

STARK COUNTY, OHIO FY 2018

(July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019)

One Year Action Plan CDBG and HOME

Submitted June 15, 2018

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
B-18-UC-39-0005

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
M-18-DC-39-0204

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The Consolidated Plan is a consolidation of various programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME program. 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 of these programs.

This one year action plan is for the fifth year of the Consolidated Plan, making it the FY 2018 Annual Action Plan. It summarizes the activities that 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 the One-Year Action Plan, the County addressed those needs that met one of the three statutory objectives of the CDBG program: benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, elimination of slum and blighting conditions, or an urgent community development need.

Specific goals, objectives and outcomes include:

- Preservation of affordable housing;
- Provide targeted public services for low- and moderate-income persons;
- Providing funding for a critical water main replacement and;
- Provide necessary funding to help construct a new sanitary sewer system to replace failing home septic systems.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

The Stark County Consortium has a record of excellence in both the CDBG and HOME programs. Project areas that have been selected for this Consolidated Plan include housing rehabilitation for low- and moderate-income households, provision of emergency housing rehabilitation, provision of fair housing counseling, prescription medication access and assistance for low- and moderate-income individuals, emergency residences for the homeless, centralized intake and coordinated assessment for homeless persons/families and infrastructure improvements.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Public notices were published for the initial FY 2018 CDBG application workshop that was held in August, 2017 in the three general circulation newspapers. Invitations were also mailed to all political subdivisions that participate in the CDBG program, along with non-profit agencies that have applied for funding in the past, current subrecipients and persons/agencies/businesses who expressed any interest in applying. A public meeting was held on March 1, 2018 for the presentation of the upcoming proposed three-year funding plan. The plan was also presented to the Stark County Regional Planning Commission at its meeting on March 6, 2018.

For the FY 2018 HOME application workshop held in November of 2017, public notices were published in the three local general circulation newspapers and invitations were sent to those agencies that have received funding currently or in the past or who expressed interest in applying for funding. The one year funding program was presented at the same above mentioned public meeting and Regional Planning Commission meeting as the CDBG program.

A public hearing was held on March 21, 2018 and notices of this were mailed to all entities that submitted an application for either the CDBG or HOME program and a boxed ad was also published in all three local newspapers. The programs were presented to the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Following the end of the public comment period, after the County was notified of its funding allocations, the Board of Stark County Commissioners adopted the FY 2018 CDBG and HOME programs, along with an infrastructure project for FY 2019, at its regular meeting on June 6, 2018. During each public meeting, hearing, and as published in the boxed ad, it was explained that if changes were made to the anticipated 2018 allocation, at the discretion of the Board of Stark County Commissioners, final funding amounts would be determined by the Board of Commissioners and that an additional public comment period would not be necessary. Upon the receipt of the final allocation, changes to the funding amounts

of the proposed various projects were made by the Commissioners. The Commissioners choose to increase funding to various proposed FY '18 CDBG and HOME projects.

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.

No public comments were received during the public comment period, being from March 12, 2018 to April 11, 2018, for the One Year Action Plan.

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

There were no comments or views that were not accepted during the 30 comment period or during the fiscal year.

7. Summary

FY 2018 is the fifth year of the 5 year Consolidated Plan period. For this reason, extensive consultations and coordination were not conducted this year. Please refer to Section AP-12 Participation "Citizen Participation Outreach" chart for a listing of consultations held during the FY 2017. Citizen involvement was also achieved through the CDBG and HOME application workshops in addition to the public meeting and public hearing as detailed in the previous section "#4: Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process."

The encouragement and opportunity for public involvement has also been described in detail in the Stark County FY 2018 Citizen Participation Plan. Throughout the plan, objectives to encourage public participation in the Community Development Department's Programs and Plans are outlined in detail. The Citizen Participation Plan can be found in Attachment 1.

Stark County Regional Planning Commission staff attends various meetings throughout the year where issues may be raised as they relate to areas of the Consolidated Plan, CDBG and HOME programs.

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 - Comm Dev. Dept
HOME Administrator	STARK COUNTY	Stark County Regional Planning - Comm Dev. Dept

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The Board of Stark County Commissioners is the grantee of the CDBG funds and the lead entity for the HOME Consortium which includes the cities of Alliance and Massillon. The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for the administration of the HOME and CDBG programs. The SCRPC works with the cities of Alliance and Massillon for the development of the HOME program.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is the contact for the Stark County Consolidated Plan.

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

1. Introduction

This section addresses the consultation efforts of the County in completing the Consolidated Plan's One Year Action 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(l)).

As this was the fifth year of the 5 year Consolidated Plan, no additional consultations were held outside of the application processes. The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) staff meets with any entity as requested or the need arises to enhance coordination which has been stated in Section AP-12 Participation "Citizen Participation Outreach" chart, which lists all consultations held during the fiscal year.

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.

Previously, the SCRPC was the Collaborative Applicant for the Continuum of Care (CoC) operating as the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC: OH-508). Prior to September 20, 2017, the Deputy Director/Chief of Community Development was a member of the HCCSC Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. During late 2016/early 2017, a new non-profit was created to become the Collaborative Applicant, known as the Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHN). The SCRPC aided to ensure the smooth transition of all CoC related work and activities to the Stark Housing Network during 2017. The Stark Housing Network is the central agency in Stark County working with the CoC and coordinating efforts which address the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, unaccompanied youth and persons at risk of homelessness. The SCRPC is in regular communication with the SHN in regard to their CoC work.

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

After March 31, 2017, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission was no longer under contract with the jurisdiction's only ESG recipient (the City of Canton) to provide the administrative assistance needed for soliciting, reviewing, scoring, and allocating ESG funds as well as monitoring and evaluating

ESG funded programs. After this time, the City of Canton took back the administration of their ESG program.

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

See Table 3 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

The public meetings and public hearings were open to anyone who wanted to attend. There were no agency types that were not consulted or invited to attend the public meeting.

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 section of the One Year Action Plan was coordinated with the HCCSC through the Executive Director of the Stark Housing Network, Inc., which manages the CoC to ensure that goals and objectives are aligned.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

Stark County RPC implements the CDBG and HOME programs for Stark County under a contract with the Board of Stark County Commissioners. SCRPC coordinates the HOME portion of the Con Plan with the cities of Alliance and Massillon as the lead entity for the consortium.

Ongoing coordination takes place between Stark County and both the cities of Alliance and Massillon as members of the Consortium. Staff communicate on a regular basis regarding community needs, planning and programs. RPC staff operate the City of Alliance's rehab programs (both CDBG and HOME funded) and carry out City of Massillon Rehab Program inspections under contract to each of these cities.

Coordination with the City of Canton also takes place regularly on projects of mutual interest. During FY 2017, two HOME projects which are located in the City of Canton were jointly funded by both the City and the County (B-FIRST and Arbor Ridge). Continued consultation and coordination take place as needed to ensure that the projects progress at an efficient rate.

Lynn Carlone, Katie Phillips and Amanda Davey of the RPC's CD Department regularly participate in the Ohio Conference of Community Development.

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

Goals were established during the consultation and citizen participation process outlined in the full 2014 - 2018 Five Year Consolidated Plan.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	Application Workshop for CDBG Program - Attendees included representatives from the various CDBG political subdivisions and non-profit organizations interested in applying for CDBG funding from the FY 2018 - 2020 programs. (8/30/2017)	No comments were received	No comments were not accepted.	http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/regional-planning
2	Meeting/ consultation with CDBG entitlement member	Stark County Sanitary Engineering Department	Community Development staff discussed a potential CDBG project for future funding located in a currently LMI area of Canton Township. RPC offered to meet again and to review this or other additional projects. (10/12/17)		No comments were not accepted.	
3	Meeting/ consultation with CHDO interested in HOME funds	ICAN, Inc. non-profit CHDO	Community Development staff discussed potential project ideas with ICAN, Inc. in regard to the possible receipt of future HOME and/or CHDO funding for a project to be located in the City of Alliance. ICAN, Inc. plans to contact the CDBG Dept. in the future to further discuss. ICAN, Inc. does not plan to submit a FY 2018 HOME application at this time. (12/5/17)	No comments were received	No comments were not accepted	http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/regional-planning
4	Application Workshop - HOME	Non-targeted/ broad community	Attendees included representatives from the various HOME political subdivisions and non-profit organizations interested in applying for HOME funding from the FY 2018 program. (11/15/2017)	No comments were received	No comments were not accepted.	http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/regional-planning

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
5	Meeting/ consultation with HOME Consortium member	City of Alliance	Community Development staff discussed with consortium member, City of Alliance, to determine what the City wants to do with their FY 2018 HOME funding. (1/29/18)	No comments were received	No comments were not accepted	
6	Meeting/ consultation with HOME Consortium member	City of Massillon	Community Development staff discussed with consortium member, City of Massillon, to determine what the City wants to do with their FY 2018 HOME funding. (1/31/18)	No comments were received	No comments were not accepted.	
7	Governmental Law Seminar	Non-targeted/ broad community	Community Development staff presented information in regard to the CDBG & HOME program during a workshop for local government officials. (2/24/2018)		No comments were not accepted.	
8	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	Those in attendance voted to endorse the propose FY 2018 - 2020 CDBG Three Year funding program and the proposed FY 2018 HOME funding program. (3/1/2018)	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/regional-planning
9	Meeting/ Consultation with CDBG community	Village of Waynesburg	Community Development & other RPC staff met with the Mayor and a Village Council person to discuss possible projects for CDBG & other possible funding sources. (3/14/18)		No comments were not accepted.	
10	CDBG and HOME Public Hearing	Non-targeted/ broad community	The Board of Stark County Commissioners conducted a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the proposed FY 2018 - 2020 CDBG programs and the proposed FY 2018 HOME program. (3/21/2018)	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/regional-planning
11	Massillon Fair Housing Luncheon	Non-targeted/ broad community	The Stark County Fair Housing Manager was the keynote speaker at the Massillon Fair Housing Luncheon where she spoke on the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. She spoke about battling housing discrimination and engaged the audience in productive dialogue. (4/4/2018)	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)
12	Phone Conversation with CDBG community	Perry Township	Karl Oprisch, Engineer for Perry Township called the Community Development Department to discuss the potential use of CDBG & other possible funding sources for FY 2018. (4/19/2018)		No comments were not accepted.	
13	Stark County sponsored Fair Housing Seminar in Alliance, Ohio	Non-targeted/ broad community	The Stark County Fair Housing Department hosted a fair housing seminar in Alliance, Ohio. Keynote speaker was Darlene Sweeney-Newbern of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, who spoke on the progress made since the passage of the Civil Rights Act. (4/24/2018)		No comments were not accepted.	
14	Government Agency Roundtable Discussion	Stark County Real Estate Investors Association	Stark County Fair Housing Staff attended roundtable discussion and spoke about the rights and obligations in the rental market as well as the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. (4/24/2018)		No comments were not accepted.	

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

This is the fifth year of the 5 year Consolidated Plan. Between FY 2017 and FY 2018 Stark County received a 10% increase in CDBG funding and a 39% increase in HOME funding. As a result of the significant increase of funding for both the CDBG and HOME programs, the "Expected Amount" Available Remainder of Con Plan" category is in the negative for CDBG, but a balance remains for HOME as the county received less HOME funds than anticipated during the previous year two to year four of the Consolidated Plan. The originally projected amount for the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan for both grant programs was estimated based on the first year of the plans allocation. Over the past five years, the allocation fluctuated upwards and downwards, with more funding being allocated than originally estimated in 2014 for CDBG, but less overall for HOME.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 5				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	1,330,930	300,000	0	1,630,930	(53,243)	Stark County CDBG funding experienced a 10% increase in FY 2018 CDBG funding from FY 2017. Based on the five year projection of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan, it was anticipated that the County would receive \$5,644,025 overall. During this five year period the County actually received \$5,997,268.00, plus earned program income. As such, more money was allocated than originally projected resulting in the "Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan" to be in the negative.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 5				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	820,550	150,000	0	970,550	267,781	Stark County HOME funding experienced a 39% increase in FY 2018 from FY 2017. Based on the five year projection of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan, it was anticipated that the County would receive \$3,455,855.00 overall. During this five year period, the County actually received \$3,338,074.00. As such less money was received than originally projected resulting in the "Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan" to be in the positive.

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

Stark County strives to fund programs/projects that maximize other funding sources as much as possible. HOME projects that are funded as part of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects bring match to the program. Additionally, large HOME funded projects with multiple funding sources involved provide match as well. However, it has become more difficult to fund CHDO activities as the regulations have changed and a CHDO can no longer be a partner with a developer in a larger LIHTC project. There were no HOME or CHDO applications received for FY 2018. Therefore, it is the goal to help develop projects with the Stark County's only certified CHDO, ICAN, Inc. during the upcoming program year in order to utilize currently available FY '18 funding and pair with upcoming FY '19 CHDO funding to undertake an eligible, beneficial CHDO project next year.

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

No projects are expected to be located on publically owned land in FY '18.

Discussion

As part of both the HOME and CDBG applications, applicants are required to identify match and leveraged funds. Points are awarded to those projects that accomplish this. Stark County Consortium has a healthy carry-over (banked amount) of match funds due to the type of HOME activities that have been carried out through the years.

Program income identified above includes owner-occupied housing rehab loans that are repaid to both CDBG (revolving loan fund) and to HOME. Minor amounts of program income are realized through the sale of plans and specs for CDBG infrastructure projects.

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	Preservation of affordable housing	2014	2018	Affordable Housing	County-wide City Wide - City of Massillon City Wide - City of Alliance	Rehabilitation of existing units Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$700,000 HOME: \$765,412	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 63 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 2 Households Assisted
2	Infrastructure Improvements	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$492,805 HOME: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 184 Households Assisted
3	Targeted Public Services	2014	2018	Non-Homeless Special Needs	County-wide	Fair Housing Public Services	CDBG: \$161,640 HOME: \$0	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2175 Households Assisted
4	Rental Assistance	2014	2018	Affordable Housing	County-wide	Rental Assistance	HOME: \$0	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 0 Households Assisted
5	Economic Development	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Economic Development	CDBG: \$0 HOME: \$0	Businesses assisted: 0 Businesses Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Administration and Planning	2014	2018	Administration and Planning	County-wide City Wide - City of Massillon City Wide - City of Alliance	Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$266,186 HOME: \$82,055	Other: 1 Other

Table 3 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Preservation of affordable housing
	Goal Description	The breakdown of persons to be assisted through the rehabilitation of housing are: 1. 4 HOME funded households in the City of Massillon 2. 5 HOME funded households in the City of Alliance 3. 17 HOME funded households in the balance of the Consortium 4. 22 CDBG funded households in the CDBG participating political units 5. 15 CDBG funded emergency assistance for households in the CDBG participating political units Home buyer assistance will be provided to 2 households in the City of Massillon utilizing HOME funds. FY '18 CHDO funds have been set-aside for a future CHDO eligible project as no CHDO's applied for funds during this fiscal year.

2	Goal Name	Infrastructure Improvements
	Goal Description	Two infrastructure projects will be undertaken during FY 2018. This will be the Village of Minerva – Pennsylvania Water Main Replacement and the Canton Township Moreland Allotment Sanitary Sewer Installation.
3	Goal Name	Targeted Public Services
	Goal Description	Public services will include: Fair Housing for Stark County; Prescription Assistance Network of Stark County - Prescription Medication Access; Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence; CommQuest - Family Living Center; and Stark Mental Health Board – Centralized Intake & Coordinated Assessment.
4	Goal Name	Rental Assistance
	Goal Description	No funding designated for this goal in FY 2018.
5	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	No funding designated for this goal in FY 2018.
6	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

Stark County utilizes a three year funding program for CDBG funding. Applications are solicited and received yearly helping develop a rolling three year program for potential CDBG activities. FY 2018 is once again is the first year of the new three year funding cycle. Applications for the 3 year program were accepted during the fall of 2017. CDBG applications were reviewed by the staff for eligibility and scored. Applications were then reviewed by a six member review committee and all scores are averaged to determine the proposed funding.

HOME applications are received on an annual basis. All HOME applications are reviewed and scored by the RPC staff.

Final recommendations on funding programs are reviewed by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, prior to a public hearing. The Board makes a final determination on funding following the publication of the draft program and the 30 day comment period.

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Administration
2	Comprehensive Planning
3	Housing Rehabilitation Program Costs - Direct/Program Operation
4	Housing Rehab Full/ Emergency Rehab
5	Fair Housing
6	Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence
7	Beacon Charitable Pharmacy - Prescription Medication Access and Assistance
8	CommQuest Services, Inc. - Family Living Center
9	Stark County Mental Health Board - Centralized Intake & Coordinated Assessment
10	Contingencies
11	Village of Minerva - Pennsylvania Water Main Replacement
12	Canton Twp. - Moreland Hills Allotment Sanitary Sewer Installation
13	HOME Administration
14	City of Massillon Rehab/Homebuyer Activities
15	City of Alliance Housing Rehabilitation
16	Stark County Housing Rehabilitation
17	CHDO Set Aside

Table 4 – Project Information

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

All CDBG and HOME funding applications are awarded on a competitive basis. Under the CDBG program, higher priority is given to those infrastructure projects that will be ready for commencement during the year of funding as well as those projects that have all funding sources committed. Priority is also given to eligible large-scale infrastructure projects that will serve a county need collaborates with other county-wide and state-wide agencies resulting in direct and indirect benefits far outreaching the boundaries of the low-to moderate-income census tract it is located in. Highest priority for the HOME funding is viable CHDO projects, also those projects with all funding sources committed and ready for construction/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: \$161,000
	Description	To provide the overall administration of the CDBG administration for Stark County. This provides the day to day oversight of the CDBG program and its related elements.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	CDBG Administration is a project/service that benedits persons throughout Stark County.
	Planned Activities	Day to day administration and oversight of the CDBG program and its work elements.
2	Project Name	Comprehensive Planning
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$105,186
	Description	Long range and short range planning as it relates to the CDBG program, Consolidated Plan, and related work elements.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Comprehensive Planning is an activity/service that benefits persons throughout Stark County.

	Planned Activities	Long range and short range planning as it relates to the CDBG program, Consolidated Plan, and related work elements.
3	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation Program Costs - Direct/Program Operation
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Preservation of affordable housing
	Needs Addressed	Rehabilitation of existing units
	Funding	CDBG: \$235,000
	Description	Provide for staffing of the housing rehabilitation loan/grant program and miscellaneous soft costs associated with the program; i.e. location surveys, title work, credit reports, pest inspections, advertising, etc.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission will provide administration, coordination and cooperation of the various housing rehabilitation programs.
	Location Description	Throughout Stark County's CDBG program area.
	Planned Activities	Undertaking of qualified single-family, owner-occupied housing rehab.
4	Project Name	Housing Rehab Full/ Emergency Rehab
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Preservation of affordable housing
	Needs Addressed	Rehabilitation of existing units
	Funding	CDBG: \$465,000

	Description	Housing rehabilitation costs for eligible low-moderate income owner occupied households, within Stark County. The budget for FY 2018 combines a portion of the CDBG grant, \$165,000.00, and the housing rehab Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), being approximately \$300,000.00. Another \$235,000.00 will be utilized to operate the housing rehab program, which is detailed under the project name "Housing Rehabilitation Program Costs - Direct/Program Operation". CDBG housing rehab grants will be funded out of the FY 2018 grant, while the loan projects (full rehabs), when applicable, will be funded out of the RLF. All program earned from the RLF will revolve back into this program. The full rehab funds are given as a 50% grant and 50% deferred payment loan (0% interest) with the loan due and payable upon the property transfer. Maximum amount of a project is \$25,000 to bring the unit to Residential Rehab Standards when possible with the funds being used on those homes not qualifying for HOME funding due to the after rehab appraisal amount being too high or the unit not being able to be brought to code. This activity also includes the Emergency Rehab program which undertakes work deemed to be an emergency for eligible low-moderate income homeowners. The maximum amount of an emergency rehab grant is \$4,500 with the amount over that being placed as a deferred payment loan with 0% interest. The exception to this is for furnaces, and the full amount of the furnace is a grant.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	There are an estimated 37 low-to moderate-income families (22 full rehabs and 15 emergency rehabs) that will benefit from this proposed activity.
	Location Description	Housing rehab and emergency 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 low-to moderate-income, owner-occupied households. Amount of funding includes approximately \$300,000.00 from the Revolving Loan Fund.
5	Project Name	Fair Housing
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Targeted Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Fair Housing

	Funding	CDBG: \$75,000
	Description	Provisions of fair housing services to all residents of Stark County's CDBG participating political units.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 600 families will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	Fair Housing services are provided throughout Stark County, excluding the cities of Massillon and Alliance.
	Planned Activities	The Stark County Regional Planning Commission 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. The Fair Housing Annual Action Plan is included as an attachment to this document.
6	Project Name	Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Targeted Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$16,640
	Description	Provision of staff costs related to the operations of the Emergency Residence in the City of Alliance.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that this project will benefit approximately 100 households, comprised of nearly 270 persons for 10,300 nights of shelter in a year throughout Stark County.
	Location Description	This public service is available to all Stark County residents.
	Planned Activities	The funding is utilized to provide half of the Alliance Emergency Residence Office/Case Manager's salary, in order for this person to provide direct services to clients, provide case management, complete intakes and exits, assist the homeless hotline staff and other various services.
7	Project Name	Beacon Charitable Pharmacy - Prescription Medication Access and Assistance

	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Targeted Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$22,000
	Description	Provision of funds to access the medication needs of the vulnerable LMI families as well as enrolling them in the appropriate medication services. Beacon Charitable Pharmacy was formally known as Prescription Assistance Network.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that this project will benefit 125 LMI persons.
	Location Description	This activity is to serve qualified Stark County residents.
	Planned Activities	Funding will be used to dispense low cost medications and enroll qualified individual and families in appropriate medication services. Funding will allow the Beacon Charitable Pharmacy to continue to expand their outreach into the County area.
8	Project Name	CommQuest Services, Inc. - Family Living Center
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Targeted Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$18,000
	Description	Provisions of housing/essential support services provided by the Family Living Center Homeless Shelter to homeless persons/families.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	There is an estimated 30 people nightly, 200 LMI families a year that will benefit from this proposed activity.
	Location Description	The Family Living Center is located in the City of Massillon, which serves all of Stark County.

	Planned Activities	The Family Living Center is a homeless family shelter located in the City of Massillon serving western Stark County. This is the only emergency shelter for homeless persons/families in the western portion of Stark County. CDBG funding will be utilized to assist with the operations of the facility.
9	Project Name	Stark County Mental Health Board - Centralized Intake & Coordinated Assessment
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Targeted Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000
	Description	Funding will be utilized to fund personnel expenses associated with the Centralized Intake and Coordinated Assessment of the Stark County Homeless Hotline.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that approximately 150 low- and moderate-income people will benefit from this proposed activity.
	Location Description	This project/service will benefit persons throughout Stark County, OH.
10	Planned Activities	Activities performed by the personnel associated with the Centralized Intake and Coordinated Assessment of the Stark County Homeless Hotline includes oversight and supervision to the database/phone center specialists and the gathering of data from phone callers who are homeless or precariously housed, undertaking an initial assessment, providing them referral and service information and working with the area agencies to provide shelter.
	Project Name	Contingencies
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Infrastructure Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,299
	Description	Un-programmed funds to be used to pay for potential costs over runs and/or new projects that may come up during the program year.

	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Funds will be utilized as needed for infrastructure project cost over-runs or to fund a new project that may come up during the program year.
11	Project Name	Village of Minerva - Pennsylvania Water Main Replacement
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Infrastructure Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$70,000
	Description	CDBG funding will be utilized to help replace a portion of the aged water main along Pennsylvania Avenue in the Village of Minerva, equaling approximately 1,170 linear feet of pipe. The project will connect 15 residential structures, and installation of 3 new fire hydrants. The project is located in Census Tract 7202, Block Group 1, with a LMA of 45.30% (Stark County exception criteria is 39.27%).
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The project will benefit 15 households with upgrades to the water supply system and to better fire safety. The project is located in a low-to moderate in a LMA.
	Location Description	The project is located in the Village of Minerva. The area spans from Pennsylvania Avenue from Liberty Church St. SE to Spruce Road (Booth), NW, and eastward down Spruce Road (Booth) to an alleyway west of Euclid Ave. in Carroll County portion of the Village of Minerva.
	Planned Activities	This project includes replacement of a current 6" water main which is 70+ years old and has been repaired numerous times over the last several years. Additionally, the project will re-connect 15 residential structures and install 3 new fire hydrants.
12	Project Name	Canton Twp. - Moreland Hills Allotment Sanitary Sewer Installation
	Target Area	County-wide

	Goals Supported	Infrastructure Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$422,805
	Description	CDBG funding (consisting of \$422,805.00 from the FY '18 grant and the remaining \$127,195.00 from FY '15-'17 funds for a total of \$550,000.00) will be utilized to help construct the sanitary sewer system in the Moreland Hills Allotment located in Canton Township, Stark County, Ohio. This would include the installation of 10,500 feet of 8" gravity sewer, 2,100 feet of 10" sewer, 41 manholes, a sanitary lift station, and an estimated force main length of 3,500 feet. A total of 169 residential sanitary sewer systems are currently failing. The project will be located in Census Tract 7131, Block Group 3 = 51.88% LMA (Stark County exception criteria is 39.27%)
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The project will directly benefit 169 households who have failing septic systems. The construction of the sanitary sewer system will also benefit countless other households as a result of eliminating 45,000 gallons of partially treated sewage from entering the Sherrick Run, a tributary to the Middle Branch of Nimilishen Creek. The new sewer will also provide better health aspects to mitigate problems caused currently by ponding wastewater, odor, and bacterial contamination in the allotment area.
	Location Description	The project is located in the Moreland Hills Allotment in Canton Township - 24th, 25th, 26th, Amford Streets, and area off RT 43. The northern border is 24th Street, eastern dead ends off 24th, 25th, 26th and Amford Streets. The southern border is Amford Street and the western border is SR 43.
	Planned Activities	The project includes construction of a sanitary sewer system which will includes the installation of 10,500 feet of 8" gravity sewer , 2,100 feet of 10" sewer, 41 manholes, a sanitary lift station, and an estimated force main length of 3,500 feet.
13	Project Name	HOME Administration
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	HOME: \$82,055

	Description	Overall administration of the Consortium's HOME program. This includes funding to the RPC for the overall administration.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	This project will benefit persons throughout Stark County, OH.
	Planned Activities	Day to day and overall administration of the Consortium's HOME program.
14	Project Name	City of Massillon Rehab/Homebuyer Activities
	Target Area	City Wide - City of Massillon
	Goals Supported	Preservation of affordable housing
	Needs Addressed	Rehabilitation of existing units Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$123,083
	Description	Use of HOME funding for homeownership and housing rehabilitation assistance to qualified low- and moderate-income single-family homeowners to bring their houses up to Residential Rehab Standards within the city of Massillon. Funding will also be used to provide down payment assistance to assist qualified persons in purchasing a home.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 6 LMI households will benefit from this activity, approximately 4 households will be rehabbed and 2 will be aided with Down Payment Assistance.
	Location Description	This project will benefit persons located in the City of Massillon.
15	Planned Activities	HOME funding will be provided to low- and moderate-income qualified City of Massillon residents to help with single family, owner-occupied rehab and/or homeownership assistance. All units will meet Residential Rehab Standards upon completion.
	Project Name	City of Alliance Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	City Wide - City of Alliance
	Goals Supported	Preservation of affordable housing

	Needs Addressed	Rehabilitation of existing units
	Funding	HOME: \$116,928
	Description	Housing rehabilitation assistance to qualified low- and moderate-income homeowners in the City of Alliance. All units will meet Residential Rehab Standards upon completion of the rehab work.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 5 LMI households will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	This activity will benefit persons within the City of Alliance.
	Planned Activities	HOME funding will be provided to qualified low- and moderate-income homeowners in the City of Alliance to assist with housing rehabilitation.
16	Project Name	Stark County Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Preservation of affordable housing
	Needs Addressed	Rehabilitation of existing units
	Funding	HOME: \$525,401
	Description	Housing rehabilitation assistance to qualified low- and moderate-income homeowners in the County's eligible HOME areas outside the cities of Alliance, Massillon and the Village of Hills and Dales. Once rehab is completed, houses will meet Residential Rehab Standards. The funding for this program consist of HOME grant funds, \$375,401.00 as well as program income, \$150,000.00 resulting from the payoff of loans from the Stark County Rehab program to total \$525,401.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 17 LMI households will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	This activity will take place throughout Stark County, OH, except for the Cities of Canton, Massillon and Alliance.

	Planned Activities	HOME funding will be provided to low- and moderate-income qualified Stark County residents to assist with owner-occupied, single family housing rehabilitation. All units will meet Residential Rehab Standards upon completion of the rehab work.
17	Project Name	CHDO Set Aside
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Preservation of affordable housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$123,083
	Description	Funding is set aside for a future CHDO project. The project will be determined during the program year.
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Unknown at this time.
	Location Description	Unknown at this time.
	Planned Activities	Unknown at this time.

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

The County considers the entire eligible CDBG participating political units when allocating funding from the CDBG program. For FY 2018, under the HOME program, 20% of the funds are allocated to activities in the City of Massillon and 19% of the funds are allocated to activities in the City of Alliance. 15% of the funding allocation is being set-aside for a future CHDO project which will take place in an eligible part of the County. The balance of project funding, 36% (outside of 10% administration) will be utilized in the balance of the consortium areas.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
County-wide	89
City Wide - City of Massillon	6
City Wide - City of Alliance	5

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, as mentioned above is allocated back to the cities of Alliance and Massillon with the balance to the remaining County area. Again, activities funded under the County's HOME program are funded on a competitive basis.

Discussion

With funding being distributed over many political subdivisions within the County, scattered site housing rehabilitation has proven to be the best method of allocating the non-competitive funds. For other projects, a particular geographic area is not a focus, as long as the project qualifies in all funding requirements.

Massillon has specific target areas for their Housing Rehab program in an effort to make the most impact in a particular area of their city.

Affordable Housing

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

Introduction

Stark County strives to make housing affordable to qualified residents of the Consortium. HOME funds have been utilized for Tenant Based Rental Assistance, housing rehabilitation, housing for persons with mental illness, and housing for formerly homeless families. Tenant Based Rental Assistance is not being funded under HOME in FY 2018, however, the County continues to coordinate with the local housing authority to develop future projects.

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

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	0
Rehab of Existing Units	63
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	63

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

Discussion

No funding is being allocated to the two previously funded tenant based rental assistance projects as these activities have become less effective over the years and Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) did not apply for funding for FY 2018. However, 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

The Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) submits its annual plan to the Stark County Regional Planning Commission which then undertakes environmental reviews as needed. SMHA also requests a Certificate of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan. The RPC reviews the action plan for activities planned by SMHA to be undertaken within the CDBG participating political jurisdictions of the County's program.

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

In addition to minor and major renovations and general maintenance, SMHA also is committed to provide Reasonable Accommodations for approved request and provide a percentage of units which fully comply with Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS). By including vision, hearing and mobility accessible features in new development, SMHA will be in the position to satisfy the one hundred twenty-eight (128) units that are required by HUD to be mobility accessible.

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

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 will be given to residents that meet eligibility requirements. A scholarship is also available for all SMHA public housing residents and Section 8 residents. Two awards are given each year in the amount of \$500 and applications are available in early March. SMHA also has a variety of programs and services at various SMHA sites for SMHA 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 SMHA offers include education classes, housing counseling and rent-to-buy programs.

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

The PHA at the present time is 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 some financial assistance to residents that meet eligibility requirements, and provide a variety of programs and services for SMHA

residents with 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 Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) has established a Coordinated Entry System (CES) committee, which develops policies and procedures for establishing and operating a system for central registration of all individuals and families requesting homeless services and for uniformly assessing the needs of these individuals and families for housing and services, which is also a federal requirement in order to compete for homeless program funding. The coordinated entry system began operating in September 2014. The system has expanded the role of the county's coordinated entry system, the "Homeless Navigation Hotline" to include assessment for all clients seeking shelter, to offer diversion services and most appropriate referrals, accomplished through the use of the Service Prioritization Decision Assessment Tool (SPDAT). The CES Committee, who worked to develop the policies and procedures necessary to implement the coordinated entry, now has two quality assurance workgroups (emergency shelter/street outreach and rapid rehousing/permanent supportive housing) which identify problems and make recommendations for any necessary amendments to the system. The CES is also working closely with the Projects for Assistance with Transition from Homelessness program (PATH), and the Veterans Administration's outreach staff to further develop effective outreach and coordination with the Homeless Navigation Hotline.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

During the assessment phase at the "Homeless Navigation Hotline" the clients' need for emergency shelter and/or housing is determined based on the pre-screen and the SPDAT. When a client can be diverted to other housing they are given referrals to other helpful resources to assist with ongoing needs. When a client cannot be diverted, the Homeless Navigation Hotline assists with placing them in a shelter when there is an open bed, and if the client qualifies, the client is placed on the prioritization list for rapid re-housing or permanent supportive housing. This early assessment of not only shelter or housing needs, but of appropriate permanent housing needs, has assisted in providing more expedient access to both emergency and permanent housing. With the implementation of the coordinated entry system, the Emergency Shelter Quality Assurance Workgroup has provided a forum to identify barriers and discuss opportunities to increase quicker access to shelter, producing better outcomes.

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

Stark County currently has five rapid re-housing projects which are facilitated by the YWCA and ICAN Housing that can serve individuals and families with children. These rapid re-housing projects have all adopted a housing first philosophy and have been able to assist more literally homeless persons, shortening the period of time they experience homelessness than in previous years. Coordinated Entry was also able to merge permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing into one centralized prioritization list by housing type. All projects are able to access the centralized prioritization list, track where homeless clients are in their process of entering housing and more efficiently facilitate access to housing for these clients.

The HCCSC recently implements a new committee called the By Names Committee. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a by-name list (also called a master list or active list) is a real-time, up-to-date list of all people experiencing homelessness which can be filtered by categories, and shared across agencies. The HCCSC has applied this strategy when working with veterans and the chronically homeless. 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.

According to the 2018 Point-in-Time Count, Stark County reduced the number of homeless individuals from 319 in 2017 to 278 in 2018 or 41 individuals. The total of Chronically Homeless reduced from 13 in 2017 to 3 in 2018 or 10 individuals.

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.

An HCCSC Prevention Task Force was developed under the leadership of a Sisters of Charity Foundation program associate to facilitate and coordinate efforts to streamline prevention services around the county to ensure a robust and effective prevention system. Communication between Homeless Prevention and Emergency Assistance providers has been a critical part of these efforts and plans are continuing to take shape regarding how to best target prevention efforts to reduce homelessness, as well as how to coordinate the disparate emergency assistance efforts to maximize funding and truly

stabilize low income households experiencing a crisis.

The HCCSC established various sub-committees, which operated under the direction of the System Performance Committee, and were assigned to develop strategies for addressing the needs of those being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care. The Mental Illness and Addiction (MIAA) Committee includes representatives from StarkMHAR, SCRPC, local behavioral health providers, and housing providers. MIAA's responsibility lies in addressing housing and supportive needs of individuals in the behavioral health system and providing recommendations to the HCCSC regarding system gaps, needs and strategies to address these needs. One of the primary goals is addressing discharge planning for behavioral health clients who are being discharged from behavioral health inpatient hospitalization, inpatient residential AOD treatment, and CSU/Detox, preventing release into homelessness.

The Youth Homelessness Committee is focused on assessing the housing/service needs and developing collaborative projects that address the wide ranging subpopulations that fall within the "Youth" population (transitional age youth - ages 18 -24, parenting youth, those aging out of the foster care system, being discharged from other institutional care, as well as unaccompanied minors who are runaways or at risk of becoming homeless). The Committee is also focused on addressing concerns related to human trafficking. Representatives include: Canton City Schools, Stark County Department of Job and Family Services (Children's Services), housing and service providers, StarkMHAR, Family Council and PATHS.

Discussion

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

Introduction

SCRPC employs the 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

The Fair Housing Manager for Stark County will continue to speak at the Zoning Inspectors Mutual Assistance Committee meetings to provide information on fair housing and zoning, and will continue reviewing township zoning resolutions for affordable and fair housing barriers.

Staff will review and modify, as needed, funding agreements with subrecipients to include a disclaimer that the subrecipient/local government will affirmatively further fair 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 that can occur in Zoning Resolutions. She also participated in a government agency roundtable discussion that was sponsored by the Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association to explain the rights and obligations regarding fair housing in the rental market. And she has spoken at local Fair Housing Luncheons.

In the appendices of this Action Plan, the Fair Housing Action Plan is included which identifies the impediments and the action steps that will be undertaken during FY 2018.

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

Introduction

Stark County addresses a number of items to strengthen the community and the carrying out of this Consolidated Plan as detailed below.

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 expansion or other public facilities, funding is frequently the missing piece. To overcome this obstacle, Stark County requires a local match on CDBG and HOME funded projects whenever possible. This match can be provided through other grant programs, foundations or local funds. In this way, the HUD funds are able to accomplish more than if solely HUD funds are used.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Affordable housing units will be maintained through the rehabilitation of owner-occupied units in Stark County.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

All projects are required to be carried out in a lead-safe manner. Every home that is undertaken for a project is evaluated for lead and all work is required to be carried out in a lead safe manner by licensed contractors. All applicants are given the EPA brochure on lead hazards and it is explained by the housing counselor. All properties are tested for lead once rehabilitation work is completed and if they don't pass inspection, they must be re-cleaned and re-tested until they pass.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

CDBG and HOME funds have been utilized for funding homeless shelters and transitional housing providers that offer life skills training to assist poverty-level families.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The System Performance committee of the HCCSC has developed sub-committees of providers targeting the various types of housing options to assist with the gaps/needs analysis for the homeless population of Stark County. Recent subcommittees include the By Names Committee. According to the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a by-name list (also called a master list or active list) is a real-time, up-to-date list of all people experiencing homelessness which can be filtered by

categories, and shared across agencies. The HCCSC has applied this strategy when working with veterans and the chronically homeless. 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 provides valuable insight on needs and challenges faced by providers. The Homeless Hotline is being expanded to include additional staff. During the Fiscal Year 2017 HUD Continuum of Care Competition, the HCCSC reallocated funding to allow for additional staff to support the Homeless Navigation Hotline. The reallocation of funding to support the efforts of the Homeless Navigation Hotline or Coordinated Entry System illustrated the continuum's commitment to making continual enhancements to its institutional structure.

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, with RPC is under contract and therefore assisting both cities with their housing rehab programs. Interaction with the City of Canton takes place on a regular basis for jointly funded HOME projects.

The RPC coordinates with the Northeast Four County Planning Organization (NEFCO) in the creation of its Cooperative Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which is submitted annually to the Economic Development Administration. The CEDS committee is comprised of private industry representatives, foundations, and public agencies (including RPC), working together to identify economic goals and priorities for this multi-county region, including scoring or projects to reflect those priorities.

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. | 100.00% |

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 Sec. 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 re-capture the prorated HOME subsidy from the net available proceeds. The County and the homeowner will split the net available proceeds up to the amount of HOME financial assistance to the homeowner.

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:

HOME project owners/buyers are required to maintain HOME funded properties as affordable for a minimum affordability period based on the amount of HOME funds spent on the project. 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

New construction or acquisition within one year of construction (for rental projects) - 20 years.

A deed restriction and/or restrictive covenant will be prepared by the SCRPC and must be signed by the owner/buyer. This agreement establishes the occupancy and affordability requirements for the property as well as the owner's obligations to the Board of Stark County Commissioners. In signing the agreement, the owner agrees to the restrictions on the use of the property set forth in the document. This agreement will then be recorded by the SCRPC in the office of the Stark County Recorder and therefore binds the project owner and all subsequent owners for the full term of the agreement.

If a homebuyer sells the home before the HOME affordability period has expired, the County will recapture, based upon the direct subsidy provided to the homeowner, the prorated HOME subsidy out of the net available proceeds from the Homeowner. The county and Homeowner will split the net available proceeds up to the amount of the HOME financial assistance to the Homeowner.

Failure to comply with affordability requirements will require repayment of all HOME funds extended to the project by the project sponsor, owner or developer.

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.

ATTACHMENT 1 – STARK COUNTY CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

- No public comments were received during the comment period, March 12, 2018 to April 11, 2018, for the proposed Citizen Participation Plan or the 2018 Annual Action Plan.

Citizen Participation Plan – Revised 2018

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners to administer the HUD funded Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs.

Citizen Participation Plan Development Process

Prior to the adoption of the Community Development Department's Citizen Participation Plan, citizens are given the opportunity to comment. The draft plan is presented to the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) at its March monthly meeting at the same time as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) proposed programs. The plan is then made accessible to the residents of Stark County through the SCRPC's website and a copy is available in the SCRPC library for a 30 day citizen comment period. As needed, the plan can be made into a format accessible to persons with disabilities, upon request. Any comments made by the public during the 30 day comment period will be addressed by SCRPC staff prior to the adoption of the final citizen participation plan. Furthermore, comments made may not always result in changes to the Plan.

Community Development

Public Participation General Information

One of the main goals of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission's Community Development Department is to provide the community an opportunity to participate in an advisory role in the planning, implementation and assessment of its programs and projects. There are six main programs and/or plans that the Community Development Department undertakes, which include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), the Consolidated Plan (5-Year Plan), the Annual Action Plan, the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI). Please see the list below outlining basic practices and policies utilized by the SCRPC to ensure the public has access and knowledge to programs in their community:

Holding a "public hearing" entails:

- Taking minutes and documenting comments that will be made public record.
- Being required by law on a case-by-case basis.
- Following rules concerning who speaks when and for how long; not a question-and-answer format.
- Providing a hearing official to oversee the hearing.

Holding a "public meeting" entails:

- Not being required by law.

- Not making the discussion between interested parties and comments public record.
- Attendees being able to ask questions and make comments, with the aid of a moderator to keep the meeting focused.

All meetings and hearings held by the Community Development Department are normally during the day and held at the office the Stark County Regional Planning Commission located at 201 3rd St. NE, Suite 201, Canton, Ohio 44702. If necessary, meetings may be held in the evening. By holding meetings/hearings at the SCRPC office building, they are accessible to the community through the following ways:

- SCRPC office building is ADA accessible.
- SCRPC office is accessible to public transportation, including the location of 2 SARTA bus stops within a block of the SCRPC office building (1.) Market Ave. N and 3rd St., being on the West side of the street (2.) Market Ave. N. and 4th St., being on the East side of the street.
- Meetings and/or hearings being held are advertised on the SCRPC's website and the newspaper, when applicable.
- Any documents created by the SCRPC that require public comment are made available on the SCRPC's website as well as copy being available at the office.
- If a non-English speaking community member attends a meeting, they are encouraged to bring a translator. (1.08% non-English speaking households in Stark County, Ohio, according to the 2013 American Community Survey.) If an interpreter is needed, advance arrangements will need to be made.

Community Development Programs/Plans

1.) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The Board of Stark County Commissioners is the recipient of the federally funded CDBG program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The SCRPC is under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners to do the overall planning and administration of the CDBG Program. The CDBG program aims at developing viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, along with expanding economic opportunities, for persons of low- and moderate-incomes.

Citizen participation is a vital role in the CDBG Program process. As established by Section 104(a)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Act and by regulations at 24 CFR 570.486, there are key actions that need to be taken to ensure that citizens, especially low and moderate income citizens of the community where CDBG funded activities will take place, have an opportunity to participate in an advisory role in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the program and projects. Therefore, the SCRPC includes the local community in the CDBG Program implementation by taking the following actions:

- Providing 2 public hearings, each at different stages of the program. The first being held during the SCRPC's regularly scheduled monthly meeting in which the CAPER is presented, and the second during the 30 day public comment period of the Annual Action Plan.
- Providing citizens with reasonable advance notice of, and opportunity to comment on proposed activities.
- Providing citizens contact information for submitting complaints and grievances, and then responding to complaints in a timely manner.

Each program year the SCRPC is responsible for:

- Publishing notices for the CDBG application workshop in three general circulation newspapers.
- Mailing invitations to all political subdivisions that participate in the CDBG program along with private non-profit agencies that have applied for funding in the past, or expressed an interest in applying, otherwise known as Stark County CDBG Stakeholders.
- Posting notices on the SCRPC website.

During the application workshop, an application review committee is nominated from volunteers, consisting of 6 members including a representative of each of the following: large township, small township, village, city, county at large and county representative. Alternates are also nominated when available.

A public meeting is held to present the upcoming proposed funding plan and encourage discussion with the attendees. Those in attendance vote on approval of the presented plan. The funding plan is also presented to the SCRPC at the regularly scheduled March meeting. The SCRPC also votes on approval of the presented funding plan and updates to the Citizen Participation Plan.

Notices for a public hearing are then mailed to all entities that submitted an application for either the CDBG or HOME program and to all political subdivisions. Additionally, a boxed ad is also published in all three newspapers advertising the date and time of the public hearing along with details of the funding program and availability of the Citizen Participation Plan. This commences the comment period on the proposed program.

At the end of the comment period and after the comments have been reviewed and considered by the SCRPC staff, the Board formally adopts the final CDBG Funding Program for submission to HUD.

2.) HOME Program

The SCRPC has been designated a Participating Jurisdiction (PJ) within a Designated Consortium under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) HOME Program. Stark

County has been participating in this program since its inception in FY 1992. All political jurisdictions within Stark County participate in the County's HOME program except the City of Canton (a separate designated PJ) and the Village of Hills and Dales. HOME funding is utilized for the development of housing for low income person/families.

The SCRPC encourages public participation throughout the application process by:

- Hosting an application workshop.
- Circulating public notices for the application workshop by publishing in three general circulation newspapers as well as the SCRPC's website.
- Mailing invitations to entities who have originally received HOME funding in the past and/or other organizations that have expressed interest in the past in applying for funding; otherwise known as Stark County HOME Stakeholders.
- Posting notice of the workshop on the SCRPC website.

Once applications are received for HOME funded activities within Stark County and the cities of Alliance and Massillon, the staff reviews each application to ensure conformity with the HOME regulations and guidelines.

Because applications are accepted on a yearly basis, the one-year funding program is presented at the same above mentioned Regional Planning Commission meeting in which the CDBG program is presented.

Once the HOME program is presented to the Regional Planning Commission the following occurs:

- A public hearing is held and notices of this are mailed to all entities that submitted an application for either the CDBG or HOME program.
- A box ad is published in all three newspapers advertising the public hearing.
- Citizens are given a 30 day public comment period to make written and/or verbal comments.

At the end of the comment period, the Board formally adopts the final HOME Funding Program. This will be included with the CDBG program in the One Year Update of the Consolidated Plan and submitted to HUD no later than 45 days prior to the start of the County's federal fiscal year (July 1).

CDBG and HOME Substantial Amendments:

An amendment is deemed "substantial" when:

- A program is added or cancelled; or
- A considerable amount of money is being reallocated from one project to another, as determined by the Community Development Department; or

- There is a change to the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity (24 CFR Part 91.505).

Public participation is required when a substantial amendment is needed. The proposed substantial amendment is presented to the Board of County Commissioners at a regular meeting. A public notice of the proposed amendment is published allowing for a 30 day comment period. If comments are received by citizens, they will be considered prior to finalizing the amendment. The Board of Stark County Commissioners votes to approve the amendment which is then published as the final amendment. In cases where urgency is a consideration, the comment period may be reduced to 15 days or less.

3.) Consolidated Plan (CP) (5-year plan) and Annual Action Plan (AAP)

The consolidated plan is a 5-year plan, updated every five years since 1995, in accordance with HUD regulations. The plan provides an assessment of needs in the area, including housing and homeless needs, a housing market analysis, and a strategic plan for the allocation of housing resources within the consortium. The Plan also includes the County's priority community development needs that qualify under the CDBG program. Additionally, there is an assessment of the needs for infrastructure improvement, public facilities, public services, accessibility, economic development, fair housing and planning needs.

The submission of the CP also contains the first year Annual Action Plan. During the next four years only the Annual Action Plan is submitted.

The Citizen Participation for the Annual Action Plan is as outlined within the CDBG and HOME sections of this document. The Annual Action Plan, otherwise known as the "One Year Update" summarizes the activities that the County will undertake utilizing CDBG and HOME funding during each fiscal year.

Citizen participation is critical during the preparation of the Consolidated Plan. Residents are encouraged to participate through the following ways:

- Completing a survey that is made available to groups targeted as able to provide input in terms of homeless, housing, planning, and non-housing community development needs to gather information and comments.
- Attendance at public meetings.
- Public comments are received at public meetings held throughout the period of preparation of the CP.
- All comments and views are considered prior to submission of the CP.

As a result of the public meetings held, objectives and goals of the community are established. In addition to the public meetings, 2 public hearings are held for public comment. The CP is presented to the Board of Stark County Commissioners, as afterwards, there is a 30 day public

comment period. Any comments or views are taken into consideration by the staff and are made note of in the final CP.

At the end of the comment period, the Board decides whether to adopt the final Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan “Substantial” Amendments:

An amendment is deemed “substantial” when:

- There is a change to the allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds; or
- To carry out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan not previously described in the action plan; or
- To change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity (24 CFR Part 91.505).

Public participation is required when a substantial amendment is needed. The proposed substantial amendment is presented to the Board of County Commissioners at a regular meeting. A public notice of the proposed amendment is published allowing for a 30 day comment period. If comments are received by citizens, they will be considered prior to finalizing the amendment. In cases where urgency is a consideration, the comment period may be reduced to 15 days or less. The Board approves the amendment after the comment period and it is published as a final amendment.

4.) CAPER

The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report, otherwise known as the CAPER is created annually by the Community Development Department staff and submitted to HUD within 90 days after the end of the program year. Once the draft CAPER has been completed, it is presented to the SCRPC at a regular monthly meeting, after which, the following actions are taken to encourage citizen participation:

- The draft CAPER is made available on the SCRPC website, for at 15 day public comment period.
- During this time, the CAPER draft is advertised in 3 local general circulation newspapers.
- A hard copy of the report is available at the SCRPC office and on the SCRPC website.
- All comments and views of citizens received are included in the final CAPER.

At the end of the comment period, the CAPER is submitted to HUD.

5.) Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)

The SCRPC's Community Development Department is responsible for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) in Stark County. AFFH is a legal requirement that mandates federal grantees further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act. HUD's AFFH rule provides an effective planning approach to aid program participants in taking meaningful actions to overcome historic patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, and foster inclusive communities that are free from discrimination. As a result of this rule, SCRPC affirmatively furthers fair housing by providing information, education, counseling and investigative services to the residents of Stark County.

A key part of achieving the goal to affirmatively further fair housing is the preparation of an Analysis of Impediments (AI), which is conducted every 5 years in conjunction with the Consolidated Plan. An AI is a review of a jurisdiction's laws, regulations, and administrative 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. The AI is an action-oriented approach to achieving the goal of eliminating various forms of housing discrimination.

Furthermore, the AI is responsible for assessing the population, household income, and housing characteristics by protected classes. Additionally, it evaluates public and private sector policies that impact fair housing choice, and recommend specific strategies to overcome the effects of any impediments identified.

During the drafting of the AI, it is advertised in 3 local general circulation newspapers to inform the public of a 30-day public comment period. The draft document is made available for review on the SCRPC website and a hard copy is accessible at the SCRPC office. If comments are received by citizens, they will be considered prior to finalizing the AI.

Upon completion of the AI, it is presented during two public meetings. It is presented at the same public meeting as the CDBG and HOME programs and then to the SCRPC at a regularly scheduled meeting. After the public meetings are concluded and the AI is finalized, the SCRPC will affirmatively further fair housing by utilizing the AI to undertake appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified through the AI, and maintain records reflecting the analysis and actions taken.

ATTACHMENT 2

APPENDIX A – MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

- 1.) Public Meeting: FY 2018 – 2020 CDBG Program – Application Workshop
(Minutes August 30, 2017)
- 2.) Public Meeting: Review of the Proposed FY 2018 – 2020 CDBG & FY 2018 HOME Programs
(Minutes March 1, 2018)
- 3.) Public Hearing: FY 2018 – 2020 CDBG & FY 2018 HOME Programs
(Transcript March 21, 2018)
 - No public comments were received during the comment period, March 12, 2018 to April 11, 2018, for the proposed CDBG and HOME programs.
- 4.) Copy of ads for the following meetings/hearings/plans:
 - a. CDBG Application Workshop
 - b. HOME Request for Proposal/Application Workshop
 - c. Public Meeting – Review of the Proposed FY 2018 – 2020 CDBG & FY 2018 HOME Programs
 - d. Stark County's Proposed FY 2018 – 2020 CDBG and FY 2018 HOME funds Consolidated Plan Summary, the 30-day comment period of March 12, 2018 to April 11, 2018
 - e. Public Hearing: FY 2018 – 2020 CDBG & FY 2018 HOME Programs

FY 2018-2020 CDBG Program – Application Workshop
Minutes August 30, 2017
SCRPC Conference Room – 9 a.m.

In attendance were:

Lynn	Carlone	Staff
Amanda	Davey	Staff
Beth	Pearson	Staff
Amy	Dornack	CommQuest Services Inc.
Tammy	Geiger	Alliance for Children & Family (ACF)
Jim	Davis	City of North Canton
Megan	Deuzer	City of Louisville
Rob	Graham	City of North Canton
Holly	Bolinger	Kent State/SBDC
Wayne	Schillig	Marlboro Township
Joe	Iacino	Plain Township
John	Masalko	Perry Township
Jennifer	Young	Staff
Carl	Bliss	Maple Parks N.A.
Natalie	McCleskey	ICAN Housing
Katie	Phillips	Staff
Chris	Johnson	Stark Development Board
Amy	Schwitzgable	Kent State/SBDC
Teresa	Ponchek	Stark County MHAR
Tabitha	Hamilton	Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
Rachel	Forchione	The Stock Pile
Renee	Schalmo	Perry Township
Bob	Fonte	Stark Parks
Jerry	Hollinger	Tuscarawas Township
Josh	Whitacare	City of Massillon
Victoria	Brown	City of Massillon
Dave	Harp	Village of Minerva
Patti	Hostetler	Hannah's House 119
Gina	Conway	Hannah's House 119

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Beth Pearson, Deputy Director and Chief of Community Development, opened the meeting and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Lynn Carlone, Assistant Community Development Administrator, advised applicants to sign in and list each organization which they represent or will be submitting an application for on the sign-in form. Everyone present that submits an application on behalf of the community or project they signed in to represent will automatically receive 10 additional points on each application.

2. Explanation of the 2018-2020 Application Process – Public Service/Economic Development vs. Infrastructure/Public Facilities projects

Carlone introduced the FY 2018-2020 program (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021). Completed applications must be submitted by Friday, November 3, 2017, by Noon. Applications submitted after that time will be returned, which includes postmarks, faxes and e-mails. One original application and six copies must be turned in at the time of submission. Applications should be

stapled in the upper left corner with backup documentation attached, after all sections are completed.

The National Objectives for CDBG funds were reviewed and how each project must qualify under at least one of those 3 objectives. The requested CDBG funding must be utilized to benefit low- to- moderate income residents of Stark County, including portions of the villages of Minerva and Magnolia that are located outside of Stark County, and residents outside of the corporate limits of the cities of Canton, Massillon, Alliance and the village of Hills & Dales. Applicants are required to show that their project is benefiting Stark County residents outside of these areas.

Carlone explained the review process that takes place after applications are submitted. Each application can receive a maximum of 100 points. The ranking of the applications, based on this point system, helps to determine if a project will be funded during the three-year funding cycle (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021) for infrastructure and public facility projects or one-year funding cycle (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019) for public service and economic development. There will be no reimbursement of project costs that are incurred prior to the commitment of the funding agreement/contract. Once the applications are received, three staff members will individually review and score each application. Their scores are averaged into one score. Staff will visit the projects to take pictures and prepare a synopsis on each project. A six member review committee will then review each application and score and rank the projects. Their averaged scores are then combined with staff's average scores to come up with a final ranking. The two sets of rankings will be based on the understanding of the project based on the information provided in the application. Applications should address the needs of Stark County and not include national statistics.

Available CDBG funding is expected to be as follows:

Stark County Approximate Grant Allocation	\$1,209,286
Planning & Administration (20%)	\$241,857
Housing Rehab/Emergency Rehab	\$220,000
Direct Cost and Program Operation	\$200,000
Fair Housing	\$70,000
FY '18 Infrastructure projects – Minerva Pennsylvania Water Main	<u>\$70,000</u>
Approximate available funding remaining for projects	\$410,000-\$480,000

It is strongly encouraged that applicants seek other funding to use in conjunction with their CDBG funds, such as OPWC, local community funds, etc. The Board of Stark County Commissioners cannot commit any more than 15% of CDBG funds for public service activities. This cap on public service projects could result in projects not being selected for funding in the exact order of ranking. Public Service projects will be based on LMI (low-to-moderate income) persons or families served, and applicants will need to provide documentation of their LMI status for these individuals.

3. Selection of the CAC's CDBG Application Review Committee

Beth Pearson, Deputy Director and Chief of Community Development, asked for and received volunteers for the six member committee (a final member will be chosen by the Board of Stark County Commissioners) as follows:

Cities: Vince Marion, City of Louisville
Jim Davis, City of North Canton (alt.)

Large Townships: John Masalko, Perry Twp.
Joe Iacino, Plain Twp. (alt.)

Small Townships: Wayne Schillig, Marlboro Twp.
Jerry Hollinger, Tuscarawas Twp. (alt.)

Villages: Dave Harp, Minerva

County at Large: Amy Schwitzgable, Kent State/SBDC
Holly Bolinger, Kent State/SBDC (alt.)

4. Review of the FY 2018-2020 Application Form

Phillips reviewed the application in its entirety and answered questions regarding the completion of the application. She also stated that the application is online in a pdf format for applicant's use. Carlone reminded applicants that the name of the representative who attended the CDBG workshop must match the name listed on the sign-in sheet to receive the additional 10 points. Applications may be turned in any time prior to November 3, 2017 but will not be reviewed until after this time. Applicants may contact the Community Development Department any time prior to November 3rd with questions regarding the completion of the application. A separate application must be submitted for each project.

5. Discussion of Sample Applications and Example Projects

Phillips reviewed ways to strengthen a CDBG application, as listed on the handout. It is important to contact a Community Development staff member early in the application process with questions to ensure a good application.

Carlone reviewed what is eligible and ineligible under CDBG regulations, as listed on the handouts. Carlone advised applicants not to assume all activities listed on the "eligible CDBG activities" handout qualify for CDBG funds. Projects still need to meet certain criteria. Phillips reviewed the sample applications for Infrastructure and Public Service projects. If applying for a Capital Improvement/Public facility project, review the sample Infrastructure application.

6. Remaining Questions/Other Business

Carlone reminded attendees that the CDBG applications are due no later than Friday, November 3, 2017 at Noon.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Young
Secretary

**REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)/
FY 2018-2020 &
HOME FY 2018 PROGRAMS
Thursday, March 1, 2018
8:30 a.m.**

In attendance were the following:

Lynn Carlone	RPC Staff
Jennifer Young	RPC Staff
Rachel Forchione	RPC Staff
Katie Phillips	RPC Staff
Amanda Davey	RPC Staff
Jonelle Melnichenko	RPC Staff
Amy Schwitzgable	Kent State Small Business Development
Carol Risaliti	Prescription Assistance Network
Patty Walter	CommQuest Services
Teresa Ponchich	Stark MHAR HCCSC
John Masalko	Perry Township
Shirene Tapyrik	ACF (Alliance Emergency Residence)
Patrick DeOrio	City of North Canton
Brandi Williams	ACF (Alliance Emergency Residence)
Beverly Lewis	City of Massillon Housing
Josh Whitaker	City of Massillon
Mary Grueber	Stark Parks
Hazel Bennett	Beach City Council
Rodney McKenney	Beach City Council

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Lynn Carlone, Chief of Community Development, Katie Phillips, Planner and Amanda Davey, Planner introduced themselves and welcomed the audience members. Following their introductions, audience members introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of the March 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Lewis moved, Risaliti seconded, and the motion carried to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2017 meeting.

3. Review of the CDBG application process

Lynn Carlone stated the three-year program will go from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. Stark County is expected to receive \$1,209,286 for FY 2018 but has not received the exact allocation amount from HUD to date. This is the same amount received in FY 2017. It is unknown what funding will be received in FY 2019 and FY 2020. Funding has been stationary over the last decade or so, it is not expected that funding will drastically increase.

Carlone stated an application workshop was held for all potential CDBG applicants in August 2017. Applications must meet one of three national objectives to be eligible for CDBG funding; (1) The project must benefit low-to moderate-income persons or families; (2) aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight; or (3) undertake an urgent need in the community. An urgent need in the community is something that takes place very quickly and cannot be planned for; therefore, an application cannot be submitted under this objective. Examples include water wells going dry or flooding. A total of 24 persons attended the workshop. They represented 11 profit and non-profit agencies/programs and 8 political subdivisions.

4. Application Review Committee/Staff's Application Scores/Rankings

Applications were accepted until November 3, 2017. Public Service and Economic Development applications were only accepted for FY 2018 funding cycle. Infrastructure and Public Facility applications were accepted for FY 2018, FY 2019 and FY 2020 funding cycles. Carlone stated there were 9 applications received from various Stark County municipalities, townships and profit and non-profit agencies. Applications were then reviewed by three RPC staff members and a six member review committee including representatives from a large township, a small township, cities, villages, county-at-large and a Commissioner's appointee.

Applicants requested approximately \$803,000 in CDBG funding over the next 3-year period. Once the applications were reviewed and scores tallied, the projects were ranked according to the scores they received.

5. Explanation and discussion of the CAC & CDBG Staff Recommendation

Carlone stated that after the application review process was completed and based upon the results of it, the following is being proposed to be funded: CDBG Administration, funding the administration of the overall program at \$146,000 for FY 2018; Comprehensive Planning, funding the long term planning of the CDBG program at \$95,857 for FY 2018. This totals \$241,857 per year (or 20%) for general administration of the program. The Housing Rehabilitation Program includes the cost to operate the in-house Housing Rehabilitation Program and the direct costs of that program including termite inspections, location surveys, etc. at \$230,000 for FY 2018. This money does not include the cost of the actual rehabilitation, which is covered under another activity. Housing Rehabilitation Full/Emergency costs at \$152,195 for FY 2018. This is money

set aside to undertake rehabilitation on a qualified individual's home. This provides up to \$25,000 to rehab and keep an individual in their home; providing moderate to substantial needed housing repairs or emergency rehab situations that occur in their home in the last three months such as broken furnace, roof leak or water well that needs repaired or replaced. Fair Housing is a required activity under the CDBG program at \$70,000 for FY 2018. The total for Stark County Sponsored Programs is \$694,052 for FY 2018.

Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence is a shelter located in the city of Alliance and serves all of eastern Stark County. Individuals and families can stay for up to 90 days and are provided case management services to help them move to more permanent housing and enroll children in school, job training, education, etc. Funding will be utilized to pay for a portion of the office/case manager's salary. Proposed funding is \$16,640 for FY 2018.

The Prescription Assistance Network of Stark County – Prescription Medication Access provides prescription medications to low-to moderate- income individuals who otherwise would not be able to receive those prescriptions. Funding will pay for the dispensing of medication by licensed pharmacists. The funding is recommended for this project at \$22,000 for FY 2018.

CommQuest Services, Inc. – The Family Living Center is a homeless shelter located in Massillon serving all of western Stark County. This shelter serves persons in the same manner as the Alliance shelter. Funding will be utilized to help pay for a portion of the case management at the shelter. Proposed funding is \$18,000 for FY 2018.

Stark Mental Health and Addiction Recovery – Centralized Intake & Coordinated Assessment. Funding will be utilized to operate the homeless intake assessment program. The Stark County Homeless Hotline assesses individuals that call for housing and services and refers them to the appropriate facility throughout the county based on their need. Proposed funding is \$30,000 for FY 2018.

Carlone stated the public service projects total is \$86,640 for FY 2018. The total public service allocation includes Fair Housing and makes up 12.95% of total available funding under the 2018 program. A maximum of 15% of total CDBG funding may be used for public service projects.

Carlone stated that the proposed CDBG funding for Infrastructure projects are as follows:

Village of Minerva – Pennsylvania Water Main Replacement. The proposed funding for this project is \$70,000 for FY 2018. This is a waterline that is approximately 80 years old. This project was applied for last year and was tentatively awarded funding for the FY 2018 program.

Canton Township – Moreland Allotment Sanitary Sewer Installation. The proposed funding for this project is \$322,805 out of the potential FY 2018 allocation and

an additional \$127,195 from various unspent funds from part years, totaling \$450,000. This will allow repair to the failing septic systems that are creating sitting waste and seeping into potable water.

Village of Minerva – West Lincoln Water Main Replacement. The proposed funding for this project is \$135,000 for FY 2019. This will replace old aging waterline along Pennsylvania Avenue and an adjacent street. This project is slated to be undertaken in FY 2019.

The Infrastructure projects totals are \$392,805 for FY 2018 plus \$127,195 in unspent FY '15 – FY '17 CD funds and \$135,000 for FY 2019.

Carlone summarized the total proposed funding plan for FY 2018 as follows: the Stark County sponsored total is \$694,052; the Public Service total is \$86,640; the Infrastructure projects total is \$392,805; and a contingency balance of \$35,789; the total funding allocation for FY 2018 is \$1,209,286. Unspent 2015, 2016, 2017 funding will be allocated to the Moreland Allotment project at \$127,195 to bring them to the amount they requested. Bringing the total funding available during FY 2018 to \$1,336,481.

The total proposed funding plan for FY 2019 as follows: the Infrastructure Improvement total is \$135,000; the current allocation for FY 2019 is \$135,000. No funding has been tentatively awarded in FY 2020 yet.

6. Review of the FY 2018 HOME Proposals/Applications

Carlone stated the purpose of the HOME program is to provide quality, affordable housing opportunities for low-to moderate- income households. Unlike CDBG dollars, all HOME funding must go toward housing. The HOME Consortium includes Stark County and the cities of Massillon and Alliance. The City of Canton has a separate funding allocation. The 2018 program year is from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. An application workshop was held in November 2017 and applications were accepted until January 5, 2018. No applications were received requesting Stark County HOME funds, including possible application in cities Alliance or Massillon.

The County is expected to receive \$275,335; the City of Massillon is expected to receive \$88,818; the City of Alliance is expected to receive \$79,936; CHDO set-aside at \$88,818; and \$59,211 for administration. Total HOME allocations are expected to be \$592,118 though HUD has not released the FY 2018 HOME allocation yet. In addition, HOME program income earned up until March 1, 2018 (\$87,000) is also available for use under the FY 2018 program. This money is mostly, if not all, earned by the repayment of housing rehab loans under the housing rehab program for the County.

7. Explanation of the Staff Recommendations of the FY 2018 HOME Funding Proposal

Carlone stated Stark County is expected to receive \$59,211 of the Administration allocation.

The CHDO set-aside is a required 15% of the overall grant allocation. It is expected that \$88,818 will be set-aside. A CHDO is a private non-profit community based service organization that develops affordable housing for the community it serves. Funds must be invested in housing that is owned, developed or sponsored by the CHDO. Funding can be utilized by the CHDO to acquire, rehab or construct rental or homeowner properties.

The City of Massillon will use their total allocation of \$88,818 toward their homebuyer and housing rehabilitation programs. The homebuyer assistance provides direct down payment and closing cost assistance for eligible individuals purchasing a single family house in Massillon. The housing rehabilitation program provides funding to bring homes up to code in the city.

The City of Alliance will use their total allocation of \$79,936 toward their housing rehabilitation program. The housing rehabilitation program provides funding to bring homes up to code in the city.

Stark County Funds will use their remaining allocation of \$275,335 for the housing rehabilitation program. These funds will be used for the actual rehab at the individual's home. Homes under this program have to be fully brought up to code. On average, that is \$22,000-\$25,000 per home.

8. Adoption of the Citizen Advisory Council's (CAC) Recommendation

Masalko moved, DeOrio seconded, and the motion carried to adopt the CDBG program and HOME program as proposed by Staff.

9. Review and Adoption of the CDBG/HOME Citizen Participation Plan

Phillips stated that the purpose of the CDBG/HOME Citizen Participation Plan is to provide citizens and stakeholders an advisory role in the planning, implementation and assessment of its programs and plans. SCRPC's Practices and Policies to Encourage Public Participation are as follows: all meetings are held during the day and evening if needed; SCRPC office building is ADA accessible and within a block of public transportation; all meetings will be advertised on the SCRPC's website and in the newspaper when applicable; any documents created by the SCRPC that require public comment are made available of the SCRPC website as well as being available in the office; if a non-English speaking member of the community attends a meeting, they are encouraged to bring a translator and if an interpreter is needed, advance arrangements will need to be made.

Phillips listed the Community Development's Programs and Plans. CDBG Citizen Participation is encouraged through: Providing two (2) public hearings; providing

contact information for submitting complaints and responding to them in a timely manner; publishing notices for the CDBG application workshop in three (3) general circulation newspapers, RPC's website and mailing invitations to all political subdivisions and private and non-profit agencies that have applied for funding in the past or expressed interest in applying. HOME program citizen participation is encouraged through: hosting an application workshop; circulating public notices for the workshop in three (3) general circulation newspapers and RPC website and mailing invitations to all political subdivisions and private and non-profit agencies that have applied for funding in the past or expressed interest in applying. The HOME program is presented at the same Regional Planning Commission meeting as the CDBG program.

CDBG, HOME and Consolidated Plan (CP) substantial amendments occur when a program is added or cancelled; a considerable amount of money is being reallocated from one project to another, as determined by the Community Development Department or if there is a change to the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity. If a substantial amendment is needed, there will be a thirty (30) day comment period prior to the Board of Stark County Commissioners voting to approve the amendment.

The Consolidated Plan (5-year plan) provides an assessment of needs in the area, including housing and homeless needs, a housing market analysis and a strategic plan for the allocation of housing resources within the consortium. The plan also includes the County's priority community development needs that qualify under the CDBG program. Additionally, there is an assessment of the needs for infrastructure improvement, public facilities, public services, accessibility, economic development, fair housing and planning needs. The submission of the CP to HUD also contains the first year Annual Action Plan. During the next four years only the Annual Action Plan is submitted. Participation regarding the CP is encouraged through: completing a survey that is made available to groups targeted as able to provide input in terms of homeless, housing, planning and non-housing community development needs to gather information and comments, attendance at public meetings, public comments are received at public meetings held throughout the period of preparation of the CP and all comments and views are considered prior to submission of the CP.

The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) is a report created annually by the CD department staff and submitted to HUD within ninety (90) days after the end of the program year. Citizen participation regarding the CAPER is encouraged through: the draft of the CAPER is made available on the RPC website for a fifteen (15) day public comment period, the CAPER is advertised in three (3) local general circulation newspapers, a hard copy is available at the RPC office and on the RPC website and all comments and views of citizens are included in the final CAPER.

Phillips stated that on 1/5/2018, HUD published a Notice extending the deadline for submission of the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) for Consolidated Plan Participants. Therefore, the section of the Citizen Participation Plan formerly dedicated to the (AFH) has been replaced with the Analysis of Impediments (AI).

The RPC's Community Development Department is responsible for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) in Stark County which is a legal requirement that mandates federal grantees further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act. In order to AFFH in Stark County, an AI is created, which is conducted every 5 years in conjunction with the Consolidated Plan. An AI is a review of a jurisdiction's laws, regulations, and administrative 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.

Ultimately, the AI is an action-oriented approach to achieving the goal of eliminating various forms of housing discrimination. During the drafting of the AI, will be advertised in 3 local general circulation newspapers to inform the public of a 30-day public comment period. A hard copy of the report is available at the RPC office and on the RPC website. Comments received by citizens will be considered prior to finalizing the AI and presented at 2 public meetings.

Tapyrik moved, DeOrio seconded and the motion carried to adopt the Citizen Participation Plan with the change presented.

10. Other Business/Announcements

Carlone stated the recommendations will go to the Regional Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday evening, March 6th, and ask for their endorsement of the programs as well. There will be a public hearing on March 21, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in the RPC Conference Room, conducted by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Commissioners will accept comments on the CDBG and HOME program. They will defer their decision for a 30-day comment period, after which time they will take action on the funding recommendations.

The planning department is currently undertaking the FY '19 – '23 Consolidated Plan. It is a 5 year plan. There is a survey on the Regional Planning Commission's website, attendees were asked to complete if they had not already done so. There is a Save the Date available with the dates of the visionary meetings which will be conducted for the Consolidated Plan.

10. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Young, Secretary

**FY 2018-2020
STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
AND FY 2018 STARK COUNTY HOME PROGRAMS
PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 21, 2018
11:00 AM
STARK COUNTY RPC CONFERENCE ROOM**

JANET CREIGHTON: I will call this meeting to order. This is the public hearing for FY 2018-2020 Community Development Block Grant Funding and FY 2018 HOME program. Today is Wednesday, March 21, 2018. The public hearing was advertised for 11:00 a.m. and the duly appointed time has arrived. I am Janet Weir-Creighton, the President of the Board of Stark County Commissioners. To my left is Richard Regula and Commissioner Smith is excused for being out of town.

JANET CREIGHTON: This public hearing has been called for the purpose of reviewing the FY 2018-2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and FY 2018 HOME Programs and the proposed FY 2018 Citizens Participation Plan.

The Community Development Block Grant program was developed by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission's Citizens' Advisory Council Community Development Committee and staff during the last five months. We are here today to receive public input prior to any action by this Board to approve the funding program. In addition, we will receive public input to the RPC recommended FY 2018 HOME program.

Your comments will be considered by this Board, along with the formal recommendations of the Community Development Committee, staff, and RPC, as we prepare a final program for adoption and submission to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The County has not received notification of funding allocation for both the CDBG and HOME programs. During FY 2018, it is expected that the County will receive approximately \$1,209,286 in CDBG funds and \$592,000 in HOME funding.

At this time I would like to express my personal thanks and that of the Board's for the excellent job completed by the Community Development Committee in preparing their recommendations. The Commissioners were involved in the details of the projects recommended for consideration and reviewed the merits of each with staff.

I would like to call on Lynn Carlone, Chief of Community Development, for a summary of the CDBG and HOME recommendations. The Board would ask that you defer all questions and comments until Ms. Carlone completes her presentations.

LYNN CARLONE: First I will go over the proposed FY 2018-2020 CDBG funding recommendations. The three-year program will go from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. Stark County is expected to receive \$1,209,286 for FY 2018 but has not

received the exact allocation amount from HUD to date. This is the same amount received in FY 2017. It is unknown what funding will be received in FY 2019 and FY 2020. Funding has been stationary over the last decade or so, it is not expected that funding will greatly change.

An application workshop was held for all potential CDBG applicants in August 2017. Applications must meet one of three national objectives to be eligible for CDBG funding; (1) The project must benefit low-to moderate-income persons or families; (2) aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight; or (3) undertake an urgent need in the community. An urgent need in the community is something that takes place very quickly and cannot be planned for; therefore, an application cannot be submitted under this objective. Examples include water wells going dry or flooding. A total of 24 persons attended the workshop. They represented 11 profit and non-profit agencies/programs and 8 political subdivisions.

Applications were accepted until November 3, 2017. Public Service and Economic Development applications were only accepted for FY 2018 funding cycle. Infrastructure and Public Facility applications were accepted for FY 2018, FY 2019 and FY 2020 funding cycles. Carlone stated there were 9 applications received from various Stark County municipalities, townships and profit and non-profit agencies. Applications were then reviewed by three RPC staff members and a six member review committee including representatives from a large township, a small township, cities, villages, county-at-large and a Commissioner's appointee.

Applicants requested approximately \$803,000 in CDBG funding over the next 3-year period. Once the applications were reviewed and scores tallied, the projects were ranked according to the scores they received.

After the application review process was completed and based upon the results of it, the following is being proposed to be funded:

CDBG Administration, funding the administration of the overall program at \$146,000 for FY 2018; Comprehensive Planning, funding the long term planning of the CDBG program at \$95,857 for FY 2018. This totals \$241,857 per year (or 20%) for general administration of the program. The Housing Rehabilitation Program includes the cost to operate the in-house Housing Rehabilitation Program and the direct costs of that program including termite inspections, location surveys, etc. at \$230,000 for FY 2018. This money does not include the cost of the actual rehabilitation, which is covered under another activity. Housing Rehabilitation Full/Emergency costs at \$152,195 for FY 2018. This is money set aside to undertake rehabilitation on a qualified individual's home. This provides up to \$25,000 to rehab and keep an individual in their home; providing moderate to substantial needed housing repairs or emergency rehab situations that occur in their home in the last three months such as broken furnace, roof leak or water well that needs repaired or replaced. Fair Housing is a required activity under the CDBG program at \$70,000 for FY 2018. The total for Stark County Sponsored Programs is \$694,052 for FY 2018.

Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence is a shelter located in the city of Alliance and serves all of eastern Stark County. Individuals and families can stay for up to 90 days and are provided case management services to help them move to more permanent housing and enroll children in school, job training, education, etc. Funding will be utilized to pay for a portion of the office/case manager's salary. Proposed funding is \$16,640 for FY 2018.

The Prescription Assistance Network of Stark County – Prescription Medication Access provides prescription medications to low-to moderate- income individuals who otherwise would not be able to receive those prescriptions. Funding will pay for the dispensing of medication by licensed pharmacists. The funding is recommended for this project at \$22,000 for FY 2018.

CommQuest Services, Inc. – The Family Living Center is a homeless shelter located in Massillon serving all of western Stark County. This shelter serves persons in the same manner as the Alliance shelter. Funding will be utilized to help pay for a portion of the case management at the shelter. Proposed funding is \$18,000 for FY 2018.

Stark Mental Health and Addiction Recovery – Centralized Intake & Coordinated Assessment. Funding will be utilized to operate the homeless intake assessment program. The Stark County Homeless Hotline assesses individuals that call for housing and services and refers them to the appropriate facility throughout the county based on their need. Proposed funding is \$30,000 for FY 2018.

The public service projects total is \$86,640 for FY 2018. The total public service allocation includes Fair Housing and makes up 12.95% of total available funding under the 2018 program. A maximum of 15% of total CDBG funding may be used for public service projects.

The proposed CDBG funding for Infrastructure projects are as follows:

Village of Minerva – Pennsylvania Water Main Replacement. The proposed funding for this project is \$70,000 for FY 2018. This is a waterline that is approximately 80 years old. This project was applied for last year and was tentatively awarded funding for the FY 2018 program.

Canton Township – Moreland Allotment Sanitary Sewer Installation. The proposed funding for this project is \$322,805 out of the potential FY 2018 allocation and an additional \$127,195 from various unspent funds from previous years FY '15-'17, totaling \$450,000. This will allow replacement to the failing septic systems that are creating sitting waste and seeping into potable water by a sanitary sewer system.

Village of Minerva – West Lincoln Water Main Replacement. The proposed funding for this project is \$135,000 for FY 2019. This will replace old aging waterline along

Pennsylvania Avenue and an adjacent street. This project is slated to be undertaken in FY 2019.

The Infrastructure projects totals are \$392,805 for FY 2018 plus \$127,195 in unspent FY '15 – FY '17 CD funds and \$135,000 for FY 2019.

The total proposed funding plan for FY 2018 as follows: the Stark County sponsored total is \$694,052; the Public Service total is \$86,640; the Infrastructure projects total is \$392,805; and a contingency balance of \$35,789; the total funding allocation for FY 2018 is \$1,209,286. Unspent 2015, 2016, 2017 funding will be allocated to the Moreland Allotment project at \$127,195 to bring them to the amount they requested. Bringing the total updated funding available during FY 2018 to \$1,336,481.

The total proposed funding plan for FY 2019 as follows: the Infrastructure Improvement total is \$135,000; the current allocation for FY 2019 is \$135,000. No funding has been tentatively awarded in FY 2020 yet.

The purpose of the HOME program is to provide quality, affordable housing opportunities for low-to moderate- income households. Unlike CDBG dollars, all HOME funding must go toward housing. The HOME Consortium includes Stark County and the cities of Massillon and Alliance. The City of Canton has a separate funding allocation. The 2018 program year is from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. An application workshop was held in November 2017 and applications were accepted until January 5, 2018. No applications were received requesting Stark County HOME funds, including possible application in cities Alliance or Massillon.

The County is expected to receive \$275,335; the City of Massillon is expected to receive \$88,818; the City of Alliance is expected to receive \$79,936; CHDO set-aside at \$88,818; and \$59,211 for administration. Total HOME allocation is expected to be \$592,118 though HUD has not released the FY 2018 HOME allocation yet. In addition, HOME program income earned up until March 1, 2018 (\$87,000) is also available for use under the FY 2018 program. This money is mostly, if not all, earned by the repayment of housing rehab loans under the housing rehab program for the County.

Stark County is expected to receive \$59,211 of the Administration allocation.

The CHDO set-aside is a required 15% of the overall grant allocation. It is expected that \$88,818 will be set-aside. A CHDO is a private non-profit community based service organization that develops affordable housing for the community it serves. Funds must be invested in housing that is owned, developed or sponsored by the CHDO. Funding can be utilized by the CHDO to acquire, rehab or construct rental or homeowner properties.

The City of Massillon will use their total allocation of \$88,818 toward their homebuyer and housing rehabilitation programs. The homebuyer assistance provides direct down payment and closing cost assistance for eligible individuals purchasing a single family

house in Massillon. The housing rehabilitation program provides funding to bring homes up to code in the city.

The City of Alliance will use their total allocation of \$79,936 toward their housing rehabilitation program. The housing rehabilitation program provides funding to bring homes up to code in the city.

Stark County Funds will use their allocation of \$275,335 for the housing rehabilitation program. These funds will be used for the actual rehab at the individual's home. Homes under this program have to be fully brought up to code. On average, that is \$22,000-\$25,000 per home.

JANET CREIGHTON: At this time, the Board will entertain any additional comments that you would like to present regarding the proposed CDBG and HOME programs in general or any specific activities to be funded. In making comments, would you please give your name, address and political unit or organization, if any, that you are representing.

JANET CREIGHTON: Not seeing any comments, I would like to call on Katie Phillips, RPC Planner, for a summary of the proposed FY 2018 Citizen's Participation Plan. The Board would ask that you defer all questions and comments until Ms. Phillips completes her presentation.

KATIE PHILLIPS: The purpose of the CDBG/HOME Citizen Participation Plan is to provide citizens and stakeholders an advisory role in the planning, implementation and assessment of its programs and plans. SCRPC's Practices and Policies to Encourage Public Participation are as follows: all meetings are held during the day and evening if needed; SCRPC office building is ADA accessible and within a block of public transportation; all meetings will be advertised on the SCRPC's website and in the newspaper when applicable; any documents created by the SCRPC that require public comment are made available of the SCRPC website as well as being available in the office; if a non-English speaking member of the community attends a meeting, they are encouraged to bring a translator and if an interpreter is needed, advance arrangements will need to be made.

The following are the Community Development's Programs and Plans. CDBG Citizen Participation is encouraged through: Providing two (2) public hearings; providing contact information for submitting complaints and responding to them in a timely manner; publishing notices for the CDBG application workshop in three (3) general circulation newspapers, RPC's website and mailing invitations to all political subdivisions and private and non-profit agencies that have applied for funding in the past or expressed interest in applying. HOME program citizen participation is encouraged through: hosting an application workshop; circulating public notices for the workshop in three (3) general circulation newspapers and RPC website and mailing invitations to all political subdivisions and private and non-profit agencies that have applied for funding in the past

or expressed interest in applying. The HOME program is presented at the same Regional Planning Commission meeting as the CDBG program.

CDBG, HOME and Consolidated Plan (CP) substantial amendments occur when a program is added or cancelled; a considerable amount of money is being reallocated from one project to another, as determined by the Community Development Department or if there is a change to the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity. If a substantial amendment is needed, there will be a thirty (30) day comment period prior to the Board of Stark County Commissioners voting to approve the amendment.

The Consolidated Plan (5-year plan) provides an assessment of needs in the area, including housing and homeless needs, a housing market analysis and a strategic plan for the allocation of housing resources within the consortium. The plan also includes the County's priority community development needs that qualify under the CDBG program. Additionally, there is an assessment of the needs for infrastructure improvement, public facilities, public services, accessibility, economic development, fair housing and planning needs. The submission of the CP to HUD also contains the first year Annual Action Plan. During the next four years only the Annual Action Plan is submitted. Participation regarding the CP is encouraged through: completing a survey that is made available to groups targeted as able to provide input in terms of homeless, housing, planning and non-housing community development needs to gather information and comments, attendance at public meetings, public comments are received at public meetings held throughout the period of preparation of the CP and all comments and views are considered prior to submission of the CP.

The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) is a report created annually by the CD department staff and submitted to HUD within ninety (90) days after the end of the program year. Citizen participation regarding the CAPER is encouraged through: the draft of the CAPER is made available on the RPC website for a fifteen (15) day public comment period, the CAPER is advertised in three (3) local general circulation newspapers, a hard copy is available at the RPC office and on the RPC website and all comments and views of citizens are included in the final CAPER.

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Ultimately, the AI is an action-oriented approach to achieving the goal of eliminating various forms of housing discrimination. During the drafting of the AI, it will be advertised in 3 local general circulation newspapers to inform the public of a 30-day public comment period. A hard copy of the report is available at the RPC office and on the RPC website. Comments received by citizens will be considered prior to finalizing the AI and presented at 2 public meetings.

JANET CREIGHTON: At this time, the Board will entertain any additional comments that you would like to present regarding the proposed Citizen's Participation Plan. Once again, in making comments, please give your name, address and political unit or organization, if any, that you are representing.

IDA ROSS FREEMAN: I am with the Stark County Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Outreach Project Agency. We have been around for twenty-six (26) years connecting people that fall through the holes while they are in need of mental health, substance abuse and especially housing. They are all tied in together. Affordable housing is a key thing. I think that we, as a community, as large as we are need to have some kind of community plan in place so our people who are homeless will know where to go when it get extreme cold or extreme hot. You know, like most communities. I should say like most supervised communities, but that is another story. Like most communities it would be something that is published and everyone would know if it gets this hot and I am homeless, just like they know when they need to take a bath they can go to Salvation Army and take a shower, something like that. A community plan in place. We don't have one and I feel so bad. I even talked to you, um, Commissioner about my concerns. Which I really do appreciate you jumping right on that, you know because it was cold and people had no place to go and you enacted something right away. We need something in place. Not a reactive but a proactive process. Some kind of way. Currently I am trying to buy a house for that purpose.

JANET CREIGHTON: Other comments? I appreciate your comments Ida, thank you for coming in. Are there any comments from Commissioner Regula?

RICHARD REGULA: I have none.

JANET CREIGHTON: I will entertain a motion to defer our decision establishing the proposed One-Year Annual Action Plan and Citizen's Participation Plan to be submitted until the public comment period has expires, and to allow the Board time to consider the recommendations submitted. Regula moved, and Creighton seconded and the motion carried to defer the decision establishing the proposed programs until a further date.

IDA ROSS FREEMAN: When you say the community, what do you mean by that? The community participation. Is that the regular community? People that live in the community? Or selected people.

JANET CREIGHTON: It is everyone in Stark County.

IDA ROSS FREEMAN: Inclusive of Canton?

LYNN CARLONE: We can do activities that go over the borders if it benefits the residents of the County. The City of Canton does receive its own CDBG funds to benefit their citizens within their corporate limits.

IDA ROSS FREEMAN: I deal with people in Louisville, Navarre and Uniontown. I don't know how they hear because I don't have the dollars to advertise, word of mouth. This is just for the County, inclusive of Canton? For the County, exclusive of Canton including Alliance, including Navarre and including Massillon?

LYNN CARLONE: The cities of Canton, Massillon and Alliance all receive their own CDBG entitlement grant which are utilized directly within their corporate limits. Stark County takes care of the balance of the County, excluding the Village of Hills and Dales. A particular project could be located within one of those corporate limits but serve all of Stark County so Stark County CDBG funds could be utilized on those type of activities.

IDA ROSS FREEMAN: That's what I am trying to figure out because we are Stark County and we serve anybody from the County of Stark. I am trying to figure out if there would be money for us.

LYNN CARLONE: There could definitely be money for you.

JANET CREIGHTON: I think that each case would have to be judged on its own merit and jurisdiction. Is there anything else? Thank you all for your interest and for coming today. Copies of the FY 2018 programs and the Citizen's Participation Plan, which are adopted by the Board will be available after May 15, 2018, and may be obtained from the Stark County Regional Planning Commission website.

This public hearing is adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Planning to Apply for Stark County CDBG* Funds?

Learn how by attending an

Application Workshop

**Wednesday, August 30, 2017
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Stark County Regional Planning Commission Office
201 Third Street NE, Room 210, Canton**

- Review of the application process and form for Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Funding
- Selection of Application Review Committee

**Earn points for your CDBG project applications by attending
this FREE training session sponsored by CDBG staff**

For more information call Ms. Lynn Carlone at 330-451-7774

(*Community Development Block Grant)

Published In The Repository, Alliance Review and Massillon Evening Independent Thursday, August 17, 2017

Repository - \$400-
Independent - \$250-
Review - \$1

**STARK COUNTY FY 2018 HOME REQUEST
FOR PROPOSAL/APPLICATION WORKSHOP**

For any agency interested in applying for FY 2018 Stark County*
HOME funding, a workshop will be held on:

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

9:00 am to 10:00 am

at the

Stark County Regional Planning Commission

201 Third St., NE
Suite 201
Canton, 44702

RSVP to 330-451-7774 by Thursday, November 9th

After the workshop is held, HOME "Request for Proposal" information
will be posted on the RPC website @ www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

*Stark County HOME funding is available for use throughout Stark County to benefit residents
outside the corporate limits of the City of Canton and the Village of Hills & Dales.

The Repository - \$ 370.⁰⁰

Independent - \$ 290.⁰⁰

Review - \$ 92.⁷⁵

Printed Thursday - Nov. 2nd 2017

Public Meeting

**Review of the proposed
FY 2018-2020 Stark County
Community Development Block Grant Program &
FY 2018 HOME Program**

**Thursday, March 1, 2018
8:30-10:30 a.m.**

Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201- 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH

Printed in The Repository, Massillon Independent, Alliance Review, February 20, 2018

*The Rep - \$ 225.⁰⁰
The Inde - \$ 153.⁰⁰
The Review - \$ 80.00*

**STARK COUNTY'S PROPOSED COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
AND HOME FUNDS**

CONSOLIDATED PLAN SUMMARY

The Consolidated Plan is a consolidation of 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. The County is the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, which includes the cities of Alliance and Massillon.

In accordance with HUD regulations, the Stark County Consortium Consolidated Plan, originally prepared and approved in 1995, and subsequently updated, most currently, for FY 2014-2018, 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 program. 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 decent housing that is affordable to households at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.
- The provision of suitable living environment, improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods, increasing access to quality facilities and services, improving housing opportunities, and revitalizing deteriorated neighborhoods.
- The expansion of economic opportunities, creating jobs that promote long term economic and social viability and that are accessible to persons at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.

In preparing the current One Year Action Plan, the County had to address those needs which met one of the three statutory objectives of the CDBG program: benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, elimination of slum and blighting conditions, or an urgent community development need.

FY 2018-2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners is proposing to undertake the following housing and community development activities during the three-year funding program, FY 2018-2020. The total proposed FY '18 budget of \$1,209,286 is based upon the funding received under the FY 2017 program. Increases or decreases to the "Total Anticipated FY '18 funding" will be reflected in final funding amounts provided to the various projects at the discretion of the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

PROJECTS	PROPOSED 2018	PROPOSED 2019	PROPOSED 2020
CDBG Administration	146,000	-	-
Comprehensive Planning	95,857	-	-
Housing Rehab- Full/Emergency Rehab	152,195	-	-
Housing Rehab- Direct/Program Operation	230,000	-	-
Fair Housing	70,000	-	-
CommQuest Services, Inc. - Family Living Center	18,000	-	-
Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence	16,540	-	-
Prescription Asst. Network of Stark Co.			
- Prescription Medication Access	22,000	-	-
Stark Co. Mental Health Bd.			
- Centralized Intake & Coordinated Assess.	30,000	-	-
Village of Minerva - Pennsylvania Water Main Replacement	70,000	-	-
Village of Minerva - West Lincoln Way Water Main Replacement	-	135,000	-
Canton Twp. - Moreland Allotment Sanitary Sewer Installation	322,805	-	-
Contingencies	35,789	-	-
Total Anticipated FY '18 & '19 funding	\$ 1,209,286	\$ 135,000	\$ -
Reallocation of unspent FY '15, '16, & '17 funding to Canton Township			
Moreland Allotment Sanitary Sewer project:	\$ 127,195		
(1) Housing Rehab Project/Activity Costs - FY '15 - \$83,000			
(2) Onenburg Twp. - CDBG Septic Program - FY '16 - \$18,662			
(3) Contingencies - FY '16 - \$5,533			
(4) Rebuilding Together NE Ohio - Veteran Home Repairs - FY '17 - \$20,000			
ANTICIPATED GRAND TOTAL FY '18	\$ 1,336,481		

It is anticipated that the County will have a balance of approximately \$270,000.00 in the housing rehab revolving loan fund (RLF) for use with the program. All program income earned from the RLF will revolve back into this program. Applications will be accepted during the FY '19-'21 application round for additional projects to be funded during FY 2019 and FY 2020.

FY 2018 HOME PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners, as the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, is proposing the following expenditure of funds for the HOME program, which follows the same program year as the CDBG program. The total proposed FY '18 budget of \$592,118 is based upon the funding received under the FY 2017 program. Increases or decreases to the "Total Anticipated FY '18 funding" will be reflected in funding amounts provided to the various projects at the discretion of the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

PROJECTS	PROPOSED FY '18 FUNDING
CHDO Project	\$88,818
Stark County Housing Rehabilitation	\$275,335
City of Massillon - Homebuyer and Housing Rehab Activities	\$88,818
City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation	\$79,936
Administration	\$59,211
Total Anticipated FY '18 funding	\$ 592,118

In addition, HOME program income earned, estimated at approximately \$87,000.00, will be utilized under the Stark County Housing Rehabilitation project.

CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION PLAN

The proposed FY 2018 Citizen's Participation Plan (CPP) covering CDBG, HOME, and Fair Housing has been developed.

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

The Stark County One Year Annual Action Plan and CPP will be available for public review and comment beginning March 12, 2018 at the following location during regular office hours:

Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201 Third Street, NE Suite 201
Canton, OH 44702

Written comments on the Annual Action Plan, the FY 2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME programs, and the CPP should be directed to: Lynn Carione, Stark County Regional Planning Commission, 201 Third St., NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702. Comments are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 2018.

AR-10608167

Rep. - 1099 -
Inde - 846 -
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☐ PROOF O.K. BY: _____ ☐ O.K. WITH CORRECTIONS BY: _____

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY • SUBMIT CORRECTIONS ONLINE

AR-10608167 (100%)

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PUBLIC HEARING

TO RECEIVE CITIZEN COMMENT ON

**FY 2018 - 2020
STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
AND FY 2018 HOME PROGRAM**

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018
11:00 A.M.**

**Stark County Regional Planning Commission
Conference Room
201- 3rd St. N.E., Suite 201 - Canton, Ohio 44702**

Written comments may be submitted at any time prior to the public hearing to:
Lynn Carlone, Chief of Community Development
Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201- 3rd St. N.E., Suite 201, Canton, Ohio 44702

Published in The Repository, Massillon Independent, and Alliance Review March 12, 2018

*Repository - \$
Independent \$
Review - \$*

APPENDIX B – FY 2018 FAIR HOUSING ACTION PLAN

**Stark County Fair Housing Department
Fair Housing Action Plan
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 (FY 2018)**

I. Mission

The Stark County Fair Housing Department's (SCFHD) mission is to eliminate housing discrimination, racial and sexual harassment and to ensure housing opportunities for all people regardless of a person's race, color, sex, religion, national origin, handicap or familial status. In furthering this goal, SCFHD promotes equal housing opportunity through leadership, education, and outreach. Furthermore, the department identifies barriers to fair housing in order to help counteract and eliminate discriminatory housing practices. The department takes all appropriate and necessary actions to ensure that fair housing laws are properly and fairly enforced throughout the city of Alliance and Stark County. SCFHD envisions a county free of housing discrimination where every individual, group and community enjoys equal housing opportunity.

II. Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH)

On July 16, 2015, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published in the Federal Register its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) final rule. The AFFH rule provides that program participants must conduct an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) using an "Assessment Tool." In the Federal Register on January 5, 2018, HUD published a notice extending the deadline for AFH submissions by local government consolidated plan participants to their next AFH submission date that falls after October 31, 2020. HUD believes that program participants need additional time and technical assistance to adjust to the new AFFH process and complete AFH submissions that can be accepted.

Consolidated plan program participants must now continue to comply with existing, ongoing obligations to AFFH. Until a consolidated plan program participant is required to submit an AFH, it must provide the AFFH consolidated plan certification in accordance with the requirements that existed prior to August 17, 2015. This requirement obligates a program participant to certify that it will affirmatively further fair housing, which means it will conduct an Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice within the jurisdiction, take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified through that analysis, and maintain records reflecting the analysis and actions.

III. Analysis of Impediments (AI)

As required, all government agencies and recipients of federal funds must "affirmatively further fair housing." Affirmatively furthering fair housing is defined as taking meaningful actions that, taken together, address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity,

replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws. To affirmatively further fair housing, the cities of Alliance, Canton, Massillon and Stark County Fair Housing Offices jointly completed the last AI in January 2012. The AI evaluated population, household income, and housing characteristics by protected classes in each of the jurisdictions; evaluated public and private sector policies that impacted fair housing choice; identified blatant impediments to fair housing choice; and recommended specific strategies to overcome the effects of any impediments identified.

IV. Impediments

Since the last AI was conducted, SCFHD has addressed the identified impediments to fair housing choice. However, affirmatively furthering fair housing choice is a complicated effort, as such, there are some barriers that continue to exist. The following listed impediments are a continuous endeavor the department plans to address during this fiscal period and in the future:

1. Local units of government that participate in the Urban County's entitlement grant programs may not unequivocally understand their responsibility to affirmatively further fair housing choice.
2. Patterns of lending discrimination appear to exist.
3. The volume and outcomes of fair housing complaints filed at both the local and federal levels indicate that unlawful discrimination still occurs in Stark County, especially in the rental market.
4. Preferences for particular family types were detected among the various real estate advertising outlets suggesting that local newspapers could improve their screening processes related to potential housing discrimination.

V. Action Plan

The following are the action plans or steps SCFHD will take in the upcoming fiscal year:

1. Provide technical land use planning assistance to local units of government aimed at identifying and overcoming procedural and regulatory barriers to affordable housing and fair housing. Coordinate fair housing workshops, trainings and outreach with local partners covering rental housing issues as well as zoning/land use issues at township zoning meetings and at the Governmental Law Seminar where local governmental officials from around the county attends. Trainings will be crafted to meet the needs of housing providers, zoning inspectors, private attorneys, commissioners, judges and planners.

Promote the use of model ordinances, especially as they relate to the removal of barriers to affordable housing and accommodating group homes for persons with disabilities, at fair housing workshops and trainings like township zoning meetings and the Governmental Law Seminar.

2. Arrange housing counselors to provide credit repair advice to ensure to the extent possible that members of the protected classes have access to means of improving their ability to obtain and maintain decent, affordable housing. Continue to work with Community Building Partnership to provide online credit counseling vouchers for purchasers in the NSP Program.

Coordinate fair housing lending workshops and trainings on ownership housing issues with local partners. Trainings will be crafted to meet the needs of homebuyers, lenders, realtors, and housing counselors.

3. Conduct fair housing workshops, conferences, outreach and trainings to increase the knowledge and awareness of the fair housing law. Provide written informational and educational materials about fair housing and where to go to file discrimination complaints.

Conduct audit testing to determine discrimination trends and issues for persons in a protected class seeking housing. Assists complainants with the filing of discrimination complaints.

4. Monitor local newspapers for preferences, limitations, and discriminatory advertisements. Under federal law the making, printing, and publishing of advertisements that state a preference, limitation, or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status is prohibited. If newspapers publish an advertisement that on its face expresses a preference, limitation or discrimination, file a discrimination complaint to ensure compliance with the fair housing law and to get the newspapers to improve their screening processes.

VI. Collaboration on the Analysis of Impediments

Program participants entered into an agreement to collaborate in undertaking a joint AI. Accordingly, the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the cities of Alliance, Canton, and Massillon entered into a Collaboration Agreement to conduct and submit a Regional AFH. After HUD extended the deadline for AFH submissions, the collaborative agreed to jointly complete an AI. Thereafter, program participants entered into an agreement with a consultant to conduct the jointly AI. During the upcoming fiscal year, program participants will work on the development of the AI as required by the final rule at 24 CFR Part 5 to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. Program participants anticipate the AI will be completed in October 2018.

VII. Conclusion

The SCFHD is committed to providing fair housing choices for all residents in the county. The department will continue to promote equal housing opportunity through leadership, education, and outreach. In doing so, the elimination of housing discrimination will become closer to being a reality. SCFHD envisions a county free of housing discrimination where every individual, group and community enjoys equal housing opportunity. To achieve that goal, it will take persistence, collaboration, support and creativity.

The SCFHD will regularly review the Action Plan and the recommendations in the AI to identify additional actions or steps needed to keep the goals of fair housing moving.