

**The CAPER is in draft form until approved by the
Board of Stark County Commissioners.**



Stark County, Ohio

FY 2024

Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Commissioners

Richard Regula

Bill Smith

Alan Harold

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

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

This is the first year of the 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan. The County made progress towards its initiatives and will work to meet goals during the upcoming years.

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

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

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Administration and Planning	Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Other	Other	1	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%
Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	5	0	0.00%	2	0	0.00%
Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	175	18	10.29%	36	18	50.00%

Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	4	0	0.00%	2	0	0.00%
Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	40	16	40.00%	10	16	160.00%
Homeless Assistance	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	1049		0	1049	
Homeless Assistance	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	2000	1049	52.45%	550	1049	190.73%
Homeless Assistance	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added	Beds	0	0		0	0	
Permanent Supportive Housing	Homeless	HOME: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	10	0	0.00%			
Public Improvements and Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	650	0	0.00%	181	0	0.00%
Public Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1500	2297	153.13%	425	2297	540.47%

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

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

The priorities identified in the current Consolidated Plan include four provisions: safe, sanitary and affordable housing for lower income residents, suitable living environments by increasing the quality of life for lower income residents, economic opportunities for lower income residents and updated/new public facilities and/or infrastructure improvements, primarily to benefit lower income residents. All funded activities must meet one of these four provisions along with one of the CDBG National Objectives.

Fair Housing as an administration and planning activity, served XX persons, XX of which were low-to moderate-income. This activity provided more than XX referrals to various agencies, distributed educational fair housing brochures, conducted fair housing tester training along with various fair housing presentations.

As a result of the CARES Act, Stark County received \$1,751,488.00 in CDBG-CV funds. These funds were incorporated into the County's amended FY 2020 Action Plan. Dollars were committed to two activities that prevent, prepare for, and/or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a portion being set aside for administrative and planning costs. Total CDBG-CV expenditures are listed in the narrative of CR-15.

Through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Stark County received a total HOME-ARP allocation of \$3,233,324.00. These funds were incorporated into the County's amended FY 2021 Action Plan. Program implementation has begun, and program expenditures have been for administration. Total HOME-ARP expenditures are listed in the narrative of CR-15.

Line 3 above, Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated, reflects 18 which is populated in report PR10. PR10 does not capture all rehabs. However, total homeowner rehabs is 75, which are accounted for in section CR-20.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME
White	2,698	13
Black or African American	884	12
Asian	17	0
American Indian or American Native	31	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	0
Total	3,632	25
Hispanic	210	0
Not Hispanic	3,820	25

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

Narrative

The numbers reported in this section are persons, not families. Other CDBG racial categories not displayed above total 398. This data is derived from PR03 and PR23 which account for all persons who have participated or benefitted from a CDBG program or activity.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)**Identify the resources made available**

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	2,214,766	1,846,517
HOME	public - federal	2,975,177	709,087

Table 3 - Resources Made Available**Narrative**

"Resources Made Available" for CDBG and HOME is the total annual allocation, all program income and previous year balances. "Amount Expended During Program Year" is the total expended during the year, which includes expenditures of previous years funds.

CDBG-CV resources made available totaled \$625,346.30 and expenditures during the program year totaled \$205,203.95.

HOME-ARP resources made available totaled \$3,128,283.93 and expenditures during the program year totaled \$23,399.71.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
County-wide			County Target Area

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments**Narrative**

Stark County reviews the most recent HOME Consortium Participating Members Percentage report when developing the annual HOME budget. The County divides the annual HOME allocation between the Consortium members. The cities of Alliance and Massillon determine how the funds will be utilized in their respective communities. CDBG and HOME funds are utilized throughout the County as there are no designated target areas.

Leveraging

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

CDBG applicants are not required to leverage funds but are highly encouraged to do so. During program year '24, CDBG activities leveraged more than three million dollars in federal, state, local and other funds. HOME projects are asked to provide a 25% match on projects to assist in meeting the County's annual match requirement. As shown in Table 5 below, the County has "banked" (or excess) match from prior years and plans to carry over HOME match to meet the current year match obligation.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	6,237,928
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	6,237,928
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	164,962
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	6,072,966

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

7/30/2025

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at begin-ning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
109,433	174,097	107,743	0	175,787

Table 7 – Program Income

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			
Number	0	0	0			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0		0		
Businesses Displaced		0		0		
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0		0		
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0		0		
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	40	79
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	40	79

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	0	79
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	0	79

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

The numbers shown in the "Actual" column of Table 12 are derived from reports PR03 and PR23 and reflect CDBG and HOME housing activities during the program year.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

All outcomes are reviewed each year to determine if adjustments are needed to future action plans. Stark County strives to set realistic, attainable goals.

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

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	15	9
Low-income	22	3
Moderate-income	24	6
Total	61	18

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

The numbers provided in Table 13 reflect those served and was obtained using reports PR03, PR22 and PR23. The "CDBG Actual" numbers reflect open and completed activities and the "HOME Actual" numbers represent completed activities as this is how IDIS reports accomplishments in PR23.

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

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

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

The system of care for persons experiencing homelessness in the jurisdiction is coordinated by the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC). HCCSC established a Coordinated Entry System Committee in 2013 which worked diligently to develop policies and procedures between 2013-2014 for a centralized intake and assessment system/coordinated entry which would be compliant with all HEARTH regulations, cost efficient, client oriented and engage the entire homeless system. The system began roll out in September 2014 and continues to evolve based on the guidance provided by HUD and community need. In 2024, the Coordinated Entry System underwent an assessment by an outside consultant to identify areas for improvement. The system establishes protocols for reaching out to people experiencing homelessness and assessing their individual needs. Outreach programs are operated through ICAN Housing via the PATH program, which targets those with severe mental illness and those with substance use issues, and some additional outreach for persons who do not meet the PATH eligibility criteria. ICAN's outreach staff and other service agencies across the county immediately connect persons experiencing homelessness to homeless navigation. During the call with homeless navigation, persons who are experiencing or are at-risk of homelessness are assisted with alternatives whenever possible to identify other resources and to problem solve where possible to avoid entry into the homeless system. Homeless Navigation also goes on site weekly to two locations frequently visited by those experiencing unsheltered homelessness to connect with these individuals or families who may not reach out by phone. When there are no possible alternatives other than emergency shelter, living on the street or a location not meant for human habitation, homeless navigation completes an assessment to determine severity of need and prioritization on the referral lists for prevention, shelter, rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing. Those who are in a current state of chronic homelessness, with highest assessment scores, are assisted with entry into available shelter openings first. Those who do not want to enter shelter are referred to the outreach program where staff attempt to follow up and address the individual's needs. Once homeless navigation completes the assessment and places someone on the prioritization list, all homeless housing programs, that are approved HMIS users, can view the secure list. A weekly By Names meeting is held and attended by members of coordinated entry, homeless navigation, behavioral health providers, housing providers, shelter providers, and the outreach program. During these weekly meetings, families and individuals who are at the top of the prioritization list are referred to housing providers. Attendees of the By Names meeting coordinate services, when needed, to ensure the family or individual is properly connected with their housing opportunity or opportunities. Housing providers are in regular contact with shelters, outreach, client's case managers and other service agencies when attempting to contact a client on the prioritization list to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that people who are still experiencing homelessness are being found and assisted.

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

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

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

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

Stark County saw an increase in the total number of persons homeless from 2024 to 2025 in the Point-in-Time Count (PIT) data. The total number of homeless persons rose from 330 to 375. The total number of sheltered homeless subpopulation increased from 265 to 274 and the number of the unsheltered subpopulation increased from 65 to 101.

The efficacy of the Coordinated Entry System has allowed people to become quickly housed and receive assistance with much more rapidity. With the use of a recently updated shelter and housing screening tool, a natural diversion process occurs because the homeless navigation workers can have a conversation with the caller to provide a truly accurate assessment of the need. This diversion process is the way in which callers are diverted into areas of the most appropriate assistance level, and many times this may not be the homeless system. Along with the Coordinated Entry System, the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County has become more established and recognized, and this has allowed providers and community stakeholders to provide more input with assessing gaps, analyzing current procedures, and recommending strategies. The HCCSC has also invested in a System Modeling project that is led by outside consultants to analyze a process that models an optimized organization of system responses for all persons who experience a housing crisis in Stark County. The System Model process identified needs and gaps and investigated how existing resources could be more efficiently deployed to address client needs. The System Modeling identified Stark County's greatest need is Permanent Supportive Housing. Based on the System Modeling that was completed in 2023, Stark County has a gap of 118 beds/service slots for individuals needing Permanent Supportive Housing. This need is followed

by a gap of 51 service slots for homeless prevention/diversion.

Primarily the individuals and families entering shelter have very little to no income and have many barriers to gaining employment and/or other benefits. The HCCSC has phased out all CoC funded transitional housing projects. Non-CoC funded transitional housing is provided by either Domestic Violence or Alcohol and Other Drugs (AoD) agencies.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

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

The HCCSC partners with several committees/workgroups who focus on identifying the challenges and needs of those being discharged from various publicly funded institutions. These subcommittees address mental illness and addiction, youth homelessness, the re-entry population and health care discharge planning. The sub-committees explore other funding opportunities through Health & Human Services, Department of Justice and Mental Health & Addiction Services for example, to develop other housing options for those exiting other systems of care. Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery funds a local provider to administer an OhioMHAS licensed residential facility that provides a temporary place to stay for individuals who are homeless, referred by their mental health and/or addiction treatment provider, meet the level of care criteria, and are transitioning back into the community from a hospitalization or jail/prison stay.

The Coordinated Entry System implemented simplified referral processes for agencies serving foster youth who are transitioning out of foster care and are eligible for Stark County’s transitional age youth housing project and created a link for Stark County Jail Liaisons (Stark County’s only jail, there are no

prisons) to quickly and easily connect inmates with the homeless navigation registration process 24/7.

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

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

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

The 2025 PIT revealed a decrease from the 2024 count from 11 to 10 unaccompanied homeless youth. There were no youth under 18 that reported as unaccompanied homeless. However, the data from local school districts and the Ohio Department of Education reveal that there are many youth, both under 18 and over, in unstable doubled-up situations and very much at-risk of homelessness which must be addressed proactively through more prevention programs targeted to youth. The HCCSC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Stark County Educational Service Center to be aware of the number of youth experiencing homelessness in local school districts and to share information and resources. Homeless Education Liaisons from the local school districts are invited to monthly meetings through a Homelessness Learning Community to share information and learn about new and existing programs in the community to support youth experiencing homelessness. The Education Service Center worked directly with Stark County school districts, 17 in total, to complete a school-based count of students experiencing homelessness during the time of the PIT count. While the PIT completed by the HCCSC/CoC counts individuals and families experiencing literal homelessness, the count conducted by the Education Service Center is based on the homeless definition according to the McKinney-Vento Act which is a broader definition including shared housing situations. According to the Education Service Center’s count, during the 2023-24 school year 628 students in Stark County schools were experiencing homelessness with 157 of the 628 students experiencing literal homelessness. Unaccompanied youth account for 144 of the total 628 students. The count for the 2024-25 school year has not yet been released.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Board of Stark County Commissioners does not operate public housing as the County has a local housing authority, Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) which is a separate entity.

Surveys created by SCRPC for the County's five-year Consolidated Plan were provided to SMHA to forward to residents. SMHA is informed of all public meetings and public hearings providing residents with the opportunity to participate in the planning of Annual Action Plans and the Consolidated Plan.

SMHA has received a Choice Neighborhoods Planning grant for the Jackson-Sherrick area in southeast Canton. Residents have been involved in the planning process through various meetings and visioning workshops. Resident input is being solicited to help guide the priorities of the neighborhood. Various committees have been formed to combine the perspectives of residents and community professionals/stakeholders to assist with envisioning the future of the community.

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

SMHA administers its own resident initiatives. Specific items listed in SMHA's 2025 annual plan include promoting homeownership, potential mixed-finance single-family homeownership program, continuing to subsidize mortgages through the HCV Homeownership Program and working with local agencies for down payment assistance, mortgage lending, and homeownership counseling. Additional actions include encouraging self-sufficiency and asset development of residents. Homeownership has been discussed throughout the Choice Neighborhoods planning meetings.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority has not been designated as a troubled PHA.

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

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

Items that have been identified as potential barriers to affordable housing include inconsistent group home regulations, limited representation on appointed board and commissions and current land use plans which are particularly restrictive to multi-unit rental housing. To ameliorate negative effects, it has been recommended that zoning ordinances be updated, board and commissions expand representation and review of land use plans occur.

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

All objectives set forth in the annual action plan are designed to meet the needs of the County. Housing rehab strives to keep residents in their homes by making them decent, safe, cost effective and sanitary, infrastructure projects improve communities by ensuring access to clean water and public services aim to serve the most vulnerable.

Stark County also turns towards The Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHN), to address underserved needs. The SHN is the central agency within Stark County coordinating 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.

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

Housing rehab projects undertaken with CDBG and HOME funds are carried out in a lead-safe manner. Each rehab project undertaken is evaluated for lead and all work is required to be carried out in a lead safe manner by licensed contractors. All program participants are given the EPA brochure on lead hazards. Lead clearance is achieved on applicable pre-1978 properties

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

As listed in the current Consolidated Plan Anti-Poverty Strategy, Stark County targets funding toward specific activities. For example, CDBG and HOME funds are allocated for rehab assistance which keep residents in their home. These programs provide grants or 0% interest deferred loans to income-eligible households that otherwise cannot afford necessary repairs or alterations, allowing them to redirect their income toward other needs. Rehab projects can address various needs such as emergency items (i.e. HVAC, roof), accessibility modifications, sanitary sewer connection or septic replacement or more comprehensive projects which bring properties up to housing code. Each of the cities within the HOME Consortium allocate funds toward housing rehabilitation.

Targeted funding also includes supporting various public service activities. In 2024, public service activities assisted more than 3,000 persons. Nearly 80% of public service and economic development beneficiaries had incomes at or below 50% of AMI. Public service programs are critical as they provide supportive services to vulnerable populations such as the homeless, seniors and those with special needs.

Stark County conducts outreach to seek out Section 3 business and residents. Engagement is attempted through the following methods: quarterly outreach to locate potential contractors providing bid opportunities to the local housing authority and Department of Job and Family Services and expanded solicitation for professional services.

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

SCRPC is under contract with: 1) the Board of Stark County Commissioners for the overall administration of the CDBG and HOME programs; 2) the city of Alliance to administer fair housing services and housing rehabilitation programs (CDBG and HOME funded); 3) the city of Massillon to provide inspection services for CDBG and HOME funded housing rehabilitation programs; and 4) SMHA to conduct fair housing hearings for its residents. These various contracts allow for the overall coordination of activities among the members of the HOME Consortium and those within Stark County.

SCRPC strives to be a strong community partner which has been demonstrated through the development of good, cooperative working relationships with the cities, villages, and townships in the County.

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

Stark County participates and hosts a variety of groups to enhance coordination. These include both the Zoning Inspectors Mutual Assistance meetings and the CDBG Review Committee. These groups are made up of public officials, social service agencies and general members of the public. Additionally, SCRPC sponsors a biennial Governmental Law Seminar for all political subdivisions within Stark County offering a variety of speakers and sessions. A community development session is offered which focuses on CDBG and HOME and the possible use of these funding sources throughout the County.

In carrying out housing objectives during the 2024 program year, the County worked collaboratively with local Habitat affiliates and pursued housing rehabilitation.

SCRPC coordinates with the Northeast Four County Planning Organization (NEFCO) in the creation of its Comprehensive 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 SCRPC), who work jointly to guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of a four-county region.

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

During the program year, SCRPC continued to administer the fair housing program on behalf of the County and the city of Alliance. Specific activities include expanded outreach and education through a quarterly newsletter, increasing the use of testers and on-going investigation of complaints and mediation of tenant-landlord conflicts.

DRAFT

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

CDBG and HOME activities are monitored in two ways. The first is the monthly status report. These reports outline the activities undertaken during the preceding month, the amount of funding expended, activities to be undertaken in the upcoming month and identification of any problems or concerns the subrecipient may have.

Second, CDBG projects are monitored after the end of each program year. This is an additional review of the project, financial and client records. This monitoring ensures funds have been expended in an eligible manner and the appropriate clients are being served. HOME activities undergo a risk-based analysis to determine which projects will be monitored. Throughout the period of affordability, HOME projects are monitored through an annual "Rent & Occupancy" report and on-site inspections.

SCRPC works closely, collaboratively and openly with all subrecipients and partners by offering and providing technical assistance upon request.

On a quarterly basis, SCRPC conducts business outreach to locate new/additional MBE's and potential contractors.

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

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

A legal notice was published in the local newspaper, on SCRPC's website and social media regarding the CAPER comment period and public hearing date. The CAPER is reviewed at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission in which the meeting will adjourn for an official public hearing for the presentation of the CAPER. During this public hearing, comments are captured and minutes are recorded. The County will make reasonable accommodations for residents with special needs and publishes the Ohio Relay number.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

Program objectives were not changed during the program year.

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

No

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

DRAFT

CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

Provided in the attachments is a list of all projects currently in a period of affordability and the inspection schedule. There were no major issues that went unresolved.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)

During the 2024 program year, no projects were out of compliance with the items in 24 CFR 91.250(e). During the annual HOME application process applicants are asked to submit their current marketing policy along with their application for funding.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

HOME program income for the Consortium is consolidated and is generated from housing rehab loan payoffs. Program income receipts during the year were slightly higher than average at \$174,097.27. This was partially due to a large loan payoff. No 2024 program income was drawn but \$107,743.18 of prior years program income was drawn. The project types consisted of a multi-family rehabilitation project (PY 2023 project) and a single-family new construction project. Tenant characteristics of the rental property are households that are extremely low-income.

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)

Stark County utilizes HOME and CDBG dollars for owner-occupied rehab projects. Single-family homeowner rehab continued to be one of the leading activities undertaken to maintain affordable housing.

CR-58 – Section 3**Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided**

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	1	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours	0				
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	0				
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0				

Table 14 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					

Other.					
--------	--	--	--	--	--

Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

DRAFT