. In the past we have purchased land for the development of the first Habitat for Humanity Subdivision in the State of Arkansas, partnered with Open Avenues to help open a new facility that provides employment and care for disabled adults, and partnered with the City to build sidewalks in our census tracts where over 51% of the population were low income. In 2019 we partnered with Souls Harbor to rehabilitate a building that will house men with addictions and homeless. This rehabilitation will also provide additional space for secure counseling services to these men as well. This project will complete in 2020 using a portion of the City's 2019 funding.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	10	10
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	10	10

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to support the rehab of ten extremely low to low income owner-occupied single-family housing units. At the end of 2019, we had applications to get ready to bid in 2019 and applications already bid out that would not start until 2020. Those will be submitted with the 2020 CAPER. The number of assisted units fluctuates from year to year depending upon how many applications we receive; however, we are on track to meet our program goals for the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan period.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The City of Rogers will continue to make housing rehabilitation a priority in their future Annual Action Plans. The City would like to see a more realistic timeline for completing applications in the year they were received; however, we don't always receive the application in time to process, inspect, bid and complete construction within the funding year nor do we have all the funds available to do all the work requested. Another impact is when we receive the funding. In Program Year 2019 we did not receive our funding until October 1, 2019.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	6	0
Low-income	4	0
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	10	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Safe, warm and dry houses will continue to be the factor in the City's efforts to earmark funding for housing rehabilitation each Program Year. We also look to make the house more energy efficient by installing energy efficient HVAC units and windows.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

The City of Rogers continues their commitment to decent and affordable housing to address the homelessness situation and those at risk of becoming homeless. The City has worked with the HARK Collaboration Group in their point in time count done in January 2018 and 2019. Due to a death in the family, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator was unable to assist in the 2020 point in time count. The CDBG Administrator also worked with a group called Tapestry House. This group purchased a house, with a donation by an individual, in Rogers for the sole purpose of housing a homeless individual, couple, or family to help them get on their feet by providing a very low rent house for occupancy. Tapestry House worked with the Continuum of Care and HARK groups in selecting an individual, couple, or family for the Tapestry house. The City is also a member of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care, a coalition of Northwest Arkansas cities and agencies who have teamed together to set a goal of targeting the homeless and assist individuals with accessing mainstream mental health and chemical dependence services as well as many other needs which include assessments of individuals, chronically homeless, as well as veterans living on the street who typically do not access shelter or other homeless services. Part of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of care is education of both the service providers and the communities to assist in eradicating homelessness. The Continuum of Care has set a goal to be 0% homeless by 2025. The CDBG Administrator attends those meetings and the City will do whatever it can to help this group meet their goals. By funding the rehabilitation of Souls Harbor some of our CDBG funding will directly support homeless individuals. You can either choose to engage the community or you can ignore the problem. The City of Rogers does not want to ignore the problem.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

There are several organizations that exist in Northwest Arkansas that serve families or persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Three of these agencies have received funding from the City's CDBG Program. Those agencies are Seven Hills Homeless Shelter, CASA, and Souls Harbor. CASA and Souls Harbor were both recipients of 2019 funding. CASA provides placement for children removed from their homes due to an at risk situation in their homes. This basically puts these children in a homeless situation without the ability to place them in structured homes. Souls Harbor is a facility that houses men with addictions and these addictions have rendered many of them homeless. Both Souls Harbor and CASA would be considered emergency and interim housing for these individuals. Individuals at these locations meet the needs of the residents and either make appropriate referrals or offer the services they need.

There are different kinds of shelters to address shelter and transitional housing needs for homeless households in Northwest Arkansas. We have overnight shelters that can somewhat meet food needs and be a place to find out if they would be willing to participate in case management or receive more intensive services that ultimately could lead to interim housing. Interim housing helps to reduce the amount of time people spend homeless with a goal to get into permanent housing as soon as possible. Permanent supportive housing helps clients to maintain residential stability. Many of these clients may have serious and persistent disability such as mental illness, substance abuse disorders, HIV/AIDS, all of which can contribute to chronic homelessness. Safe Havens are housing programs for individuals who are difficult to engage in services. We know the ultimate solution to ending homelessness is permanent housing closely aligned with supportive services that ensure housing stability.

The Homeless Needs Assessment and Point-in-Time Count has been a tool to better prepare the City to assist the homeless, and help them make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. The City of Rogers has met with organizations interested in bringing transition facilities to Rogers; however, those organizations have not moved forward with any projects. The City receives no ESG funds.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after 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); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

The City of Rogers is not an agency that can take this on. We do know the circumstances that cause homelessness include eviction, loss of income, insufficient income disability, housing cost increases, being discharged from an institution, irreparable damage or deterioration of housing, and family violence. All we can do is be involved and provide support in areas that we are able to lend our CDBG funding to assist in making the transition to permanent housing and independent living and preventing these individuals and families from becoming homeless again.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The City of Rogers continues its ongoing efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units in Rogers and to help rehabilitate homes that would otherwise be destined for condemnation. We feel it is

imperative to keep our housing stock in good shape and prevent anyone from being homeless due to the condition of their home. We don't have a large problem with youth living in existing foster care and residential facilities being discharged with no housing in place; however, we need to make sure that adults being discharged from jails and other systems of care are not homeless upon release. We also need to make sure that we can continue to meet the needs of our youth as the population increases each year in the Northwest Arkansas Metro area. This will require good coordination from all agencies involved with homelessness. Our 2018-2022 strategic plan will continue providing CDBG funds to support activities that provide services and/or eliminate homelessness.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The City of Rogers does not have a Public Housing Office. All of Benton County falls under the Public Housing Authority at Siloam Springs, Arkansas. All Section 8 vouchers are handled out of the Siloam Springs Office. The City does have 755 units of low income housing available with 56 of those units available for elderly only. Another 72 senior units are planned in Dixieland Gardens when Federal funding becomes available. Some of the newer complexes are energy star rated. The City continues to work in any endeavor it can to assure there is affordable housing in Rogers. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator tries to stay in contact with the Siloam Springs Housing Authority and refers any residents who contact us for low income housing or Section 8 vouchers to the Siloam Springs office. We do get complaints from time to time about the distance from Rogers to Siloam Springs which is difficult for our low income residents in need of public housing or Section 8 vouchers.

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

The CDBG Administrator attends and stays involved in any meetings and workshops to encourage involvement in management and participation in homeownership.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

Siloam Springs Public Housing Authority is not designated as troubled.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken 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. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

The primary barriers to affordable housing is housing affordability and lack of developers interested in developing affordable housing. For several years Rogers saw a drop in home prices that put more homes within reach for the low to moderate-income individuals and families; however, the number of available homes left on the market after the housing crisis has pretty much diminished. We are now beginning to see prices escalate. The economy has definitely improved in Northwest Arkansas. The City has encouraged development of housing for low-income by being as flexible as they can be with zoning laws to encourage the developer to look at developing lower priced homes in the \$120,000 or below price range. We are starting to see that kind of development submitted to the City's Planning Commission. We are working with the Community Development Department to see how we can partner with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and the developer to make affordable subdivisions more appealing. We are looking at amenities that could be paid with CDBG funding such as street lights, curb and gutter, etc. We are also looking at bringing affordability in our downtown area with new construction. The City has one area developed for tiny homes that sell in the \$35,000 to \$55,000 price range and that tiny community is almost full. Another tiny home development has been submitted to Planning Commission and approved for construction.

The City will look at land and zoning changes to increase density in planned developments earmarking some of the development to be affordable. We will look at any vacant properties that might be sold at a low price to be used for the creation of affordable housing.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The major obstacle to meeting all of the identified needs is the lack of funding resources to meet the undeserved needs of low-and moderate-income people. Applicant request amounts are generally much higher than the entitlement amount especially when it comes to the public service 15% cap. The City, when feasible, partners with other non-profits to leverage their funding applications. We continually re-assess our policies and make adjustments in response to changing market conditions and service needs. In the past two years, the City has shifted greater resources towards our housing rehabilitation program to keep our existing older housing stock in good condition. This keeps these homes from falling into disrepair and presenting hazards to the residents.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The Residential Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X) emphasizes prevention of childhood lead poisoning through housing-based approaches. To reduce lead-based paint hazards, the

rehabilitation of housing units built prior to January 1, 1978 includes a lead-based paint testing and risk assessment. Where lead-based paint is identified, the City ensures that developers and contractor incorporate safe work practices or abate the lead-based paint as part of the scope of work to effectively reduce lead-based paint hazards to children in accordance with 24 CFR Part 35.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City continues with their existing programs that promote a stable living environment and helps to reduce dependency. The City did ten housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs to help the low-to-moderate-income remain in their homes. Our housing program promotes a stable living environment and reduces dependency and also prevents homelessness, financial hardships and possibly institutionalization. We will continue to work to maximize program dollars and opportunities in neighborhoods with the greatest number of low-to-moderate-income residents. The partnerships that the City has with its non-profit agencies helps to provide services that could go a long way in providing that level. Transportation assistance impacts our low income elderly and disabled residents in that it allows them to use the money they need for transportation on other needs in their lives. The City works to promote the independence and well-being of individuals, support families and strength neighborhoods. We use CDBG funding to provide services for low-income residents with the objective of providing basic needs and improving their quality of life and quality of life for all residents in the City. We support agencies that address critical and emergency human services needs of low-income persons and families. We support programs that support positive outcomes that promote and help maintain self-sufficiency and meet short-term and long-term needs.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The Mayor, Finance Director and CDBG Administrator provide fiscal and regulatory oversight of all CDBG funding sources and Federal grants. All reports in 2019 were submitted timely. Funds were drawn down and checks written in a timely manner. The City met their drawdown percentages prior to the November 1, 2019 deadline. The City's Annual Action Plan for 2019 was also submitted on time. We provided needed services for the City's target low-income populations with 2019 funding.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City sought partnerships to leverage 2019 funding. If the cap on public service could be lifted, we would have been able to see more partnerships. The CDBG Administrator is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care organization. The membership of this organization consists of the majority of the housing and social services agencies in Northwest Arkansas. The City is definitely involved with non-profits and organizations that are working to address poverty through community engagement.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

For many households, low or no income is a major factor in preventing their exercise of housing choice. Minority populations in the City of Rogers are confronted with an ever higher percentage of their populations living in poverty compared to Whites. Households experiencing a severe lack of income and those unemployed typically face limitations in fair housing choice. The City and local Chamber of commerce are continuing work on expanding job opportunities through the recruitment of corporations, the provision of incentives for local corporations seeking expansion opportunities, and other activities aimed at reducing unemployment and expanding the base of high income plus provide jobs that support persons with high school educations, GED's, community colleges and technical schools. Recruiting such industries can assist in increasing the local tax base while serving to provide necessary income for more persons to earn a living wage and improve their ability to qualify for home ownership. The City is also working to increase public awareness of fair housing rights and legislation.

As part of the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan process, the City selected a contractor to do the City's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) report. In developing the report, the contractor convened focus groups with fair housing and community organizations and the real estate industry. The contractor also met with key City departments and sister agencies to learn about their efforts to affirmatively further fair housing. Working with all of the above, the contractor developed a series of recommendations for action items which will serve as the Fair Housing Plan for the City. The AFFH report was completed in August of 2017 and is located on the City's website. The City is working to meet those goals established for 2018-2022.

As a way to further fair housing in the City of Rogers, the City will be working with the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission to do a town hall meeting in our City. This was originally scheduled for 2018, but the Fair Housing Director in Little Rock requested that due to her schedule, we reschedule the town hall meeting to summer of 2019. Cancellation was done before any preparations for the meeting had been made. Then in summer of 2019, the Fair Housing Commission Director resigned her position to move out of State. We are continuing to work with the new administrator to plan a town hall meeting at a future date.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

The City of Rogers has established procedures to monitor the use of Federal grant funds. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Office administered all activities in compliance with Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. All agencies receiving funding entered into an agreement with the City of Rogers and were monitored by the CDBG Administrator. All housing rehabilitation activities followed bidding requirements except those that were deemed emergency and required immediate attention. An emergency is when a health and/or safety issue is at hand. Work was permitted. Inspections were held prior to the start of the work, during the work, and at the end of the work before final payment was made. Any code violations found at initial inspection were added to the scope of work. The City's transportation assistance program were monitored to make sure all recipients of free rides met all the income requirements established by HUD in 2019. A file was set up for each activity and documentation for that activity was made a part of the completed file used for HUD for their onsite monitoring. Three city employees, Accounts Payable, Finance Director, and CDBG Administrator, oversaw the handling of the City's CDBG funds. This provided a good check and balance for these funds. The CDBG Office was also part of the City's annual audit and all paperwork concerning the audit was filed in accordance with Federal guidelines. No files will be archived without inspection by the Arkansas HUD Field Office. The City made sure all grantees that performed services for the City complied with all applicable Federal regulations governing their administrative, financial and program operations. To ensure this, technical assistance was provided to all sub-recipients and monitoring was done. The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) and IDIS continue to be used as effective monitoring resource documents. They serve as accurate measures of performance in terms of eligible beneficiaries served, program target areas, and dollars identified for the project. The City also submits an annual Section 3 Compliance Report with each CAPER.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

To ensure that residents' priorities and needs are addressed in the Action Plan, the City holds at least two public hearings each year. The Public Hearings provide an opportunity for residents to explore entitlement grant programming leads and to communicate their views and comments to the City.

In 2019 the following Public Hearing were held:

May 22, 2019, a Public Hearing was held to review the final 2019 Action Plan prior to submittal to HUD.

July 30, 2019, a Public Hearing was held to begin the planning for the 2020 Annual Action Plan.

One comment period was also held in 2020--February 25, 2020. This was a comment period for the 2019 CAPER prior to submission to HUD.

All Public Hearings were held in a building that had access for persons with disabilities. The hearings were scheduled after work to provide working individuals and families a greater opportunity to attend. Because Rogers has a large Spanish speaking population, a bilingual (English/Spanish) person was made available to non-English speaking persons. Copies of these Plans were placed in four locations in Rogers as well as online making accessibility to the Plans easy for our residents.

The CAPER was also placed at four locations as well as online and a 15-day comment period was given to our residents prior to submitting the CAPER to HUD.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

There have been no significant changes to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program objectives. The City does not plan to change its programs as a result of any experience we have encountered. We will continue to provide services to our low-income residents, promote fair housing, help with homeless prevention, provide funding for facility and infrastructure needs, and continue our housing rehabilitation program.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

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