

City of Binghamton

Mayor Richard C. David



Annual Action Plan

September 2017 to August 2018 (Fiscal Year 43)

Prepared by:

Department of Planning, Housing, and Community Development

Dr. Juliet Berling, Director

Tito Martinez, Assistant Director

Stephen Carson, Grants Administrator

Final Version Date: June 8, 2017



Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

This plan represents the third year of the City of Binghamton 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan. Many of the elements in this plan will be similar if not the same as the previous year's plan. No new goals have been identified although the City has responded to more recent issues such as the heroin epidemic by utilizing its standard public service allocations to help battle this problem. The City continues to look at the City as a whole in allocating its entitlements but with the changes to its demographics and locations of poverty, CDBG funds may be implemented in new neighborhoods that may have not qualified before.

This plan shall work in tandem with the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2014 and available at <http://www.binghamton-ny.gov/blueprint-binghamton-comprehensive-plan> and draws from surveys done for that project as well as a residential market analysis available at <http://www.binghamton-ny.gov/residential-market-analysis>. An Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Plan was created in 2015 that identified additional measures the City may need to take to ensure fairness and equality for all of its residents.

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.

This plan has seven goals based on the Consolidated Plan goals. These goals are to 1) increase home ownership rates, 2) reduce blight and beautify the city, 3) eliminate homelessness, 4) rebuild or modernize public infrastructure, 5) improve transportation and accessibility for all, 6) provide services for the underserved, and 7) revitalize the economy of Binghamton.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

Severe funding cuts have decreased the ability for the City and its grant sub-recipients to maintain previous levels of service quality. Owner occupancy rates over the last several years have increased slightly despite the population shrinking. Dozens of blighted buildings in the community have been removed. However, there is still much work that needs to be done.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City has a Community Development Advisory Council made up of eleven appointees selected by the mayor and council members to act as the voice of the residents per the Citizen Participation Plan. This committee typically meets once to twice a month and meetings are open to the public. CDAC members are also encouraged to do local outreach in their neighborhoods to seek additional comments or suggestions. The CDAC provides recommendations on the Annual Action Plan and funding.

An initial public meeting was held on March 20, 2017, and almost three dozen people attended. They were representatives of local non-profit agencies that currently or hope to receive CDBG funding as well as Binghamton University students interested in community matters and even a local government official. Ten speakers voiced their opinions on not only what their agency does but what they perceive as needs in the community.

On May 1st, 2017, the City held a second Public Hearing to receive feedback about the draft plan and two speakers made comments. The first was a local homeless non-profit who indicated the need for their program to continue to be funded. The second speaker expressed a dislike for the funding of demolition projects through CDBG funds.

In addition to these public comment periods, individuals could contact the City directly and relevant comments were passed onto the CDAC for their deliberations. All written public comments are included in the submitted Public Comments attachment.

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.

March 20th Public Hearing Comment Summary

- Seniors need accessibility and transportation options
- Need for improved and affordable housing quality to help combat homelessness
- Teen homeless are at risk for drug abuse
- Supportive housing helps reduce social costs of homelessness
- Need for vacant property plan to redevelop blighted neighborhoods
- Reduction in funding for homeless shelters has led to inability to allow weekend intakes
- Need for additional shelter funding to provide quality emergency housing
- Funds needed to help the elderly with making insurance decisions
- Homeless prevention funds needed and are used to keep people off the streets
- Funds should be invested in lower income neighborhood infrastructure as a catalyst to help drive commercial development

May 1st Public Hearing Comment Summary

- Need for continued funding of programs that serve homeless youth.
- Funds should not go to demolition projects

Written Public Comments Submitted (when not duplicated elsewhere)

- Need for programs to help teens make smart choices
- Funds should not pay for any City salary and should be directed to other eligible expenses

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

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

All comments are taken into consideration. Requests for direct funding of public services will need to be done in the Fall during the RFP process. Regarding the funding of demolition projects, the speaker indicated that the Blueprint Binghamton Comprehensive Plan indicates a goal for preserving Housing Stock. CDBG and HOME funds are used in many ways to attend to this goal. Firstly, HOME funds go to lower income homeowners to help them rehabilitate their existing homes. HOME funds are also used to help CHDOs in creation of affordable rental units. This is often accomplished by taking existing buildings and renovating them into new units. CDBG funds are also used to help new homeowners purchase an existing home in the City. Finally, CDBG funds are used to help elderly homeowners in the City with minor repairs to their homes. Demolitions are not a first choice for resolving blight, but are a necessary tool when faced with empty abandoned decaying properties that are not only unsafe to enter but that serve as eyesores and/or locations of criminal activity. Unfortunately, the age and environmental hazards of the local housing stock and the low ratio of households to available housing units lend to a situation where the cost to renovate certain units far exceeds future return on investment.

7. Summary

The goals listed herein represent a comprehensive city-wide effort to reshape the City for the better.

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

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

Describe the agency/entity 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	Binghamton	Department of Planning, Housing, and Comm Develop.	
HOME Administrator	Binghamton	Department of Planning, Housing, and Comm Develop.	
ESG Administrator	Binghamton	Department of Planning, Housing, and Comm Develop.	

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The Binghamton Department of Planning, Housing, and Community Development is the agency responsible for preparing the HUD entitlement individual Annual Action Plans. The Community Development division is responsible for administering the CDBG and ESG grants and the Housing division is responsible for administering HOME funds.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Stephen Carson, Grants Administrator

(607) 772-7028

hudplan@cityofbinghamton.com

AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(I)

1. Introduction

A public meeting was held on March 20, 2017 to hear local needs and concerns for the Annual Action Plan. Over one hundred agencies, from local social groups to municipal agencies to religious organizations, were contacted via email or phone. Individuals within the community who had expressed interest in being notified about HUD funding were also contacted. Over thirty people attended of which half were employees of various non-profit agencies in the area. Ten individuals/groups voiced their concerns. In addition to the stakeholder meeting, additional agencies have been contacted via email or phone outreach in order to gauge additional considerations and needs. When schedules permitted, City officials met with stakeholder groups. The City also created a contact email specifically for which stakeholders and residents could voice their concerns, and this email was included in the press release submitted at the time the draft Annual Action Plan was released for public review in order to maximize public feedback. On May 1st a second meeting was held to gather feedback from the public about the released draft plan.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(I))

The City works directly with three housing providers: First Ward Action Council, Opportunities for Broome, and Metro Interfaith. First Ward Action Council, amongst other activities, provides senior housing rehab services which is reimbursed through the CDBG program. Opportunities for Broome is an agency that works to better and empower the low income residents of the area and was a recent CHDO for a project to develop supportive housing for homeless veterans. Metro Interfaith runs the Homeownership Academy that provides free financial and home purchase counseling for prospective home owners and helps coordinate with the Housing division for its own home purchase and rehabilitation program. All of these agencies run their own housing services for lower income households in various locations throughout the region. The Binghamton Housing Authority is a separate entity that administers the Section 8 Program and Public Housing in Binghamton.

Each Fall, the City releases RFPs seeking applications for the expenditures of the CDBG public service activity funds as well as ESG funds. Potential stakeholders are notified along with public advertising to maximize agencies that wish to become sub-recipients. The Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) helps oversee and award the remaining service and ESG funds prior to the Council's and Mayor's final decision on sub-recipient's funding allocations.

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.

The Grants Administrator works closely with the local Continuum of Care (CoC), the Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier, as well as the CoC HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Administrator. The Grants Administrator acts as a voting member of the CoC as a representative of the City and is a member of the NOFA and HMIS subcommittees. The Grants Administrator is also working with the CoC in incorporating the Coordinated Entry System, specifically by updating the ESG Written Standards to better reflect the HUD requirements and local needs as well as to create a more objective method of measuring performance.

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

The Grants Administrator works closely with the local Continuum of Care (CoC), the Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier, as well as the CoC HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Administrator. The Grants Administrator acts as a voting member of the CoC as a representative of the City and is a member of the NOFA and HMIS subcommittees. The Coordinator of the CoC was invited to attend a CDAC meeting and explain the area's homeless situation as well as to provide meaningful initial budget recommendations (the pre-sub-recipient funding levels). In the Fall, the CoC will also work hand in hand with the CDAC to prepare the RFPs for homeless agencies wishing to receive EGS funding as well as to make recommendations to the City as to which agencies should receive specific funding for their programs.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Coalition for the Homeless of the Southern Tier, NY Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency is the local Continuum of Care. Provided information and data regarding homeless needs in the area.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Binghamton Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was contacted regarding housing needs. Agency indicated there are social and physical barriers to housing. Need for more foci on mental health issues. Need for more handicap accessible units. There is also an underutilization of existing services, which could indicate communication issues. Also need for more coordination amongst agencies that service lower income households, especially those receiving multiple social services.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Broome County health Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Health Agency Other government - County

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was contacted regarding environmental issues and problems connected to housing in the area. Agency indicated issues such as increased lead levels, smoking rates, fire risks, mold, garbage accumulation, and hoarding related to households of lower income, mental disabilities, or elderly individuals. Garbage accumulation may be directly related to policy (City garbage bags). Many problems also related to age of housing stock. Agency indicated housing security hinders lower income tenants from contacting Code Enforcement to report problems for fear of residency loss.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	METRO-INTERFAITH
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was contacted regarding housing needs. Indicated a need to increase actual homeownership rates as opposed to rental rates, but both are needed. Keeping people already in their homes is a big priority. Also indicated a need to transition housing ownership to get younger families into older homes while helping those who cannot maintain their existing homes into independent living facilities. Quality of rental units and neighborhoods in general need to increase. Taxation levels locally acts as a deterrent to new ownership.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Southern Tier AIDS Program
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS

What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	HOPWA Strategy
Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was contacted regarding housing needs for those testing positive for HIV/AIDS. Families with children have restrictions to affordable housing: from number of bedrooms to fair housing violations due to children. Additional fair housing violations occur when landlords discover health status of clients. Individuals with chronic illnesses may be more adversely impacted by environmental problems.

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

Representatives of several agencies attended the first meeting in March. Ten individuals communicated with the CDAC their opinions, as listed previously. Any agency may contact the City Community Development Department at any time for help or to submit ideas or even ask questions regarding the HUD Entitlement programs.

No business or civic leaders were contacted regarding a homeless strategy specifically because of the advanced organizational state of the local Continuum of Care.

The city reaches out to local stakeholders through two methods: an email list to specific stakeholders and for those affecting homelessness, the City Grants Administrator acts as a voting member and attends regular CoC meetings (NY-511) in which occur discussions regarding the local impacts and needs for homeless individuals in the area.

Relevant publicly funded and/or municipal stakeholders contacted every year during the community hearing and feedback process include, but are not limited to:

Broome County Department of Social Services

Broome County Youth Bureau

Broome County Office for Aging

Broome County Transit

Lourdes Hospital

The Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier

Broome County Re-entry Taskforce

Binghamton School District

Broome County Law Department

United Health Services

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 Coalition of the Southern Tier	The City receives ESG funds it then distributes to agencies that provide homeless services. Many, if not all, belong to the Homeless Coalition. The Homeless Coalition also provides client tracking information that the City can then utilize for its own plan and strategies. In many ways, the Homeless Coalition and the City are partners in implementing homeless prevention and reduction policies.
Blueprint Binghamton	City of Binghamton	Several projects and goals listed in the Blueprint Binghamton comprehensive plan were scheduled to be met with CDBG funds. In the years since the development of that plan, several of those goals have been met.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 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

The City has a Community Development Advisory Council made up of appointees selected by the mayor and council members to act as the voice of the residents per the Citizen Participation Plan. This committee meets throughout the year to provide recommendations on the City's Consolidated and Annual Action Plans.

In addition, public meetings are held prior to adoption of the Annual Action Plan. One is held prior the release of the draft plan and another is held during the 30 day comment period to take in resident feedback.

In addition, the press release submitted during the 30 day comment period encouraged citizens to reply via email to a dedicated email address setup for all HUD based plans and actions in order to provide a better record of public feedback. This ad also included a web link for a digital copy of the draft plan to increase review.

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 Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Over fifty attendees and twelve commentators between two hearings.	Fund service programs for elderly, homeless, and community development. Do not do demolitions.	The City will continue to utilize strategic demolitions to remove unsafe and dangerous vacant buildings to reduce blight. The City will continue to preserve the existing housing stock through various programs, but the financial reality precludes a universal residential restoration.	

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)
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	<p>The Community Development Advisory Council is made up of eleven appointed members that represent city residents. Meetings are open to the public. CDAC members are also encouraged to do local outreach in their neighborhoods to seek additional comments or suggestions.</p>	<p>All meetings are recorded and available to anyone who asks for a copy. When resources permit, meeting minutes are transcribed from the recordings. CDAC comments are taken into account by the Council and Mayor and the Grants Administrator acts as a liaison between the City and the members</p>	<p>Generally, all legitimate comments are reacted upon. In cases where official decisions must be made, a quorum vote plus one is required in order to give the CDAC a centralized voice on a course of action.</p>	<p>http://www.binghamton-n-y.gov/community-development-advisory-committee-cdac</p>

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	All residents are encouraged to send comments to the Grants Administrator via phone or direct email. Alternately, they can email hudplan@cityofbinghamton.com. This email link is linked to the Grants Administrator and is used as the default email for public comments via email.	Seven emailed comments were submitted. All but two were reinforced by the submitters speaking at the public hearings in March and May. One comment encouraged the City to continue funding of programs that are proven to decrease teen pregnancy rates. The other comment encouraged the City to not use CDBG funds to pay for any staff salary.	Generally, all legitimate comments are reacted upon. Regarding not using CDBG funds to cover salary expenses, CDAC felt that it was too late in the process to consider the financial impact of cutting HUD funding of various municipal salaries such as Code Enforcement and Administrative salaries. In addition, fund cuts from salaries would still have to be offset from other sources.	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Entitlement funding from HUD has decreased steadily over the past few years with the exception of recent HOME increases. Currently, the city receives approximately \$2.25 million in overall entitlement amongst the three programs : CDBG, HOME, and ESG. With decreasing funds comes decreasing capability of delivering improvements and programs to the city. In addition, regulatory oversight limits the usage of these funds as many resources must be spent to meet HUD and other federal requirements, New York State, and even Broome County and other local requirements.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,716,921	5,611	0	1,722,532	3,500,000	Program income based on previous full fiscal year's receipts. Additional RL funds will be added as receipted .

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	356,682	85,365	0	442,047	800,000	Program income based on previous full fiscal year's receipts
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	156,228	0	0	156,228	300,000	No program income has been generated by ESG

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The City is exempt from the 25% match from HOME funds, however, the City of Binghamton could utilize past and current State level grant funds to match the amount. The City works with the Homeless Coalition to discuss its member's capacity to meet the matching 50% for ESG funds and the City meets its own small portion of its match through general fund expenses to cover additional relevant salary expenses.

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

The only City owned property that would be influenced by the needs within this plan would be park improvements and the potential demolition of properties acquired by the City for removal of blight. The future usage of cleared properties will be based on what CDBG eligible activities will best be served by reuse of the plots. The Planning Department is in the initial stages of creating a Vacant and Demolished Property Plan, which was one of the commentators suggestions from the March meeting. Likely, that agency will be contacted for feedback and involvement with this project.

Currently, three broad categories are planned for future usage of cleared properties. Properties could be sold to neighbors who are LMI verified owner occupants of their own properties for use as a yard or garden. Alternately, properties could be turned into public green-space or mini parks in LMI areas. Similarly, cleared properties adjacent to a park that serves an LMI service area could be incorporated into the park space. Finally, if several adjoining properties are cleared, the properties could be redeveloped as part of an economic incubator project that will have the goal of either serving an LMI area or by creating LMI jobs.

Once the Vacant and Demolished Property Plan becomes active, another potential usage of publicly owned property may include rehabilitation of residential properties for either residential or commercial uses in order to revitalize targeted neighborhoods.

Discussion

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Increase Owner Occupied Housing	2015	2019	Affordable Housing	City of Binghamton	Homeownership	CDBG: \$252,300 HOME: \$278,015	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 50 Households Assisted Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 76 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 10 Households Assisted
2	Blight Reduction	2015	2019	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	City of Binghamton	Blight Reduction	CDBG: \$455,906 HOME: \$164,032	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 21150 Households Assisted Rental units rehabilitated: 3 Household Housing Unit Buildings Demolished: 7 Buildings Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 1327 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Reduce/Prevent Homelessness	2015	2019	Homeless	City of Binghamton	Eliminate Homelessness	ESG: \$156,228	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 85 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 278 Persons Assisted Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 0 Beds Homelessness Prevention: 25 Persons Assisted
4	Improve Infrastructure	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	City of Binghamton	Fix Public Utilities and Facilities	CDBG: \$146,375	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 21150 Households Assisted
5	Improve Transportation & Accessibility	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	City of Binghamton	Improve Transportation	CDBG: \$128,558	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 160 Households Assisted
6	Provide Service Activities	2015	2019	Non-Homeless Special Needs	City of Binghamton	Services for the Underserved	CDBG: \$117,593	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2272 Persons Assisted
7	Economic Development	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	City of Binghamton	Economic Revitalization	CDBG: \$163,000	Jobs created/retained: 15 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Increase Owner Occupied Housing
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by funding the Binghamton Homeownership Academy through Metro Interfaith. In addition funding is being set aside to provide City seniors with minor to moderate repairs on their homes. The First Time Homebuyer program administered by the Housing department will provide funds to assist income eligible households with new homes in the city and the related HOME rehabilitation program along with the lead paint program will help repair and rehabilitate owner occupied housing units.
2	Goal Name	Blight Reduction
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Code Enforcement Department to inspect and enforce building codes in lower income and blighted areas. Money will also be allocated through the HOME CHDO set aside for rental rehabilitation. Demolition activities, including engineering expenses, will decrease the number of vacant and dangerous building in the City. Finally, money will go into crime prevention to provide additional security in low income residential neighborhoods and parks.
3	Goal Name	Reduce/Prevent Homelessness
	Goal Description	ESG funds will go towards assisting the running and potential expansion of homeless shelters and services in the area. Funds will also be used to provide homeless prevention services for those at risk of homelessness and for providing funds to enable the homeless to transition from shelter to their own housing. Finally, a portion of funds will be used to provide HMIS services.
4	Goal Name	Improve Infrastructure
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Department of Public Works and the Parks Department for the replacement or modernization of public utilities and facilities. A standardized percentage of costs will also be provided to the Engineering Department to oversee these activities.

5	Goal Name	Improve Transportation & Accessibility
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funds to reconstruct streets where needed, or to provide for milling and paving of eligible areas. It will also cover the costs to provide engineering services for these activities.
6	Goal Name	Provide Service Activities
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funds for various non-profits to provide services that affect special needs populations, including, but not limited to, lower income youth, seniors, and the disabled. In addition, the City has identified that the national heroin epidemic has become a local problem and will utilize funds to address this matter.
7	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Binghamton Local Development Corporation to provide low interest loans to small business with the requirement that they create jobs for low income people. The BLDC will also provide marketing and technical assistance for businesses within the community in accordance with HUD regulations.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City will release RFPs in the fall for both the public services goals and the homeless goals for the upcoming city fiscal year (January 1st to December 31st). This will allow agencies in the community to submit their plans on utilizing entitlement money. For ESG funds, the Homeless Coalition is utilized as a source for creation of the homeless specific RFP and the selection of awarded agencies. Although many of the agencies who submit ESG activities are part of the Homeless Coalition, the overall group's input is utilized to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest. All submitted activities are evaluated by the Community Development Advisory Council, along with public feedback, and then recommendations are submitted to the Mayor's Office and the City Council prior to final approval.

Certain activities, due to the nature of the activities, are done through either formal bid, such as multi-year lead testing contracts. Some, due to unique capabilities and/or past working relationships such as with Metro Interfaith and First Ward Action Council, are directly assigned to agencies.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	FY43 CDBG/Adminstration
2	FY43 CDBG/Planning and Design
3	FY43 CDBG/ Economic Development
4	FY43 CDBG/Housing
5	FY43 CDBG/Code Enforcement
6	FY43 CDBG/Public Infrastructure
7	FY43 CDBG/Demolition
8	FY42 CDBG/Human Services
9	FY43 CDBG/Section 108 Loan Payments
10	FY43 ESG/City of Binghamton
11	FY43 HOME/Administration
12	FY43 HOME/Rehabilitation
13	FY43 HOME/CHDO Set-aside

Table 7 - Project Information

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

Activities are not sorted by priority. Allocation numbers are kept to maintain consistency with the numbering system used in previous year for improved tracking. Priorities for each project are determined by the Needs Assessment in the Consolidated Plan.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	FY43 CDBG/Adminstration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$140,000
	Description	Salaries and contractual services for administering the CDBG program.
	Target Date	8/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Salary and benefit for Grants Administrator, including overtime, stipend for CDAC members, reimbursement for related contractual, legal, and financial activities. The City will also continue to fund a Fair Housing educational outreach program to inform landlords and renters of their rights and responsibilities.
2	Project Name	FY43 CDBG/Planning and Design
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	: CDBG: \$130,000
	Description	Salaries and contractual services for general planning activities, including mapping services.
	Target Date	8/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	

	Planned Activities	In addition to meeting goals and projects identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan, this funding line will allow the City to consolidate and define its accessibility regulations to ensure maximum resident use of City facilities and City funded activities.
3	Project Name	FY43 CDBG/ Economic Development
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Revitalization
	Funding	: CDBG: \$153,000
	Description	Salaries for Binghamton Local Development Corporation to administer CDBG revolving business loans and counsel local businesses.
	Target Date	8/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Lower income families throughout the City
	Location Description	Target areas for businesses will include, but are not limited to, the Main Street corridor, especially on the West Side of the City. That area borders on and serves several lower income neighborhoods.
Planned Activities	The BLDC administers a revolving loan program that provides low interest loans to businesses that promise to hire or retain employees from lower income households. In addition, the BLDC provides outreach and technical assistance to commercial activities located in lower income areas	
4	Project Name	FY43 CDBG/Housing
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Increase Owner Occupied Housing
	Needs Addressed	Homeownership
	Funding	: CDBG: \$271,000
	Description	CDBG program housing projects and delivery including program delivery, senior housing repairs, lead risk assessments for property rehabilitation, funding for homeownership training, closing cost assistance, and other contractual services required for rehab and/or home purchases.

	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately seventy lower income seniors will be assisted with minor home repairs. Service programs will be predominately lower income, whereas direct loans, such as through First Time Homebuyer, will be limited to lower income households.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Senior Housing Repair Program, Homeownership Academy, Lead Risk Assessment Program.
5	Project Name	FY43 CDBG/Code Enforcement
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Blight Reduction
	Needs Addressed	Blight Reduction
	Funding	CDBG: \$189,250
	Description	Code enforcement activities, the majority of which occur in low-mod areas and neighborhoods.
	Target Date	8/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 1,320 lower income households will be assisted.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Responding to Code Violation calls from renters and/or neighbors. Assisting individuals with bringing properties into compliance with local and State building requirements.
6	Project Name	FY43 CDBG/Public Infrastructure
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Blight Reduction Improve Infrastructure Improve Transportation & Accessibility
	Needs Addressed	Blight Reduction Fix Public Utilities and Facilities Improve Transportation

	Funding	: CDBG: \$278,400
	Description	Includes replacement of roads and utilities, milling and paving, and park capital improvements. Also includes delivery and additional costs associated with each activity as well as delivery costs for demolition activities.
	Target Date	8/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Activities will serve residents throughout the city.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Expected activities to include several street milling and paving projects in predominantly LMI residential areas. Street improvements may also include sidewalk replacements and/or utility replacements. Additional activities will include capital improvements to parks such as bathroom upgrades, new equipment installation, or aesthetic improvements. All parks assisted must have a service area that serves predominately LMI residential neighborhoods. Costs include the engineering and architectural oversight of projects.
7	Project Name	FY43 CDBG/Demolition
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Blight Reduction
	Needs Addressed	Blight Reduction
	Funding	CDBG: \$221,000
	Description	Demolition, site clearance, and all related costs of buildings deemed to be unsafe.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	

	Planned Activities	Identified properties must be determined by Code Enforcement to be dangerous. Currently habitated properties will not be demoished until residents are relocated. Properties will be tested for asbestos and cleared per NY State requirements. Demolitions and post demolition cleanups will follow and include air monitoring to meet all Federal and State requiements
8	Project Name	FY42 CDBG/Human Services
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Blight Reduction Provide Service Activities
	Needs Addressed	Blight Reduction Services for the Underserved
	Funding	: CDBG: \$179,496
	Description	Includes extra services targeted towards specific groups as well as crime prevention activities such as overtime for extra LMI neighborhood patrols or additional park rangers in city parks
	Target Date	8/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A broad swth of the community will be served: from youth, to seniors, to the disabled.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Activities will be broad in scope but will include activities to reduce crime in lower income areas and parks, assistance to potential or existing homeowners to improve their financial priorities, and direct financial assisatnce to local non-profit agencies to expand or improve their programs that serve the community.
9	Project Name	FY43 CDBG/Section 108 Loan Payments
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$178,800
	Description	Repayment to HUD for the Section 108 Loan

	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
10	Project Name	FY43 ESG/City of Binghamton
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Reduce/Prevent Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Eliminate Homelessness
	Funding	ESG: \$156,982
	Description	Project for the usage of ESG funds
	Target Date	8/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Over 350 households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	In addition to administrative costs, ESG funds will be used to address the five categories of eligible activities as detailed by HUD for ESG funds – Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing, and HMIS. Reflective of recommendations made by the local Continuum of Care and subject to the definition and documentation requirements identified by HUD’s “Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining ‘Homeless’” Final Rule and “Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Emergency Solutions Grant Program and Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments” Interim Rule, the City will distribute these funds according to homeless agency needs to reduce homelessness in the City. The City is committed to the usage of funds to be used mainly for the purposes of assisting people to go from situations of homelessness in all its definitions to permanent and sustainable housing situations.
11	Project Name	FY43 HOME/Administration

	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	: HOME: \$ 35,205
	Description	
	Target Date	8/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Administration and inspection activities
12	Project Name	FY43 HOME/Rehabilitation
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Increase Owner Occupied Housing
	Needs Addressed	Homeownership
	Funding	: HOME: \$ 243,000
	Description	Single family rehab program
	Target Date	8/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Six lower income households
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Lead inspection and removal as well as rehabilitation of single family owner occupied housing
13	Project Name	FY43 HOME/CHDO Set-aside
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Blight Reduction
	Needs Addressed	Blight Reduction

Funding	: HOME: \$181,216
Description	CHDOs receiving funding must be certified and meet all HOME requirements for proposed projects.
Target Date	8/31/2018
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately three lower income tenants will be assisted.
Location Description	
Planned Activities	Creation and rehabilitation of rental housing.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 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 City wishes to maintain a comprehensive, city-wide plan instead of targeting specific locations. All activities must meet LMI eligibility requirements where required by HUD.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City of Binghamton	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City wishes to maintain a comprehensive, city-wide plan instead of targeting specific locations. All activities must meet LMI eligibility requirements where required by HUD.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City does not run a public housing or Section 8 program. Those are done through the Binghamton Housing Authority, an independent agency. The City also does not use HOME funds for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA). HOME funds can provide assistance to agencies such as CHDOs to provide affordable decent rental units. The ESG program provides services to prevent those in danger of homelessness to remain in their units via rental assistance and to also provide funds for those who are homeless to lease a new rental unit.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	110
Non-Homeless	89
Special-Needs	0
Total	199

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	85
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	79
Acquisition of Existing Units	10
Total	174

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The overall goal of the PHA is to provide as much high-quality necessary public housing in excellent condition as it can.

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

The PHA plans on increasing the quality of its units, reduce vacancies, expand its voucher landlord base, find additional funding, and to improve the safety of its residents.

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

The PHA plans to promote employment amongst its residents when possible. It also plans on seeking services that will allow the elderly or disabled more independence. As sources of funding become available, the City will outreach to PHA staff and it's residents to invove them, along with other affected neighbors, to renovate the area in a way that meets the resident's needs and wishes.

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

The PHA is not designated as "troubled".

Discussion

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 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 City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD cap requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

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

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

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.

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

Discussion

The City is not a recipient of HOPWA funds.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)

Introduction:

Most public policies that have an effect on the affordability of housing have little to do with City policies. CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds are used and do directly affect people's affordability of housing by providing assistance for housing rehabilitation or through providing assistance to those at risk of homelessness by providing temporary rental assistance. Beyond essentially providing funds that residents would not be able to afford on their own that may affect affordability, much of the rest is in the hands of state and federal limitations and regulations that add extra overhead costs to private and public projects.

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

Tax policies that make it difficult to afford homes are somewhat reduced by using HUD and other grant funds to offset the required taxes to run the city where possible. For example, school taxes are outside the purview of the City as a municipality, and little can be done for those other than to funnel funds into youth programs that may offset school taxes.

The City will run a lead risk assessment program for rehab projects and that can help alleviate lead paint issues homeowners may have when it comes to repairing their homes.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City will provide funds to "human service" programs run through local non-profits. The City will encourage non-profits to apply for funding and will judge applicants based on the program's impacts for the underserved.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will continue to fund the administration of the First Time Homebuyer program and fully fund the owner occupied rehabilitation programs. The HOME CHDO set aside will address rental unit rehabilitation. The City will also continue to fund programs through area non-profits to provide the homeownership academy and senior housing rehabilitation programs. All of these will help to maintain and improve affordable housing in the area.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City will continue to run its lead paint assessment program in tangent with its housing rehabilitation program. The City has also contacted the local Health Department about helping to promote its Lead Grant received from HUD and to work with them in acting on the next round of Lead Grants which the Housing Department applied for, should the City receive those funds.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will continue to fund economic development activities to decrease the unemployment rate.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

City representatives will monitor all agencies receiving CDBG, ESG, and HOME funding during the year to ensure that all activities meet HUD requirements on reporting and financial responsibility.

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

The City is currently working on a Language Assistance Plan (LAP) that will bring together non-profit service agencies and municipal agencies to develop a communication access plan for all City-run and City funded programs. Understanding that there is a close connection between fair housing issues and communication issues, the City is encouraging agencies that can bridge the gap between cultural and

economic groups and provide outreach and education programs that are identified through the LAP and Fair Housing Study as needed to submit applications for CDBG funding. Programs such as fair housing education courses for tenant and landlords, English classes, and translation and communication services, may all be potentially viable under the human service program funding as identified in the plan.

Discussion:

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 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.	96.00%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)

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

The City receives New York State Affordable Housing Corporation funds to help shore up its home rehab program.

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:

HOME funds will not be used for home purchase activities, only for rehab.

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 funds will not be used for home purchase activities, only for rehab.

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:

CHDOs perform multi-family rental unit rehabilitation. Liens and restrictive covenants are placed on the properties to ensure that HUD regulations are followed in regard to rental costs and LMI requirements.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Reference 91.220(l)(4)

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

Please see attached Emergency Solutions Grants Program Written Standards. This will be updated this year in time with the local CoC's Written Standards update and activation of the Coordinated Entry System.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

The local Continuum of Care, the Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier, encourages members to utilize HMIS to ensure proper database management and homeless tracking. The Coordinated Entry

System will be implemented this summer.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

RFPs will be released in the Fall. Eligible homeless agencies will be required to submit applications indicating the need for funding and their ability to meet the matching requirement. Awards will be based on project utilization, performance, and monitoring data as represented by recommendations received from the local Continuum of Care.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

The City pays a license for and utilizes the HMIS system run by Fairview Recovery Services, the lead agency for ShelterNet. In addition, there is a City representative that acts as a voting party at monthly Continuum of Care meetings and sits on the CoC financial and information subcommittees.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The update to the Written Standards includes new performance measurements that will be implemented in the coming year. The City strives for a 100% reduction in homelessness and was one of the first to respond to the national call for the elimination of homeless veterans.

Attachments

Citizen Participation Comments

Safe Streets (email comment)

Listening to the speakers at last night's hearing, it was apparent that the subject of housing, in its many ramifications, is very much on their minds. Funding for client housing was the focus of the majority of agency representatives, and vacant housing is the target of Karen Barzman's initiative. It clearly needs to be a focus of the CDAC.

For Safe Streets, a community organization based on the West Side of Binghamton, the condition of the houses that line the streets of Binghamton's challenged neighborhoods is of primary concern. The appearance of properties has a profound effect on how people perceive a neighborhood. Streets lined with well-tended houses and yards are assumed to comprise a safe neighborhood, inhabited by home owners who care about their investments and understand the importance of curb appeal. Houses with peeling paint, broken porches, and yards replete with litter signal danger. They affect the property values of their neighbors. They discourage responsible investment. BU parents don't want their children to live in them. They are a liability to the neighborhood and to the City of Binghamton.

Much of the housing stock in our city is more than 100 years old and in sad disrepair. Real estate prices are low, while the cost for labor and materials to rehabilitate properties is high. Unfortunately, this disparity discourages investment in owner-occupied housing, which is the backbone of any residential neighborhood. It is the reason why we have too many landlords investing in student housing in residential neighborhoods, a business model that is far more profitable than rentals for families and young professionals, who find it almost impossible to locate a suitable rental in Binghamton. The disparity also encourages an insidious sort of speculation, in which buyers purchase houses, often sight unseen, break them up, do a minimal amount of repair, then rent out apartments, or even rooms. They have no intention of maintaining their properties. Sinking is their business model. When the houses are no longer fit for living, the investors abandon them, leaving the COB with the problems.

Safe Streets members know these problems only too well. For twenty years we have been working to improve the quality of life in North of Main (NOMA), the area of Binghamton bounded by Front, Main, Jarvis, and the railroad tracks. It is one of the most historic areas of the city, full of large and once elegant buildings built in the last half of the 19th Century. It is also one of the poorest. Furthermore, to our misfortune, and despite the very positive recent developments in the neighborhood, it is still perceived by outsiders to be dangerous.

The location of NOMA, within walking distance of downtown, and with the coming Main Street improvements, makes it ripe for redevelopment. We are trying our best to do our part. But we also need assistance from the CDAC to make that happen: incentives to encourage responsible investors to buy and rehabilitate properties in the neighborhood; support for initiatives like Karen Barzman's, which we fully endorse, that will bring abandoned properties back to life; programs to help property owners make needed repairs.

As it deliberates the allocation of its limited funds for the fiscal year 2017-2018, Safe Streets is requesting that the CDAC makes housing rehabilitation in challenged Binghamton neighborhoods a top priority.

Binghamton Vacant Properties Recovery Project (email comment)

The Binghamton Vacant Properties Recovery Project is a coalition of BU faculty, students, and local residents committed to returning vacant properties to productive use and to the tax rolls.

We see urgency in addressing vacancy, and the need for targeted public funding.

As part of the urban fabric, vacant properties have a palpable presence on our streets, destabilizing our neighborhoods socially and economically and inviting further decay. Among other things, they lead to

- a decrease in properties values, not only on the street in question but the data show that harmful effects ripple throughout the neighborhood and beyond
- when neglected and, as in many cases, abandoned, a rising demand for Code Enforcement, which has its own costs for the City
- an increase in vandalism, arson, and violent crime along with

- rising costs for the city once again, this time in terms of responders (police, fire fighters, EMT), not to mention city and county court costs
- the loss of tax revenues
- and the tarnishing of development in nearby commercial centers.

The responses with tax-foreclosure have been

- demolition without a comprehensive plan for what to do with all the vacant lots (urban gardens are not a “cure all”)
- sale at county-run auctions, where
 - speculators (increasingly from downstate) buy the properties, leave them vacant, and use them as tax write-offs
 - or
 - landlords known for substandard housing buy them, rent them “as is” without rehab or paying taxes themselves, walking away when foreclosure looms again.

The response with tax-current vacant properties has been

- turn a blind eye to all the code violations and leaving the investors (again, often downstate) to use the “investments” as tax write-offs.

Binghamton has some impressive examples of non-profit development of older, vacant housing stock – e.g., Habitat for Humanity filling in vacant lots; and the First Ward Action Council’s Gateway Project.

But there has been no overarching strategic plan, and no significant commitment of public funds (municipal, state, or federal), which is key.

We are advocating for strategic planning to return vacant properties to productive use as a mix of quality affordable and fair-market housing, complementing for-profit and non-profit development with an investment of significant public funds upfront (because public funds will be used at the back end if the city continues without a strategic plan for addressing vacancy and abandonment). We are basing this recommendation on successful models for neighborhood revitalization and broader sustainable urban development in comparable “rust belt” cities in NY State and elsewhere.

The plan would call for

- identifying clusters of vacant properties (mortgage-delinquent, tax-delinquent, but also tax-current properties that have been vacant for years with multiple code violations)
- choosing an enclave or cluster as a pilot project, and
- giving the pilot project significant amounts of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, along with capital improvement funds and other resources (focused on code enforcement and accelerated vacant and abandoned property disposition).

At the same time, we advocate targeting housing investment subsidies (lines of credit, grants, loans) at the same enclave or neighborhood, including part of the Emergency Solutions Grant money.

The idea: to invest significant public resources in a targeted neighborhood (or neighborhoods) to stimulate self-sustaining, private-market activity. We suggest targeting vacancy around up and coming markets, e.g., near the new high-tech incubator on Hawley St. “Throw good money after money already well spent.” This, however, would be up to a strategic planning committee or taskforce, which should include interested and knowledgeable members of the University community and community-at-large.

Sitting City Council Person

The City of Binghamton made some major strides during the 2016 Calendar Year in terms of North Side infrastructure investment. This is commendable, but it would be a waste of an opportunity to make significant strides in the quality of a neighborhood if we did not continue with these investments. This document explores what sort of investments should be made during the 2017 Calendar Year in terms of streets and roadways. 1's and 2's were left off for brevity.

3 -- Should get paved.

4 -- Needs to get paved.

5 -- Needs to get paved, desperately.

Pine Street from Chapman to Liberty, Center City -- 5

Pine Street from Carroll to Chapman, Center City -- 4

→ If there is one street I would encourage us to pave during the 2017 calendar year, it would be Pine Street.

Pine Street has the potential to be a major commercial corridor in downtown Binghamton, and it is also home to some of the community's most involved families and residents. Future businesses and housing projects, as well as current residents, deserve to have this important road in the best shape possible. This street is also frequently used as folks come from out of town and go to baseball games at NYSEG stadium. Currently, the street from Chapman to Liberty is in truly horrible condition.

Varick Street, Center City -- 4.5

Tudor Street, Center City -- 4.5

South Street, Center City -- 4

→ Few streets rival Varick on this list. This area of Center City has been ignored for a very long time and looking at streets such as Varick for reconstruction is exactly what is needed. The necessity of paving Varick continues on to South Street as well. Tudor and Varick are very similar in their conditions, although Varick's is probably a little worse. Tudor however, is home to the VINES garden, a major resource for the community and deserving of a welcoming street. All three streets are very short.

Lisle Avenue, Center City -- 5

→ Lisle Avenue is poised to become a street ripe for development with the construction of the Binghamton University Incubator, as well as its proximity to the heart of downtown. In addition, the road is very short. The street is in deplorable condition and needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

Doubleday Street, North Side -- 4.5

Wales Avenue, North Side -- 5

Emmett Street, North Side -- 4

→ The street cluster of Doubleday, Wales, and Emmett is the heart of the residential neighborhood just north of downtown. Doubleday and Wales especially are in deplorable condition, and residents have been saying for a very long time that their streets deserve to get paved. This investment is critical, and all three streets are very short.

Prospect Avenue from Eldredge to Way, North Side -- 4.5

→ Prospect Avenue has some beautiful houses that define this area of the North Side. Half of the street however, from Eldredge to Way, does not match this beauty. I would urge us to do right by the residents of Prospect Ave and fix up this important residential street.

State Street between Bevier and Amsbry, North Side -- 4

→ This street has become a major corridor for residents of the city coming from north of Bevier looking for access to Route 7 or the Bevier Street underpass. It is well traversed and due to unavoidable wear and tear, has formed some dangerous potholes and bumps, especially farther north towards Amsbry. It might not be in as poor shape as some other "4s" on this list, but paving the street would bring significant value to the residents of the North Side.

Clifford Street, North Side -- 4

Beman Street from State to Clifford, North Side -- 4

→ Clifford Street is another important North Side neighborhood street that has been neglected for a very long time. The road is in incredibly poor condition and needs attention immediately. This continues down towards Beman Street, a portion of which shares the same problems. These streets lie directly next to the new Salvation Army development, and as that investment begins, we should realize this investment as well.

Ogden Street, North Side -- 3.5

→ This road is in poor condition, there is no disputing it. There are definitely worse streets, but Ogden is the main conduit to Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School and deserves attention for that very reason.

State Street between Lewis and Henry, Center City -- 3.5

→ The street is by all means drivable, there is no doubt about it, but it is not in good condition. This is the gateway in downtown Binghamton from the north, home to economically critical events such as First Friday, and sees significant automobile traffic. We would be foolish not to pave as soon as possible.

Yager Street, North Side – 3.5

Fayette Avenue, Center City -- 3

Stuyvesant Street, Center City -- 3

Morgan Street, North Side -- 3

Lewis Street, Center City – 3

Family Planning of South Central new York (email comment)

Family Planning of South Central New York, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that has provided reproductive health care and education in Binghamton, NY for 77 years. We see a continued need for comprehensive medically accurate, age-appropriate teen pregnancy prevention programs. Preventing teen pregnancy includes promoting positive body image, building communication skills, preventing bullying, encouraging social media safety, fostering a connectedness to schools and community, and teaching skills to avoid risky behaviors. Also involved in this is child abuse and sexual assault prevention education. Pregnancy is the primary reason girls drop out of high school, and a partner's pregnancy is a frequent reason for boys dropping out as well. In Broome County, there is a general downward trend in the teen pregnancy rate. The general overall downward trend in these rates indicates that as a community we are doing something right. The idea of discontinuing funding to a program because it is successful in doing what it purports to do is shortsighted and irresponsible. Additionally, we have seen that the teen pregnancy rates within the City of Binghamton are far higher than those throughout our county. We are also seeing an increase in sexually transmitted infections, which supports our argument for the need for more educational programs.

The graph below illustrates the teen pregnancy rate over time in Binghamton zip codes, compared with overall Broome County rates.

NY-511 Southern Tire Homeless Coalition (email comment)

Recommended Adjustments for FY43 Annual Action Plan (based on a review of the 2016-2017 AAP):

- Revise the “Goal Outcome Indicator” column of Goal #3 identified in the Goals Summary Information Table (pg. 20) to reflect the “Emergency Shelter” definition stated within HUD’s [“Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining ‘Homeless’ Final Rule”](#) and [“Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Emergency Solutions Grant Program and Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments” Interim Rule](#) (both issued December 5, 2011). Such a revision should remove “Transitional Housing” from the “Beds added” outcome indicator as ESG program funding no longer considers Transitional Housing activities eligible for new funding support.
- Revise “Planned Activities” identified in Table 9: Project Summary (pg. 31-32) to read: “In addition to administrative costs, ESG funds will be used to address the five categories of eligible activities as detailed by HUD for ESG funds – Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing, and HMIS. Reflective of recommendations made by the local Continuum of Care and subject to the definition and documentation requirements identified by HUD’s “Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining ‘Homeless’” Final Rule and “Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Emergency Solutions Grant Program and Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments” Interim Rule, the City will distribute these funds according to homeless agency needs to reduce homelessness in the City. The City is committed to the usage of funds to be used mainly for the purposes of assisting people to go from situations of homelessness in all its definitions to permanent and sustainable housing situations.”

An alternative to this recommended revision would be a reference to the City of Binghamton’s ESG Written Standards once they are revised to reflect the Interim & Final Rules identified above as well as HUD’s [Notice Establishing Additional Requirements for a Continuum of Care Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System](#).

- Regarding the responses offered in the “Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Reference 91.220(I)(4)” section, we would offer that, as noted above, the ESG Written Standards are in need of revision, and that the Continuum has set a launch date of June 1, 2017 for the implementation of its Coordinated Entry System. Also, given the statement in Response #5 that “ESG can only be evaluated through the lens of the Homeless Coalition” as well as the AAP’s frequent reference to the City’s partnership with the Homeless Coalition, we recommend adjusting the response given to #3 to state, “awards will be based on project utilization, performance, and monitoring data as represented by recommendations received from the local Continuum of Care.”
- We would also encourage CDAC members to consider replacing “those on the verge of homelessness” throughout its AAP with “those at risk of homelessness” to provide a direct reference to HUD regulatory requirements.

Recommended Priority for FY43 Annual Action Plan: Target affordable housing development to low-income families with children:

Though the Housing Plan outlined in the City’s [Blueprint Binghamton](#), adopted in 2014 and based on a [2013 Binghamton Residential Market Analysis](#), indicates a decreased demand for “housing units suitable for families with young children,” [NYS Local Education Agency \(LEA\) Student Information Repository System \(SIRS\) Data](#) since the 2012-2013 school year demonstrates a 59% increase – from 136 to 216 – in the number of Binghamton City School District students who experience homelessness. Last year, 64% of those students were residing in “Doubled-Up” situations with their families and another 34% were residing in “Hotel/Motel/Shelter” situations with their families. [CNY Fair Housing’s Final Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing](#), published in 2015, identifies low-income families with children at greatest risk for housing instability in the City of Binghamton. The analysis further acknowledges the well-documented correlation between socioeconomic status and academic performance by associating Binghamton’s poor educational outcomes primarily to the frequent movement of

students at the elementary school level. [Broome County Department of Social Service's 2011-2015 Child and Family Services Plan](#) also identifies crisis-motivated mobility as a key factor impacting low-income children and youth, reporting that though 36% of families receiving public assistance in 2004 were still receiving public assistance in 2008, only 6% were residing at the same address.

The Homeless Coalition's database reveals a similar concern. Preliminary Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) data indicates that over 450 persons in families accessed Emergency Shelter in 2016. A comparison of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Point-In-Time (PIT) Count Data from 2015 to 2016 demonstrates an increase of 20 persons experiencing homelessness on any given night in households with at least one adult and one child.

In the midst of such need, Binghamton Housing Authority has only just recently dipped below 100 families on their Section 8 waitlist, which has been closed since 2013, and Opportunities for Broome reports 134 families currently waiting for permanent housing, with 64 of those households needing a 2-4 bedroom unit. Despite these numbers, the CoC last year identified the attrition of over 75 existing affordable housing units in Binghamton that were approved for conversion into student-only housing.

Though we are supportive of the City of Binghamton's efforts to reduce blight and appreciate Mayor David's general acknowledgement of local affordable housing needs, based on the above-mentioned data it is the recommendation of the CoC that FY43 affordable housing conversion and development be specifically targeted to low-income families with children – ideally mixed-income housing to deconcentrate poverty and support economic integration. It is the belief of the CoC that such an effort will not only ensure that the needs of families and children of all income levels are considered by the City of Binghamton but will also result in a positive increase in the Binghamton City School District's academic performance outcomes, supporting a more stable and sustainable community overall.

Catholic Charities Teen Transitional Living Program (email comment)

- My name is Sandra Ohlsen and I am a Division Director at Catholic Charities, speaking on behalf of The Teen Transitional Living Program (TTLP), and how we continue to align with the COB's Annual Action Plan, specifically Goal 3 to reduce or prevent homelessness with ESG funds.
- Goal 3 states that ESG funds are to go towards assisting the running of homeless shelters
 - TTLP is defined by our funders as an emergency shelter. We take in runaway and homeless youth, within the same week of their applying, and sometimes, the same day.
- It is stated that ESG funds are to be used to provide homeless prevention services for those that are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless
 - ALL of the teens admitted to TTLP are homeless, according to HUD's definition of homelessness
 - Residents admitted must be homeless for us to receive funding
 - In 2016, 12% (4/31) were "literally homeless" (sleeping in a park, at the laundry mat, in a tent)
 - The remaining 88% (27/31) were at imminent risk of becoming homeless (discharged from a facility, asked to leave by their friends or family, abandoned because of a parent's incarceration, or having fled DV)
- ESG funds are listed as helping homeless persons, including unaccompanied youth, transition to independent living, to prevent one from becoming homeless again
 - Last year, 26% (5/19) of our discharged residents, secured an apartment
 - Another 26% had plans to do the same but could not because they were not old enough to rent an apartment
- It is also stated that ESG funds will help individuals avoid becoming homeless, especially those that are discharged from publically funded institutions and systems of care (such as youth facilities and corrections programs)
 - Last year, 26% (8/31) of our residents admitted were referred from jail, a Residential Treatment Facility, The Adolescent Crisis Residence, or an emergency shelter; all at imminent risk of being homeless
- Finally, the heroin epidemic was an identified issue on the COB's Action Plan
 - Runaway Homeless Youth are at risk of falling prey to the heroin epidemic; which will have a major negative impact on life in Binghamton in our community
 - One young person came to us from rehab, where he was receiving treatment for a heroin addiction. While in our program, he was very successful, and graduated, to move onto Oneonta Job Corps. Without the Teen Transitional Living Program, he could have easily been back out on the streets using again.
 - The more youth TTLP can help, the better chance we have at saving innocent young lives from the heroin epidemic, especially those that are homeless who can easily wind up using drugs for the first time or fall prey to trafficking to support themselves out on the streets.

- The City has established unaccompanied youth under age 18 as a priority population of homelessness prevention, because of the higher probability of being successfully served, and because of a clear systems delivery gap for this population
 - For 22 years, TTLP has been filling a gap in our community to meet the needs of runaway homeless youth, when we were approached by local funders in 1995, to serve this population
 - We are the ONLY program that shelters runaway homeless youth, ages 16-18
 - Last year, all but 1 (30/31) resident in our program were 16-18 years old
 - This is that transitional age group that can easily fall through the cracks because of the difficulty in accessing resources
 - Resources like our program are there for this hard to serve age group, so they have a fair chance at safely transitioning to adulthood
 - TTLP continues to be successful, preventing 30 young people/year from being homeless
 - In 5 years alone, TTLP provided a safe and supportive environment to 136 runaway homeless youth, 20 of whom were pregnant/parenting and their 11 infants/children; 83 were enrolled in school; 38 graduated from high school or a GED program; 23 enrolled in college; 45 gained employment.

- In summary, TTLP addresses the eligible components of ESG Program, by providing the essential services of an emergency shelter: case management, life skills and job training, transportation, and linking to legal, physical, mental health services and substance abuse treatment.

- TTLP's part in preventing homelessness uniquely addresses a quality of life issue. It has to do with youth doing well; personally improving and succeeding, and thereby becoming good citizens of Binghamton and Broome County.

- Please continue to support TTLP as part of the City's plan to eliminate homelessness and to safeguard our highly valued and uniquely vulnerable community members – our at-risk youth.

Family Enrichment Network (email comment)

On behalf of Family Enrichment Network I would like to take this opportunity to “Thank You”, again, for considering us for the Emergency Solution Grant. In the past we have provided both Rapid-Rehousing and Homeless Prevention. This year it was suggested that we take a different approach. FEN will offer Homeless Prevention services while The Volunteers of America will support those in need of Rapid-Rehousing. We, at FEN, refer to our program as The Caring Homes program.

Moving forward with Homeless Prevention, the goal of the Caring Homes program will be to offer short-term financial housing assistance for rent arrears and/or utility shutoffs, intensive case management, and assist individuals in achieving housing stability. Homeless Prevention services will be provided to a minimum of 25 individuals or families. Our vision is to offer a holistic approach to a successful transition into self-sufficiency. This program is a direct response to the identified need to fund and implement supportive services for our target population (those at-risk of homelessness within the City of Binghamton). Through this initiative, FEN assists program participants by providing financial assistance- specifically rent arrears or utility shut off payments to allow the individual/family the ability to remain in their home. Each month, the Case Manager records the status of each case to determine if our interventions improved outcomes for clients.

Objectives of this initiative are as follows:

- Promote permanent housing stability
- Encourage both mental and physical health and wellness of all participants
- Encourage economic empowerment
- Increase participant knowledge of community resources
- Promote individual and family asset building and goal setting
- Emphasize goal-planning and life-skills development

During the 2016-2017 program year we assisted with both Rapid Rehousing as well as Homeless Prevention. We were initially awarded \$37,656 for both programs. We were awarded an additional \$32,707 through sunset funds. The additional funding was tremendous in that it allowed us to help twice as many families than we would have initially been able to support. We received over 600 calls.

We supported 57 families through Rapid-Rehousing and 40 families in Homeless Prevention. In total, we supported 97 families for a total of \$ 67,676.

We believe our program has been a vital resource to the community. We have helped families move from shelters and motels into permanent housing. We have prevented families from being uprooted from their homes due to evictions and shut offs. We have assisted families who were living without electricity regain their utilities and continue to lead a quality life that we all deserve.

In addition to working with clients, the Caring Homes program has developed strong partnerships with local shelters, Catholic Charities, DSS, Lend A Hand, 211, OFB and Jewish Family Services to mention a few. We work closely with local landlords and code enforcement to ensure our families are moving into safe and affordable housing. The process is intensive and complex but the end result is that we have supported a family in their most desperate time of need.

We appreciate your consideration in refunding us again in 2017-2018. We will continue our efforts in the fight to end homelessness in the city of Binghamton.

March 20, 2017 Public Hearing Transcripts:

DEBRA KERINS (CATHOLIC CHARITIES)

KERINS: Hi, thank you. My name is Debra Kerins, K-E-R-I-N-S.

HOGAN: You can have a seat.

KERINS: Have a seat? Thank you. Thanks. And I live at Nineteen Eighty-Five Old Route Seventeen in Windsor, New York. I'm the Program Manager for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and I oversee the Catholic Charities R-S-V-P Transportation Program. And I'd like to thank the City Council for continuing to support the Transportation Program. Um, it is a unique transportation program in the county and we service mostly City of Binghamton residents and anybody that lives right nearby. It's unique in that it assists frail elderly and disabled adults door to door. Um, we have, two, uh, wheelchair lift-equipped buses that can transport folks in walkers and in wheelchairs. Um, we take frail seniors and disabled adults to social, nutritional, and support programs in the City of Binghamton. We do have a few volunteers that take it to a volunteer job site. Um, the seniors we transport and the disabled are homebound with the majority of them going to the Yesteryears Adult Daycare Program. Um, these are folks who are typically female, our average client is seventy-seven years of age or older who are not able to, uh, spend the day alone. They have memory impairment and our drivers take them from their door and take them to the adult daycare program. In Twenty Sixteen we had fifty-four unduplicated clients riding with most of those being City of Binghamton residents. There were a few there who lived just outside the city limits. Um, we have started a new endeavor where we are trying, we are working out to take some folks to the grocery store. There is a huge need to help people get to grocery stores so we are working to fill any downtime we have and that has been successful so far with two or three new clients served in that capacity. Um, we also reached out to Lincoln Court Apartments this year and we are providing special trips for them on a monthly basis. Um, we in Twenty Sixteen provided two thousand three hundred and twenty-five trips, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven of those trips were to the adult day care program, two hundred and eighty-eight were to the City of Binghamton Senior Center Nutrition Program, and three hundred and ten of those were to the Greater Binghamton Health Center. With C-T-R-C as being a destination, um, many seniors and disabled adults in the community use the mental health services there. While we don't take folks to doctor's appointments which is a huge need we are able to take folks to the clinic there. We, um, are working with the Mobility Management of South Central New York, we attend their meetings, um, and keep abreast of the transportation issues in the area. Um, we continue to reach out to all of the lower income residences. Um, we now provide service we make sure we go to the library. We've had emergency calls where we've had to go outside of the area and take folks to Social Security Offices. Things like that people who are not mobile. So, thank you very much, um for your time and attention to this program. And I think that's about it. Are there any questions for me? Thank you.

REBECCA RATHMELL (SOUTHERN TIER HOMELESS COALITION)

RATHMELL: Hi. Recommendations on behalf of the uh C- O-C as the Southern Tier Homeless Coalition were actually emailed via, actually sent through Steve over the weekend so you will have access to the text of what I'll be presenting. The first page of the recommendations that the Homeless Coalition would like to make for the Annual Action Plan is pretty regulatory heavy so I'm not actually going to reference the E-S-G pieces in the public hearing. Again, because you will have access to that text. But I do think that the priority the C-O-C is recommending for the fiscal year Forty-Three housing piece of the Annual Action Plan is not only relevant to all of you here at this table but certainly everyone in this room and the community. So I'll be sharing that piece and then you'll have access to the others certainly to review as you need to. Um, it is quite data heavy so I'll be reading. How's that? So the Southern Tier Homeless Coalition is recommending a housing priority for fiscal year Forty Three's Annual Action Plan to target affordable housing development to low income families with children specifically. Though the

housing plan outlined in the City's Blueprint Binghamton which was adopted in Twenty-Fourteen and based on a Twenty-Thirteen Binghamton residential market analysis indicates a decreased demand for housing units suitable for families with young children. New York State local education agency data says that the Twenty-Two-Twenty-Three school year demonstrates a fifty-nine percent increase from one hundred and thirty six students to two hundred sixteen students in the number of Binghamton City School District students who experienced homelessness. Last year sixty-four percent of those students were residing in doubled up situations with their families and another thirty-four percent of those students were residing in hotel and shelter situations with their families, so this is a family homelessness issue. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing that was conducted by C-N-Y Fair Housing and published in Twenty-Fifteen identifies low income families with children at greatest risk for housing instability in the city of Binghamton. The analysis further acknowledges the well documented correlation between socio economic status and academic performance by associating Binghamton's poor educational outcomes. Primarily to the frequent movement of students at the elementary school level. Broome County D-S-S's most recent child and family services plan also identifies crisis motivated mobility as a key factor in impacting low income youth and families within the city. The Homeless Coalition's database reveals a similar concern. Preliminary annual homelessness assessment report data indicates that over four hundred and fifty persons in families accessed emergency shelter last year. A comparison of Homeless Management Information Systems Point-in-Time count data from Twenty-Fifteen to Twenty-Sixteen demonstrates an increase of twenty persons in households with one adult and one child experiencing homelessness on any given night. In the midst of this need, Binghamton Housing Authority has only just recently been able to dip below one hundred families on their Section Eight waiting list which has been closed since Twenty-Thirteen. And Opportunities for Broome reports one hundred and thirty-four families currently waiting for permanent housing within their program, and with sixty-four of those households need a two to four bedroom unit. Despite these numbers the C-O-C last year identified the attrition of over seventy-five existing affordable housing units in Binghamton that were approved for conversion to student only housing. Though we are supportive of the City of Binghamton's efforts to reduce blight and appreciate Mayor David's general acknowledgement of local affordable housing needs, based on the above mentioned data it is the very specific recommendation of the C-O-C that this year's affordable housing conversion and development be targeted to low income families with children ideally mixed income housing to de-concentrate poverty and support economic integration. It is the belief of the C-O-C that such an effort will not only ensure that the needs of families and children of all income levels are considered by the City of Binghamton, but that this will also result in a positive increase in the Binghamton City School Districts academic performance outcomes supporting a more stable and sustainable community overall. And I thank you for your time.

MASSEY: Did you say that it got sent out?

RATHMELL: Yes. The full text, including the recommendations for E-S-G program was sent to the C-O-C

SANDRA OHLSEN (CATHOLIC CHARITIES TEEN TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM)

OHLSEN: Hello, I'm Sandra Ohlsen. I'm the Division Director at Catholic Charities speaking on behalf of the Teen Transitional Living Program and how we continue to align with the City's Annual Action Plan, specifically Goal Three: To Reduce or Prevent Homelessness with E-S-G funds. Goal Three states that E-S-G funds are to go towards assisting the running of homeless shelters. Our program is defined by our funders as an emergency shelter. We take in runaway and homeless youth within the same week of their applying, and sometimes the same day. It is stated that E-S-G funds are to be used to provide homeless prevention services for those that are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. All of the teens admitted to Teen Transitional Living Program are homeless according to HUD's definition. Residents admitted must be homeless for us to receive funding. Last year, twelve percent were literally homeless; meaning sleeping in a park, at the laundromat, in a tent. The remaining eighty-eight percent were at imminent risk of becoming homeless. E-S-G funds are listed as helping homeless persons transition to independent living to prevent, to prevent them from becoming homeless again. It includes unaccompanied youth.

Last year, twenty-six percent of our discharge residents secured an apartment. Another twenty-six percent had plans to do the same but could not because they were not old enough to rent an apartment. It is also stated that E-S-G funds will help individuals avoid becoming homeless, especially those that are discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care such as youth facilities and correction programs. Last year twenty-six percent of our residents admitted were referred from jail, a residential treatment facility, the Adolescence Crisis Residence, or the emergency shelter. All are at imminent risk of being homeless. Finally, the heroin epidemic was an identified issue on the City's Action Plan. Runaway and homeless youth are at risk of falling prey to the heroin epidemic which will have a major negative impact on life in Binghamton and our community. One young person came to us from rehab where he was receiving treatment for heroin addiction. While in our program he was very successful and graduated to move on to Oneonta Job Corp. Without the Teen Transitional Living Program he could have easily been back out on the streets using again. The more youth our program can help the better chance we have at saving innocent young lives from the heroin epidemic especially those that are homeless who can easily wind up using drugs for the first time or fall prey to trafficking to support themselves out on the streets. The City has established unaccompanied youth under age eighteen as a priority population of homelessness prevention because of the higher probability of being successfully served and because of a clear systems delivery gap for this population. For twenty-two years T-T-L-P has been filling a gap in our community to meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth when we were approached by local funders in Nineteen-Ninety-Five to serve this population. We are the only program that shelters runaway and homeless youth that are between sixteen and eighteen years old. Last year, all but one resident in our program were between sixteen and eighteen. This is that transitional age group that can easily fall through the cracks because of the difficulty in accessing resources. Resources like our program are there for this hard to serve age group so they have a fair chance of successfully transitioning to adulthood. The Teen Transitional Living Program continues to be successful preventing thirty young people a year from being homeless. In five years alone we provided a safe and supportive environment to one hundred thirty-six runaway and homeless youth, twenty of whom were pregnant and parenting with their eleven infants or children. Eighty-three weren't enrolled in school, thirty-eight graduated from high school or a G-E-D program, twenty-three enrolled in college, and forty-five gained employment. In summary, T-T-L-P addresses the eligible components of E-S-G program by providing the essential services of an emergency shelter, case management, life skills and job training, transportation, and linking to legal, physical, and mental help services and substance abuse treatment. Our part in preventing homelessness uniquely addresses a quality of life issue that has to do with youth doing well, personally improving and succeeding and thereby becoming good citizens of Binghamton and Broome County. Please continue to support T-T-L-P as part of the City's plan to eliminate homelessness and to safeguard our highly valued and unique uniquely vulnerable community members: our at-risk youth. Thank you.

THERESA BOVIER (YWCA)

BOVIER: And it's Bovier, just trying correct. It's Theresa Bovier from the Y-W-C-A and I'm here to talk a little bit about our emergency housing program. Um, but I wanted to start with, I've recently read this, um, article written by the National Alliance to End Homelessness and, um, it stated that a chronically homeless person costs taxpayers over thirty-five thousand five hundred a year. This is due to just their chronic needs, their medical needs, and other things. This same study also showed that we can reduce that cost by over forty-nine percent if this person is placed in supportive housing, and that brings that cost down to about twelve thousand eight hundred. And the reason this fits into our emergency shelters, um, the Y-W-C-A brings in three hundred and twenty-three homeless women and their children every year. That is our duplicated amount because we just felt that our unduplicated is about two-seventy. But the whole thing about trying to eliminate homelessness is sometimes it takes more than once: they come in and maybe they lose their funding, they go out, they can't afford their apartment but they always are welcome back to the shelter. And it is our intensive case management that eventually gets them placed in permanent housing or supportive housing which is also found at the Y-W-C-A and other places in our county. Um, the other thing that I kinda wanted to touch on is the Y-W-C-A and maybe people don't notice that, or know this fact, but

twenty-two percent, seventy-two ladies came into the shelter last year and had no way to pay. And the Y-W-C-A doesn't, I mean we do charge rent whether it's self or through D-S-S funds but that, just the rent alone, costs the Y-W-C-A, over six thousand dollars in lost revenue. And that doesn't count the food that we supply and all the toiletries, and, um, other things that we give each person that comes in. Um, I kinda just wanted to kinda preface this saying the E-S-G funds that we do get from the City of Binghamton are absolutely critical to our emergency housing program and we thank you so much for, you know, every year that you support us and we just hope that you continue this support in the future. That's it.

KAREN BARZMAN (CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT)

BARZMAN: Thank you very much for having me. I'm Karen Barzman, I'm an associate professor at Binghamton University and I'm here this evening representing the Binghamton Vacant Properties Recovery Project, which is a cross sector initiative including Binghamton University students, twenty-five of whom are here with me this evening, committed to returning vacant properties to productive use first and foremost affordable housing and to the tax rolls. We see an urgency in addressing vacancy as a part of the urban fabric vacant properties have a palpable insidious presence on our streets, destabilizing our neighborhoods socially and economically and inviting further decay. Among other things they lead to a decrease in property values not only on the street in question, but the data show quite clearly that harmful effects ripple throughout the neighborhood and beyond. Uh, when neglected and as in many cases abandoned we see a rising demand on code enforcement, which has its own costs for the City. An increase in vandalism, arson, and violent crime along with rising costs for the City once again, this time in terms of responders: police, fire fighters, E-M-T not to mention city and county court costs. The loss of tax revenues is obvious but also the tarnishing of development in nearby commercial districts. I can tell you that, uh, just blocks from the new high-tech incubator I've personally seen the rotting bodies of dead cats on the porches of vacant properties some of which are tax current properties owned by absentee landlords, uh, who are speculators and use those properties for tax write-offs. I think it is unconscionable when you think about the data we've just heard about people who have nowhere to put their heads at night we have vacant, uh, properties boarded up. The responses have been demolition and of course that is sometime necessary but what we have noted is that there doesn't seem to be a comprehensive plan regarding what to do with all the vacant lots after demolition. And I am one of the greenest of the green in my generation but there are only so many urban gardens that neighborhoods that are so unstable can sustain. Uh, what else has been a response: turning a blind eye or putting vacant properties on the back burner to focus on larger for-profit commercial development. This often leaves vacant properties for those same speculators I mentioned to come in and buy them up, uh, either, uh, bank foreclosure auction or tax foreclosure auction run by the county. They engage in more disinvestment while leaving, uh, the structures vacant or providing substandard housing, um, again, for tax write-off. We do have some very impressive examples of non-profit development. These include Habitat for Humanity's efforts to fill, uh, some of the vacant lots. And, of course, the First Ward Action Council's Gateway Project among others which are really stellar programs. But with all of these responses to date there is still no overarching strategic plan with a significant commitment of public funds: municipal, state, or federal. Uh, we're here to advocate today for strategic planning to return vacant properties to productive use. This could complement for-profit and nonprofit development, but with an investment of significant public funds up front because as I have already indicated public funds will be used at the back end if we continue as we have around vacant properties. We're basing this recommendation on successful models for neighborhood revitalization and broader sustainable urban development in comparable rust belt cities in New York State and elsewhere. We're not putting forward a specific plan, we're calling for the founding of a task force or, uh, a strategic planning committee to identify clusters of vacant properties. These would include mortgage delinquent tax delinquent but also tax current properties that have been vacant for years with multiple code violations. Choosing an enclave or cluster among these as a pilot project and directing towards the pilot project significant amounts of Community Development Block Grant funds and HOME Investment Partnership funds along with capital improvement funds and other resources the City has, uh, at its disposal focused on code enforcement and accelerated vacant and

abandoned property disposition. At the same time we advocate targeting housing investment subsidies, lines of credit, grants, loans, etc. at the same enclave or neighborhood and this could include parts of the City's Emergency Solutions Grant money. The idea is to invest significant public resources in a targeted neighborhood to stimulate self-sustaining private market activity down the road ultimately to stabilize or revitalize, uh, the community, uh, to stimulate recovery. We suggest a neighborhood near recent or current development projects: for example, the high tech incubator I already mentioned on Hawley Street. Put good money near money well spent. That would be an upcoming market, but this would be left to the strategic planning committee or task force. Undoubtedly that would be headed by staff in the City's Department of Planning, Housing, and Community, but also we hope it would include interested and knowledgeable members of the community and groups like the Binghamton Vacant Properties Recovery Project. I'll just add that we are not a non-profit. We are a coalition of faculty, students, and, uh, interested community members. Thank you.

SHA-ASIA ARMSTRONG (YWCA)

ARMSTRONG: You were very close. It is Sha-Asia. Um, I'm the Emergency Housing Assistance Coordinator at the Y-W-C-A. We know that all the decisions that you guys have made, um, is in the best interest of the community and the vulnerable population and we want to thank you guys for that. As you know we work with the most vulnerable population: homeless women and children, victims of domestic violence, and people with disabilities. Every year the E-S-G fund that provides direct services and support to our shelter has been decreasing. This coming year we were forced to cut back on weekend case management, um, as well as program supplies, food, toiletries. The Y-W-C-A works very closely with the police department to get people off the streets. Throughout the weekend we're unable to get those people off the street because there is no weekend case management anymore so there is nobody there to take them in. People in our shelter, um, so there are sixty people in general so they are in a safe environment so to get people in there is really important. Living, sorry, so with the money that we've lose this year, um, it's very very difficult for us to get the people in there, like I said I'm so sorry however the Y-W-C-A always appreciates the funds that you guys give, so, thank you and I really appreciate your time.

CAROLE COPPENS (YWCA)

COPPENS: Good evening C-D-A-C members. My name is Carole Coppens. I am the Executive Director for the Y-W-C-A Binghamton and Broome County just a block and a half up the street at Eighty Hawley. And, I've been there for almost seventeen years and I would imagine that by now you've all heard me say so many times: those numbers, the lives, the people that we take care of. And I'm certainly not going to, uh, be the department of redundancy and give you the numbers that my two colleagues in front of me have just given you in terms of what the Y-W-C-A does each year with its emergency shelter. I do have to tell you that I most emphatically understand the difficulty of what you have to do with dwindling funds every year and try to figure out how you are going to make the best impact and the use of those funds for the City of Binghamton and certainly everyone that is sitting in this room this evening has a compelling story to tell you on how they want and think those funds need be used. And the Y-W-C-A is no different from any of the rest of the not-for-profits. Um, one thing I would like to offer to you this evening that perhaps might be something to consider that you may not have done yet. And, it's, we are just up the street. I would like to invite the C-D-A-C to take maybe a half an hour out of one of your next upcoming meetings and let me show you what our emergency shelter looks like. I think that your response would be as many others who have come in the last ten years to see it have been amazed at what it looks like. Because, when you say the word 'emergency shelter' generally the picture comes into your forehead of cots lined up in a room. That is not at all what we look like. We have apartments for the women that live in our emergency shelter and then where they go from there in the rest of our housing programs. It wouldn't take long for me to show you what we have to offer in our emergency shelter. And, I think it, it is something that might be of interest to you and you might find useful as you are trying to make your decision. So I'm here tonight just to invite you to come and see us at Eighty Hawley Street anytime. I would be more than happy and honored to give you a tour. Thank you.

CASONDRA HAMILTON (ACTION FOR OLDER PERSONS)

HAMILTON: So I got a little frustrated with that whole comment about how there are C-D-B-G funds that there's no results that prove that they are effective, so I've made everybody a <intelligible>. So as our kind of annual report for one of our programs that we've received funds for. So just real quick again my name is Casondra Hamilton. I'm the Executive Director at Action for Older Persons. Um, I want to thank you guys for your continued support of our programs. Um, for those of you who are unfamiliar with the program, um, we have a couple of senior health insurance counseling, um, services, we provide that probably the more well know program is our Medicare counseling services. Um, we provide, um, assistance to anyone eligible for Medicare in Broome County whether it's because they are sixty-five or older or if they have become eligible for Medicare because they've been receiving Social Security Disability benefits for twenty-four months or more. Um, we've seen the most significant increases in program demand in the last year that A-O-P has ever seen. Um, so in Two-Thousand and Fifteen we provided direct one-on-one Medicare counseling services to fifteen hundred and seventy-eight people. In Two-Thousand and Sixteen that number jumped two thousand two hundred and fourteen. We actually had eight hundred individuals come in that said they were referred to us by either friends, family, or another agency in the community. And, uh, a big reason people are coming in, and that their friends and neighbors are referring them, is the financial savings that the program helps people recognize. So, when people come in, what we do is have them bring a list of maybe of their medical providers, any services that they are getting regularly, particularly if they are having difficulty obtaining those services, and, um, a list of their prescriptions. And we will go through, uh, all of the different Medicare plans available in Broome County: the nineteen prescription plans, the thirty-eight Medicare Advantage plans and the more than sixty-five Medicare supplement policies and try to really pinpoint what is the best option for that particular individual. We have some people who come in that are honestly paying for excessive amounts of coverage and then we have individuals come in who don't have anywhere near what they need. Um, so, what a lot of times happens is people will come in in kind of an emergency situation. We have lots of clients who come in mid-year. Um, they have just original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan and all of a sudden they have been diagnosed with cancer and need chemo treatments. With original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan the average cost of a single chemo treatment is eight hundred dollars, um, so alot of times what we do is we find a way even outside of the open enrollment period to switch those people to original Medicare and a supplement policy where they have no copays for any services. Um, so it's not the cheapest health insurance in the world. A lot of times it can cost them about a hundred eighty-five dollars a month but that means that they can get three chemo treatments in one month if they need to instead of paying twenty-four hundred dollars in copays they're paying only a hundred and eight four dollars for a premium. Um, we also help people access their prescriptions, um, so the Medicare eligible population makes up about a little shy of fifteen percent of the national population and they account for a more than a third of Medicare prescription drug savings or drugs. They account for more than thirty-three percent of prescription drug spending. My poor grandmother has allowed me to use her as an example. Um, and last year she was actually diagnosed with cancer, um, and in trying to figure out the best way to approach this I, um, enrolled her in a more expensive insurance, um, seems kind of silly, you are trying to save her more money but enrolling in that insurance she could use it as an income deduction and was able to enroll in a needs based assistance program that helps with Medicare prescription drug costs. That assistance program dropped the monthly cost of the medication that now has her cancer free that she has to take every day for the rest of her life from sixteen hundred dollars a month to eight dollars and twenty-five cents. Um, sixteen hundred dollars is more than my grandmother gets in Social Security every month, um, so if that had been the option it would have, um, either been our family coming together to try to pay for it or she would have had to discontinue the use of that medication and and she wouldn't be with me anymore. But instead I've got her right in the bedroom down the hall where I can keep a pretty close eye on her. So that's kind of our Medicare Counseling Program. We do have another program, um, that assists people in what's called a managed long term care plan. Oh my goodness, it's going to be, um, the Managed Long-term Care Plans are plans that people who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid can enroll in to receive services that help them remain in their home: personal care, home modifications, all of the these different services,

medical equipment. And then what we do is we advocate on behalf of those eligible for these plans and make sure that the plans provide the services they need, um, so it's kind of interesting. The plans actually get a set dollar amount for each individual: about thirty-six hundred dollars a month. Um, so the fewer services that they provide these people the more money they get to keep in their pockets, so things like building ramps so people can remain in their homes are almost universally denied upon initial request. So we go in, we advocate for people, we go to fair hearings and that keeps people in their homes and like we've talked about: keeps the blight out, keeps people on the tax rolls, and of course everyone wants to be home. Keeps people safe and healthy, so that's us.

CHASTITY SMITH (FAMILY ENRICHMENT NETWORK)

SMITH: Good evening. How are you? Uh, my name is Chasity Smith, I'm the Director of Housing and Community Services at Family Enrichment Network. Um, I'm here this evening on behalf of Family Enrichment Network. Um, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your previous support. We've run the program, I believe this is going to be our fifth year; so I've run it three years. Um, and we do both rapid rehousing and homeless prevention. This year, um, we are going to take a slightly different approach. It's been recommended we do homeless prevention, the V-O-A will do rapid rehousing. Um, moving forward with homeless prevention the goal of the program is to offer short term financial assistance, rent arrears, and utility shutoffs. Um, we offer intensive case management and we assist individuals in achieving housing stability. Our vision is to offer a holistic approach to successful transition into self-sufficiency. Get these individuals housed, rehoused, and living independently and back in the community working and successful. Um, this program is a direct response to the identified need to fund and implement implement supportive services for a target population: those at risk of being homeless. Um, through this initiative FEN assists families participating by providing financial assistance specifically rent arrears and NYSEG shutoffs. Try to keep this short and sweet. Um, during the Two-Thousand-Sixteen / Two-Thousand-Seventeen program year we assisted both rapid rehousing and homeless prevention. Um, we were initially awarded a little over thirty-two thousand, thirty-seven thousand dollars, I apologize, and through additional funding we were, um, given an additional thirty-two thousand dollars. That doubled what we were able to help and support. We received over eight hundred phone calls in less than eleven months. We were able to provide, um, support to ninety-seven families, fifty-seven of them being rapid rehousing and forty of them being homeless prevention. That was only eight percent of the people I was able to help. Um, we believe our program has been a vital resource in the community. We have helped families move from shelters into permanent housing. We've prevented families from being uprooted from their homes, leaving their homes and losing homes they've had forever. Um, we've assisted families, um, who are living without electricity regain their utilities. In addition to working with the clients the Caring Home Program has developed strong relationships with local shelters, Catholic Charities, D-S-S, Two-One-One, O-F-B, Jewish Family Services, just to say, just to mention few of them. Um, we also work closely with landlords and code enforcement to make sure the housing these individuals move into is safe and affordable. Um, I would like to again thank you for considering us. I'd like to end with a small story, one of eight hundred phone calls I received. A young, a young lady that I was able to help. It was in July and <intelligible> story had happened. It's an unfortunate story. Um, her husband was out on a Sunday drive on a motorcycle on Susquehanna Street. He was...

HOGAN: A fatality.

SMITH: I'm sorry?

HOGAN: It was a fatality.

SMITH: It was a fatality. It affected the family. Um, she fell behind three months in rent and her home was going to be removed from her. She came to us. I was able to subsidize her with one month. I was able to buy her some time. Um, he was the financial provider in the family and she only worked part-time. And, uh, we at least were able

to help her through that transition. Sorry, I apologize. Last month she called me. Told me she has a full time job. She was able to keep her family housed in the home that she was in and is on the right track. If it weren't for this money that family in a very sad incident would not be housed. Four children would be homeless so the program is extremely beneficial. Thank you, have a good evening.

CONRAD TAYLOR (BINGHAMTON CITY COUNCILMAN)

43:27

TAYLOR: Guys, so I only have like, uh, four copies so you <intelligible> have to share <intelligible>. So first of all I wanted to, um, thank all of you for all that you do. I sit on the front lines and totally understand the importance of every single person that you listen to here, and, um, I'm one of the people responsible for actually listening to your recommendations and, uh, I pretty much try to exclusively, um, if possible, because I understand that you probably know more than we do. Um, so thank you. Uh, I want to talk about, uh, your recommendations in terms of street pavings in the City of Binghamton, I, I, I for those that don't know I represent the Fourth District on City Council which is the North Side and Center City, and, um, outside of maybe last year I think that, you know, our neighborhood got the short end of the stick for a while when it comes to paving and other infrastructure needs. I often point to the few years before Twenty-Sixteen, I think three or four years where a hundred something streets got paved in the City of Binghamton by the City, two of them, two of them, were on the North Side. Um, and I don't think any more were in Center City outside of Downtown either. So, you know that's a really startling statistic. Um, in Twenty-Sixteen that changed and we got to finally see a little bit of attention and that was incredible. I mean the, the feedback that we got just because an area of our city finally got a little bit of attention in terms of infrastructure was tremendous but I think it would be all for not if we don't see that continue. Um, in terms of Center City and the Northside seeing infrastructure investment like blight demolition, um, or vacant property revitalization or street paving is so important when it comes to the future of a neighborhood. I'm sure you all know that just as well as I do. Um, we can connect this issue and other quality of life issues, but this issue specifically to other concerns that the North Side and Center City have. Um, the food desert issue which is talked about all the time. I've had my own discussions with developers about this issue and the number one thing that they told me when I carried out these discussions last year when I first got sworn into office was: "Well, the public, the government responsible for this neighborhood isn't even investing in this neighborhood. So why would a private investor want to do that?" And if we can slowly change the stigma together then we actually open the doors for so many other possibilities in our more impoverished and disenfranchised neighborhoods. So, when it comes to identifying those neighborhoods and identifying those streets I want to be of aid to this body, to the administration, to literally everyone. I spent the month of February mapping every single street in my district and Center City and the North Side and I compiled this list and I'm happy to email you an electronic copy. You get a visual representation and sort of descriptions of what streets need the most attention and why. Uh, I, I am truly passionate when it comes to the fact that getting this done is necessary because, again, I really do think it's a barrier for further development. When you get streets in the City that are literally just like dirt roads in Center City and on the North Side. I'm happy to send you this and happy to talk with all of you further about this. Thank you so so much for listening to us, um, and have a wonderful day

Former Planning Director (email comment)

As former Director of Planning, Housing, and Community Development for the City of Binghamton, and as a city homeowner and taxpayer, I write to strongly encourage CDAC to dramatically alter Mayor Richard David's proposed budgets for CDBG, HOME and ESG.

Given the City's strong financial standing and a healthy general fund, as well as the threats by President Donald Trump to completely eliminate the CDBG and slash other HUD entitlement programs in this year's federal budget, it is critically important to immediately transfer all personnel costs (salaries and benefits) from the budgets of these three HUD programs back into the City's General Fund.

First, it is important to discuss the City's historic use of these HUD funds, particularly in the context of the City's financial strength. For decades, the City has used a portion of these HUD funds to support the personnel costs of City employees in a range of departments. As the City's finances weakened starting in the late 1990s, the ability to shift the costs of eligible personnel from the city taxpayer (General Fund) to these federal grants eased some fiscal stress. That practice continued unchecked for most of the last 15 years or so, including during my tenure. In fact, during my time as Director, the City was struggling from the serious fiscal impacts of the Great Recession, and shifted a few more eligible expenses over to these HUD grants. Using these three HUD grants, particularly CDBG, to help fund staff that carry out eligible and essential community services was a lifeline.

Fortunately, the decisions and policies made by City leadership during these challenging times proved extremely helpful in stabilizing and strengthening the City's finances. Between 2009 and 2015, departments were right-sized, spending was curtailed, and health care plans and contributions by union-employees were reformed to significantly cut health care costs. Despite three historic floods and the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression, City leadership from 2006 - 2013 completely turned around the City's finances, and built a solid foundation upon which the next Mayor could build. The evidence is overwhelming.

Consider the information provided online by the NYS Comptroller's Office, which comes directly from Annual Update Documents (AUDs) filed by the City.¹ A key metric of financial health is how much a community has in the General Fund that is "undesignated and unreserved." This amount represents how much a community has in the piggy bank to cover unexpected expenses or 'rainy days.' In 2005, the amount was \$982,236. This amount had been declining annually under former Mayor Bucci's last term (2002 – 2005). By the end of Mayor Ryan's tenure (calendar year 2013), the City's piggy bank (undesignated, unreserved) had been restored to \$9,500,000, according to audited reports filed by the City with the Comptroller's Office. The structural budget changes made by City leadership, specifically between 2009 and 2013, helped to generate year-over-year surpluses. At the end of 2015, the amount in the City's piggy bank climbed to just over \$14 million.

¹ Financial information pulled from the AUDs is available via NY State's Open Book website, <http://www2.osc.state.ny.us/transparency/LocalGov/LocalGovIntro.cfm>

Mayor David acknowledges the City's strong financial position. He has recently hinted in multiple local news reports that he will announce a significant property tax decrease for the 2018 budget. I'll defer to others who want to debate whether the Mayor's plan to announce a tax decrease in September is nothing but a cheap, election-year gimmick. For me, the more important point is that the Mayor acknowledges the City is in a strong financial position. Therefore, the debate should be about, "What are the most responsible and impactful ways City leadership can take advantage of the City's financial strength?"

I would argue that removing from the CDBG, HOME, and ESG budgets all expenditures that relate to City staff, and transferring these back into the General Fund is the most responsible and impactful decision that will create immediate and long-term benefits, and protect the City from potentially significant harm of decisions that Washington will make later this year.

There are two primary reasons why CDAC should dramatically alter the Mayor's proposed HUD budgets, and eliminate for good the personnel costs that suck up too much of these HUD dollars.

First, Trump has proposed eliminating the CDBG program and slashing other HUD entitlement programs. A GOP-controlled Congress might go along with his dangerous budget decisions. While this would seriously harm the City's ability to make strategic investments in neighborhood revitalization efforts, it would also mean that the City General Fund would have to immediately absorb almost \$1 million in personnel costs, or risk losing some or all capacity in the following departments: code enforcement, engineering, economic development, legal, finance, planning, housing, and community development. The prudent, proactive move would be to protect the City against such potential harm, and shift these personnel costs over to the General Fund for the upcoming 2018 Budget. That must start with this CDBG budget process.

Second, this one move could double the amount of resources available to invest in immediate community needs, including streets and sidewalks, parks, strategic code enforcement, demolition efforts, housing rehab grant programs, and programs that help our most vulnerable community members, including homeless veterans, domestic abuse victims, the working poor, infirmed seniors, and at-risk youth. By making this move, we could also free up hundreds of thousands of dollars to support new investments and programs, such as those that might help with unmet mental health needs or the addiction crisis that is ripping through our community.

The proposed CDBG budget in the FY43 draft action plan commits more than \$850,000 to personnel costs. Both the HOME and ESG budgets in this document include personnel costs as well. I strongly encourage CDAC to propose FY43 budgets for CDBG, HOME, and ESG that eliminate all personnel costs, and include instead far more substantial investments in eligible programs and activities that more closely align with our community's needs and the core goals of these federal grant programs.

The City's General Fund is strong enough to absorb these costs, and CDAC must put forth an alternative approach now that challenges the Mayor and City Council to pass over the short-term budget gimmicks, and make responsible, fiscal decisions that will yield long-term benefits for both city taxpayers and city residents.

Thank you for your consideration, and I wish you all thoughtful, nonpartisan, and productive deliberations in the weeks ahead.

May 1, 2017 Public Hearing Transcript

SANDRA OHLSEN (CATHOLIC CHARITIES TEEN TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM)

OHLSEN: Good evening. I'm Sandra Ohlsen, a Director at Catholic Charities, representing Teen Transitional Living Program at Eighty-Six Walnut Street in Binghamton. And, I'd like to comment on why our program, the Teen Transitional Living Program, should continue to be included in the City's Annual Action Plan. Teen Transitional Living Program has been receiving Emergency Solution Grant funding for twenty-two years to reduce or prevent homelessness. It was twenty-two years ago that we were asked by local funders to serve this population. Since that time, the Teen Transitional Living Program has been successfully filling a gap in our community to meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth. We remain the only program in the community that shelters runaway homeless youth that are sixteen and seventeen years old. Last year, all but one resident in our program was sixteen and seventeen years old. This is that transitional age group that can easily fall through the cracks because of the difficulty in accessing resources. Our program is there for this hard-to-serve age group so they have a fair chance at safely transitioning to adulthood. The Teen Transitional Living Program is unique to Broome County, helping young people out of tragic situations. We house male and female ages sixteen to twenty-one who could be pregnant and parenting for up to twenty-one months. Many are struggling with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Between four apartments in Binghamton and the Town of Union we provide a safe and structured environment so youth can focus on learning the skills that are needed to live independently and become self-sufficient. All of our residents are required to finish school or work. While in our program they can concentrate on regaining their footing with their needs being met because of the stability and support that they receive from our staff. We are serving more runaway and homeless youth each year with thirty being the new norm. It is typical that high numbers wait to get into our program. Last year, the Teen Transitional Living Program housed thirty-one residents, all of whom were homeless according to HUD's definition of homelessness. Our program is defined by our funders as an emergency shelter. We take in runaway and homeless youth within the same week of their applying and sometimes the same day. Our program addresses the eligible components of Emergency Solution Grant funding by providing the essential services of an emergency shelter. We have two full time case managers who maintain intensive daily contact with all of our residents. The case managers link our residents to legal, physical, mental health services and substance abuse treatment. Our residents learn life skills and job training individually on daily basis and weekly in a group. Residents are provided resources to learn how to use the bus system. Our program provides homeless prevention services for those that are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. Last year, twelve percent were literally homeless: sleeping in the park, in the laundromat, in a tent. The remaining eighty-eight percent were at eminent risk of becoming homeless. We take teens out of their crisis of being homeless and get them stabilized by providing them with a safe and supportive place to live. Once they have acclimated, we help them reintegrate into the community by going to school or getting a job. They learn independent living skills to become self-sufficient. Our program helps those that are discharged from institutions and systems of care. The Teen Transitional Living Program reaches those unaccompanied youth under age eighteen; what the City has established as a priority population of homelessness prevention. Teen Transitional Living Program helps these unaccompanied youth transition to independent living to keep them from becoming homeless again. Last year, of the nineteen teens that we discharged, sixty three percent were discharged to a permanent situation. Forty two percent of those secured an apartment. Another twenty-six percent had plans to rent an apartment but could not because they were not of age. Our program's part in preventing homelessness uniquely addresses a quality of life issue. It has to do with young people doing well. Personally improving and succeeding and thereby becoming good citizens of Binghamton and Broome County. The kind of service that we are talking about is one that works with vulnerable teens who are desperately fleeing a homeless situation for a safe, stable and structured living arrangement. Our teens are in jeopardy in so many ways, particularly in terms of the heroin epidemic and trafficking. When they were are in our program they learn how to reduce their risk and protect themselves against this deadly involvement which will reduce their chance of becoming homeless again. We are

dealing with youth about to enter our society. We know how important it is to work with them, they are our future. At Teen Transitional Living Program we help the teens make their way out of terrible situations and give them a chance for a better life. So, we are asking that you please continue to include the Teen Transitional Living Program as part of the City's plan to eliminate homelessness and to safeguard our highly valued and uniquely vulnerable community members: our at-risk youth. Thank you.

KAREN BARZMAN (CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT)

BARZMAN: Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak here again. I'm here to follow-up on the intervention I made at the first public, uh, hearing held here this year by the C-D-A-C when I spoke on behalf of the Binghamton Vacant Property Recovery Project, a coalition of Binghamton University faculty, students, and local residents committed to returning vacant properties to productive use, and I once again have about twenty students with me here this evening. At that first meeting, we made an urgent plea for strategic planning in the allocation of public funds for long-term solutions to homelessness and housing insecurity among L-M-I residents in our most vulnerable populations. Here we're talking about quality affordable housing in blighted neighborhoods that can and must be transformed. On the first page of the Draft Fiscal Year Forty-Three Annual Action Plan in the introduction of the Executive Summary, uh, it states that this plan is conceived to quote work in tandem with the comprehensive plan adopted in Two Thousand and Fourteen end quote otherwise known as Blueprint Binghamton. That Blueprint, which was put together at great expense as you will recall including serious federal dollars, has twelve subsections, the fourth comprises the housing plan. And as C-D-B-G funds and other HUD entitlement funds we're currently discussing concern housing first and foremost it seems obvious to look to that part of the Blueprint. The Housing Plan in the Blueprint has six recommendations. The first on page one-twenty: Preserve Existing Housing Stock. First item under this recommendation quote identify target areas for neighborhood stabilization and housing revitalization end quote. This is precisely what we advocated for at that first meeting in March. On page seventeen of this draft action plan however in a section describing how publicly owned land or property may be used to address the needs identified in the plan the document proposes quote demolition of properties acquired by the City for removal of blight end quote. It goes on to state and I quote again the planning department is in the initial stages of creating a vacant and demolished property plan which was one of the commentators suggestions from the March meeting. I take that to be a reference to myself. Likely that agency will be contacted for feedback and involvement with this project. I have yet to be contacted six weeks later. What is the current plan in, uh, from the Planning Department for future usage of cleared property these vacant lots? Sale to L-M-I verified owner occupants next door quote for use as a yard or garden end quote. Or alternatively properties could be turned into public green space or mini parks in L-M-I areas. As we already stated demolition and the greening of all of these intermittent vacant lots is not a strategic plan. That is not what Blueprint Binghamton called for. The Blueprint proposes data driven strategic targeting of neighborhoods based on data already collected for the Blueprint by outside entities, and again, at great expense in Two Thousand Twelve and Two Thousand Thirteen. Much of that data is still viable today. Neighborhoods targeted for revitalization based on analysis of block by block conditions include parts of the West Side, Main Street, the First Ward, the North Side, the East Side south of Robinson Street, South Side West near the hospital and commercial areas, and South Side East. We request that the C-D-A-C hold the City to its pledge to work here in tandem with Blueprint Binghamton and prioritize the revitalization of existing housing stock for long term solutions in the allocation of these public funds. Thank you so much.



City of Binghamton

Emergency Solutions Grants Program

Written Standards

Federal Administrative Agency

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
CFDA # 14.231: Emergency Solutions Grants Program

Local Program Administrator

City of Binghamton
Department of Planning, Housing & Community Development

Contact

Jennifer Taylor
Grants Administrator
607-772-7028

Written Standards for Provision of Emergency Solutions Grant Assistance

The City of Binghamton has developed its ESG written standards based upon standards established under its Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). The City has proposed to work with the CoC to develop common forms, recordkeeping policies, and evaluation tools in order to – 1)enhance compliance amongst all HUD homeless funding streams; 2)facilitate audits of ESG/CoC funded programs; and 3)provide common outcome data and measurable results.

ESG standards have been scaled down in comparison to HPRP since ESG funding is significantly less than HPRP and requires enhanced targeting of homeless populations and services. These standards are not static and will be changed to address the current conditions of our community. It will be imperative for the City and CoC partners to work together to establish policies, develop creative programming and pursue funding sources that will address the needs to transition populations from vulnerability to self sufficiency.

- a. Standard policies and procedures for evaluating individuals' and families' eligibility for assistance under Emergency Solutions Grant

Individuals and families may access ESG funding through one of three entry points:

1. By calling the United Way's 211 service to be referred to the City's designated housing support service provider;
2. By making an appointment with a case manager at the City's designated housing support service provider; or
3. By receiving a third party referral to the City's designated housing support service provider from an emergency shelter, transitional living program, or other CoC participating agency serving persons residing in the City of Binghamton.

The City's designated housing support service provider will complete a pre-screening form with the client. If potential eligibility is established, then the case manager will ask if the client has access to any other support networks or mainstream benefits (i.e., public assistance, social security, unemployment, etc.). Clients who have not accessed these mainstream benefits will be required to go to the mainstream provider first to determine eligibility for benefits prior to meeting with the case manager. Upon meeting with the case manager, clients will be required to complete a comprehensive client intake form, bring proof of benefits documentation, and other supporting documentation (i.e., income, lease, eviction notices, etc.) to verify housing status and client eligibility. A common client intake form will be developed in coordination with CoC.

The initial screening will determine:

1. Client has no other support networks or resources to obtain/retain permanent housing.
2. If the combined household income is below 30% AMI of HUD's annual income limits and if the household has assets that exceed the program's asset limit;
3. If the household's living situation qualifies as either literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness;
4. If households that qualify as at-risk of homelessness have one or more additional risk factors which make shelter entry more likely if not assisted. These factors include persons with eviction notices, living currently in a place in which they do not hold a lease, such as doubled up with family or friends, in a hotel/motel or in an institutional setting.

The initial screening also collects certain basic demographic information on the household (HMIS universal data elements) and is used to help qualify the household for other services and to gather information on those seeking assistance for analysis and program refinement.

Households determined initially eligible will receive a full assessment of housing barriers and household resources. Households may be screened out at this point if: 1) the household appears to have other resources/housing opportunities that it can access to avoid homelessness, or 2) the household has very high or multiple barriers to re-housing and can be referred to another program that would better suit client's housing situation over the long-term.

b. Policies and procedures for coordination among providers

1. The primary coordinative body for implementation of the ESG program will begin with the Broome County Continuum of Care/Homeless Coalition. The Coalition typically meets monthly and has a diverse membership of housing service providers, support service providers, government agencies, and private/public organizations. The Coalition also hosts guest speakers to discuss new initiatives or to address concerns raised by the Continuum and/or program participants. The Continuum also has subcommittees to spearhead special initiatives such as drafting policies, forms and evaluation tools for review by the membership and approval of the Board. The Continuum will be consulted to identify annual ESG funding

priorities, recommend programs that meet funding priorities, and participate in audits to help evaluate ESG agency performance.

2. The City's designated housing support service provider(s) will coordinate with referral agencies, such as the United Way, to link clients in need of housing assistance to other services and shelters.
3. The City will maintain its working relationship with the Broome County Department of Social Services. This agency provides a major mainstream benefit resource for long-term housing stability.
4. The City's designated housing support service provider(s) must have a strong knowledge and working relationship with local social service agencies, employment centers, shelter providers and supportive service programs (i.e., food pantries, transportation, health care, daycare, medical, legal, credit counseling, etc.).
5. The designated housing support service provider(s) must have a strong knowledge and working relationship with other agencies targeting housing services for homeless/low-income families including but not limited to Shelter Plus Care, Supportive Housing Program, Homeless Housing and Assistance Program, Veterans Assistance and Supportive Housing Program, Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects, Community Housing Development Organizations, and Section 8.

c. Policies and procedures for which families will receive prevention or rapid re-housing

Homeless Prevention

Eligible clients for homeless prevention services are individuals or families meeting the definition of at-risk of homeless under 24 CFR576.2 with household incomes below 30% AMI of HUD's annual income limits. Clients receiving homeless prevention assistance must provide case managers with information and/or documentation in order to demonstrate that they have no other persons/support systems to help them with maintaining their current home, or prevent them from entering a shelter. Case managers must maintain documentation that demonstrates they connected the client with other mainstream programs to help client sustain permanent housing. Clients receiving more than one month of financial assistance must develop an individual service plan in consultation with the case manager. The case manager must maintain documentation of efforts to help obtain employment and/or employment readiness training for client and/or persons living in client's household who are able to enter the workforce.

The City has established the following priority populations of homeless prevention clients. These priorities have been established because the population is deemed to have a higher probability of being successfully served, or there is a clear systems delivery gap for a particular population. It should be noted that these priorities are not meant to preclude other eligible persons from receiving assistance.

Unaccompanied youth under age 18

Client has a written eviction notice from landlord or family/friend stating client must vacate premises within 21 days from the date of application for assistance, no subsequent residence has been identified, and no other support systems are available to help client avoid homelessness.

Client is living in a hotel or motel that is self-paid and has a lease with a move in date within 30 days from the date of application for assistance.

Rapid Re-housing

Eligible clients for rapid re-housing services are individuals or families meeting the definition of homelessness under 24 CFR576.2. In order to ensure ESG funds are the most appropriate source of funding, case managers must document client's readiness to reside in permanent housing (low demand for housing support services). Clients approved for rapid re-housing services must find a unit that meets rent reasonableness standards, does not exceed HUD's Fair Market Rent, and has a certificate of compliance from the City's Code Department within 60 days of client's approval date for services. Clients receiving more than one month of financial assistance must develop an individual service plan in consultation with the case manager. The case manager must maintain documentation of efforts to help obtain employment and/or employment readiness training for client and/or persons living in client's household who are able to enter the workforce.

The City has established the following priority populations of rapid re-housing clients. These priorities have been established because the population is deemed to have a higher probability of being successfully served, there is a clear systems delivery gap for a particular population, and it will enhance the Continuum's goal of quickly transitioning homeless persons from shelters to permanent housing. Again it should be noted that these priorities are not meant to preclude other eligible persons from receiving assistance.

Individual or family living on the street or in an emergency shelter

Unaccompanied youth under age 18

Client has a written eviction notice from landlord or family/friend stating client must vacate premises within 14 days from the date of application for assistance,

no subsequent residence has been identified, and no other support systems are available to help client avoid homelessness

Individual or family fleeing domestic violence, and no other support systems are available to help client avoid homelessness

d. Standards for determining share of rent and utilities

ESG funding will be used as last resort, least amount of assistance, least amount of time. ESG funds will neither be used to supplant other available resources to the client, nor will ESG funds be used to duplicate a resource provided in the same time period for the same cost type at the time of client requesting ESG assistance. Case managers will have to develop a household budget and identify the amount of ESG funds needed to help client maintain permanent housing. For clients receiving ongoing financial assistance, the case manager must develop a plan with the client to contribute up to 30% of household income towards ESG assisted activity. Case managers must obtain proof of payment from client and verify that client payment was received by the third party prior to paying out ESG funds.

Utility payments will be made for eligible persons with a utility shut off notice. Case managers must document that the utility provider's acceptance of payment will guarantee the client's utility service for at least one billing cycle.

e. Standards for determining how long a program participant is assisted

Due to the limited resources of the ESG program, the maximum period for which clients can receive financial services is 6 months in any given year. To maximize client potential to maintain housing, case managers are required to have monthly contact with clients to document client efforts and accomplishments. Case managers have the flexibility to schedule on-site appointments as necessary to ensure client remains accountable with program expectations.

f. Standards for the type, amount and duration of stabilization services

Due to the limited resources of the ESG program, limitations of services and financial assistance have been established that are more stringent than federal guidelines.

Security Deposits

Limited to one month's rent

Limited to one time assistance in any given year for clients in same household

Agency should exercise due diligence in recovering security deposit funds owed for any active client relocating from an ESG assisted unit

Utility Payments

Utility payments (including arrears) will be limited to three months per program participant, per utility service, within a 1 year period.

Rental Assistance

Short-term rental assistance is limited to up to 3 months in any given year

Medium term rental assistance is limited to up to 6 months in any given year

Rental arrears is limited to a one-time payment not to exceed 3 months; landlord must waive late fees as a condition of accepting ESG assistance

Rental assistance (including arrears) will be limited to six months within a 1 year period.

Rental assistance is limited to the tenant's portion of the rent

Rental assistance can only be provided if the rent is within fair market value and complies with rent reasonableness standard. In establishing rent

reasonableness case managers will be required to determine whether client's rent is reasonable in comparison to rent for other comparable unassisted units.

Factors to be considered include:

(a) The location, quality, size, unit type, and age of the assisted unit; and

(b) Any amenities, housing services, maintenance and utilities to be provided by the landlord in accordance with the lease.

Security deposits, utility payments and rental assistance cannot be paid until the case manager obtains written MOU of landlord/utility provider's acceptance of payment, a written lease/occupancy agreement clearly denoting names of tenants, move-in date, occupancy terms, expiration date and costs payable by tenant. All payments must be payable to reputable and verifiable third parties. Under no circumstances can payment be made directly to clients.

The maximum amount of financial assistance provided to persons in the same household is \$1,000 during a 1 year period.

Performance Standards

The City's definition of a successful outcome is:

Homeless Prevention – Client avoided homelessness and maintained permanent housing for at least six months from date of last assistance

Rapid Re-housing – Client obtained permanent housing within 60 days from date of approval and maintained permanent housing for at least six months from date of last assistance

To this end, the following performance standards have been established for the ESG program:

- Emergency shelter documents an average length of stay of less than 60 days
- At least 60% of emergency shelter clients are successfully transitioned to permanent housing units
- At least 60% of clients receiving street outreach services will access shelter
- At least 60% of rapid re-housing clients will obtain and maintain permanent housing
- At least 60% of homeless prevention clients will maintain permanent housing
- HMIS data quality reports will achieve an accuracy reporting rate of at least 90%
- Subrecipients expend 100% of ESG award and document verifiable eligible matching source(s)

Grantee SF-424's and Certification(s)

OMB Number: (48C)-0004
Expiration Date: 5/31/2015

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

1. Type of Submission: Pre-application New Renew Continuation Extension Change of / Renewed Application Other (Specify): _____

2. Type of Application: Provision Applicant Identifier: _____

3. Date Received by State: _____ State Application Identifier: _____

4. Applicant Identifier: _____

5a. Federal Entry Identifier: _____ Job Federal Award Identifier: _____

5b. 30256 _____

6. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

7. Legal Name: City of Washington 7. Revision (used appropriate below): _____

8. Employment/contract identifier number (EIN/ID): _____ 8. Organizational ID/MS: _____

9. EIN/ID: 55-0000000 _____

10. Address: _____

11. Street: 311 New York Street

12. City: WY 2011

13. State: WY 2011

14. Country: United States

15. Organization: _____

16. Phone: _____

17. Fax: _____

18. Email: _____

19. Zip / Postal Code: 82001-2100

20. Organization Unit: _____

21. Department: _____

22. Division: _____

23. Section: _____

24. Position: _____

25. Title: _____

26. Name and contact information of person to be contacted as a result of reviewing this application:

27. Name: _____ Title: _____

28. Address: _____

29. City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

30. Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

31. Title: _____

32. Department: _____

33. Division: _____

34. Section: _____

35. Position: _____

36. Title: _____

37. Name: _____ Title: _____

38. Address: _____

39. City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

40. Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

9. Type of Applicant: Select Applicant Type:
 10. City or County of Applicant

Type of Applicant 2. Select Applicant Type

Type of Applicant 2. Select Applicant Type

Other Applicant Type

11. Name of Federal Agency:
 US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

11. Office of Federal Financial Assistance Number:
 14-215

OMB No:
 Community Development Block Grant/Entitlement Grants

12. Funding Opportunity Number:
 14-215

Title:
 Community Development Block Grant/Entitlement Grants

13. Competition Identification Number:
 Title:

14. Areas affected by Project (City, County, State, etc.):

15. In Description Title of Applicant's Project:
 City of Stoughton 43rd Year Annual Action Plan FY Usage of CDBG Funds

Other State or local funds: enter as specified in agency structure

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

1. Type of Assistance: Discretionary Mandatory Other (Specify): _____

2. Type of Application: Original Continuation Renewal Other (Specify): _____

3. Applicant Identifier: _____

4. Federal (City) Identifier: _____

5. State (Two Digit): _____

6. Date Received by State: _____

7. State Applicant Identifier: _____

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION

a. Legal Name: CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

b. Employer/Requester Identification Number (EIN/RIW): 33-0273428

c. DUNS/Business ID/RS: 0721437000

9. Address:

Street: 1515 6th Ave S, Ste 1000

Street 2: _____

City: BIRMINGHAM

County: BIRMINGHAM

State: AL

Zip: 35203

Country: USA

10. Organizational Unit:

Department Name: _____

Division Name: _____

11. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on website regarding this application:

Point of Contact: _____

First Name: JOHN

Last Name: _____

State: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Country: _____

12. Telephone Number: 800-772-7023

13. Fax Number: 800-772-7023

14. Email: info@cityofbirmingham.com

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

8. Type of Applicant: Research Institution State or City of Township Government

Type of Applicant: Special Interest Type

Type of Applicant: Other Applicant Type

Other Agency: _____

9. Name of Federal Agency: _____

10. Name of Project: _____

11. Catalog or Federal Contract Assistance Number: _____

12. Funding Opportunity Number: _____

Title: _____

13. Corporation Identification Number: _____

14. Name Addressed by Project (City, State, Zip): _____

15. Description Title of Applicant's Project: _____

City or Township of the Project: _____

16. Reporting description as specified in agency instructions

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional District Of: 17. Program/Project:

18. Estimated Funding \$:

a. Federal	15,728,000
b. Applicant	
c. State	
d. Local	
e. Other	
f. Program Income	
g. TOTAL	15,728,000

19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12812 Process?

a. The application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12812 process for review on

b. Program is subject to E.O. 12812 but has not been selected by the State for review.

20. Is Program not covered by E.O. 12812? Yes No

21. By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements mentioned in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required "certification" and agree to comply with any pending laws if signed in error; I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties (31 U.S.C. 305, 306, 307, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500).

22. The list of certifications and assurances, or do attach the same you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement of agency specific instructions.

23. I Agree.

Authorized Representative:

Name: Title:

Last Name: First Name:

Signature:

Date Signed:

Agency Name: Address:

Phone: Fax:

Website:

Signature of Administrator:

Application for Federal Assistance SS-426	
9. Type of Application to Select Applicant Type: <input type="checkbox"/> STATE GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)	10. Name of Federal Agency: <input type="text"/>
11. Department of Housing and Urban Development: <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: <input type="text"/>	12. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
13. Competition Identification Number: <input type="text"/>	14. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
15. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>	16. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
17. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>	18. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
19. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>	20. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
21. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>	22. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
23. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>	24. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
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91. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>	92. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
93. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>	94. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
95. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>	96. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
97. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>	98. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>
99. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>	100. Funding Opportunity Number: <input type="text"/>

Application for Federal Assistance SF-426

16. Congressional Districts Of: 1st-17th 18th-25th 26th-33rd 34th-41st 42nd-49th

17. Program Project: 1. Federal 2. State 3. Local 4. Other

18. Estimated Funding (\$): 1. Federal 2. State 3. Local 4. Other

19. Is the Applicant Subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12812, Process 1?

20. Is the Applicant Deficient On Any Federal Debt? If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment 1.

21. By signing this application, certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of "affiliations" and (2) that the statements therein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the "number of organizations" and agree to supply one to three, four, or more, as applicable, for each of the following: (a) Name, (b) Address, (c) Phone, (d) Fax, (e) E-mail, (f) Website, (g) Other.

22. The list of organizations and of resources, or an altered one where you may delete any, which are (a) contained in the memorandum of agreement with the state, or (b) otherwise provided to the state, shall be maintained and updated by the applicant.

23. Signature of Authorized Representative: *[Signature]* Date Signed: *[Date]*

jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations, and

2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically harassing behavior in or out from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within the jurisdiction;

Compliance With Anti-discrimination laws - The grant will be awarded and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d), the Fair Housing Act (42 USC 3601-3615), and implementing regulations.

Local School Prizes - In activities concerning neighborhood youth will comply with the requirements of 34 CFR Part 35, subsections A, B, J, K, and M.

Compliance with Laws - It will comply with applicable laws.


Signature/Authorized Official _____ Date 2/2/17

Rayor
Title _____

APPENDIX A, CORRECTION
CDHC

Show the following certification only when one or more of the activities in the action plan are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency as specified in 29 CFR 570.208(a):

The grantee hereby certifies that the Annual Plan includes one or more specifically identified CDBG-assisted activities which are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.



Supervisor/Authorized Official Date: 7/11/17

Title: Mayor

Specific HOME Certifications

The HOME participating jurisdiction certifies that:

Targeted Rental Assistance -- If the participating jurisdiction intends to provide tenant-based rental assistance:

The use of HOME funds for tenant-based rental assistance is an essential element of the participating jurisdiction's consolidated plan for expanding the supply of affordability and availability of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing.

Eligible Activities and Costs -- It is being used with HOME funds for eligible activities and costs, as described in 24 CFR § 92.205 through 92.209 and that it is not using and will not use HOME funds for prohibited activities, as described in § 92.214.

Appropriate Financial Assistance -- Before committing any funds to a project, it will evaluate the project in accordance with the guidelines that it adopts for this purpose and will not invest any HOME funds in combination with other federal assistance that is necessary to provide affordable housing.


Signature/Authorized Official Date

Title

ESG Certifications

The Emergency Solutions Grants Program Recipient certifies that:

Major Rehabilitation/Conversion – If an emergency shelter's rehabilitation costs exceed 75 percent of the value of the building before rehabilitation, the jurisdiction will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family when the completed rehabilitation of the cost to convert a building into an emergency shelter exceeds 75 percent of the value of the building after conversion, the jurisdiction will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family when the completed conversion. In all other cases where ESG funds are used for renovation, the jurisdiction will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 3 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed renovation.

Essential Services and Operating Costs – In the case of assistance involving shelter operations or essential services related to street outreach or emergency shelter, the jurisdiction will provide services or shelter to homeless individuals and families for the period during which the ESG assistance is provided, without regard to a particular site or structure, so long the jurisdiction serves the same type of persons (e.g., families with children, unaccompanied youth, disabled individuals, or victims of domestic violence) or persons in the same geographic area.

Renovation – Any renovation carried out with ESG assistance shall be sufficient to ensure that the building involved is safe and sanitary.

Supportive Services – The jurisdiction will assist homeless individuals in obtaining permanent housing, appropriate supportive services (including medical and mental health treatment, victim services, counseling, supervision, and other services essential for achieving independent living), and other Federal, State, local, and private assistance available for such individuals.

Marketing Funds – The jurisdiction will obtain marketing amounts required under 24 CFR 576.201.

Confidentiality – The jurisdiction has established and is implementing procedures to ensure the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual provided family violence prevention or treatment services under any project assisted under the ESG program, including prevention against the release of the address or location of any family violence shelter project, except with the written authorization of the person responsible for the operation of that shelter.

Homeless Persons Involvement – To the maximum extent practicable, the jurisdiction will involve, through employment, volunteer services, or otherwise, homeless individuals and families in coordinating, reviewing, maintaining, and operating facilities assisted under the ESG program. In providing services assisted under the ESG program, and in providing services for occupants of facilities assisted under the program.

Consolidated Plan – All activities the jurisdiction undertakes with assistance under ESG are consistent with the jurisdiction's consolidated plan.

Discharge Policy – The jurisdiction will establish and implement, to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate policies and protocols for the discharge of persons from

publicly funded institutions or systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or correction programs and institutions) in order to prevent his discharge from imprisonment resulting in homicides for these persons.


Signature/Authorized Official

Date: 2/11/17

Title

APPENDIX TO CERTIFICATIONS
INSPECTIONS CONCERNING LOBBYING

A. Lobbying Certification

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.