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Stark County, Ohio

FY2026

Annual Action Plan

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Commissioners
Richard Regula
Bill Smith
Alan Harold

Projects, activities and funding amounts are subject to change based upon actual program allocations and approval by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The Consolidated Plan covers various programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships program (HOME). Stark County is an Urban County under the CDBG program and a Designated Consortium under the HOME program. The County receives direct allocations of funding for both programs. This one-year action plan is the third year of the FY2024-2028 Consolidated Plan, making it the FY2026 Annual Action Plan. It summarizes the activities the County will undertake utilizing CDBG and HOME funding.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

In preparing this Action Plan, the County addressed needs meeting one of the three national objectives of the CDBG program: benefit low-to moderate-income persons (LMI), elimination of slum and blighted conditions or meet an urgent community need. Specific goals, objectives and outcomes include preservation of affordable housing and providing targeted public services for persons that are LMI.

3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

The projects chosen for funding this program year must meet one of the three National Objectives.

Generally, the County has success with public service, public improvements and infrastructure projects and housing rehabilitation. The County evaluates all applications for meeting national objective and eligibility criteria before choosing projects.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The public was notified throughout the year of all public meetings and hearings which are outlined in section AP-12. An ad was published in a newspaper of general circulation on February 18, 2026 that informed the public of the two public hearings that were held for the development of this annual Action Plan. The public hearings were held at different times and locations in an attempt to maximize public participation. The public hearing dates were March 3, 2026 and March 10, 2026.

5. Summary of public comments

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

The 30-day comment period began March 3, 2026 and ended April 2, 2026.

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

7. Summary

Section AP-12 provides a list of consultations held during the year. The encouragement and opportunity for public involvement is described in the attached Stark County Citizen Participation Plan.

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

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

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 Board of Stark County Commissioners is the recipient of the County's CDBG funds and is the lead entity for the HOME Consortium. Consortia members include the cities of Alliance and Massillon. The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is under contract with the Board of Stark County Commissioners for the administration of the CDBG and HOME programs.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

SCRPC is the contact for the Stark County Consolidated Plan.

AP-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

SCRPC conducts active outreach and encourages participation from various entities, organizations and providers as robust consultation and public participation aids in the development of strong and effective plans that meet the needs of the County. Stark County entities such as Stark County Emergency Management Agency, Stark County Building Department, Stark Soil and Water Conservation District, the Stark County Subdivision Engineer and Stark County Park District are encouraged to participate in the development of the annual plan as they are tasked with things such as emergency management, floodplain management, public land and water resources.

In times of emergency, (i.e. floods, natural disasters, hazard mitigation, etc.) Stark County Emergency Management Agency ensures coordination of resources. The Stark County Building Department serves as the County floodplain manager and assists in addressing flood prone areas. The Stark County Subdivision Engineer, an employee of SCRPC, oversees the County's stormwater management plan and Stark Soil and Water Conservation District is involved with stormwater management. Stark County Park District is the entity responsible for managing 15 parks and nearly 6,800 acres of land throughout Stark County. The Stark County Park District maintains representation on several SCRPC committees such as SCATS, TAC and NRAC.

Stark County is a member of the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO). The Executive Director of SCRPC is on NEFCO's Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDs). NEFCO's projects and studies such as the 208 Clean Water Plan and failing HSTS plan assist in planning and targeting resources. Updated 208 information can be found [here](#).

Additionally, input is encouraged by local broadband providers and organizations who are involved in narrowing the digital divide. According to the most recent FCC broadband data, all areas of Stark County have fixed broadband access although data indicates that pockets of SE Stark County have lower coverage. Stark County has 100% mobile broadband coverage. It is anticipated that Stark County could benefit from a large infrastructure project included as part of the State of Ohio's operating budget. \$20 million is available over two years to expand broadband high-speed internet connections throughout the State along Route 30 which is anticipated to impact 14 counties overall, including portions of Stark (story in the Canton Repository). Further, a community survey was disbursed during the development of the 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan in which respondents reported that access to broadband was a medium-to-high-need activity. To address digital need, Stark County applied for and was a recipient of Healthy Aging funds through the Ohio Department of Aging and as a result, assisted 302 Stark County seniors with internet access and/or digital literacy.

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)).

To enhance coordination among providers, health, mental health and service agencies, SCRPC held one-on-one meetings with providers to educate entities about Stark County CDBG and HOME funding. All meetings are listed in AP-12. An extensive listserv contains several hundred recipients who receive notification of workshops and meetings. SCRPC maintains close working relationships with the cities of Alliance, Canton and Massillon and the Stark Housing Network Inc. (SHN) to strengthen coordination and collaboration.

Throughout 2025, SCRPC participated in various committees and planning meetings for Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority’s Choice Neighborhoods plan.

Discussions were held between SCRPC, Stark County Sanitary Engineer and Stark County Health Department to strategize a method for residential sewer connections.

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.

Stark Housing Network Inc. (SHN) serves as the Collaborative Applicant for the Continuum of Care (CoC) operating as the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC: OH-508). SHN coordinates 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. SHN has the most current data regarding homelessness in the County and was able to provide valuable expertise.

In the next program year, SCRPC plans to continue to work closely with the CoC throughout implementation of the County’s HOME-ARP activities.

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

The city of Canton is the only ESG recipient in Stark County. The city of Canton contracts with SHN for administration of ESG funds.

2. Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and consultations

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority was consulted to provide current information on public housing and its future plans for section AP-60 of this action plan.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Stark Housing Network Inc
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Stark Housing Network Inc. was consulted to provide information on homelessness and other special needs activities for future plans. Stark Housing Network also contributed current information in section AP-35 of this plan.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	STARK COUNTY FAIR HOUSING
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing Other government - Local Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Fair Housing

Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Stark County Fair Housing department was consulted to provide information on barriers to affordable housing, housing discrimination and other information in section AP-75.
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

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	

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

AP-12 Participation - 91.401, 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Meeting with local non-profit	Non-targeted/broad community	Community Development staff met with a local non-profit, En-richment, to discuss potential CDBG projects on 2/28/2025.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
2	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Notification of the FY 2026-2028 CDBG workshop was emailed to community stakeholders on 7/10/2025.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	The virtual FY 2026-2028 CDBG application workshop was held on 8/8/2025. The session had more than 45 attendees from various organizations.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
4	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Notification of the FY 2026 HOME application workshop was emailed to community stakeholders on 9/3/2025.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
5	Meeting with local non-profit	Non-targeted/broad community	On 9/17/2025, community Development staff had a conference call with a local non-profit, Hammer & Nails, to discuss potential partnership utilizing CDBG.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
6	Meeting with local non-profit	Non-targeted/broad community	Community Development staff had a conference call with a local non-profit, YWCA Canton, to discuss potential HOME projects on 9/19/2025.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
7	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	The virtual FY 2026 HOME application workshop was held 10/3/2025. More than 10 representatives from various organizations were in attendance.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
8	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Notification of the proposed FY 2026-2028 CDBG and FY 2026 HOME budgets with information on the upcoming public hearings was published in the Canton Repository on 2/18/2026.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
9	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	A public hearing was held on 3/3/2026 in which the proposed FY 2026-2028 CDBG and FY 2026 HOME budgets were presented to the RPC Board.			

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
10	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	The Board of Stark County Commissioners held a public hearing on 3/10/2026 in which the proposed FY 2026-2028 CDBG and FY 2028 HOME budgets were presented.			

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

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

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members receive a direct allocation of ESG funds.

Anticipated Resources

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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	1,396,925.00	7,500.00	18,332.35	1,422,757.35	2,877,250.00	It is expected that through the remainder of the ConPlan, the County will receive an anticipated annual allocation of \$1,396,925.00 and receive \$15,000.00 in program income. The County's current housing rehabilitation revolving loan fund (RLF) is included in the calculation for the amount available for the remainder of the Con Plan. The current RLF balance is approximately \$68,000.00. The figure listed in the program income box is the anticipated program income to be received throughout this program year. Prior year resources are prior year funds that are being reallocated to activities.

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	807,395.35	25,000.00	123,516.25	955,911.60	1,664,790.70	It is expected that through the remainder of the ConPlan, the County will receive an anticipated annual allocation of \$807,395.35 and receive \$50,000.00 in program income. The figure listed in the program income box is the anticipated program income to be received throughout this program year. Prior year resources is prior year program income that will be used for land acquisition, new construction and/or housing rehabilitation.

Table 2 - 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. 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

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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: \$1,100,911.05 HOME: \$705,546.51	Homeowner Housing Added: 2 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 58 Household Housing Unit
2	Public Services	2024	2028	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Public Services	CDBG: \$134,500.00 HOME: \$.00	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 555 Persons Assisted
3	Homeless Assistance	2024	2028	Homeless	County-wide	Homeless Assistance Public Services	CDBG: \$44,320.00 HOME: \$.00	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 300 Persons Assisted
4	Administration and Planning	2024	2028	Administration and Planning		Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$204,000.00 HOME: \$80,739.54	

Table 3 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	Affordable housing activities include single-family housing rehabilitation, housing rehab administration and new construction of two single-family units. The funding allocated above for this strategic plan goal includes 2026 CDBG and HOME entitlement funds, CDBG housing rehabilitation revolving loan funds, reallocation of prior year CDBG funds and HOME prior year program income.
2	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	Public service activities shall include Fair Housing, Stark County Health Department, Early Childhood Resource Center's SPARK program and Stark Mental Health and Addiction Recovery.
3	Goal Name	Homeless Assistance
	Goal Description	Homeless assistance activities shall consist of Alliance for Children & Families and CommQuest Services, Inc.
4	Goal Name	Administration and Planning
	Goal Description	Overall administration and planning for both the CDBG and HOME programs to ensure compliance with HUD regulations.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

The County utilizes a three-year funding cycle for CDBG infrastructure and public facility projects. Applications are solicited and received annually, helping to develop a three-year cycle for potential projects. Applications for FY26-FY28 were accepted during the Fall of 2025. CDBG applications were reviewed by staff and a Review Committee to arrive at an average score for each.

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

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Administration
2	Housing Rehabilitation Administration
3	Housing Rehabilitation
4	Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence
5	CommQuest Services Inc. - Family Living Center
6	Early Childhood Resource Center - SPARK
7	Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery - Coordinated Entry System
8	Stark County Health Department - Harm Reduction+
9	Stark County Fair Housing
10	HOME Administration
11	CHDO Set-Aside
12	Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio - 2026 New Construction

Table 4 – 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. The 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

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1	Project Name	CDBG Administration
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$204,000.00
	Description	To provide the administration of the CDBG program for Stark County.
	Target Date	6/30/2028
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	This will serve residents County-wide.
	Planned Activities	Day-to-day administration and oversight of the CDBG program and its work elements.
2	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation Administration
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$312,000.00
	Description	Provide staffing for the housing rehabilitation program and miscellaneous soft costs associated with projects, including but not limited to location surveys, title work, credit reports, pest inspections and program marketing.
	Target Date	6/30/2028
	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.
3	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing

	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$720,437.35 HOME: \$605,546.51
	Description	Housing rehabilitation costs for LMI owner-occupied households within Stark County. The budget for this program is from both the CDBG and HOME programs.
	Target Date	6/30/2030
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 58 LMI households will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Housing rehabilitation projects will be scattered throughout the balance of the County in eligible participating jurisdictions, including areas of the HOME Consortium.
	Planned Activities	Zero percent interest loans or grants for eligible LMI owner-occupied households.
4	Project Name	Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services Homeless Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Assistance
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,320.00
	Description	Provision of housing/essential support services provided by the Case Manager at the Alliance Emergency Residence, a homeless shelter, in the city of Alliance.
	Target Date	6/30/2027
	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 support the Case Manager's salary. The Case Manager provides direct services to the clients inclusive of one-on-one case management, shelter intakes and referrals to community resources.

5	Project Name	CommQuest Services Inc. - Family Living Center
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services Homeless Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Assistance
	Funding	CDBG: \$24,000.00
	Description	Provision of housing/essential support services provided by the Case Manager at the Family Living Center, a homeless shelter, in the city of Massillon.
	Target Date	6/30/2027
	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 for partial salary of the Case Manager.
6	Project Name	Early Childhood Resource Center - SPARK
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000.00
	Description	Funding will be utilized to support staff costs and program materials.
	Target Date	6/30/2027
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 105 LMI persons will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	This activity will serve families in the Perry Local, Sandy Valley Local and Minerva Local school districts.

	Planned Activities	The proposed activity will provide free kindergarten readiness programming to families. SPARK programming includes a home visitor, books, activity cards and educational supplies.
7	Project Name	Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery - Coordinated Entry System
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000.00
	Description	Funding will be utilized to fund personnel expenses associated with the Coordinated Entry System of the Stark County Homeless Hotline.
	Target Date	6/30/2027
	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 will benefit Stark County residents.
8	Planned Activities	Activities performed by personnel associated with the Coordinated Entry System of the Stark County Homeless Hotline include 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.
	Project Name	Stark County Health Department - Harm Reduction+
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$32,500.00
	Description	Funding will be utilized for personnel and medical supplies to support Health Mobile outreach events.
	Target Date	6/30/2027
	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 will benefit Stark County residents.
	Planned Activities	Activities performed by qualified Health Department staff include overdose education as well as various health screenings such as A1C, blood pressure checks, hearing and vision screens and BMI calculation.
9	Project Name	Stark County Fair Housing
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$42,000.00
	Description	Provision of fair housing services to all residents of Stark County's CDBG participating jurisdictions.
	Target Date	6/30/2027
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 150 LMI persons will benefit from this public service 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 Stark County residents.
10	Project Name	HOME Administration
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	HOME: \$80,739.54
	Description	Administration of the Consortium's HOME program.
	Target Date	6/30/2028
	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.
11	Project Name	CHDO Set-Aside
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$121,109.30
	Description	Funds will be set-aside for anticipated future CHDO projects.
	Target Date	6/30/2030
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	To be determined.
	Location Description	To be determined.
	Planned Activities	Funds will be utilized for future project(s).
12	Project Name	Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio - 2026 New Construction
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$100,000.00
	Description	Funding will be utilized for construction of two single-family units. Funding will come from prior year program income.
	Target Date	10/31/2028
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Two LMI families are proposed to benefit from the activities.
	Location Description	The project sites are vacant residential lots in the city of Massillon.
	Planned Activities	Activity will consist of construction of two single-family homes in the city of Massillon by the developer, Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio. The units will provide long-term affordable housing for LMI homeowners.

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 FY2026 shall be met through eligible activities such as housing rehabilitation and new construction of affordable single-family housing.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
County-wide	

Table 5 - 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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	60
Special-Needs	0
Total	60

Table 6 - 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	2
Rehab of Existing Units	58
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	60

Table 7 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

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

Introduction

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

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

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

The PHA is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

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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 people experiencing homelessness in the jurisdiction is coordinated by the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (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 rolling out in September 2014 and continues to evolve based on the guidance provided by HUD and community need. The system establishes protocols for reaching out to people 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 additional outreach for persons who do not meet the PATH eligibility criteria is provided by the same agency through a Street Outreach project funded through Emergency Solutions Grant awards. ICAN's outreach staff and other service agencies across the county immediately connect people experiencing homelessness with Homeless Navigation. During the call with Homeless Navigation, people who are experiencing or are at-risk of homelessness are assisted with alternatives whenever possible to identify other resources and to solve problems 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, Homeless Navigation completes a screening to determine severity of need and prioritization on the referral lists for shelter. Those who are in a current state of chronic homelessness, with the highest scores, are assisted with entry into available shelter openings first. If after 7 days, the household would like to be considered for housing resources, the household contacts Homeless Navigation to complete the Housing Assistance Screening and Prioritization (HASP) screening. Once homeless navigation completes the screening the household is placed in a housing applicant pool and 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, households who are at the top of the By-Names 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. In 2024, the Coordinated

Entry System underwent an assessment by an outside consultant to identify areas for improvement. The first focus area was based on the screening tool and moving to a phased screening process to reduce the number of questions and time it takes to gain access to a shelter and allow for more diversion related housing problem solving conversations prior to screening a household for literally homeless housing resources such as rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing. Through this process, the HASP screening tool was created and implemented.

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission partners with the Stark Housing Network Inc. (the county's collaborative applicant for CoC funding) to provide an annual update on the status of homelessness and the programs to address it throughout the county.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Stark County's strategy for addressing the emergency shelter needs of homeless people 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, Housing Choice Vouchers 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 support which will be necessary for the household to gain stability in maintaining their housing long term. Case workers at all shelters and outreach programs work to link households 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 people experiencing homelessness from 2024 to 2025 in the Point-in-Time Count data. The total number of people experiencing homelessness rose from 330 to 375. The total number of the sheltered homeless subpopulation increased from 265 to 274 and the number of the unsheltered subpopulation increased from 65 to 101.

The efficacy of the Coordinated Entry System has allowed people to become quickly housed and receive assistance with much more rapidity. With the use of the screening tool, a natural diversion process occurs because the Homeless Navigation Specialists can have a conversation with the caller to provide a truly accurate assessment of the need. This diversion process is the way in which households are diverted into areas of the most appropriate intervention 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 by assessing gaps, analyzing current procedures, and recommending strategies. 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 people who experience a housing crisis in Stark County. The System Model process identified needs and gaps and

investigated how existing resources could be more efficiently deployed to address household needs. System Modeling identified Stark County's greatest need is permanent supportive housing. Based on the System Modeling that was completed in the fall of 2023, Stark County has a gap of 118 beds/service slots for individuals needing permanent supportive housing. This need is followed by a gap of 51 service slots for homeless prevention/diversion. The HCCSC regularly reviews system performance and identified a consistent increase of households seeking emergency shelter from 2024-2025. Additional resources were then identified and implemented to add a winter overflow shelter, services at a winter overflow warming shelters, shallow subsidies to prevent shelter entry or facilitate exits and a winter family unsheltered response program to provide additional outreach to families with children and supports such as hotel stays, food, basic needs and transportation assistance when necessary.

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 HUD Chronic Homelessness Documentation Checklist 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.

The 2025 Point-in-Time Count revealed a decrease from the 2024 count from 11 to 10 unaccompanied homeless youth. There were no youth under 18 that 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. HCCSC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Stark County Educational Service Center to be aware of the number of youths experiencing homelessness in local school districts and to share information and resources. Homeless Education Liaisons from the local school districts are invited to quarterly meetings through a Homelessness Learning Community to share information and learn about new and existing programs in the community to support youth experiencing homelessness. The

Education Service Center worked directly with Stark County school districts to complete a school-based count of students experiencing homelessness during the time of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (PIT). While the PIT completed by the HCCSC/CoC counts individuals and families experiencing literal homelessness, the count conducted by the Education Service Center was based on the homeless definition according to the McKinney-Vento Act which is a broader definition including shared housing situations. According to the Education Service Center's count, 628 students in Stark County schools are experiencing homelessness with 157 of the 628 students experiencing literal homelessness. Unaccompanied youth account for 144 of the total 628 students.

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.

Stark County has an Emergency Assistance Collaborative, funded through the United Way that targets clients who are in a temporary crisis, have low income, and are behind in rent and/or utilities and can prove on-going income for sustainability. There are four agencies within the Collaborative who offer this rental/utility assistance to eligible applicants. Stark County has one other prevention program offered by the Stark County Community Action agency. The HCCSC coordinates initial eligibility and referrals for a limited amount of Emergency Solutions Grant funding that is available to households residing within the city limits of Canton. This prevention program focuses on households who are at imminent risk of homelessness and who are non-leaseholders (or doubled-up households). Focusing on serving non-leaseholder households ensures that the limited resources are being used to help households who are closest to entering the shelter system and have similar demographics of households who currently reside in Stark County shelters this includes demographics such as income and disability. Serving households with the highest risk of becoming homeless (e.g. non-leaseholders) requires homelessness prevention programs to have robust services, strong connections to other systems of support, and reduced numbers of participants served.

The HCCSC partners with several committees/work groups focus on identifying the challenges and needs of those being discharged from various publicly funded institutions. These sub-committees address mental illness and addiction, youth homelessness, the re-entry population and health care discharge planning. The subcommittees explore other funding opportunities through Health & Human Services, Department of Justice and Mental Health & Addiction Services for example, to develop other housing options for those exiting other systems of care. Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery funds a local provider to administer an OhioMHAS 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 hospitalization or

jail/prison stay.

The Coordinated Entry System implemented simplified referral processes for agencies serving foster youth who are transitioning out of foster care and are eligible for Stark County's transitional age youth housing project and created a link for Stark County Jail Liaisons (Stark County's only jail, there are no prisons) to quickly and easily connect inmates with the Homeless Navigation registration process 24/7.

Discussion

DRAFT

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

Introduction

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

Discussion

DRAFT

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

A major obstacle is often the need for more funding. Whether it is adequate numbers of affordable housing units, adequate emergency shelter beds or upgrades to public facilities and/or infrastructure, 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

In FY26, resources will be dedicated to rehabilitation of owner-occupied units and for 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. Each 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. Properties built prior to 1978, in which presumed lead-based paint is disturbed must pass lead clearance upon completion.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

As discussed in SP-70 of the 2024-2028 Stark County Consolidated Plan, to address poverty the County plans to use funding toward homeless and various public services that serve low-to moderate-income persons and other vulnerable populations. Many critical programs provide supportive services which are important toward addressing medical and mental health needs, life skills, job/employment training and linkages to other services. Additional actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families include continued funding toward single-family housing rehabilitation and supporting the development of new affordable single-family units.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

SP-40 of the 2024-2028 Stark County Consolidated Plan outlines institutional delivery structure by explaining the coordinated entry process within the County. Additionally, 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 into the 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 Alliance, Massillon and Stark County, as members of the HOME Consortium. SCRPC is under contract with both cities to assist with various aspects of their housing rehab programs.

Discussion

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.

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 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. The County's recapture and resale policy is included as an attachment.

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 \$25,000 per unit - 5 years

\$25,000 to \$50,000 per unit - 10 years

Over \$50,000 - 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.

Additionally, the County utilizes the HOME homeownership limits for the area. The limits are used

for newly constructed housing and for existing housing when funds are used for rehabilitation.

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 FY26.

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 FY26.

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.