



Stark County, Ohio

FY 2024 – 2028 Consolidated Plan

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2029

One-Year Action Plan FY 2024

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Commissioners

Janet Weir Creighton

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Executive Summary

ES-05 Executive Summary - 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The Consolidated Plan is a combination of different programs from the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), which includes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and the HOME program. As an Urban County (UC) under the CDBG program and a Participating Jurisdiction (PJ) under the HOME program, Stark County receives direct funding for these two programs. The County leads the HOME Consortium, which also includes the cities of Alliance and Massillon.

The Stark County Consortium created the first Consolidated Plan in 1995, and it has been updated every five years since, following HUD regulations. The latest Plan, covering program years 2024 to 2028, assesses the needs of the area, including housing and homelessness, housing market analysis, and a strategic plan for the allocation of housing resources within the Consortium. The Plan also identifies the County's priority community development needs that are eligible under the CDBG program. It evaluates the needs for infrastructure improvements, public facilities, public services, accessibility, economic development, fair housing, and planning needs.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The Plan provides the County's long-term and short-term community development goals, objectives and outcomes that have been developed to assist Stark County's lower income residents. In preparing the Action Plans connected to this five-year Consolidated Plan, the County shall address and fund activities that are consistent with one of four provisions as well as meeting one of the three national objectives of the CDBG program.

The provision of safe, sanitary and affordable housing for lower income residents
The provision of a suitable living environment by increasing the quality of life for lower income residents
The provision of economic opportunities, primarily for lower income residents
The provision of updated/new public facilities and/or infrastructure improvements, primarily to benefit lower income residents

3. Evaluation of past performance

The Consortium has a proven track record of excellence in both the CDBG and HOME programs, as indicated in the County's CAPERs. In the past, funding has been allocated to a range of projects, including the preservation of affordable housing through owner-occupied housing rehabilitation, fair housing counseling, prescription medication assistance, housing and related public services for the homeless, targeted public services, micro-enterprise technical assistance, infrastructure, and public

improvements. Based on the County's evaluation of past performance, it has been found that stringent internal policies and procedures can deter new applicants from applying for funding. Therefore, the County has revised its policies to encourage more applications for funding. In 2023, the County entered into a contract with Neighborly Software for a web-based grants management system to streamline operations, assist with record retention, and easily provide the public with requested documents and reports. During the Consolidated Plan period, the County aims to increase public outreach and creativity while providing increased one-on-one technical assistance to those who wish to apply or are applying for funding.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

Development of the Plan

As part of the development of the Consolidated Plan, consultations were held with various stakeholders, as outlined in the Citizen Participation Plan, page 5. In June 2023, the first Needs Assessment Survey was distributed to over 1,500 stakeholders through the SCRPC website, e-mail and social media. The second Needs Assessment Survey was made available to the public from August 25, 2023 through December 31, 2023. During the development of the Plan, the 2023 Stark County Community Assessment was created to provide data on six community indicators: (1) Overview of the County, (2) Families, Households and Neighborhoods, (3) Education, (4) Economics, (5) Environment and (6) Health. Data from this Assessment has been included throughout the Plan. The development of the Consolidated Plan began in 2023 and is described in detail in Section PR-15. Public meetings and hearings were held to allow community members and stakeholders ample opportunity to provide feedback. All assessments and results are included as an Attachment.

5. Summary of public comments

Housing Comments: The public indicated that affordable housing, demolition of blighted structures, rental assistance, additional housing for persons living with disabilities and senior housing were at the top of their priority list.

Economic Development Comments: The public indicated that access to affordable childcare, job creation/retention, trade school prep, workforce development and access to transportation were at the top of their priority list.

Public Service Comments: The public indicated that increased mental health services, affordable healthcare and prescriptions, increase of homelessness services, increase in funds to support youth transitioning out of foster care and increase in services for veterans were at the top of their priority list.

Infrastructure Comments: The public indicated that street reconstruction, street lighting, sidewalk improvements, sanitary sewer improvements and broadband initiatives were at the top of their priority list.

Public Facilities: The public indicated that mental health centers, childcare centers, homeless shelters, substance abuse centers and healthcare facilities were at the top of their priority list.

A second survey was specifically focused and contained one question regarding priority needs. Respondents of this survey indicated that HUD funds should be allocated to mental health, homelessness and health services, increasing affordable housing and home rehabilitation, landlord/tenant relations, code enforcement, infrastructure, food insecurity, training public housing authority staff, emergency shelters, rapid rehousing, PSH vouchers and community beautification should be addressed.

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

All comments were accepted.

7. Summary

Stark County, as the lead for the Stark County Consortium (the "County") has gone through an extensive citizen participation process in preparing this Consolidated Plan. Through this process, the County has identified needs with goals and actions to address the findings.

The Process

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

1. Describe agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	STARK COUNTY	Stark County Regional Planning – CD
HOME Administrator	STARK COUNTY	Stark County Regional Planning - CD

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (the “SCRPC”) is the agency responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan on behalf of the Stark County Board of Commissioners (the “County”).

SCRPC is the lead entity of the HOME Consortium and has administered the CDBG program for the County since 1975 and the HOME program since 1992. The cities of Alliance and Massillon are both members of the Consortium.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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1. Introduction

This section addresses the consultation efforts of the County in completing the Consolidated Plan.

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)).

From June to December 2023, various stakeholders were consulted during the development of the Consolidated Plan. The Citizen Participation Plan, page 5, Consultations, outlines the stakeholders involved. The first Needs Assessment Survey, conducted online, was sent to over 1,500 stakeholders in June 2023. The survey was also available on the SCRPC website and social media. In September 2023, the second Needs Assessment Survey was made available, and it remained open until December 2023. Staff attended the 2023 Perry Township Oktoberfest to gather input on the Consolidated Plan. The 2023 Stark County Community Assessment was published in late 2023 to support community leaders, policy makers and organizations while making funding decisions and policies. From August to November 2023, three public meetings and one public hearing were held during the development of the Consolidated Plan. The stakeholders mentioned on page 5 of the Citizen Participation Plan were invited. Notices were published in the Canton Repository, posted on the SCRPC website, and on social media. Public hearings were held, and a 30-day comment period was advertised as outlined in the Citizen Participation Plan, page 6-7, Display and Comment Period.

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

SCRPC conducted an online survey to gather feedback and suggestions from the Continuum of Care (CoC) and other homeless services-related agencies about their need for specific programs. The Plan was prepared with the input received from the survey and a public meeting held at a Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) meeting, which is a network of homeless services providers including CoC members. The feedback from the survey and the meeting is included in the Plan.

The Executive Director of the Stark Housing Network Inc. (SHN), which manages the CoC, actively collaborates with SCRPC and the County in the planning efforts for homelessness. Quarterly meetings are held, which are attended by SHN staff, SCRPC CD staff, SMHA staff, and City of Canton Community Development (CD) staff. The CoC collaborated with the Stark Housing Network to provide data and feedback on the applicable Plan sections. The draft Plan was made available to the CoC and its members for comments.

During this Consolidated Plan period, SCRPC, CoC, and SHN will implement the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, and quarterly meetings will be held to discuss current HUD-funded initiatives.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards and evaluate outcomes, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the administration of HMIS

SCRPC collaborated with the City of Canton, which is the jurisdiction's ESG recipient, to write certain homeless sections of this Plan. Previously, SCRPC had a contract with Canton to provide ESG administrative assistance. However, Canton's ESG funding is now managed by the Stark Housing Network. SCRPC is involved in discussions around funding for HMIS through the County's CDBG funding allocations.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	SMHA was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, SMHA, SCRPC CD, CoC and City of Canton CD meet quarterly with strategic planning staff at SMHA to discuss how best to serve County residents as a team. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Alliance
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Alliance was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. Creation of the CP was coordinated with the City, including incorporating their HOME projects in the Consortium plan. For improved coordination, SCRPC CD staff and City of Alliance CD staff have frequent discussions on how best to serve City and County residents as a team. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Children Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Families with children
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Alliance for Children & Families (ACF) was invited to attend all public meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Development, City of Canton
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Canton has been invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys to improve coordination among the various agencies (SMHA, SCRPC, SHN/CoC). SMHA, SCRPC, SHN/CoC meet quarterly to discuss how to best serve the residents of the County as a team and share ideas. The County and the City of Canton have started collaborating on HUD-funded projects that aim to benefit residents, especially the homeless and special needs population. Additionally, SCRPC and the City of Canton continue to share program ideas and best practices to ensure that HUD funding reaches the most vulnerable populations. The expected outcome of increased collaboration is to promote equity and inclusion in Stark County by educating and increasing collaboration.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	CommQuest Services Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.

6	Agency/Group/Organization	COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SERVICES, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Legal Services
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	ICAN, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-homeless

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	KENT STATE STARK CAMPUS - MICRO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment SBDC
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Broadband
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	KSU-SBDC was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	STARK COUNTY RPC SERVICES, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Regional organization Reuse Store
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Affordable Housing

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	STARK COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Service-Fair Housing Other government - County Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.

12	Agency/Group/Organization	SALVATION ARMY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Services-Employment Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	STARK COUNTY FAIR HOUSING
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Fair Housing & Barriers to Affordable Housing

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Stark County Fair Housing was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. Stark County Fair Housing authored the Fair Housing section of the CP. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Stark County Health Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Health Health Agency Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Stark County Health Department was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. During this CP period the Health Department will work closely with the SCRPC to ensure CDBG-CV funds are utilized to assist those lower income residents at risk of contracting COVID-19 have upgraded and/or working sewer/septic systems. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.

15	Agency/Group/Organization	YWCA of Canton
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	MASSILLON
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Alliance was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. Creation of the CP was coordinated with the City, including incorporating their HOME projects in the Consortium plan. For improved coordination, SCRPC CD staff and City of Alliance CD staff have frequent discussions on how best to serve City and County residents as a team. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	Stark County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Services-Health Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Market Analysis Mental Health and Addiction Issues
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	STARK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business and Civic Leaders Foundation

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The 2023 Stark Community Assessment was utilized in the development of the CP as the Assessment serves as a valuable resource for community leaders, policymakers, organizations and concerned individuals who are committed to fostering positive change and improving the quality of life for all residents of Stark County. The Assessment focuses on indicators of health, social and economic conditions. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) is managed by the Stark Housing Network, an independent nonprofit organization. SHN was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. The HCCSC hosted one public meeting as part of the CP planning process as well as authoring several sections of the plan. The County, City of Canton and SMHA meet quarterly with the CoC to discuss best practices and to determine how we can work together to increase the quality of life of lower income and homeless residents. The County and the CoC will work closely this CP period as we implement the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
20	Agency/Group/Organization	Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Faith-Based Organization Foundation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
22	Agency/Group/Organization	REFUGE OF HOPE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Homeless Shelter

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
23	Agency/Group/Organization	CATHOLIC CHARITIES
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Foundation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. For improved coordination, the County has implemented a plan which increases technical assistance as well as agency networking and outreach throughout the year. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
24	Agency/Group/Organization	Stark County Emergency Management Agency
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Agency - Emergency Management Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Natural Hazard Resiliency

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) collaborated with the Stark County EMA to coordinate efforts involving natural hazard resiliency requirements in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods. A map of these areas was provided to the EMA to include in their future planning efforts. The Stark County EMA was invited to attend all meetings, hearings and participate in surveys. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote equity and inclusion in Stark County.
25	Agency/Group/Organization	Stark County Building Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Natural Hazard Resiliency
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Stark County Building Department was consulted regarding current building and floodplain regulations pertaining to natural hazard resiliency. The Building Department is also the County's designated Floodplain Manager.
26	Agency/Group/Organization	Massillon Cable TV
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis Broadband Services
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Massillon Cable TV (MCTV) is one of the leading internet providers in Stark County. They continue to consult with the City of Massillon administration for continued coordination and collaboration.
27	Agency/Group/Organization	Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Planning organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to participate in surveys. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we educate and promote economic development, equity and inclusion in Stark County through the use of the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
28	Agency/Group/Organization	Direction Home Akron Canton / Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Employment Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Digital Divide
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is involved with the creation of the Age Friendly Stark County Plan and will be assisting the County with its State of Ohio Healthy Aging Grant. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we can educate the community on elder justice initiatives, equity and inclusion in Stark County.
29	Agency/Group/Organization	Stark Economic Development Board
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Regional organization Planning organization Business and Civic Leaders

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to participate in surveys and attend all public meetings. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we promote economic development, housing, equity and inclusion in Stark County. Stark ED Board is in the process of creating a Stark County Housing Study which will be utilized in future Action and Consolidated Plans.
30	Agency/Group/Organization	Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to participate in surveys and attend all public meetings. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we public services for survivors of DV, housing, equity, and inclusion in Stark County.
31	Agency/Group/Organization	Beacon Charitable Pharmacy
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Services-Education Health Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to participate in surveys and attend all public meetings. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we promote economic development, housing, equity, and inclusion in Stark County.

32	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Building Partnership
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to participate in surveys and attend all public meetings. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we promote economic development, housing, equity, and inclusion in Stark County.
33	Agency/Group/Organization	StarkFresh
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business and Civic Leaders Food insecurity
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to participate in surveys and attend all public meetings. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we promote economic development, housing, equity, and inclusion in Stark County.
34	Agency/Group/Organization	AxessPointe Community Health Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is participating in the County's Healthy Aging Program by supporting an elder volunteer program. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we can educate the community on elder justice initiatives, equity and inclusion in Stark County.

35	Agency/Group/Organization	Vantage Aging, Inc
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to participate in surveys and attend all public meetings. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we promote economic development, housing, equity, and inclusion in Stark County.
36	Agency/Group/Organization	Strengthening Stark
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment Planning organization Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to participate in surveys and attend all public meetings. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we promote economic development, housing, equity, and inclusion in Stark County. Strengthening Stark is in the process of creating a Stark County Housing Study which will be utilized in future Action and Consolidated Plans.
37	Agency/Group/Organization	Early Childhood Resource Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Education

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was invited to participate in surveys and attend all public meetings. The anticipated outcome of increased coordination is by increasing collaboration, we promote economic development, housing, equity, and inclusion in Stark County.
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

SCRPC strived to consult with every agency working in these fields today.

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	Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County	The homeless sections of the Consolidated Plan have been coordinated with the HCCSC through the Stark Housing Network to ensure that the Strategic Plan for homeless issues aligns with the CoC's plan.
City of Alliance	City of Alliance	The City of Alliance's Consolidated Plan is due in 2024. The housing portion (under the Consortium) is coordinated with the City to ensure that the Strategic Plan aligns with areas they see as priority housing needs in the City.
City of Canton	City of Canton	While the City of Canton is not included in the HOME Consortium for Stark County, the homeless sections of the plan have been coordinated with the City to ensure consistency.
City of Massillon	City of Massillon	The housing portion of the plan dealing with the City of Massillon is coordinated with the City to ensure that the Strategic Plan aligns with areas they see as priority housing needs in the City. The City of Massillon's Consolidated Plan is due in 2024
Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing	Stark County Fair Housing	The fair housing sections of the Consolidated Plan have been coordinated with the Fair Housing Department to ensure that any findings in the most recent Analysis of Impediments (AI) were considered where applicable.
SMHA Plans	Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority	PHA Plans are consistent with the County.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))

During this Consolidated Plan period, the County worked closely with the Continuum of Care, the City of Canton, and service providers to coordinate housing assistance and services for homeless individuals. The County focused on providing assistance to chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, unaccompanied youth, and domestic violence/human trafficking victims. The County also discussed the needs of those who were recently homeless but have now found permanent housing and require services to remain self-sufficient. To assist these populations with housing and supportive services, all County service providers came together to complete a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. The Plan was approved and is included as an attachment, which also lists the entities involved in its creation.

The County will continue to coordinate with the State to explore funding opportunities. The County will continue to work with the cities of Alliance and Massillon as Consortium members. Since 2022, the County has collaborated more closely with the City of Canton to assist more residents by sharing expenses when appropriate. The County works closely with NEFCO, a regional planning organization that focuses on economic development and clean water initiatives. The Stark Economic Development Board and Strengthening Stark both advance job creation and retention in Stark County by enhancing coordination with private industry, businesses, and developers. Efforts to advance coordination have been expanded by SCRPC to include non-profit in-person site visits for education and technical assistance. Finally, www.starkhelpcentral.com is a collaboration between Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery, Stark County Job & Family Services, Stark County Educational Center, and Stark County Board of DD. It has been established as a one-stop-shop for crisis assistance, finding help for basic needs, disabilities, substance use, education, jobs, mental health, COVID-19, and other related issues.

PR-15 Citizen Participation - 91.105, 91.115, 91.200(c) and 91.300(c)

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

The citizen participation process for the Consolidated Plan began in June 2023 with an online survey covering priority needs in Stark County. The survey was distributed to over 1,500 stakeholders via email, posted on the website, shared on social media, and discussed at various community meetings. The response rate was 11.4%, with 171 surveys returned.

The second needs survey was conducted from August 2023 to December 2023 and contained one question regarding priority needs. The survey was distributed to the same stakeholders as the first and was shared during various community events and meetings held in the fall and winter. Additionally, a survey link was added to the SCRPC Development Department email signature cards, posted on the SCRPC website, and shared on social media.

During 2023, three public meetings and one public hearing were held during the development of the Consolidated Plan. Notices for these meetings were sent via email to the stakeholders listed in the Citizen Participation Plan, page 5. Information notices were also published on the SCRPC website, social media, and the Canton Repository.

During 2024, while the Consolidated Plan was still in draft form and requesting comments, one public meeting and two additional public hearings were held. Notices for these meetings were sent via email to the stakeholders mentioned in the Citizen Participation Plan, page 5. Information notices were also published on the SCRPC website, social media, and the Canton Repository.

According to survey #1, the highest priority needs in Stark County are affordable housing construction, demolition of blighted structures, rental assistance, access to affordable childcare, job creation/retention, trade school prep, mental health services, affordable healthcare and medication, services for the homeless population, street reconstruction, sidewalk improvements, and sanitary sewer improvements/extensions.

Encouragement of citizen participation in all HUD-funded programs is of the utmost importance. The Citizen Participation Plan provides for and encourages citizens to participate in the development of the Consolidated Plan, substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan or Action Plan, and the CAPER. These requirements are designed to encourage participation by low- and moderate-income persons, particularly those living in a revitalization area or in a slum and blighted area, and in areas where CDBG funds are proposed to be used. Residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods are also encouraged to participate. The Citizen Participation Plan, page 2, indicates how the County will take appropriate actions to ensure lower-income individuals, non-English speakers, persons living with disabilities, social service agencies, and SMHA are actively engaged and participate in HUD-funded programs.

Citizen Participation Outreach

#	Mode of outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons
1	Online Surveys	Non-targeted/broad community	Survey were distributed to over 1,500 stakeholders. 171 responses were received.	Survey summary is included as an attachment.	N/A
2	Public Meeting #1	Non-targeted/broad community	51 attendees and 0 comments.	No comments were received.	N/A
3	Public Hearing #1	Non-targeted/broad community	18 attendees and 0 comments.	No comments received.	N/A
4	Public Meeting #2	Political Subdivision representatives	21 attendees and 0 comments.	No comments were received.	N/A
5	Public Meeting #3	Non-targeted/broad community	8 attendees and 0 comments from citizens.	The Board members asked questions regarding the proposed FY24 budget and applicants.	N/A
6	Public Hearing #2	Non-targeted/broad community	25 attendees and 0 comments.	None	N/A
7	Public Hearing #3	Non-targeted/broad community	15 attendees 0 comments.	None	N/A

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Needs Assessment

HUDs most recent data pre-populated into IDIS

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

This section assesses the needs of the County as gathered through the 2021 5-year estimates, American Community Survey and IDIS prepopulated CHAS data, the most recent census data provided by HUD as of March 2023, the CoC's most recent PIT count, the NEFCO Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan and CEDS, National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation, StatsAmerica, Big Radius Tool, Stark County Area Transportation Study, Moving Stark Forward 2050, Fortune 500 companies: Ohio, Team NEO, Ohio Department of Development, Feeding America, National Economic Resilience Data Explorer, National Risk Index, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Brownfield Inventory Database, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, White House Council on Environmental Quality, BroadbandOhio, Broadband Speed Guide, The White House, Bureau of Labor Statistics, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 Overall Food Insecurity, Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank, Stark County Community Assessment 2023, Innovation Intelligence Index, StatsAmerica, USFacts. Data was also collected via surveys and public meetings.

Throughout the Plan, SCRPC often used alternative data since HUD's data is out-of-date.

NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment - 24 CFR 91.405, 24 CFR 91.205 (a,b,c)

Summary of Housing Needs

In the following tables, HAMFI stands for the HUD Adjusted Median Family Income. The following tables show a need for housing rehabilitation throughout many of the populations, especially for families under 80% HAMFI. The tables also show that the biggest problem throughout is the housing cost burden greater than 30% of income, which impacts a large number of those in the under 80% HAMFI groups. The data also shows that elderly individuals are also struggling with housing cost burden.

Note that census data is pre-populated in IDIS. During the creation of this Consolidated Plan, 2013-2017 was the most recently updated data from HUD.

Demographics	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2022	% Change
Population	302,540	372,657	21%
Households	118,714	168,027	34%
Median Income	57,739	68,130	16.5%

Table 1- Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Source:

Population estimates, July 1, 2022 - U.S. Census

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	9,461	12,254	20,799	13,145	66,475
Small Family Households	2,456	3,131	5,986	4,516	34,569
Large Family Households	258	584	1,430	1,055	5,318
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	1,680	3,031	5,619	3,716	16,547
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	1,721	3,358	4,743	2,145	5,242
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	1,253	1,674	2,452	1,618	5,342

Table 2 - Total Households Table

Source:

2013-2017 CHAS

Housing Needs Summary Tables

1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	100	265	159	75	599	75	98	81	37	291
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)		8	43		51		4	50		54
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	119	74	115	50	358	15	33	73	18	139
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	3,445	1,426	82	15	4,968	1,942	1,400	849	207	4,398

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	570	3,127	2,201	172	6,070	649	1,887	3,309	1,424	7,269
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	352				352	738				738

Table 3 – Housing Problems Table

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	3,660	1,801	396	140	5,997	2,022	1,546	1,064	269	4,901
Having none of four housing problems	1,554	4,115	7,432	3,758	16,859	1,169	4,797	11,898	8,985	26,849
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	352				352	738				738

Table 4 – Housing Problems 2

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	1,259	1,482	556	3,297	633	761	1,302	2,696
Large Related	124	153	130	407	64	190	421	675
Elderly	987	1,677	727	3,391	1,363	1,759	1,818	4,940
Other	1,814	1,499	903	4,216	572	632	685	1,889
Total need by income	4,184	4,811	2,316	11,311	2,632	3,342	4,226	10,200

Table 5 – Cost Burden > 30%

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

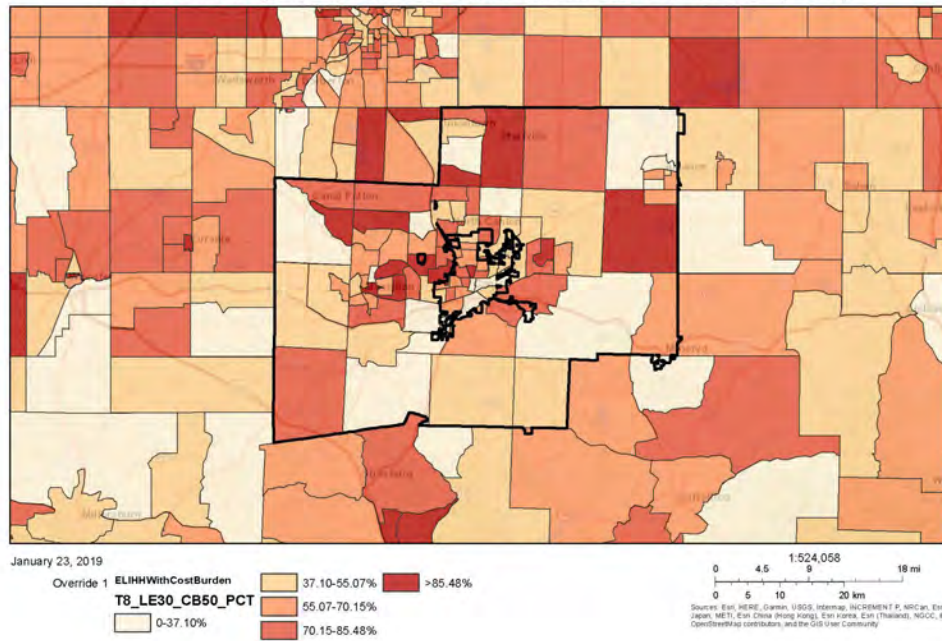
4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	1,099	462	18	1,579	466	338	148	952
Large Related	99	34		133	24	52	28	104
Elderly	756	709	68	1,533	954	721	495	2,170
Other	1,616	341	19	1,976	515	308	178	1,001
Total need by income	3,570	1,546	105	5,221	1,959	1,419	849	4,227

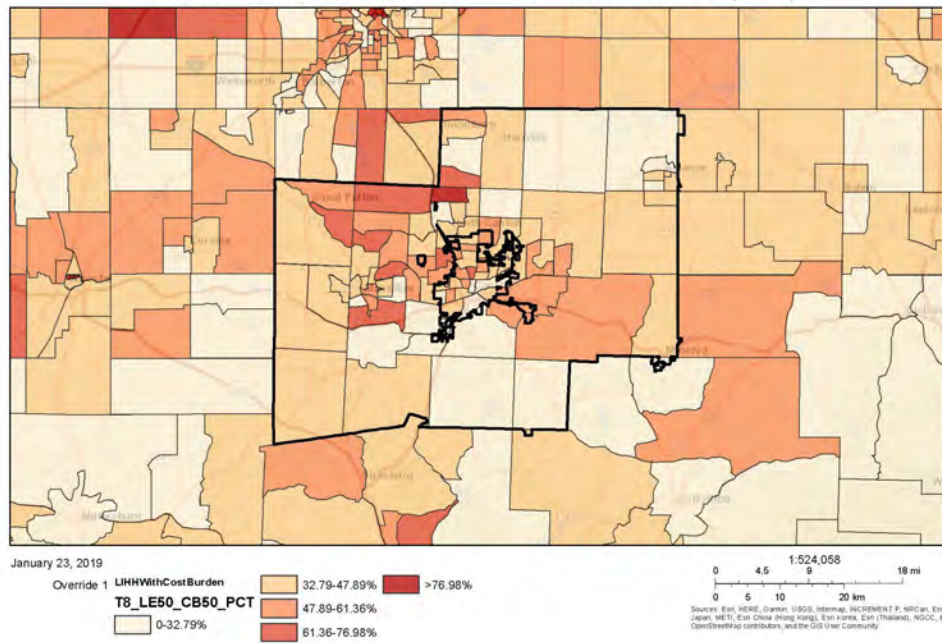
Table 6 – Cost Burden > 50%

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

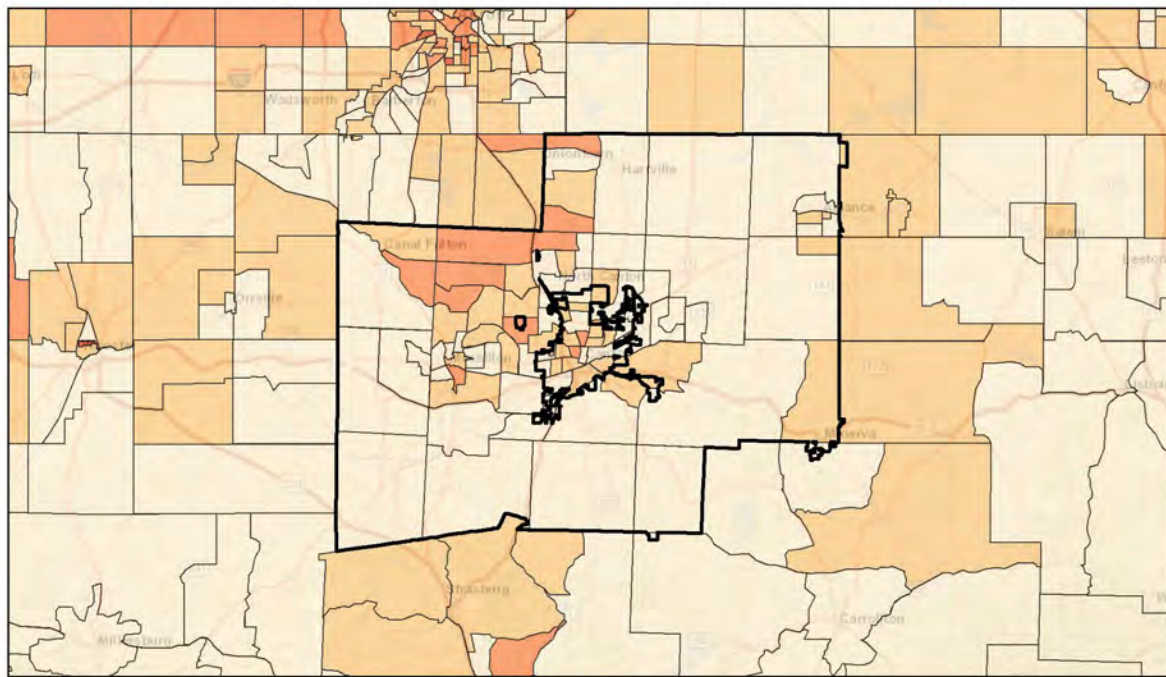
Percent Extremely Low Income Households with Severe Cost Burden - (>50%)



Percent Low Income Households with Severe Cost Burden - (>50%)



Percent Moderate Income Households with Severe Cost Burden - (>50%)



January 23, 2019

Override 1 MIHHWithCostBurden

T8_LE80_CB50_PCT

0-26.04%

26.04-38.21%

38.21-49.70%

49.70-64.42%

1:524,058

0 4.5 9 18 mi

0 5 10 20 km

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NOAA, G, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	109	77	79	50	315	15	37	119	4	175
Multiple, unrelated family households	10	4	65		79			18	14	32
Other, non-family households			14		14					
Total need by income	119	81	158	50	408	15	37	137	18	207

Table 7 – Crowding Information – 1/2

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Households with Children Present								

Table 8 – Crowding Information – 2/2

Data Source
Comments:

Data extrapolated from 2011-2015 ACS, which shows approximately 26.2% of households with children under 18 in the County.

Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.

According to the 2011-2015 ACS (the most recent data available in IDIS), 32,262 single person households existed within the County, 84% of the total non-family households. According to the 2011-2015 ACS, the median household income for one-person households in Stark County was \$26,129. The median income for two-person households more than doubled at \$59,502. Single person households tend to have lower household incomes compared to households with two or more people, which would result in single person households more likely to need housing assistance.

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

While exact numbers are not available, information from the Domestic Violence Project, Inc. (DVPI) indicate in the year ending in June 2023, there were 1,131 calls received at the 24-hour crisis hotline and that 174 men and women, and 155 children were provided shelter services during the year, for a total of 14,494 nights of emergency shelter provided. In addition, DVPI assisted over 1,500 survivors through legal, medical, and outreach and aftercare programs.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) and homelessness affect women cyclically. Experiencing homelessness raises the risk of experiencing IPV. Unaffordable housing can also lead to poverty and economic stress, thereby increasing the risk of IPV perpetration. Strengthening household financial security and strengthening supports for workers and families are two ways to reduce risk for IPV perpetration in Stark County.

What are the most common housing problems?

High rental costs increase the risk of eviction because any large, unexpected expense could leave a family unable to pay rent at the end of the month. This was true before the COVID-19 pandemic and has become much worse since.

In the early days of the pandemic, many local courts in Ohio, including the courts governing the eight largest cities in the state, stopped holding eviction hearings. Landlords could still file an eviction against a tenant, but the tenant could not be forced to leave the property until there was a hearing. Many low-

income housing advocates asserted that the use of eviction moratoriums rather than rental assistance will lead to a surge of evictions after the moratoriums expire. As with almost all aspects of the coronavirus recession, people of color, particularly Black people, were at the highest risk of being evicted after the moratoriums. The government has taken some steps to address the housing crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

COHHIO issued a report in 2021 finding only four of the 10 most common jobs in Ohio pay full-time employees enough to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment. Earning \$16.64 per hour, one would need to work 76 hours per week to afford a 2-bedroom home without paying more than 30% of their income on housing.

Not enough money is appropriated to housing assistance to meet the need, leading to the large proportions of cost-burdened renters. Additional housing assistance funding would enable more residents to be financially secure, especially during the uncertainty of the pandemic and the ensuing recession. Over 2/3rds of extremely low-income households spend more than 50% of their income on housing, whether they rent or own. Other problems include: lacking complete plumbing facilities, lacking complete kitchen facilities and overcrowding. The problem becomes more evident when adding in transportation costs. The Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC) states in its Vibrant NEO 2040 Final Report that over 88% of people in the Canton- Massillon MSA spend more than 45% of their income on housing and transportation combined.

People of color (POC) are less likely to own homes than White people and their homes are likely to be valued less than White-owned homes. When POC own a home, they also face higher risks of losing their homes than White homeowners. POC are more likely to be housing insecure, evicted, and homeless than Whites.

Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?

According to Table 7, the 0-30% AMI rental households have one or more of these problems with housing cost burden of greater than 50% of income being the most prominent for 3,591 households. The 50-80% AMI owner households' most prominent problem is housing cost burden greater than 30% of income for 2,946 households. The 50-80% AMI renter households' most prominent problem is housing cost burden greater than 30% of income for 2,201 households.

Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance

There are many needs that housed low-income individuals & families with children have, some of which can put them at imminent risk of becoming unsheltered. According to the United Way of Greater Stark

County (UWGSC) website, one in four Stark County children lives in poverty. A survey of their employees revealed that 64.6% feel they do not have adequate dollars saved to cover an emergency and 35.4% report that they are not able to keep up with their debt. The Refuge of Hope Ministries, a men's homeless shelter in Canton, reports as of June 2023, since January, 84 men moved from their shelter into their own apartments. During the same seven-month period, a record number 163 men transitioned from homelessness to independence. The primary need of formerly homeless persons is decent, safe and affordable housing. Added needs include employment and support services, medical care, education and others. Without needed supports being available, the likelihood of returning to homelessness increases dramatically. For those nearing termination of rapid re-housing assistance, it is critical they have access to these supports. For Stark County, there is a well-coordinated effort through the Homeless Services Collaborative to assist in meeting these needs.

If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:

At risk populations include those with mental illness, those being released from jail, elderly and frail elderly, formerly homeless and single parent families. No specific estimate is being provided, as the information is anecdotal and from the most recent Point In Time (PIT) Homeless Count.

Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness

Concerning financial instability, the characteristics of housing most closely associated with it include a high-cost burden for housing and transportation, as well as the inability to pay rent, defaulting on a mortgage, or experiencing foreclosure. On the other hand, social instability is linked to factors like the death of a parent or spouse, divorce, separation, or incarceration, serious illness, job loss, and mental illness.

NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems - 91.405, 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

This section looks at and assesses the needs of racial groups and/or ethnicities that have a disproportionately greater need of housing problems in comparison to the needs of the jurisdiction as a whole. Those races/ethnic groups that have more than a 5% greater need than the jurisdiction as a whole, when looking at the overall percentage of that race/group's share of population, are considered as a disproportionate need.

Note: While HUD uses a 10% greater need than the jurisdiction as a whole, the County looks at a 5% greater need than the jurisdiction as a whole.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	6,889	1,519	1,090
White	5,828	1,369	975
Black / African American	733	109	79
Asian	25		
American Indian, Alaska Native	4		
Pacific Islander			
Hispanic	153	25	30

Table 9 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	8,335	3,936	
White	7,667	3,821	
Black / African American	364	49	
Asian	50	35	
American Indian, Alaska Native	45		
Pacific Islander			
Hispanic	69		

Table 10 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	6,983	13,824	
White	6,429	12,969	
Black / African American	303	644	
Asian	90	24	
American Indian, Alaska Native		4	
Pacific Islander			
Hispanic	63	74	

Table 11 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,016	11,142	
White	1,952	10,630	
Black / African American	34	319	
Asian	10	10	
American Indian, Alaska Native			
Pacific Islander			
Hispanic	4	74	

Table 12 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

Discussion

When considering whether a particular race or ethnic group has a disproportionately greater housing need, the County looks at groups that are more than 5% greater than that race or ethnic group making up of the entire County population.

While there is no significant concentration of any particular race or ethnic group in the housing market area, it may still be useful to identify potential areas where specific races may have a greater need for housing. However, based on the composition of the County's HOME jurisdiction, there doesn't seem to be any disproportionately greater housing need for any of the minorities. This is demonstrated in Tables 13-16.

NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems - 91.405, 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

This section looks at and assesses the needs of racial groups and/or ethnicities that have a disproportionately greater need of severe housing problems in comparison to the needs of the jurisdiction as a whole. When considering whether a particular group has a disproportionately greater need, we looked at those groups that have more than a 5% greater need than the jurisdiction as a whole.

According to HUD, those races/ethnic groups that have more than a 10% greater need than the jurisdiction as a whole, when looking at the overall percentage of that race/group's share of population, are considered as a disproportionate need for severe housing problems. In other words, since the jurisdiction as a whole in the 0-30% HAMFI income bracket has 62.3% of households with severe housing problems, only those races/ethnicities with 72.3% or greater would be considered as having a disproportionately greater need. While that is what HUD considers, this plan looks at those with a 5% greater need, which would be 67.3% as the threshold.

Severe Housing Problems include: Overcrowded households with more than 1.5 persons per room, not including bathrooms, porches, foyers, halls, or half-rooms. Households with cost burdens more than 50% of income. Lacks complete kitchen facilities. Lacks complete plumbing facilities.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	6889	1519	1,090
White	5828	1369	975
Black / African American	733	109	79
Asian	25	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	153	25	30

Table 13 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	8335	3936	
White	7667	3821	
Black / African American	364	49	
Asian	50	35	
American Indian, Alaska Native	45	0	
Pacific Islander	0	0	
Hispanic	69	0	

Table 14 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	6983	13824	
White	6429	121969	
Black / African American	303	644	
Asian	90	24	
American Indian, Alaska Native		4	
Pacific Islander			
Hispanic	63	74	

Table 15 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2016	11142	0
White	1952	10630	0
Black / African American	34	319	0
Asian	10	10	0
American Indian, Alaska Native			0
Pacific Islander			0
Hispanic	4	74	0

Table 16 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

Discussion

In the 0-30% HAMFI, the American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic and Asian populations would be considered to have a disproportionately greater need for severe housing problems within the County. In this income bracket, the jurisdiction as a whole has a 62.3% rate of severe housing problems, while the American Indian/Alaska Native population show a 100% rate, the Hispanic population show a 73%, and the Asian population show a 75% rate, which are all slightly above the 67.3% threshold that is used by Stark County. In the 30-50% AMI population, the Asian population show a disproportionately greater need with 76%, compared to the 32.5% threshold. In the 50-80% AMI population, the Hispanic & Asian populations have a disproportionately greater need for severe housing problems. In this income bracket, the jurisdiction as a whole has a 9.1% rate of severe housing problems (establishing the threshold at 14.1%), while the Hispanic population show a 41.9% rate and the Asian population show 42.1%. The Hispanic population has a significantly higher need in the 80-100% AMI category (23.8% vs 3.2% for the jurisdiction).

While the above statistics show a disproportionate need for certain ethnic groups, this does not represent a significant number of households as the Hispanic population only make up 1.2% of total households, Asian population only make up 0.4% of total households, and the American Indian/Alaska Native population is even less.

NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens - 91.405, 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

This section looks at and assesses the needs of racial groups and/or ethnicities that have a disproportionately greater need of housing cost burden in comparison to the needs of the jurisdiction as a whole. Those races/ethnic groups that have more than a 5% greater need than the jurisdiction as a whole, when looking at the overall percentage of that race/group's share of population, are considered as a disproportionate need.

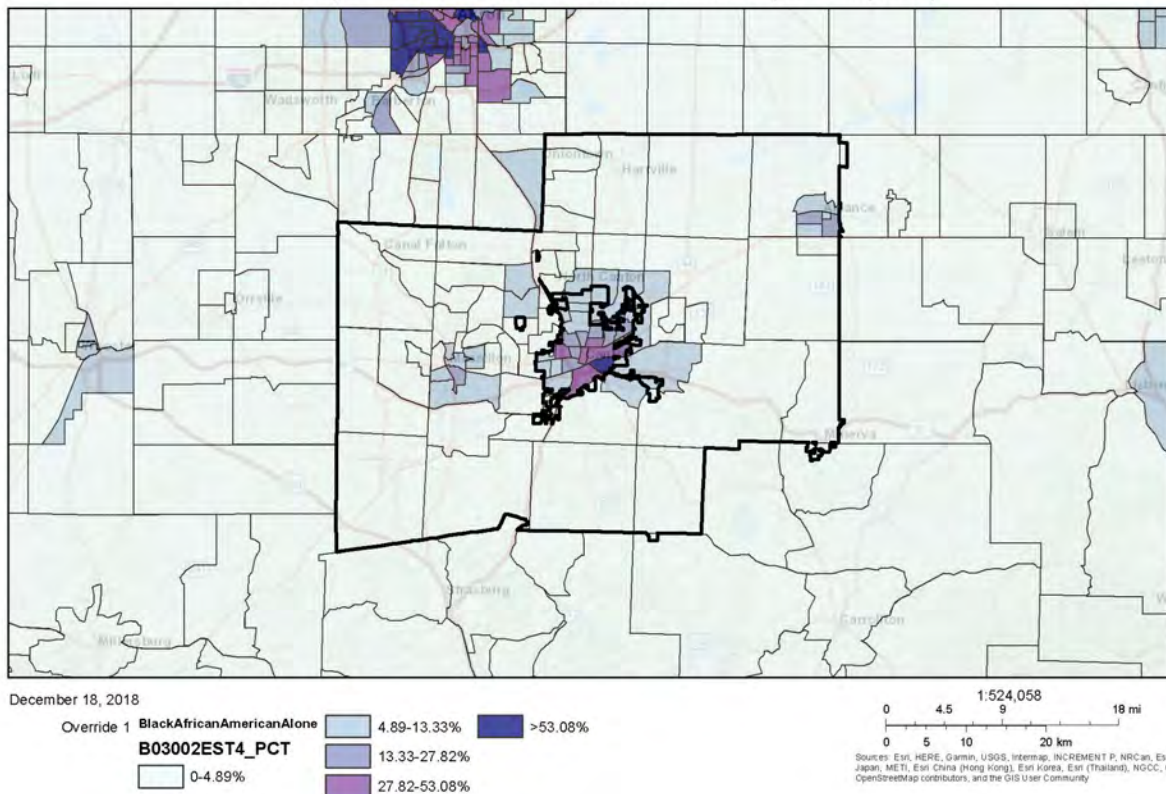
Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	95,048	16,166	9,904	1,077
White	90,015	14,927	8,707	980
Black / African American	2,546	703	702	79
Asian	614	135	90	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	37	0	49	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	917	133	187	30

Table 17 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

CPD Maps - Black of African American alone (non Hispanic)



Discussion

When considering whether a particular race or ethnic group has a disproportionately greater housing need, the County looks at those that are more than 5% greater than that race or ethnic group making up the entire County population.

Due to the makeup of the County's consortium, none of the races/ethnic groups has a greater percentage in that income group than in the overall County population, based on the total population figures in the Fair Housing Analysis of Impediments (AI). When compared with the previous Consolidated Plan, it appears that the disproportionate need has gone down for all racial/ethnic groups except American Indian/Alaska Native in the 30-50% AMI range, and Hispanics in the greater than 50% AMI range. Nevertheless, these are still less than a 5% difference from their total of the entire County population of 0.1% and 1.9%, respectively.

These tables do not take into consideration the more telling housing + transportation costs of these groups.

NA-30 Disproportionately Greater Need: Discussion - 91.205 (b)(2)

Are there any Income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?

After analyzing the varying needs of different populations, the County concluded that if a group experienced a percentage exceeding 5% of its population's percentage within the jurisdiction, it would be considered significant. Taking into account the composition of the County's consortium, it seems that none of the groups have a notably higher need than the jurisdiction at large. However, it is evident that the issue of Housing Cost Burden remains the most pressing concern within the Consortium.

If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?

Needs have been identified above.

Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?

According to the most recent Fair Housing Analysis of Impediments (AI), there are several racial concentrations located in Stark County. Although the majority of the racial concentrations are in Canton (5 census tracts), there is a census tract in Massillon (Census Tract 7142), one in Alliance (Census Tract 7104) and one located in the Townships of Nimishillen and Plain (Census Tract 7124).

NA-35 Public Housing - 91.405, 91.205 (b)

Introduction

This section assesses the Public Housing needs throughout Stark County.

Totals in Use

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project-based	Tenant-based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	8	116	2,417	1,433	1	1,272	0	48	90

Table 18 - Public Housing by Program Type

Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Housing Choice Vouchers

Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers: In March of 2023, the Section 8 waitlist was opened to the public for the first time since 2019. SMHA has pulled and processed over 1100 applications for new families. Additionally:

- SMHA is in the process of updating policies and procedures per HUD's HOTMA final rule. In addition, they plan to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to add more project-based units to the program to maximize utilization. Once approval is given, SMHA will work on the formal process of allocating the vouchers in accordance with regulations. SMHA is well below the HUD allowed threshold for project basing vouchers.
- In December 2020, SMHA was awarded 75 Mainstream Vouchers. SMHA has used all available funding to house disabled families in Stark County but was not able to reach its utilization requirements. To address this, they have created a waitlist for the special purpose vouchers and it is open for applications. In addition, SMHA is working closely with HUD to ensure utilization is met and anticipate an increase in utilization in 2024.
- The EHV program was enacted through the American Rescue Plan Act. This Voucher program helped to house families who were homeless or at risk of being homeless during the pandemic. SMHA was issued 61 vouchers but was not able to fully utilize all the vouchers before the program's expiration date of September 30, 2023. However, funding has been allocated to keep current families housed even though the program has ended.

Housing Choice Vouchers as of 6/30/24

Homeownership	15
Homeownership HAP	\$7,149
Family unification, Non HTW	43
Family unification, Non HTW, HAP	\$26,310
Non-elderly disabled, non MTW,	47
Non-elderly disabled, non MTW, HAP	\$21,420
Portable vouchers paid	6
Portable vouchers paid, HAP	\$8,853
Tenant protection	15
Tenant protection, HAP	\$7,051
Veterans affairs supported housing vouchers	47
Veterans affairs supported housing vouchers, HAP	\$16,300
All other vouchers	1,063
All other vouchers, HAP	\$543,361
HCV – FSS escrow deposits	\$4,873
HCV – All voucher HAP expenses after first of the month	5,602
Total vouchers	1,236
Total vouchers, HAP	\$640,919
# of vouchers under lease on the last day of the month	1,142
SMHA owned units leased, included in the units listed above	13
New vouchers issued but not under HAP contract, as of the last day of the month	81
Mainstream	45
Mainstream HAP	\$24,678
# of PBVs under HAP leased	73
# of PBVs under HAP not leased	11
Project based vouchers	\$37,371
Fraud recovery total collected this month	\$4,170
Non-MTW admin expenses	\$89,536
Mainstream admin expenses	\$1,668
HCV, UNP as of the last day of the month	(\$331,219)
HCV RNP as of the last day of the month	\$11,140
HCV, cash investment as of the last day of the month	\$37,642
Mainstream, UNP as of the last day of the month	\$34,832
Mainstream RNP as of the last day of the month	\$15,225
Mainstream cash investment as of the last day of the month	\$46,082

Source: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/psd - VSM CY2023

SMHA Waitlist

It is SMHA's policy to close the list when the estimated waiting period reaches 36 months; however, where SMHA has particular preferences or funding criteria that require a specific category of family, they may continue to accept applications from certain applicants after the list is closed. Of those on the

wait list, families with children made up 76.8% (an increase from 57.2% in 2013), families with at least one person with a disability accounted for 15.6%, and elderly families constituted 2.5%. White households on the list made up 28% as compared with black households that made up 69.1% (up from 53.2% in 2013). The most pressing needs of residents of public housing and Housing Choice Vouchers appears to be the need for additional units and/or vouchers, especially for families with children.

Characteristics of Residents

	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers				
				Total	Project-based	Tenant-based	Special Purpose Voucher Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
Average Annual Income	608	4,878	9,605	9,756	0	9,855	0	5,247
Average length of stay	0	3	6	6	0	6	0	0
Average Household size	1	1	2	2	1	2	0	3
# Homeless at admission	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	9	448	210	0	193	0	0
# of Disabled Families	2	34	565	490	0	409	0	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	8	116	2,417	1,433	1	1,272	0	48
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 19 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Race of Residents & Program Type									
Race	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project-based	Tenant-based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	4	71	1,255	768	1	655	0	30	70
Black/African American	4	44	1,145	658	0	611	0	18	19
Asian	0	0	5	3	0	2	0	0	1
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	1	10	4	0	4	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Table 20 – Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Ethnicity of Residents

Program Type									
Ethnicity	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project-based	Tenant-based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	2	19	7	0	6	0	0	1
Not Hispanic	8	114	2,398	1,426	1	1,266	0	48	89

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Table 21 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Section 504 Needs Assessment: Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units:

SMHA has implemented a voluntary 504 ADA Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA) to address accessibility and ADA provisions. The needs of Public Housing Tenants and Applicants on the waitlist vary in degree. According to the Fair Housing Analysis of Impediments (AI), the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) has seen an uptick of disabled applicants with various accessibility needs. In

the previous Consolidated Plan, it was noted that there appeared to be an increase in the need for residents and applicants to have physically accessible units with little to no stairs. In addition, pursuant to the Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA), SMHA “must demonstrate to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) satisfaction the completion of the construction or conversion of one hundred and twenty-eight (128) Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) compliant units for individuals with mobility impairments and fifty-one (51) UFAS compliant units for individuals with hearing or vision impairments...”. It is SMHA's goal to complete fifty-one (51) UFAS compliant units that are vision, hearing and mobility accessible (reason explained below).

By including the vision, hearing and mobility accessible features in any new development projects, SMHA will be in the position to satisfy the one hundred twenty-eight (128) units that are required to be mobility accessible. From accessing SMHA’s reasonable accommodation requests, it is more likely that a person in need of vision and/or hearing accessibility will also be in need of mobility accessible features rather than vice versa. As such, rather than renovate fifty-one (51) units to only be hearing and vision accessible, it is SMHA’s goal to renovate and construct the units to be vision, hearing and mobility accessible in an effort to satisfy the needs of SMHA residents and/or applicants on the waiting list.

To ensure equal opportunity and affirmatively further fair housing, SMHA has enhanced its responses to all Reasonable Accommodation requests and Fair Housing complaints with the addition of a designated Section 504 Coordinator who is directly responsible for processing and maintaining all requests and documentation as well as the following:

- The Section 504 Coordinator or designee submits Fair Housing/Section 504 related articles for the Resident Newsletter to keep SMHA residents informed of SMHA’s efforts to affirmatively further fair housing.
- Upon request, the Section 504 Coordinator provides Notice of Right information to residents.
- Upon request, the Section 504 Coordinator or designee provides annual updates to the Stark Regional Planning Commission’s and the City of Canton’s consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), annual Action Plan and Consolidated Plan.
- SMHA incorporates Reasonable Accommodations/Modifications as a specific budget line item and uses an established pay code to track agency expenditures for reasonable accommodation compliance activities.

SMHA provides annual fair housing training to all employees. The Section 504 Coordinator or designee participates in the on-boarding of all new employees to brief them on SMHA’s VCA and provide fair housing and reasonable accommodation information as a part of all new employees’ job duties.

What are the number and type of families on the waiting lists for public housing and section 8 tenant-based rental assistance? Based on the information above, and any other information available to the jurisdiction, what are the most immediate needs of residents of public housing and Housing Choice voucher holders?

SMHA owns and operates 2,516 public housing units. Over two-thirds of SMHA’s inventory is located in Canton, which has the County’s highest concentration of public service, transit and other amenities. Public housing occupants are equally White (48%) and Black (46%). SMHA staff members report no

discernible patterns of concentrations by race or ethnicity in the Authority's public housing developments.

SMHA has seen an increase in disabled applicants with various accessibility needs on its public housing waiting list. The Authority entered into a Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA) which has identified that the Authority needs to complete the conversion or construction of additional units for individuals with mobility impairments and units for individuals with hearing or vision impairments in order to meet its applicants' needs. About 55% of households on the waiting lists were families with children, and 17% of households included at least one member with a disability. Only 3.3% of households were classified as elderly households. 54.3% of households on the waiting list are White followed by Black households at 42.4%.

In addition to the public housing units, the Authority administers 1,500 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV), all in the form of tenant-based rental assistance. Currently, SMHA's payment standard is at or above the HUD-determined local fair market rent depending on the recipient's income. 53% of the voucher holders are Black, while Whites make up 43%.

Landlords may associate voucher recipients with a variety of problems related to low-income tenants, such as late or non-payment of rent and crime. This can create additional barriers to recipients looking to move outside of traditional low-income neighborhoods. Since a majority of voucher holders in Stark County are Black, they can face additional barriers due to racial discrimination.

Vouchers provide a wide variety of housing choice in the County. SMHA's voucher inventory is dispersed primarily outside of Canton and Massillon. These are mostly outside of impacted areas and appear to provide choice in location for voucher holders; however, the majority of vouchers are inside the urban centers of the County. Most of the voucher holders located in Canton are outside of the southeast, though there are a few clusters in impacted areas. Generally, vouchers in Canton are clustered nearby each other, likely due to landlords holding a large number of units that are willing to accept vouchers.

How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large

The AI report observed that while households with children accounted for only 26.5% of all County households, they make up 55% of the public housing waiting lists, indicating a disproportionate need among this group for affordable rental housing. The same observation is made for Black households, which make up 7.4% of all County households, yet account for 42.4% of those on public housing waiting lists. The Section 8 waiting list is similar to the makeup of the public housing waiting list in that 53% of the voucher holders were Black, compared to 43% being White. Falling incomes and rising rents lead to a decrease in affordable housing choice for the population at large.

Discussion

The needs of persons in public housing, as well as those on the waiting lists, vary greatly. There is a real need for additional vouchers. It appears there is an increased need for units that are vision, hearing and mobility accessible in order to meet UFAS standards. SMHA's goal is to build and renovate units that meet all three of these standards. The high number of black households and households of families with children on the waiting lists compared to the percentage of the County's population they make up, shows a disproportionate need among these groups for affordable rental housing.

In addition to housing and health-related supportive service needs, public housing populations also need access to economic opportunities to help move them towards self-sufficiency. SMHA initiated a Youth Leadership, Education, and Workforce Development workshop for LMI youth ages 16 to 18. They learn soft skills, social skills, higher order thinking, etc, that would assist them in their career paths. Information on what to expect when interviewing for a job, as well as college information and scholarship opportunities are presented.

SMHA offers a variety of services and activities to help their residents obtain the tools and resources to move to self-sufficiency, success, and improve their quality of life. Collaborations with community agencies such as Area Agency on Aging, Domestic Violence Project, Stark County Community Action Agency, and many others, provide education, safety, and health and wellness programs that benefit the SMHA residents.

SMHA also partners with Community Building Partnership of Stark County to provide Financial Fitness and Mortgage Ready workshops to assist residents with achieving self-sufficiency. Community Building Partnership also encourages residents to utilize the City of Canton's Down Payment Assistance Program which utilizes HOME funding to assist First Time Homebuyers with down payment and closing costs.

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program provides employment coaching, financial coaching and life coaching to help low-income families reduce their dependence on public assistance programs.

SMHA has established a Resident Initiative Program designed to assist residents with achieving self-sufficiency. This effort is accomplished through goal setting, intervention, advocacy and community collaboration. Residents can get assistance with seeking employment, job training, and educational opportunities. Possible financial assistance may be given to residents that meet eligibility requirements. A scholarship is available for all SMHA public housing residents and Section 8 residents. SMHA has a variety of programs and services at various SMHA sites for residents with children. These include, but are not limited to: after school tutoring, day-care, kindergarten readiness, health, safety, gang prevention programs, nature projects, etc. Other programs that SHMA offers include education classes, housing counseling and rent-buy programs.

On February 14, 2024 HUD announced that SMHA will receive \$77,606 to empower assisted families towards financial stability and savings. The funds will be utilized for coaching training, and savings accounts to build assets and economic independence.

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment - 91.405, 91.205 (c)

Introduction:

The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (also referred to as HCCSC or the CoC) was restructured in July 2013 to conform to the HEARTH Act and new HUD regulations. Continuums of Care have been given very specific responsibilities and duties under the HEARTH Act (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009). The CoC is managed by an independent nonprofit organization known as the Stark Housing Network Inc., which was formed in 2017. The primary charge of Stark County's CoC is to develop supportive housing options and to secure federal, state and local resources and other measures designed to:

- Promote community-wide commitment to employ best practices to end homelessness in Stark County, Ohio
- Secure funding for efforts by providers and government entities to prevent homelessness and quickly rehouse homeless individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families in Stark County, while minimizing the trauma and dislocation that homelessness causes to individuals, families, and communities
- Promote access to an effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families and
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families that experience homelessness

The SHN and CoC boards are comprised of representatives from the Cities of Alliance, Canton and Massillon, the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the private sector, foundations, local behavioral health board, United Way of Greater Stark County, non-profit service and housing providers including domestic violence and CoC and ESG funded providers, law enforcement, and other interested individuals. The CoC is an outgrowth of the Stark County Homeless Services Collaborative, which continues to be an active partner with the CoC in addressing the issues surrounding homelessness. One of the many duties of the CoC is the oversight of the Homeless Hotline aka the Homeless Navigation, which is a phone line that people call to get access to homeless shelters and programs.

The CoC also conducts an annual Point-In-Time (PIT) count of homeless persons in Stark County. The most recent results are from the count which took place on January 22, 2023 as data from the 2024 count had yet to be fully compiled as of this Plan's writing. The recommendations included in this Consolidated Plan will be based upon the data from the 2023 PIT. Each count focuses on a specific point-in-time and relies heavily on the participation of all homeless service and housing providers.

Providers report the number of persons in shelters and on the streets, as well as those in transitional housing and permanent supportive housing. The CoC's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) staff, who compile all the data received during the PIT count, cross-check information on individuals to ensure an unduplicated count. Studies indicate that over a year's time, the homeless population is ten times a one-day count.

Homeless Needs Assessment

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	138	4	471	520	439	116
Persons in Households with Only Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons in Households with Only Adults	126	52	763	584	617	179
Chronically Homeless Individuals	8	17	36	30	15	401
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	4	4	4	328
Veterans	6	2	133	101	82	102
Unaccompanied Child	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons with HIV	0	0	3	2	1	63

Table 22 - Homeless Needs Assessment

Source: 2023 Homeless Point-In-Time County and HMIS

If data is not available for the categories "number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year," and "number of days that persons experience homelessness," describe these categories for each homeless population type (including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth):

Not applicable. Data is provided in the above table.

Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

Race:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
White	125	30
Black or African American	113	20
Asian	1	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	
Pacific Islander	1	5
Ethnicity:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
Hispanic	6	1
Not Hispanic	258	55

Source: This information is the Point-in-Time Sub-populations information.

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.

The number of persons in households with children experiencing homelessness on a given night was 142, according to the 2023 PIT Count. The CoC supports collaboration with entities, particularly education, early childhood, and children's service systems, that are most likely to encounter households with children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This collaboration includes educating teachers, homeless liaisons, counselors, and other direct providers in how to recognize indicators of homelessness, how to engage parents, and how to make referrals for assistance to connect families with appropriate services.

The number of veterans experiencing homelessness on a given night was 9, as identified during the 2023 PIT Count. This is down from 10 in the 2018 PIT count. There are service groups available locally to assist veterans, including the Veterans Administration and the Veterans Services Commission. A variety of service programs are also available via city and county government, and local housing providers. Veteran service providers meet twice monthly for a By Names review of those literally homeless and at imminent risk of homelessness, which has greatly increased collaboration between agencies working to assist veterans and their families.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.

The Stark County 2023 Point in Time Count reported a total of 320 homeless, including 264 sheltered and 56 unsheltered, which is greater than the 2018 Count of 278 homeless. The 2023 racial breakdown of the 320 reported homeless is the following: White - 155 (48%), Black - 133 (42%), all other races - 32

(10%). Hispanics comprise only 2% of the total, a very minimal increase from 2018. The percentage of homelessness among Black/African Americans is high when compared to the percentage of the total population in the community; Black/African Americans make up 8.1% of the population in Stark County (according to 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates), yet they make up 42% of reported homeless.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

Stark County's most recent Point-In-Time Count took place in January 2023. Since Stark County's last Consolidated Plan in 2018, the number of those living on the street has increased over 33%. This increase corresponds to a decrease in affordable housing units and an increase in rents. For 2023, there were 264 homeless counted in shelters as compared to 238 in 2018. Unsheltered homeless accounted for 56 persons in 2023, an increase from 2018's count of 40.

As the data indicates, the primary sub populations that make up the homeless population appear to be persons dealing with severe mental illness, chronic substance abuse, veterans, families with children that cannot find affordable housing, ex-offenders, and victims of domestic violence.

Discussion

The CoC was created in 2013 to "plan, implement, evaluate and continuously improve the system of homelessness services in Stark County." Of their many responsibilities is the operation of a coordinated entry system (the Homeless Hotline and the Homeless Management Information System, or HMIS), which ensures that all requests for homeless services are registered, evaluated and prioritized consistently.

In December 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration released *All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, which sets a bold but achievable goal to reduce homelessness 25 percent by 2025. The plan is the most ambitious effort by any administration to prevent people from becoming homeless, address inequities that disproportionately impact underserved communities, including people of color and other marginalized groups, and help cities and states reduce unsheltered homelessness. To reach that goal, *All In* outlines new strategies to prevent homelessness and increase the supply of housing with supportive services. These strategies build on the proven "Housing First" model— an approach where housing is the first step to a better, safer, and healthier life and serves as a platform for providing services so that people can stay housed. The Plan aims to improve equity and strengthen collaboration at all levels.

The CoC consists of a variety of committees and work groups that work collaboratively to identify gaps in the homeless system, problem solve to eliminate gaps, identify and address inequities that disproportionately impact underserved communities, propose solutions to make the system better and recommend funding priorities to the CoC Board. The committees and work groups include the Coordinated Entry Committee, System Performance Committee, Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee, Homeless Management Information Committee, Equity Committee, and Quality Assurance

Workgroup. A strong housing continuum strategy recognizes the need to have a variety of programs that address the root causes of homelessness. The problems that lead to homelessness fall into three broad categories: situational, transitional, and chronic.

Situational homelessness is categorized by problems arising from a situation in a point in time (job, loss, divorce, domestic violence, economic downturn, disaster) and is well served by a rapid re-housing type of program. **Transitional homelessness** is characterized by both an immediate housing need as well as the need for some longer-term support services in order to assist them with transitioning into more permanent housing and to avoid a return to homelessness. **Chronic homelessness** is categorized by disabilities and interpersonal problems that can be a life-long barrier to becoming fully independent. Those in this group have a wide range of severity levels. Assistance with applications and continual and immediate access to support services are crucial for these individuals to transition into permanent housing, typically PSH. Some of the PSH units are located within larger apartment complexes while others are in scattered sites.

The following homeless needs, challenges and obstacles were identified during public consultations and research:

Programs and Services: Most shelters are at full capacity and often deal with entire families. The CoC has only one men's shelter for the entire county that is not be able to house any sex offenders. That shelter also regularly runs over capacity. All shelters are currently challenged with rehousing residents due to a shortage of all types of affordable housing. Victims of domestic violence are often in need of transitional housing, but there is only one transitional housing project in Stark County that's targeted towards domestic violence victims. The CoC has prioritized rapid rehousing over transitional housing. Fortunately, the fiscal year 2022 CoC Priority Listing included a domestic violence rapid rehousing project that was awarded and was able to begin to serve 10 additional households beginning in late 2023.

Applicants need more knowledge of how to access programs after connecting with the Homeless Hotline, aka Homeless Navigation. Additional supportive services would be advantageous for individuals and families that are diverted from the homeless system, and individuals and families that are prioritized for permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing. Applicants and participants could benefit from more support services while searching for housing, and after they are housed. Services that are needed include: alcohol/drug treatment and counseling, mental health case management, education services, employment and retention services, financial literacy and budget counseling, health & medical services, and childcare services. There is also a need for case management to continue and transportation services offered after clients receive housing.

Housing Issues: There is a need for more affordable housing. Also, much of the remaining affordable housing stock does not pass housing quality inspections, and/or is located in unsuitable environments for families with children, or for persons in recovery. This challenge is beyond the scope of the CoC alone and must be addressed with active participation of members of the community, law enforcement

and local governments. There is a need for more tenant-based rental assistance which is set aside for the homeless. There are long waiting lists for Section 8 vouchers. Accessing utility assistance such as HEAP is very difficult for clients due to limited application access time and long lines.

Economic Issues: It is difficult to income-qualify for unsubsidized housing when living-wage employment is hard to find or unavailable. Having a centralized hub, such as an EnVision Center, could help better connect clients with economic opportunities and supportive services.

The County has mass transit, which has been expanded outside the City of Canton, but it can take a lot of time to get to a job on the bus from some areas of the County. Households in the County mainly rely on personal vehicles. Lower-income households are having to choose between fixing their homes/paying rent or fixing their vehicles.

It is difficult to income-qualify for unsubsidized housing when living-wage employment is hard to find or unavailable. Landlords regularly require a minimum of three times monthly rent as net income, as well as no evictions or criminal charges within the past two to seven years, depending on landlord.

Additionally, it is not uncommon for property management companies to require a minimum credit score. Currently, Stark County's Homeless Hotline specialists refer to a variety of employment services offered by multiple County agencies including ICAN Housing, Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio and Ohio Means Jobs. Having a centralized hub, such as an EnVision Center, in collaboration with current workforce development and training centers could assist clients in achieving the four pillars of self-sufficiency: Economic Empowerment, Educational Advancement, Health and Wellness, and Character and Leadership.

NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment - 91.405, 91.205 (b,d)

Introduction

Healthy communities are places where all residents have access to healthy built, social, economic, and natural environments that give them the opportunity to live their fullest potential regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, income, age, abilities, or other socially defined circumstance. This section assesses the special needs of the non-homeless population in Stark County. This population would include the elderly, disabled, those with mental health issues, young people aging out of the foster care system ex-offenders, persons recovering from substance abuse, and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

Within the County there are various needs among special populations. Stark County has a very active Continuum of Care (CoC) consisting of agencies that work with the homeless population. While the CoC doesn't target non-homeless or special needs, there is an overlap among these populations. Services needed are determined through the CoC analyzing what assistance each agency is providing and what unmet requests for help exist. In the community, the special needs population includes the elderly and frail elderly, persons with developmental disabilities, persons with mental health issues, youths aging out of foster care, ex-offenders, persons recovering from substance abuse, and persons with HIV/AIDS. Supportive housing is needed with a variety of assistive services provided.

What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?

Affordable housing is always a need for special populations. Related types of service needs include those discussed in the Homeless Needs Assessment. Supportive services help special needs populations from becoming homeless or returning to homelessness.

Elderly: As Stark County's population continues to age, there will be more elderly persons that are unable to maintain their homes and in need of in-home medical and non-medical assistance. According to the 2022 ACS 1-Year Estimates, Stark County is home to 77,247 residents aged 65 and older, making up 21% of the County's population. Females outnumber males by 4%. The total elderly population shows an increase from the last Consolidated Plan period by more than 3%. This increase indicates that supportive services for aging in place is more important than ever as the elderly population increases. Transportation needs are also increasing as many elderly persons live further out in the suburban and rural townships where there are fewer healthcare facilities and transit services available. Housing needs include at least one zero step entrance, ½ bath on the first floor, raised toilets, grab bars and improved lighting. Caregiver needs are also increasing as individuals are having fewer children and are more likely to be living alone.

Disabilities: The ACS 2017-2021 5-Year Estimates indicates there are 25,068 persons in the County living with one or more disabilities. Of these, 37% are employed and 31% are living in poverty. This population

frequently has needs for assistance with activities of daily living. This may be in the form of additional group homes or increased supportive services. Housing needs include various accessibility upgrades.

Mental Health: For those living with mental health issues, there is a network of housing providers that provide permanent supportive housing in conjunction with mental health providers. Supports include case management, counseling, psychiatric medical care, vocational assistance and placement, and assistance with physically caring for their residence.

Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery's (StarkMHAR) mission is to support wellness and recovery in the County through innovation in funding, collaboration, education and advocacy. StarkMHAR is empowered by the State of Ohio to plan, develop, fund, manage and evaluate community-based mental health and addiction services. Federal, state and local funds are utilized to ensure mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery support services are available to individuals and families.

Ex-Offenders: Almost 20 years ago, the Stark County Court of Common Pleas organized service providers, employers and the faith-based community to coordinate community-planning efforts for the Stark County Reentry Initiative. As a result, a Reentry Strategic Plan was developed and the Stark County Reentry Court was established. The goal of the Stark County Reentry Court is to reduce recidivism by providing transitional support with judicial oversight to felony offenders returning from state and county institutions to Stark County. Transitional support includes assistance with employment and housing and connections to programs and services that provide mentoring, anger management, chemical dependency treatment and sex offender treatment.

The Reentry Court Program is a yearlong program and has four phases:

Pre-release: Begins at the time of sentencing and as resources allow, consists of periodic contact with individuals while they are incarcerated in order to determine progress toward goals, to coordinate with case managers to prepare for release and to determine familial issues that need to be addressed.

Phase I: Begins when the individual is released from the correctional institution. During this phase, individuals meet with the Reentry staff on a weekly basis. There are referrals to community agencies and individual progress is closely monitored. The individuals in this phase are eligible for bus passes and housing assistance. During this phase, individuals also appear before the Reentry Court Judge on a weekly to monthly basis to encourage progress or address poor program compliance. Probation/parole officers enforce needed sanctions. This phase is approximately four weeks long, and individuals may advance to Phase II if they complete the requirements and are employed. Individuals who receive social security benefits or who are full-time students may also advance to the next phase.

Phase II: Individuals maintain the same requirements but meet with Reentry staff on a bi-weekly basis, and appear before the Reentry Court Judge on a monthly basis. Phase II is approximately 24 weeks long and an individual may advance to Phase III once all requirements are met.

Phase III: Prepares the individual for a successful transition to the community and graduation from the program and is approximately 24 weeks long. Each individual will be monitored for up to two years post-release (from Phase I start date) to determine the recidivism rate of the Reentry Court program.

Youth Aging out of Foster Care: Children who are part of the foster care system in Stark County will eventually reach the age of 18 and age out of the program. Just like anyone else, these young adults may have medical and mental health care needs. But unlike other young people, once they age out of foster care, they no longer have the same financial and emotional backing at home. These young adults rarely receive the emotional and behavioral health services they need because of a lack of insurance and family support. Stark County offers a safety net to help connect these young adults with independent living specialists, social workers and community counselors to successfully transition to adulthood.

This transition to adulthood can be a difficult and uncertain time. In addition to emotional and mental health supports, it is important that these young people have a plan in place to ensure they have a roof over their head, food on the table and access to transportation and employment. Stark County Jobs and Family Services provide emancipation services, employment and education support, financial help, housing and utilities assistance, independent living, transition planning and transportation supportive services. A comprehensive list of resources for youth aging out of foster care can be located at StarkHelpCentral.com.

Special Needs Populations: In addition to housing and health-related supportive service needs, all special needs populations also require access to economic opportunities to help move them towards independence and self-sufficiency. The key to economic development is early childhood education programs. Stark County has robust early childhood education programs, but additional funding is required to support their individual missions and retain staff. The seventeen local school districts in Stark County offer a variety of special education services for various special needs. Stark DD offers two preschool programs for children living with disabilities. Many forms of government support are needed to help a person live independently. Whether it's free healthcare/medication or grants for adaptive home construction, the County believes these initiatives are high priority needs that can be addressed with CDBG/HOME funds.

Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:

According to the Ohio Department of Health, HIV Surveillance Program, in 2022, 26 residents of the County were diagnosed with HIV. Reported new diagnoses of HIV infection include persons with a diagnosis of HIV, a diagnosis of HIV and an AIDS diagnosis within 12 months (HIV and later AIDS), and concurrent diagnoses of HIV and AIDS who were residents of Ohio at time of initial diagnosis. The disease status indicates seven of the twenty-six are living with HIV and later AIDS, while nineteen are living with only HIV, not AIDS. Of the twenty-six newly diagnosed, twenty-one identify as male and five as female. The newly diagnosed range from 20 to over 65 in age, with most being between 45-49 years-old. Regarding race/ethnicity and sex at birth, 27% are Black males, 8% are Black females, 12% are Hispanic/Latino males, 42% are White males and finally 12% are white females. Of those twenty-six residents diagnosed with HIV in 2022, thirty-eight percent of males report male-to-male sexual contact

followed by twenty-four percent reporting heterosexual contact. The all five infected females report they were infected by heterosexual contact. Historically in Stark County, diagnoses of HIV fluctuate from thirty-one in 2018, fifteen in 2019, twenty-seven in 2020, twenty-three in 2021 and twenty-six in 2022.

The data below indicates those living with diagnosed HIV infection represents all persons ever diagnosed and reported with HIV and/or AIDS who have not been reported as having died as of December 31, 2022. Persons living with diagnosed HIV infection represent persons living in Ohio as of December 31, 2022, regardless of whether the person was a resident of Ohio at time of initial HIV and/or AIDS diagnosis. Living with a diagnosed HIV infection in 2022 equals 518 individuals. 79% are male and 21% female. Living with a current AIDS status in 2022 equals 209 individuals. 81% are male and 19% female. As of 2022, 309 individuals are living with an HIV diagnoses but not AIDS. 78% are male and 22% are female. According to trends in reported persons living with an HIV infection by exposure year, most individuals were exposed to HIV during male-to-male sexual contact followed by heterosexual contact. Generally only two percent of new cases historically are from perinatal exposure and only 1% from intravenous drug use.

Equitas Health of Canton provides PrEP, HIV testing, housing advocacy, support groups as well as whole patient self-care. While not all individuals living with HIV/AIDS are LGBTQ+, Equitas Health Institute, the education and research arm of Equitas Health, focuses on reducing health disparities in the LGBTQ+ community.

Canton City Public Health (CCPH) conducts education and outreach for HIV prevention in conjunction with other agencies such as Planned Parenthood of Canton. Referrals are made to other community resources for needed services in medical follow-up, social services including housing needs, counseling, and legal services such as the Center for AIDS Research and Education at Summa Health Systems, if necessary. Canton City Public Health (CCPH) offers weekly HIV testing. CCPH manages the regional HIV prevention grant through ODH and subcontracts with health departments in seven neighboring counties. This grant also supports the coordination of the Region 5 HIV Prevention and Education Planning Advisory Group (RAG). The mission of this advisory group is to develop a comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan for all of Region 5 which includes Stark County and 7 neighboring counties. Massillon City Health Department is not subcontracted with CCPH, but they started free HIV testing at the end of 2023. Additionally, CCPH operates a syringe access service for people who inject drugs and are at risk of acquiring HIV. The Stark Wide Approach to Prevention (SWAP) is available to County residents on Fridays from 2pm-4pm at CCPH. Participants are encouraged to bring used syringes to SWAP in exchange for new supplies.

If the PJ will establish a preference for a HOME TBRA activity for persons with a specific category of disabilities (e.g., persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness), describe their unmet need for housing and services needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2) (ii))

n/a

NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs - 91.415, 91.215 (f)

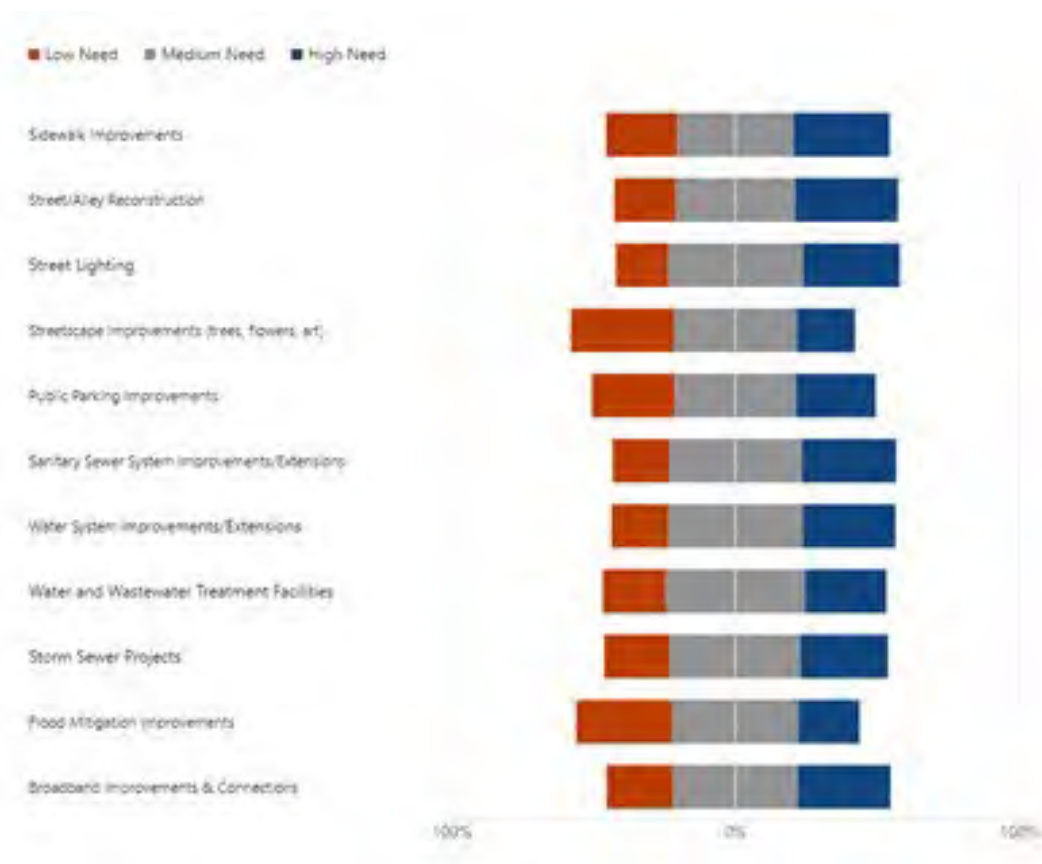
Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Facilities:

Mental health facilities, childcare centers and homeless shelters were found to be the highest priority public facility needs based on comments received during the citizen participation process. The medium priority needs in the County according to comments gathered are senior centers, parks and recreation facilities, employment centers and updated jails. Street reconstruction, street lighting and sidewalk improvements ranked as the highest public improvement/infrastructure needs this Consolidated Plan period.

How were these needs determined?

Needs were determined by a combination of survey comments, meetings with stakeholders and OPWC applications. Needs were also determined through research and coordination with agencies occurring throughout the year.

Public Facilities and Improvements Survey Results



Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:

Fixing potholes, lack of streetlighting and dangerous sidewalks were all comments mentioned throughout the Needs Surveys, during public meetings and community networking events. According to survey respondents, street reconstruction is the highest need followed by street lighting, sidewalk improvements and finally sanitary sewer improvements/extensions. Conversely, flood mitigation initiatives, streetscape design improvements and public parking improvements rank as the three lowest needs in the County according to the respondents.

County infrastructure needs were submitted for funding under the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) 2023 application cycle, which are described above. Aging waterlines are a problem throughout much of the County. During the OPWC 2023 application cycle, almost 14 million was requested for various public improvement infrastructure projects, with a total need of more than \$8.6 Million, up from the previous Consolidated Plan. Replacement of older 4- and 6-inch sanitary sewers in some of the older neighborhoods of some cities, villages and township areas has also been identified as an on-going need throughout the County.

The County's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects that are funded during this Plan period are identified on the map below (TIP Projects). The U.S. Department of Transportation makes funds available to metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) throughout the United States. Each MPO is required to develop a TIP covering at least four years. The TIP must be developed in cooperation with the state and public transit providers. The TIP includes capital and non-capital surface transportation projects, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other transportation enhancements, Federal Lands Highway projects and safety projects included in the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

How were these needs determined?

Needs were determined by a combination of surveys and meetings with stakeholders held during 2023 and via surveys, research and coordination with various agencies throughout the County. Needs were also determined using infrastructure grant applications submitted to Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS) for funding.

The Sanitary Engineer and Health Departments also manage data regarding infrastructure needs in the County. The Sanitary Engineering Department provided a list of the 5 top septic failure areas: 1) Justus Avenue in Sugar Creek Township; 2) the Harmon area in Sugar Creek Township; 3) North Lawrence in Lawrence Township; 4) the Nellabrook allotment in Lexington Township and 5) Uniontown in Lake Township.

Public Improvements OPWC

2023 OPWC Applications			
Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Total Request
Canton	Perry Heights Water Main Replacement - Phase 2	\$2,458,725	\$1,500,000
Louisville	Steeplechase Storm replacement and Sanitary repairs	\$1,758,000	\$1,500,000
Canton	Harter Heights Waterline Replacement	\$3,319,694	\$1,500,000
SCE	Bridge LA 36-8, Beaumont Ave.	\$1,290,000	\$204,000
Plain Township	Orion St. NW Improvements - Phase I	\$1,884,886	\$1,394,800
North Canton	Arrowhead Water Supply Well Installation Project	\$2,243,400	\$1,500,000
SCE	Dressler Rd. PID 112040	\$8,571,000	\$1,252,820
North Canton	Woodrow/Lois Waterline Replacement Project	\$1,492,000	\$358,080
SCE	Perry Dr. and Southway St. Traffic Signal Replacement	\$460,000	\$225,400
Massillon	Lincoln Way Infrastructure Improvements - Phase 3	\$774,251	\$379,383
Brewster	Tuscarawas Paving	\$109,982	\$99,982
SCE	Bridge No. PE 7-50, 17th St.	\$625,000	\$462,500
Canal Fulton	Water Tower Improvement Project	\$481,440	\$481,440
North Canton	East Maple Street Repaving Project	\$554,253	\$250,000
Canal Fulton	Locust Street Improvement Project - Phase I	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Alliance	West Main Street	\$155,000	\$76,000
Massillon	Tremont Ave SW Resurfacing Project	\$520,000	\$260,000
Brewster	West Main Street Reconstruction	\$317,870	\$293,700
Canton	Harmont Ave NE - Columbus Rd NE Resurfacing	\$649,215	\$250,000
Canton	30th St NE Resurfacing	\$449,500	\$200,000
Osnaburg Township	Parks Avenue Chip & Seal Project	\$196,714	\$98,357
Marlboro Township	Paving Project-Osborne Ave.	\$225,700	\$203,130

FY25 Funded Infrastructure Projects

In 2025 the following infrastructure projects will be funded:

1. Canton – Perry Heights water main replacement - \$1,500,000
2. Louisville – Steeplechase storm sewer and sanitary repairs - \$1,500,000
3. Canton – Harter Heights water line replacement - \$1,500,000
4. Stark County Engineers – Beaumont Ave. bridge replacement - \$204,000
5. Plain Township – Orion St. NW stormwater improvements - \$1,394,800
6. North Canton – Arrowhead water supply well installation - \$1,500,000

In 2025 the following infrastructure projects will be funded

1. Stark County Engineers – Dressler Rd. improvements - \$1,252,820
2. North Canton – East Maple St. repaving - \$250,000
3. Massillon – Lincoln Way improvements - \$379,383

FY25 Submitted Infrastructure Projects for Small Govt Funding

1. Brewster – West Main St. reconstruction - \$293,700 requested
2. Brewster – Tuscarawas Ave. repaving - \$99,982 requested
3. Marlboro Township – Osborne Ave. repaving - \$203,130 requested
4. Osnaburg Township – Parks Ave. repaving - \$98,357 requested

TIP Projects



Funded TIP Projects FY24 and FY25

Fiscal Year	Project	Location
2024	Strausser St	Stark
	STA Mahoning/Glamorgan Resurfacing	Alliance
	Middlebranch Trail	Parks
	Strip Ave Widening	Stark
	Dressler Rd	Stark
	State St	Stark
	Frank Ave Resurfacing	Stark
	Perry Dr	Stark
2025	Dressler Rd Corridor	Stark County
	W Tusc Corridor	Canton
	Cleveland Paving	Canton
	Main St Paving (Roselane-7th)	North Canton
	Minerva Conn Trail/Sandy Cr Bridge	Parks
	Sippo Valley Trail Bridge #11	Parks
	State/Beechwood/Sawburg	Alliance

Funded TIP Projects FY26 and FY27

FY	Project	Location
2026		
	W Tusc Corridor	Canton
	Cleveland & State Roundabout	Stark
	Main & Tremont	Massillon
	Sippo Valley Trail Bridge #8	Parks
	Colonial Blvd Ph. 2	Canton
2027		
	Cleveland & State Roundabout	Stark
	Lake Ave Intersections	Massillon
	Everhard Rd	Stark
	Sippo Valley Trail Bridge #1	Parks
	Applegrove St Resurfacing	North Canton
	Easton St Bridge Replacement	Stark

Funded TIP Projects FY28

FY	Project	Location
2028		
	Cleveland Ave	Stark
	Easton/Rosebown	Parks
	Hills & Dales Rd	North Canton
	Hoover Trail	Parks
	SARTA Bus	SARTA
	12th St NW Resurfacing	Canton
	E. Maple St. Enhancements PII	North Canton

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:

Mental health, affordable healthcare and prescriptions, and homelessness services were all identified as high priority needs for public services. High priority needs are outlined in detail through this Plan.

Needs Assessment Survey - Public Services



According to County Health Rankings, in the 2023 Stark County ranked thirteenth out of Ohio's 88 counties for clinical care, which includes indicators of access to care, such as the number of providers and health insurance coverage, and the quality of care such as preventable hospital stays, mammography screenings, and flu vaccinations. The ratios of providers represent the number of individuals served by one provider in the county, if the population was equally distributed across providers. A lower ratio is desirable. Stark County's provider ratio for primary care physicians (1230:1), dentists (1570:1), and mental health providers (310:1) is better than the state average. Since the last assessment, the ratio of mental health providers to residents has changed, with the previous ratio being 420:1. The availability of providers likely contributes to the fact that 90 percent of adults and 99 percent of children have a usual source of care, according to the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey.

Health insurance coverage is another factor related to access to health care is having insurance coverage. The number of Ohioans who are uninsured fell dramatically following the Medicaid expansion in 2014, especially among working-age adults. However, the highest rate of uninsured are those between the ages of 26 and 34. These young adults are usually no longer eligible to be covered under their parents' plans and may not have secured coverage through an employer. Nearly all older adults are covered by health insurance, thanks to the availability of public coverage through Medicare for those

older than age 65, with less than half a percent remaining uninsured. Overall, 6.2 percent of Stark County's population is uninsured. More than 1 in 5 (22 percent) of people who are unemployed are uninsured, and people who did not complete high school are more than twice as likely to be uninsured than the overall adult population. Alliance and Canton both have uninsured rates that are more than double the County's average. Source: ACS, 2021 5-year estimates.

Most people in Stark County who have health insurance are covered by private insurance, usually accessed through an employer. Older adults typically have a combination of coverage types, usually including both public coverage, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and private insurance, which is usually either employer-sponsored or directly purchased. These privately purchased health care options include Medicare Supplement or MediGap plans that provide additional coverage beyond traditional Medicare.

According to the 2021 Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey, not getting prescription medications due to cost was the most common unmet health need for Stark County adults. Availability of providers, transportation challenges, health insurance coverage and cost can all contribute to unmet health needs. The fact that respondents ranked so many public service categories high in our survey illustrates the need for additional supports and funding. Increasing the public services cap within the CDBG program seems like a great place to start.

Percent Uninsured, by Age, Stark County, 2021



Insurance Status 2021

	Private Insurance	Public Insurance	Other Coverage Combinations	No Coverage
Under 19 years	46,300	29,033	7,262	3,093
19 to 34 years	43,215	15,017	4,206	8,377
35 to 64 years	99,725	21,397	11,410	11,233
65 years and over	1,497	23,642	44,512	220

How were these needs determined?

Needs were determined by a combination of survey comments and public meetings with stakeholders. The 2023 Stark County Community Assessment, authored by the Center for Community Solutions, is a curated set of data to inform decision-making utilized in the creation of the Plan. Specific indicators were selected based on their relationship to key community conditions, availability and reliability and based on feedback provided by stakeholders.

Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

Development Patterns

Stark County comprises a diverse mix of small cities, villages, suburban townships, and large rural spaces. These areas have varying housing types, conditions, needs, and opportunities. Central city and suburban county areas have a mix of single-family homes on smaller lots, multi-family apartments, and housing for people with special needs. Residential density in these areas ranges from 4.7 to 7.4 housing units per acre. Urban townships are primarily single-family homes with densities around 3.0 units per acre. In the rural townships, housing is approximately 1 unit per acre.

Housing units in the County are mainly found in the cities of Canton, Alliance, Massillon, and North Canton, as well as in Jackson, Lake, Perry, and Plain townships. These areas are situated along Interstate 77 and are easily commutable to Akron and Cleveland.

Developers are active in Stark County. The area's competitive labor rates enable the construction of new homes at reasonable prices. Lately, the majority of newly constructed owner-occupied housing has been in Jackson and Lake townships, as well as in the City of North Canton. Housing development had a significant drop between 2008 and 2012 due to the housing foreclosure crisis. More recently, housing development has begun to recover at a modest rate despite the growing labor and material costs.

The Stark County Land Revitalization Corporation (SCLRC) aims to convert tax delinquent, vacant, and abandoned lots into well-maintained, tax-producing properties. This program makes these properties available to qualified contiguous property owners. Many of these lots result from the demolition of abandoned and blighted structures. Over 1,074 lots have been transferred under this program, with the majority located in Canton, Massillon, and Alliance. Of these lots, 83.1% are still owned by the side lot grantee, and 16.9% have been transferred to new ownership. Additionally, 82.5% of these lots are current on property taxes.

The SCLRC received demolition funding from the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP), which was administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). The funding came from the US Department of Treasury, using Hardest Hit Funds (HHF). During the program, the SCLRC was able to complete a total of 805 demolitions, comprising 912 units. Out of these, 584 structures (658 units) were demolished in targeted areas of Canton, 161 structures (188 units) in targeted areas of Alliance, and 60 structures (66 units) in targeted areas of Massillon.

MA-10 Housing Market Analysis: Number of Housing Units - 91.410, 91.210(a)&(b)(2)

According to the ACS, 2021 5-year estimates there are 154,426 occupied housing units in Stark County, including 38,049 households with children. 28% of all households have at least one member under the age of 18 and 44% of households have at least one person older than age 60. The average family size is 2.37, but 30% of householders live alone. 67% of housing units are owner-occupied, while 33% of units are either tenant occupied or vacant.

Married couples account for more than 3 in 5 households with children in Stark County. Two-parent households, when compared to single-parent households, often experience improved economic stability and more ease with parental tasks such as cooking, cleaning, care, and transportation. According to the Economic Policy Institute, children who grow up in a household with two parents are less likely to live in poverty, more likely to meet academic benchmarks and receive better grades. Stark County has slightly higher rates of single-parent households with children, both male and female headed, than the Ohio average.

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	125,650	75%
1-unit, attached structure	5,207	3%
2-4 units	16,119	10%
5-19 units	10,586	6%
20 or more units	5,817	3%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	3,363	2%
Total	166,742	100 %

Table 1 – Residential Properties by Unit Number

Source:

US Census - ACS 2021, 5-year estimates

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	166,742	75%	1,152	13%
1 bedroom	11,914	5%	1,146	13%
2 bedrooms	43,259	19%	1,294	15%
3 or more bedrooms	109,486	0%	5,137	59%
Total	331,401	99 %	8,729	100 %

Table 2 – Unit Size by Tenure

Source:

US Census - ACS 2021, 5-year estimates

Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs.

The County's CDBG and HOME funds are targeted to those at or below 80% of area median income. Massillon operates a homebuyer and down-payment assistance (DPA) program. Stark County and Alliance have also had great success with their housing programs. Alliance, Massillon and Stark County all target owner-occupied, single-family homes with their housing rehabilitation programs, also at 80% of AMI. These programs assist LMI homeowners with needed repairs to bring their homes to decent, safe, and sanitary conditions. According to the FY22 CAPER, the County alone completed 42 housing rehabilitation projects. Of these, more than half were extremely low- or low-income.

The Emergency Shelter Grant and the Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) aim to assist families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. To ensure funds are allocated to those who need them the most, the target income is set to 0-29.9% of the median income. HCRP provides short- and medium-term financial assistance and housing stabilization services. It is important to note that over 73% of the County housing stock was built before 1980 and in need of repairs. To address this, SMHA is working on reducing the deficit of public housing units that meet The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS). As previously stated, SMHA's agreement under the VAC is to renovate the public housing inventory to meet minimum federal accessibility standards. The VCA provides opportunities to improve the existing housing, making it more accessible for families with disabilities.

Currently, the availability of housing units and subsidies does not meet the needs of the homeless population. The CoC conducted a system modeling assessment in 2023 to identify the unit gap for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing. The assessment identified an additional need for 118 permanent supportive housing units to meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in Stark County. This gap is only exacerbated by the overall gap in affordable housing units needed in Stark County. An analysis completed for the County's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan identified a pre-pandemic gap of 6,630 units for households with 0-30% area median income and 5,280 for households with 31-50% area median income. This gap was calculated by comparing the total number of households minus units occupied by appropriate income tier equals the number of units needed to house the balance of the households within that income tier that are occupying units affordable to households above their income tier (i.e., the housing gap). See HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for additional data.

Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.

It is expected that a portion of the affordable housing inventory will be lost due to the increases in rent and cost of homes due to inflation. Additionally, homes will be lost due to an inability to rehabilitate some of the existing affordable homes that would have to be brought up to code. Between 2010 and 2021, the median contract rent had increased over 22%. When adding the more comprehensive housing plus transportation costs, it is conceivable that an even greater amount of affordable housing will be lost

over the next five years. These losses would require some additional units to be built or others rehabbed. More importantly, HOME regulations regarding the rehabilitation of homes that could be undertaken using the current HOME guidelines need to be revisited and given a high priority.

Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?

No. The availability of housing units for low-income persons is not adequate. This is demonstrated by waiting lists for SMHA's rental units, especially families with children, as well as for emergency shelters, transitional and supportive housing. According to the 2021 ACS, 55% of homeowners with a mortgage are paying between \$1,000- \$1,999 monthly which indicates owning a home is out of reach for a significant number of people. Over the past few years, it has become more expensive than ever to rent, especially since the beginning of the pandemic. In fact, rents were unaffordable in 2022 for 22.4 million households that paid rent, according to a recent report on America's Rental Housing by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University released on January 25, 2024.

The national average home price in the U.S. climbed 29% since the pandemic began in 2020. According to rental data from Zillow, rent prices are now 29.4% higher than they were before the pandemic, but rental growth seems to have slowed from the major spikes of 2021. In January 2024, rents are 3.4% higher than at the same time last year.

Describe the need for specific types of housing:

Many of the low- to moderate-income household homes are substandard and in need of repairs. Many of these aren't eligible for housing rehabilitation assistance due to excessive rehab costs. The 2021 ACS reports that 633 occupied housing units lack complete plumbing and 1,718 lacking complete kitchen facilities. There continues to be a need for upgrades to the existing housing stock. In addition, of the total occupied housing units, 94,348 were constructed between 1960 – 1939 or earlier. This represents over 57% of the County's housing stock. There is also a need for more affordable rental units. The 2021 ACS data indicates that the number of tenants paying less than \$500 a month in rent has significantly declined since 2018. Most tenants in Stark County are paying anywhere between \$500 to \$999 in monthly rent which generally does not include utilities.

Discussion

There is a significant need for more affordable housing in Stark County, as well as rehabilitated single-family homes. The Stark County HOME-ARP Allocation Plan provides a wealth of information regarding the lack of housing available for certain populations. The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan can be accessed on the SCRPC website.

MA-15 Housing Market Analysis: Cost of Housing - 91.410, 91.210(a)

Introduction:

This section examines the cost of housing to various groups of extremely-low-, low, and moderate-income families in Stark County, both in terms of owner-occupied and rental units.

The tables are for the County as a whole, including the City of Canton. Median rents are not broken down by number of bedrooms.

The HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) is a statistic calculated by HUD for each jurisdiction and is not necessarily the same as other calculations of median incomes, due to a number of adjustments. This statistic is used to calculate Fair Market Rents (FMRs) and income limits that determine eligibility for HUD assisted housing and community development programs.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2022	% Change
Median Home Value	No data in IDIS	170,700	No data in IDIS
Median Contract Rent	486	952	96%

Table 3 – Cost of Housing

Source:
2021 ACS, 1-year Estimates, Table S0801

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	5,804	34.0%
\$500-999	29,570	60.7%
\$1,000-1,499	7,806	3.6%
\$1,500-1,999	1,772	0.8%
\$2,000 or more	176	0.6%
Total	45,128	99.6 %

Table 4 - Rent Paid

Source:
2021 ACS, 1-year Estimates, Table S0801

Housing Affordability

Number of Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	No Data in IDIS	No Data in IDIS
50% HAMFI	5,311	No Data in IDIS
80% HAMFI	19,913	4,330
100% HAMFI	No Data in IDIS	13,206
Total	25,224	17,536

Table 5 – Housing Affordability

Source:
2015-2019 CHAS

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	613	690	905	1,134	1,205
High HOME Rent	576	654	860	1,058	1,157
Low HOME Rent	576	654	860	1,086	1,157

Table 6 – Monthly Rent

Source:
FY2024 FMR Canton-Massillon MSA

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

Homeownership: No. The strength of the housing market can provide insight into how the supply and demand for housing may create challenges to realizing and maintaining the dream of owning a home. Although the data below references the State of Ohio, Stark County trends are similar to the state overall. According to the FY24 Ohio Housing Agency, Housing Needs Assessment:

- The rate homeownership in Ohio has started to decline after a period of improvement from 2017 to 2020 when the rate reached a 10-year high of 70%. By the end of 2022, the rate had fallen to 64% lower than the national average for the first time on record.
- The gap in homeownership between White and Black Ohioans has been widening steadily for over a decade to 37 percentage points by 2021, eight points larger than the national gap.
- Home sales have steadily declined since the start of the pandemic. In 2022 there were 209,612 homes purchased in Ohio, the lowest annual number since 2015. The 2022 median home price in Ohio was \$174,000 (\$172,700 in Stark County), higher than in any year on record other than 2021 when adjusted for inflation. The median home price in Ohio in 2021 was 2.6 times the median household income, the largest price-to-income ratio since 2005, making homeownership more unaffordable to many prospective homebuyers.
- One-in-eight, or 13%, of mortgage holders 55 and over is severely housing cost-burdened. 19% percent of mortgage holders 65 and over and 25% of those 75 and over are severely mortgage burdened.
- Both Black and White potential homebuyers in Ohio are less likely to be denied a mortgage loan application than they were a decade ago. While the denial rate gap between them has also narrowed, Black Ohioans are still more likely to be denied (26% compared to 15%). Black mortgage holders are also more likely to be severely mortgage burdened. The gap is the widest in Northeast Ohio (Stark County), where 17% of Black homeowners with a mortgage spend more than half their income on housing, compared to 8% of White mortgage holders in the region.

Rental Housing: No. When renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing, they risk being unable to afford other necessities, such as food and healthcare. When they spend more than half their income on rent and other housing costs, they find themselves at risk of eviction and homelessness. Rent burden places householders in a precarious position, in which any unexpected cost, such as a car repair, can make their housing situation unstable.

- Ohio and Stark County renters are spending more on rent. Adjusted for inflation, median gross rent in Ohio increased by 10% from \$788 per month in 2012 to \$870 per month in 2021. According to the 2021 ACS – 1-year estimates, the median rent in Stark County is \$952. Rent is currently higher than in any year on record other than 2021, when adjusted for inflation.
- Ohio renters are spending more relative to income. The median share of income spent on rent (28%) is steadily increasing after a decade of decline.
- The prevalence of severe rent burden is also on the rise. In 2021, 25% of Ohio renters were spending at least half their income on housing, up from a record low of 23% in 2019, putting them at risk of eviction and homelessness.
- One-in-three Black renters in Ohio (31%) was severely rent-burdened in 2021, compared to one-in-five White renters (22%).
- There has been a net loss of affordable rental housing for the lowest income Ohioans. There are 447,717 extremely low-income (ELI) renters in Ohio, but only 177,318 rental homes affordable and available to them, leaving a shortage of 270,399 units. The affordability gap between supply and demand for the lowest-income renters is now widening, with a net loss of over 15,000 affordable units between 2020 and 2021.

How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?

Based on the changes in home values and rents between 2010 and 2022, it is highly likely that the availability of affordable housing will continue to decrease in the County, especially for those belonging to the 0-30% AMI groups. This issue can only be addressed by constructing additional units to make up for the losses. Furthermore, the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan highlights the need for rehabilitating older structures. This will help alleviate a more severe loss of affordable housing.

How do HOME rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?

According to the data provided by HUD, the HOME rents and Fair Market Rents are the same as the area Median Rent for all types of housing units. However, the "Low HOME Rents" for three- and four-bedroom units are lower than the Fair Market Rent. As the AI mentioned, minority families generally require larger housing units and have lower incomes compared to White families. This makes it more difficult for minorities to avoid overcrowding. To find affordable housing that has enough space for their families, many households must turn to suboptimal housing units that are old and in need of repair.

Discussion:

The median gross rent in the region is increasing. This trend is causing a decrease in affordable housing options, which is impacting low-income households, particularly protected classes such as minorities, single mothers, and persons with disabilities. As a result, these groups are finding it increasingly difficult to purchase homes and build wealth, as they face higher cost burdens due to falling incomes and rising rents.

MA-20 Housing Market Analysis: Condition of Housing - 91.410, 91.210(a)

Introduction

This section looks at the condition of owner-occupied and rental housing in the County, including those with any of the selected conditions of 1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, and 4. Cost burden greater than 30%.

Describe the jurisdiction's definition for "substandard condition" and "substandard condition but suitable for rehabilitation":

Substandard condition but suitable for rehabilitation would include homes that the Housing Rehab Specialist or Inspector have determined can be successfully rehabbed for \$25,000 or less. For HOME projects, it also adds the requirement that the unit must be brought up to Residential Rehabilitation Standards.

Substandard condition would include homes that cannot be rehabilitated for \$25,000 and the Housing Rehab Specialist/Inspector has indicated that federal CDBG or HOME dollars should not be invested in these properties and they become "walk-aways". Some homes are determined to be too costly to make decent, safe and sanitary through the housing rehabilitation program.

Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	14,700	16%	11,808	36%
With two selected Conditions	305	0%	549	2%
With three selected Conditions	97	0%	0	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	74,680	83%	20,000	62%
Total	89,782	99 %	32,357	100 %

Table 7 - Condition of Units

Data Source: 2013-2017 ACS

Year Unit Built

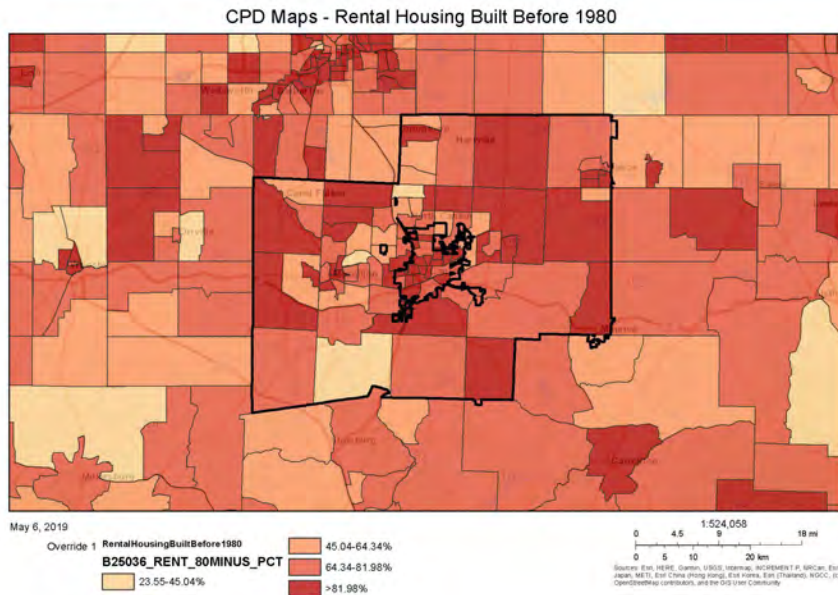
Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	12,114	11%	5,701	11%
1980-1999	18,735	16%	8,817	16%
1950-1979	50,199	44%	23,623	44%
Before 1950	32,738	29%	15,406	29%
Total	113,786	100 %	53,547	100 %

Table 8 – Year Unit Built

Source:
2015-2019 CHAS

Year Unit Built

Roughly 72% of housing units in the County were built before 1980. Although new construction has slowed down somewhat, new housing stock increased by more than 4,384 units from 2015 to 2021. The total number of occupied units rose to 156,111 in the County, according to the 2021 ACS.



Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	82,937	73%	39,029	73%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	4,865	4%	3,925	7%

Table 9 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Data Source: 2013-2017 ACS (Total Units) 2013-2017 CHAS (Units with Children present)

Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units	No data in IDIS	No data in IDIS	No data in IDIS
Abandoned Vacant Units			
REO Properties			
Abandoned REO Properties			

Table 10 - Vacant Units

Vacant Units

No data is available from CHAS or local sources for the above table. 2021 ACS calculations were used to determine that out of the 167,333 total units within the County, 11,222 of those were vacant.

Describe the need for owner and rental rehabilitation based on the condition of the jurisdiction's housing.

For both rental and owner-occupied housing, approximately 150,000 housing units were built before 1980. Houses built before 1980 are generally considered to have lead-based paint risks as it was used until 1978. This factor, combined with the fact that almost 20% of housing units have at least one selected condition, shows that much of the existing housing stock needs rehabilitation.

Estimate the number of housing units within the jurisdiction that are occupied by low or moderate income families that contain lead-based paint hazards. 91.205(e), 91.405

According to the CHAS data in Table 35, approximately 27.35% (33,358) of units built before 1980 (owner + renter-occupied) have children present. Using 0-80% AMI, the number of families under \$49,000 family income (< ~ 80% AMI) reside in approximately 66,714 units (calculated from tables 17, 18 and 19 in NA-20) out of a total of 167,333 units (according to the US Census). Using the CHAS figures above, theoretically 27.35% of those units, or approximately 18,246 units, were built before 1980 and have children present. Therefore, approximately 17,000 – 19,000 of the units occupied by LMI families may contain lead-based paint hazards. Although only 27.35% of the units built before 1980 have children present, the number could potentially increase as families may need to move as rent prices increase.

Discussion

Based on the factors above, it appears that 73% of the housing stock in Stark County was built prior to 1980, and approximately 27.35% of those homes house children and may contain lead-based paint hazards.

MA-25 Public And Assisted Housing - 91.410, 91.210(b)

Introduction:

This section reviews the public and assisted housing market in Stark County, including the number and condition of public housing units, and the strategy for renovations and new units.

Totals Number of Units

	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Vouchers					
				Total	Project-based	Tenant-based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available	3	116	2,546	1,552	0	1,552	0	0	870
# of accessible units									
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 11 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Describe the supply of public housing developments. Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:

Stark County has a fairly well-developed supply of public housing. Waiting lists do exist, and there is always a need for decent, safe and sanitary affordable housing.

SMHA currently has 2,544 units of public housing located in Stark County. The units are comprised of a diverse type, size and age of construction. These types can be high-rise apartments, garden style apartments, multi-family buildings and single-family homes. Sizes range anywhere from efficiency apartments to five-bedroom homes. The age of the units also has a wide range as some units have been recently constructed and some constructed as early as the late 1800's. Most of the construction occurred in the 1970's and 1980's.

The units are divided among six general areas for management and maintenance purposes. These areas range from 150+ to 325+ units. Each unit is inspected annually in accordance with Uniform Physical Condition Standards. This affords SMHA a snapshot of the existing conditions of each unit in five distinct areas. The five areas are site, building exterior, building systems, common areas and unit.

Public Housing Condition

HUD assesses the physical condition of all HUD related multi-family projects pursuant to its regulations. The table below highlights the individual scores given for multi-family. The scoring ranges from zero to 100, with 100 being the best condition overall. Source: HUD REAC 2022/2023 Inspection Report.

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score
Newsome Tower	76b
Alliance Towers	82b
Nantucket Circle Apartments	87b
Lexington Homes	64c
Park Place	94b
Buckeye Manor	83c
Lakeview Estates	67c
Canton Towers	87c
Cedar Oaks	89b
Chip Townhouses I	90c
Chip Townhouses II	82c
Downtowner	74c
Mayfield Manor	91b
Mayfield Manor II	91b
Plaza Apartments	53c
Sahara Apartments	54c
Vasser Village	94b
Victory Square Apartments	20
Village Garden Apartments	75c
Village Towers	92b
AHEPA 59	90c
ICAN Gardens	91C
Mayfield Manor III	99a
Skyline Terraces	60c
Woodside Terrace Apartments	81c
Shakertown Apartments	97b
Friendship Village	94c
Massillon Housing for the Elderly	95b
Mayflower Apartments	97b
Quarry Ridge	93c
Rivertown Tower	86b
Yorkview Estates	94c
Massillon	42c

Table 12 - Public Housing Condition

Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:

SMHA was recently awarded \$2.9M from the Lead Safe Ohio program. This grant will support SMHA's responsibility and commitment to ensure homes are safe and free from lead hazards. In 2023 SMHA was awarded a Choice Neighborhood Planning grant in the amount of \$500,000 for the Jackson Sherrick neighborhood.

The Gables Rehabilitation Project: The rehabilitation project includes, among other improvements, a new parking lot, concrete sidewalk, fencing, exterior lighting, siding and soffits, windows, a community room upgrade, and unit modernization including lighting, flooring, paint, cabinets, and bathroom remodeling.

Gage Gardens Renovation Project: The planned renovation of 54 units in Northeast Canton is currently underway. The project will include site improvements, siding and soffits, roofs, concrete replacement, and full unit renovations.

Hart UFAS Rehabilitation Project: The rehabilitation of six units at W.L. Hart located in Alliance is near completion. SMHA will offer these six fully UFAS (Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards) compliant units to eligible County residents.

Ellisdale/Leshdale Site Improvement Project: The initial planning phase is underway for site improvements at 232 units of family housing that comprises both Ellisdale and Leshdale. Grading, basement waterproofing, excavating, drainage, and concrete repairs are anticipated.

Various Scattered Site Renovation Projects: SMHA has several single family and duplex renovations planned. Each individual unit has unique needs, and the renovation of these units will provide modern, high quality, and aesthetically pleasing results.

AMP 310 Water Softener Project: This project is currently underway and includes the installation of 26 reverse osmosis drinking systems and 13 water softeners at SMHA's well water unit locations.

Linwood Acres Windows: The installation of 848 total energy efficient windows at Linwood Acres located in Southwest Canton is currently in progress.

Jackson Sherrick: New exterior doors will be installed at SMHA's largest family site.

Insurance Projects at Various Locations: Emergency remediation projects are planned and will be on-going.

Energy Performance Contract (EPC): The following improvements are a part of SMHA's EPC project: building envelope improvements, refrigerator replacement, light retrofits, water conservation efforts, mechanical work, and window replacements. The goal of the EPC project was to make improvements

that would provide long-term energy savings. Upgrades were performed at a total of nine locations across the County.

McKinley Tax Credit Project: SMHA has received an award of roughly \$7 million dollars in 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. In partnership with a developer, SMHA will apply for state and federal historic tax credits to fully renovate the property. The project is estimate is over \$13 million dollars.

Cherrie Turner Tower, Phase II: A LIHTC application is planned for the renovation and conversion of Cherrie Turner Towers to the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program.

New Construction Project at Meadowview: SMHA's development non-profit, Progressive Housing Solutions Inc., is currently pursuing the new construction of 36 market rate units at the Villas of Meadowview site.

Pike Renovation Project: The rehabilitation of 39 family units in Alliance is currently in the planning phase. SMHA anticipates renovating the interior and exterior of all units as well as improve grading, basement water proofing, and other site work.

In addition to minor and major renovations and general maintenance, SMHA also is committed to provide reasonable accommodations for approved requests and provide a percentage of units which fully comply with the UFAS. Reasonable accommodation requests generally responded to specific needs for aid such as ramps, grab bars, wider doorways, etc. UFAS compliance sometimes involves extensive renovation which includes lower heights in countertops, windows, faucets, switches, roll-in showers, non-slip floors and accessibility to interior and exterior spaces.

Describe the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:

To accomplish the above projects, SMHA uses an annually awarded federal Capital Fund Program (CFP) formula grant, which is administered by HUD's PIH Office of Capital Improvements. These funds are utilized for administrative, management and operational functions as well as modernization purposes. The Resident Service Department offers a wide variety of services and activities to assist residents with obtaining the needed tools and resources to facilitate self-sufficiency, success and an improved quality of life. By collaborating with various community agencies, SMHA continues to focus on education, safety, and health and wellness initiatives that benefit the full spectrum of our resident population, including improving the living environment.

SMHA is committed to providing residents with as many opportunities as possible to become economically self-sufficient. SMHA strives to provide livable communities that are decent, well maintained, free from drugs and violent crime, and made up of a diverse range of economic incomes so that the children of these communities have role models that are visibly striving to make economic gains

for their families. They inspect each unit semi-annually to improve the overall condition of the units to improve tenant satisfaction. In addition to semi-annually inspections, HUD performs an annual inspection of the units to ensure compliance with HUD housing standards.

Discussion

Since the last Consolidated Plan, SMHA has worked tirelessly to strengthen its core competencies, engage new partners, and adjust policies and protocol to better serve the residents of Stark County. SMHA is dedicated to continuous improvement and an unwavering desire to continue its community impact into the future, one that reflects the organization's commitment to be both the premier affordable housing provider in the County and an example to housing authorities across the Midwest. SMHA has refined its mission and vision and has identified core values to drive the organization forward. SMHA has involved its community partners, residents, staff and leadership in the process of developing the Plan and the result is a strong pathway to strengthen SMHA and guide its steps forward in meeting the affordable housing needs of the community into the future.

MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services - 91.410, 91.210(c)

Introduction

The Consolidated Plan must include a brief inventory of facilities, housing, and services that meet the needs of homeless persons within the jurisdiction, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. The inventory of services must include both services targeted to homeless persons and mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are used to complement services targeted to homeless persons.

Emergency Shelter: According to the January 2023 PIT count, there are currently a total of 253 year-round emergency shelter beds available in the County, compared to 246 beds available in 2018. Of these 253 emergency shelter beds, 50 are targeted towards individual males and 203 are designated for families with children and single females.

Transitional Housing: Two area providers offer a total of nine individual beds and 20 family beds for 29 total transitional housing beds. The limited offering of transitional housing is partially due to federal and state housing funders focusing on rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing. Select county housing providers transitioned to a Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing model.

Permanent Supportive Housing is currently being offered by five providers. The current inventory of permanent supportive housing consists of 378 individual beds (including seven youth beds w/o children), 214 family beds, for a total of 592 beds. This is up from the 590 beds that were in the inventory in 2018. Of these 592, all are considered “dedicated plus” meaning that 100% of the beds are dedicated to serve individuals with disabilities and families in which one adult or child has a disability, including unaccompanied homeless youth, that at a minimum, meet criteria outlined in the FY2023 CoC NOFO that includes chronic homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 578.3.

The City of Canton received an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) in 2023, prioritized to operate shelter facilities by funding essential social services, and to be used for operations, maintenance costs, supportive services, and staff costs. The funding was also prioritized to support homelessness prevention activities including housing relocation and stabilization services and rental assistance. It is anticipated that the focus of the 2024 ESG grant will continue to fund similar programs and services to help reduce homelessness locally.

Facilities Targeted to Homeless Persons

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	140	0	20	214	0
Households with Only Adults	113	0	9	378	0
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	0	0	8	159	0
Unaccompanied Youth	0	0	0	0	0

Table 13 - Facilities Targeted to Homeless Persons

Source:

2023 PIT Count & 2023 COC HIC

Shelters

The County's emergency shelters include five sub-populations: single men, single women, adult only, families, and persons fleeing domestic violence. All shelters are currently challenged with moving residents out to other housing due to a shortage of all types of housing. All shelters are located in one of the County's three major cities.

Domestic Violence Shelters

- Alliance Domestic Violence Shelter (Alliance) – 16 beds
- Domestic Violence Project (Canton) - 23 beds
- Domestic Violence Project (Massillon) - 14 beds

Dedicated Men's Shelter

- Refuge of Hope - 50 beds

Motel Beds

Very few organizations offer motel vouchers which provide temporary housing when shelters are full. There are no services directly linked to these vouchers and services provided by the agencies providing the vouchers may include, but differ based on the organization, housing case management, food assistance and linkages to mainstream services. Faith Community has 31 motel beds as reported the night of the 2023 PIT Count.

The CoC has only one men's shelter for the entire county, and this shelter targets the chronically homeless. Refuge of Hope is not able to house any sex offenders in their facility. Refuge of Hope regularly runs over capacity as local need far exceeds capacity.

Dedicated Women and Family Shelters

There are two shelters for families with children and single females in the City of Canton, and one in Massillon. There is also a childcare facility on site for the Canton facilities.

- YWCA (Canton) - 51 beds single women, single parent female headed households with children
- YWCA (Canton) - 22 family beds (large families with children, single parent male-headed households, intact couples with or without children). The shelter also has the ability to house a disabled person with a service animal.
- Family Living Center (Massillon) - 34 single and/or family beds (single females, households with children including female or male-headed households, or couples with children. The shelter does not house single males.

Fully Inclusive Shelter

Alliance for Children & Families (ACF) is the only family shelter that offers non-traditional hours for intake to accommodate work and school schedules or referrals. ACF is the only shelter that is willing to accommodate the needs of the community to serve wait list of individuals in a family unit through converting a family unit, when there are no homeless families needing shelter, into a dormitory style unit for single males or females. This flexibility maximizes no bed to go empty in “real time” and gets homeless persons off the street immediately instead of establishing a wait list for a type of unit they may better be suited. ACF has 37 beds for single males, single females, families with children. The facility excludes sex offenders due to the mix of genders and presence of children. ACF also offers six overflow beds for when shelter capacity is exceeded and has been operating these beds year-round with the intent to continue if funding allows. ACF has six beds for veterans.

Transitional Housing

There are two agencies offering transitional housing in the County, one being targeted towards domestic violence victims and the other is targeted towards veterans. As noted previously, the decrease in transitional housing providers is largely due to the transition to other types of housing, such as permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing. Domestic Violence of Canton has 21 beds whereas Family and Community Services has eight beds.

Permanent Supportive Housing

PSH combines housing assistance and supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. Usually they serve individuals and members of their household who have serious mental illnesses, chronic substance abuse problems, physical disabilities or AIDS and related diseases. Supportive services are provided on site or through partnering agencies, depending on individual and community needs. The local providers in Stark County include ICAN Housing, Alliance for Children and Families, YWCA, CommQuest, and SMHA. As noted previously, there are 590 beds in Stark County currently devoted to this program.

Rapid Rehousing

Stark County's rapid rehousing program targets families and individuals who are in a crisis state of

homelessness and who will be able to sustain themselves after a minimal amount of assistance. Rental assistance is provided for up to 12 months, as well as security deposits and housing inspections. Case management is typically provided for 12 months and up to 6 months following the end of rental assistance with linkages to other mainstream services.

- YWCA - 82 beds
- ICAN Housing - 86 beds
- Family & Community Services – 11 beds
- Refuge of Hope - 2

Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are used to complement services targeted to homeless persons

There are several services available locally that complement services targeted to homeless persons. Some of the more mainstream services include the following:

Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery (StarkMHAR) serves as a coordinating and funding body for programs serving persons with mental health or substance use needs.

United Way of Greater Stark County (UWGSC) targets over \$5-million dollars annually to the following program areas: education, financial stability, and health. Also, UWGSC has supporting programs targeted to homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless. Programs include emergency financial assistance, intervention and support services for at-risk youth, legal documentation services for acceptance into emergency shelters or treatment facilities, financial stability including financial literacy and employment programs, auto repair services, housing and services, as well as access to basic health care including mental and physical care.

Stark County Jobs and Family Services (SCJFS) partners with customers, community and other service providers to protect children and vulnerable adults, stabilize and strengthen families and encourage self-sufficiency and personal responsibility. SCJFS provides cash, food, medical & transportation assistance, childcare, child protection, child support case management, & employment services.

All major hospitals in the County provide assistance to homeless and low-income clients through medical debt forgiveness/cost write-down based on income and household size. Local community clinics also serve homeless persons free of charge. Multiple homeless service and housing providers offer case management to all participants, including referrals to health care professionals.

Besides StarkMHAR, Stark County's Board of Development Disabilities (SCDD) targets persons with developmental issues. There is a strong partnership between several of Stark County's housing providers offering permanent supportive housing and agencies providing mental health and case management services for those most in need of services. CommQuest Services, Stark County TASC, and Coleman Professional Services also provide drug and alcohol addiction and mental health assistance. Coleman also offers housing and employment assistance.

Employment assistance is provided through several agencies: SCJFS operates a Work Experience Program providing employment services to recipients of Ohio Works First (OWF) via cash and/or food assistance. They also have an employer subsidy program when SCJFS clients are hired.

OhioMeansJobs is a local workforce development/training center connecting job seekers with employers by providing many resources in one location. The Stark County Community Action Agency (SCCAA) operates a workforce training center. Goodwill Industries offers job readiness assessment and training. Most CoC funded programs offer referrals and some provide transportation assistance to employment and training opportunities as well as job fairs. Other housing providers offer similar assistance through case workers.

Welcome Home is a program offered by The Stock Pile, a local nonprofit building material reuse store. Welcome Home provides furniture and home essentials at no cost to applicants transitioning out of homeless situations, aging out of foster care, or domestic violence victims. Other agencies also offer similar programs on a smaller scale.

UWGSC fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in the community. They strive to work hard to keep more people healthy, prepare more children for success in school and get more families financially self-sufficient. The United Way's Economic Mobility Center provides wraparound services geared toward economic mobility programs that help participants build long-term, fiscal independence, creating a cycle of financial success throughout the County. The mobility center offers financial assistance for auto repair assistance, free tax preparation for lower income families, birth certificates and photo IDs to those living in a CoC shelter or entering a recovery program.

UWGSC has joined the partnership that supports StarkHelpCentral.com, a searchable community resource website supported by StarkMHAR, Stark County Job & Family Services, Stark Educational Service Center, Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Stark County Family Court and Stark County Family Council. With this partnership, Stark County has closed its 2-1-1 information line and online database. This move established StarkHelpCentral.com as the primary source of information about community resources in Stark County. The UWGSC is involved in many community collaborations and initiatives such as the CARE Team. The CARE Team offers intervention and support for at-risk youth and their families to overcome obstacles.

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy provides the most vulnerable populations access to pharmaceuticals and education by collaborating with other health care providers and community organizations to maximize resources and provide effective and efficient services.

List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40

Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.

The CoC provides the full continuum of housing and services from homeless prevention assistance to rapid rehousing and permanent housing. CoC partner agencies providing shelter offer wrap-around services such as case management and linkage with other services including counseling, budgeting assistance, education, life skills training, meals, mainstream services through SCJFS, mental health case management, and drug/alcohol abuse treatment. Homeless participants are offered services appropriate to their individual needs and are encouraged to engage in the development of an individualized service plan that is created by the provider and the participant working together. Service plans are modified as needed with input from the participant. The success of the various programs are measured by the participants ability to maintain housing, exit to permanent housing, increase employment and non-employment income, increase non cash benefits, obtain health insurance, and to not return to the homeless system once exited.

Fully Inclusive Shelter

ACF - 37 beds. Single males, single females, families with children. Excludes sex offenders due to the mix of genders and presence of children.

Emergency Shelter

Stark's emergency shelters include four sub-populations: single men, single women, families, and persons fleeing domestic violence. All shelters are currently challenged with moving residents out to other housing due to a shortage of all types of housing. All shelters are located in one of Stark County's three major cities.

Dedicated Men's Shelters

Refuge of Hope - 44 beds. The CoC has only one men's shelter for the entire county, and this shelter houses the chronically homeless. Refuge of Hope regularly runs over capacity as local need far exceeds capacity.

Dedicated Women and Family Shelters

- YWCA (Canton) - 51 beds (single women, single parent female headed households with children)
- YWCA (Canton) - 22 family beds (large families with children, single parent male headed households, intact couples with or without children). The shelter also has the ability to house a disabled person with a service animal.
- Family Living Center (Massillon) - 34 single and/or family beds. Single females, households with children including female or male headed households, or couples with children. The shelter does not house single males.

MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services - 91.410, 91.210(d)

Introduction

This section discusses the market analysis of special needs facilities and services in the County.

Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs

Elderly and frail elderly are served by Direction Home Akron Canton, the local Area Agency on Aging (AA), which provides programs to older persons to help them age in place. The AA distributes federal, state, and local funds to service providers. Numerous non-profit and for-profit providers of these in-home services are working in the County to assist this population. The AA provides assessments, case management, information, and referral to service agencies, and assists consumers of long-term care services with choices and concerns. This population has ongoing needs such as home maintenance, handicapped accessibility, and in-home medical and non-medical assistance (bathing, dressing, food preparation, cleaning, etc). With the aging population, there is a growing need for these services. With aging family members caring for a large number of this population, there will be a growing need for help for this group as well. The Board of Stark County Commissioners recently received an OHA grant to address some of these issues.

Persons with developmental disabilities are served through the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). Their mission is to be the support that connects individuals and families with the services they need for health, safety, education, and a high quality of life.

The Workshops, Inc. is a local nonprofit that provides employment and vocational training opportunities for persons with disabilities, via a partnership with SCDD, to help maximize the independence of those individuals. According to the SCDD, there are over 4,100 people living in Stark County with developmental disabilities.

StarkMHAR is a County behavioral health board that funds and monitors community-based mental health and addiction services. One of the service providers in higher demand in recent years, due to increasing opiate abuse, is CommQuest Services, Inc.

CommQuest provides education, prevention, and treatment of alcohol, drugs, and other addictive behaviors. They provide outpatient counseling services, medication assisted recovery services, an opiate detox facility, and non-medical residential facilities to assist with addiction and recovery treatment. In addition to CommQuest, there are several local groups offering drug and alcohol prevention and recovery resources. A lack of available residential treatment facilities appears to be a common struggle that most of these service providers face, an issue exacerbated by the increase in opiate abusers.

Canton area HIV Resources can be accessed via the Ohio Department of Health. Equitas Health of Canton provides PrEP, HIV testing as well as whole patient self-care. According to HUD, the City of Cleveland is the only HOWPA grantee in Northeast Ohio other than the State of Ohio.

Locally, mental health residential facilities include Sunrise Vista, Akron Children's Pediatric Behavioral Health Center, and Heartland Behavioral Healthcare.

Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing

Several committees and workgroups organized by the CoC focus on identifying the challenges and needs of those being discharged from various publicly funded institutions. These committees and workgroups address mental health and addiction, youth homelessness, the re-entry population and health care discharge planning. The committees explore other funding opportunities through Health & Human Services, Department of Justice, and Mental Health & Addiction Services, as an example but not a comprehensive list, to develop other housing options for those exiting other systems of care. An ongoing partnership exists between housing providers and mental health providers.

Mental health providers offer a variety of outpatient treatment services. People who have a severe mental health diagnosis may be eligible to receive Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment (CPST) services. The CPST provider works in the community with the individual and the housing provider to maintain a successful community living experience. CPST services may focus on interventions such as an assessment of needs, developmental of daily life skills, symptom monitoring, coordination, and outreach. A list of providers can be found at <https://starkmhar.org/get-help/>. Stark MHAR funds a local provider to administer an OhioMHAS licensed residential facility that provides a temporary place to stay for individuals who are homeless, referred by their mental health and/or addiction treatment provider, meet the level of care criteria, and are transitioning back into the community from a hospitalization or incarceration.

The Stark County CoC identified youths aging out of foster care as a critical population in need of assistance several years ago. In addition to operating adoption and child abuse programs, Stark County Job & Family Services (SCJFS) provides independent living services for youth ages 16-21 who are transitioning out of foster care, or who are emancipated from custody. The 2023 Needs Assessment survey indicated that 63% of respondents believe that youth transitioning out of foster care is a high priority service need in Stark County.

CommQuest also operates the NextLevel Homeless Support program, which provides housing support and services to young adults, aged 18 to 25 that are homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless and have mental health or substance abuse concerns. CPST providers are available to increase the skills, resources, and support for those who are experiencing mental health symptoms that are significantly impairing their ability to function and may cause them to lose their residence.

In previous years, SMHA administered a Tenant Based Rental Assistance program that served persons coming out of homeless shelters. The program benefited two populations in particular – homeless individuals with drug/alcohol issues and young persons transitioning out of foster care. Interest in this program has waned in recent years, but there is still a need for it in the County and future requests for funding assistance will be considered.

No local entity has been awarded a HOWPA grant, as of 2024, which would provide housing assistance for persons with HIV/AIDS. Some of the local health departments provide HIV testing and prevention counseling, and Equitas Health provides HIV-related supportive services including mental health counseling, access to pantries, housing services and transportation.

Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy: assists the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with alcohol or other drug addiction, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families and public housing residents with free/affordable prescriptions and other clinical services. This service assists hundreds of lower income clients annually.

The Stock Pile: assists lower income homeowners that need assistance with purchasing construction items, paint and household items at a reduced price.

Community Building Partnerships: will utilize CDBG funds to provide pre-purchase counseling in order to set new homeowners up for success.

StarkFresh: will deliver fresh nutritious meals to lower income elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with alcohol or other drug addiction, persons with HIV/AIDS and public housing residents with food insecurities via their mobile delivery program.

Early Childhood Resource Center- will utilize CDBG for two projects. The Fatherhood Mentorship Project will provide education and support to fathers, while the SPARK program will provide Kindergarten readiness to children in the Perry Local School District.

Fair Housing- provides fair housing services to elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with alcohol or other drug addiction, persons with HIV/AIDS and public housing residents with landlord/tenant issues.

Housing Rehab Program: assist qualified low-to-moderate income persons with needed rehabilitation to remain in their homes.

New Construction: Two Habitat for Humanity affiliates will construct new single-family structures this Consolidated Plan period.

The Consortium will not utilize HOME funds for tenant-based assistance.

For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. (91.220(2))

In addition to the activities above, see below.

The County will be assisting the elderly population with funds from the State of Ohio, Department of Aging to address food insecurities, bridging the digital divide, safety home improvements, and increasing social connectedness.

The County will utilize HOME funds for CHDO activities as well as homebuyer down payment assistance.

FY20 CDBG-CV will continue to be used to respond to unhealthy living conditions associated with the coronavirus disease and/or long COVID by providing grants to rehab or replace failing/failed septic and sewer systems.

MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing - 91.410, 91.210(e)

Describe any negative effects of public policies on affordable housing and residential investment.

Black individuals in the County are overrepresented in low-income households, so they are more likely to rent. Rent has been rising leaving tenants to pay larger shares of their income to rent, preventing them from saving for a down payment. Falling incomes and rising rents will lead to eviction and a decrease in affordable housing choice. Evictions, unlike other financial related hardships such as bankruptcy, can limit future housing options. Lack of affordable rental housing elevates eviction rates making it nearly impossible to access adequate affordable housing. The effects of the pandemic caused steep rental increases over the last several years at a historic rate. Such increases resulted in evictions and in some cases homelessness. The inability to afford housing is the main factor in homelessness. The pandemic drastically impacted the supply of affordable housing in the County and nationally. Low-income renters continue to face significant barriers. Additionally, out-of-state landlords are contributing to these barriers by negatively affecting affordable housing.

Public housing provides affordable homes to low-income renters. SMHA's policies to market available housing opportunities were identified as an area where improvement is needed. Based on the AI, SMHA will expand efforts to ensure that housing information reaches possible underserved populations. Currently, only about 92% of its roughly 2,300 public housing units are leased. Not due to a lack of demand, but due to units not being turned around fast enough to make them ready and available. Regarding the Housing Choice Voucher program, the money isn't being allocated at the proper pace resulting in residents not being housed in affordable housing.

Landlord registries were proposed as a way to hold landlords accountable for safety improvements in rental properties. As a result, the City of Alliance introduced rental registration legislation to City Council in early 2024. Like most urban cities, Alliance is experiencing a surge in homelessness and a shortage of affordable homes.

While public transportation is available to most areas of the County, it primarily serves the urban centers of Alliance, Canton and Massillon. Coverage outside of the urban centers is sparse and generally runs along major transportation corridors. Better coordination with the local transit authority was recommended for improvement in the AI as well as Sunday service.

The AI found the City of Massillon's zoning ordinance needed to be amended to create more opportunities for the development of affordable housing. The AI suggested that Massillon be open to new affordable housing developments outside of areas that are already identified. A request for legislation has been submitted to bring this ordinance in line with the fair housing laws.

Closing the housing affordability gap will require a comprehensive housing strategy, including developing new units, preserving existing affordable housing, and expanding rental assistance.

MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets - 91.410, 91.210(f)

Economic Development Market Analysis

Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction		203		0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations		15,211		11	11
Construction		7,241		5	5
Education and Health Care Services		40,319		29	29
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate		5,288		4	4
Information		1,715		1	1
Manufacturing		24,088		17	17
Other Services		5,404		4	4
Professional, Scientific, Management Services		8,619		6	6
Public Administration		3,997		3	3
Retail Trade		18,505		13	13
Transportation and Warehousing		4,424		3	3
Wholesale Trade		5,756		4	4
Total		140,770		--	--

Table 14 - Business Activity

Source:
ODJFS, 2021 Local Area Unemployment Stats

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	194,800
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	184,600
Unemployment Rate	5.30
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	

Table 15 - Labor Force

Source:
ODJFS, 2021 Local Area Unemployment Stats

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	19,190
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	180
Service	31,480

Sales and office	52,270
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	25,638
Production, transportation and material moving	34,420

Table 16 – Occupations by Sector

Source:
May 2022 BLS- Metropolitan Area Employment and Wage

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	132,974	76%
30-59 Minutes	34,636	20%
60 or More Minutes	6,440	4%
Total	174,050	100 %

Table 17 - Travel Time

Source:
2021 ACS, 1-year Estimates, Table S0801

Education

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	6,190	190	4,548
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	47,858	1,546	14,541
Some college or Associate degree	45,935	805	12,994
Bachelor degree or higher	43,306	718	5,819

Table 18 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Source:
2022: ACS 1-yr Estimates - Univ pop 25 yrs +

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	No data in IDIS	No data in IDIS	No data in IDIS	No data in IDIS	No data in IDIS

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
9th to 12th grade, no diploma					
High school graduate, GED, or alternative					
Some college, no degree					
Associate's degree					
Bachelor's degree					
Graduate or professional degree					

Table 19 - Educational Attainment by Age

Educational Attainment

According to the 2021 U.S. Census 5-Year Estimates, Stark County residents, 25 years and older, have attained the following education:

High School - 100,003

Associate degree - 22,833

Bachelor degree - 40,107

Graduate/Professional Degree - 21,674

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	Data not available
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	35,065
Some college or Associate's degree	41,716
Bachelor's degree	60,538
Graduate or professional degree	72,850

Table 20 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Alternate Data Source Name:

2022: ACS 1-yr Estimates - Inflation Adjusted

Major Changes of Economic Impact

In the wake of the pandemic the County residents, workers, businesses and institutions continue to grapple with the numerous ways in which our economy has been impacted. The direct, and indirect, effects of the pandemic can be felt in every sector of the economy including manufacturing, farming, hospitality, and local government. The recovery from these challenges has been uneven and mixed across communities and populations.

The Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO) is a four-county planning organization, which Stark County is a member. NEFCO developed a COVID Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan (ER&R) with 9 months of subcommittee public input. The culmination of planning process, in conjunction with the subcommittees, NEFCO staff and a consultant, identified the following key goals and strategies to help the region bounce back from the pandemic.

Community Development Strategies • Strengthen access to employment centers and job hubs by expanding transit service and developing innovative partnerships. • Encourage Transit Oriented Developments that improve workers' access to both affordable housing and walkable transit connectivity. • Promote the planning and development of multimodal transportation infrastructure that supports employment access for carless residents. • Develop partnerships to improve access and awareness of housing assistance programs and resources to those in need. • Evaluate modifications to local ordinances, processes, and standards that support the development, or redevelopment, of 'missing middle' market rate housing. • Increase awareness of low-income eligible broadband internet programs to improve households' ability to work and learn remotely. • Continue the planning and development of fiber broadband networks through innovative public-private partnerships.

Regional Business Strategies • Expand and connect business owners to training resources that increase their financial literacy. • Enhance coaching and mentoring programs to allow business owners to benefit from operational and strategic planning assistance. • Expand regional dialogue and coordination of resources, including SBDCs, commercial real estate, and economic development entities. • Promote the planning and implementation of business-facing fiber broadband infrastructure to offer a competitive advantage for businesses to expand their footprint, or relocate to the region. • Develop incentives that leverage the region's low cost-of-living to attract remote workers. • Encourage flexibility and innovation in private employee benefit packages that enable and incentivize employee retention.

Workforce Development & Entrepreneurship Strategies • Expand and promote childcare programs so workers are not forced to choose between employment or quality childcare. • Encourage workplace flexibility that meets the changing needs of the workforce, including hybrid work environments, flexible schedules, and paid training. • Build and replicate successful high school and vocational school training programs that target in-demand, high-quality careers. • Leverage resources and available funding to enhance private-sector workforce training programs and partnerships. • Expand outreach efforts to non-traditional entrepreneur sources, including community organizations, religious institutions, and others. • Focus training and mentorship programming to support the development of 'loan-ready' entrepreneurs and small businesses.

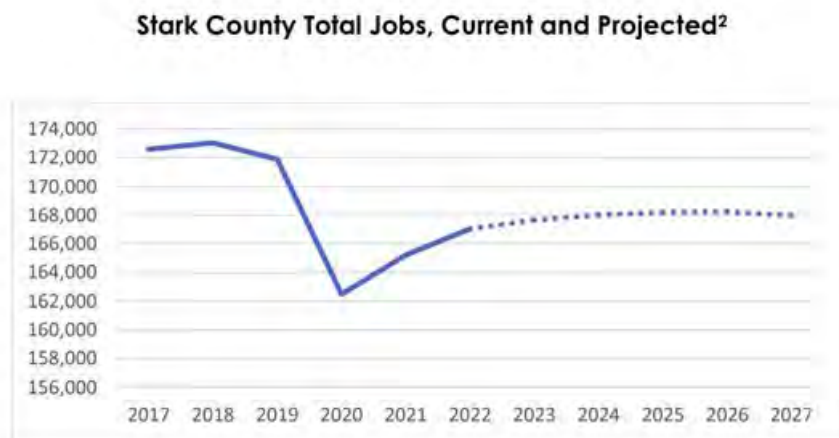
The National Laboratory's National Economic Resilience Data Explorer (NERDE) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce's, Economic Development Administration, developed a national Economic Resilience Data Explorer tool to track real-time impacts to local economics during the pandemic. A CEII value of 1 indicates that a county's economy is in the same position as it was in January 2020, while scores below 1 indicate that it is worse off. Scores greater than 1 indicate that the economy has since grown.

The graph below indicates the County is only 0.014 percentage points lower than in January 2020 which is just 0.006 percent lower than the State CEII. It's safe to assume that the County has rebounded from the pandemic and is headed for a CEII over 1.00.



Source: <https://www.anl.gov/dis/nerde-county-dashboard>

The 2022 estimates of total jobs are 167,044 in Stark County. From 2019-2020, the County saw the negative impact of COVID-19 on total job numbers — Stark lost 9,418 and is projected to recover over time.



Source: Lightcast Q1 2023 Data Set

Major Changes of Economic Impact

Rise of the Gig Economy

The rise of technology also impacts the nature of the typical workforce. Specifically, it drives an increasing number of workers to become part of the gig economy via virtual platforms, or “short-term, nontraditional alternatives to permanent traditional jobs. The gig economy spans many industries and occupations, with its popularity rising in the wake of the pandemic and the advent of remote work normalcy. Now, workers can supplement or replace their traditional income by capitalizing on technical skills and more flexible work environments. According to Coworking Mag, “In many countries, the gig economy is undergoing rapid growth due to the number of online platforms and companies that offer such opportunities.” Gig economy workers offer talent solutions across a variety of industries, thanks to changing workplace norms. “Changing market demands following the pandemic, paired with several other factors, such as lower regional population, growth in the number of early retirements, and rapid technological advancements, [show] hiring needs in the workplace are likely to be constantly changing, reemphasizing the need for greater adaptability and a more inclusive workforce. This also means that the skills demanded by businesses are likely to become more specialized and harder to fill quickly. To keep up with such fast-paced changes, businesses need to evolve and operate in ways that allow them to adapt quickly.” Evidence suggests that the skills gig economy workers offer align with the hiring needs of employers during this time of technological growth. The gig economy can be best described as “a marketplace for independent contractors and freelance workers.” For instance, in its 2016 article on the gig economy, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) describes gig work as a form of self-employment or a contingent alternative work arrangement, typically centered on the completion of a project/task, usually within a set time frame. Recent studies by McKinsey and Mastercard echo similar descriptions of the gig economy, describing it as “a primarily virtual platform or marketplace where independent contractors and freelancers operate and connect with businesses and individuals to provide specific services.”

Stark County Top and Growing Healthcare Jobs

Lightcast Q1 2023 Data Set lists the top ten jobs in the regional healthcare industry for Stark County. Even with the negative job projections, there are strong average annual openings for the top jobs. However, according to the recent Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board survey, 70% of respondents report they are struggling to find qualified talent to fill open positions.

Top Jobs	2022 Jobs	2022 - 2028 Change	2022 - 2028 % Change	Avg. Annual Openings
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	3,841	528	14%	705
Registered Nurses	3,563	(112)	(3%)	201
Nursing Assistants	2,208	(222)	(10%)	314
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,315	(105)	(8%)	102
Medical Assistants	980	19	2%	141
Pharmacy Technicians	542	(1)	0%	49
Physicians, All Other	464	(10)	(2%)	14
Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	411	(17)	(4%)	22
Pharmacists	385	(10)	(3%)	15
Nurse Practitioners	373	60	16%	30

The annual openings metric accounts for much of the projected labor change from 2022 to 2028, since it tracks both job growth and replacements. In terms of growth in the number of total job projections, the Nurse Practitioner and Home Health/Personal Care Aide occupations come out on top. Conversely, the Nursing Assistant, Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurse categories are projected to lose the largest number of jobs.

The Professional Football Hall of Fame Village in Canton construction continues. This \$800-million mixed-use development project will include improvements such as: stadium and museum renovations/expansion, a youth sports complex, a 4-star hotel, an assisted living facility for former NFL players, and an indoor amusement park. As of October 2023, five restaurants have relocated, with three more opening before the end of the month. The theater is open and is hosting concerts, comedians and other events of interest. Family and adult fun continues to draw visitors to Stark County such as sports wagering, soccer, golf, rides and special events. The retail shopping includes a Build-A-Bear with other behind-the-scenes negotiations happening. According to a 2015 economic impact study, this multi-year project is expected to generate \$15.3 billion in cumulative net new total economic output within Stark County over the next 25 years.

CEDS Introduction

NEFCO was formed in 1974 as a regional council of governments by the elected officials within Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne Counties. NEFCO, in part, serves as a forum through which local, state and federal planning programs can be effectively coordinated, serving as the entity completing plans to meet requirements of Section 208 of the Federal Clean Water Act as well as updating the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document in order to meet requirements to maintain its designation as an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). This designation gives member communities ongoing eligibility for economic assistance programs through the EDA.

The 2023-2028 CEDS outlines the region's many economic development challenges. The pandemic has created unprecedented economic hardship for the world and the NEFCO Region. Some challenges had existed previously but have been exacerbated by the pandemic, particularly workforce development, the global supply chain, and inflation. Workforce development issues continue to plague the NEFCO region. Labor shortages continue to hamper the region's manufacturing base, as well as many other sectors. Current labor force participation rates for Portage, Stark, and Summit County are still below levels from 2011 (Chart 6). Talent and skills are also lacking for many skilled trades. Employer demand is not often met with degreed or certified applicants. The region is also challenged with retaining recent high school and college graduates. Other factors affecting the workforce include access to childcare and transportation, which disproportionately impact lower income individuals, women, and historically underserved populations. Global supply chain disruptions have greatly impacted the region. These disruptions have created shortages in key goods, price inflation, factory closures, unloaded shipping containers, and negative impacts on the nation's economic wellbeing. The supply chain has meant higher prices and shortages on high-end consumer goods, increased costs for commodities, energy, and basic needs, and has increased the cost of living and the provision of basic needs. The supply chain has

been worsened by the reduced workforce. Inflation has also impacted all aspects of the economy. International conflict, the global pandemic, and the climate crisis also continue to affect economic conditions. Although out of the region's control, these crises have a significant impact on the region's economic wellbeing.

Regional Innovation Capacity

StatsAmerica developed the Innovation Index as an analytic tool to help community leaders understand a region's weaknesses, strengths, and potential and help formulate strategic direction. The overall Innovation Intelligence Index is calculated from five core indices: three based on innovation inputs (Human Capital and Knowledge Creation; Business Dynamics; Business Profile) and two based on innovation outputs (Employment and Productivity; Economic Wellbeing). Each of these five core indices is equally weighted to calculate an overall composite index; additionally, each core index includes rankings on several subcategories. The average index value for a given Economic Development District (EDD) is 100. Values greater than 100 indicate the region is doing **better** than the average EDD; values lower than 100 indicate the region is **behind** others in any given category. The composite Innovation Intelligence index for the NEFCO Region, which includes Stark County, is 113. Nationally, the NEFCO Region ranks 140th out of 393 EDDs in overall Innovation Intelligence.

The NEFCO Region ranks 74th in the Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index. Of the five core indices, this is the strongest and highest ranking for the NEFCO Region. Patterns of establishment formation and composition indicate a moderate level of business competitiveness. Subcategory strengths include average high-tech industry employment share and university-based knowledge spillovers, which earn the NEFCO Region rankings of 46th and 21st nationally in these disciplines, respectively.

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation 128.3			
Educational Attainment	115.5	STEM Education and Occupations	151.2
High School Attainment	152.2	Tech.-Based Know. Occup. Clusters	157.3
Some College Attainment	83.6	Avg. Hi-Tech Indust. Employmt. Share	171.2
Associate Degree Attainment	80.5	Avg. Prime Working-Age Pop. Growth	120.5
Bachelor's Degree Attainment	132.1		
Graduate Degree Attainment	129		
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion	126		
Patent Technology Diffusion	81.1		
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	171		

Workforce and Infrastructure Needs

A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis is an important assessment that identifies the region's competitive advantages, as well as the multiple internal and external factors that impact the ability of the region to achieve its full potential.

(S) Strengths

During the creation of the 2023-2028 CEDS the *workforce* strengths analysis found the NEO region to be highly competitive because we possess • rich education partners for workforce development • access to higher education and job training • good public schools and world-class colleges/universities • support organizations and opportunities for entrepreneurs and • proximity to working age population. The *industry* strengths analysis found the NEO region to be highly competitive because we possess • strong manufacturing sector; diverse manufacturing base • diversity of economic base • development of clusters/districts/zones for focused industries and • long-term business loyalty. The *economic development* strengths analysis found the NEO region to be highly competitive because we possess a: • collaborative economic development ecosystem • business friendly governments • strong public-private partnerships and • strong efforts to support manufacturing and technology. Businesses' needs are also about geography and quality of life for their employees. The *quality-of-life* strengths analysis found the NEO region to be highly competitive because we possess a • high quality of life • low cost of living/affordable housing • access to quality medical care • access to parks, recreation, community amenities. Finally, the *geography* SWOT analysis found the NEO region to be highly competitive because we have excellent • access to the Midwest production belt, the gateway to East Coast • utility infrastructure • transportation access (rail, interstate highways, waterways) • an abundant water supply and • no major storms outside of the disaster zones.

(W) Weaknesses

During the creation of the 2023-2028 CEDS the *workforce* weaknesses analysis found the NEO region to be lacking in • workforce and a labor pool shrinking • skilled employees • structured trade school training at middle and high school level • a consistent quality of education within region and the • inability to attract younger generation. The *infrastructure* weaknesses analysis found the NEO region to be • lacking industrial building inventory • lacking large/mega sites • old housing stock in urban areas • lacking accessible public transportation outside of larger cities • lacking transportation improvements to support workforce and residents • lacking a hub airport and • lacking international flights. The *economic development environment* weaknesses analysis found the NEO region to be • lacking cooperation between larger cities/counties; intergovernmental relations • factious and complicated political boundaries and govt structures • lacking harmonized/unbalanced tax structures • lacking of strategic approaches with tax incentives • public subsidy lacking transparency and accountability and creating disincentive for individual upward economic mobility • lacking benchmarking and analysis on true regional prosperity and costs. The *geography* weaknesses analysis found the NEO region to be • the weather • NEO's image, both inside and outside of region • poverty.

(O) Opportunities

During the creation of the 2023-2028 CEDS the *industry opportunities* analysis found the NEO region to be • growth in leading manufacturing technologies • rubber/plastics/polymer cluster: maximizing what is already here • strength in health care sector • taking advantage of electric vehicle industry; harness/strengthen industry in region with established companies by creating programs and funding support. The *workforce* opportunities analysis found the NEO region to be • attracting/retaining talent from universities • trades training available; should be introduced in middle school • working with

schools and companies to invest in future workforce to create sustainable working environment and keep up with progressive skills. The *infrastructure* opportunities analysis found the NEO region to be E • development of new buildings and sites • the potential for public-private partnerships to build more housing and mass transportation options for young adults • bringing/attracting air service to Akron-Canton Airport. The *geography* opportunities analysis found the NEO region to be • strategic geographic location • intel supply chain/proximity to Intel site • ability to capitalize on rail/intermodal served areas • geographic access to “new mobility” and • opportunities to market/brand region as a whole. The *economic development environment* opportunities analysis found the NEO region to be • collaborate on initiatives • ability to strengthen partnerships • create strong and cohesive economic development strategy • creation of clearinghouse of info on economic development tools; how these tools work and when it is, and not, appropriate to use and create economic benefit. The *geography* opportunities analysis found the NEO region to be • strategic geographic location • intel supply chain/proximity to intel site • ability to capitalize on rail/intermodal served areas • geographic access to “new mobility” and • the opportunity to market/brand region as a whole.

(T) Threats

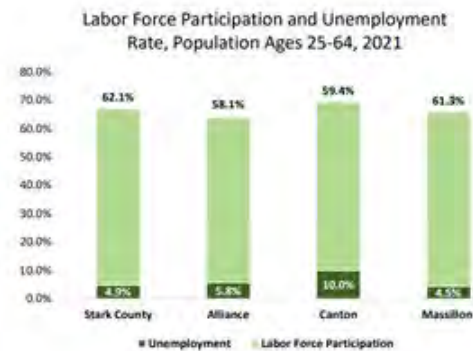
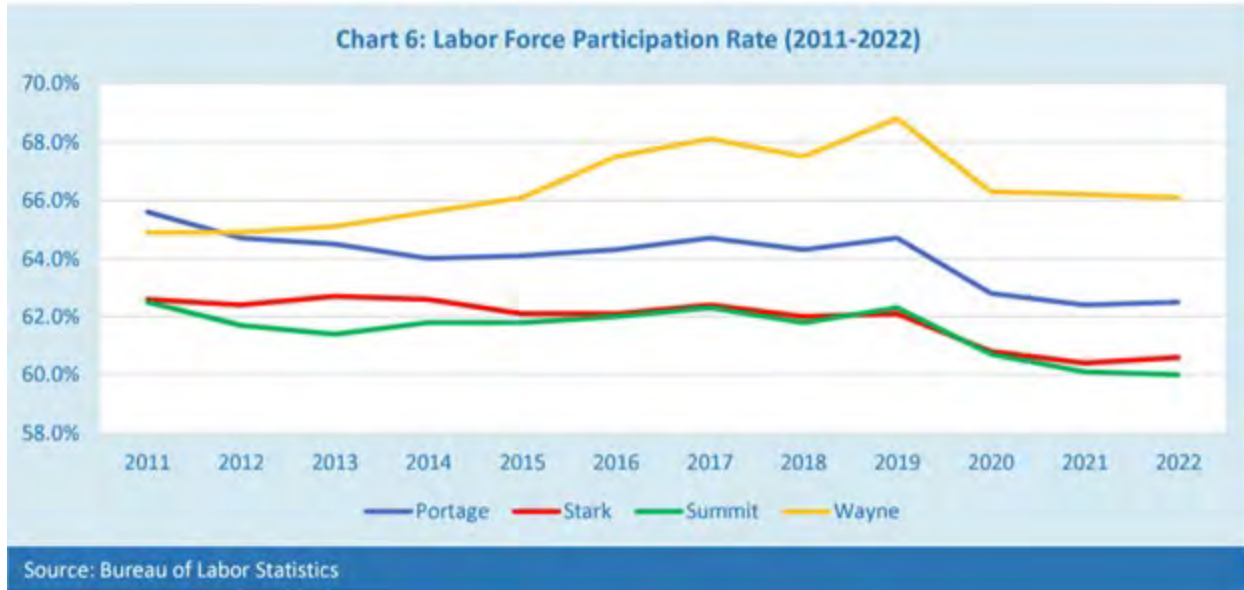
During the creation of the 2023-2028 CEDS the *industry* threats analysis found the NEO region to be • lacking innovation • continue to compete with the South and Texas for attraction in manufacturing and advanced materials • Remaining aspects of “old” economy. The *workforce* threats analysis found the NEO region to be • lacking talent/workforce • stagnant/declining, and aging population • retention of college grads/youth • impact of Intel site, out-migration of workforce; migration of talent to Columbus area • lacking consistent, high-quality K-12 workforce preparation • remote work and income tax revenue implications. The *infrastructure* threats analysis found the NEO region to be • lacking available, developable land • old infrastructure • lacking buildings and sites (impacts retention and attraction) and • almost no inventory over 50,000 square feet. The *economic development environment* threats analysis found the NEO region to be • inability for public and private sectors to work concurrently and collaboratively • fractious political environment (township, city, county, special districts) offering different levels of service and • relative apathy.

The Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board assists Stark County businesses in meeting their workforce needs by coordinating workforce development activities of employment, education, and economic development entities in the region. “The Future of Work” released in August 2023 is an outlook of the evolution of talent opportunities over the next 5-10 years in Stark County. The Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board is a workforce development and training center in partnership with Tuscarawas County, the City of Canton and OhioMeansJobs. This service is assisted with funding from the Department of Labor and matches employers with workers, as well as assisting in the coordination of training. The County has a myriad of opportunities for training ranging from public and private technical and business schools to colleges and universities offering advanced degrees. Examples cited in the public and private initiatives and investments section highlight the flexibility of County educational entities in meeting training for new employment opportunities as various industries grow.

East Ohio Workforce Development Board - According to the 2023-2025 Addendum to the 2021-2025 East Ohio Workforce Development Regional Plan (Stark and Tuscarawas Counties – Area 6), the East Region recognizes that the pandemic has changed the paradigm of business conditions for both business and labor. As the East Region’s four-year regional plan was drafted in 2021, data was just beginning to show the extent of injury and the precariousness of recovery. A range of workplace complications, from supply chain issues to childcare shortages, have been slow to resolve. Workers, hesitant to re-engage, have required adaptations in the workplace and in the public workforce system. The East Region’s response to the challenges required both innovation and reliance on familiar tools: • institute technology solutions for virtual delivery of workforce services • expand outreach practice, capacity and range • reinforce connections to partners with shared missions • seek alternative funding and support the pursuits of partners to that end • conduct self-assessment for continual refinement At this point of mid-term plan review, the economic recovery has shown substantial but disproportionate progress among sectors. Strong business relationships built and sustained through the Region’s Business Resource Networks have guided tailored solutions for addressing employers’ needs. For the duration of this plan, business demand for a prepared labor force will dictate the focus of efforts.

Stark Economic Development Board – On December 20th, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded a consortium led by the Stark Economic Development Board (SEDB) a Recompete Plan approval and \$500,000 Strategy Development Grant for the Reconnecting Canton project. Reconnecting Canton is a collaborative project of SEDB’s Strengthening Stark Network and in conjunction with the City of Canton. Reconnecting Canton aims to reduce the prime age employment gap in Canton through planning and targeted investments in workforce development strategies, transportation, childcare, and other critical infrastructure to remove barriers to employment and connect people with good jobs. The SEDB-led coalition of committed partners includes the City of Canton, Canton for All People, Ohio Means Jobs, Strengthening Stark Career Connect, Stark Area Regional Transit Authority, and the Greater Stark County Urban League. Reconnecting Canton focuses on eight Census tracts in southeast Canton.

Labor force participation counts the number of adults who are employed and the number who are currently unemployed, but actively looking for work. The unemployment rate is calculated differently by the U.S. Census Bureau than by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which issues monthly employment statistics. The labor force participation rates for Stark County, Canton, and Massillon are similar to the Ohio rate. However, the unemployment rate for Canton was nearly twice the rate of Stark County as a whole. The labor force participation rate for White people is 62.1%, Black people 59.4%, and Hispanic or Latinos of any race, 67.2% in Stark County are similar. However, people of color are less likely to be employed and more likely to be looking for work. The unemployment rate for Hispanics or Latinos of any race in Stark County (11.4%) is nearly three times the rate for White people (4.2%), and the rate Black people, at 9.7%, is nearly twice as high as White people. Since the last assessment, unemployment rates have dropped significantly, most notably for Hispanic/Latino residents, which was nearly halved. Labor force participation in Stark County is more than 80% for people ages 20 to 54. Beyond age 55, as they grow older, people are less likely to remain in the labor force, and they may retire or stop working or looking for work due to illness or disability.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 5-Year Estimates



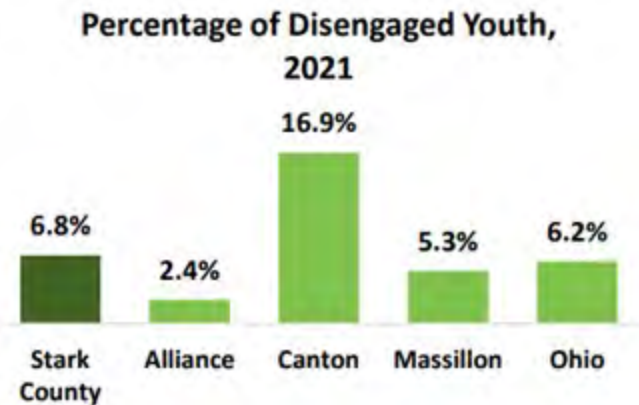
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 5-Year Estimates

Disengaged Youth - According to the Ohio Department of Higher Education, In-State Retention and Salary Analysis of Spring Graduates, the higher the level of post-secondary education, the more graduates can expect to be paid following graduation. Across Ohio, people who graduated with a master's degree earned over \$17,000 more in their first year of employment than those who earned a bachelor's degree. These gains are compounded over a lifetime, so that people with a master's degree earn more than \$1 million more over their lifetimes than someone with an associate degree, according to research conducted by Georgetown University.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 5-Year Estimates

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 5-Year Estimates, economically disengaged youth are individuals between the ages of 16 and 19 who are not in school and not working. In Stark County, 6.8% of youth are disengaged, which is higher than the Ohio rate of 6.2%. However, Canton's youth are almost three times as likely to be disengaged from school and work than the county as a whole. These rates are much higher than the rates calculated in 2017. Disengaged youth rates tend to be closely linked to business cycles and usually follow trends of the economy. Young people may also have chosen to not pursue higher education, as many colleges and universities were still at least partially virtual during this time.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 5-Year Estimates

Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

The Consolidated Plan template for Table 47 combines sectors and does not provide a clear picture of the largest industries in Stark County. Therefore, 2021 NAICS data were used to identify the largest industries in Stark County.

Based on the 2021 NAICS data, the County's major employment sector is *health care and social services* with an 18.2% share of jobs. This is followed by *manufacturing* with a 15.8% share of jobs. *Retail trade* has increased since the last Consolidated Plan and is now at 12.1% of the jobs in Stark County.

While the three largest industries are noted above, the highest average annual wages are earned from finance and insurance, construction and the wholesale trade industries.

LARGEST INDUSTRIES (2021 NAICS)				
Industry	Jobs	%	Average Annual Wage	
Health Care and Social Services	27,758	18.2%		\$48,667
Manufacturing	24,088	15.8%		\$62,389
Retail Trade	18,505	12.1%		\$32,670
Accommodation and Food Services	15,221	10.0%		\$18,802
Educational Services	12,561	8.2%		\$44,197
Admin & Sup/Waste Mgt/Rem Svcs	8,619	5.6%		\$37,949
Construction	7,241	4.7%		\$64,556
Wholesale Trade	5,756	3.8%		\$63,182
Other Services	5,404	3.5%		\$32,030
Finance and Insurance	5,288	3.5%		\$70,115

Source: 2021 NAICS

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

The [Future of Work](#), was issued August 2023 and prepared by TeamNEO, The Northeast Ohio Region, JobsOhio and the Stark Tuscarwas Workforce Development Board. The demand for new workers and emerging skills is generally thought to be accelerating at a tremendous rate due to the continuous development and integration of new technologies and workforce impacts from the pandemic. This report was created to help provide insights about what the future of work will look like for the Greater Canton region from the lens of in-demand hard and soft skills, industry-specific certifications, education and technology.

The current business climate of Stark County is largely made of businesses reporting revenues of less than \$7 million. 20% of Stark County businesses add to the traded sector economy, meaning they sell their goods or services to customers outside of the region. Of those that reported the year they were founded, 208 traded sector companies in Stark have been in business for 50+ years. About 40% of these “lifetime” companies are traded sector manufacturers. These statistics reinforce the notion that manufacturing is a historically vital industry for Stark County.

Infrastructure Needs of the Business Community: Infrastructure needs within the County include the preservation of existing systems as well as their modernization to meet current standards and demands. This includes all types of infrastructure such as roads, public transit, sanitary and storm sewers, and electric, natural gas and water utilities.

Public utility infrastructure improvements include the scheduled replacement of water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines throughout the County. Numerous CDBG funded projects replace and upgrade these lines in low- to moderate-income areas where existing lines have degraded. Replacements use more advanced materials that extend the expected service life while maintaining capacity. Electric utilities are upgrading substations and transmission lines with smart technology to improve efficiency, decrease power outage durations, and simplify operations by enabling remote operations.

Examples of improvements to existing transportation systems include SARTA utilizing web-based applications for buying tickets online, real time tracking of routes, SARTA GoLine for passengers who have disabilities and require Proline trips as well as an option to receive push notifications via text and e-mail. Road infrastructure changes include projects to improve traffic flow such as traffic signalization and roundabout projects, additional and extended turn lanes, and traffic information systems which include web cams and real-time traffic updates. Akron-Canton Airport, the major airport serving the County, recently modernized the airport. Updates included a runway extension, expanded plane service areas and parking, expanded automobile parking and improved traffic flow, extended customs and security areas, new aircraft rescue facilities, and expanded concourse and ticketing areas.

Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect

job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.

A number of public and private sector developments, including cooperative public/private initiatives, are occurring in Stark County. These include efforts that tie directly to existing industries in Stark County, as well as projects that seek to take advantage of growing and future opportunities. This question was answered in prior sections.

How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?

Business leaders in Stark County see a return on investment when they get involved in education. They need schools to help prepare students for an ever more sophisticated work future; a future driven by technology that is advancing at an amazing rate. Schools, colleges, and universities need businesses to help direct educational programs for 21st century learners, workers and team players. Schools, colleges, and universities in Stark County have shown a willingness to respond to the needs of business. Stark Education Partnership, Inc (SEP) is a non-profit organization that is a catalyst, engaging and collaborating with education, business, civic and community stakeholders to drive sustainable improvement and innovation to provide all students with education and career success. SEP serves education, business, and community organizations in the Stark County region as a connector and partner. SEP collaborates with local foundations to ensure a continued focus on meeting emerging needs and works in complementary fashion with other nonprofits throughout the region.

Stark County, as reported by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Report Card had many successes in 2023. **Reading & Math Success:** In the most recent reporting cycle, there are increases in the metrics for Third Grade Reading and Eighth Grade Math Success. Third Grade Reading and Eighth Grade Math Success are both early indicators of future success for students. These metrics both surpassed their 2021 post-pandemic numbers, indicating an upward trend and continued recovery from learning loss that may have occurred during that time. **Industry Credentials & Total Degrees:** This most recent reporting cycle also showed increases in the metrics for Students Earning a Recognized Industry Credential, and Total Degree Attainment. The percentage of Students Earning a Recognized Industry Credential increased from 11.60% to 16.23% and the percentage of Total Degree Attainment rose from 33.60% to 35.90%. Students are graduating from their respective programs, increasingly ready for employment at all levels. As a result of SEP's career-connected learning initiative, the County anticipates further increases in the coming years both in industry credential and degree attainment. These metrics are directly aligned with SEP's mission and vision, and it is encouraging to see growth already taking place across the County. As students participate in career-connected learning, including work-based learning experiences, one goal is to help them build a career plan informed by these experiences and to take concrete next steps following graduation. **High School Graduation:** Alongside the increases noted above, the high school graduation rate remained consistent. School year 2022 graduation stood at 91.04% – down slightly from the 2021 rate which stood at 91.6%. While this is less than a 1% decrease, it does indicate a potential area for focus and growth. **Room for Growth:** Though there were many

successes in this year's report card, there were also decreases in the Kindergarten Reading Assessment, Students Earning 12+ College Credits in HS, and Some College/Degree Attainment. The largest drop observed was in the Some College and Degree Attainment metric which fell from 52.2% to 34.7% – though this may be an indicator that more students are persisting through their second year of college and working toward completing their degrees.

Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

Workforce training initiatives were discussed in prior sections. The efforts described above support the County's Consolidated Plan providing multiple platforms for job seekers to develop the skills needed for a variety of local workforce opportunities covering all types of industries. Partnering agencies mentioned above are responsible for a variety of efforts supporting the County's Consolidated Plan. Workforce training initiatives, a commitment to equitable economic growth examples:

- Stark County Community Action Agency – An organization designated as an anti-poverty agency for Stark County. The SCCAA is a significant program provider of services, working to promote self-sufficiency among lower income persons.
- Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority – Provides not only subsidized housing but also self-sufficiency opportunities for lower income residents of Stark County.
- Greater Stark County Urban League – The premier community-driven organization connecting businesses and individuals, providing readiness training and wrap-around services to fill the many available jobs in Stark County.
- Canton for All People – A Community Development Corporation (CDC) formed by Crossroads United Methodist Church to bring quality housing and opportunities for to downtown Canton.
- Stark County NAACP – An organization committed to achieving equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color.
- Stark County Minority Business Association – Works collaboratively to create a self-sustaining entrepreneurial ecosystem for minorities and women.

Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)? Yes

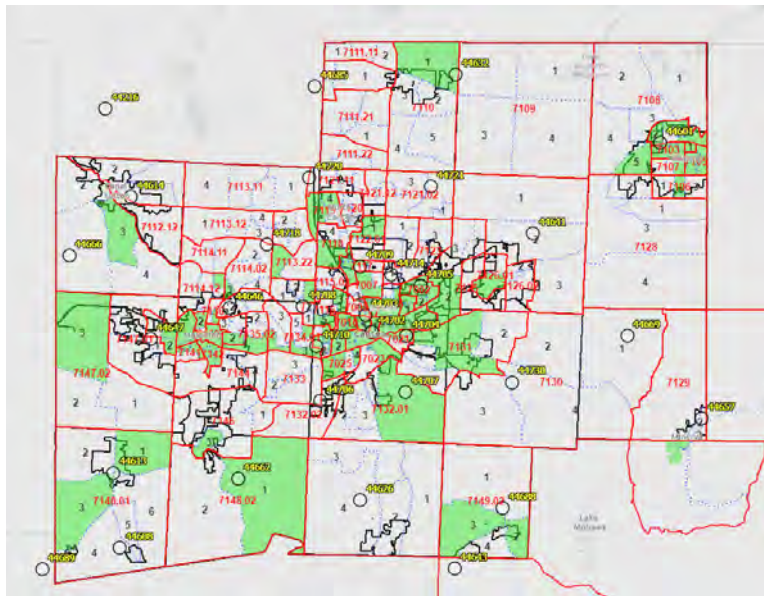
If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.

The question was discussed in prior sections.

Discussion

A robust and inclusive CEDS planning process allows undertakings to be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan by maximizing economic development potential by promoting cooperative and innovative solutions to achieving regional goals and objectives. The CEDS inspires local community leaders to partner with economic development organizations, funding agencies, and the private sector on infrastructure and other projects to create jobs and stimulate investment, all consistent with the Consolidated Plan.

The County's low- to- moderate income areas are identified on the map in green.



Source: 2015 American Community Survey (ACS)

What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?

The housing is typically older and in many cases in need of rehabilitation. Due to the migration of populations towards outer urban/suburban areas, there is a higher percentage of housing abandonment in these areas, as is common in many older cities across the country.

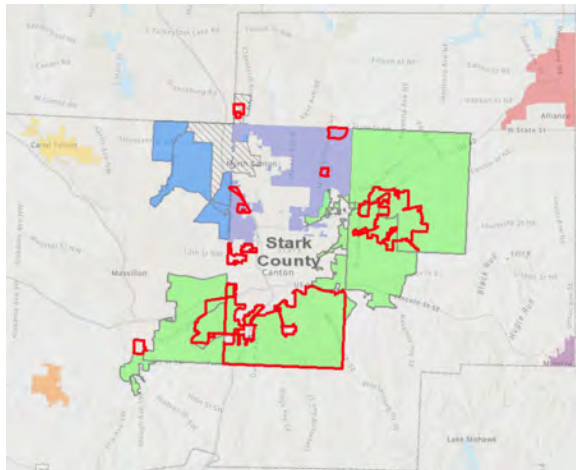
Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

The City of Alliance has numerous assets, among those including the University of Mount Union, a four-year private higher education institution, major manufacturing industries, several park and recreation opportunities, Aultman Alliance Community Hospital and a historic downtown.

Some of the many community assets in the City of Massillon include the R.G. Drage Career Center, Ashland University branch campus, the Massillon Museum, several National Register of Historic Places listings, a recreation center, as well as a senior center.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

There are several [Enterprise Zones \(EZ's\)](#) and [Community Reinvestment Areas \(CRAs\)](#) within the Consortium. These programs offer tax benefits to businesses that locate within designated areas.



The Stark County Consortium EZ and CRA map can be found [here](#).

The table below lists all eight designated Opportunity Zones in Stark County. The first two rows identify the statewide average and the average for all Ohio Opportunity Zones. In total these Opportunity Zones have a population of approximately 25,000. That represents approximately 7% of the County's total population of approximately 370,000. The median household income for Stark County Opportunity Zones ranges from approximately \$12,000 to \$57,000.

Name	County	Median Household Income	Below Poverty Line	Median Home Value	Edu High School	Median Age
All of Ohio	n/a	\$59K	13%	\$157K	91%	40
Ohio OZ Average	n/a	\$32K	32%	\$74K	84%	40
39151700100	Stark	\$12K	52%	\$47K	78%	61
39151700800	Stark	\$34K	24%	\$64K	83%	37
39151701100	Stark	\$44K	15%	\$90K	95%	36
39151701300	Stark	\$32K	40%	\$54K	82%	34
39151710400	Stark	\$16K	55%		73%	35
39151711600	Stark	\$57K	11%	\$104K	88%	44
39151714200	Stark	\$23K	32%	\$83K	85%	36
39151715000	Stark	\$37K	27%	\$79K	90%	39

The Opportunity Zones program incentivizes individuals and companies to invest equity in real estate projects or in businesses within these zones. Stark County supports the use of CDBG and HOME funds for eligible activities within qualified zones.

Within the City of Massillon there are [10 neighborhood associations](#). The Stark Community Foundation offers grant awards of \$3,000 or \$4,000 to each neighborhood association for improving their neighborhood. A curriculum focusing on leadership skills, advocacy, and teamwork provides participants with the assistance that they need to improve their own individual neighborhood. The program's slogan is "You don't need to move to live in a better neighborhood". The rule for receiving these grant dollars is that the individuals must have gone through the Leadership Training Classes and then attend monthly meetings of the Massillon Neighborhood Leadership Council.

In the City of Alliance there are several programs and organizations designed to improve the community and eliminate barriers. The Commons, Alliance for Children and Families, and the Alliance Community Pantry provide activities and programs to improve either the social, financial or physical needs of residents. The Commons offers a clothing store, a grocery store, job training and life skills programs, a sports ministry and health and wellness care. About 73% of those living near the center are in poverty according to the U.S. Census.

The Commons is supported and managed by the Greater Alliance Foundation in partnership with Mount Union and a network of other agencies. Stark Community Foundation provided funds for initial startup expenses.

Both Alliance and Massillon utilize CDBG to conduct various programs pertaining to strategic opportunities in their cities.

MA-60 Broadband Needs of Housing occupied by Low- and Moderate-Income Households - 91.210(a)(4), 91.310(a)(2)

Describe the need for broadband wiring and connections for households, including low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods.

High-speed internet access is a necessity for participation in the modern economy. Broadband accessibility is necessary for both individuals and businesses, as well as education, employment, and health care. Areas with excellent broadband access are at an advantage economically; unserved locations have difficulty competing for economic development projects, jobs, and new residents.

Since the pandemic, many day-to-day activities have shifted online. In a world where jobs, school, and medical care depend on the internet, households can hardly afford to be without a reliable internet connection. Internet is no longer a convenience; it is a necessity.

This difference between people with access to affordable internet and those without is referred to as the digital divide. Those without access to fast, reliable internet miss out on opportunities for education, higher paying jobs, and civic engagement. In many cases, they pay more for their slow internet connections than people with faster connections.

According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 39% of Stark County Residents have Broadband while only 1% of the County has no access to broadband aka high-speed (greater than 25 Mbps download for fixed services) internet providers available. This is a stark improvement from 2016 where in December 2016, 7.37% of the County population had no access to broadband at all. According to FCC maps, the areas without high-speed internet were very small portions within northwestern Stark. The MCTV President noted these areas, for which MCTV is the primary provider, are much fewer than the maps show, especially with recent service upgrades as discussed later. The FCC maps further show that: 21.04% of the County had one high-speed provider (mostly in the rural areas); 48.65% had two providers; and 22.94% had three providers (predominantly Canton). All of the delineated low-to-moderate income areas appear to have at least one high-speed internet service provider. Additionally, all jurisdictions within the County have download speeds of at least 25 Mbps and upload speeds of at least 3 Mbps.

In October 2016, a study was prepared on behalf of the Stark County Area Broadband Task Team. The study identified AT&T, Time Warner Cable/Charter (now Spectrum) and MCTV as the predominant service providers in the County. The study found that the types and costs for services locally are disparate when compared with more densely populated urban areas like Cleveland. The County also appears to have lower internet speeds available when compared to other metro areas. In 2015, AT&T started offering residents in some areas speeds up to 1 Gb per second, and MCTV upgraded their network to all-fiber by mid-2019.

The study recommended forming a Stark County Broadband Authority (SCBA) to identify needed broadband facilities and fiber optic routes, and funding opportunities. The study recommended the SCBA develop grant programs for low-income groups, etc. To date, no Authority has been established; however, the County Commissioners and various local political subdivisions passed resolutions supporting such efforts. Provisions for higher-speed internet have also been included in recent economic reports. Additionally, an online Stark County Broadband Information site was created, giving the public more details about the state of Broadband access within the County.

Ohio House Bill 2 of the 134th General Assembly, which creates the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program (the Program), was signed into law on May 17, 2021. The Program awards grants to internet service providers to fund the construction of broadband projects in unserved and underserved areas of the state. The Program is administered by BroadbandOhio, a division of the Ohio Department of Development. Grants are provided to internet service providers to help with the cost of expanding into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio. The grants are designed to help with the infrastructure costs of the project and help build the networks in areas that lack high-speed internet. The grants will cover the “broadband funding gap,” which is the difference between the total amount of money a broadband provider calculates is necessary to construct the last mile of a specific broadband network and the total amount of money that the provider has determined is the maximum amount of money that is cost effective for the provider to invest in last mile construction for that network.

Eligible projects should provide service access of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to residences in areas that do not have a provider that can supply that speed. Areas that have less than 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload are considered unserved, areas that have between 10 Mbps and 25 Mbps download and 1 Mbps and 3 Mbps upload are considered tier one areas.

Ohio is participating in the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, a federally funded grant, to develop a statewide plan for achieving digital equity goals and closing the digital divide. Ohio’s Digital Equity Plan will serve all Ohioans with an aim to promote meaningful adoption and use of high-speed internet service, with a special emphasis on: low-income households, aging populations, incarcerated individuals, veterans, people with disabilities, people with language barriers, racial and ethnic minorities and rural inhabitants. The State Digital Equity Plan was submitted in September 2023. Visit broadband.ohio.gov for details.

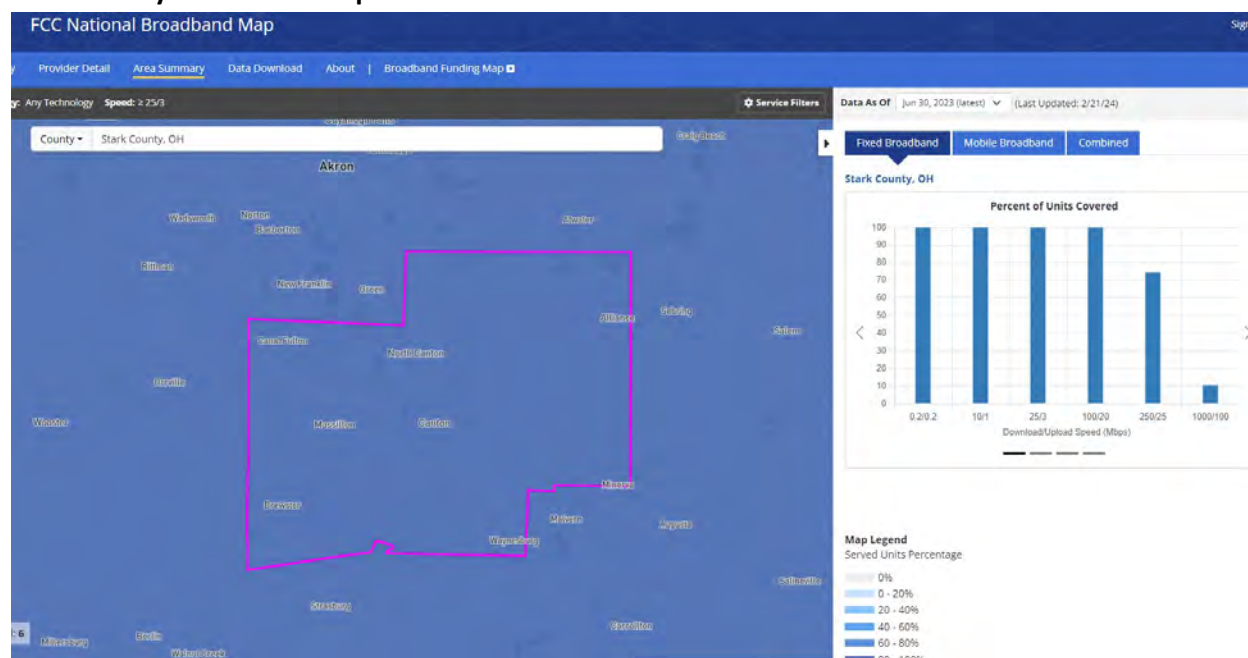
In 2023, FCC data tells us that providers such as HughesNet and Verizon are also seeing heavy usage by Stark County residents. Furthermore, speeds near 1 Gb/second are becoming much more commonplace throughout the County.

According to MCTV’s [website](#), in October 2017, MCTV increased the speed of its low-speed packages: those that were at 10 Mbps were increased to 25 Mbps and any speeds lower were discontinued. Since then, the low-speed package has doubled to 59 Mbps. In return, rates were also raised. The website indicates that prices hadn’t changed since 1999. Spectrum’s website notes they have an Internet Assist program, offering affordable high-speed internet to qualified households, with no contract required. To

qualify, a household member must be a recipient of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the Community Eligibility Provision of the NSLP, or Supplemental Security Income. AT&T's website states they offer a low-cost wireline home Internet service to qualifying households (based on similar factors). Service maps indicated that fiber optics are available within certain parts of Canton City; however, it is uncertain how far this availability extends. Moreover, the usage rates of fiber optics are not high, as an MCTV survey shows that only 19% of consumers are using fiber optics for broadband connection. The Needs Assessment survey completed in the summer of 2023 indicates that broadband access or better access a medium priority for both residential and business respondents.

Emergency Management Agency's (EMA) [Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis Study](#), flooding and tornadoes/severe

Stark County Broadband Map



Describe the need for increased competition by having more than one broadband Internet service provider serve the jurisdiction.

The number of broadband internet options in the United States is limited due to deregulation in the 1980s and 1990s, as well as a lack of public investment in broadband infrastructure. Lack of competition is also more pronounced in rural areas, as fewer than half of rural customers have more than a single choice of broadband provider. Even in urban areas, only about a third of internet customers have more than one or two choices.

Rural communities often have the fewest options for internet service providers because companies have less of an incentive to build out expensive networks in areas with lower population density and lower income households.

There are only a few internet providers in the US because all the smaller providers merged to become larger companies, which are now difficult to challenge. When US telecommunications law was updated to deal with new technologies like the internet, both these laws had explicitly stated goals of promoting competition in telecom markets and encouraging the growth and expansion of the networks themselves. Instead of promoting competition between ISPs, these new laws allowed a flurry of mergers and acquisitions that reduced the telecom industry to just a handful.

BroadbandOhio has developed a mapping resource identifying areas served and unserved. The maps use on-the-ground Ookla Speedtest Intelligence records, categorizing speeds in four categories. An area is considered “served” if it meets the minimum of 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps upload speed. The 25/3 Mbps speed is the federal standard, as defined by the FCC in 2015. The FCC has proposed raising the minimum broadband speeds to 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads. For more information see, Stark County Broadband Profile from the Ohio Department of Development. According to BroadbandOhio in 2021, 39% of the populated area and fourteen percent 14% of households are underserved in the County.

Since nationwide ISPs cover huge areas and have few competitors, there’s little motivation to spend millions of dollars on expanding that network to move to a new area where there’ll be more competition. It’s also hard for new companies to enter the broadband market, since their competitors control all the infrastructure, leaving them to start from scratch.

On July 9, 2021, President Biden issued an executive order instructing the FCC to prevent certain anticompetitive practices from ISPs, make their pricing more transparent and limit excessive early termination fees. This order will improve access to the internet in many low-income communities. For more information, see [Executive Order: Promoting Competition in the American Economy](#).

MA-65 Hazard Mitigation - 91.210(a)(5), 91.310(a)(3)

Describe the jurisdiction's increased natural hazard risks associated with climate change.

The NEO region is diverse in its landscape. All but the southeastern corner of Stark County was impacted by glacial activity. The region is defined by its abundant water resources. Streams, rivers, and lakes provide recreational activities and shape the region's highly valued park systems. Major rivers include the Cuyahoga River and Tuscarawas River. The Ohio River-Lake Erie Basin Divide runs through most of Stark County draining to the Ohio River, while a small portion of Northern Stark County drains to Lake Erie. Stark County is susceptible to flooding, which may be increasing due to the impacts of climate change.

Most of the region is governed by USEPA's Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations, which in part, require communities to control the stormwater runoff due to its pollution impacts on water quality. Because many communities historically built their infrastructure with easy access to water, their centers of commerce are now more vulnerable to flood damage with the increase in impervious surfaces and urban runoff. Stormwater continues to be a regional challenge of climate change, with the most effective solutions being those done regionally.

Natural Hazard Resiliency

According to the most recent Emergency Management Agency's (EMA) Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis Study, flooding and tornadoes/severe storms are the two natural hazards most likely to occur in the County. The study also noted the most significant impact from climate change locally will be an increase in flooding, caused by excessive rainfall/snowmelt, which could lead to land subsidence and dam failures.

To address flooding, the Stark County Engineer installed two 10-million-gallon-capacity flood control basins in flood-prone areas. The US Geological Survey installed flood gauges in the most flood-prone areas to serve as an early flood-warning system. These gauges alert safety officials and citizens when the waterways are subject to overflow.

According to the most recent County EMA's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), "if special assistance is needed during a disaster, requests will be coordinated with appropriate agencies. Firefighters and law enforcement will serve as first responders and assist with warning and movement to shelters of individuals/families within evacuation areas." The EMA provides postcards that households requiring special assistance may fill out and return (or submit online) in case of emergency. The EOP notes that in a disaster, evacuees without vehicles will be transported by school/public buses. Assembly points will be announced by radio and/or bull horns in impacted areas.

The fire departments have a county-wide mutual-aid agreement to ensure adequate material and personnel support in the event of emergencies, and in 2017, the County approved funding for a multi-agency radio communications system, allowing every department or governmental entity connected to the system to communicate seamlessly.

The County building department, also serving as the County Floodplain Manager, oversees “disaster resistance” provisions via its enforcement of floodplain regulations. These regulations restrict and/or prohibit uses that could create a negative impact during flooding. They also regulate the alteration/filling of areas that accommodate/control flood waters. As each jurisdiction in the County adopts/administers its own zoning code, additional disaster resistance provisions may vary among each community; however, several have disaster resistance regulations for areas within riparian corridors or floodplains.

The Soil and Water Conservation District and the County Subdivision Engineer oversees the County Stormwater Quality Regulations and Stormwater Management Plan. These regulations must be adhered to for projects impacting stormwater runoff. The goal of these plans is to slow down stormwater runoff and help remove pollution.

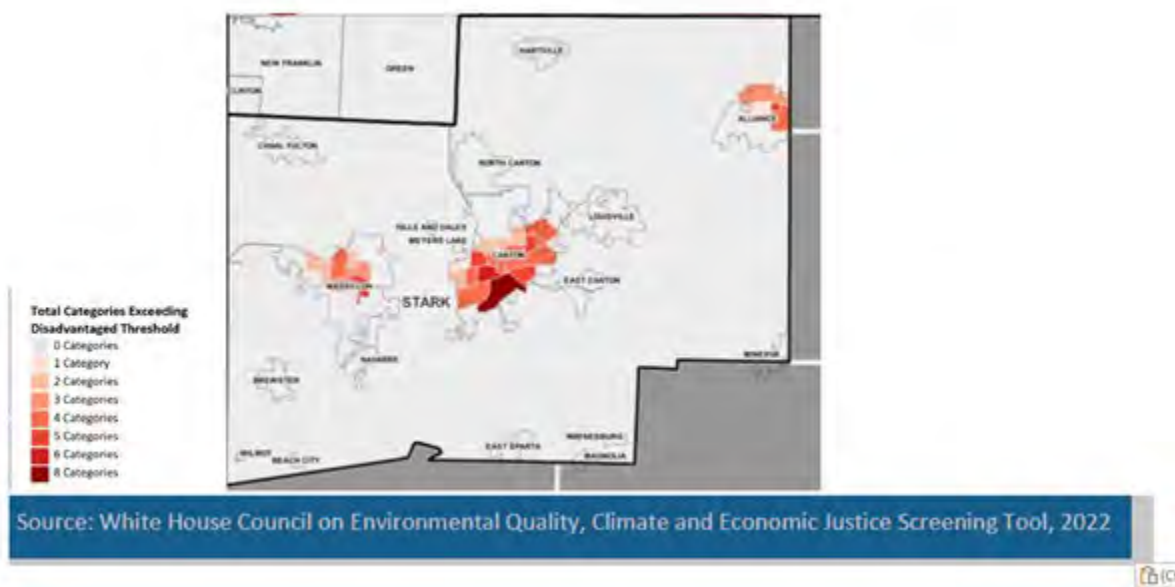
Describe the vulnerability to these risks of housing occupied by low- and moderate-income households based on an analysis of data, findings, and methods.

Based on the low-to-moderate income maps, and per conversations with EMA and other natural hazard management agencies, it appears flood-prone areas are widespread throughout the County and do not appear to impact vulnerable neighborhoods in particular. However, to reduce any vulnerability to increased natural hazards for LMI-occupied housing, the SCRPC has made the LMI area maps available to EMA to utilize in future disaster planning coordination. The SCRPC will continue to collaborate with flood-control authorities and support their efforts as they work to enforce/strengthen stormwater runoff and water quality regulations to improve flooding conditions affecting vulnerable populations.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality has produced an analytical tool, which identifies Census tracts that have been disproportionately overburdened by pollution or have experienced historic underinvestment. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) analyzes dozens of factors in eight categories of burdens: climate change factors, including agricultural loss rate, flood risk, etc.; energy factors, including energy cost and particulate matter; health factors, including high rates of asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and low life expectancy; housing factors, including historic underinvestment, housing cost, lack of greenspace, lack of indoor plumbing, and lead paint; legacy pollution factors, including abandoned mine land, former defense sites, and proximity to hazardous waste and superfund sites; transportation factors, including exposure to diesel particulate matter, transportation barriers, and traffic proximity and volume; water and wastewater factors, including underground storage tanks and wastewater discharge; and workforce development factors, including linguistic isolation, low median income, poverty, and unemployment. Per the CEJST, a tract qualifies as “disadvantaged” if it is at or above the 90th percentile for a particular burden in seven of the categories

and is at or above the 65th percentile for low income. For the workforce development category, tracts are identified as disadvantaged if they are at or above the 90th percentile for a particular burden and fewer than 10% of adults have a high school education.

Stark County has clear disparities when analyzing climate and environmental justice (see map below). The disadvantaged communities are primarily census tracts in the region's central cities: Canton, Alliance and Massillon. Southeast Canton has a census tract that exceeds the threshold of "disadvantaged" in eight categories. [The White House Council on Environmental Quality, Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(2022\)](#) identifies the following disadvantage census tracts in Stark County. As indicated earlier, the CEJST is a geospatial mapping tool that identifies areas across the nation where communities are faced with significant burdens. These burdens are organized into eight categories: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development.



Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) administers the Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs under a contract with the Board of Stark County Commissioners. The SCRPC has successfully administered the CDBG program since 1975 and the HOME Investment Partnership program since 1992. Planning and public participation is managed through SCRPC and the Board of Stark County Commissioners have final approval in the usage of funds. The stated mission of SCRPC is to improve the quality of life in Stark County and its communities through an effective regional forum characterized by communication, collaboration, facilitation and planning assistance. SCRPC has a long history of administering grants and programs on behalf of Stark County and local political subdivisions. The agency has administered the Fair Housing Program for the County as well as for the City of Alliance, and housing rehab programs for Alliance and Massillon. The Fair Housing and Comprehensive Planning Department within SCRPC carry out activities to help remove barriers to affordable and fair housing. The Fair Housing department works with hundreds of tenants and landlords yearly assisting with understanding fair housing issues and requirements. Fair Housing plays an important role in that from the Analysis of Impediments, it is observed that African Americans have a disproportionate need regarding housing cost burden.

Stark County Area Transportation Study, a department within SCRPC, is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region and administers the transportation planning functions for the area. SCRPC has tremendous institutional capacity and has, over the years, developed an excellent delivery structure for all funding and projects.

Continuation of Strategic Plan Overview 1

Many goals of Stark County remain the same compared to five years ago when the last Consolidated Plan was submitted. These aspects include the ongoing need for homeless assistance, affordable and safe housing, infrastructure improvements, and economic development. A well-coordinated Homeless Continuum of Care continues to improve and identify gaps in the homeless system and is functioning efficiently. In 2020, the Stark Housing Network began working with a consulting firm for an evaluation of Stark County's Homelessness Prevention Programs. The objective was to evaluate current program efficiency and measure program outcomes. The long-term goal of the evaluation was to reduce homelessness and recidivism.

Goals have been developed through ongoing Consolidated Plan meetings beginning early 2023, two needs assessment surveys, and public hearings. The County was fortunate to couple Consolidated Plan

planning meetings with HOME-ARP meetings to get a bigger picture of the issues needing addressed in the County. Public participation throughout this Consolidated Planning process was robust.

Continuation of Strategic Plan Overview 2

As noted in the Housing Needs Assessment, housing cost burden is a real problem, especially for those in the 0 – 30% average median income category. If rents return to their pre-pandemic normal, the County will still be in a situation that's difficult for many families. US Census data released in December 2023 indicates that 34.4% of Stark County renters spend 35% or more of their income on housing costs.

As Stark County ages, planning must take place to address the needs of the aging population. The 2022 ACS 1 -year estimates indicates that residents over 65 make up 20% of the population in Stark County, an increase of 3% from ten years ago, and more than 8% are 75 or older. Nationally, as the baby boomer generation ages, a need is seen to assist them in various ways. This is reflected locally, with a need to help seniors maintain and stay in their homes and to obtain prescriptions affordably. To help seniors stay in their homes, Stark County offers various HUD funded programs, which include rehabilitation work to make their homes accessible and safe. The County also secured an Ohio Healthy Aging Grant which will be utilized to assist seniors remain in their homes, have access to fresh affordable food, connect socially, have broadband access and internet education.

Infrastructure needs throughout Stark County are extensive, with lengthy lists of projects needed to address water lines, sewer lines and storm sewers totaling millions of dollars as indicated earlier in this Plan. Many water and sewer lines are beyond useful life and water line breaks are a serious problem. Certain areas within the County have continued flooding issues and are in desperate need of drainage improvements.

There is also significant need for a variety of public services in Stark County. Respondents of the first needs assessment survey (summer 2023) indicted there is a high need for:

- Supportive services for persons living with disabilities
- Emergency shelter supportive services
- Homeless services
- Mental health services
- Youth services and education
- Domestic violence and human trafficking services
- Services for those 62 years and older
- Veteran services
- Crime prevention and education
- Pregnancy supportive services continuing after birth
- Affordable health care and medication
- Substance abuse supportive services

The same needs assessment survey reported that services for persons living with HIV/AIDS and access to broadband are low priority service needs in Stark County.

SP-10 Geographic Priorities - 91.415, 91.215(a)(1)

Geographic Area

Table 1 - Geographic Priority Areas

1	Area Name:	County-wide
	Area Type:	County Target Area
	Other Target Area Description:	County Target Area
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	
	Other Revital Description:	
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	Activities are carried out county-wide and funds are not targeted in any specific area.
	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	
	Identify the needs in this target area.	
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	

General Allocation Priorities

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the state

Stark County does not focus CDBG or HOME funding in any particular geographic area. Funding is distributed over many small political subdivisions within the County. Scattered site, single-family rehab is a proven method of allocating funds. Housing rehabilitation programs in both Alliance and Massillon serve their respective communities. If the cities of Alliance and Massillon wish to utilize any portion of their CDBG funding in specific target areas, those will be described in further detail in each city's Consolidated Plan.

SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.415, 91.215(a)(2)

Priority Needs

Table 2 – Priority Needs Summary

1	Priority Need Name	Affordable Housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	County Target Area
	Associated Goals	Affordable Housing
	Description	Retaining existing affordable housing and increasing permanent, safe and decent affordable housing.
	Basis for Relative Priority	As reported by respondents in the first needs assessment survey, housing priority needs include new affordable housing, housing for persons with disabilities and senior housing.
2	Priority Need Name	Public Services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions

	Geographic Areas Affected	County Target Area
	Associated Goals	Homeless Assistance Public Services
	Description	Various forms of public service activities which benefit low-to moderate-income residents.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Respondents indicated service needs to be homeless services, affordable healthcare and prescription services and mental health services.
3	Priority Need Name	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Low Moderate Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	County Target Area
	Associated Goals	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Description	Activities that will improve the safety and livability of neighborhoods and increase access to quality public and private facilities.
	Basis for Relative Priority	The initial needs assessment survey identified the need for sidewalks and storm and sanitary sewer improvements.
4	Priority Need Name	Homeless Assistance
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Other
	Geographic Areas Affected	County Target Area
	Associated Goals	Homeless Assistance
	Description	Various forms of public service and other homeless activities.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Respondents indicated a high need for homeless services in the first needs assessment survey.
5	Priority Need Name	Permanent Supportive Housing
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	County Target Area
	Associated Goals	Permanent Supportive Housing
	Description	Permanent supportive housing for qualified persons.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Homeless services and housing for special needs populations was identified throughout the public participation process.
6	Priority Need Name	Economic Development
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Low Moderate Non-housing Community Development Other
	Geographic Areas Affected	County Target Area
	Associated Goals	Economic Development
	Description	Various forms of economic development.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Results from the first needs assessment survey identified job creation and retention as needs which can include small business development.
	7	
	Priority Need Name	Administration and Planning

	Priority Level	High
	Population	Other
	Geographic Areas Affected	County Target Area
	Associated Goals	Administration and Planning
	Description	Overall administration and planning related to the CDBG and HOME programs.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Need for overall administration and planning of the CDBG and HOME programs to ensure that all activities are carried out in compliance with HUD regulations.

Narrative (Optional)

SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions - 91.415, 91.215(b)

Influence of Market Conditions

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	Although Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority has not applied for HOME funds to carryout TBRA, the housing authority continues to provide assistance to renters through various programming as there is a continued need to make housing affordable in the County.
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	Although Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority has not applied for HOME funds to carryout TBRA, the housing authority continues to provide assistance to renters through various programming as there is a continued need to make housing affordable in the County.
New Unit Production	According to the Stark County HCCSC and ongoing public input, there is a need for permanent supportive housing. With the use of HOME funds, the County has assisted with permanent supportive housing in the form of new construction of units as well as rehab of already existing units. HOME-ARP will be utilized for new unit production during this Consolidated Plan period. The County Land Bank has applied for State of Ohio funding to build new homes for lower income individuals throughout the County. New production of affordable housing remains a high priority need in the County.
Rehabilitation	There is an abundance of aging housing stock in the County. Rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes continues to be a priority and need in the County. In addition to HUD funded programs, the County's land bank is undertaking rehab of Land Bank owned homes.
Acquisition, including preservation	As the housing market continues to improve there is an opportunity for continued removal and/or rehabilitation of vacant and blighted housing through the County Land Bank.

Table 3 – Influence of Market Conditions

Median Income Explanation

Table 5 – Housing Needs Demographics would not allow an update to the Households or Median Income fields. The Stark County median income according to July 1, 2022 estimates is \$63,130 and the number of Households is reported to be 168,027.

SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.420(b), 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

Stark County receives HUD formula funding allocations under the CDBG and HOME programs. Neither Stark County nor its Consortium members receive a direct allocation of ESG funds.

The actual FY 2024 HOME allocation for the County is \$845,221.58 and this screen is reflecting a rounded amount.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder 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	1,381,443	3,000	10,016	1,394,459	5,807,772	It is expected through the remainder of the ConPlan, the County will receive an anticipated annual allocation of \$1,381,443.00 and receive \$12,000.00 of program income. The County's current housing rehabilitation revolving loan fund (RLF) balance is included in the calculation for amount available for the remainder of the Con Plan. The current housing rehabilitation RLF balance is approximately \$270,000.00.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	845,221	56,198	0	901,419	3,480,888	The program income listed, \$56,198.20 encompasses prior year PI and anticipated PI. It is expected through the remainder of the ConPlan, the County will receive an anticipated annual allocation of \$845,221.00 and receive \$100,000.00 of program income.

Table 4 - Anticipated Resources

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 County strives to fund projects and activities that maximize other funding sources. Whenever possible, CDBG infrastructure projects are leveraged with local funds and/or OPWC funds. Generally, large HOME-funded projects with multiple funding sources provide match.

In order for the County to meet its annual HOME match liability, a large bank of match is carried over year-to-year. The current banked balance is more than six million dollars.

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

It is not anticipated that any publicly-owned land within the Consortium will be used to meet the needs addressed.

Discussion

SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure - 91.415, 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority	PHA	Public Housing Rental	Jurisdiction
MASSILLON		Ownership	Jurisdiction
ALLIANCE		Ownership	Jurisdiction
STARK COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING		Economic Development Homelessness Non-homeless special needs Ownership Planning public facilities public services	Jurisdiction
Stark Housing Network	Continuum of care	Homelessness	Jurisdiction

Table 5 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

Stark County has strengths within its coordinated intake process through the Homeless Hotline (aka Homeless Navigation). Coordinated Entry creates a comprehensive system of information and data which most homeless service providers have access to. Many referrals can be provided through this coordinated intake process however, another common resource is Stark Help Central.

Additionally, the collaboration of providers and stakeholders through various committee and subcommittee participation helps the CoC problem solve and stay proactive.

A commonly identified gap is the need for more affordable housing, subsidized housing, special needs housing and housing for those who are homeless or formerly homeless.

Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	X
Legal Assistance	X	X	X
Mortgage Assistance	X	X	X
Rental Assistance	X	X	X
Utilities Assistance	X	X	X
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement	X		X
Mobile Clinics	X	X	X
Other Street Outreach Services	X	X	X
Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	X
Child Care	X	X	X
Education	X		X
Employment and Employment Training	X		X
Healthcare	X	X	X
HIV/AIDS	X	X	X
Life Skills	X	X	X
Mental Health Counseling	X	X	X
Transportation	X	X	X
Other			

Table 6 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary

Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)

Stark County's CoC provides a full spectrum of housing and services from homeless prevention assistance to rapid rehousing and permanent housing. All CoC partner agencies that provide housing/shelter offer wrap-around services such as case management and linkage with other services including counseling, budgeting assistance, education, life skills training, meals, mainstream services through Job & Family Services, mental health case management, and drug/alcohol abuse treatment. Homeless participants are offered services appropriate to their individual needs and are encouraged to engage in the development of an individualized service plan that is created by the provider and the participant working together. Service plans are modified as needed with input from the participant. The success of the various programs is measured by the participants ability to maintain housing, exit to permanent housing, increase employment and non-employment income, increase non-cash benefits,

obtain health insurance, and to not return to the homeless system once exited. The CoC supports collaboration with entities, particularly education and children's service systems, that are most likely to encounter households with children who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. This collaboration includes educating teachers, homeless liaisons, counselors, and other direct providers in how to recognize indicators of homelessness, how to engage parents, and how to make referrals for assistance to connect families with appropriate services.

Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above

Stark County has many strengths in its service delivery system. Stark County has a coordinated intake process in place through the Homeless Hotline or Homeless Navigation. The hotline is managed by the same staff that run the County's HMIS. This direct connection makes collecting data from callers increasingly beneficial for running reports and tracking trends based upon data. All CoC, ESG and HCRP funded programs complete the Hotline's "HMIS Intake Application" when clients enter their program which serves as a direct cross reference to the HMIS Intake form completed by the Hotline. The hotline operates 24 hours/day and maintains a current listing of available shelter beds. The Hotline was recently expanded to include an assessment tool in which special service needs are identified allowing for more appropriate referrals.

Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs

To overcome gaps, residents need more knowledge of how to access programs after connecting with homeless navigation. Additional supportive services would be advantageous for individuals and families that are diverted from the homeless system, and individuals and families that are prioritized for permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing. Applicants and participants could benefit from more support services while searching for housing, and after they are housed such as alcohol/drug treatment and counseling, mental health case management, education services, employment and retention services, financial literacy and budget counseling, health & medical services, and childcare services. By supporting various public service programs throughout the duration of the Consolidated Plan, the County hopes to close service gaps.

SP-45 Goals - 91.415, 91.215(a)(4)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Affordable Housing	2024	2028	Affordable Housing	County-wide	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$1,865,220 HOME: \$3,175,000	Homeowner Housing Added: 5 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 175 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 4 Households Assisted
2	Public Services	2024	2028	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Public Services	CDBG: \$900,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1500 Persons Assisted
3	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	2024	2028	Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$2,500,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 650 Persons Assisted
4	Homeless Assistance	2024	2028	Homeless	County-wide	Homeless Assistance Public Services	CDBG: \$300,000	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 2000 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Permanent Supportive Housing	2024	2028	Homeless	County-wide	Permanent Supportive Housing	HOME: \$675,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit
6	Economic Development	2024	2028	Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Economic Development	CDBG: \$130,000	Businesses assisted: 40 Businesses Assisted
7	Administration and Planning	2024	2028	Administration and Planning	County-wide	Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$1,100,000 HOME: \$422,610	Other: 1 Other

Table 7 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	The provision of safe, sanitary and affordable housing for lower income residents.
2	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	Various forms of public services for low-to moderate-income persons.
3	Goal Name	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Goal Description	The provision of updated or new public facilities and/or infrastructure improvements, primarily to benefit lower income residents.

4	Goal Name	Homeless Assistance
	Goal Description	Various forms of public services for homeless activities.
5	Goal Name	Permanent Supportive Housing
	Goal Description	Providing permanent housing for qualified homeless persons.
6	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	Assistance for low-to moderate- income persons in starting their own business and other potential economic development projects.
7	Goal Name	Administration and Planning
	Goal Description	Overall planning and administration of the CDBG and HOME programs.

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)

It is estimated 50 extremely low-income, 104 low-income, and 40 moderate-income families will benefit from HOME affordable housing activities during the five-year period.

SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement - 91.415, 91.215(c)

Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)

SMHA has seen an increase in disabled applicants with various accessibility needs on its public housing waiting list. The Authority entered into a VCA which has identified that the Authority needs to complete the conversion or construction of additional units for individuals with mobility impairments and units for individuals with hearing or vision impairments in order to meet its applicants' needs. About 55% of households on the waiting lists were families with children, and 17% of households included at least one member with a disability. Only 3.3% of households were classified as elderly households. The majority of households on the waiting list were White (54.3%) followed by Black households at 42.4%.

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

One of SMHA's PHA goals is to promote self-sufficiency and asset development of families and individuals. The FSS program provides case management support, referrals and establishes escrow accounts for those who begin working. Additionally, SMHA will continue to promote and advance employment and training opportunities through the use of the SMHA web site and SMHA's other social media platforms. Accomplishments include:

- Nearly 40 participants in the FSS Program with two residents graduating from the program as homeowners.
- One resident was able to utilize FSS Forfeiture Funds (HUD approved FSS Action Plan) for car repairs.
- Partnering with social service agencies in Stark County to help residents overcome challenges with paying their rent, utility payments, food, clothing, employment, and training.
- SMHA partnered with the Stark County Urban League to host two career/job fairs.
- Partnering with SCCAA in its Community Action Pathways HUB. A Community Health Worker (CHW), assists pregnant women throughout their pregnancy and up until their baby's first birthday.
- Resident Services sends out employment notices, not just those for SMHA job openings, but from other employers as well. Employment notices are posted on Social Media platforms and in the RS Newsletter.
- The annual award of the Albert H. McIlwain Scholarship to SMHA residents pursuing a college degree.
- Continued collaboration with community agencies that will provide self-sufficiency opportunities for the residents.
- A new partnership with the Stark County Library with its Literacy Program for families at Mahoning Manor. Students received an educational kit and a lunch provided by the Stark County Hunger Task Force.

- Weekly Stark County mobile van services at one housing site. Services include homework help, snacks and an educational kit.

Improve the Quality of Life and Economic Viability:

- SMHA seeks additional grant funds to provide additional safety and security measures for the public housing developments. The agency has also allocated capital fund dollars to address security concerns throughout the portfolio.
- Monthly resident “Community Partner” meetings.
- SMHA provides combo smoke/carbon monoxide detectors along with safety and educational material to residents.

Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?

No

Plan to remove the ‘troubled’ designation

SP-55 Strategic Plan Barriers to Affordable Housing - 91.415, 91.215(h)

Barriers to Affordable Housing

Black individuals in the County are overrepresented in low-income households, so they are more likely to rent. Rent has been rising leaving tenants to pay larger shares of their income to rent, preventing them from saving for a down payment. Falling incomes and rising rents will lead to eviction and a decrease in affordable housing choice. Evictions, unlike other financial related hardships such as bankruptcy, can limit future housing options. Lack of affordable rental housing elevates eviction rates making it nearly impossible to access adequate affordable housing. The effects of the pandemic caused steep rental increases over the last several years at a historic rate. Such increases resulted in evictions and in some cases homelessness. The inability to afford housing is the main factor in homelessness. The pandemic drastically impacted the supply of affordable housing in the County and nationally. Low-income renters continue to face significant barriers. Additionally, out-of-state landlords are contributing to these barriers by negatively affecting affordable housing.

Public housing provides affordable homes to low-income renters. SMHA's policies to market available housing opportunities were identified as an area where improvement is needed. Based on the AI, SMHA will expand efforts to ensure that housing information reaches possible underserved populations. Currently, only about 92% of its roughly 2,300 public housing units are leased. Not due to a lack of demand, but due to units not being turned around fast enough to make them ready and available. Regarding the Housing Choice Voucher program, the money is not being allocated at the proper pace resulting in residents not being housed in affordable housing.

Landlord registries were proposed as a way to hold landlords accountable for safety improvements in rental properties. As a result, the City of Alliance introduced rental registration legislation to City Council in early 2024. Like most urban cities, Alliance is experiencing a surge in homelessness and a shortage of affordable homes.

While public transportation is available to most areas of the County, it primarily serves the urban centers of Alliance, Canton and Massillon. Coverage outside of the urban centers is sparse and generally runs along major transportation corridors. Better coordination with the local transit authority was recommended for improvement in the AI as well as Sunday service.

The AI found the City of Massillon's zoning ordinance needed to be amended to create more opportunities for the development of affordable housing. The AI suggested that Massillon be open to new affordable housing developments outside of areas that are already identified. A request for legislation has been submitted to bring this ordinance in line with the fair housing laws. Closing the housing affordability gap will require a comprehensive housing strategy, including developing new units, preserving existing affordable housing, and expanding rental assistance.

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

There are a number of strategies to remove or ameliorate the barriers to affordable housing within the County. The development of new housing and preserving existing affordable housing will assist in closing the housing affordability gap.

To improve the quality of existing affordable housing, the SMHA is renovating apartment complexes. Cherrie Turner Towers, an eight-story apartment building, is undergoing \$6.9 million in renovations. Also, SMHA has plans to revitalize the Jackson Sherrick public housing complex and the surrounding southeast Canton neighborhoods.

To hold landlords accountable for improvements, the City of Alliance has plans to create registration or inspections targeting landlords and the upkeep of their rental properties. The regulations would protect the current housing stock, have a positive effect on affordable housing, create standards for rental units and hold landlords liable for improvements.

In terms of zoning ordinances, the AI found that older zoning ordinances were less likely to reflect changing land uses. Many communities have minimal amounts of areas zoned for multi-family residential development, which reduces the opportunities for affordable housing in those areas. SCRPC planners review zoning amendments for unincorporated areas of the County and regularly recommend approval of re-zoning appropriate land to multi-family. Unfortunately, townships frequently don't go along with SCRPC's recommendations. One effort to combat this is to educate local officials at the Governmental Law Seminar that SCRPC offers. Fair housing staff plans to educate local officials on Fair housing, zoning and affordable housing. Planning staff also seeks to educate local officials by conducting bi-monthly zoning inspectors' mutual assistance meetings to review various zoning and planning topics. The County's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which is used when reviewing zoning amendments, also promotes affordable housing.

For the County, the Stark County Commissioners are working on strategies to remove or ameliorate the barriers to affordable housing. Plans are underway to pay for a countywide study looking at ways to address the shortage of affordable housing. After collecting the data, commissioners hope to encourage construction through tax incentives.

Addendum to Strategy to Remove Barriers

Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) is the provider of transit in Stark County. While public transportation is available to most areas of the County, it focuses on the urban centers of Alliance, Canton and Massillon, which are the population centers. The AI indicated the lack of service to other areas may have a negative effect on affordable housing location choice. SARTA is working to expand its services and is progressive in seeking ways to cut costs and make their operations more efficient. In order to provide reliable service to as many as possible in Stark County, fixed routes operate over 20 hours and over 7,500 miles each day Monday through Saturday. Additionally, for individuals with

disabilities who are unable to utilize the fixed route system, Proline is available. This countywide service picks residents up at their residence and delivers them to their desired destination. This service is crucial for thousands of disabled individuals across Stark County. Every success SARTA has in increasing efficiency allows them to increase services within the County. They are a leader in the state in the area of using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to power 40 of their busses. SARTA is also looking at establishing routes that will deliver workers to identified "job hubs." These are areas where a larger number of businesses are located, thereby increasing the ability for those who don't own a private vehicle to get to a place of employment.

As noted in the AI, SCRPC continues to keep all options and discussions open on incentives for property owners to build new apartment buildings or substantially rehabilitate existing buildings for occupancy by lower-income families.

SP-60 Homelessness Strategy - 91.415, 91.215(d)

Describe how the jurisdiction's strategic plan goals contribute to:

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

The Homeless Hotline, aka Homeless Navigation, leads the coordinated entry system for referral and/or placement with homeless housing and service providers in the county. The CoC also has a Coordinated Entry Committee, which guides policy direction and decision-making, and has refined the coordinated entry system. The initial assessment is conducted via the Hotline phone intake, which refers qualified callers to the appropriate homeless provider agency(s) through a prioritization process. This includes all eligible participants seeking shelter and/or housing, with the end goal of identifying callers who could be best served through diversion, and most appropriate referrals for those who cannot. The CoC oversees the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the database used to capture the data of individuals and families that access the homeless system, to help ensure more coordinated assessment, entry, and tracking. After assessment, the CoC provider community assists participants with completing applications to the most appropriate housing programs. The CoC providers continue to work on building strong relationships with local landlords in order to locate appropriate and affordable housing for participants.

Current CoC homeless programs include shelters, transitional housing, several PSH units and programs, homeless prevention services and rapid rehousing. Case workers at each facility provide further assessment of needs and link participants to services including health, mental health, substance treatment, education, and employment. In addition to homeless outreach and assessment through dedicated homeless programs, outreach is also done through local community health workers, local healthcare facilities, mental health providers, substance recovery programs, law enforcement, public schools (homeless liaison), Stark Help Central (county-wide online resource navigation tool), and the faith-based community. Persons who are identified by case managers as needing in-depth mental health, medical, or substance abuse assessment are referred to the appropriate program.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Stark County's strategy for addressing the emergency shelter needs of persons experiencing homelessness is to target its limited shelter beds to those who cannot be diverted from shelter. The primary goal is to make emergency shelter stays as short as possible while helping clients access permanent housing either through a homeless program such as rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing or through affordable housing via public housing, Section 8 or other low-income housing opportunities. The secondary goal is to connect clients to mainstream resources, health and mental health as needed, education, employment opportunities, and community supports which will be necessary for the client to gain stability in maintaining their housing long term.

Case workers at all shelters and outreach programs work to link clients to other mainstream resources, such as medical, mental health, dental, food assistance, education & employment services as well as assist them with applying for other low-income housing opportunities outside of the homeless programs.

Stark County saw an increase in the total number of persons homeless from 2022 to 2023 in the PIT Count data. The total number of people experiencing homelessness increased from 247 to 320. The total number of sheltered homeless subpopulation increased from 219 to 264 and the number of the unsheltered subpopulation increased from 28 to 56.

The efficacy of the Coordinated Entry System has allowed people to become quickly housed based on resources available and receive assistance with much more rapidity. With the use of the full SPDAT assessment tool (not the VI-SPDAT), a natural diversion process occurs because the homeless hotline workers can have a conversation with the caller to provide a truly accurate assessment of the need. This diversion process is the way in which callers are diverted into areas of the most appropriate assistance level, and many times this may not be the homeless system. Along with the Coordinated Entry System, the HCCSC has become more established and recognized, and this has allowed providers and community stakeholders to provide more input with assessing gaps, analyzing current procedures, and recommending strategies. The HCCSC has also invested in a System Modeling project that is led by outside consultants to analyze a process that models an optimized organization of system responses for all persons who experience a housing crisis in Stark County. The System Modeling process analyzed the needs and gaps and identified how existing resources could be more efficiently deployed to address client needs. It identified that additional resources are needed for diversion, homelessness prevention, and permanent housing.

Primarily the individuals and families entering shelter have very little to no income and have many barriers to gaining employment and/or other benefits. The HCCSC has phased out all CoC funded transitional housing projects. All CoC projects have opted to abide by the Housing First principle of providing more rapid entrance into permanent housing projects. Non-CoC funded transitional housing is being provided by either Domestic Violence, Veteran, or Alcohol and Other Drugs (AoD) agencies.

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 HCCSC gives priority to chronically homeless individuals and families with the longest history of homelessness and severe service needs. The chronically homeless individuals or head of households who have been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation or an emergency shelter for at least 12 months either continuously or on at least four separate occasions in the last three years,

where the cumulative length of the four occasions equals at least twelve months; and the individuals or head of household have identified as having “severe service needs” that are identified and verified by the standardized assessment are prioritized for permanent supportive housing.

A member of the Coordinated Entry team participates in Veteran Task Force meetings. The objective of the meeting is to quickly identify homeless stark county veterans and link them with either VA or HCCSC (CoC) housing resources.

There were no youth under 18 that were reported as unaccompanied homeless. However, the data from local school districts and the Ohio Department of Education reveal that there are many youths, both under 18 and over, in unstable doubled up situations and very much at-risk of homelessness which must be addressed proactively through more prevention programs targeted to youth. The HCCSC has entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Stark County Educational Service Center to be aware of the number of homeless youths in local school districts and to share information and resources. Homeless Education Liaisons from the local school districts are invited to monthly meetings through a Homelessness Learning Community to share information and learn about new and existing programs in the community to support youth experiencing homelessness.

While the CoC has expanded the rapid rehousing program, one challenge with expanding rapid rehousing and serving participants with more barriers to employment and self-sufficiency is identifying landlords who are willing to rent to participants who may need up to 24 months to gain financial independence, and who are willing to rent their units at affordable rates to households who will be required to exit the program when they reach 30% AMI. Because Stark County does not have a large stock of safe, decent sanitary units that are affordable, the CoC will continue attempting to build partnerships with landlords and developers to address this issue.

Participants who have severe and possibly life-long barriers to attaining self-sufficiency are referred to permanent supportive housing. A long-term goal of the CoC is to ensure that there are enough PSH units to immediately refer and place persons into a unit as needed to make the transition to permanent housing and independent living more rapid, thus shortening the period of time that they experience homelessness. Based on the recent System Modeling completed by the CoC, there are an additional 118 PSH units needed to be able to immediately refer and place person into a unit.

Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs

SP-65 Lead-based Paint Hazards - 91.415, 91.215(i)

Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created an LBP brochure for residents and contractors highlighting the steps to take regarding LBP hazards and safety in the home, which SCRPC distributes to housing rehab recipients. SCRPC also requires contractors to be licensed in the state of Ohio to handle LBP and requires language to address lead issues to be added into any work write-ups for housing rehab projects.

Stark County was allocated approximately \$2,900,000.00 from House Bill 45, signed into law on March 6, 2023 for lead poisoning prevention and mitigation programs. SMHA applied for the funds through the State of Ohio's Lead Safe Ohio Program.

How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?

All contractors take a course regarding LBP safe practices. Any time an area of paint is disturbed in housing rehab projects, contractors must assume a presence of LBP and the appropriate steps are taken to address it in a lead-safe manner. Once work is complete, a certified lead inspector will test and analyze the area to issue a lead clearance. If a unit does not pass, it must be re-cleaned and re-tested until it passes.

How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?

SCRPC has a Housing Rehabilitation Program Guideline Manual that is utilized for all rehab projects using any CDBG or HOME funds. The manual includes a section regarding lead-based paint that requires a lead-paint visual inspection on all homes built prior to 1978 and states that any peeling paint will be addressed and included in the work write-up. To be eligible for program funding, the property must be brought up to Residential Rehab Standards.

SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy - 91.415, 91.215(j)

Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families

To address poverty, the County plans to utilize funding towards homeless services and various public services which serve low-to moderate-income persons and other vulnerable populations. Such public service programs are critical as they provide supportive services to households in needs and provide linkages to other services such as life skills and job training, medical and mental health services and housing. Additional funding will be directed toward single-family, owner-occupied rehab which provides low-income households with needed home repairs or rehabilitation. Many projects are 100% grants while others are 0% interest deferred loans. This allows homeowners to redirect their income toward other needs as opposed to taking out loans with potentially high interest rates. Additionally, programming is expected to include new single-family homes by Habitat developers and down payment assistance. In many instances, new Habitat homeowners are first time homeowners. Research supports that homeownership promotes wealth building which increases economic stability.

How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan

A significant amount of affordable housing planning occurs through the HCCSC. Recently, the County partnered with Strengthening Stark and the Stark Economic Development Board to develop a multi-faceted housing assessment.

SP-80 Monitoring - 91.230

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

SCRPC monitors activities funded with CDBG and HOME funds as part of its contracted work with the Board of Stark County Commissioners. SCRPC manages the bidding and administrative work for CDBG-funded infrastructure projects to ensure short-and long-term compliance requirements are met.

All agencies receiving funds are required to submit a monthly report detailing activities undertaken that month along with documentation of eligible expenses with each draw request. Reviewing these items early can be a way to keep a project on track and catch any issues. Each agency is monitored on-site or through a virtual “desk review” in which additional items such as financial records and aspects of project management are reviewed.

All recipients receiving CDBG funding are monitored annually. HOME recipients are monitored based upon a risk analysis. Those with “high” scores are monitored through on-site or desk reviews. Recipients with HOME rental projects in affordability periods are required to submit annual reports due no later than July 31st of the year following funding and each subsequent year until the project’s affordability period is completed. Failure to submit reports in a timely manner can result in retention of future funds. Projects in the period of affordability also undergo physical inspections by SCRPC to ensure the housing remains safe and sanitary. Properties with more than 10 units are reviewed annually for financial viability.

HOME regulations require adherence to affirmative marketing, consisting of actions that welcome participation of qualified contractors owned by minorities and/or women, including Section 3. SCRPC has increased efforts to attract additional MBE contractors for the County’s rehab program and for county-funded infrastructure projects. In fact, we have retained the services of a minority contractor that was secured after increasing our outreach efforts in 2022. Current efforts include a continuous review and assessment of bidding procedures and contractor lists, widespread advertising for new contractors via social media, networking via social media, “cold-call” e-mails to folks listed on the State of Ohio’s certified MBE list, the SBA and the Stark County Minority Business Association’s business directory. We also collaborate with the City of Canton to share MBE/WBE lists.

To further address monitoring provisions and increase the quality of monitoring, SCRPC recently purchased Neighborly Software, a web-based grants management system. Additionally, SCRPC requested on-site HOME TA with the Columbus field office and entered into contract with a HOME consultant for technical assistance, including underwriting, as needed. SCRPC continues to utilize the CPD monitoring guides when self-monitoring and when monitoring subrecipients.

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources - 91.420(b), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

Stark County receives HUD formula funding allocations under the CDBG and HOME programs. Neither Stark County nor its Consortium members receive a direct allocation of ESG funds.

The actual FY 2024 HOME allocation for the County is \$845,221.58 and this screen is reflecting a rounded amount.

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	1,381,443	3,000	10,016	1,394,459	5,807,772	It is expected through the remainder of the ConPlan, the County will receive an anticipated annual allocation of \$1,381,443.00 and receive \$12,000.00 of program income. The County's current housing rehabilitation revolving loan fund (RLF) balance is included in the calculation for amount available for the remainder of the Con Plan. The current housing rehabilitation RLF balance is approximately \$270,000.00.

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: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	845,221	56,198	0	901,419	3,480,888	The program income listed, \$56,198.20 encompasses prior year PI and anticipated PI. It is expected through the remainder of the ConPlan, the County will receive an anticipated annual allocation of \$845,221.00 and receive \$100,000.00 of program income.

Table 1 - 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 County strives to fund projects and activities that maximize other funding sources. Whenever possible, CDBG infrastructure projects are leveraged with local funds and/or OPWC funds. Generally, large HOME-funded projects with multiple funding sources provide match.

In order for the County to meet its annual HOME match liability, a large bank of match is carried over year-to-year. The current banked balance is more than six million dollars.

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

It is not anticipated that any publicly-owned land within the Consortium will be used to meet the needs addressed.

Discussion

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Affordable Housing	2024	2028	Affordable Housing	County-wide	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$548,673 HOME: \$816,897	Homeowner Housing Added: 2 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 36 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 2 Households Assisted
2	Public Services	2024	2028	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Public Services	CDBG: \$127,500	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 425 Persons Assisted
3	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	2024	2028	Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$589,966	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 181 Persons Assisted
4	Homeless Assistance	2024	2028	Homeless	County-wide	Homeless Assistance	CDBG: \$58,320	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 550 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Economic Development	2024	2028	Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Economic Development	CDBG: \$32,000	Businesses assisted: 10 Businesses Assisted
7	Administration and Planning	2024	2028	Administration and Planning	County-wide	Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$220,000 HOME: \$84,522	Other: 1 Other

Table 2 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	Affordable housing activities to include: CDBG and HOME funded housing rehabilitation throughout the balance of the County, homebuyer down payment assistance and housing rehabilitation activities in the City of Massillon, City of Alliance housing rehabilitation and construction of two new single-family homes by Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio and Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity in their respective communities. The actual FY2024 HOME allocation dedicated to affordable housing activities is \$816,897.63.
2	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	Public service activities shall include Beacon Charitable Pharmacy, The Stock Pile, Community Building Partnership of Stark County, StarkFresh and two activities with Early Childhood Resource Center.
3	Goal Name	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Activities to consist of a waterline replacement in a low-income census tract in the City of North Canton, the construction of a pump station in the Village of Brewster and new playground equipment for Underwood Park in the Village of Navarre.

4	Goal Name	Homeless Assistance
	Goal Description	Homeless assistance activities shall consist of Alliance for Children & Families, CommQuest Services, Inc. and Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery.
6	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	Economic development consists of Kent State University's Small Business Development Center program.
7	Goal Name	Administration and Planning
	Goal Description	Overall administration and planning for both the CDBG and HOME programs, including Fair Housing, to ensure compliance with HUD regulations. The actual FY2024 HOME allocation dedicated to administration and planning is \$84,522.15.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

The County utilizes a three-year funding cycle for CDBG funding requests. Applications are solicited and received annually helping to develop a three-year cycle for potential CDBG activities. The current program year is the first year of the new three-year funding cycle. Applications for the FY24-FY26 years were accepted during the Fall of 2023. CDBG applications were reviewed by the staff for eligibility and scored. Applications were then reviewed by a "Review Committee" and all scores were averaged.

HOME applications are received on an annual basis and are reviewed by SCRPC staff.

The actual FY 2024 HOME allocation for the County is \$845,221.58.

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Administration
2	Fair Housing
3	2050 Stark County Comprehensive Plan
4	Housing Rehab Administration
5	Housing Rehab
6	Alliance for Children & Families - AER Shelter Worker
7	CommQuest Services, Inc. - Family Living Center
8	Stark MHAR - Stark County Coordinated Entry System
9	Beacon Charitable Pharmacy - Access to Medications and Clinical Pharmacy Services
10	The Stock Pile - Salary Assistance
11	Community Building Partnership of Stark County - Pre-purchase Housing Counseling
12	StarkFresh - Grocery Delivery
13	Early Childhood Resource Center - Perry SPARK Program
14	Early Childhood Resource Center - Fatherhood Mentorship Project
15	Kent State University - Microenterprise Development Program
16	City of North Canton - Woodrow-Lois Waterline Replacement
17	Village of Brewster - Pump station
18	Village of Navarre - Underwood Park
19	HOME Administration
20	City of Alliance Housing Rehabilitation
21	Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity New Construction
22	City of Massillon Housing Rehabilitation
23	City of Massillon Down Payment Assistance
24	Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio New Construction
25	Stark County Housing Rehabilitation
26	Contingencies

Table 3 – Project Information

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

All CDBG and HOME applications are awarded on a competitive basis. Eligible CDBG projects are evaluated based upon an objective scoring system. Large-scale infrastructure projects that meet a County need and collaborate with other county and state-wide agencies are assessed for the benefits that reach outside of the LMI census tract. Highest priority for HOME funding is for viable projects with all funding sources committed and are ready for construction and/or expenditure of funds during the program year.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG Administration
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$101,000
	Description	To provide the administration of the CDBG program for Stark County.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Day-to-day administration and oversight of the CDBG program and its work elements.
2	Project Name	Fair Housing
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$84,000
	Description	Provision of fair housing services to all residents of Stark County's CDBG participating political units.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 150 LMI persons will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	Fair housing services are provided throughout Stark County, excluding the cities of Canton and Massillon.
	Planned Activities	SCRPC will provide fair housing counseling, discrimination complaint investigation, landlord/tenant counseling and other fair housing services to the residents of the CDBG participating political units.
3	Project Name	2050 Stark County Comprehensive Plan
	Target Area	County-wide

	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$35,000
	Description	Staff cost associated with the next Stark County Comprehensive Plan.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Planning associated with the county-wide comprehensive plan. These comprehensive plans provide a guide for growth and development and encourage participation from Stark County residents.
4	Project Name	Housing Rehab Administration
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$99,000
	Description	Provide staffing for the housing rehabilitation program and miscellaneous soft costs associated with the program, including but not limited to location surveys, title work, credit reports, pest inspections and program marketing.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Throughout Stark County's CDBG program areas.
	Planned Activities	Undertaking qualified single-family, owner-occupied housing rehab.
5	Project Name	Housing Rehab
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing

	Funding	CDBG: \$449,673
	Description	Housing rehabilitation costs for LMI owner-occupied households within Stark County. The budget for this program year combines a portion of the CDBG allocation (\$264,673.00) and anticipated usage of approximately \$185,000.00 from the RLF. Current RLF balance is approximately \$270,000.00.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 20 LMI households will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Housing rehab projects will take place throughout Stark County, excluding the cities of Massillon and Alliance.
	Planned Activities	Direct financial support of the loans/grants for LMI owner-occupied households.
6	Project Name	Alliance for Children & Families - AER Shelter Worker
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Homeless Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Public Services Homeless Assistance
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,320
	Description	Provision of staff costs related to the operation of the Alliance Emergency Residence, a homeless shelter, in the City of Alliance.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 150 LMI persons will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	The public service is available to all Stark County residents.
	Planned Activities	The funding is utilized to provide half of the Alliance Emergency Residence Office/Shelter Worker's salary. The Shelter Worker provides direct services to the clients including case management, shelter intakes and exits as well as assisting with other various responsibilities.
	Project Name	CommQuest Services, Inc. - Family Living Center

7	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Homeless Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Public Services Homeless Assistance
	Funding	CDBG: \$18,000
	Description	Provision of housing/essential support services provided by the Family Living Center to homeless individuals.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 150 LMI persons will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	This public service is available to all Stark County residents.
	Planned Activities	The Family Living Center is a homeless shelter located in the City of Massillon and is the only emergency shelter for homeless individuals in the western portion of Stark County. CDBG funding will be utilized to assist with the operation of the facility.
8	Project Name	Stark MHAR - Stark County Coordinated Entry System
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Homeless Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Public Services Homeless Assistance
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	Funding will be utilized to fund personnel expenses associated with the Coordinated Entry System of the Stark County Homeless Hotline.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 250 LMI persons will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	This public service will benefit Stark County residents.

	Planned Activities	Activities performed by personnel associated with the Coordinated Entry System of the Stark County Homeless Hotline includes oversight and supervision of the database/phone center specialists. Employees gather data from homeless or precariously housed callers, undertake an initial assessment, provide referrals and service information as well as coordinate with area agencies to provide shelter.
9	Project Name	Beacon Charitable Pharmacy - Access to Medications and Clinical Pharmacy Services
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000
	Description	Provision of funds to provide vulnerable LMI persons with access to medication.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 100 LMI persons will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	This public service activity will serve LMI Stark County residents.
	Planned Activities	Funding will be used to dispense low-cost medications by a licensed pharmacist to LMI Stark County residents.
10	Project Name	The Stock Pile - Salary Assistance
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$40,000
	Description	Funding will be utilized to fund personnel expenses associated with The Stock Pile (TSP), a Stark County non-profit organization. TSP is a building reuse store, offering new and gently used building materials at a reduced cost.
	Target Date	6/30/2025

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 150 LMI persons will benefit from this public service activity.
	Location Description	The project serves all persons throughout Stark County.
	Planned Activities	TSP Staff interact with the public and assist customers in locating merchandise, stocking shelves with new products and assist with pick-up and delivery of goods.
11	Project Name	Community Building Partnership of Stark County - Pre-purchase Housing Counseling
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$7,500
	Description	Funds will be utilized to assist with program operation cost such as salaries and marketing.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 35 LMI households will be assisted by this activity.
	Location Description	This activity will be available to residents in the balance of the County.
	Planned Activities	As a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, activities will include pre-purchase homebuyer education and counseling, credit counseling, financial literacy education and other relevant education.
12	Project Name	StarkFresh - Grocery Delivery
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	CDBG funding will be used for operational program costs such as salaries and supplies.
	Target Date	6/30/2025

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 100 LMI persons will benefit from this public service activity.
	Location Description	Residents in Stark County CDBG-eligible areas will be served by this proposed activity.
	Planned Activities	This activity addresses food insecurity by allowing residents to order groceries from the StarkFresh grocery store and having them directly delivered to their doorstep. The program will be equipped to allow purchases with a SNAP/EBT card.
13	Project Name	Early Childhood Resource Center - Perry SPARK Program
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	CDBG funding will be used to support staff cost and program materials.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 20 LMI persons will benefit from this public service activity.
	Location Description	This activity will be available to families in the Perry Local School district.
	Planned Activities	This proposed activity will provide kindergarten readiness programming to families. Such services of the SPARK program include a home visitor, books, activity cards and educational supplies.
14	Project Name	Early Childhood Resource Center - Fatherhood Mentorship Project
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	Funds will be utilized to support program operation costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2025

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 20 LMI persons will benefit from this public service activity.
	Location Description	This proposed activity will be available to Stark County fathers in the balance of the County.
	Planned Activities	Activities include using evidence-based practices to equip fathers with parenting knowledge, skills and strategies to strengthen family relationships.
15	Project Name	Kent State University - Microenterprise Development Program
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$32,000
	Description	Technical assistance to be provided to LMI persons, businesses and potential businesses by the Kent State University Small Business Development Center.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 10 LMI businesses owned by LMI persons will be provided TA from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	This project will encompass all CDBG participating jurisdictions. Physical locations are available at a satellite office in downtown Canton and also at the Small Business Development Center at Kent State Tuscarawas.
	Planned Activities	The KSU Small Business Development Center will provide TA to LMI persons interested in developing microenterprise business and other businesses.
16	Project Name	City of North Canton - Woodrow-Lois Waterline Replacement
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$499,950

	Description	CDBG funding will be utilized to replace aged waterline that has exceed its useful life. The project will be in Census Tract 7119.00 Block Group 4.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The project will directly benefit approximately 55 households within the LMA block group.
	Location Description	This project will benefit households in the area along Woodrow Avenue NW from Pittsburg to Werstler and on Lois Avenue NE.
	Planned Activities	This project includes the replacement of approximately 4,500 linear feet of waterline, new copper service lines and six new fire hydrants.
17	Project Name	Village of Brewster - Pump station
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$40,000
	Description	CDBG funds will be utilized for the pump station and installation of the sanitary force main to improve water quality and reduce sanitary pollution into the Sugar Creek. The project location is in the Census Tract 7148.01 Block Group 3.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This project is expected to benefit 26 households and the surrounding area.
	Location Description	The project is to occur near a mobile home park in the Village of Brewster.
	Planned Activities	This project involves the construction and installation of a new pump station and approximately 1,900 linear feet of sanitary sewer force main.
18	Project Name	Village of Navarre - Underwood Park
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Improvements and Infrastructure

	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$40,000
	Description	CDBG funds will be used to purchase new playground equipment for Underwood Park in the Village of Navarre. This park is in the Census Tract 7146.00 Block Group 3.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The new playground equipment will benefit more than 100 households.
	Location Description	Underwood Park.
	Planned Activities	This project includes the purchase and installation of new playground equipment for Underwood Park which is located in a low-income census tract.
19	Project Name	HOME Administration
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	HOME: \$84,522
	Description	Administration of the Consortium's HOME program.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	This project will benefit persons throughout Stark County.
	Planned Activities	Administration of the Consortium's HOME program.
20	Project Name	City of Alliance Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$88,479

	Description	Housing rehabilitation assistance to LMI homeowners in the City of Alliance. All units will meet Residential Rehab Standards upon completion of the rehab work.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated three LMI households will benefit from this proposed activity.
	Location Description	This activity will benefit LMI persons within the City of Alliance.
	Planned Activities	HOME funding will be provided to qualified LMI homeowners in the City of Alliance to assist with housing rehabilitation.
21	Project Name	Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity New Construction
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$70,000
	Description	Funding will be utilized to build one single-family home in the City of Alliance. Funding will come from the City of Alliance's current program year HOME allocation. The unit will remain affordable for at least 15 years. HOME funding will assist with the hard construction cost of the home.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The project will benefit one LMI household.
	Location Description	The project site is in the eastern part of the Alliance and is currently vacant residential land.
	Planned Activities	This activity consists of the construction of one single-family home in the City of Alliance. The project is expected to provide long-term affordable housing for at least 15 years.
22	Project Name	City of Massillon Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing

	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$89,677
	Description	Use of HOME funding for housing rehabilitation assistance to qualified LMI single-family homeowners to bring their houses up to Residential Rehab Standards within the City of Massillon.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated this project will benefit three LMI households.
	Location Description	This project will benefit LMI persons located in the City of Massillon.
	Planned Activities	HOME funding will be provided to LMI City of Massillon residents to help with single-family, owner-occupied rehab.
23	Project Name	City of Massillon Down Payment Assistance
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$50,000
	Description	Use of HOME funding for down payment assistance to eligible LMI households within the City of Massillon.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is anticipated two LMI households will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	Project locations will be within the City of Massillon.
	Planned Activities	HOME funding will be provided to eligible LMI households for down payment assistance. Homes will be inspected and must meet Residential Rehab Standards prior to title transfer.
24	Project Name	Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio New Construction
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing

	Funding	HOME: \$50,000
	Description	Funding will be utilized to build one new single-family home in the City of Massillon. Funding will come from the City of Massillon's current year HOME allocation and prior year program income.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This project will benefit one LMI household.
	Location Description	The project site is in the City of Massillon. The location is currently vacant residential lots.
	Planned Activities	This activity consists of the construction of one single-family home in the City of Massillon. The project is expected to provide long-term affordable housing for at least 15 years to a LMI homeowner.
25	Project Name	Stark County Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$316,957
	Description	Housing rehabilitation assistance to qualified LMI homeowners in the County's eligible areas, outside of the cities of Alliance, Massillon and the Villages of Hills & Dales and Wilmot.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 10 LMI households will benefit from the activity.
	Location Description	This activity will assist eligible LMI homeowners throughout Stark County, outside of the cities of Canton, Massillon and Alliance and Villages of Hills & Dales and Wilmot.
	Planned Activities	HOME funding will be provided to low-to moderate-income Stark County residents to assist with single family housing rehabilitation. All units will meet Residential Rehab Standards upon completion of work.
	Project Name	Contingencies

26	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,016
	Description	Reallocated prior year funds to be used to pay for potential cost overruns for infrastructure and/or public facility projects and for items such as Section 3 monitoring, Davis Bacon compliance and legal ads.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Reallocated prior year funds to be used to pay for potential cost overruns for infrastructure and/or public facility projects and for items such as Section 3 monitoring, Davis Bacon compliance and legal ads.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.420, 91.220(f)

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

Affordable housing goals for FY 2024 shall be met through eligible activities such as single-family, owner-occupied rehab and new construction of affordable single-family housing.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
County-wide	

Table 4 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Stark County does not focus on a particular geographic area, as all CDBG projects are awarded on a competitive basis. HOME funding is allocated to the cities of Alliance and Massillon with the remaining funds utilized in the balance of the County. The County discusses HOME funding with each Consortium member. The most recent HOME Consortia Percentage Report is reviewed and used as a guide when developing the annual budget.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing - 91.420, 91.220(g)

Introduction

Affordable housing activities are anticipated to benefit non-homeless households during this program year.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	40
Special-Needs	0
Total	40

Table 5 - 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	0
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	0

Table 6 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

No funding is being allocated to tenant based rental assistance projects. The County encourages discussion and future collaboration with SMHA and is optimistic that successful projects can be developed over time.

AP-60 Public Housing - 91.420, 91.220(h)

Introduction

SMHA maintains committed to enhancing the quality of public housing, integrating resident input into comprehensive strategies, expanding the supply of affordable housing, providing improved living environments and promoting self-sufficiency.

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

SMHA plans to continue work toward the Voluntary Compliance Agreement to meet accessibility standards. Recently, SMHA was awarded two new grant sources, Lead Safe Ohio and Choice Neighborhoods Planning monies. In the next year, SMHA plans to work toward implementation of those funding sources. Additional actions regarding rental unit rehabilitation was described in further detail in the Consolidated Plan section MA-25.

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

SMHA's Resident Services department coordinates programs and activities for residents with a focus on education, self-sufficiency, health and wellness, community engagement and homeownership through the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. Residents are encouraged to become part of the FSS Program which provides them with the education and the opportunity to purchase their very own home, vehicle, etc. once they complete the program.

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

The PHA is currently not designated as troubled.

Discussion

SMHA is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for approved requests and to satisfy the 128 units required to be mobility accessible by HUD. They also provide referrals to other agencies for financial assistance to residents that meet eligibility requirements, and they provide a variety of programs and services for SMHA residents and their children.

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities - 91.420, 91.220(i)

Introduction

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

The system of care for persons experiencing homelessness in the jurisdiction is coordinated by the HCCSC. HCCSC established a Coordinated Entry System Committee in 2013 which worked diligently to develop policies and procedures between 2013- 2014 for a centralized intake and assessment system/coordinated entry which would be compliant with all HEARTH regulations, cost efficient, client oriented and engage the entire homeless system. The system began roll out in September 2014 and continues to evolve based on the guidance provided by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development and community need. The system establishes protocols for reaching out to persons experiencing homelessness and assessing their individual needs. Outreach programs are operated through ICAN Housing via the PATH program, which targets those with severe mental illness and those with substance use issues, and some additional outreach for persons who do not meet the PATH eligibility criteria. ICAN's outreach staff and other service agencies across the county immediately connect the persons experiencing homelessness they come into contact with to the Homeless Hotline (aka Homeless Navigation). During this call, persons who are experiencing or are at-risk of homelessness are assisted with alternatives whenever possible in order to identify other resources and to problem solve where possible to avoid entry into the homeless system. When there are no possible alternatives other than emergency shelter, living on the street or a location not meant for human habitation, the hotline completes an assessment using the Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT, full SPDAT not the VI-SPDAT) to determine severity of need and prioritization on the referral lists for prevention, shelter, rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing; families with children are prioritized.

Those who are in a current state of chronic homelessness, with the highest SPDAT scores, are assisted with entry into available shelter openings first. Those who do not want to enter shelter are referred to the outreach program where staff attempt to follow up and address the individual's needs. Once the hotline completes the full SPDAT assessment and places someone on the prioritization list, all homeless housing programs, that are approved HMIS users, can view the secure list. A weekly By-Names meeting is held and attended by members of coordinated entry, homeless navigation, behavioral health providers, housing providers, shelter providers, and the outreach program. During these weekly meetings, families and individuals who are at the top of the prioritization list are referred to housing providers. Attendees of the By-Names meeting coordinate services, when needed, to ensure the family or individual is properly connected with their housing opportunity or opportunities. Housing providers

are in regular contact with shelters, outreach, client's case managers and other service agencies when attempting to contact a client on the prioritization list to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that people who are still experiencing homelessness are being found and assisted. The HCCSC is committed to continuing to serve individuals and families based on severity of need as well as ensuring the assessment process is equitable.

The City of Canton partners with the SHN (the County's collaborative applicant for Continuum of Care (CoC) funding) to provide an annual update on the status of homelessness and the programs to address it throughout the city.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Stark County CoC (or HCCSC) strategy for addressing the emergency shelter needs of persons experiencing homelessness is to target its limited shelter beds to those who cannot be diverted from shelter. The primary goal is to make emergency shelter stays as short as possible while helping clients access permanent housing either through a homeless program such as rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing or through affordable housing via public housing, Section 8 or other low-income housing opportunities. The secondary goal is to connect clients to mainstream resources, health and mental health as needed, education, employment opportunities, and community supports which will be necessary for the client to gain stability in maintaining their housing long term.

Case workers at all shelters and outreach programs work to link clients to other mainstream resources, such as medical, mental health, dental, food assistance, education & employment services as well as assist them with applying for other low-income housing opportunities outside of the homeless programs.

Stark County saw an increase in the total number of persons homeless from 2022 to 2023 in the PIT Count data. The total number of people experiencing homelessness increased from 247 to 320. The total number of sheltered homeless subpopulation increased from 219 to 264 and the number of the unsheltered subpopulation increased from 28 to 56.

The efficacy of the Coordinated Entry System has allowed people to become quickly housed based on resources available and receive assistance with much more rapidity. With the use of the full SPDAT assessment tool (not the VI-SPDAT), a natural diversion process occurs because the homeless hotline workers can have a conversation with the caller to provide a truly accurate assessment of the need. This diversion process is the way in which callers are diverted into areas of the most appropriate assistance level, and many times this may not be the homeless system. Along with the Coordinated Entry System, the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County has become more established and recognized, and this has allowed providers and community stakeholders to provide more input with assessing gaps, analyzing current procedures, and recommending strategies. The HCCSC has also invested in a System Modeling project that is led by outside consultants to analyze a process that models an optimized organization of system responses for all persons who experience a housing crisis in Stark County. The System Modeling

process analyzed the needs and gaps and identified how existing resources could be more efficiently deployed to address client needs. It identified that additional resources are needed for diversion, homelessness prevention, and permanent housing.

Primarily the individuals and families entering shelter have very little to no income and have many barriers to gaining employment and/or other benefits. The HCCSC has phased out all CoC funded transitional housing projects. All CoC projects have opted to abide by the Housing First principle of providing more rapid entrance into permanent housing projects. Non-CoC funded transitional housing is being provided by either Domestic Violence, Veteran, or Alcohol and Other Drugs (AoD) agencies.

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 HCCSC gives priority to chronically homeless individuals and families with the longest history of homelessness and severe service needs. The chronically homeless individuals or head of households who have been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation or an emergency shelter for at least 12 months either continuously or on at least four separate occasions in the last three years, where the cumulative length of the four occasions equals at least twelve months; and the individuals or head of household have identified as having “severe service needs” that are identified and verified by the standardized assessment are prioritized for permanent supportive housing.

A member of the Coordinated Entry team participates in Veteran Task Force meetings. The objective of the meeting is to quickly identify homeless Stark County veterans and link them with either VA or HCCSC (CoC) housing resources.

There were no youth under 18 that were reported as unaccompanied homeless. However, the data from local school districts and the Ohio Department of Education reveal that there are many youths, both under 18 and over, in unstable doubled up situations and very much at-risk of homelessness which must be addressed pro-actively through more prevention programs targeted to youth. The HCCSC has entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Stark County Educational Service Center to be aware of the number of homeless youths in local school districts and to share information and resources. Homeless Education Liaisons from the local school districts are invited to monthly meetings through a Homelessness Learning Community to share information and learn about new and existing programs in the community to support youth experiencing homelessness.

While the CoC has expanded the rapid rehousing program, one challenge with expanding rapid rehousing and serving participants with more barriers to employment and self-sufficiency is identifying

landlords who are willing to rent to participants who may need up to 24 months to gain financial independence, and who are willing to rent their units at affordable rates to households who will be required to exit the program when they reach 30% AMI. Because Stark County does not have a large stock of safe, decent sanitary units that are affordable, the CoC will continue attempting to build partnerships with landlords and developers to address this issue.

Participants who have severe and possibly life-long barriers to attaining self-sufficiency are referred to permanent supportive housing (PSH). A long-term goal of the CoC is to ensure that there are enough PSH units to immediately refer and place persons into a unit as needed to make the transition to permanent housing and independent living more rapid, thus shortening the period of time that they experience homelessness. Based on the recent System Modeling completed by the CoC, there are an additional 118 PSH units needed to be able to immediately refer and place person into a unit.

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.

Discussion

SHNI serves as the Collaborative Applicant for the CoC and has two full-time staff members. The SHNI works under the supervision of a Board of Directors representing the municipalities, county, behavioral health board, chamber of commerce and local private funders. The HCCSC or CoC has a memorandum of agreement assigning the administrative and collaborative tasks to the SHNI. The HCCSC expands its membership to all interested individuals and organizations that serve or are concerned with the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Stark such as housing, law enforcement, education, health care, faith community. The HCCSC currently has over 60 members from a wide cross section of the community who are able to offer insight into the various needs of those at risk of homelessness, in the first stages of becoming homeless, fleeing domestic violence, veterans, or already literally homeless. Committees and focus groups have been established to get input from front line providers.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing -91.420, 91.220(j)

Introduction

Affordable housing is generally defined as housing on which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs, including utilities. Keeping housing costs below 30 percent of income is intended to ensure that households have enough money to pay for other necessities like food, transportation and health care.

According to the 2018 AI to Fair Housing Choice, growing the County's multifamily housing stock will be essential in creating more quality affordable housing. The AI also found that increased rents and fallen median income have led to a reduction in the number of affordable housing units for Black households.

SCRPC employs a Fair Housing Manager for Stark County. She and the Community Development and Planning staff work together towards removing barriers to affordable housing.

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

There are a number of strategies to remove or ameliorate the barriers to affordable housing within the County. The development of new housing and preserving existing affordable housing will assist in closing the housing affordability gap.

To improve the quality of existing affordable housing, the SMHA is renovating apartment complexes. Cherrie Turner Towers, an eight-story apartment building, is undergoing \$6.9 million in renovations. Also, SMHA has plans to revitalize the Jackson Sherrick public housing complex and the surrounding southeast Canton neighborhoods.

To hold landlords accountable for improvements and tenant safety, the city of Alliance has presented legislation to City Council to create a rental registration program.

In terms of zoning ordinances, the AI found that older zoning ordinances were less likely to reflect changing land uses. Many communities have minimal amounts of areas zoned for multi-family residential development, which reduces the opportunities for affordable housing in those areas. SCRPC planners review zoning amendments for unincorporated areas of the County and regularly recommend approval of re-zoning appropriate land to multi-family. Unfortunately, townships frequently do not agree with SCRPC's recommendations. To combat this, SCRPC continues to educate local officials on the harm of exclusionary zoning laws. Fair housing staff plans to educate local officials on Fair housing, zoning and affordable housing. Planning staff also seeks to educate local officials by conducting bi-monthly zoning inspectors' mutual assistance meetings to review various zoning and planning topics.

The County's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which is used when reviewing zoning amendments, also promotes affordable housing.

Discussion

The Fair Housing Manager for Stark County has spoken at the Zoning Inspectors Mutual Assistance meetings, providing information on potential fair housing violations and what fair housing has to do with zoning. The Fair Housing Manager for Stark County will continue to speak at the zoning meetings to provide information on fair housing and zoning, and will continue reviewing township zoning resolutions for affordable and fair housing barriers.

The Fair Housing Manager participates in government roundtable discussions that explain the rights and obligations of fair housing in the rental market. The Manager sends a quarterly Fair Housing newsletter to County employees to train them on housing discrimination. Additionally, the Fair Housing Manager speaks at fair housing luncheons, workshops, and seminars. They conduct training and presentations to fair housing groups, non-profit groups, the Real Estate Investor's Association, private landlords, students, and tenants.

AP-85 Other Actions - 91.420, 91.220(k)

Introduction

Stark County works to strengthen the community by carrying out the actions of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The major obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the need for more funding. Whether it is adequate numbers of affordable housing units, adequate numbers of beds in homeless shelters, permanent supportive housing units, large sanitary sewer expansions or other public facilities, funding is frequently the missing piece. To overcome this obstacle, Stark County generally looks to support projects that have other contributing funding sources.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Affordable housing units will be maintained through rehabilitation of owner-occupied units and the development of two, new single-family homes.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

All projects are required to be carried out in a lead-safe manner. Every home that undergoes rehabilitation is evaluated for lead and all work is required to be carried out in a lead-safe manner by licensed contractors. Applicants are given the EPA brochure on lead hazards and the brochure is reviewed with the homeowner and housing counselor. All properties built prior to 1978 are tested for lead once rehabilitation work is completed and if they don't pass inspection, they must be re-cleaned and retested until they pass.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

As discussed in Consolidated Plan section SP-70, actions to reduce the number of poverty-level families includes various public service programs which provide supportive services to households in need and provide linkages to other services such as life skills and job training, medical and mental health services and housing. Funding will be targeted toward single-family, owner-occupied rehab which provides low-income households with needed home repairs or rehabilitation. These rehabilitation projects are largely 100% grants while others are 0% interest deferred loans. This allows homeowners to redirect their income toward other needs as opposed to taking out loans with potentially high interest rates.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

SHN as the Collaborative applicant for the CoC, provides leadership through the organization of various

committees and subcommittees which have been formed to assume responsibility for various tasks under the HEARTH Act. Some committees include the System Performance Committee, Coordinated Entry Committee, Youth and Veterans Subcommittees, and By-Names Committee. This By-Names Committee works by regularly reviewing the real-time, up-to-date list of those experiencing homelessness that have been prioritized for housing. The By-Names Committee consists of lead staff members representing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the Collaborative Applicant and Shelter, housing and supportive service providers. The sub-committees provide valuable insight on needs and challenges faced by providers.

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

Ongoing interaction takes place between Massillon, Alliance and Stark County, as members of the HOME Consortium. SCRPC is under contract and assists both cities with their housing rehab programs.

SCRPC coordinates with NEFCO in the creation of its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which is submitted annually to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The CEDS committee is comprised of private industry representatives, foundations and public agencies working together to identify economic goals and priorities for Stark, Summit, Portage and Wayne counties.

Discussion

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements - 91.420, 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction

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(I)(2)

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

Stark County will not utilize any other forms of investment beyond those identified in Section

92.205.

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:

The County will utilize resale or recapture based upon how the HOME funds were invested.

If the HOME assistance is used in the form of a development subsidy in which the funds are used to develop the unit and are not used to lower the purchase price from fair market value to an affordable price, resale will be used.

Recapture will be used if the HOME assistance, including program income, is provided and allows the homebuyer to buy a unit, also called a direct subsidy. Assistance could be: down payment assistance, closing cost, interest subsidy or other direct assistance to the homebuyer. A direct subsidy includes any assistance that reduces the purchase price from fair market value to an affordable price.

If a development subsidy is used in conjunction with a direct subsidy, this triggers recapture.

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:

Homebuyers are required to maintain HOME funded properties as affordable based on the total amount of HOME funds invested in the house (resale) or the amount of direct HOME subsidy which allowed the buyer to purchase the unit (recapture). Additionally, the homebuyer is required to maintain the unit as their principal residence for the affordability period. The guidelines are as follows:

Under \$15,000 per unit - 5 years

\$15,000 - \$40,000 per unit - 10 years

Over \$40,000 - 15 years

A deed restriction and restrictive covenant will be prepared by SCRPC. A homebuyer agreement must also be signed by SCRPC, the developer (if applicable) and the homebuyer. These documents will establish the occupancy and affordability requirements for the property as well as the owner's obligations to the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

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:

Stark County does not plan to use HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds.

5. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

Stark County does not have any planned HOME TBRA activities for FY24.

6. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

Stark County does not have any planned HOME TBRA activities for FY24.

7. If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

Rental housing projects must abide by all requirements at 24 CFR 92.253. During monitoring of said projects, lease agreements are evaluated to ensure there are no prohibitive items in the agreements.

Attachments

Attachment 1

2024 Stark County Age Friendly Report

Attachment 2

Public notices and public hearing minutes

Attachment 3

Citizen comments

Attachment 4

Adopted FY 2024 CDBG and HOME budgets

Attachment 5

Resolution of approval

Attachment 6

Stark County Citizen Participation Plan

Attachment 7

Stark County resale and recapture policy

Attachment 1

2024 Stark County Age Friendly Report

AGE- FRIENDLY STARK COUNTY

Assessment
Report 2023



Prepared By:
The Center for
Community Solutions

**Age-Friendly Stark is a
member of the AARP
Network of Age-Friendly
States and Communities**

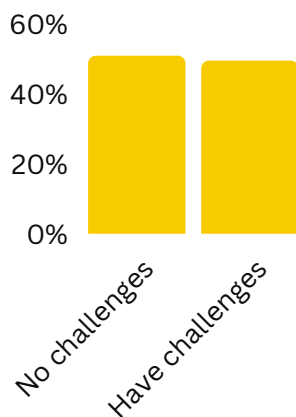


**Thank you the generous funders
of Stark Age-Friendly**



TRANSPORTATION

While 60% of residents are able to find a ride when they need one, many older adults struggle with transportation that consistently and safely connects them to activities, events and appointments within Stark County.



Ability to get around

About half of residents experience challenges when traveling to an appointment, event or community location. Slightly more than 20% of residents indicated they are not always able to find rides when the need one.



Walkability

One in three residents indicated they have difficulties with walking when traveling around the community. Fifteen percent of residents report that they do not feel safe walking. During focus groups, residents shared that walkability is very dependent on what part of the county you live in. Higher income and more dense areas were generally described as more walkable than lower income or sparsely populated communities.



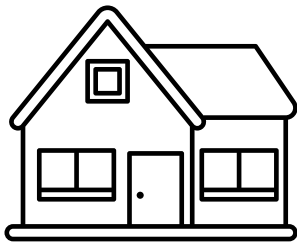
Public Transportation

Thirteen percent of residents find public transportation difficult to use or unreliable. Eleven percent of older residents report a lack of public transportation available to take them where they need to go and 5% are unable to afford public transportation.



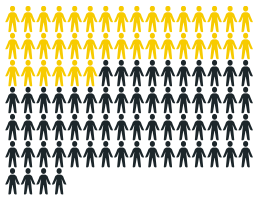
HOUSING

Most Stark County residents wish to remain in their communities and their homes as they age. It is important to 85% of residents to remain in the county and 96% of residents place a high importance on remaining in their homes.



Safe and Affordable Homes

Just over 80% of residents like where they live and find it to be safe and affordable. About 20% of residents report they do not have access to affordable housing options and another 40% are not sure if they have access. Attendees of focus groups noted that affordable single family homes are sold very quickly; these types of sales are often word of mouth. Newer “luxury” homes being built for older adults are financially out of reach for many residents



Accessibility

Over a third of residents currently have housing equipped with accessible features such as no-step entry, wider doorways, first floor bedrooms and bathrooms, and grab bars in bathrooms.



Home Repair

Just 16% of residents have access to a low cost or free home repair service in their community. About 4 in 10 residents report being able to find affordable home repair contractors who are trustworthy and do quality work.



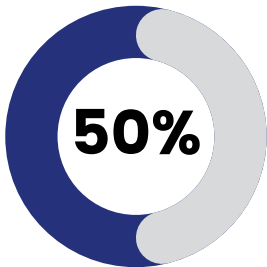
OUTDOOR SPACES & BUILDINGS

Being able to enjoy outdoor spaces and navigate public buildings within a community increases connections to that community. Half of older adults agreed that sidewalks, parks and public buildings in their community are clean, safe and easy to get to.



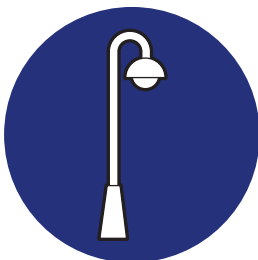
Recreation

About half of residents have access to recreation and wellness activities where they live and nearly 40% live within walking distance of well-maintained and safe parks. Residents who attended focus groups reported enjoying the trails of the Stark Parks and feel safe walking them.



Sidewalks

Half of residents report a lack of sidewalks where they want to walk and 41% find the sidewalks are uneven or unsafe. Sidewalks create connections between homes and the greater community.



Street Safety

Over half of residents indicate they have well-lit public streets and walkways in their communities, while 23% indicate pedestrian crossings are difficult to navigate. Less than 20% have neighborhood safety groups, such as watch programs, block clubs or ward or district meetings.



CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT

Less than half of residents believe there are lots of opportunities for people aged 50 years and older to work and volunteer in Stark County.

Retired individuals often have time for volunteering or part-time work and should be considered an asset to the community.



Employment

About 32% of older adults indicated they were either working or seeking work; 45% are retired and not looking for work and 23% are disabled and unable to work. Eighteen percent have access to job training or skills building opportunities and 16% have access to networking events. About a quarter feel there are jobs available that are a good fit for their skills and abilities.



Volunteering

Nearly 30% of residents have access to a range of volunteer opportunities for individuals with a variety of physical abilities and interests. Slightly less than 30% say it is easy to find information about local volunteer opportunities.



Civic Participation

One in four residents indicated there are opportunities for older adults to participate in decision-making bodies, such as community councils or committees. Slightly more than 15% have a way to discuss issues that impact older adults in their community.



COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

Communicating in an age-friendly way provides older adults with accessible information in a format they are comfortable using. Sixty-eight percent of residents indicated they were able to find information in Stark County when they needed it. About 11% struggle to find needed information.

Digital Connectivity

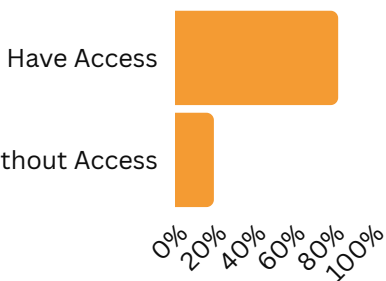
Eighty-three percent of older residents indicated they had access to internet and computers. While the majority have access, attendees of focus groups pointed out the internet may not always be the preferred method to receive information. Paper newsletters were mentioned as good sources of information for community events and programs.

Communication Platforms

Forty percent of residents indicated they had access to community information by phone through one central source, while 65% were able to access information in printed format. About 30% receive information delivered to them in-person.

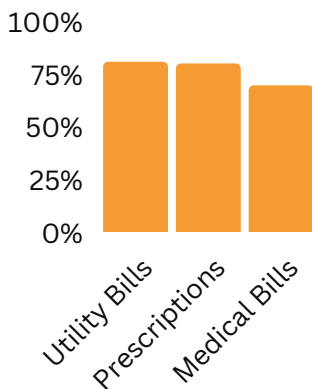
Language Accessibility

Most residents, 80%, have access to information in their language. Ten percent do not have information available in their preferred language and another 10% are not sure if information is available in their language.



HEALTH SERVICES & COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Half of the older adults in Stark County reported that it is **not** easy or affordable to visit a doctor or hospital in Stark County. Just 38% reported they had access to a service provider who would come to their homes.



Financial Security

Eighty percent of residents indicate they are able to afford utility bills and prescription costs without sacrificing other necessities. Medical bills are more challenging, with just 69% able to afford to pay the bills without sacrificing other necessities.



Long Term Care

Residents of long term care facilities reported a number of challenges they face including cost and affordability, loneliness and social isolation, poor quality of care, lack of agency and a loss of independence. They would like to see more opportunities to be involved in the community, improved facilities, more independent housing options and increased transportation options.

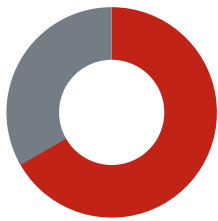
Health Navigation

Multiple focus groups discussed the difficulty many older adults in Stark County have in navigating the health care system including frustrating automated phone systems, difficulty scheduling appointments, physically getting around large medical facilities, communicating with providers, understanding test results and confusing outpatient care instructions.



RESPECT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Feeling respected by the community is not a universal feeling shared by older adult residents of Stark County. While 59% do feel respected, 27% are not sure if they are respected and 15% indicate they do not feel respected by members of their community.



Stereotypes

Two-thirds of residents agree that negative stereotypes about older adults exist in Stark County.



Treated with Respect

Just under half of older adults in Stark County feel that they are generally treated with respect, which is higher than the 35% who believe people with disabilities are treated with respect. During focus groups, examples were shared of not having doors opened, being cut off while walking and being ignored.



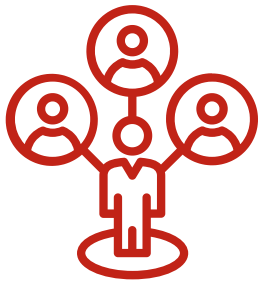
Being Valued

Thirty percent of survey takers do not feel that the community values older adults. About the same percent are not sure if older adults are valued and slightly higher do believe the community values older adults. Residents at focus group shared that you are seen as valuable if you have wealth or social status. One person explained “the older you become the more invisible you become.”



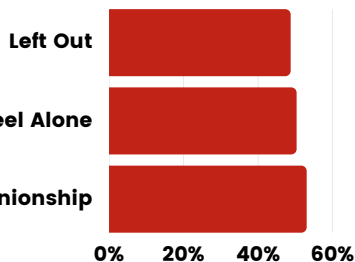
SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Less than half of older adults in Stark County find social events easy to attend. Regularly connecting with other people through social events can be a protective factor to both social isolation and loneliness.



Close Relationships

Forty percent of older adults in Stark County feel that they are no longer close to anyone and over half feel that no one really knows them well. In focus groups, residents shared how challenging it is to develop new relationships later in life. As lifelong relationships end, they are not easily replicated or replaced.



Loneliness

Over half of older adults in Stark County sometimes or always feel alone and slightly more feel they lack companionship. Slightly less than half feel left out some or all of the time.



Social Opportunities

Seventy-two percent of residents reported they do have places in their community where then can socialize or attend programs, including at libraries and community centers. At focus groups recreational programming such as pickle ball and golf outings were mentioned as opportunities to socialize in Stark County.



Attachment 2

Public notices and public hearing minutes

In 2020, 61% of voters under age 30 – 55% of those between 30 and 44 – supported Biden, according to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of the electorate.

It's an age group with which Republicans hope to make inroads. Former President Donald Trump, who is the early front-runner in the GOP presidential primary and is only 3½ years younger than Biden, said Friday, "We are hitting the young person's market like nobody's ever seen before."

Kevin Munoz, a spokesman for Biden's campaign, referred to Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement in arguing that "young people are acutely impacted by the issues front and center in this election, driven by the extreme MAGA agenda." He said that included inaction on climate change, gun violence and student debt.

"We will meet younger Americans where they are and turn their energy into action," Munoz said in a statement.



President Joe Biden poses for a photo June 16 in West Hartford, Conn. The members will need young voters to back him, Biden 2020. SUSAN WALSH/AP

That might not defuse questions about age, though, when it comes to strategies, Biden or Trump.

"There's a frustration and exhaustion either that they feel with the rematch," Terran, gradually, is Woodbury, co-founder & CEO of producing, "a lot of

"People can make all the hit pieces and memes and TikToks all they want."

A starker contrast might be between the president and rising Democrats such as 46-year-old California Rep. Ro Khanna and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, 41, one of Biden's primary rivals in 2020. Neither seriously entertained running for the White House in 2024 and have backed Biden's reelection.

"The only thing that really matters is your ability to do the job," Buttigieg, who was 37 when he launched his 2020 presidential bid, said recently on CNN. Khanna told Fox News Channel that age will "obviously" be a 2024 factor, but suggested that Biden's staff "overprotects" him and "the more he's out there, the better."

Other top young Democrats have lined up to back Biden. Florida Democratic Rep. Maxwell Frost, who was elected to Congress last year at 26, is on the Biden campaign's advisory board, as is Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, 44. New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, 33, recently endorsed Biden.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, a progressive who says strong turnout among young voters helped him win a runoff election this spring, said Biden's policies transcend his age. Johnson noted that the president's work "around climate justice speaks not just to this generation, but generations to come."

"The excitement that I believe that we're going to have is going to speak to the incredible work and organizing that we are committed to doing as a party," said Johnson, 47. "And we're looking forward to working with the president over the course of his next four years."

Still, Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, acknowledged that even the president's supporters understand how demanding the White House can be.

"People worry about Joe Biden," said Weingarten, 65. "They worry like you would worry about a beloved father or grandfather. What you normally hear from Democrats is this sense of, 'OK, I just want him to be OK.' And you're hearing just the consternation of, 'This is a hard job.'"

Biden said he “took a hard look” at his age while deciding to seek a second term. But he’s also tried to suggest his age and experience are assets rather than liabilities by joking repeatedly about them. That’s a departure from 2020, when Biden called himself a “transition candidate” and pledged to be a “bridge” to younger Democrats.

Planning to Apply for Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds?

Would you like to learn about the County's FY'24-'28 Consolidated Plan & provide input on community development needs?

Learn how by attending a
Virtual Application Workshop
Friday, August 25, 2023
9:00 – 10:00 am

Via the platform *Microsoft Teams*

Those planning to attend may join by entering:
Meeting ID: 276 525 543 75
Passcode: qk6Ep5

Audio (call in only)
1-872-215-6905
Conference ID: 612 161 199#

Earn points for your CDBG project application by attending this FREE training session sponsored by CDBG staff

The county will make reasonable accommodations for sensory-impaired or disabled residents at public meetings. Translation services may be offered upon request and availability. Individuals requiring such accommodations should contact 330-451-7031 or 330-451-7247 five business days prior to the meeting. Ohio Relay can be reached at 800-750-0750 for English or 800-269-0678 for Spanish.



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Is Biden's age making him unpopular with young voters?

rt
RESS

berto Rodriguez has grand-
inger than Joe Biden. But
interested in the 80-year-old
accomplishments than his

is young as me, we're all fo-
our day-to-day lives and he
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a cook at Mandalay Bay Re-
sino in Las Vegas, said of Bi-
rt among young voters. Rod-
ited specifically to federal
elief payments and govern-
ling increases on infrastruc-
her social programs.

se him were a key piece of Bi-
ing 2020 coalition, which in-
orities of young people as
ge graduates, women, urban
an voters, and Black Amer-
taining their support will be
losely contested states such
where even small declines
e consequential to Biden's re-

election bid.

His 2024 campaign plans to em-
size messages that could especially
onate with young people in the com-
weeks as the anniversary of the swe-
ing Inflation Reduction Act approach-
in mid-August. That legislation inclu-
provisions that the White House
embrace to argue that Biden has d-
more than any other president to c-
bat climate change.

Such efforts, however, could col-
24, said he cares
with Biden's personal reality — like wh-
Joe Biden's
he recalled that, while attending as
Patrick's Day parade at age 14, he
ments and
peared in a photo with President H-
ng increases on
S. Truman.

"Purely by accident — I assume it
an accident — the photographer from
newspaper got a picture of me mak-
eye contact with Harry Truman," Bi-
said to chuckles last week at the Tur-
vey of the elector-
man Civil Rights Symposium in Wa-
ington.

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l. "And I think a lot
it untenable."

The Associated
for Public Affairs
ust 25% of Demo-

crats under 45 said they would definite-
ly support Biden in a general election,
compared with 56% of older Democrats.
A majority of Democrats across age
groups said they would probably sup-
port him as the party's nominee, howev-
er.

Biden's campaign is relying heavily
on the Democratic National Committee,
which during last year's midterms,
hired campus organizers in Pennsylva-
nia, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona and
other battleground states and offered
weekly youth coordinating meetings to
encourage in-class contacts and "dorm-
storms." The DNC sees young people as
some of the most critical voters it will
need to reach in 2024 and promises
"significant investments" to mobilize
them. Plans are underway to expand on
its work last cycle, including trainings it
held on how best to turn out voters.

The Republican National Committee
is trying to use Biden's age against him,
posting online videos of Biden seeming
frail or making verbal gaffes, such as
when he declared in June "God save the
queen," nearly nine months after the
death of England's Queen Elizabeth II.

Rodriguez shrugged off online at-
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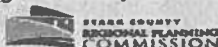
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1678 for Spanish.



00-30000

**Two Bacon Strips
or Sausage Links**

CANTONREP.COM | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 | 7A

234-410-3444 330-832-6200

Notice of Public Hearing Stark County FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan

Stark County is preparing the development of the 2024-2028 HUD Consolidated Plan and would like to hear from stakeholders in the community. As a recipient of federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program, the county is required to assess the housing and community development needs every five years.

Residents are encouraged to attend the first public hearing on September 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the office of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, 201 Third Street NE, Canton, OH 44702. Presentation information will include background on the Consolidated Plan and the recent Needs Assessment survey. Comments, suggestions and questions are welcome.

The county will make reasonable accommodations for sensory-impaired or disabled residents at public meetings. Translation services may be offered upon request and availability. Individuals requiring such accommodations should contact 330-451-7031 or 330-451-7247 five business days prior to the meeting. Ohio Relay can be reached at 800.750.0750 for English or 800.269.0678 for Spanish.

Published in **The Repository** on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

00-36874848

Notice of 15-Day Comment Period to Receive Citizen Comment on FY 2022 Stark County Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and Announcement of Public Hearing

The CAPER details the activities and projects funded by the Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. CDBG expenditures totaled approximately \$1,140,300 and HOME expenditures totaled approximately \$899,000. A summary of accomplishments during the year include rehab of 53 single-family owner-occupied units, construction of one-new single-family home in Massillon, down payment assistance to four families and public service activities that served more than 1,600 persons.

Copies of the draft report may be reviewed at the office of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, 201 Third Street NE, Canton, weekdays between 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Written comments on the FY'22 CAPER will be received until 4:00 p.m., Friday, September 8, 2023 and should be addressed to Lisa Snyder, Senior Community Development Planner, Lcsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov 201 Third Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702. Questions on the CAPER may be directed to the e-mail provided above.

The CAPER is being reviewed at a Public Hearing held during the Stark County Regional Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at 201 Third Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, 44702.

The CAPER will be considered for final action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners on September 20, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. during the regularly scheduled meeting. Interested persons may attend in-person at 110 Central Plaza South, 2nd Floor, Canton, OH 44702 or may phone in (667) 770-1465 access code 692732#.

The CAPER will be submitted to HUD on or around September 22, 2023 but no later than September 29, 2023.

The county will make reasonable accommodations for sensory-impaired or disabled residents at public meetings. Translation services may be offered upon request and availability. Individuals requiring such accommodations should contact 330-451-7031 or 330-451-7247 five business days prior to the meeting. Ohio Relay can be reached at 800.750.0750 for English or 800.269.0678 for Spanish.

Published in **The Repository** on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

00-36874902

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD STARK COUNTY, OHIO

The Consolidated Plan covers various programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. Stark County is an "Urban County" under the CDBG program and a "Participating Jurisdiction" (PJ) under the HOME program. The county receives direct allocations of funding for these two programs and is the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, which includes the cities of Alliance and Massillon.

Stark County has prepared an Annual Action Plan for FY24 which includes a budget for the CDBG & HOME programs. The FY24 plan represents the 1st year of the 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan for Stark County. The Consolidated Plan also provides an area-wide assessment of housing and homeless needs, housing market analysis, and a strategic plan for the allocation of housing resources within the consortium area. In addition, the Consolidated Plan describes the County's priority community development needs eligible for assistance under the CDBG & HOME programs. This includes an assessment of the needs for public facilities, infrastructure improvements, public services, accessibility, historic preservation, economic development, fair housing and planning needs. The Plan provides the County's long-term and short-term community development goals and objectives that have been developed to address the national goals of the CDBG and HOME Programs, which include:

- The provision of safe, sanitary and affordable housing for lower income residents.
- The provision of creating suitable living environments by increasing the quality of life for lower income residents.
- The provision of economic opportunities, primarily for lower income residents.
- The provision of updated or new public facilities and/or infrastructure improvements, primarily to benefit lower income residents.

In preparing the FY24 Action Plan, the County addressed those needs which met one of the three statutory objectives of the CDBG program: to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, elimination of slum and blighting conditions, or an urgent community development need.

CDBG

Stark County is proposing to undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY24-28. The anticipated FY24 budget of \$1,390,232.00 is based upon the funding received for FY23. All proposed activities' budgets will be proportionally increased or decreased from the estimated funding levels to match actual allocation amounts based upon approval by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Proposed Activity	Proposed FY24	Proposed FY25	Proposed FY26
CDBG Planning & Administration	\$101,000.00	-	-
Fair Housing	\$84,000.00	-	-
2050 Stark County Comprehensive Plan	\$35,000.00	-	-
Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$99,000.00	-	-
Housing Rehabilitation	\$273,462.00	-	-
Revolving Loan Fund (est.)	\$270,220.81	-	-
Alliance for Children & Families AER Office/Case Manager	\$20,320.00	-	-
CommQuest Services Inc Family Living Center	\$18,000.00	-	-
Stark MHAR Stark County Coordinated Entry System	\$20,000.00	-	-
Beacon Charitable Pharmacy Access to Medications & Clinical Pharmacy Services	\$30,000.00	-	-
The Stock Pile Salary Assistance	\$40,000.00	-	-
Community Building Partnership of Stark County Pre-purchase Housing Counseling for LMI Residents	\$7,500.00	-	-
StarkFresh Affordable Food Access Through Individualized Grocery Delivery	\$10,000.00	-	-
Early Childhood Resource Center Perry Local Schools SPARK Program	\$20,000.00	-	-
Early Childhood Resource Center Fatherhood Mentorship Project	\$20,000.00	-	-
Kent State University Microenterprise Development Program	\$32,000.00	-	-
City of North Canton Woodrow-Lola Waterline Replacement	\$499,950.00	-	-
Village of Brewster - Pump Station	\$40,000.00	-	-
Village of Navarre - Playground Equipment for Underwood Park	\$40,000.00	-	-
Stark County Engineer's Office - Perry Drive Reconstruction	-	\$100,000.00	-
City of North Canton Elberta Avenue SW Waterline Replacement	-	\$499,995.00	-
TOTAL (excludes RLF)	\$1,390,232.00	\$999,995.00	-
Reallocation of prior year funds to contingencies	\$10,016.00	-	-

Estimated RLF monies in the amount of \$270,220.81 will be used for owner-occupied rehabs. Anticipated program income in the amount of \$3,000.00 is to be used for rehab administration which includes soft costs and infrastructure/public facility improvements.

If any activity listed above has cost savings, slows down spending, discovers a barrier to completion or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the remaining funds will be reallocated to housing rehabilitation.

HOME

Stark County, as the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, is proposing the following HOME budget for FY24. The anticipated FY24 budget of \$1,029,006.00 is based upon the funding received for FY23. All proposed activities' budgets will be proportionally increased or decreased from the estimated funding levels to match actual allocation amounts based upon approval by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Proposed Activity	Proposed FY24
Administration	\$102,900.60
CHDO Set-Aside for future CHDO projects	\$154,350.90
City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation	\$105,321.55
City of Alliance - Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity - 1 new single-family home	\$70,000.00
City of Massillon - Housing Rehabilitation & Homebuyer Assistance	\$125,321.55
City of Massillon - Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio - 1 new single-family home	\$50,000.00
Stark County - Housing Rehabilitation	\$421,111.40
TOTAL	\$1,029,006.00

Anticipated program income of \$25,000.00 and prior years program income (no less than \$31,198.20) will be utilized for new construction or housing rehabilitation activities.

If any new construction activity has cost savings, fails to begin or complete construction, or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the remaining funds will be reallocated to the respective jurisdiction's housing rehabilitation activity.

Two public hearings will be held for the purpose of obtaining public input on the above-mentioned budgets and draft FY24-28 Consolidated Plan. The first public hearing will be March 5, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office located at 201 3rd Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702. The second public hearing will be March 20, 2024 at 11:00am at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office located at 201 3rd Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702.

The draft FY24-28 Consolidated Plan and draft FY24 Action Plan will be available for public comment beginning March 6, 2024 through various methods: 1) digitally upon request; 2) hard copy via US Mail upon request; 3) in-person at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office at 201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702; or 4) via the RPC website at rpc.starkcountyohio.gov. To submit a request for a digital copy or hard copy, contact icsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov or call 330-451-7247. Comments are due no later than 4:00pm on April 8, 2024.

Stark County proposes to amend its approved HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. The current Allocation Plan outlines the County will provide access to all Qualifying Populations with a preference for chronically homeless individuals and families for its HOME-ARP activities. The proposed amendment would be to change the preference for those literally homeless. This proposed amendment will be discussed during the public hearing on March 5, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office located at 201 3rd Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702. The draft, amended Allocation Plan will be available for public comment beginning March 6, 2024 through various methods: 1) digitally upon request; 2) hard copy via US Mail upon request; 3) in-person at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office at 201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702; or 4) via the RPC website at rpc.starkcountyohio.gov. To submit a request for a digital copy or hard copy, contact icsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov or call 330-451-7247. Comments are due no later than 4:00pm on April 8, 2024.

The County will make reasonable accommodations for sensory-impaired or disabled residents at public meetings. Translation services may be offered upon request and availability. Individuals requiring such accommodations should contact 330.451.7031 or 330.451.7247 five business days prior to the meeting. Ohio Relay can be reached at 800.750.0750 for English or 800.269.0678 for Spanish.

Printed in The Repository on February 20, 2024

Report: Claims against Ohio teachers pension fund director unfounded

Laura A. Bischoff
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

State Teachers Retirement System Executive Director Bill Neville sometimes tells old stories and raises his voice at work but he's not throwing furniture, degrading women, retaliating against critics or creating a hostile workplace, investigators concluded.

An anonymous letter purporting to be from STRS staff accused Neville of violence, harassment and other misconduct. The STRS Board placed Neville on paid leave in November while an outside law firm investigated the allegations.

A five-page executive summary of the investigation said the accusations are "largely without merit." Two experienced employment law attorneys interviewed 23 STRS employees who have regular contact with Neville as well as two former pension fund employees.

Attorneys David Kessler and Stephen Postalakis concluded that the anonymous letter contained multiple untrue allegations.

They found that some employees think Neville has a tendency to raise his voice when he's angry. And some reported that Neville likes to re-tell old stories that reference past girlfriends, but the stories didn't rise to the level of creating a hostile work environment, they concluded.

Kessler and Postalakis didn't uncover who wrote the anonymous letter.

Despite being told that the allegations were without merit, the STRS board opted to keep Neville on paid leave through mid-May and offer him performance coaching in the meantime.

Neville's attorney, Rex Elliott, said "... the investigation found no evidence of unlawful behavior by Neville. It is even suggested that the false claims may have originated from someone external to STRS. Despite this, the author of the false email remains unidentified, and the STRS Board has yet to reinstate Mr. Neville, who should promptly resume his role as executive director to continue his commendable work for Ohio's teachers."

STRS Ohio is governed by an 11-member board that includes appointees and elected members. The board oversees \$90 billion invested for 500,000 teachers and retirees.

Activists have been mounting a board takeover, electing board members who are more sympathetic to their complaints about transparency, senior leadership, staff bonuses, and the suspension of the cost-of-living allowances for retirees. Some of the reformers have called for Neville to be ousted.

Neville, who makes \$318,000 a year, has been director for nearly four years and an STRS employee for nearly two decades.

Laura Bischoff is a reporter for the USA TODAY Network Ohio Bureau, which serves the Columbus Dispatch, Cincinnati Enquirer, Akron Beacon Journal and 18 other affiliated news organizations across Ohio.

U.S. Route 30 in Massillon reopens after traffic crash closure

Robert Wang
Canton Repository | USA TODAY NETWORK

MASSILLON - The collision between a car and semitractor-trailer Monday afternoon closed the east-bound lanes of U.S. Route 30 near state Route 21 for about five hours, the Massillon Fire Department said.

The crash took place on Route 30 near the Richville Drive SE exit shortly before 1:38 p.m.

The 17-year-old driver of the car was transported to a hospital with injuries that were not serious, said Massillon Fire Assistant Chief Pat Rhodes. The driver of the truck, which had departed the nearby Shearer's Foods facility, was not hurt. Neither had passengers.

About 100 gallons of diesel spilled from the truck onto the highway, grass by the highway and the nearby embankment. The cleanup and towing the severely damaged truck from the southern side of Route 30 resulted in the five-hour closure of Route 30's eastbound lanes, said Rhodes, who was among the roughly 10 city firefighters who responded.

No fire resulted from the crash.

The lanes reopened to traffic around 6:40 p.m.

The 17-year-old girl was driving west on Route 30. For a reason that is not clear, she drove across the median and into the eastbound lanes, colliding with the eastbound truck. The car ended up back on the median. And the truck went off the right shoulder of the highway.

Rhodes said he contacted the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Stark County hazmat team to get their guidance for how to handle the leaking of the diesel fuel.

The hazmat team sent out a vehicle. But the agencies agreed that full deployment of the team was not necessary and the use of a contractor to clean up the fuel spill would be sufficient. Rhodes said the fuel did not get into any nearby waterways.

A RED Center dispatcher referred questions about the accident to Massillon police. A message seeking more information was left for Massillon Police Chief Jason Santenoy.

CDBG FY 2024 – 2026 Application Workshop Meeting Minutes

Microsoft Teams

August 25, 2023-9:00 am

In attendance were:

Diane	Sheridan	Staff
Lisa	Snyder	Staff
Kasie	Atkins	Staff
Carla	Stokes	Staff
Natalie	McCleskey	ICAN Housing
Shirene	Starn-Tapyrik	Alliance for Children and Families Inc.
Allison	Harvey	Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio
Amy	Dornack	CommQuest Services
Holly	Bolinger	Small Business Development Center - KSU Tusc
Stephen	Schillig	Small Business Development Center - KSU Tusc
Rob	Graham	City of North Canton
Jennifer	Keaton	Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery
Christina	Lester	Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery
Shannon	McMahon Williams	Sisters of Charity
Helen	Papczun	Stark County Economic Development Board
Chris	Neisel	Canton Township
Tom	Phillips	Stark Fresh
Mike	Miller	Village of Brewster
Carol	Risalti	Beacon Charitable Pharma Stark Fresh
Doug		
Margaret	Egbert	
Sue		
Kris		
NaSheka	Combs-Lemon	Strengthening Stark
Tyreia	Grimes	
Benjamin	Alderfer	Aultman
Lisa	Nelligan	Aultman
Suzanne	Herdlicka	Warrior Beat
Trevor	Meyer	Warrior Beat
Dee	St. Clair	Canton Museum of Art
Rick	Squier	Catholic Charities
Heather	Weaver	Catholic Charities
David	Torrence	Stark County Engineer's Office
Taylor	Weaver	Early Childhood Resource Center
James	Troike	Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District
Rodney	Reasonover	Stark County Community Action Agency
Sarah	Buell	Stark Parks
Danelle	Lightner	Jobs and Family Services
Edwin	Cleveland	The Straight Path Program
Maureen	Austin	Community Building Partnership of Stark County
Leonard	Stevens	Stark Minority Business
Stephan	Wilder	North Canton
Janel	Ranly	ECDI
Anna	Clendenin	Vantage Aging
Jay	Varnes	Vantage Aging

Dawn	Fish	City of Canton
Sherice	Freeman	City of Canton
Bethany	Harp	
Amanda	Stewart	Stark County Community Action Agency
Marisa	Sorboro	Akron- Canton Regional Food Bank
Amy	Wise	Early Childhood Resource Center
Libby	Doss	Canton Museum of Art
Melissa	Hoch	CommQuest Services
Molly	Lehman	Village of Navarre
Robin	Mingo-Miles	
JP	Neff	Plain Township
Mary	Grueber	Stark Parks

1. **Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Lisa Snyder, Community Development Planner, opened the meeting and introduced the staff, Diane Sheridan, Chief of Community Development and Carla Stokes, RPC staff member.

2. **Overview of Stark County CDBG program and National Objectives**

Snyder stated the FY 2024-2026 eligible projects must serve the areas/individuals in Stark County outside of the cities of Canton, Massillon, Alliance and the Villages of Hills & Dales and Wilmot. Projects seeking CBDG funding must meet one of the 3 National Objectives set forth by Department of Housing and Urban Department - HUD. The 3 objectives are:

- a. Preventative or elimination of slum or blighted conditions- improving the physical environment in a deteriorating and dilapidated property.
- b. Benefit low to-moderate income persons-most CDBG objective fall under this- at or below the area medium income.
- c. Must meet an urgent need -emergency situation or natural disaster.
The most common national objective most applicants qualify under is low-to-moderate income, it is seen most often.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, November 3, 2023 at noon. All application workshop attendees will automatically receive 10 points on each application submitted.

Snyder encouraged the attendee to take the survey, in order to identify improvements for next year.

3. Summary of project types

1. Affordable housing
2. Public facility improvements
3. Public service activities
4. Economic development activities

FY 2024-2026 CDBG Funding Availability

- Infrastructure and public facility projects will be accepted for the FY '24, FY '25, and FY '26 funding cycles (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027)
- Other project applications will be accepted for the FY'24 funding cycle only
- Public service activities are capped at 15% of the overall CDBG grant- the number of applications receive can only be funded at 15% of the total budget.

Snyder stated she anticipate receiving approximately about 1.3 million in funding for next year.

FY 2024 CDBG Funding Availability

Stark County's Estimated Allocation	\$ 1,390,232.00
Administration and planning (20%)	\$ 278,046.40
Public service activities (15%)	\$ 208,534.80
Housing rehab revolving loan fund (RLF)	\$ ~231,630.00
Previously awarded infrastructure projects	\$ 579,950.00

Estimated available balance of funding for FY'24 \$ 323,700.80

Project Eligibility-Public Service

- Public service projects must serve LMI persons/families (<80%% AM)
- Projects physically located in Canton, Massillon, or Alliance will need to provide proof that those served are Stark County residents residing outside of these three cities, and the Villages of Hills and Dales and Wilmot.
- CDBG funds may be used to pay for labor and supplies of a public service activity. Timesheets must be submitted to document costs.
Examples of public service activities: Childcare, job training, health services and food pantries

Project Eligibility- Infrastructure

- Infrastructure projects should utilize data from low to-moderate income area maps to determine if it is an eligible location: LMA map.

- ADA activities are eligible even if they are not in a low-income area. Must be located outside of the three cities and two villages. Examples: water lines, roadways, sewer lines, and ADA curbs.

Project Eligibility-Public Facility

- Public facility projects must utilize data from low to-moderate income area maps to determine if it is an eligible location LMA map.
- ADA activities are eligible even if they are not in a low- income area. Must be located outside of the three cities and two villages. Examples: Libraries, playgrounds and parks.

Project Eligibility-Economic Development

- CDBG economic development is generally tied to job creation
- For Stark County CDBG purposes, we are accepting applications only for the technical assistance to for-profit businesses and microenterprise development.
- If you are seeking funds for business loans we suggest contacting the Stark County Economic Board.

Project Eligibility- Affordable Housing

- Housing activities must serve households
- For rehabilitation activities, each household's income must be verified with third party documentation ex: paystubs, social security benefit letter, retirement income etc. Examples: Rehabilitation, housing/counseling programs and acquisition of property.

4. Selection of the Citizen's Advisory Council (CDBG Review Committee)

Snyder stated they are looking for representatives and alternatives to review and score about 10-20 applications. This year the applications will be scored differently from in the past. CDBG will move to a web-based platform.

Six-member committee which will be chosen today by the public, with alternates

- Review Committee members represent:
Large townships Small townships Cities
Villages County at -large Board of Stark County Commissioners
- Review Committee will meet virtually on 2-5 occasions with RPC staff to discuss all eligible applications.

Snyder asked if anyone was interesting in becoming a representative for the CDBG:

Jennifer Keaton- representative; Holly Bolinger alternative- County-at-Large

Carol Risaliti –representative; Margaret Egbert alternative- Large Township

Molly Lehman- Village

Heaven King -representative; Rob Graham- alternative for Cities

Snyder called for a representative for small township and thank all whom volunteered.

5. Application platform update

Application & Supporting Materials

Snyder encouraged everyone to begin the application very early to become familiar with Neighborly. There are required application fields and documents.

- Application instructions and materials can be found at: rpc.starkcountyohio.gov
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted and scored.
- Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted or scored.
- There is no limit on the number of applications submitted by each applicant.
- Joint applications submitted on behalf of two political subdivisions must have the endorsement of all parties involved.

- Applications will only be accepted through the platform Neighborly.
- You must create an account with Neighborly-User friendly.
- Draft applications will be reviewed for comments, feedback and TA until end of day October 2, 2023.
- You are encouraged to begin the application early in order to become familiar with Neighborly. There are required application fields and documents.
- Applications will be timestamped by Neighborly at submission.
- Neighborly instructions are on the website: rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

6. FY2024-2028 Consolidated Plan Information

Sheridan spoke about the upcoming 5-year FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan

Covers period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2029.

24 CFR part 91 requires the CP to discuss how the County will:

Create, retain and expand economic opportunities for LMI.

Create and maintain safe and suitable living environments for LMIs.

Create, retain and expand decent affordable housing for LMIs and the homeless.

- The CP is utilized to prioritize needs and determine annual CDBG and HOME funding allocations
- The CP is generally due on or before May 17
Needs assessment survey #1
Focused on identifying community development needs
Sent to >1500 stakeholders and 11.4% response rate

See the PowerPoint charts for additional survey data-rpc website: CDBG

Additional public meetings/hearings will occur to discuss the CP and gather public input:

September 5, 2023 at 7pm – in person at RPC office

October 6, 2023 at 9:00am – virtual

November 20, 2023 2:00pm – virtual/HCCSC Members Meeting February 2024 date and time TBD

March 5, 2024 7:00pm – in person at RPC office

April 9, 2024 7:00pm – in person at RPC office

Snyder opened the floor for questions.

Question asking about economic development projects, you suggested to contact the Stark Economic Development Board. For what purpose?

Snyder stated if you're seeking business loans or further economic development funds, that's who we would suggest to contact the Stark Economic Development Board.

Another question asked does Neighborly require all of the handouts we've have had to add in the past.

Snyder stated the map, nonprofit status insurance, etcetera, there are required fields.

I believe proof of nonprofit status is a required field and a required document.

But again, I would suggest creating that account was Neighborly early and logging in because the application will show you what fields are required and what documents are required.

Another question, can we download an application into our computer so that we can route it for approval prior?

Snyder stated, yes.

Carol asked If an agency applies for X amount of money and will it be that amount of money or no amount of money? If an agency were to apply for a, say \$50,000, but you thought it was a good plan, but you would only want to fund it 40 or 30 or is it just we either accept or reject?

Snyder answered that'll depend on the number of applications we get.

So depending on what the demand is for the funds, if you request \$50,000 and maybe we only have 15,000 available, we would reach out to your agency to see if you would accept partial funding.

Snyder stated there may be a question built into Neighborly that asked you if you would accept partial funding for your project. If it doesn't and we run into that situation, we will reach out to the organization and see if they would accept a partial application allocation, I think.

Snyder asked were there any additional questions, any comments or concerns?

Snyder made one comment, even though we already talked about it, please do not hesitate to ask either Diane or Lisa for technical assistance. We have no issue doing that.

We want to help you and we want to make sure your application can receive the most points as possible.

7. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Stokes
RPC Administrative Assistant

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
September 5, 2023

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission met in regular session Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 7:00 p.m., in the Stark County Regional Planning Commission Conference Room.

RPC Members or Alternates

Kris Vincent, County Appointee
Tony Peldunas, County Appointee
Bob Sanderson, County Appointee
David McAlister, County Appointee
Bob Leach, County Appointee

Staff

Bob Nau
Jill Gerber
Curtis Bungard
Malia Burgasser
Patrick Shaw
Sarah Peters
Corine Valentine
Heather Cunningham
Jonelle Melnichenko
Jeff Brown
Lisa Snyder
Valerie Watson
Diane Sheridan

Others

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kris Vincent opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 8, 2023 MEETING

Leach moved, McAlister seconded, and the motion carried to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2023 meeting.

3) FINANCIAL REPORT

There being no questions or additions, the financial report for August 2023 will be filed for audit.

4) PUBLIC HEARING/STAFF REPORT

McAlister moved, Leach seconded, and the motion carried to adjourn into a Public Hearing for the consideration of the FY 2022 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report.

a. FY '22 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER)
(July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

Lisa Snyder reviewed the FY '22 CAPER also known as the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report. This report is due annually to HUD and is an evaluation of accomplishments throughout the year from the items listed in the annual action plan. This presentation will include updates for the CDBG, HOME, HOME-ARP and CDBG-CV programs.

CDBG PROGRAM:

Funding & Expenditures - Funds available in FY '22 were \$2,542,193.10 which includes the annual grant allocation, previous year balances, program income and the revolving loan fund. Expenditures total \$2,076,916.98 which consisted of Housing Rehab, Public Service, Infrastructure, Administration & Planning and one Economic Development activity.

Public Service & Economic Development Beneficiaries - The following beneficiaries listed are from the public service projects that were funded through the year: Alliance Emergency Residence, Beacon Charitable Pharmacy, Family Living Center, Fair Housing, Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery, Vantage Aging and Kent State University Microenterprise Development. Of the beneficiaries, 68% were extremely low income, 17% were low income, 9% were moderate, and 6% were non-low moderate income. Of that number, 52% of the beneficiaries identified as White, 35% as Black or African American, 6% as Black or African American and White and 6% were other multi-racial categories.

CDBG Housing Rehab - The accomplishments throughout the year totaled 35 projects and these consisted of accessibility, emergency and sanitary sewer/septic projects.

Infrastructure Projects - One of the infrastructure projects done this year was the Valley Drive NW Waterline Replacement in the city of North Canton. The CDBG funding invested in this project was \$395,000 with a total project cost of \$1,185,173, so the City of North Canton contributed the remaining cost. This project benefited 72 households and consisted of 3,300 LF of waterline. The project is ongoing, but they anticipate it will be finished within the next 90 days. The second infrastructure project occurred in the Village of Minerva, which was the Euclid Avenue Waterline Replacement project. CDBG funding was \$98,900 with a total project cost of \$171,104. The Village of Minerva contributed the

remaining cost. This project benefited 25 households and consisted of 950 LF of waterline. This project did reach full completion in July 2023.

Diane Sheridan presented a review of the HOME funds that were available and expended, which includes the HOME ARP (American Rescue Plan) and the CDBG-CV (COVID).

HOME PROGRAM:

Funding & Expenditures - In FY '22, funds available were \$2,886,799.39 which includes the annual grant allocation, previous year balances and program income generated. Expenditures were \$899,068.34 and those funds were utilized for administration, housing rehab, CHDO activity (rental rehab) and new construction.

HOME Housing Rehab - Seven housing rehab projects were completed this fiscal year. These funds are more difficult to use because housing code violations must first be addressed before anything else can be done. If a house doesn't have any housing code violations, HOME funds cannot be used for that project. At completion, the project must meet Residential Rehab Standards, which are the state of Ohio standards. Applicants are provided a 50% grant, and 50% is at a zero percent interest deferred loan due upon title transfer, and it is capped at \$25,000.

New Construction - This past fiscal year, Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio was provided a \$50,000 grant for the construction of a single-family home in Massillon. This home will be sold to a lower income individual, and the property has a 15-year affordability period.

Rental Rehab - A grant was provided to ICAN Housing, which is Stark County's only CHDO. The overall project funding was \$562,100. Renovations were made to 16 one-bedroom units and a community space. The work consisted of interior and exterior renovations, which included everything from roof to floor. They anticipate this project will be completed by September 30th.

HOME-ARP PROGRAM:

The HOME-ARP is a new program created by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for which the county received \$3,228,483. These funds must be used exclusively to address the needs of those who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness and other vulnerable populations, which could be domestic violence victims or human trafficking victims. HUD requires that each participating jurisdiction that received funding submit an Allocation Plan to HUD which assessed the needs of the community and stated how funds will be used. A consultant was hired who conducted a public hearing last year to discuss the allocation plan with everyone. That plan was approved in April 2023 by HUD which allowed the funds to be spent. To date, \$35,779 has been spent for administration and planning activities. The next step is the implementation of the Allocation Plan. There is currently an RFP out which is due on September 13th to get that process going.

For the HOME Allocation Plan, a budget had to be presented to HUD that was made through public participation. The plan is to use \$300,000 for supportive services, \$2,336,210 for the development of affordable rental housing for the homeless population, 1.7% of the grant will be used for non-profit operating expenses, 1.7% will be used for non-profit capacity building and there is a 15% cap on Administration and Planning of about \$484,272, which equals a total allocation of \$3,228,483. These funds must be expended by 2031.

CDBG-CV PROGRAM:

Stark County was allocated \$1,751,488 in 2021 for the CDBG-CV program. All the activities that are funded must Prevent, Prepare for and Respond (PPR) to COVID-19. One activity is completed which

was reported on last year, and others are still in progress. Staff is currently working with the Health Department that has a business safety initiative where they do outreach to businesses in the county and provide them with items they need to keep their employees safe. In addition to that, a couple of months ago a Septic/Sewer Repairs program was started, which is being managed by rehab staff. The intent of that program is to update and repair septic/sewer lines for low-income individuals in the county. By doing that, hopefully we can respond to any potential COVID outbreak that may come in the future. If individuals have healthy water and a healthy sewer, they are less likely to get an infection. So far about \$975,894 has been expended, and there remains about \$775,593 of those funds to be used for the septic program.

FAIR HOUSING PROGRAM:

Valerie Watson provided an overview of the Fair Housing portion of the CAPER for FY '22.

This year we commemorated the 55th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act. The Civil Rights law signed by President Johnson on April 11, 1968 made discrimination in housing transactions unlawful based on the seven protected classes. The following are the highlights in the CAPER report:

Nationally there were 33,000 fair housing discrimination complaints received last year. The National Fair Housing Alliance collected complaints from HUD, the Department of Justice, the Fair Housing Assistance Program and private fair housing groups. That does not include public fair housing offices or other fair housing groups that do not provide their data to the National Fair Housing Alliance. Ohio received 2,201 discrimination complaints last year, and Stark County received eight complaints of discrimination during FY '22.

Discrimination based upon disability accounted for the majority of complaints nationally, in Ohio and Stark County. Disability is the easiest to detect. If a tenant that has a disability requests to have a therapeutic animal and the landlord denies that tenant, then that is discriminatory. The number of complaints doesn't account for incidents of discrimination that often goes undetected or unreported. Oftentimes housing providers will lie about the availability of housing if they don't want you to stay there because you're in a protected class. Housing providers sometimes steer African Americans to certain neighborhoods and families with children to certain complexes or certain floors within a complex. We had a case where the landlord steered families with children to the lower level complex, because they didn't want children running above other tenants. Sometimes lenders will charge a higher interest rate for a mortgage loan than a buyer actually deserves. Appraisers may undervalue an appraisal because of the race of the homeowner.

The National Fair Housing Alliance estimates that 4 million acts of housing discrimination occur per year in the rental market alone. That does not include the sale of housing, zoning, lending, appraisals or other housing transactions. It's also estimated that less than 1% of discrimination complaints are even reported. In northeast Ohio, the Ohio Research and Advocacy Center estimates that there are more than 33,000 instances of housing discrimination.

HUD proposed a new affirmatively fair housing rule. Under this rule, program participants will need to submit to HUD for review and acceptance an equity plan every five years. This equity plan will replace the analysis of impediments. The financial impact of COVID 19 coupled with high demands and record shortages in housing for rent and for sale, has increased racial and ethnic disparities in the housing market. These factors add to the worsening of the housing affordability crisis for many households. The Stark County Fair Housing department received many calls from individuals because there is a record shortage of housing. They cannot find housing and that is across the board nationally. In addition to the shortage in housing, affordability of housing is also an issue. Many calls are received where individuals

can't find a place that they can afford, because during COVID a lot of out-of-state investors purchased properties and increased rents \$100-\$200, and now the tenants cannot afford the housing.

Stark County's Fair Housing office conducted five presentations during FY '22. Also a new fair housing newsletter was developed and launched to educate county employees and housing providers on discrimination. There were 550 unduplicated households assisted, 575 brochures were distributed and 15 housing providers were monitored due to some questionable, illegal rental practices in the past.

Watson presented a chart showing that Ohio received 2,201 complaints last year. Disability was the highest reported nationally, in the State and in the County. The State received 1,115 complaints based on disability. Normally race is the next highest reported. The State reported that they received 421 complaints based upon race, and religion had the least amount of complaints received at 18. Another chart was shown that depicts the complaints processed and investigated by the Stark County office. It also shows the protected classes along with the current results and findings. The county had five cases based on disability; two cases were settled and three cases there were no probable cause finding because either discrimination did not exist or enough evidence could not be found to support the claim of discrimination either by the county office or by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. One case was based upon disability and race, and that case is pending. One case involves gender identity, sexual orientation and race, and that is pending, and one race case is also pending. Those cases were located in the cities of Alliance and North Canton, the villages of Hartville and Navarre, and in Jackson and Plain Townships.

Housing discrimination affects people's lives in many ways. Discrimination affects the neighborhood families can live in. Discrimination affects the schools children attend, the access to transportation, jobs, grocery stores, and public services, and discrimination affects the amount of wealth people are able to build from the equity in their homes. In conclusion, where you live matters. Not all neighborhoods have the same opportunities and resources. Your address determines almost everything about you, because place and race are intricately linked to opportunity. Our children deserve a fair chance to succeed. The need to continuously address housing discrimination is undeniable. This year we are celebrating fair housing for all, including those that experience additional barriers, like people of color, disabled individuals, women, including those expecting a child, religious groups, families with children, persons with a criminal record, group homes and LGBTQ individuals. The Stark County Fair Housing department will continue its goals to eliminate housing discrimination and fight for victims of discrimination.

McAlister moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to adjourn the public hearing for the CAPER.

McAlister moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to go into a public hearing for the review of the FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan.

b. FY 2024 - 2028 Consolidated Plan

Sheridan stated this public hearing is regarding FY '24-28 Consolidated Plan for Stark County. The period for this plan is July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2029. Two public hearings are required by statute. This is the first public hearing, and there will be a total of three.

Federal regulations require the Consolidated Plan to indicate how the county will create, retain and expand economic opportunities for lower income individuals. We need to discuss how we are going to create and maintain a safe and suitable living environment for lower income individuals. There should also be discussion on how we are going to create, retain and expand decent affordable housing for lower income individuals and the homeless. The Consolidated Plan is utilized to prioritize needs of the county and determine our annual CDBG and HOME funding allocations. The Consolidated Plan is generally due on or before May 17th.

Needs Assessment Survey #1 - Results - A web-based survey was emailed via MS forms to over 1,500 stakeholders in the county. The survey was live during the months of June and July 2023. A total of 171 responses were received or a 11.4% response rate. The survey focused on identifying housing, economic development and community development needs of Stark County. The respondents included residents, elected officials, places of worship and private businesses with the top respondents being residents of Stark County.

According to the Needs Assessment Survey in Stark County, the five highest **housing priority** needs are affordable housing construction, demolition of blighted structures, rental assistance, housing for persons with disabilities and senior housing. The five highest **economic development** needs are access to affordable childcare, job creation/retention, trade school prep, WF development and access to transportation. The five highest **special needs or service needs** are mental health services, affordable medicine & healthcare, homeless services, youth transitioning out of foster care and services for veterans. The five highest **infrastructure** needs are street reconstruction, sidewalk improvements, sanitary sewer improvements/extensions, broadband improvements and storm sewer projects.

This is the second meeting regarding the Consolidated Plan. The future meetings will be held on October 6th, November 20th, and February 2024. There will be another meeting held at RPC on March 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., and the final public hearing will be in March at RPC where the Commissioners attend. They will then recommend the plan be forwarded to HUD.

Staff put together another Needs Assessment Survey #2 where individuals can take that survey at the following link https://rpc.starkcountyohio.gov/government/offices/regional_planning_commission/. At the next presentation the plan is to review those results. Contact information was provided for anyone with questions or comments.

McAlister moved, Leach seconded, and the motion carried to adjourn the public hearing.

5) TOWNSHIP ZONING AMENDMENTS

Corine Valentine presented the staff recommendations for the following zoning amendments:

LEX #2 - Proposed rezoning from R-2 One and Two Family Low Density Urban Residential to I-2 Heavy Industrial – One tract, approximately 1.66 acres, lots 127, 128, 129, 161, 162, 163, 164 & 165 in the Bon Air Park Allotment No. 1, located on the northwest corner of Wisconsin and Iowa/SR 183 in the SW ¼ Section 14, Lexington Township (legal description on file with the Township). Owner/Applicant: Attila Illyes/Robert Duffrin; Current Use: Auto salvage and repair; Proposed Use: Auto salvage and repair

Leach moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to recommend denial of the proposed rezoning to I-2 Heavy Industrial District. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. The area surrounding the tract proposed for rezoning consists of small residential lots to the northwest, south and west. Many of the lots near the subject tract are vacant. As you continue further south and east there are lots with single-family dwellings constructed. To the northeast and east is Iowa/SR 183 and a railway. Beyond the railway are industrial uses. The zoning of the area generally follows the land use and consists of the R-2 One and Two Family Low Density Urban Residential District to the northwest, south and west. To the northeast and east is the I-2 Heavy Industrial District beyond the state route and railway.

2. The tract proposed for rezoning is approximately 1.66 acres and zoned R-2 One and Two Family Low Density Urban Residential. Currently, there is an existing business on the site operating as an automobile salvage and repair shop. According to the application, the purpose of this zone change request is to change the zoning to match the current use of the property, which has been in operation since the 1960s, according to the applicant. As the zoning currently exists, the use is not permitted in the R-2 district.
3. The Stark County 2040 Comprehensive Plan indicates that this area will progress as developed suburban.
4. In 1974, RPC reviewed a zone change request for the subject tract. RPC recommended denial of the zone change from residential to industrial due to the incompatibility of the proposed industrial district with the surrounding residential lots.
5. Although the subject tract is adjacent to an I-2 district, SR 183 and the railway provides a buffer between the industrial uses to the east and the residential uses to the west.
6. In 2020, the Township established a Limited Business Overlay District (LBO) along SR 183 in their zoning resolution. The purpose of the LBO is to allow a limited number of low-intensity business uses and commercial activities on certain residentially zoned properties (lying immediately adjacent to properties zoned under the Industrial classification), to create a transitional area between the two districts and allow some business activity to operate.
7. When considering a zone change, the most intensive uses permitted in that district must be considered. The permitted uses allowed in the I-2 district, which include uses such as manufacturing, processing, cleaning, servicing, testing or repair activities; building materials, sales yard and lumber yard; fuel, food and goods distribution station, warehouse and storage; foundry; repair services for machinery and equipment; and laundry, cleaning and dyeing plant could have a detrimental effect on the surrounding area. Staff recommends the applicant explore the option of opting into the LBO district for the existing business.

PL #1 - Proposed text amendment that would: add regulations pertaining to solar facilities.
Applicant: Plain Township Board of Trustees

Sanderson moved, McAlister seconded, and the motion carried to recommend approval of a modification of the proposed text changes. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. The proposed amendment would add regulations pertaining to solar facilities to Article VI General Standards and Special Provisions.
2. In 2013, the Township amended their zoning resolution to include regulations addressing accessory and principal solar energy production facilities. The proposal was almost identical to the solar energy model amendment that was produced and distributed by RPC in 2012. The Township appears to be addressing a number of additional types of solar energy systems and requirements that were not previously included in their zoning resolution.
3. Currently, the Township's zoning resolution conditionally permits accessory solar facilities in all districts. The proposed amendment states "an accessory solar energy system shall be a permitted accessory use in any district..."; however, the text indicates that there are conditions when proposing these systems. Staff recommends the Township keep these systems as conditionally permitted uses. If the Township permits accessory structures in all districts, each district will need

to be updated to include accessory solar facilities as permitted uses and remove them from conditionally permitted uses.

4. The proposed amendment adds additional definitions and conditions for solar energy production facilities. These additions are being added to Sections 603.13 & 603.14. Staff recommends the definitions proposed be added to Article IV Definitions and conditions and requirements be added to each district which conditionally permits the uses to maintain uniformity throughout the zoning resolution.
5. Currently, the Township's zoning resolution conditionally permits principal solar energy systems in agricultural, higher-intensity commercial and industrial districts. The proposed amendment would no longer conditionally permit principal solar energy systems in the B-2 district. The Township should remove this as a listed conditionally permitted use in Section 713 for consistency.
6. A few minor grammatical corrections and recommendations have been addressed in a marked-up copy of the proposed amendment, which will be provided to the Township. Staff would encourage the Township to ensure that their legal counsel has reviewed the amendment for sufficiency and compliance with applicable laws.

6) **SUBDIVISION ACTION**

Corine Valentine presented the Subcommittee's recommendations on the following projects:

SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN REVIEW

1885 Farms Event Venue

(Paving & parking)

SE ¼ Section 26 & NE & NW ¼ Section 35, Perry Township

Approval

Annis Building

**(4,160 sf bldg., dumpster enclosure, walkways,
paving, parking & 2 access drives)**

NE ¼ Section 12, Jackson Township

Cond. Approval

Northstar Asphalt

(4,800 sf bldg., walkways, paving & parking)

NW ¼ Section 12, Jackson Township

Cond. Approval

Randy Geitgey- Laundromat Facility

(Paving & parking)

SW ¼ Section 26, Plain Township

Cond. Approval

McAlister moved, Leach seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendations on the above-noted site improvement plans.

FINAL PLAT

Creekside Crossing No. 2

(replat of lot 1 in Creekside Crossing)

NW & SW ¼ Section 12, Jackson Township

Cond. Approval

Floradale Acres No. 3

(replat of part of lot 6 & part of lot 7 in Floradale Acres)
SE ¼ Section 9, Jackson Township

Approval

Pine Ridge Glen No. 3

(replat of lot 3 in Strausser Farm No. 2, lots 13 & 14 in
Pine Ridge Glen & part of the NE ¼ Section 9, Jackson Twp)
NE & NW ¼ Section 9, Jackson Township

Approval

McAlister moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendation for the above-noted final plats.

7) AGREEMENTS

a. Quadient - 60-Month Lease for Postage Meter Equipment

Leach moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to approve the 60-month lease for a new postage meter with Quadient for a monthly cost of \$172.33 which comes to a total cost of \$10,339.80 over the period of the lease.

b. City of Canton - SCATS Community Planning Study
Environmental Design Group - Harmont Safety Planning Study

Nau stated community planning grants were offered with some of the excess planning dollars that are received through SCATS. They solicited the SCATS members to submit their proposals for eligible projects for community planning funds. They anticipate six or seven projects to be funded over the next year. RPC will enter into a separate agreement with the city of Canton for the Community Planning Study and the second component would be an agreement with the consulting firm, Environmental Design Group (EDG) to conduct the Harmont Safety Planning Study. Leach moved, McAlister seconded, and the motion carried to approve the agreements related to the Harmont Safety Planning Study.

c. City of Canton - SCATS Community Planning Study
Toole Design - Gibb's School Safe Routes to School Planning Study

This agreement with the city of Canton is for the Community Planning Study and the second agreement is with the consultant, Toole Design. They will be conducting a Gibb's School Safe Routes to School Study. McAlister moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to approve the agreements related to the Gibb's School Safe Routes to School Study.

8) FISCAL

a. **Budget Transfer** of \$32,550.00 from Purchased Services (64000) to Other Allocation (67000)

McAlister moved, Leach seconded, and the motion carried to approve the budget transfer request of \$32,550.00 from Purchased Services (64000) to Other Allocation (67000).

b. **Purchase Order** for \$32,550.00 - To return funds to HUD for the cost of a consultant for the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

McAlister moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to approve the purchase order for \$32,550.00 to return funds to HUD for the cost of a consultant for the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

- c. **Appropriation** of \$32,550.00 - To deposit funds to appropriate account when reimbursed from HUD for the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

McAlister moved, Leach seconded, and the motion carried to approve the appropriation of \$32,550.00 to deposit funds to appropriate accounts when reimbursed from HUD for the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

- d. **Purchase Order** for \$48,692.00 - Environmental Design Group as the consultant for the City of Canton's Harmont Safety Planning Study

Leach moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to approve the purchase order of \$48,692.00 for Environmental Design Group as the consultant for the city of Canton's Harmont Safety Planning Study.

- e. **Purchase Order** for \$35,673.00 - Toole Design as the consultant for the City of Canton's Gibb's School Safe Routes to School Planning Study

Leach moved, McAlister seconded, and the motion carried to approve the purchase order of \$35,673.00 for Toole Design as the consultant for the city of Canton's Gibb's School Safe Routes to School Study.

9) OTHER BUSINESS

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Kris Vincent, Chairman

David Thorley, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
March 5, 2024

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission met in regular session Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 7:00 p.m., in the Stark County Regional Planning Commission Conference Room.

RPC Members or Alternates

Bob Sanderson, County Appointee
Tony Peldunas, County Appointee
Joseph Skubiak, County Appointee
Dave McAlister, County Appointee
Bob Leach, County Appointee
Dave Thorley, County Appointee

Cliff Varian, Osnaburg Township
Tim Tarbet, Village of Minerva Mayor
J.R. Rinaldi, City of Canton Appointee
Wayne Schillig, Marlboro Township
Michael Miller, Village of Brewster

Staff

Bob Nau, Secretary
Heather Cunningham
John Anthony
Corine Valentine
Patrick Shaw
Lisa Snyder
Diane Sheridan
Jonelle Melinchenko
Malia Burgasser
Sarah Peters
Dan Slicker
Valerie Watson
Jennifer Bayer

Others

Samuel Alihassan
Bayan Alihassan

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Joseph Skubiak opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2024 MEETING

Leach moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2024 meeting.

3) FINANCIAL REPORT

There being no questions or additions, the financial report for February 2024 will be filed for audit.

4) STAFF REPORT

Presented by: Diane Sheridan, Chief of Community Development
Lisa Snyder, Senior Community Development Planner

Diane presented the Fiscal Year 2024-2028 Stark County Consolidated Plan. It begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2029. For a project to be funded, it must meet one of three national objectives and be consistent with one of four provisions. HUD's Consolidated Plan (CP) goal is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities for lower-income persons. The CP is a planning document that builds on public participation from stakeholders. It is a grant application to HUD for CDBG and HOME funds. The CP is a strategy to be followed in funding projects. The CP is a management tool for assessing performance and tracking results. All funded projects must be consistent with the CP. The three national objectives of the CP are to benefit lower-income persons, prevent or eliminate blight, and meet urgent needs. The four provisions are to provide safe, sanitary and affordable housing for low-to-moderate-income individuals, suitable living environments by increasing the quality of life for low-to-moderate-income individuals, economic opportunities for low-to-moderate-income individuals, updated or new public facilities and/or infrastructure improvements for low-to-moderate-income individuals. From FY 2019 to FY 2022 the funding has helped 9,221 public service beneficiaries, 2,641 infrastructure beneficiaries, 211 single-family rehabs, assisted 76 businesses, and rehabbed 27 CHDO units.

Lisa Snyder presented the Proposed FY 2024-2026 CDBG Budget. Stark County's allocation for FY 2024 has not yet been released. The figures provided are estimates based on the County's FY 2023 allocation of \$1,390,232.00. Final recommendations will be increased or decreased from the estimated amounts to match the allocation announcement. The Board of Stark County Commissioners will adopt the final amounts. A workshop was held on August 25, 2023 with applications due November 3rd. A total of 11 eligible applications were received and scored. A breakdown by activity type was provided. All activities for CDBG funding must meet one of the three National Objectives: benefit low-to-moderate-income individuals, prevent or eliminate slum & blight, address an urgent need. All activities must be consistent with the Consolidated Plan. The eligible applications were reviewed by three RPC staff members and one member of the Review Committee.

There is a 20% cap on Planning and Administration activities. The proposed budget for Administration and Planning is \$220,000.00. Of that amount, \$84,000 is for Fair Housing, \$101,000 for Planning and Administration, and \$35,000 for the 2050 Stark County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed housing budget includes \$273,462 for Housing Rehab and \$99,000 for the administration of that program. There is a revolving loan balance of \$270,220.81, which is an accrued balance that accumulates from loan payoffs from housing rehab projects, but that amount is not calculated in the total of \$372,462.

The proposed Public Service Budget includes nine applications. Public Service activities have a 15% cap per federal regulations. They are proposing to fund Public Service for a total of \$185,820. The proposed Economic Development Budget totals \$32,000. The proposed Infrastructure Budget for FY

2024 totals \$579,950 for three projects and \$599,950 for FY 2025 for two projects. There were no applicants for FY 2026.

Reallocation of prior year funds to contingencies totals \$10,016.00. This will be set aside for any cost overruns or to support additional expenses for infrastructure/public facility projects. If any previously listed activity has cost savings, slows down spending, discovers a barrier to completion or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the remaining funds will be reallocated to housing rehabilitation. Anticipated program income in the amount of \$3,000.00 to be used for soft costs and infrastructure/public facility improvements.

Diane Sheridan presented the proposed FY 2024 HOME Consortium Budget. Stark County's allocation for FY 2024 has not yet been released. The figures provided are estimates based upon the County's FY 2023 allocation of \$1,029,006.00. Final recommendations will be increased or decreased from the estimated amounts to match the allocation announcement. Final amounts will be adopted by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. The County formed a HOME Consortium with the cities of Massillon and Alliance in 1995, sharing the annual allocation between the communities.

HOME funding is provided by HUD for the purpose of creating affordable housing for lower income households. An application workshop was held on October 6, 2023 with applications due December 1, 2023. Four applications were received and reviewed. The proposed 2024 HOME program will be receiving a total allocation of \$1,029,006. They are proposing Administration at \$102,900; CHDO set-aside is at \$154,350; the remaining funds will be distributed to Alliance for \$175,321.55; Massillon at \$175,321.55 and Stark County at \$421,111.40. If any new construction activity has cost savings, fails to begin or complete construction, or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the remaining funds will be reallocated to the respective jurisdiction's housing rehabilitation activity. Anticipated program income of \$25,000.00 and prior years program income (no less than) \$31,198.20 to be used for new construction or housing rehabilitation. The next steps include a draft Action Plan available for a 30-day comment period from March 6, 2024 - April 8, 2024. Plans are available on the website and via hardcopy if requested. A second public hearing is March 20, 2024 at 11:00am at Stark County Regional Planning Commission. Plan will be submitted to HUD once allocations are announced and plan is adopted by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Lisa Snyder presented the proposed amendment to Stark County's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Amendment. As a result of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), five billion dollars of supplemental HOME funds were distributed to participating jurisdictions. Funds must be used to assist those who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, and other populations by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services and/or non-congregate shelter. Stark County received \$3,228,483.00. Stark County worked with community partners in the development of the Allocation Plan and determined based upon need, to utilize funds in the following manner: \$300,000 in supportive services, \$2,336,210 in the development of affordable rental housing, \$54,000 in non-profit operating, \$54,000 in non-profit capacity building and \$484,272 in administration and planning.

The Allocation Plan was approved by HUD. RPC, the Board of Stark County Commissioners and M&L Associates Inc. entered into contract in November 2023 for program implementation. M&L Associates has been working closely with Stark Housing Network, Inc through the beginning stages of implementation. M&L suggested that the current Allocation plan be amended. The current language reads "Stark County will provide access to all Qualifying Populations with a preference for chronically homeless individuals and families for its HOME-ARP activities.". The proposed amendment would read as: "Stark County will provide access to all Qualifying Populations with a preference for literally homeless individuals and families for its HOME-ARP activities." Chronically homeless is defined as a homeless individual with a disability who lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven or in an emergency shelters and has been homeless in said situation for at least 12 months or 4 or more times in the last 3 years which total 12 months of homelessness. Literally homeless is defined as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residents such as a place not meant for human habitation, living in a hotel or motel paid for by a charitable organization or is existing an institution where they have resided for 90 days or less and who was in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering the institution. Proposed amendment is available for a 30-day

comment period from March 6, 2024 - April 8, 2024. It will be presented to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for approval. Once approved, the amendment will be submitted to HUD.

Valerie Watson, Fair Housing Manager, presented strategies and actions to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. As part of the Consolidated Plan, local government must certify that they will affirmatively further fair housing. They do that by conducting an Analysis of Impediments (AI), take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified, take meaningful actions to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, foster inclusive communities free from discrimination. AI is defined as a review of a jurisdiction's laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and practices affecting the location, availability and accessibility of housing, as well as an assessment of conditions, both public and private, affecting fair housing choice. In 2018, the cities of Alliance, Canton, Massillon and Stark County, for the Board of Stark County Commissioners, joined forces to conduct the AI to satisfy the requirements of this federal law. Participants are required to update the AI every five years so it's that time again. However, January 19, 2023, HUD announced a new proposed "AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING" rule. Under the proposed rule, program participants would need to submit to HUD for review and acceptance an Equity Plan every five years. The Equity Plan would replace the AI. Until HUD announces the final rule for the Equity Plan, jurisdictions must continue to address the impediments in the current AI.

Stark County Fair Housing Department will take the following actions on an ongoing basis to eliminate the barriers to fair housing identified in the ***Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice***.

Potential Impediment: The County does not yet have an official Language Access Plan (LAP). A four-factor analysis was completed and a LAP draft exists, however, it has not yet been approved and implemented in its entirety. Until there is a written policy approved and implemented, Spanish-speaking persons in the County will not receive the same standard of service with each interaction with the County. Action Plan: The Fair Housing Department drafted a LAP and it was approved. The plan identifies county programs and services available to individuals within the county.

Potential Impediment: All County government personnel have not received fair housing training. All employees of Stark County should receive some form of fair housing training. Action Plan: The staff plans to conduct presentations at the Governmental Law Seminar where county governmental officials attend. Also, to educate all county government personnel, the staff developed and launched a quarterly fair housing newsletter. This educational newsletter is emailed to all county employees.

Potential Impediment: The Consolidated Plan continues to require updates. Action Plan: The County amended the Consolidated Plan to include a definition for areas of minority concentration, however, the definition is not sufficient. The new definition compares households rather than all residents. The staff amended the definition for areas of minority concentration in the Consolidated Plan to include "residents" rather than households. The staff is continuing it throughout.

Potential Impediment: The increase of fair housing complaints indicates that discrimination still occurs in Stark County. Fair housing activities should continue in order to keep residents aware of their rights, and keep landlords aware of their responsibilities. Action Plan: The educational newsletter is emailed to social service agencies and landlords. The newsletters will provide ongoing education related to the Fair Housing Act. The staff will continue to conduct presentations to the Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association. The staff conducted a Tester Training Session to obtain a pool of testers to help ensure that people are not denied housing due to unlawful discrimination. Provide additional advertisements in the local newspapers to address discrimination and how and where to report illegal acts of housing discrimination. Expand the distribution of the Fair Housing Newsletter to those in the real estate industries. Continue training presentations to landlords, tenants, realtors, students, property managers, zoning inspectors, public officials and representatives from social service agencies.

The Stark County Fair Housing Department will continue its goals to ensure equal housing opportunity. Necessary actions will be taken to certify that the fair housing law is properly and fairly enforced throughout the County. The fair housing department will continue to take the appropriate steps necessary to eliminate the potential impediments listed in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Thorley moved and Sanderson seconded to recommend to the Board of Stark County Commissioners the approval of the recommendations for the FY 2024-28 Consolidated Plan, FY 2024-2026 CDBG Budget and FY 24 HOME programs; the amendment to the Stark County's HOME ARP plan allocation; A vote was taken and carried.

5) TOWNSHIP ZONING AMENDMENTS

Patrick Shaw presented the staff recommendations for the following zoning amendments:

CA #1 Proposed text amendment that would: add regulations pertaining to sexually oriented businesses.

Leach moved, McAlister seconded and the motion carried to recommend approval of a modification of a proposed text amendment. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration.

1. The proposed amendment would add a new section to the zoning resolution for sexually oriented businesses. The proposed amendment closely follows language that was recently added to the Plain Township Zoning Resolution.
2. As the zoning resolution currently reads, sexually oriented businesses are discussed in Article II Definitions, Article IV District Regulations and Article VIII Conditional Zoning Certificates. The proposed amendment would create a new section in the zoning resolution for Sexually Oriented Businesses. It is unclear where this section is being proposed or if the language in the other sections is being removed. Staff recommends the Township forgo creating a new section and add a portion of the proposed text as a subsection in Article III General Provisions and modify the language in the existing sections to maintain uniformity throughout the resolution.
3. The proposed amendment states "a sexually oriented business is permitted in the I-1 Light Industrial Districts and I-2 Heavy Industrial Districts;" however, the text indicates that there are conditions when proposing these establishments. Staff recommends the Township keep these businesses as a conditionally permitted use and incorporate the conditions imposed into Section 800.3 Regulations Pertaining to Conditionally Permissible Uses. Additionally, the names of the industrial districts in the amendment do not match the district names in the Canton Township Zoning Resolution.
4. A few minor grammatical corrections and recommendations have been addressed in a marked-up copy of the proposed amendment, which will be provided to the Township. Staff would encourage the Township to ensure that their legal counsel has reviewed the amendment for sufficiency and compliance with applicable laws.

LAW #2 Proposed text amendment that would: add definitions pertaining to accessory solar energy systems and modify regulations pertaining to solar energy systems.

Schillig moved, Leach seconded and the motion carried to recommend approval of a modification of a proposed text amendment. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. As proposed the amendment would add new definitions for different types of accessory solar energy systems and modify regulations pertaining to principal solar energy production facilities and accessory solar energy systems.
2. The proposed amendment would allow all accessory solar energy systems as permitted uses in all zoning districts; however, the text indicates that there are conditions when proposing ground mounted accessory solar energy systems. Staff recommends permitting roof mounted solar energy systems and conditionally permitting ground mounted solar energy systems in these districts. Additionally, principal solar energy production facilities are listed as permitted uses in the I-1 and I-2 districts; however, there are conditions associated to these uses. Staff recommends removing principal solar energy production facilities from permitted uses in the industrial districts and include these uses as conditionally permitted.
3. A few minor grammatical corrections and recommendations have been addressed in a marked-up copy of the proposed amendment, which will be provided to the Township. Staff would encourage the Township to ensure that their legal counsel has reviewed the amendment for sufficiency and compliance with applicable laws.

LAW #3 Proposed rezoning from B-1 Neighborhood Business to B-3 Community Business – One tract, approximately 1 acre, located at the southwest corner of Orrville & Manchester/SR 93 in the SE ¼ Section 28, Lawrence Township (legal description on file with the Township).
APPLICANT/OWNER: Timothy Oser **CURRENT USE:** Business **PROPOSED USE:** Business

Sanderson moved, Schillig seconded and the motion carried to recommend the denial of the proposed rezoning to B-3 Community Business District. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. The land use of the area consists of multifamily residential to the south and west which contains a mobile home park. Beyond the mobile home park and to the north and east are single-family agricultural and residential uses with some areas of vacant land.
2. The zoning consists of a B-1 Neighborhood Business District surrounding the subject tract, with an R-R Rural Residential District extending beyond the business area.
3. The subject tract and area surrounding the Orrville/Manchester/SR 93 intersection appear to have been zoned in a business capacity since the 1960s.
4. The Stark County 2040 Comprehensive Plan designates the future land use of the area as a rural/agricultural.
5. In 1986, an amendment was submitted to rezone the subject parcel to the B-3 Community Business District in order to operate a car sales business. RPC recommended denial stating that although the area is currently zoned in a business capacity, only the subject tract is operating as a business and the surrounding area is generally consists of single-family agricultural and residential uses. The Township also denied this request.
6. In 1987, a second amendment was submitted to rezone the subject parcel to the B-3 district to operate a car sales lot. RPC reiterated the same facts stated previously and recommended denial. The Township denied this request as well.
7. When considering a zone change, the most intensive permitted uses in that district must be considered, such as transportation terminals, hotels, motels and automobile, truck, trailer and farmer implementation sales, service and storage, which could have a detrimental effect on the surrounding residential dwellings.

Corine Valentine presented the staff recommendations for the following zoning amendments:

LEX #1 Proposed text amendment that would: add definitions pertaining to solar energy systems and add or modify regulations relating to solar energy systems, advertising, architectural review, administration fees and enforcement and single-family dwellings.

McAlister moved, Leach seconded and the motion carried to recommend approval of a modification of a proposed text amendment. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. The proposed amendment would add definitions and regulations for solar energy systems. As proposed, the systems would be conditionally permitted uses in various districts. Staff recommends the township add these uses under each district in which they are conditionally permitted.
2. As proposed, the amendment would add a section in Article III General Provisions for Architectural Review, which is authorized through Section 519.171 of the ORC. Architectural Review will be implemented for all structures and fencing both new and major modifications and/or substantial expansion. This review will be done by the Zoning Inspector and Zoning Commission. Staff recommends the Township ensure they have the capacity to review these requirements.
3. The amendment proposes to expand upon requirements in order to obtain a Zoning Certificate, which includes providing exterior design elements for architectural review. Staff recommends referencing this section in Article III when discussing architectural review.
4. As proposed, the resolution expands upon what is defined as a single-family dwelling. This is added to each zoning district that permits these uses. Staff recommends modifying the definition in Article II Definitions to include the updated language rather than providing a definition for the use in each district.
5. The amendment proposes to limit off-premises advertising to only those uses which are permitted or conditionally permitted within the zoning district of the property on which the advertisement is placed. Staff recommends the Township review this regulation to ensure the requirement does not violate the First Amendment and maintains content neutrality.
6. There are a few grammatical changes and comments that staff is recommending, which will be provided to the Township in a marked-up copy. Staff would encourage the Township to ensure that their legal counsel has reviewed the amendment for sufficiency and compliance with applicable laws.

PL #1 Proposed rezoning from R-2 One and Two-Family Residential to B-2 General

Business – Three tracts, approximately 3 acres, including lot 6 and 7 in North Avondale Heights Allotment No. 2, located on the north side of 50th, east of Whipple in the NW & SW ¼ Section 19, Plain Township (legal description on file with Township).

APPLICANT/OWNER: Enterprise Holdings on behalf of Pinegree 2000, LLC/ Kim Mee Kyung

CURRENT USE: Vacant Land/ Business PROPOSED USE: Business

Leach moved, Tarbet seconded and the motion carried to recommend **denial** of the proposed rezoning to B-2 General Business District. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. The land use of the area consists of a commercial corridor along Whipple just west of the subject tracts. Immediately north are the I-77 on/off ramps, which transitions into business beyond the highway. South and east of the subject tract consists of single-family residential homes, with some tracts of vacant land.
2. The zoning generally follows the land use as the B-2 General Business District exists to the north and west. The R-1 Single-Family Residential District exists to the east and south, beyond the commercial corridor along Whipple.
3. The subject tracts are approximately 3 acres in total and are currently zoned R-2 One and Two-Family Residential. According to the application, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, currently operating to the west, is planning to expand the business. The expansion would consist of consolidating all of the lots (including the subject tracts) to add truck leasing and vehicle sales. If consolidated, the applicant does not want to have a split-zoned property and is requesting the zone change to have a uniform zoning district for the tract.
4. The Stark County 2040 Comprehensive Plan designates the future land use of the area as a commercial corridor along Whipple, transitioning to developed urban to the east, south of the I-77 ramps.
5. The subject tracts appear to have been zoned in a residential capacity since zoning was initiated in Plain Township. Over the years the adjacent and subject lots have had several zone change requests proposing to rezone the area from residential to business, which has resulted in opposition from the adjacent neighborhood and court action. RPC's reviews of the proposed changes consistently reiterate the importance of protecting the established neighborhood to the east.
6. In 1969, the area south of the subject tracts proposed to rezone the area from R-1 and R-3 to B-2. RPC recommended denial; however, the Township approved the request. In 1974, the Township sent a letter to RPC regarding the 1969 zone change. The letter stated the area was rezoned to the B-2 district; however, a ruling from the Fifth District Court of Appeals declared the amendment null and void because of the deed restrictions stating that only the lots fronting Whipple may be used for purposes other than single-family residences. Due to the ruling, the Township allowed the B-2 district to remain, but prohibited issuing any permits for business uses for lots other than those with frontage on Whipple.
7. In 1978, the Township approved a zone change for a 1.93-acre area to the west of the subject tracts along Whipple to the B-1 district. This included lots 1, 2 and 3 of the North Avondale Heights No. 2 allotment, along with acreage to the north along the I-77 ramp. In 1986, lot 1 and parts of lots 2 and 4 were rezoned to the B-2 district.
8. In 1989, the subject tracts were proposed to be rezoned to B-2 General Business. The Trustees approved a modification to the R-2 district, as they felt the modification provided reasonable usage of the parcels while protecting adjacent single-family residential uses to the east. In 1994, the Township approved a rezoning to the B-2 district for all tracts fronting Whipple and extended the business area an additional 100 feet to the east, which resulted in the current configuration.
9. When considering a zone change, the most intensive permitted uses in that district must be considered, such as transportation terminals, mini-warehouses and storage facilities, hotels, motels and automobile, truck, trailer and farmer implementation sales, service and storage, which could have a detrimental effect on the surrounding residential dwellings. Since parking lots are conditionally permitted uses in the R-2 district and according to the applicant's application, appears to fit what the intended use would be for the business, RPC finds the current zoning of R-2 One and Two-Family Residential acceptable, as any further intensive rezoning may be detrimental for public health and safety and not be considerate of public interest.

6) SUBDIVISION ACTION

Corine Valentine presented the Subcommittee's recommendations on the following projects:

SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Diehl Automotive – Kia/Hyundai

(29,445 sf bldg., 17,547 sf bldg., walkway, paving & parking)

SW ¼ Section 11, Perry Township

Conditional Approval

GMT Resources – Trump Storage

(6,256 sf bldg., 6,000 sf bldg., 2- 5,000 sf bldgs., 2,000 sf bldg., walkways, paving, parking & access drive)

SE ¼ Section 12, Canton Township

Conditional Approval

Honor Home

(Approx. 5,200 sf addition, walkway, paving & parking)

SE ¼ Section 26, Plain Township

Conditional Approval

Messerly Duplex

(Approx. 4,000 sf duplex, paving, parking & access drive)

SW ¼ Section 10, Perry Township

Approval

Northstar Towers – Canal Fulton/Lawrence/Cutten

(190 ft monopole tower, equipment compound, concrete pad & access drive)

NW ¼ Section 21, Lawrence Township

Conditional Approval

Ryan's Lawn Care

(3,600 sf bldg., walkway, paving & parking)

SW ¼ Section 33, Sugarcreek Township

Conditional Approval

Stark County Engineer – Hartville Outpost

(1,760 sf bldg.)

SW ¼ Section 7, Marlboro Township

Approval

Vasco

(Supply yard & 3 access drives)

NW ¼ Section 6, Pike Township

Conditional Approval

Willowberry Farm

(Approx. 1,600 sf bldg., approx. 1,000 sf deck, walkway, paving, parking & access drive)

SW ¼ Section 32, Marlboro Township

Conditional Approval

McAlister moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendations of the above-noted site improvement plan reviews. The Commission also approved the variance request of Section 550.3 (construction plans submission) for Messerly Duplex.

FINAL PLAT

Amodio Allotment No. 2

(replat of lots 6 & 7 in Amodio Allotment)

NW ¼ Section 6, Lake Township

Approval

Berkshire Farms No. 7

(replat of lots 77 & 78 in Berkshire Farms No. 3)

SW ¼ Section 8, Jackson Township

Approval

Carrington No. 14

(replat of lots 242 & 243 in Carrington No. 9)

SW ¼ Section 17, Jackson Township

Approval

Colony Circle Allotment No. 4

(replat of lots 21-26 in Colony Circle Allotment No. 1
and part of the SW ¼ Section 2, Washington Township)

SW ¼ Section 2, Washington Township

Conditional Approval

Greenbrier Allotment No. 6

(replat of lot 20 & part of lot 21 in Greenbrier Allotment No. 1)

SE ¼ Section 26, Plain Township

Conditional Approval

Saratoga Hills No. 7

NW ¼ Section 12, Plain Township

Conditional Approval

Summit Hill No. 2

(replat of lots 7-10 in Summit Hill)

SE ¼ Section 35, Lawrence Township

Approval

Leach moved, Schillig seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendations on the above-noted final plats. The Commission also approved the variance request of Section 250.1 (street arrangement) for Colony Circle allotment No. 4; and conditionally approved Section 420 (conforms with preliminary plan) and Section 530.1 (width to depth ratio) for Saratoga Hills No. 7.

7) **SUBDIVISION REVIEW MEETING**

Subdivision Review Meeting has been moved to April 9, 2024 at 10:30 am.

Sanderson moved, Miller seconded and the motion carried to approve the Subdivision Review meeting.

8) **PERSONNEL**

McAlister moved and Thorley seconded to adjourn into executive session to discuss the employment and/or compensation of a government employee. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Voting Aye: Sanderson, Skubiak, Thorley, Schillig, Tarbet, McAlister, Varian, Leach, Miller, Rinaldi

McAlister moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to adjourn from executive session

McAlister moved, Miller seconded, and the motion carried to hire Angela Sterling to the position of Fiscal Clerk with a start date of March 25, 2024, at an annual salary of \$40,000.

8) OTHER BUSINESS

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Joseph Skubiak, Chairman

Bob Nau, Secretary

Public Hearing for FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan, CDBG FY 2024 - 2026 & HOME FY 2024 Application
Review Meeting Minutes March 20, 2024
SCRPC Conference Room- 11:00 a.m.

In attendance were:

Bill Smith	Commissioner	Heaven King	Alliance for Children & Families
Janet Creighton	Commissioner	Grace Springer	Canton Rep
Richard Regula	Commissioner	Amy Dornack	CommQuest
Diane Sheridan	Staff	Liz DeChellis	Habitat for Humanity
Lisa Snyder	Staff	Dawn Fish	Canton Community Development
Valerie Watson	Staff	Linda Headley	Canton Community Development
Bob Nau	Staff	Natalie McCleskey	ICAN Housing
James Williams	Village of Minerva		

Ms. Janet Creighton called the meeting to order stating:

This public hearing has called for the purpose of reviewing the draft FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan, proposed FY 2024-2026 Community Development Block grant (CDBG) budget, proposed FY 2024 HOME budget and actions for furthering fair housing.

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission has worked to develop the draft consolidated plan during the past 8 months and the previously mentioned program budgets during the past 5 months. The Board is seeking public input prior to any action by the board to approve the budgets.

Comments will be considered by the Board along with the formal recommendations of staff and RPC as we prepare a final Consolidated Plan and program budgets for adoption and submission to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The County has not yet received notification of funding for either CDBG or HOME programs. It is expected the County will receive \$1,390,232.00 in CDBG funds and \$1,029,006.00 in HOME funding during FY 2024.

Creighton thanked all involved in preparing their recommendations. The Commissioners were involved in the details of the projects recommended for consideration and reviewed the merits of each with the staff.

Diane Sheridan and Lisa Snyder presented the FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan, proposed FY 2024-2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget, and proposed FY 2024 HOME budget. (attached)

Valerie Watson presented actions for Furthering Fair Housing. (attached)

Creighton asked for any additional comments.

Creighton motioned to defer the decision establishing the proposed 2024 One-Year Annual Action Plan to be submitted until the actual allocation amounts and public comment period expires and to allow the Board time to consider the recommendations submitted. Regula moved and Smith seconded to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion was carried.

Public hearing was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Public Hearing

March 5, 2024

March 20, 2024

Summary FY 2024 - 2028 Stark County Consolidated Plan

Proposed FY 2024 - 2026 CDBG Budget

Proposed FY 2024 HOME Budget

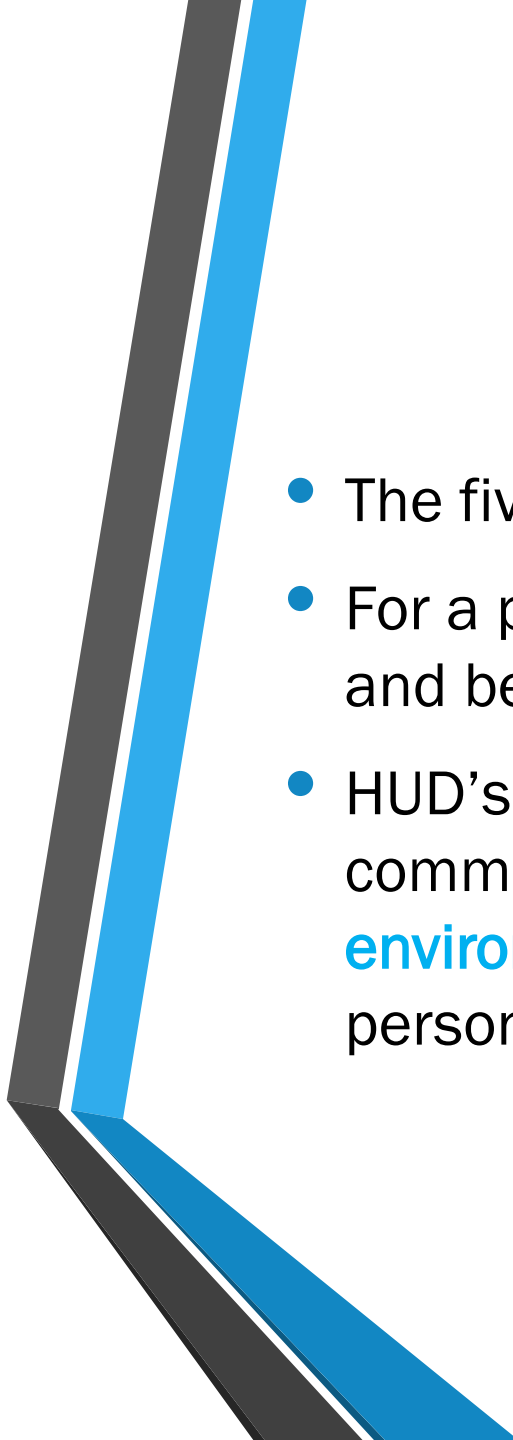
Proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Amendment

Actions for Furthering Fair Housing



Stark County Consolidated Plan

FY 2024 - 2028



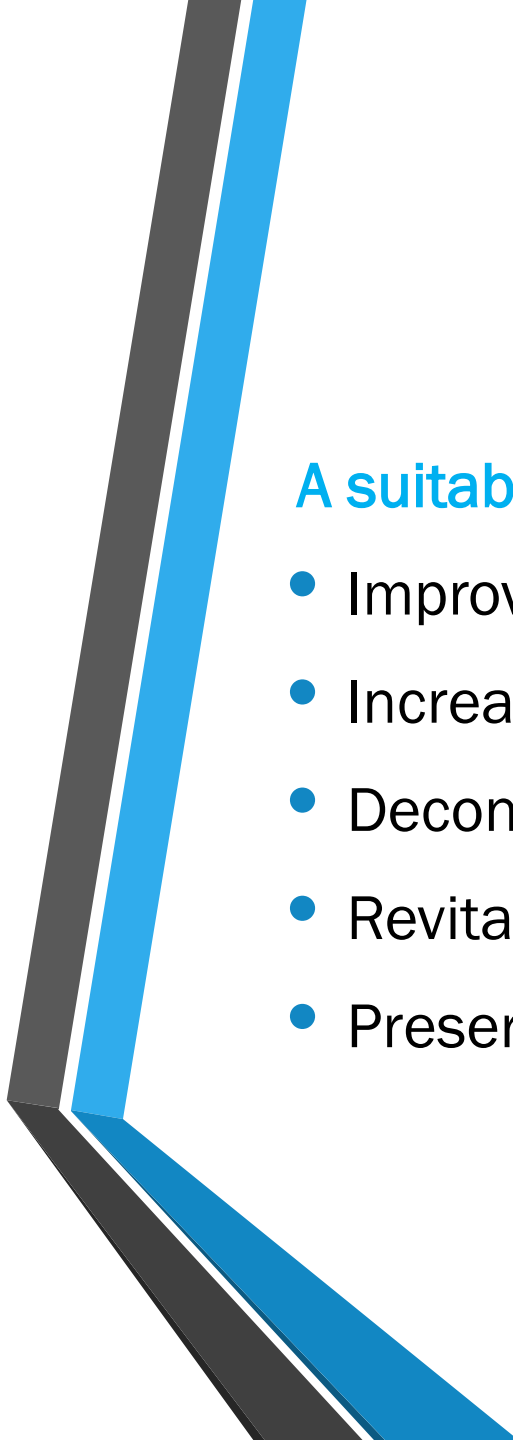
Consolidated Plan FY 2024 – FY 2028

- The five-year plan begins July 1, 2024 and ends June 30, 2029
- For a project to be funded it must meet one of **three** National Objectives and be consistent with one of **four** provisions
- HUD's goal of the Consolidated Plan (CP) is to develop viable urban communities by providing **decent housing**, providing a **suitable living environment** and **expanding economic opportunities** for lower-income persons

Consolidated Plan FY 2024 – FY 2028

Decent housing for low-to moderate-income individuals includes:

- Assisting the homeless in obtaining housing and assisting persons at-risk of becoming homeless
- Retaining affordable housing
- Increasing permanent, safe, decent and affordable housing for minorities
- Increasing the supply of supportive housing for persons with special needs to live with dignity and independence
- Providing affordable housing with access to job opportunities



Consolidated Plan FY 2024 – FY 2028

A suitable living environment for low-to moderate-income individuals includes:

- Improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods
- Increasing access to quality public and private facilities and services
- Deconcentration of housing for persons of lower income
- Revitalization of blighted neighborhoods
- Preservation of historic and energy resources

Consolidated Plan

FY 2024 – FY 2028

Expanded economic opportunities for low-to moderate-income individuals includes:

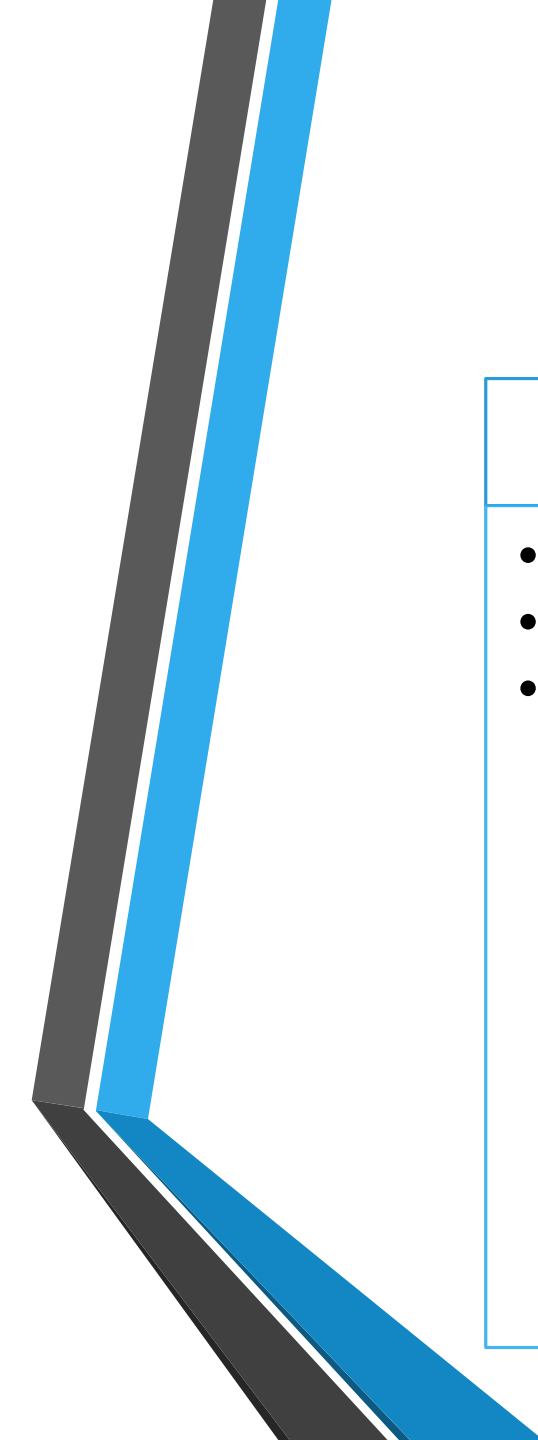
- Job creation and retention
- Establishing and stabilizing small businesses
- Public services focused around employment
- Activities resulting in job creation
- Mortgage financing at reasonable rates with non-discriminatory lending
- Access to capital and credit for development activities promoting the long-term economic and social feasibility of the community
- Empowerment and self-sufficiency opportunities to reduce generational poverty in federally assisted public housing



Consolidated Plan FY 2024 – FY 2028

Functions of the CP:

- The CP is a planning document which builds on public participation from stakeholders
- The CP is a grant application to HUD for CDBG and HOME funds
- The CP is a strategy to be followed in funding projects
- The CP is a management tool for assessing performance and tracking results
- All funded projects must be in consistent with the CP



Consolidated Plan FY 2024 – FY 2028

Three National Objectives

- Benefit lower income persons
- Prevent or eliminate blight
- Meet urgent need

Four Provisions

- Safe, sanitary and affordable housing for low-to moderate-income individuals
- Suitable living environments by increasing the quality of life for low-to moderate-income individuals
- Economic opportunities for low-to moderate-income individuals
- Updated or new public facilities and/or infrastructure improvements for low-to moderate-income individuals

Summary of Current CP Performance

(FY 2019 – FY 2022)

Public service
beneficiaries

9,221

Infrastructure
beneficiaries

2,641

Single-family
rehab

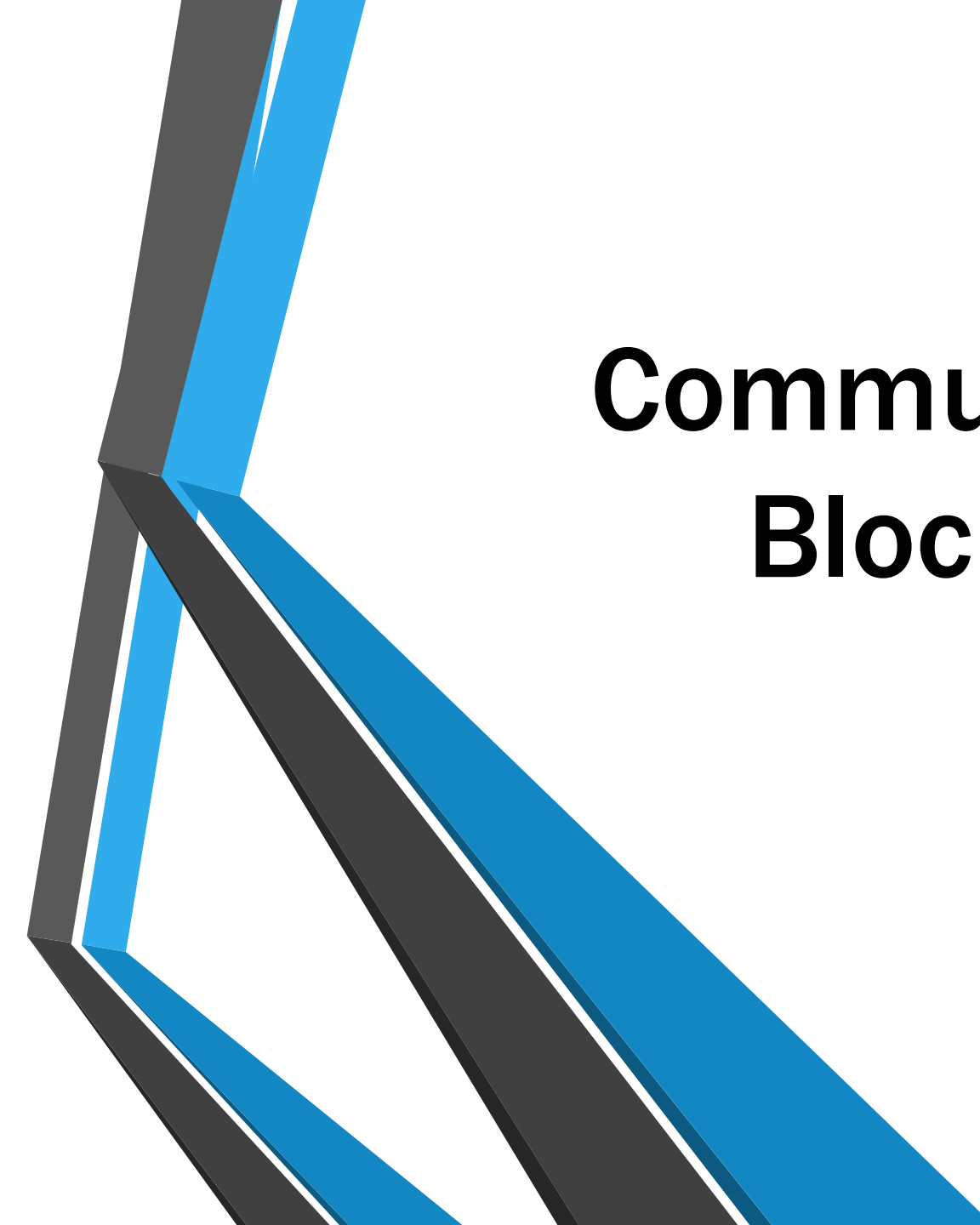
211

Businesses
assisted

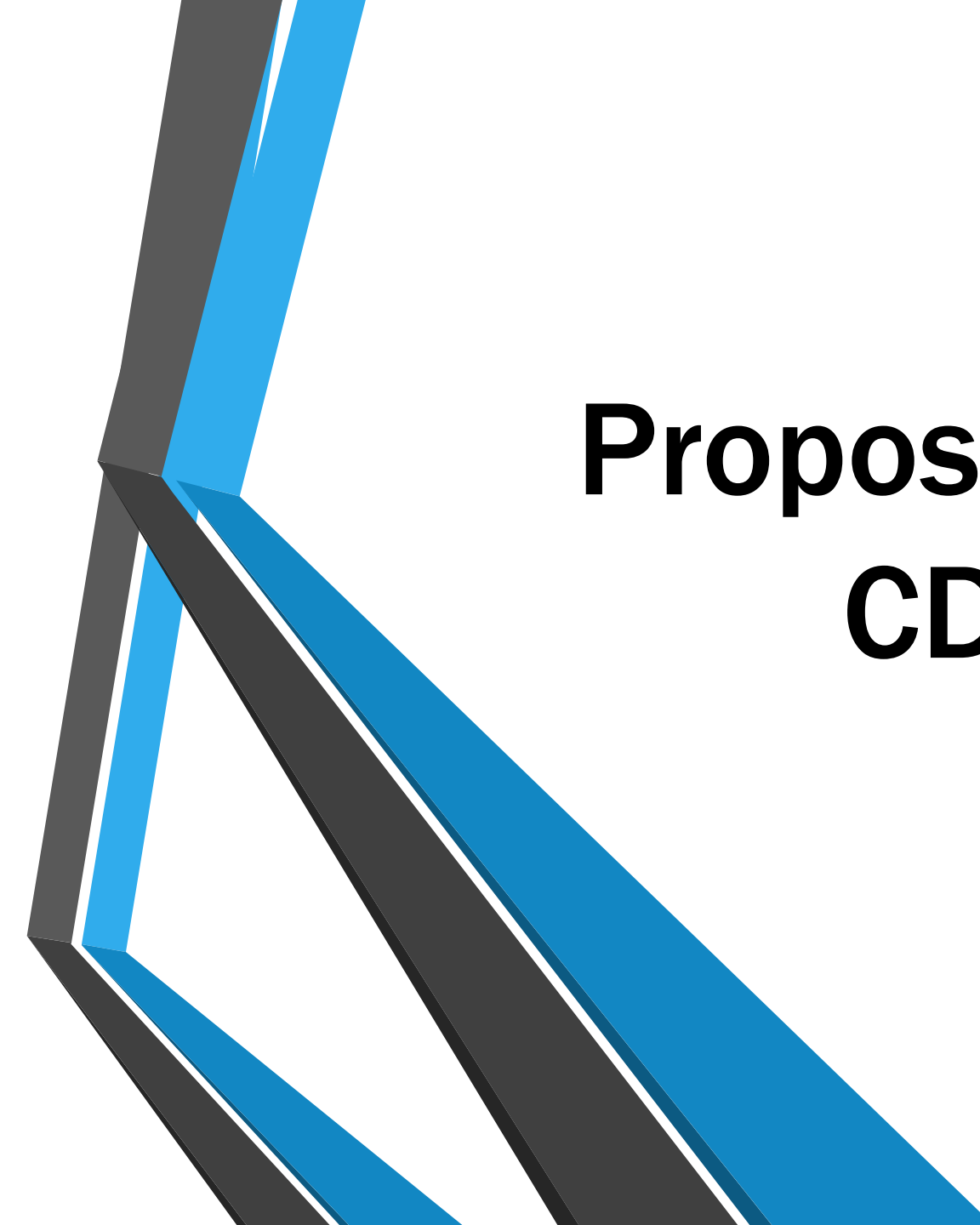
76

CHDO units
rehabbed

27



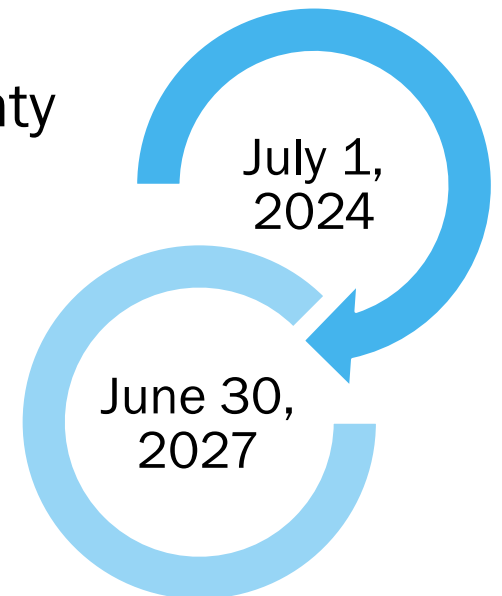
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME



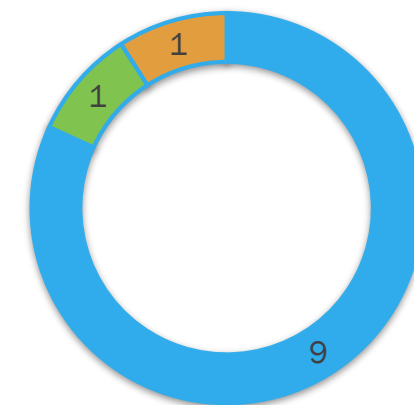
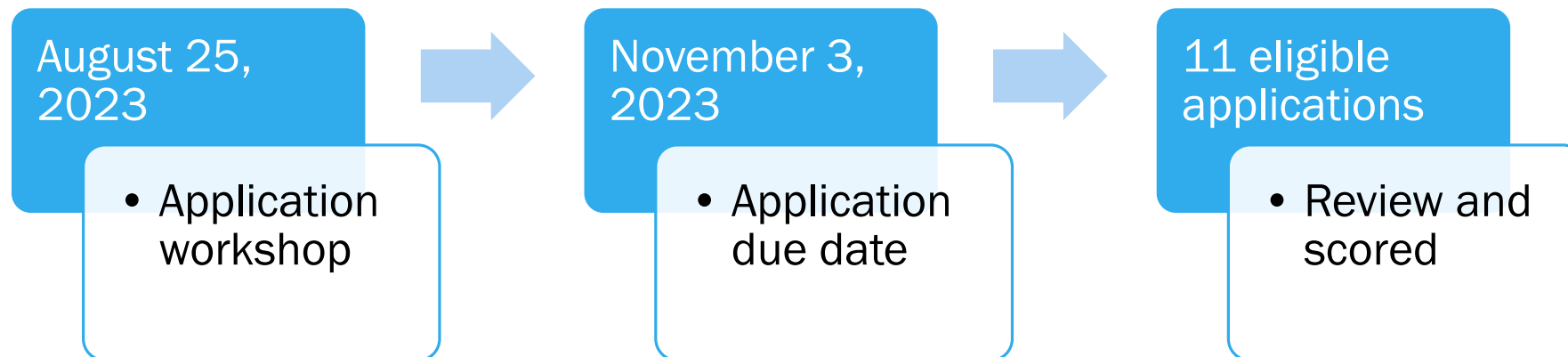
Proposed 2024 - 2026 CDBG Budget

FY 2024 - 2026 Funding Availability

- Stark County's allocation for FY 2024 has not yet been released
- The figures shown today are estimates based upon the County's FY 2023 allocation of \$1,390,232.00
- Final recommendations will be increased or decreased from the estimated amounts to match the allocation announcement
- Final amounts will be adopted by the Board of Stark County Commissioners



CDBG Application Process



- Public Service
- Economic Development
- Infrastructure

CDBG Application Process

- All activities must meet one of the three National Objectives:
 - ✓ Benefit low-to moderate-income individuals
 - ✓ Prevention or elimination of slum & blight
 - ✓ Urgent need
- All activities must be consistent with the Consolidated Plan
- The eligible applications were reviewed by three staff and one member of the Review Committee

Proposed Administration & Planning Budget

20% cap

Activity	FY 2024 Amount
CDBG Administration and Planning	\$101,000.00
Fair Housing	\$84,000.00
2050 Stark County Comprehensive Plan	\$35,000.00
TOTAL	\$220,000.00

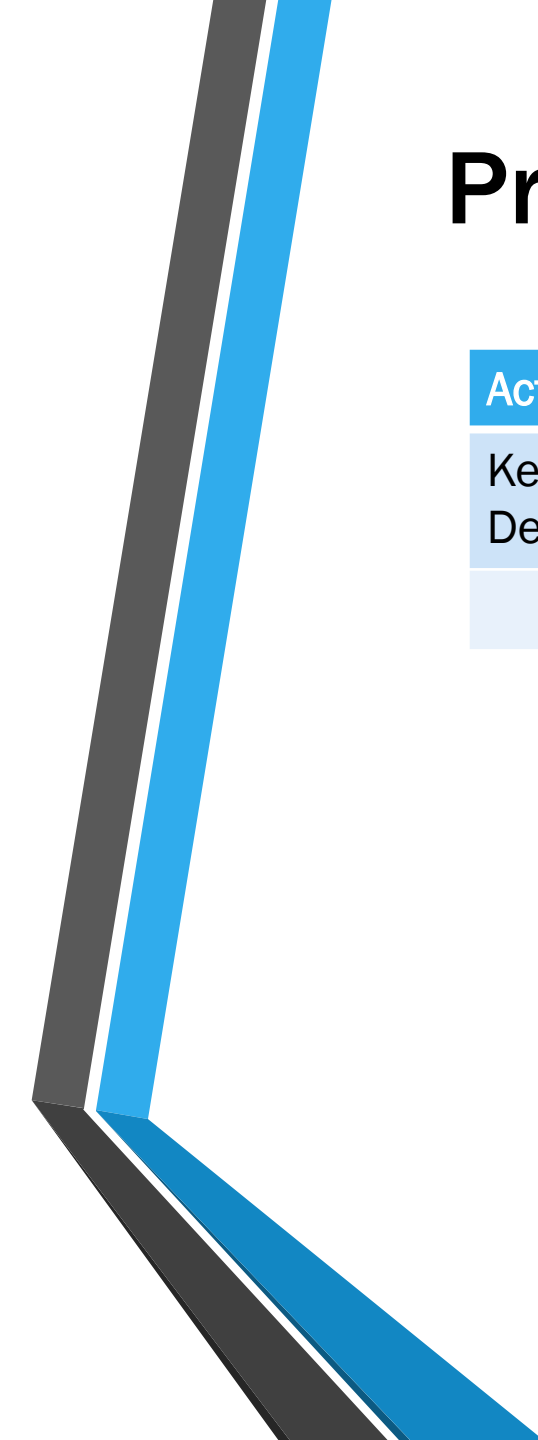
Proposed Housing Budget

Activity	FY 2024 Amount
Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$99,000.00
Housing Rehabilitation	\$273,462.00
Revolving Loan Fund	\$270,220.81
TOTAL (excludes RLF)	\$372,462.00

Proposed Public Service Budget

15% cap

Activity	FY 2024 Amount
Alliance for Children & Families – AER Office/Case Manager	\$20,320.00
CommQuest Services Inc. – Family Living Center	\$18,000.00
Stark MHAR – Stark County Coordinated Entry System	\$20,000.00
Beacon Charitable Pharmacy – Access to Medications and Clinical Pharmacy Services	\$30,000.00
The Stock Pile – Salary Assistance	\$40,000.00
Community Building Partnership of Stark County – Pre-purchase Counseling for LMI Residents	\$7,500.00
StarkFresh – Affordable Food Access Through Individualized Grocery Delivery	\$10,000.00
Early Childhood Resource Center – Perry Local Schools SPARK Program	\$20,000.00
Early Childhood Resource Center – Fatherhood Mentorship Project	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	\$185,820.00



Proposed Economic Development Budget

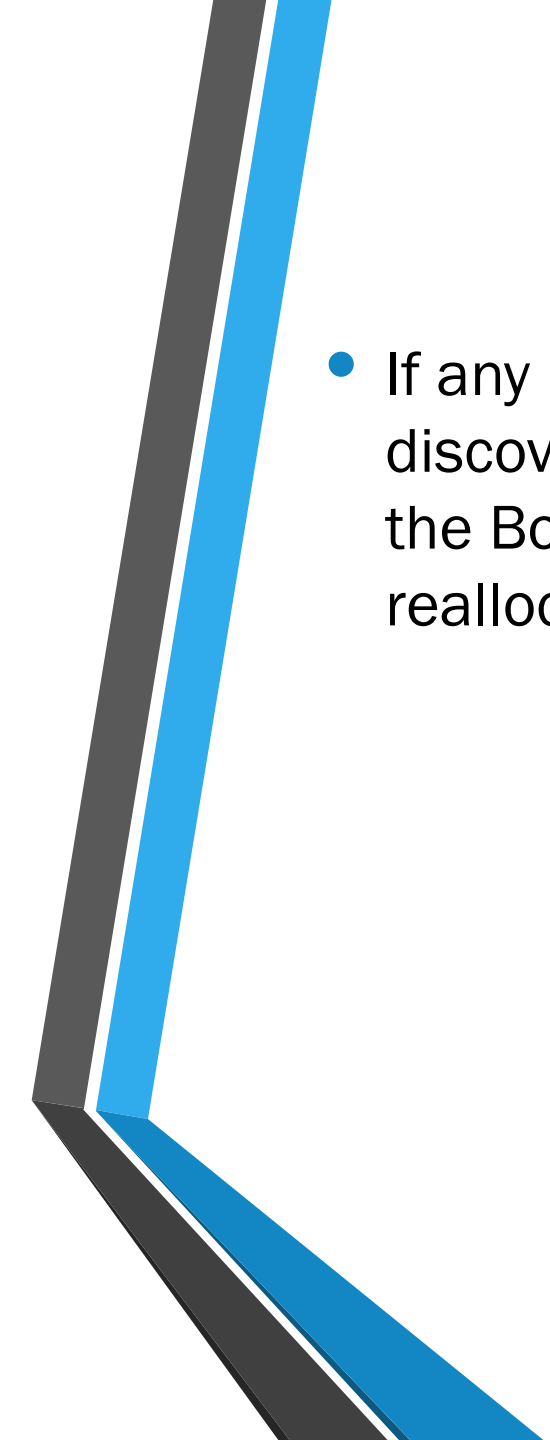
Activity	FY 2024 Amount
Kent State University – Microenterprise Development Program	\$32,000.00
TOTAL	\$32,000.00

Proposed FY 2024-2026 Infrastructure Budget

Activity	FY 2024 Amount	FY 2025 Amount	FY 2026 Amount
City of North Canton – Woodrow-Lois Waterline Replacement	\$499,950.00	-	-
Village of Brewster – Pump Station	\$40,000.00	-	-
Village of Navarre – Playground Equipment for Underwood Park	\$40,000.00	-	-
Stark County Engineer’s Office – Perry Drive Reconstruction	-	\$100,000.00	-
City of North Canton – Elberta Avenue SW Waterline Replacement	-	\$499,950.00	-
TOTAL	\$579,950.00	\$599,950.00	-

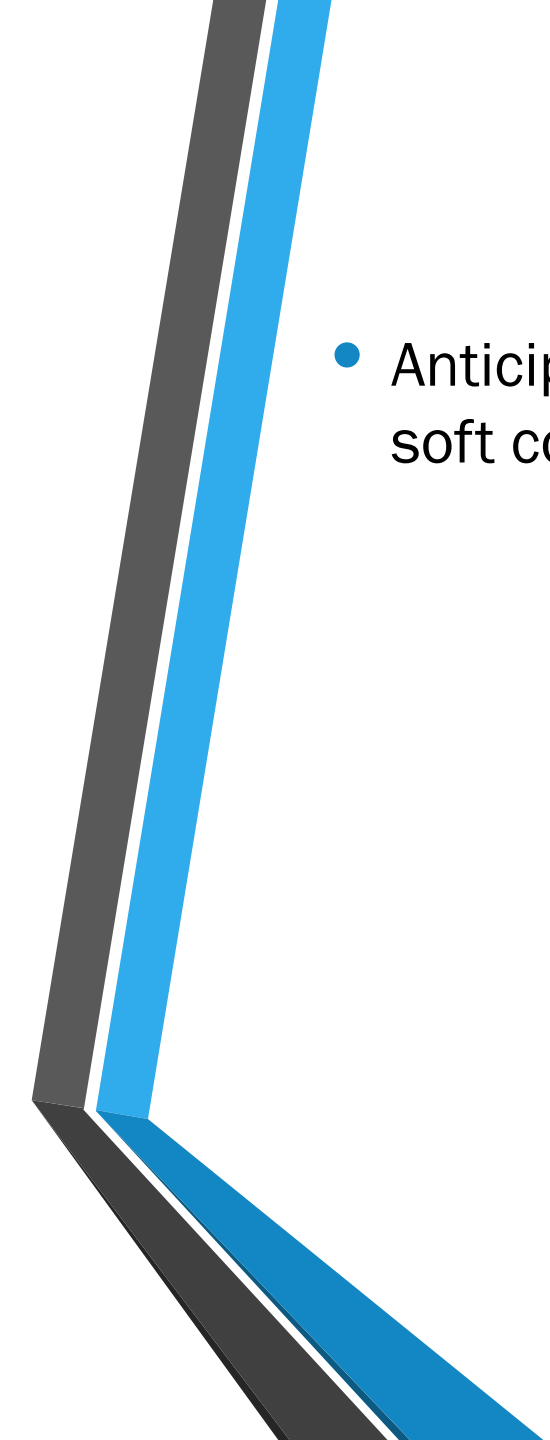
Reallocation of Prior Year Funds

Use	Amount
Reallocation of prior year funds to contingencies	\$10,016.00
TOTAL	\$10,016.00



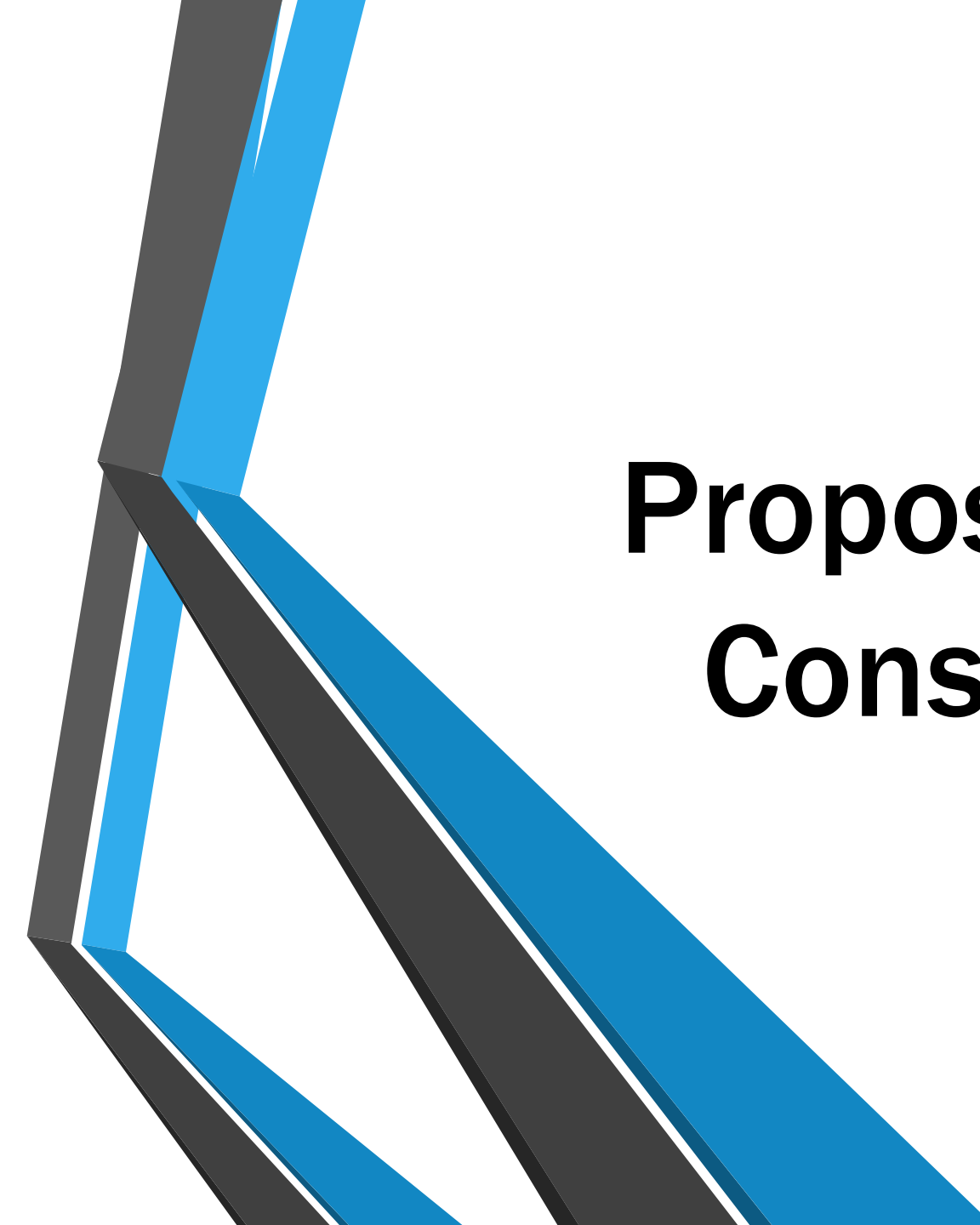
Alternative Use of Funds

- If any previously listed activity has cost savings, slows down spending, discovers a barrier to completion or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the remaining funds will be reallocated to housing rehabilitation.



Program Income

- Anticipated program income in the amount of \$3,000.00 to be used for soft costs and infrastructure/public facility improvements

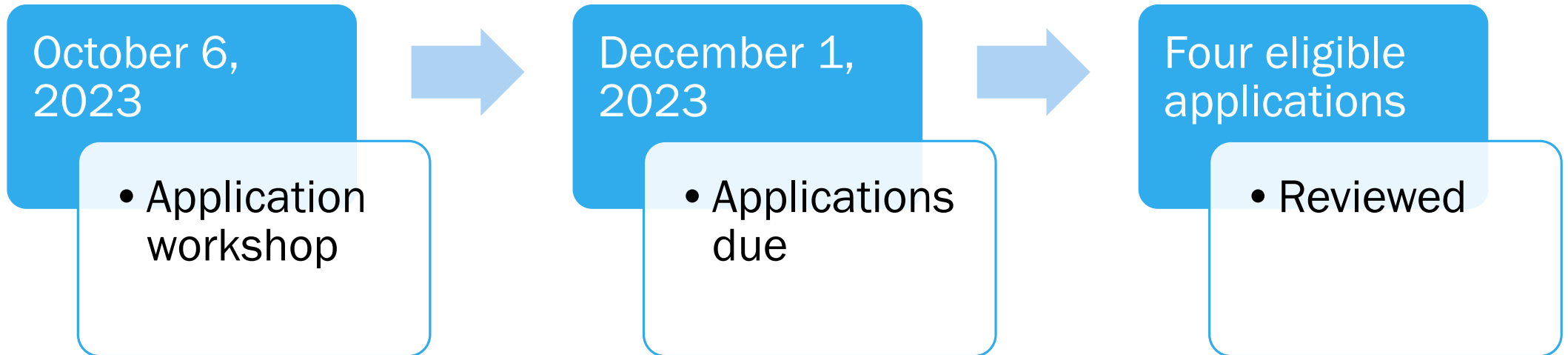


Proposed 2024 HOME Consortium Budget

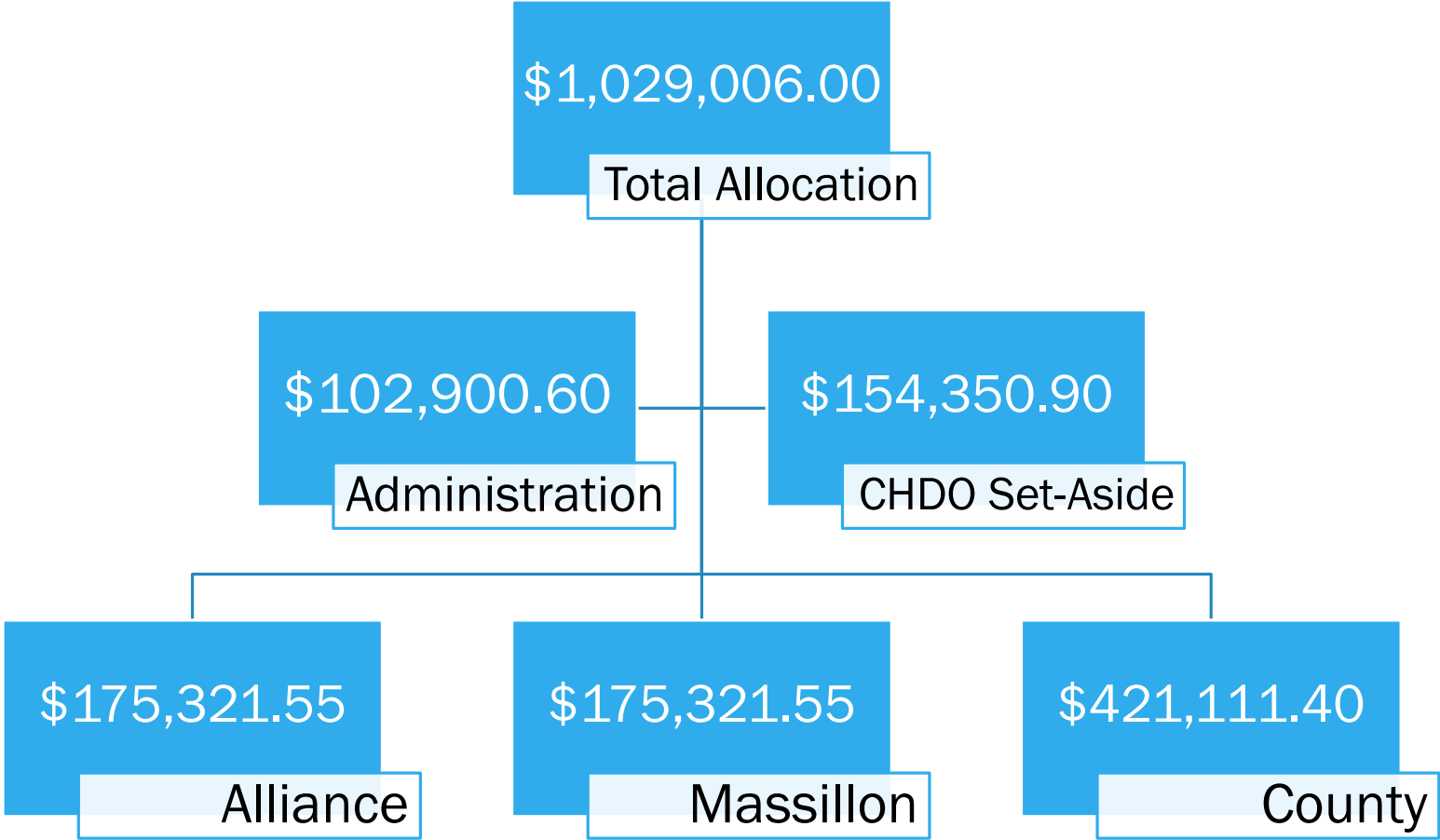
FY 2024 Funding Availability

- Stark County's allocation for FY 2024 has not yet been released
- The figures shown today are estimates based upon the County's FY 2023 allocation of \$1,029,006.00
- Final recommendations will be increased or decreased from the estimated amounts to match the allocation announcement
- Final amounts will be adopted by the Board of Stark County Commissioners
- The County formed a HOME Consortium with the cities of Massillon and Alliance in 1995, sharing the annual allocation between the communities

HOME Application Process



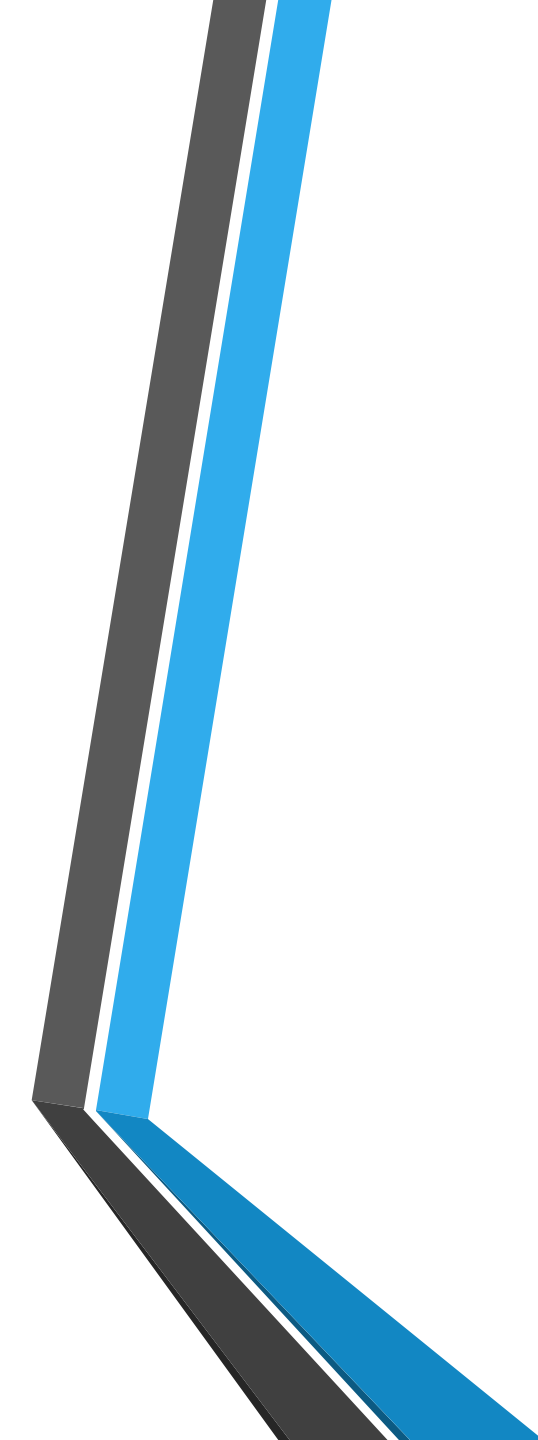
Proposed 2024 Budget



Proposed Administration Budget

10% cap

Activity	FY 2024 Amount
Administration	\$102,900.60
TOTAL	\$102,900.60



Proposed CHDO Budget

Minimum 15% set-aside

Activity	FY 2024 Amount
Future CHDO activities	\$154,350.90
TOTAL	\$154,350.90

Proposed Alliance Budget

Activity	FY 2024 Amount
Housing Rehabilitation	\$105,321.55
Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity	\$70,000.00
TOTAL	\$175,321.55



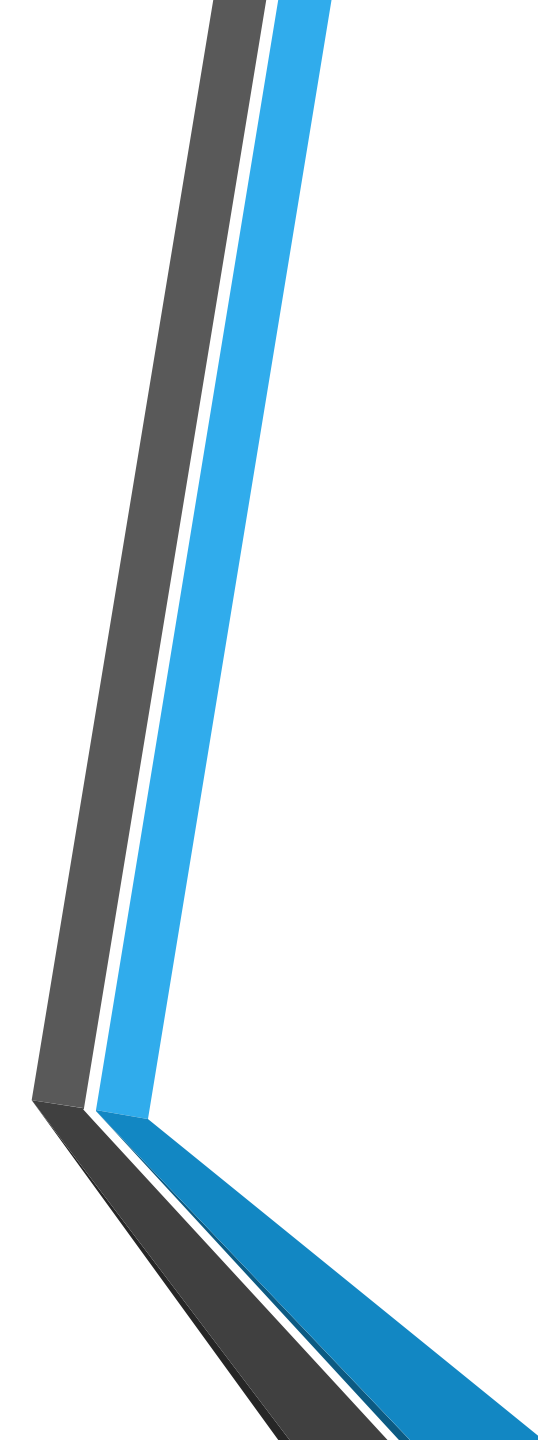
Current vacant residential parcels on the corner of East Grant Street and Morgan Avenue

Proposed Massillon Budget

Activity	FY 2024 Amount
Housing Rehabilitation & Homebuyer Assistance	\$125,321.55
Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio	\$50,000.00
TOTAL	\$175,321.55

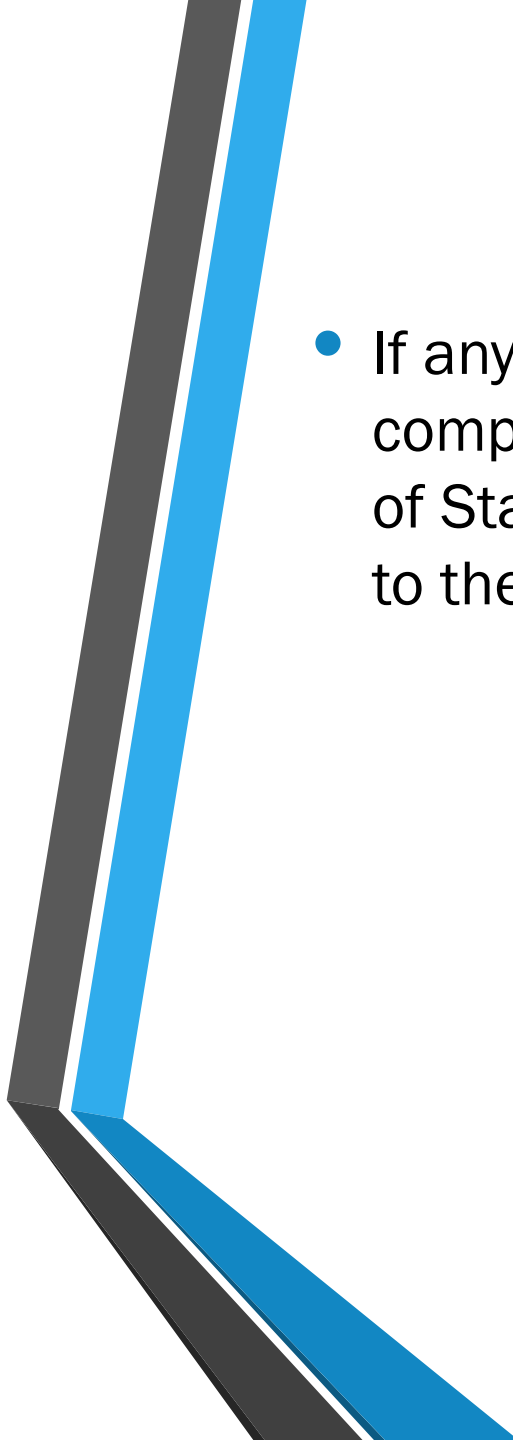


Current vacant residential
parcels on Griffith Avenue
SW



Proposed County Budget

Activity	FY 2024 Amount
Housing Rehabilitation	\$421,111.40
TOTAL	\$421,111.40



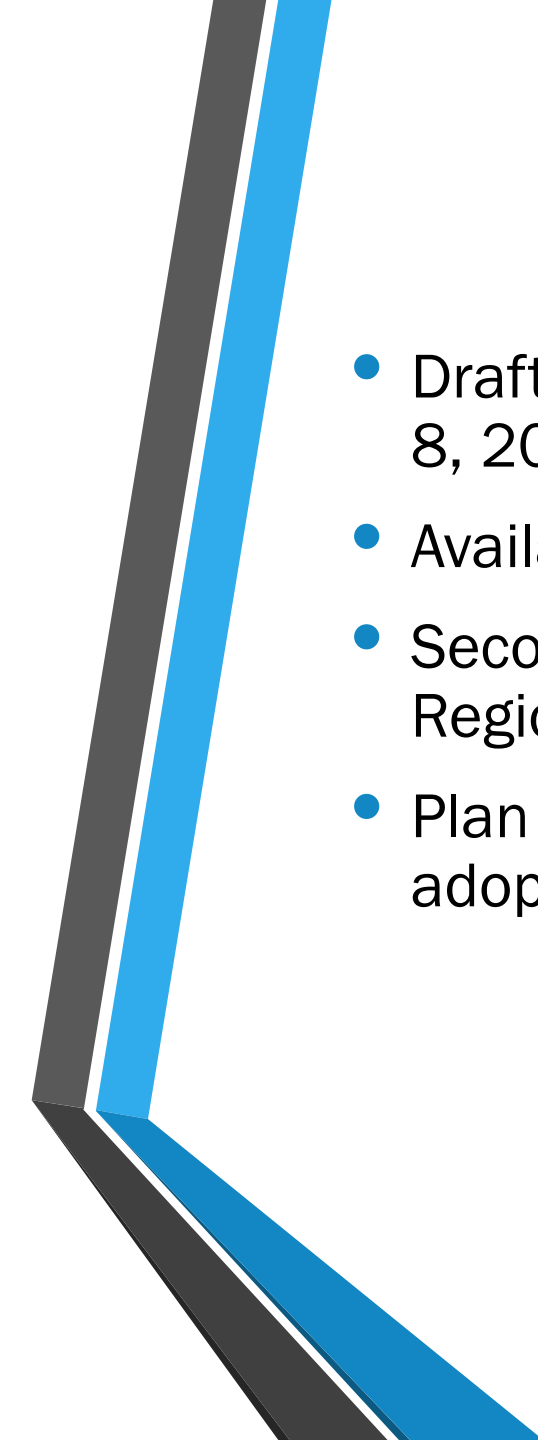
Alternative Use of Funds

- If any new construction activity has cost savings, fails to begin or complete construction, or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the remaining funds will be reallocated to the respective jurisdiction's housing rehabilitation activity.



Program Income

- Anticipated program income of \$25,000.00 and prior years program income (no less than) \$31,198.20 to be used for new construction or housing rehabilitation



Next Steps

- Draft AP available for a 30-day comment period from March 6, 2024 - April 8, 2024
- Available online and via hard copy as requested
- Second public hearing is March 20, 2024 at 11:00am at Stark County Regional Planning Commission
- Plan will be submitted to HUD once allocations are announced and plan is adopted by the Board of Stark County Commissioners

Questions & Contact Information

Diane Sheridan

Chief of Community Development

dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

Lisa Snyder

Senior Community Development Planner

lsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov



2024-2028

Consolidated Plan

Proposed Strategies and Actions

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Public Hearings

March 5, 2024

March 20, 2024

Stark

County

Fair

Housing

Department

Provided by
Valerie Watson
Fair Housing Manager



Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

As part of the Consolidated Plan, local government must certify that they will affirmatively further fair housing.

- Conducting an AI
 - Taking appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified
 - Take meaningful actions to overcome patterns of segregation
 - Promote fair housing choice
 - Foster inclusive communities free from discrimination
- 



Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)

Defined as:

A review of a jurisdiction's laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and practices affecting the location, availability and accessibility of housing, as well as an assessment of conditions, both public and private, affecting fair housing choice.





Analysis of Impediments

2018

Equity Plan

2024



FAIR HOUSING PROPOSED STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLAN

Stark County Fair Housing Department will take the following actions on an ongoing basis to eliminate the barriers to fair housing identified in the ***Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice***



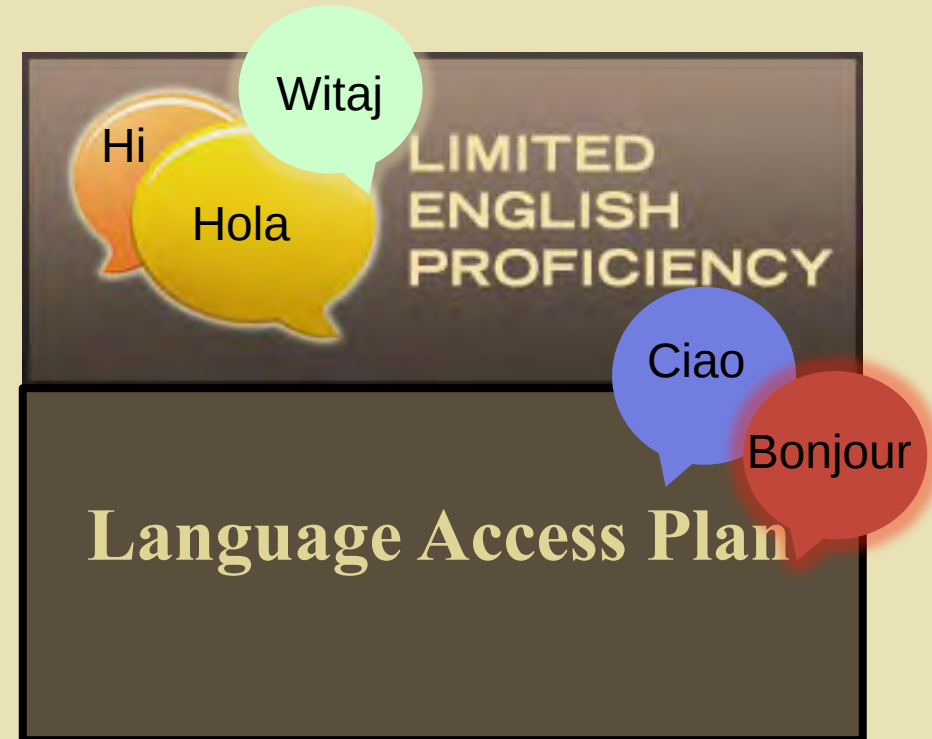
Impediments, Recommendations and Actions Undertaken

Potential Impediment: The County does not yet have an official Language Access Plan.

A four-factor analysis was completed and a LAP draft exists, however, it has not yet been approved and implemented in its entirety. Until there is a written policy approved and implemented, Spanish-speaking persons in the County will not receive the same standard of service with each interaction with the County.

Recommended Action Plan: Finish drafting the Language Access Plan and begin implementing it as soon as possible.

Action Plan: The Language Access Plan was approved. The plan identifies county programs and services available to individuals within the county.





Impediments, Recommendations and Actions Undertaken

Potential Impediment: All County government personnel have not received fair housing training. All employees of Stark County should receive some form of fair housing training.

Recommended Action Plan: Expand fair housing education and outreach to all employees of Stark County on an annual basis.

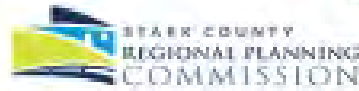
Action Plan: The staff plans to conduct presentations at the Governmental Law Seminar where county governmental officials attends.

Action Plan: To educate all county government personnel, the staff developed and launched a quarterly fair housing newsletter. This educational newsletter is emailed to all county employees.



Stark County Fair Housing Department

Division of Stark County Regional Planning Commission



Fair Housing Newsletter

December 2023 – March 2024

Your Choice!
Your Right!
Your Home!

Live Anywhere
You Can
Afford!

Fair Housing
is the Law!

A Quarterly Insight into Housing Discrimination



HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL!



SCFHD Offers Many Programs and Services to the Community

Housing Discrimination Investigation

SCFHD staff receives complaints and conducts appropriate investigations that involve fair housing violations. We assist clients in asserting their legal rights involving discrimination in housing.

Reasonable Accommodation/ Modification Request

SCFHD help persons with disabilities make a reasonable accommodation/modification request to their housing provider. SCFHD provides this service because doing so can often avoid a future housing discrimination violation.

Sponsor Educational Programs and Workshops

SCFHD plan and implement educational events. Staff conducts presentations, trainings and seminars on the Fair Housing and Landlord Tenant Laws.

Education & Outreach

SCFHD educational outreach program is part of an ongoing effort to educate the public on the fair housing laws. SCFHD offers presentations, trainings and seminars on the Fair Housing and Landlord Tenant Laws for residents, community organizations, housing professionals, municipalities, real estate professionals, landlords, social workers, and consumers to ensure residents understand their rights and that housing professionals and decision-makers understand the fair housing laws. SCFHD designs and distributes educational material. SCFHD develops the Fair Housing newsletter then emails to county personnel, zoning inspectors, politicians and consumers.

Landlord And Tenant Counseling

SCFHD staff counsels landlords and tenants on their rights and obligations. It is our mission to help prevent problems between tenants and landlords by informing both parties of their rights and responsibilities.

HUD Announces Proposed “30-Day Notice” Rule for Nonpayment of Rent

Proposed rule would provide residents of public housing or in properties receiving project-based rental assistance 30 days notice to cure lease violations for nonpayment of rent

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Federal Register on December 1. If finalized, the rule would require public housing agencies (PHA) with tenants in public housing and owners of properties participating in HUD Multifamily project-based rental assistance programs to provide their tenants with written notification at least 30 days prior to filing for an eviction due to nonpayment of rent in court. The proposed rule would also require that the 30-day notice include instructions on how tenants can cure lease violations for nonpayment of rent and information on how to recertify their income and request a minimum rent hardship exemption if applicable to avoid eviction.

The rule would provide stability for millions of residents. It would give renters an opportunity to catch up if they fall behind on rent and avoid evictions. The proposed rule would also prevent landlords and PHAs from facing costly unit vacancies.

This proposed rule would affect an estimated 3.9 million people in 2.2 million households.



What Housing Discrimination Looks Like:



Real estate agents refusing to return phone calls.

Appraisers deflating property values



Landlords giving false information

Loan officers steering borrowers to higher cost loan products

Landlords steering families to certain floors or buildings



Lenders denying a woman's application because she is on maternity leave

Denying housing because of applicant's gender identity or sexual orientation

Harassing, intimidating, or interfering with anyone exercising his/her fair housing rights

Denying housing based on arrest records

Denying a request to install a wheelchair ramp

Failing to design and construct housing in an accessible manner

Rules against children

White only

Refusing to make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities

Imposing restrictions on group housing for persons with disabilities



Sexual Harassment

Denying property insurance



No kids

Charging fees for an emotional support animal

Impediments, Recommendations and Actions Undertaken

Potential Impediment: The Consolidated Plan continues to require updates.

The County amended the Consolidated Plan to include a definition for areas of minority concentration, however, the definition is not sufficient. The new definition compares households rather than all residents.

Recommended Action Plan: Amend the comparison to be “residents” rather than households.

Action Plan: The staff amended the definition for areas of minority concentration in the Consolidated Plan to include “residents” rather than households. The staff is continuing it throughout.



Impediments, Recommendations and Actions Undertaken

Potential Impediment: The increase of fair housing complaints indicates that discrimination still occurs in Stark County. Fair housing activities should continue in order to keep residents aware of their rights, and keep landlords aware of their responsibilities.

Recommended Action Step: Continue to invest in landlord outreach, education and testing in order to broaden understanding of responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act.



Impediments, Recommendations and Actions Undertaken

Action Plan: The educational newsletter is emailed to social service agencies and landlords. The staff will continue to conduct presentations to the Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association. The staff conducted a Tester Training Session to obtain a pool of testers to help ensure that people are not denied housing due to unlawful discrimination.

Action Plan: Provide additional advertisements in the local newspapers to address discrimination and how and where to report illegal acts of housing discrimination.

Action Plan: Expand the distribution of the Fair Housing Newsletter to those in the real estate industries. The newsletters will provide ongoing education related to the Fair Housing Act.

Action Plan: Continue training presentations to landlords, tenants, Realtors, students, property managers, zoning inspectors, public officials and representatives from social service agencies.



The Stark County Fair Housing Department will continue its goals to ensure equal housing opportunity. Necessary actions will be taken to certify that the fair housing law is properly and fairly enforced throughout the County. The fair housing department will continue to take the appropriate steps necessary to eliminate the potential impediments listed in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.



IN
Conclusion

Thank You!

Valerie Watson
Fair Housing Manager



vjwatson@starkcountyohio.gov



Stark County Fair Housing Dept.
330-451-7775

Attachment 3

Citizen comments

FY 2024 – 2028 Consolidated Plan

FY 2024 Action Plan

Citizen Comments

Comment: I was surprised to see how few applicants there were for rental assistance. We see tremendous need in the community on a daily basis based on calls to our office. With so many families facing eviction daily, it seems a little misplaced to help one family by funding a single home build in a community. My intent is not to diminish the efforts of Habitat, they are great partners, my intent is to draw attention to the plight of many families that are looking for help to keep their family's current home. I understand the desire to improve general infrastructure and property safety, but for what reason? If it's for the betterment of the citizens of Stark county, maybe a larger portion of the population should be considered.

Response: All of the funding recommendations for CDBG and HOME funds are based upon applications that were submitted from agencies. CDBG can be utilized for what HUD calls "income" payments as long as they do not exceed three consecutive months. We did not have any agencies apply for this type of activity. We gladly welcome future applications from your agency. The next CDBG workshop is August 9th at 9:00am.

Attachment 4

Adopted FY 2024 CDBG and HOME budgets

FY 2024-2026 Community Development Block Grant Adopted Budget

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Administration & Planning (20% cap)			
CDBG Administration	\$ 101,000.00		
Fair Housing	\$ 84,000.00		
2050 Stark County Comprehensive Plan	\$ 35,000.00		
Administration & Planning Total	\$ 220,000.00		
Housing Projects			
Housing Rehab	\$ 264,673.00		
Revolving Loan balance	\$ 270,220.81		
Housing Rehab Administration	\$ 99,000.00		
Housing Projects Total (excludes RLF)	\$ 363,673.00		
Public Service Projects (15% cap)			
Alliance for Children & Families AER Office/Case Manager	\$ 20,320.00		
CommQuest Services Inc Family Living Center	\$ 18,000.00		
Stark MHAR Stark County Coordinated Entry System	\$ 20,000.00		
Beacon Charitable Pharmacy Access to Medications and Clinical Pharmacy Services	\$ 30,000.00		
The Stock Pile Salary Assistance	\$ 40,000.00		
Community Building Partnership of Stark County Pre-purchase Housing Counseling for LMI Residents	\$ 7,500.00		
StarkFresh Affordable Food Access Through Individualized Grocery Delivery	\$ 10,000.00		
Early Childhood Resource Center Perry Local Schools SPARK Program	\$ 20,000.00		
Early Childhood Resource Center Fatherhood Mentorship Project	\$ 20,000.00		
Public Service Projects Total	\$ 185,820.00		
Economic Development Projects			
Kent State University Microenterprise Development Program	\$ 32,000.00		
Economic Development Projects Total	\$ 32,000.00		
Infrastructure Projects			
City of North Canton - Woodrow-Lois Waterline Replacement	\$ 499,950.00		
Village of Brewster - Pump Station	\$ 40,000.00		
Village of Navarre - Playground Equipment for Underwood Park	\$ 40,000.00		
Stark County Engineer's Office Perry Drive Reconstruction		\$ 100,000.00	
City of North Canton - Elberta Ave SW Waterline Replacement		\$ 499,995.00	
Infrastructure Projects Total	\$ 579,950.00	\$ 599,995.00	\$ -
TOTAL FUNDING (excludes RLF)	\$1,381,443.00	\$ 599,995.00	\$ -
Reallocation of prior year funds to Contingencies:	\$10,016.00		
TOTAL BUDGET FY 2024	\$1,391,459.00		

5/22/2024

FY 2024 Stark County Revised HOME Adopted Budget

	Amount
Administration (10% cap)	
Administration	\$ 84,522.15
CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)	
Future CHDO activities	\$ 126,783.23
City of Alliance	
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 88,479.13
Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity - 1 new single-family home	\$ 70,000.00
City of Massillon	
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 89,677.33
Homebuyer Downpayment Assistance	\$ 50,000.00
Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio - 1 new single-family home	\$ 18,801.80
Stark County	
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 316,957.94
TOTAL FUNDING	\$ 845,221.58
Anticipated Program Income	\$ 25,000.00
Prior Years Program Income (to be used for new construction)	\$ 31,198.20
TOTAL BUDGET FY 2024	\$ 901,419.78

6/27/2024

Attachment 5

Resolution of approval

Resolution

Distribution

Journal
RPC/LSnyder w/a
File

Stark County Commissioners

Adopted May 22, 2024

Subject A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FY 2024-2028 CONSOLIDATED PLAN
AND FISCAL YEAR 2024 ACTION PLAN

Regula moved the adoption of the following resolution which was
seconded by Smith

WHEREAS, the Board of Stark County Commissioners participates in the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) and Board of Stark County Commissioners held the final public hearing on March 20, 2024, for the draft FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan and proposed budgets for the 2024-2026 CDBG and FY 2024 HOME programs, which were advertised and provided for a 30-day comment period and;

WHEREAS, this Board desires to adopt the FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan and 2024 Action Plan, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as though written in full.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board hereby adopts the FY2024-2028 Consolidated Plan and 2024 Action Plan, as referenced above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board authorizes its President to sign all necessary documents for the FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan and FY 2024 Action Plan and authorizes the SCRPC to submit the Plans on its behalf to HUD.

Upon roll call the vote resulted as follows:

MS. CREIGHTON -- absent

MR. REGULA -- yes

MR. SMITH -- yes

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Assistant Clerk of the Board of Stark County Commissioners, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Board.

Richard Henry

Resolution

Distribution

Journal
RPC/LSnyder w/a
File

Stark County Commissioners

Adopted July 3, 2024

Subject A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE AMENDED FY 2024-2028
CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND FISCAL YEAR 2024 ACTION PLAN

Regula moved the adoption of the following resolution which was
seconded by Creighton

WHEREAS, the Board of Stark County Commissioners participates in the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) and Board of Stark County Commissioners held the final public hearing on March 20, 2024, for the draft FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan and proposed budgets for the 2024-2026 CDBG and FY 2024 HOME programs, which were advertised and provided for a 30-day comment period and;

WHEREAS, this Board previously adopted the FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan and 2024 Action Plan on May 22, 2024 which was then submitted to HUD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board hereby adopts the amended FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan and 2024 Action Plan, as referenced above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board authorizes its President to sign all necessary documents for the amended FY 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan and FY 2024 Action Plan and authorizes the SCRPC to submit the amended Plans on its behalf to HUD.

Upon roll call the vote resulted as follows:

MS. CREIGHTON -- yes

MR. REGULA-- yes

MR. SMITH -- absent

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Assistant Clerk of the Board of Stark County Commissioners, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Board.

Richard Flory

Attachment 6

Stark County Citizen Participation Plan

Stark County
Citizen Participation Plan
Adopted April 19, 2023

I. Introduction

Lead Agency and Background

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is under contract with the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the lead agency, to administer the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) and other HUD related programs. The Citizen Participation Plan (Plan) is subject to the requirements of Title 24: Housing and Urban Development Code of Federal Regulations and Part 91: Consolidated Submissions for Community Planning and Development Programs.

The Plan represents the County's plan for providing for and encouraging all citizens to participate in the development, revision, amendment, adoption and implementation of:

- The Citizen Participation Plan (Plan)
- The Consolidated Plan (CP)
- The Annual Action Plan (AP)
- The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Plan (CAPER)

The Plan may be amended within the submission of the AP, CP or at any time through an amendment process. Upon request, the Plan shall be provided at no cost, in a format accessible to persons with disabilities or language barriers.

County Contacts

The following contact information can be used to request accommodations for meetings, access to information, request information and documents , complaints, grievances or to provide public comments on the documents discussed in this Plan between the hours of 8am-Noon and 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Monday-Friday. Federal holidays excluded.

Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC)

201 3rd Street NE, #201

Canton, Ohio 44702

330.451.7031 or 330.451.7247

DMSheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

LCSnyder@starkcountyohio.gov

Online Access

The County shall post draft and final documents discussed in this Plan on its website at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

Effective Date

Following approval of this Plan by the Board of Stark County Commissioners and HUD, the Plan shall be effective until it is amended or otherwise replaced.

II. Encouragement of Citizen Participation

Background

The Plan must provide for and encourage citizens to participate in the development of the CP, substantial amendment to the CP or AP and the CAPER. These requirements are designed especially to encourage participation by low- and moderate-income persons, particularly those persons living in a revitalization area or in a slum and blighted area and in areas where CDBG funds are proposed to be used, and by residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The County shall take appropriate actions to encourage the participation of all its citizens, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as provided in 24 CFR 91.105, as well as persons with disabilities.

Low to moderate income Individuals (LMI)

The County will actively engage LMIs to participate in HUD funded programs. The County's outreach may include, but not be limited to holding meetings in lower income areas, direct mail to residents of lower income areas, distribution of information to the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority and agencies providing services to LMIs. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow the guidance issued by HUD.

Non-English Speakers

Reasonable accommodations for people with Limited English Proficient (LEP) shall be made. Residents may contact the SCRPC office five business days prior to a meeting date and request an interpreter be present. Meeting notices and presentation materials will be provided in English and additional languages if requested.

Census data will be analyzed to identify areas where non-English speakers reside. If more than 20% of the County's entitlement population speaks a language other than English, notices and some materials will be translated into that language.

Persons with Disabilities

Meetings shall be made accessible by choosing locations that are ADA compliant and/or virtual, when available. Meeting notices will include contact information for the TTY or [State of Ohio Relay](#) number for those who are hearing impaired. Notices will include the following language:

The County will make reasonable accommodations for sensory-impaired or disabled residents at public meetings. Translation services may be offered upon request and availability. Individuals requiring such accommodations should contact 330.451.7031 or 330.451.7247 five business days prior to the meeting. Ohio Relay can be reached at 800.750.0750 for English or 800.269.0678 for Spanish.

Social Service Agencies and other Organizations

The County shall encourage the participation of local and regional institutions, lower income residents, businesses, developers, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations, community-based and faith-based organizations to participate in the process of developing and implementing the CP. Participation shall be achieved through various alternative means, including but not limited

to in person meetings, virtual meetings, surveys, internet-based feedback, phone conversations, social media and focus groups.

Stark County Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA)

The County shall encourage, in conjunction with the SMHA, the participation of public housing residents, resident advisory boards, resident councils, and resident management corporations, in the process of developing and implementing the CP along with other low-income residents of targeted revitalization. The County shall provide to SMHA its affirmatively furthering fair housing strategy, and CP activities related to its developments and surrounding communities so the PHA can make this information available at their public hearing(s) for the PHA Plan. Participation shall be achieved through various alternative means, including but not limited to: in person meetings, virtual meetings, surveys, internet-based feedback, phone conversations, social media and focus groups.

Public Comment

As technology improves, the County shall explore alternative public involvement techniques and quantitative ways to measure efforts that encourage citizen participation in a shared vision for change in communities and neighborhoods and the review of program performance.

Public Hearing Notices

The County will publish notices of public hearings, including times, dates and locations, striving for no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the hearing in one newspaper of general circulation. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Public Hearings

In accordance with [24 CFR 91.105\(e\)\(1\)](#), the County shall hold at least two public hearings per year to obtain residents' views and to respond to proposals and questions, to be conducted at a minimum of two different stages of the program year. Together, the hearings shall address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, proposed strategies and actions for affirmatively furthering fair housing in addition to reviewing program performance. Per 105(e)(1), at least one of these hearings will be held before the proposed CP is published for comment.

The County will strive to hold hearings at times and locations convenient to potential and actual program beneficiaries and will accommodate individuals with disabilities and non-English speakers in accordance with this Plan. Hearings may be held virtually in order to accommodate those with certain disabilities, long COVID-19 illnesses and without reasonable or affordable transportation.

In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance will be made available by appointment with appropriate staff to assist low- and moderate-income representative groups, agencies or individuals requesting assistance in developing applications/proposals for funding assistance under the CP and/or to provide comments pertaining to documents discussed in the Plan. The County determines the level and types of assistance to be provided at any time based on a number of considerations including, but not limited to staff workloads.

III. The Citizen Participation Plan

Background

The County's Citizen Participation Plan (Plan) outlines the notification procedures by which residents, public agencies and other interested parties will be notified of public hearings and the opportunities available for public to comment on community needs and the documents provided in this Plan. The County shall follow the following procedures below to amend its approved Citizen Participation Plan (Plan).

Amendments

Amendments to the Plan must go through a minimum fifteen (15) day public comment period, including weekends and holidays, after the in person or virtual public meeting. A public hearing is not required but may be held concurrently with the public review of the Consolidated Plan (CP) or Action Plan (AP).

During the public comment period, written or oral comments will be accepted by the County contacts indicated on page 1. Public comments will be considered when feasible and beneficial. The Board of Stark County Commissioners will take action on the Plan after the public comment period.

Edits to the Plan that only update contact information or editorial changes for clarity will not be released to the public for review or comment. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

The Plan can be accessed in person at Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC), 201 3rd Street NE, #201, Canton, Ohio 44702 and posted online at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

Displacement of Persons

The County does not anticipate any residential displacement to occur in the near future but it is required to set forth plans to minimize displacement of persons and to assist any persons displaced, specifying the types and levels of assistance the jurisdiction will make available.

Should displacement of residents be necessary as a result of funding a project with CDBG or HOME funds, the County shall compensate residents who are displaced in accordance with [HUD Handbook No. 1378, Tenant Assistance, Relocation and real Property Acquisition](#). The handbook can also be located at www.hudexchange.info.

Submission to HUD

A copy of the County's amended Plan including a summary of written or oral comments received during the public review period, the County's responses and proof of compliance with the comment period requirements, will be submitted to HUD. A summary of any comments not accepted and the reasons therefore shall be included.

IV. Development of the Consolidated Plan (CP)

Background

The Consolidated Plan (CP) presents a coordinated approach for addressing the County's housing and community development needs over a five-year period. A new CP is prepared every five years. It combines, in one report, important information about the County's demographics, as well as information on the housing and other community development needs of its residents.

At or as soon as feasible after the start of the CP public participation process, the County will make the HUD-provided data and any other supplemental information the County plans to incorporate into its CP available to its residents, public agencies and other interested parties. The County may make the HUD-provided data available to the public by cross-referencing to the data on HUD's website or in other accessible formats.

Prior to adopting the CP, the County will make available to residents, public agencies, and other interested parties information that includes:

- The amount of assistance the jurisdiction expects to receive, including grant funds, RLF and program income
- The range of activities that may be undertaken
- The estimated amount that will benefit lower income persons
- Where copies of the CP can be examined

Consultations

During the development of the CP, consultations will occur with, but not limited to the following:

- Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Other assisted housing providers
- Social service providers including those focusing on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDs and their families, and homeless persons
- Community-based and regionally-based organizations that represent members of protected classes
- Organizations that enforce fair housing laws and other public and private fair housing service agencies
- Broadband Internet Service Providers and organizations engaged in narrowing the digital divide
- Agencies whose primary responsibilities include management of flood prone areas, public land or water resources
- Emergency management agencies
- The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County
- Public and private agencies that address housing, health, social service, victim services, employment or education needs of low-income individuals and families; homeless individuals and families, including veterans, youth, and/or other persons with special needs
- Publicly funded institutions and systems of care that may discharge persons into homelessness
- Business and civic leaders

To an extent practicable, the County will consult with the appropriate adjacent units of general local government regarding issues and solutions extending beyond a single jurisdiction. Consultation will include, but not be limited to:

- Adjacent local governments with regard to non-housing community development needs
- Agencies with metropolitan-wide planning responsibilities
- Agencies and child welfare agencies concerned with lead-based paint hazards and identifying housing units in which children have been identified as lead-poisoned

Homelessness Strategy

When preparing the sections of the CP pertaining to the County's homeless strategy and resources available to address homelessness and the needs of the homeless population, the County shall consult with the agencies listed on page 5, above as well as:

- Public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, victim assistance, employment, and education of LMI and families
- Public and private agencies addressing homeless individuals, families, veterans, youth or persons with special needs
- Publicly funded universities
- Publicly funded institutions that discharge persons into homelessness
- Business and civic leaders

A variety of mechanisms may be utilized to solicit input from entities indicated above. These could include staff participation on coalitions or boards, telephone or personal interviews, mail or online surveys, internet-based feedback, focus groups, virtual meetings and/or consultation workshops.

Public Hearings

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.105(e)(1), the County shall hold at least two public hearings per year to obtain residents' views and to respond to proposals and questions, to be conducted at a minimum of two different stages of the program year. Together, the hearings shall address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, proposed strategies and actions for affirmatively furthering fair housing in addition to reviewing program performance. Per 105(e)(1), at least one of these hearings will be held before the proposed CP is published for comment.

The County will strive to hold hearings at times and locations convenient to potential and actual program beneficiaries and will accommodate individuals with disabilities and non-English speakers in accordance to this Plan. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Display and Comment Period

The County will present the draft CP, in the form of a public hearing, before or during the thirty (30) day comment period. During this time, the draft Plan will be posted for review and written comment for thirty (30) days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Comments on the CP may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

During the thirty (30) day public comment period, in order to afford its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine the CP's content and to submit comments, the County shall:

- Publish a summary of the draft CP in one newspaper of general circulation. The summary shall describe the content and purpose of the CP and must include a list of the locations where copies of the entire CP can be examined
- Make a reasonable amount of free draft copies available at the SCRPC office

- Post a link to the draft CP on social media
- Strive to e-mail County stakeholders indicating the draft CP is posted for review and comments

A concise summary of the participation process, public comments received in writing or orally at public hearings and responses to those comments, as well as comments or views not accepted, will be included in the final draft of the CP.

After the public comment period, the draft CP will be presented to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for consideration and formal action.

No less than 45 days before the start of the County's five-year program cycle, the Plan will be submitted to HUD, unless other guidance is provided by HUD.

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the draft or approved CP by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

Criteria for Amendments and Substantial Amendments

Pursuant to [24 CFR Section 91.505](#), the County shall amend its approved CP whenever it makes one of the following decisions:

- Makes a change in the allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds
- Carries out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the consolidated plan (including program income, reimbursements, repayment, recaptures, or reallocations from HUD), not previously described in the action plan
- Changes the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity

The County will treat amendments and substantial amendments equally and use the words interchangeably. Any dollar amount or any changes in the AP will be cause for an amendment. Edits to the CP that only update contact information or editorial changes for clarity will not be released to the public for review or comment.

In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Public Hearing Notices

The County will publish notices of public hearings, including times, dates and locations, striving for no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the hearing in one newspaper of general circulation. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Public Hearing

The County will present the draft amendment, in the form of a public hearing, before or during the thirty (30) day comment period. During this time, the draft amendment will be posted for review and written comment for thirty (30) days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Comments on the CP may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

Public Display and Comment Period

The County will present the draft amendment, in the form of a public hearing, before or during the thirty (30) day comment period. During this time, the draft amendment will be posted for review and written comment for thirty (30) days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Comments on the amendment may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

During the thirty (30) day public comment period, in order to afford its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine the draft amendment's content and to submit comments, the County shall:

- Publish a summary of the amendment in one newspaper of general circulation. The summary shall describe the content and purpose of the amendment and will include where the amendment can be examined
- Make a reasonable amount of free amendment copies available at the SCRCP office
- Post a link to the draft amendment on social media
- Strive to e-mail County stakeholders indicating the draft amendment is posted for review and comments

A concise summary of the participation process, public comments received in writing or orally at public hearings and responses to those comments, as well as comments or views not accepted, will be included in the final draft of the CP.

After the public comment period, the draft CP will be presented to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for consideration and formal action.

As technology improves, the County shall explore alternative public involvement techniques and quantitative ways to measure efforts that encourage citizen participation in a shared vision for change in communities and neighborhoods and the review of program performance.

In the event of a disaster, the public display and comment period to amend the CP shall be in accordance with guidance released by HUD.

Submission to HUD

Upon completion of the thirty (30) day comment period and formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the County shall make the amendment public and will notify HUD that an amendment has been made. A letter transmitting a copy of the amendment(s) will be signed by the President of the Board of Stark County Commissioners and will be forwarded by email or direct mail to the County's HUD CPD representative.

Amendment Access

The revised CP will be kept on file in the Community Development Department, 201 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, NE, Canton, Ohio 44702 and posted online at: www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the draft or approved CP amendment by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

V. Development of the Action Plan (AP)

Background

The annual Action Plan (AP) is a component of the Consolidated Plan (CP) and it describes the County's proposed use of CDBG and HOME funds available to address the priority needs and objectives indicated in the CP for each year of the year. The AP is the County's method for distributing funds to subrecipients and areas of the County to which it will direct assistance.

Plan Development

In the development of its AP, the County will follow, to the greatest extent feasible the following process and procedures indicated below.

Public Hearings

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.105(e)(1), the County shall hold at least two public hearings per year to obtain residents' views and to respond to proposals and questions, to be conducted at a minimum of two different stages of the program year. Together, the hearings shall address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, proposed strategies and actions for affirmatively furthering fair housing in addition to reviewing program performance. Per 105(e)(1), at least one of these hearings will be held before the proposed AP is published for comment.

The County will strive to hold hearings at times and locations convenient to potential and actual program beneficiaries and will accommodate individuals with disabilities and non-English speakers in accordance to this Plan. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

The public hearings conducted for Year one (1) AP may be conducted concurrently with the required public hearings for the five (5) year Consolidated Plan.

Display and Comment Period

The County will present the draft AP, in the form of a public hearing, before or during the thirty (30) day comment period. During this time, the draft AP will be posted for review and written comment for thirty (30) days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Comments on the AP may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

During the thirty (30) day public comment period, in order to afford its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine the AP's content and to submit comments, the County shall publish, in one newspaper of general circulation that includes:

- A brief summary of the draft AP
- Anticipated funding amounts (including PI and RLF if any)
- The dates of public display and comment period
- The locations where copies of the AP can be examined
- How comments will be accepted
- When the AP will be considered for formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners
- The submission date to HUD

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the draft or approved AP by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

Comments Received

Written comments will be accepted by the contacts indicated on page 1, above. The County will consider any comments or view made either in writing or orally at the public hearing or during the public comment period. In preparing the final AP, a summary of all feedback will be included, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and why shall be attached and submitted to HUD.

Submission to HUD

Upon completion of the thirty (30) day comment period and formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the AP will be submitted to HUD no less than 45 days before the start of the next program year. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

The AP will be kept on file in the Community Development Department, 201 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, NE, Canton, Ohio 44702.

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the AP by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

Amendments to the Action Plan

Pursuant to [24 CFR Section 91.505](#), the County shall amend its approved AP whenever it makes one of the following decisions:

- Makes a change in the allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds
- Carries out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the consolidated plan (including program income, reimbursements, repayment, recaptures, or reallocations from HUD), not previously described in the action plan
- Changes the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity

The County will treat amendments and substantial amendments equally and use the words interchangeably. Any dollar amount or any changes in the AP will be cause for an amendment. Edits to the CP that only update contact information or editorial changes for clarity will not be released to the public for review or comment.

In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Public Display and Comment Period - Amendments

The County will present the draft amendment, in the form of a public hearing, before or during the thirty (30) day comment period. During this time, the draft amendment will be posted for review and written comment for thirty (30) days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Comments on the amendment may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

During the thirty (30) day public comment period, in order to afford its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine the AP's content and to submit comments, the County shall publish, in one newspaper of general circulation that includes:

- A brief summary of the draft AP amendment
- Proposed funding amounts (including PI and RLF), if any
- The dates of public display and comment period
- The locations where copies of the draft amendment can be examined
- How comments will be accepted

- When the draft amendment will be considered for formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners
- The submission date to HUD

In the event of a disaster, the public display and comment period to amend the AP shall be in accordance with guidance released by HUD.

Submission to HUD

Upon completion of the thirty (30) day comment period and formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the County shall make the amendment public and will notify HUD that an amendment has been made. A letter transmitting a copy of the amendment(s) will be signed by the President of the Board of Stark County Commissioners and will be forwarded by email or direct mail to the County's HUD CPD representative.

Amendment Access

The draft and revised AP will be kept on file in the Community Development Department, 201 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, NE, Canton, Ohio 44702 and posted online at: www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the approved AP amendment by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

VI. Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Annually, the County will evaluate and report the accomplishments and expenditures of the previous program year for CDBG, HOME and any additional HUD funding in accordance with HUD requirements.

Public Hearing

The County will present the draft CAPER, in the form of one public hearing, before or during the 15-day comment period. During this time, the draft CAPER will be posted for review and written comment for 15 days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Comments on the CAPER may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

The County will strive to hold the hearing at a time and location convenient to potential and actual program beneficiaries and will accommodate individuals with disabilities and non-English speakers in accordance to this Plan. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Public Display and Comment Period

The draft CAPER will be placed on display for a period of no less than 15 days to encourage public comment and review. Public notice of the display and comment period will be published in one newspaper of general circulation before the comment period begins. The public notice shall include:

- A brief summary of the CAPERs purpose
- The amount of total expenditures
- A summary of the program performance
- The dates of public display and comment period
- The locations where copies of the draft amendment can be examined
- How comments will be accepted
- When the CAPER will be considered for formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners
- The submission date to HUD

Comments Received

Written comments will be accepted by the contacts indicated on page 1, above. The County will consider any comments or view made either in writing or orally at the public hearing or during the public comment period. In preparing the final CAPER, a summary of all feedback will be included, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and why shall be attached and submitted to HUD.

Submission to HUD

The County will be submitted to HUD within 90 days following the end of the County's annual program year. In the event of a disaster the County will follow guidance issued by HUD

CAPER Access

The draft and final CAPER will be kept on file in the Community Development Department, 201 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, NE, Canton, Ohio 44702 and posted online at: www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the CAPER by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

VII. Complaints

Interested parties may register a complaint regarding any aspect of the CDBG or HOME programs by contacting the individuals indicated on page 1, above. All complaints must be in writing. If a person is unable to provide the complaint in writing for any reason, assistance may be provided. Complaints need to include the resident's name, address, daytime telephone number, if applicable, an email address.

All written complaints will receive a timely written response within fifteen (15) business days of receipt. If staff is unable to be compliant with the fifteen (15) day period, the complainant will be notified of an approximate date a response will be provided.

Attachment 7

Stark County resale and capture policy

Resale and Recapture

Resale and recapture are applicable to homebuyer projects. HOME regulations at [24 CFR 92.254](#) state PJs must impose either resale or recapture requirement on each unit at the time assistance is provided.

DEFINITIONS

Affordable housing: to qualifying under the HOME statute, housing must be single-family modest housing, be acquired by a low-income family as its principal residence and meet affordability requirements for a specific period of time as determined by the amount of assistance provided.

Affordability period: the amount of time a unit must be occupied by a low-income family.

Capital improvements: actual, documented costs of permanent structural improvements or restoration that enhance the property value, increase the useful life of the property, or allow for a new use. Capital improvements generally consist of non-recurring expenses. For example, remodel, renovation, and/or an addition.

Development subsidy: amount of HOME assistance used to develop the unit. In this instance, HOME dollars are not used to lower the purchase price from fair market value to an affordable price but are used to offset the development cost of the home. When used alone and not in conjunction with a direct subsidy, this triggers resale.

Direct subsidy: amount of HOME assistance, including any program income, that enable the homebuyer to buy the unit. This can include down payment assistance, closing cost, interest subsidy or other direct assistance to the homebuyer. Direct subsidy includes any assistance that reduces the purchase price from fair market value to an affordable price. This method triggers recapture.

Net proceeds: the sales price minus superior loan payment (other than HOME funds) and any closing costs.

Period of Affordability

Resale: The HOME rule at 24 CFR 92.254 states the period of affordability for resale is based on the total amount of HOME funds invested in the housing. Any HOME program income used to assist the project is included when determining the period of affordability.

Recapture: Under recapture, the period of affordability is based upon the direct HOME subsidy provided to the homebuyer that enabled the homebuyer to purchase the unit. Any HOME program income used to provide direct assistance to the homebuyer is included when determining the period of affordability.

Total HOME investment	Affordability period
Under \$15,000	5 years
\$15,000 - \$40,000	10 years
>\$40,000	15 years

Resale

The County's resale provisions shall ensure that when a HOME-assisted homebuyer sells their property, either voluntarily or involuntarily, during the affordability period:

1. The property is sold to another low-income homebuyer who will use the property as his or her principal residence;
2. The original homebuyer receives a fair return on investment, (i.e., the homebuyer's down payment plus capital improvements made to the house); and
3. The property is sold at a price that is "affordable to a reasonable range of low-income buyers."

Applicability

In instances where Stark County HOME funds are provided in the form of a development subsidy only (without any direct subsidy to the homebuyer), resale will be applied. In the event the County provides both a development and a direct subsidy, recapture will be used.

Ensuring Affordability

The HOME Regulations at 24 CFR 92.254 require that all HOME-assisted homebuyer housing be acquired by an eligible low-income family and the housing must be the principal residence of the family throughout the period of affordability. If the housing is transferred, it must be made available for subsequent purchase only to a low-income buyer who will also use the property as its principal residence. The home must remain affordable for the duration of the period of affordability.

Fair Return on Investment

The County will ensure that if the property is sold during the period of affordability, the price at resale provides the original HOME-assisted buyer a fair return on investment, inclusive of the original home buyers initial investment and any capital improvements. The County defines capital improvements as actual, documented costs of permanent structural improvements or restoration that enhance the property value, increase the useful life of the property, or allow for a new use. To be considered by the County in the determination of fair return on investment, documentation of actual capital improvement costs must be provided. The County will utilize the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to determine the change in percentage prices over the period of ownership to determine fair return on investment. The price at time of the original purchase and at resale will be examined. This CPI [data](#) will be used. As an alternative, the County will also accept a property appraisal completed by a Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser to determine a fair return on investment.

Affordability

The County's resale provisions must also ensure that the housing sold under the affordability period remains affordable to a reasonable range of low-income buyers. The County defines "affordable to a reasonable range of low-income buyers" as a family who falls within the

current 50-80% AMI limit and pays no more than 30% of their income for principal, interest, property taxes and insurance.

The County's maximum resale price cannot exceed the HOME and Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Homeownership Sales Price Limits, for Stark County for the current year for a one-unit, new home price. Current limit can be found here: [HUD Exchange](#).

In the event the resale price to provide a fair return on investment is not affordable to subsequent low-income homebuyers, the County will provide additional HOME assistance to the new low-income buyer in order ensure the price is affordable to the new buyer and the original owner gets a fair return on investment. In such situations, recapture provisions would be applicable.

Enforcement

Clear, written agreements that comply with the regulations at 24 CFR 92.504 will be executed with the subrecipient and buyer before or at the time of sale. Mortgage and lien documents will be used to secure repayment of the HOME subsidy. Separately recorded deed restrictions, covenants running with the land, or other similar mechanisms as determined appropriate by RPC and/or the County's legal counsel will be used to impose the resale requirements at 24 CFR 92.254.

Noncompliance

Noncompliance is defined as:

1. The original HOME-assisted homebuyer no longer occupies the unit as his or her principal residence (unit is rented or vacant) or;
- 2) The home was sold during the period of affordability and the applicable resale or recapture provisions were not enforced.

In the case of noncompliance, the County must repay its HOME investment in accordance with 24 CFR 92.503(b). The amount subject to repayment is the total amount of HOME funds invested in the housing (i.e., any HOME development subsidy to the developer plus any HOME down payment or other assistance (e.g., closing costs) provided to the homebuyer) minus any HOME funds already repaid (i.e., payment of principal on a HOME loan). Any interest paid on the loan is considered program income and cannot be counted against the outstanding HOME investment amount. The County must repay the HOME investment in accordance with §92.503(b)(3) whether or not it is able to recover any portion of the HOME investment from the noncompliant homebuyer.

Foreclosure

In HOME-assisted homebuyer projects, the County will ensure affordability restrictions by deed restrictions, covenants running with the land, or other similar mechanisms which may terminate upon foreclosure, transfer in lieu of foreclosure or assignment of an FHA insured mortgage to HUD. The County may use purchase options, rights of first refusal or other preemptive rights to purchase the housing before foreclosure to preserve affordability. The

affordability restrictions must be revived according to the original terms if, during the original affordability period, the owner of record before the termination event, obtains an ownership interest in the housing.

The termination of the affordability restrictions in the event of foreclosure, transfer in lieu of foreclosure or assignment of an FHA insured mortgage to HUD, does not satisfy the requirement that the property remains qualified as affordable housing under 24 CFR 92.254 for the period of affordability.

If the affordability is not preserved by a subsequent purchase at a reasonable price by a low-income homebuyer who will use the property as its principal residence, and who agrees to assume the remainder of the original affordability period, the County must repay the HOME investment.

Recapture

The County's recapture provisions state that if the original homebuyer sells the property to any willing buyer during the period of affordability at a price the market will bear, the County will recapture all or a portion of the HOME-assistance provided to the original homebuyer.

Applicability

In instances where Stark County HOME funds are provided in the form of a direct subsidy to the homebuyer, recapture will be applied. As mentioned previously, direct subsidy includes HOME assistance, including any program income, that enabled the homebuyer to buy the unit. This can include down payment assistance, closing cost, interest subsidy or other direct assistance to the homebuyer. Direct subsidy includes any assistance that reduced the purchase price from fair market value to an affordable price. Recapture requires that all or a portion of the direct subsidy provided be captured from the net proceeds of the sale. The County cannot recapture more than is available from the net proceeds of the sale.

Ensuring Affordability

Under recapture, the original HOME-assisted buyer is not required to sell the unit to another low-income buyer. Recapture will be enforced if the original homebuyer transfers the property, whether voluntarily or involuntarily during the period of affordability. The County will then recover, from available net proceeds all or portion of the HOME assistance provided.

Recapture Method

In the event recapture is triggered, the County will share the net proceeds with the original homebuyer, up to the amount of the original HOME investment that was provided to the original homebuyer.

The following calculation will be used to determine the amount of net process that will be returned to the County:

Divide direct HOME subsidy by the sum of the direct HOME subsidy and the homebuyer's investment, then multiply by the net proceeds. The total will be the HOME investment return to the County.

$$\frac{\text{Direct HOME Subsidy}}{\text{Direct HOME Subsidy} + \text{Homebuyer Investment}} \times \text{Net Proceeds} = \text{HOME Recapture}$$

The following calculation will be used to determine the amount of net proceeds that will be returned to the homebuyer:

Divide the homebuyer's investment by the sum of the direct HOME subsidy and the homebuyer's investment, then Multiply by the net proceeds. The total will be the HOME investment return to the homebuyer.

$$\frac{\text{Homebuyer Investment}}{\text{Direct HOME Subsidy} + \text{Homebuyer Investment}} \times \text{Net Proceeds} = \text{Amount to Homebuyer}$$

Enforcement

Clear, written agreements that comply with the regulations at 24 CFR 92.504 will be executed with the subrecipient and buyer before or at the time of sale. Mortgage and lien documents will be used to secure repayment of the HOME subsidy. Separately recorded deed restrictions, covenants running with the land, or other similar mechanisms as determined appropriate by RPC and/or the County's legal counsel may be used to enforce the affordability period and notification of the transfer of the property.

Noncompliance

Noncompliance is defined as:

1. The original HOME-assisted homebuyer no longer occupies the unit as his or her principal residence (unit is rented or vacant) or;
- 2) The home was sold during the period of affordability and the applicable resale or recapture provisions were not enforced.

In the case of noncompliance, the County must repay is HOME investment in accordance with 24 CFR 92.503(b). The amount subject to repayment is the total amount of HOME funds invested in the housing (i.e., any HOME development subsidy to the developer plus any HOME down payment or other assistance (e.g., closing costs) provided to the homebuyer) minus any HOME funds already repaid (i.e., payment of principal on a HOME loan). Any interest paid on the loan is considered program income and cannot be counted against the outstanding HOME investment amount. The County must repay the HOME investment in accordance with §92.503(b)(3) whether or not it is able to recover any portion of the HOME investment from the noncompliant homebuyer. Noncompliance with principal residency requirements by a homebuyer under a recapture provision is not a transfer. Consequently, the amount the County must repay is not subject to prorated or other reductions included in its recapture provisions.

Foreclosure

In HOME-assisted homebuyer projects, the County will ensure affordability restrictions by deed restrictions, covenants running with the land, or other similar mechanisms which may terminate upon foreclosure, transfer in lieu of foreclosure or assignment of an FHA insured mortgage to HUD. The County may use purchase options, rights of first refusal or other preemptive rights to purchase the housing before foreclosure to preserve affordability. The affordability restrictions must be revived according to the original terms if, during the original affordability period, the owner of record before the termination event, obtains an ownership interest in the housing.

The termination of the affordability restrictions in the event of foreclosure, transfer in lieu of foreclosure or assignment of an FHA insured mortgage to HUD, does not satisfy the requirement that the property remains qualified as affordable housing under 24 CFR 92.254 for the period of affordability.

Homebuyer housing with a recapture agreement is not subject to the affordability requirements after the County has recaptured the HOME funds in accordance with the written agreement. If the ownership of the housing is conveyed pursuant to a foreclosure or other involuntary sale, the County must attempt to recoup any net proceeds that may be available through the foreclosure sale. Because all recapture provisions must be limited to net proceeds, the County's repayment obligation is limited to the amount of the HOME subsidy, if any, that it is able to recover.

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

*** If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):**

*** Other (Specify):**

*** 3. Date Received:**

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

B-24-UC-39-0005

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

*** a. Legal Name:**

Board of Stark County Commissioners

*** b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):**

346002718

*** c. UEI:**

TF1MTFVU7MF4

d. Address:

*** Street1:**

110 Central Plaza South Suite 240

Street2:

*** City:**

Canton

County/Parish:

*** State:**

OH: Ohio

Province:

*** Country:**

USA: UNITED STATES

*** Zip / Postal Code:**

44702-1211

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Ms.

*** First Name:**

Diane

Middle Name:

*** Last Name:**

Sheridan

Suffix:

Title:

Chief of Community Development

Organizational Affiliation:

*** Telephone Number:**

330-451-7031

Fax Number:

*** Email:**

dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

B: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.218

CFDA Title:

Community Development Block Grant

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

14.218

* Title:

Community Development Block Grant FY 2024

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

FY 2024 funding for the CDBG program. Activities will include administration, planning, public service activities, housing rehabilitation and infrastructure/ public facility improvements.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

* b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	1,381,443.00
* b. Applicant	0.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	0.00
* f. Program Income	3,000.00
* g. TOTAL	1,384,443.00

* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?

- ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:

* First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title:

* Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

* Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

* Date Signed:

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- ☐ Preapplication
☐ Application
☒ Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- ☐ New
☐ Continuation
☒ Revision

*** If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):**

E: Other (specify)

*** Other (Specify):**

Rounding issue

*** 3. Date Received:**

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

M-24-DC-39-0204

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

*** a. Legal Name:** Board of Stark County Commissioners

*** b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):**

346002718

*** c. UEI:**

TF1MTFVU7MF4

d. Address:

*** Street1:** 110 Central Plaza South Suite 240

Street2:

*** City:** Canton

County/Parish:

*** State:** OH: Ohio

Province:

*** Country:** USA: UNITED STATES

*** Zip / Postal Code:** 44702-1211

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Ms.

*** First Name:**

Diane

Middle Name:

*** Last Name:**

Sheridan

Suffix:

Title: Chief of Community Development

Organizational Affiliation:

*** Telephone Number:** 330-451-7031

Fax Number:

*** Email:** dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

B: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.239

CFDA Title:

Home Investment Partnership Program

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

14.239

* Title:

Home Investment Partnership Program FY 2024

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

FY 2024 funding for the HOME program. Activities will include administration, housing rehabilitation throughout the Consortium and new construction of single- family homes.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:**

* a. Applicant

6, 13

* b. Program/Project

6, 13

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

07/01/2024

* b. End Date:

06/30/2025

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	845,221.58
* b. Applicant	0.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	0.00
* f. Program Income	25,000.00
* g. TOTAL	870,221.58

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:

* First Name:

Janet

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Weir Creighton

Suffix:

* Title:

President, Board of Stark County Commissioners

* Telephone Number:

330-451-7376

Fax Number:

* Email:

jwcreighton@starkcountyohio.gov

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

* Date Signed:

7-3-2024

CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the consolidated plan regulations, the jurisdiction certifies that:

Affirmatively Further Fair Housing --The jurisdiction will affirmatively further fair housing.

Uniform Relocation Act and Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan -- It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4601-4655) and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24. It has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan required under 24 CFR Part 42 in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the Community Development Block Grant or HOME programs.

Anti-Lobbying --To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and
3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Authority of Jurisdiction --The consolidated plan is authorized under State and local law (as applicable) and the jurisdiction possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations.

Consistency with plan --The housing activities to be undertaken with Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant, and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS funds are consistent with the strategic plan in the jurisdiction's consolidated plan.

Section 3 -- It will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 75.



Signature of Authorized Official

5-22-2024

Date

President, Board of Stark County Commissioners
Title

Specific Community Development Block Grant Certifications

The Entitlement Community certifies that:

Citizen Participation -- It is in full compliance and following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105.

Community Development Plan -- Its consolidated plan identifies community development and housing needs and specifies both short-term and long-term community development objectives that have been developed in accordance with the primary objective of the CDBG program (i.e., the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and expanding economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low and moderate income) and requirements of 24 CFR Parts 91 and 570.

Following a Plan -- It is following a current consolidated plan that has been approved by HUD.

Use of Funds -- It has complied with the following criteria:

1. Maximum Feasible Priority. With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG funds, it has developed its Action Plan so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low- and moderate-income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The Action Plan may also include CDBG-assisted activities which the grantee certifies are designed to meet other community development needs having particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available (see Optional CDBG Certification).

2. Overall Benefit. The aggregate use of CDBG funds, including Section 108 guaranteed loans, during program year(s) 2024 [a period specified by the grantee of one, two, or three specific consecutive program years], shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period.

3. Special Assessments. It will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds, including Section 108 loan guaranteed funds, by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements.

However, if CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of a fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of public improvements (assisted in part with CDBG funds) financed from other revenue sources, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds.

In addition, in the case of properties owned and occupied by moderate-income (not low-income) families, an assessment or charge may be made against the property for public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds if the jurisdiction certifies that it lacks CDBG funds to cover the assessment.

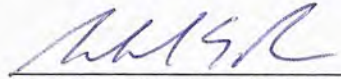
Excessive Force -- It has adopted and is enforcing:

1. A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and
2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

Compliance with Anti-discrimination laws -- The grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-3619) and implementing regulations.

Lead-Based Paint -- Its activities concerning lead-based paint will comply with the requirements of 24 CFR Part 35, Subparts A, B, J, K and R.

Compliance with Laws -- It will comply with applicable laws.



Signature of Authorized Official

6-22-2024
Date



President, Board of Stark County Commissioners
Title

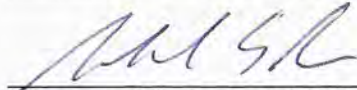
Specific HOME Certifications

The HOME participating jurisdiction certifies that:

Tenant Based Rental Assistance -- If it plans to provide tenant-based rental assistance, the tenant-based rental assistance is an essential element of its consolidated plan.

Eligible Activities and Costs -- It is using and will use HOME funds for eligible activities and costs, as described in 24 CFR §§92.205 through 92.209 and that it is not using and will not use HOME funds for prohibited activities, as described in §92.214.

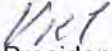
Subsidy layering -- Before committing any funds to a project, it will evaluate the project in accordance with the guidelines that it adopts for this purpose and will not invest any more HOME funds in combination with other Federal assistance than is necessary to provide affordable housing;



Signature of Authorized Official

5-22-2024

Date



President, Board of Stark County Commissioners

Title

APPENDIX TO CERTIFICATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING LOBBYING CERTIFICATION:

Lobbying Certification

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

FY 2024 Community Development Block Grant

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009

Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE <i>WIC</i>
	President
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
Board of Stark County Commissioners	5-22-2024

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009

Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

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SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE <i>VP</i>
	President
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
Board of Stark County Commissioners	5-22-2024