

The award increased and there were errors in the original AAP that needed to be rectified.

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

Ramsey County (not including the City of St. Paul) is considered a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement community by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Eligibility for participation as an entitlement community is based on population data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau and metropolitan area delineations published by the Office of Management and Budget. HUD determines the amount of each entitlement grantee's annual funding allocation formula which uses several objective measures of community needs, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing and population growth lag in relationship to other metropolitan areas.

Ramsey County receives HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds through a consortium: Anoka, Dakota, Ramsey and Washington Counties and the city of Woodbury. Dakota County, the lead agency for the Consortium, is responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and evaluation of the Consolidated Plan. This document will deal only with the Ramsey County portion of the plan. The Consolidated Plan has been prepared to meet statutory planning and application requirements for the receipt and use of funding. This plan is the fifth Five-Year Consolidated Plan developed for the Dakota County Consortium and it takes effect with fiscal year 2020 and includes fiscal year 2021.

The Consolidated Plan describes the community's choices for the use of grant funds over a five-year period. It contains information to identify housing, homeless, community and economic development needs within Ramsey County, and describes a strategy to meet those needs. This information is used by Ramsey County and its sub-recipients to make decisions regarding the best use of limited federal funds. The plan also provides citizens an opportunity to have input on how programs will be implemented to address the needs of low- and moderate-income residents. In addition, the plan meets statutory requirements in order to receive annual entitlement funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Ramsey County anticipates receiving \$ 1,215,369 of CDBG funding, and \$ 556,067 of HOME funding from HUD in 2020. In addition, the County estimates \$18,085 in CDBG and \$160,000 HOME anticipated program income.

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.

Overview

The Objectives and Goals in this plan are all aimed to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment and to expand economic opportunities.

Priority Needs

- Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation
- Housing for Special Needs Population
- Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing
- Housing rehabilitation owner occupied
- Homeownership Assistance
- New Permanent Housing
- Transitional Housing
- Tenant Advocacy
- Homeless Prevention Services
- Transportation for Seniors and Disabled
- Infrastructure
- Job Readiness and Skills Training
- Job Creation
- Acquisition Demolition for rehab brownfields
- New construction of rental housing

Goals

- Housing Rehabilitation
- Development of New Affordable Housing
- Public Improvements
- Public Services
- Economic Development
- Preservation of affordable rental housing

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

Over the five-year period since the last Consolidated Plan, housing trends have had considerable implications for the housing stock and affordability in Ramsey County. The Twin Cities Metro has experienced vacancy rates below 3% since 2011 and Minnesota continues to lose 2,000 NOAH units every year. These trends factor into higher rents and home values in Ramsey County, placing higher cost burdens on residents. Between 2000 and 2017 median rents in Minnesota increased by 13% from \$804 to \$906, while median home values increased by 17% from \$173,808 to \$199,700. Over the same period, median income for renters decreased 5%. Income for homeowners increased by 3%, but does not keep pace with the increase in home values.

Meeting or exceeding most of the goals set forth in the previous plan, Ramsey County allocated resources to address these issues. The initial plan for new affordable housing development was 12 units constructed and 12 units rehabilitated. The County managed to construct 29 units and rehabilitate 72. The plan also anticipated the preservation of 75 units through rehabilitation and 117 were rehabilitated. However, only 314 homeowner housing units were rehabilitated of the planned 405.

As the cost of living increases in the Metro Area, jobs also become a major focus as well as public amenities. The plan anticipated the creation or retention of 40 jobs, but the County missed the mark with 14. However, the County did meet the goal of assisting 5 businesses and assisted 41,015 people through public improvements, exceeding the 1,966 planned.

Overall the County was successful in meeting the expectations set out in the 2015 Consolidated Plan. A highlight of the County's work was its success with producing and preserving affordable housing. However, as current housing trends continue, the issue will likely remain a focus moving forward in the 2020 Consolidated Plan.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The Dakota County Consortium Citizen Participation Plan is on file in the Ramsey County Community and Economic Development Office, Room 250, 15 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55102. The Citizen Participation Plan describes the procedures used to encourage citizen participation.

Primary outreach was conducted through a survey regarding the use of CDBG and HOME funds for needs in suburban Ramsey County. The survey was emailed directly to cities and other stakeholder groups. The survey was also publicized on the County webpage, and through Facebook and Twitter. The responses affected the goal setting in that they reinforced the work that the county has been doing with CDBG and HOME. There was also increased emphasis on job creation. All goals in the plan are based on priorities identified during the consultation and citizen participation process.

As required two public hearings occurred to give community a chance to describe what they see as community need. One public hearing occurred on February 22, 2021 as part of the Dakota County

Consortium this included conversation on Ramsey County CDBG. A Second public hearing occurred on August 9th, 2021. No comments were received at either public hearing.

Ramsey County hosted two public comment periods with notice given in the Pioneer Press, the second largest paper in the state of Minnesota by circulation. The first 30 day public comment period occurred April 4th, 2021 and ended May 3rd, 2021 before the Ramsey County Housing Redevelopment Authority approved the Annual Action Plan projects. The second was a 3-day public comment period, as recommended by the HUD Field Office, for a minor amendment to the 2021 Annual Action Plan. This took place on August 6th, 2021 through August 9th, 2021. No comments were received during either public comment period.

Ramsey County staff also used other engagement processes to inform the 2021 Action Plan including the CARES Act Evaluation, Ramsey County's Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan, as well as consultation with the Continuum of Care and other regional housing workgroups.

5. Summary of public comments

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

The responses affected the goal setting in that they reinforced the work that the county has been doing with CDBG and HOME. There was also increased emphasis on job creation as a recognition that increases in income lead to greater housing stability. All goals in the plan are based on priorities identified during the consultation and citizen participation process.

Comments generally supported the need for large family affordable units, including housing for youth and families experiencing homelessness, job training and community development. Concern about dwindling resources to support the needs of low- and moderate-income residents was often expressed. Public Comment on the 2020-2024 Dakota County Consortium Consolidated Plan and the 2020 Ramsey County Annual Action Plan were held between July 1-Aug 1, 2020. Public hearings were held on March 12 and on May 12, 2020. No comments were received from the public hearings. Comments from the comment period were included in the final version of the Consolidated Plan.

In addition to the public hearings related to the 2020 Consolidated Plan, two public hearings were held for the FY2021 Action Plan. One was held on February 21, 2021 as part of the Dakota County HOME Consortium and no comments were received, another public hearing was held on August 9th, 2021 and no comments were received.

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

All comments were accepted.

7. Summary

Comments received by Ramsey County were considered in the development of the needs and goals of the Consolidated Plan. Comments received after the release of the DRAFT were considered when making revisions to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator		Community and Economic Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The Ramsey County Community and Economic Development department is responsible for the preparation of the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan. It is also part of a consortium of local counties who partner with each other to ensure a smoother process when submitting plans. The Dakota County Consortium consists of Anoka, Dakota, Ramsey and Washington Counties and the city of Woodbury. Dakota County, the lead agency for the Consortium, is responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and evaluation of the Consolidated Plan. Ramsey County submits its plan through Dakota County under this consortium.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

The consultation process was conducted by Ramsey County Community and Economic Development Department staff. Staff worked with each municipality that is part of the entitlement to obtain information, solicit feedback, and set priorities. Many of the community's city councils passed resolutions supporting the priorities of the plan. In the process of preparing the Consolidated Plan, the County also consulted a wide range of individuals, groups, and agencies in order to gather information and gain insight into the community development, housing and homelessness needs of Ramsey County.

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

Ramsey County is the lead agency of the Continuum of Care (CoC). The CoC brings together and enhances coordination between public and assisted housing providers, private and governmental health agencies, mental health agencies and other service agencies. Ramsey County Community and Economic Development participates in the CoC workgroups to align work across the continuum of services.

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.

Ramsey County, through the Ramsey County Housing Stability Department, is the Coordinator of the Ramsey County Continuum of Care (CoC). The Coordinator staffs the CoC Governing Board which has overall responsibility for policy, planning and implementation of our response to homelessness and establishes CoC priorities. The COC Governing Board meets with the Ramsey County Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) committee to coordinate service priorities between the CoC, FHPAP, and ESG as the lead subrecipient of the city's award. The highest service priority has been established for homeless families (with school age children), second for homeless unaccompanied youth, and third for unsheltered single adults living in places unfit for habitation.

The CoC has established an evaluation plan that covers both CoC and ESG funded agencies. The plan also sets and monitors performance measures for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The Institute for Community Alliance serves as the HMIS system administrator for all Ramsey County user agencies.

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

In December 2019 the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to designate Ramsey County as the lead subrecipient of ESG Funds. Ramsey County's Housing Stability Department is responsible for allocating funds, developing performance measures, evaluating outcomes, and ensuring compliance of funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS through ICA. The City of Saint Paul is invited to participate in the CoC's Governing Board as Vice Chair, Steering Committee, and Ranking Committee. The Ranking Committee reviews and selects ESG applicants for service provision.

The Ramsey County COC Coordinator will work with the CoC Governing Board and Ramsey County to develop funding allocations to promote a comprehensive delivery of homelessness services; support programs for underserved communities; complement services provided by Ramsey County COC and Ramsey County FHPAP, and reduce the number of emergency shelter residents at the Dorothy Day Center. The Ramsey County COC is currently working to develop performance evaluation standards and outcomes for ESG, COC and FHPAP service delivery programs. At the same time, Ramsey County staff, Ramsey County COC and Institute for Community Alliance are considering funding allocations to develop a more responsive HMIS system.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Metro HRA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA Regional organization
	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?	Anticipate increase coordination to leverage funding for multifamily housing, especially with project based vouchers and LIHTC.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy 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?	Consulted on housing needs, lead paint concerns, ESG and Continuum of Care.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Business Leaders Civic Leaders

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Ramsey County met with a focus group of member organizations. Outcome is increased understanding of the developers needs as well as the needs of their clients. Improved communication about funding and other resources is another anticipated outcome.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Southern MN Regional Legal Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	As part of developing the Analysis of Impediments, as well as tenant landlord relations, met with staff. Criminal record expungement is a big concern for SMRLS, and new immigrants with housing problems. Anticipated outcome identifying tenant education and advocacy and legal services as a priority need.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	HOMELINE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Through survey and conversation. Anticipated outcomes is to include tenant advocacy and legal assistance as a high priority.

6	Agency/Group/Organization	Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email conversations, survey participation. Areas for improved coordination are anticipated to be related to housing needs of extremely low income residents.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Accessible Space, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Conversations related to previous funding, as well as survey response. As agency plans, especially related to the elimination of the HUD Section 811 PRAC program for persons with disabilities, want to work for the ability to create truly affordable and accessible new development housing and units for persons with disabilities and towards preservation of existing housing stock for these persons.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs 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?	Conversations related to previous funding, as well as survey response. As agency plans, especially related to Section 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) Program program for persons with disabilities, want to work for the ability to create truly affordable and accessible new development housing and units for persons with disabilities and towards preservation of existing housing stock for these persons. Public Health also conducts Lead risk assessments and outreach.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	On-going conversations related to economic development, job creation and retention in suburban Ramsey County. Anticipated outcomes are increased coordination among businesses and economic development work of the County.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF ROSEVILLE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Individual conversations with city and HRA staff, as well as focus groups. Anticipated outcomes include coordination with the city related to concentrated areas of poverty in the making and intervention strategies.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Lauderdale
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Individual conversations with city and HRA staff, as well as focus groups. Anticipated outcomes include coordination with the city related to housing needs, economic development and brownfields redevelopment.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF MOUNDS VIEW
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Individual conversations with city and EDA staff, as well as focus groups. Anticipated outcomes include coordination with the city related to housing needs, economic development and brownfields redevelopment.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Little Canada
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Individual conversations with city staff, as well as focus groups. Anticipated outcomes include coordination with the city related to housing needs, economic development and brownfields redevelopment
14	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Individual conversations with city staff, as well as focus groups. Anticipated outcomes include coordination with the city related to housing needs, economic development, brownfields redevelopment and addressing growing poverty in the city and school district.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF MAPLEWOOD
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Individual conversations with city staff, as well as focus groups. Anticipated outcomes include coordination with the city related to housing needs, economic development, brownfields redevelopment and addressing growing concentrations poverty in the city and school district.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Arden Hills
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Individual conversations with city staff, as well as focus groups. Anticipated outcomes include coordination with the city related to housing needs, economic development, and brownfields redevelopment.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	City of New Brighton
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Individual conversations with city staff, as well as focus groups. Anticipated outcomes include coordination with the city related to housing needs, economic development, and brownfields redevelopment.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Vadnais Heights
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Individual conversations with city staff, as well as focus groups. Anticipated outcomes include coordination with the city related to housing needs, economic development, and brownfields redevelopment.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	City of North St. Paul
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy 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?	Individual conversations with city staff, as well as focus groups. Anticipated outcomes include coordination with the city related to housing needs, economic development, brownfields redevelopment and addressing growing concentrations poverty in the city and school district.
20	Agency/Group/Organization	Ramsey County Workforce Solutions
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Meetings with staff. Anticipated outcomes are increased coordination between economic development and the Workforce Center programs such as Job Connect, Construction Hiring Connection, and Everybody In. As part of the same service team, CED and Workforce Solutions are working closely to address issues related to antipoverty strategy.

21	Agency/Group/Organization	Comcast
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Business Leaders Major Employer
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discuss access to broadband within Ramsey County, in particular the programs that allow access to low-income persons.
22	Agency/Group/Organization	DEED
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Other government - State
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Minnesota Office of Broadband Development, a part of DEED, was consulted on extent and cost of broadband access in Ramsey County.
23	Agency/Group/Organization	State Office of Climatology
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Other government - State
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Identified 5 climate hazards including extreme heat, extreme rainfall and flash flooding, changes in air quality, changes in vector-based diseases.
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

No specific agency types were left out of the consultation process.

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	Ramsey County	Strategic Plan goals and Ramsey County CoC goals overlap in the intention to reduce poverty and a provide range of housing choices.
Thrive 2040	Metropolitan Council	Investments provide an important economic foundation so all residents of the region can prosper. Transportation, jobs, community development and affordable housing are address for the region, and concerns regarding concentrated areas of poverty work with the strategic plan goals for economic development, range of housing choice and anti-poverty strategy.
Cultivating Economic Prosperity	Ramsey County	The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners established the goal to cultivate economic prosperity and eliminate concentrated poverty throughout the county. Ramsey County is the most diverse county in the region, and it is in a unique position to lead efforts that cultivate prosperity opportunities for everyone. Strategic Plan goals related to economic development, job creation and anti-poverty strategy fit with the county's internal efforts.
Everybody In	Ramsey County	Antipoverty strategy and economic development overlap with job readiness and job creation goals of Everybody In.

Table 3 - Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

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

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation

Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

For the Consolidated Plan, primary outreach was through a survey regarding the use of CDBG and HOME funds for needs in suburban Ramsey County was mailed out to cities, and other stakeholder groups. The survey was publicized on the County webpage, and through Facebook and Twitter. The responses affected the goal setting in that they reinforced the work that the county has been doing with CDBG and HOME. There was also increased emphasis on job creation. All goals in the plan are based on priorities identified during the consultation and citizen participation process.

As required two public hearings were held one was a joint public hearing held with the HOME Consortium and covered CDBG projects and activities as well. This was held in early 2021. The other was a Ramsey County specific public hearing held on Monday, August 9th 2021.

In addition to the two required public hearings, Ramsey County's also reviewed existing engagement plans and evaluations to make sure we were aligning federal and local resources to meet our HUD objectives.

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	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	26 responses	Range of responses and comments. The majority wanted to ensure that the county continue with affordable housing, economic development/job creation, and housing rehab.	All comments were received.	

2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	2 public hearings were held. One was held with the greater HOME Consortium and included CDBG on February 21, 2021 and Ramsey County held a CDBG-specific public hearing on August 9th, 2021. Ramsey County hosted two public comment periods with notice given in the Pioneer Press, the second largest paper in the state of Minnesota by circulation. The first 30 day public comment period occurred April 4th, 2021 and ended May 3rd, 2021 before the Ramsey County Housing Redevelopment Authority approved the Annual Action	No comments received.	No comments not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
			Plan projects. The second was a 3-day public comment period, as recommended by the HUD Field Office, for a minor amendment to the 2021 Annual Action Plan. This took place on August 6th, 2021 through August 9th, 2021. No comments were received during either public comment period.			

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Ramsey County received CDBG and HOME funds. Other resources are available to Ramsey County through the Continuum of Care funding, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Tax Credits and related programs, but the Ramsey County Community and Economic Development Department does not apply directly for those resources. However, the Federal funds available through the HRA leverage those dollars. HOME funds provide gap finance for projects with Tax Credits and housing vouchers. The FirstHOME down payment assistance program borrowers often receive Minnesota Housing bond-financed reduced rate mortgages and sometimes additional down payment assistance.

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	1,215,369	18,085	0	1,233,454	3,600,000	Assuming a constant level of CDBG appropriation and funding, Ramsey County should have about \$6.6 million, including anticipated program income, for a 5-year period.

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

HOME funds provide gap finance for projects with Tax Credits and housing vouchers. Equity and investment in those projects provide significant match. CDBG funds often leverage state and Federal clean up funds, as well as transportation funding involved in infrastructure projects. For example, the cost of sidewalk improvements in a low-income area can be shared by the community and CDBG. County brownfields clean up funds can be paired with CDBG and HOME to move ahead with eligible rehab projects.

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

No publicly owned land will be used in FY2021 to address needs identified in the plan.

Discussion

Continuum of Care program funding will be used to address the housing and service needs of people experiencing homelessness. Ramsey County and the Ramsey County Continuum of Care work closely with the City of Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota to coordinate the use of ESG funds for homeless prevention and to move people experiencing homelessness quickly into safe and stable housing.

Annual Goals and Objectives

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

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Housing Rehabilitation	2020	2025	Affordable Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs	Urban Ramsey County	Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Housing for Special Needs Population Housing rehabilitation owner occupied Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$450,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 35 Household Housing Unit Housing for Homeless added: 4 Household Housing Unit
2	Preservation of affordable rental housing	2020	2025	Affordable Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs	Urban Ramsey County	Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Housing for Special Needs Population Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$192,500	Rental units rehabilitated: 42 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Public Improvements	2020	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Urban Ramsey County	Infrastructure	CDBG: \$289,297	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 450 Persons Assisted
4	Public Services	2020	2025	Homeless Non-Housing Community Development	Urban Ramsey County	Homeless Prevention Services Tenant Advocacy	CDBG: \$58,583	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 758 Persons Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Two rehab programs for owner-occupied homes will be supported, as well as a pilot program for lead hazard work in suburban areas will also be undertaken.
2	Goal Name	Preservation of affordable rental housing
	Goal Description	Several naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) developments require rehab. In addition, a permanent supportive housing facility requires HVAC replacement.
3	Goal Name	Public Improvements
	Goal Description	Improvements to a park and a trail extension in LMI census tracts

4	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	a tenant hotline to prevent eviction and homelessness as well as a program that assists homeless households in finding and securing permanent housing opportunities.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

Ramsey County selected 10 projects in compliance with federal solicitation and procurement standards. 2 projects invest in public infrastructure, 2 invest in public services and the rest are for the rehabilitation or acquisition of affordable housing.

#	Project Name
1	Homeline
2	Arden Manor Park
3	Housing Link Beyond Backgrounds
4	Marion Street Trail Connection
5	ASI Ramsey Inc. Rehab
6	Solid Ground Heating and Cooling Replacement
7	One Stop for MN Communities- Acquisition
8	Ramsey County Energy Efficiency Rehab Program
9	Ramsey County Owner Occupied Rehab Program
10	Administration and Planning

Table 7 – Project Information

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

Allocation priorities reflect our plan's objectives and were chosen because of their alignment. Affordable housing is especially important to Ramsey County at this time so the majority of project's help rehabilitate and acquire affordable housing for low-to-moderate income residents or provide housing services to low-to-moderate income residents.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Homeline
	Target Area	Urban Ramsey County
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Tenant Advocacy
	Funding	CDBG: \$38,583
	Description	HOMELine anticipates assisting approximately 750 to 800 suburban Ramsey County renter households over the hotline during the program year, preventing over 50 evictions and saving renter families more than \$80,000 in security deposits and rent abatements. Nearly all callers (91%), have incomes less than 80% of the area median income; more than one third (36%) are non-Caucasian and nearly three-fourths (72%) are female. The most common reasons Ramsey County residents call the hotline are; repairs, evictions, and security deposits. HOMELine has received a large increase in the volume of calls related to COVID-19. Many tenants are facing problems with the eviction moratorium, and have lost wages due to mandatory closing of businesses. CDBG funding will help HOMELine add staff to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to housing challenges related to the coronavirus.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We estimate that we will serve 750 households.
	Location Description	Suburban Ramsey County (countywide except City of Saint Paul)
	Planned Activities	The HOMELine Tenant Hotline helps residents of suburban Ramsey County with tenant issues including landlord, maintenance and connections to rental assistance.
2	Project Name	Arden Manor Park
	Target Area	Urban Ramsey County
	Goals Supported	Public Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$189,700

	Description	The playground structure at Arden Manor Park was installed in 1999 and has deteriorated and needs replacing. The playground area no longer meets accessibility standards or safety guidelines and will be brought into compliance. The city has committed \$60,000 for new playground equipment and CDBG will be used for the remainder of the project cost. Drainage and flooding continue to impact the use of Arden Manor Park. There is shelter on site that is not getting utilized because of local flooding and drainage issues. An open field area that children can use continues to hold water, causing the field to be unusable. The park predominately serves low-to-moderate income residents who live in adjacent manufactured homes. The site is within an LMI census tract as well.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We estimate that approximately 24 individuals will visit the park per day. Low to moderate income residents living in the adjacent mobile home park will benefit from the infrastructure improvement.
	Location Description	Arden Manor Park in Arden Hills
	Planned Activities	Ramsey County will enter into an agreement with the City of Arden Hills who will then subcontract to replace aging park equipment and make other upgrades.
3	Project Name	Housing Link Beyond Backgrounds
	Target Area	Urban Ramsey County
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Prevention Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000

	Description	Beyond Backgrounds creates connections between property owners and renters with a history of rental barriers, ultimately leading to more equitable access to affordable, stable housing for families. Beyond Backgrounds works by matching landlords with low-income renters who are struggling to secure housing due to criminal, credit, and eviction histories. Renters receive housing search assistance and case management support. Housing Links provides a \$2,000 "risk mitigation fund" for each unit they rent to a Beyond Backgrounds client, to pay for any costs beyond what the renter's security deposit covers, including damage, unpaid rent, or eviction-related fees. The CDBG funds will exclusively target clients on the Ramsey County Family Shelter Wait List, diverting them from shelters and helping those who obtain housing in suburban Ramsey County. Households will also need to have at least one significant barrier in their background to qualify for the program.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The program will serve 8 low-income households that have barriers to accessing permanent housing options.
	Location Description	Suburban Ramsey County (countywide except City of Saint Paul)
	Planned Activities	Ramsey County will partner with HousingLink to serve 8 low-income families/individuals/households in the Beyond Backgrounds program. They will help the resident overcome barriers to accessing rental housing and provide a landlord guarantee to house the "hard to serve" renter.
4	Project Name	Marion Street Trail Connection
	Target Area	Urban Ramsey County
	Goals Supported	Public Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$99,597

	Description	The trail connection will connect the Brittany Marion Apartments, a large low-income apartment complex, a new medium-density housing development to Unity Park and Lake McCarrons County Park. The site, located in an approved LMI census tract, is within walking distance to bus routes on Rice Street and Larpenteur Avenue, a Ramsey County WIC clinic, and a local charter school. The trail connection is included in Roseville's 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Rice-Larpenteur Vision Plan.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Trail connection will connect low-income households of an apartment complex with a local city park and a regional county park. We estimate that approximately 50 residents per day will use the trail
	Location Description	In City of Roseville near Larpenteur and Rice Street behind the Brittany Marion Apartments complex.
	Planned Activities	Ramsey County will enter into an agreement with Roseville who will then contract out the construction services to build the trail. The trail is considered an improvement to an existing development.
5	Project Name	ASI Ramsey Inc. Rehab
	Target Area	Urban Ramsey County
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Housing for Special Needs Population
	Funding	CDBG: \$110,000
	Description	ASI, formerly Accessible Space, is seeking funds to assist with the renovation of two affiliated sites of Accessible Space, Inc. in suburban Ramsey County to improve durability, accessibility and extend the life of the homes for current and future tenants. Cedar Home, a shared-room occupancy home in White Bear Lake for adults with traumatic brain injuries and Snelling Home, a shared-room occupancy home in Falcon Heights for adults with traumatic brain injuries. The renovations are intended to make the properties more efficient, more attractive, and safer for the residents. Renovations include sidewalk replacement, energy efficient basement egress windows, deck replacement, common area flooring and accessible bath remodel.
	Target Date	6/30/2022

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	8 households with special needs living a group residential facility. Residents are low-income.
	Location Description	Two locations in suburban Ramsey County. Falcon Heights and White Bear Lake.
	Planned Activities	Ramsey County will enter into an agreement with Accessible Space Inc. They will then hire contractors to do rehab work on the supportive housing units.
6	Project Name	Solid Ground Heating and Cooling Replacement
	Target Area	Urban Ramsey County
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$82,500
	Description	Solid Ground will utilize CDBG funds for the rehabilitation of East Metro Place (EMP). EMP was originally built in 1992 with assistance from Ramsey County. Most of the families living in the transitional, supportive units of East Metro Place have experienced homelessness, domestic violence, sexual assault and other trauma. EMP is home to 50 families, including 125 children. In 2019, 88% had incomes below the federal poverty level. This project proposes to replace the aging heating and cooling units.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	There are 34 households at East Metro Place that will benefit from renovations.
	Location Description	East Metro Place in White Bear Lake
	Planned Activities	Ramsey County will enter into Solid Ground so that they are able to renovate their housing units at East Metro Place. Solid Ground will subcontract the work out to contractors.
7	Project Name	One Stop for MN Communities- Acquisition
	Target Area	Urban Ramsey County

	Goals Supported	Preservation of affordable rental housing
	Needs Addressed	Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	One Stop for MN Communities seeks to acquire a single-family house or homes to provide housing for women who were recently homeless and living in shelters or hotels. The provider will seek a property in suburban Ramsey County near amenities and transit access. The provider intends to rent to residents with vouchers, but face barriers to finding permanent housing. Supportive services including tenant skills, financial literacy, employment services, and personal wellness, will be offered. CDBG funds will cover part of the cost of acquisition.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	4 extremely low income households will share a newly acquired house
	Location Description	House will be located in suburban Ramsey County
	Planned Activities	Ramsey County will enter into an agreement with One Stop for Minnesota Communities so that they can acquire a house within the Ramsey County suburbs for formerly homeless residents.
8	Project Name	Ramsey County Energy Efficiency Rehab Program
	Target Area	Urban Ramsey County
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing rehabilitation owner occupied
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000

	Description	CDBG funds will be used for energy conservation/emergency improvement deferred loans in suburban Ramsey County. A state-certified energy auditor inspects all homes and the most cost-effective improvements are recommended. All households served are below 80% of AMI. Funding is provided on a first-come, first-served basis, The Center for Energy and Environment manages this program designed to improve the energy-efficiency of suburban owner-occupied homes. Loans averaging \$6,000 provide for important improvements to Ramsey County's single-family housing stock. Energy Efficiency Deferred Loans address essential energy systems and typically allow homeowners to install insulation and replace broken or inefficient furnaces, boilers, or water heaters. The loans accrue no interest. Loan principal is reduced by 20% per year after five years, and if the borrower remains in their home for ten years, the loan is forgiven
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	15 low-to-moderate income households will benefit from the energy efficiency loans.
	Location Description	Suburban Ramsey County- countywide
	Planned Activities	Ramsey County will partner with The Center for Energy and the Environment to provide loans to low-to-moderate income suburban residents to weatherize their homes and improve energy efficiency.
9	Project Name	Ramsey County Owner Occupied Rehab Program
	Target Area	Urban Ramsey County
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing rehabilitation owner occupied
	Funding	CDBG: \$200,000

	Description	Ramsey County will seek a non-profit provider to administer the suburban countywide rehab program for low-to-moderate income homeowners. Properties are professionally inspected, and this process will have to be revised in order to prevent and respond to the COVID 19 virus. The basic set-up of the program is still to help low income homeowners to have safer, healthier and more efficient homes. Deferred loans of up to \$18,000 may be used for basic home improvements. Loan principal is reduced by 20% per year after five years, and if the borrower remains in their home for ten years, the loan is forgiven. There is no interest associated with this loan.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Ramsey County will serve 20 households with rehab loans
	Location Description	Suburban Ramsey County- countywide except City of Saint Paul
	Planned Activities	Ramsey County will partner with a non-profit provider to manage the homeowner rehab program for suburban Ramsey County. The provider will walk the resident through the process in compliance with HUD regulations.
10	Project Name	Administration and Planning
	Target Area	Urban Ramsey County
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation Public Improvements Public Services Preservation of affordable rental housing
	Needs Addressed	Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Housing for Special Needs Population Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing Housing rehabilitation owner occupied Tenant Advocacy Homeless Prevention Services Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$243,074

	Description	Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program funding recipients may use up to 20% of their annual allocation plus program income for administration and planning costs, this covers Ramsey County CED staff and related administration and planning expenses.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	NA
	Location Description	NA
	Planned Activities	Ramsey County will use the designated 20% of the CDBG grant for the management of eligible CDBG projects and activities.

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

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

Ramsey County is an entitlement community and includes all municipalities in the county outside of the City of Saint Paul. Two cities, Blaine and Spring Lake Park, that are mostly in another adjacent county and have small sections within Ramsey County opt out of the Ramsey County's entitlement geography as a large urban county.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Urban Ramsey County	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

All investments must serve low-to-moderate income populations across suburban Ramsey County.

Discussion

All investments must serve low-to-moderate income populations across suburban Ramsey County.

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

Introduction

Housing affordability is affected by policies and actions taken by both the public and private sectors. Local policies, such as ordinances, guidelines and planning documents land use controls, building codes, permit and other development fees, etc. although designed to improve the overall housing quality in the community can also constrain affordable housing development. The private sector, on the other hand, driven by the need to succeed in business, interprets what the consuming public wants and builds to provide the size, scale, and amenities currently in vogue and/or required by the community.

Public strategies must include cooperation by civic leaders and residents that consider:

- Reducing barriers to development of mixed-income housing and neighborhoods, thereby reducing concentrations of a single economic group.
- Improving the relationship between housing choice and decisions made by school districts.
- Expanding the supply of housing options appropriate and accessible to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Developing better strategies to affirmatively further fair housing and address housing discrimination.
- Building wealth and expanding investment in Areas of Concentrated Poverty.

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

Counties have no authority over land use, but Ramsey County plans to continue its work maintaining the existing housing stock, especially naturally occurring affordable housing, and partnering with developers and municipalities to expand housing opportunities, increase density to lower per-unit land and development costs, and identify infill sites as well as adaptive reuse of existing buildings.

Discussion

Ramsey County is working to expand the supply of housing options, such as putting affordable units in mixed rate projects, as well as working to preserve naturally occurring affordable housing. For the first time Ramsey County invested county bond funds in the Minnesota Housing Consolidated RFP.

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

Introduction

Ramsey County worked with adjacent units of government on the regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, presenting it in partnership with the City of St. Paul for community response and comment. The County will continue to work with the private sector (businesses, developers, social service agencies) to provide housing, economic development, and community development services. Economic development programs, such as the business development loan fund, provide gap financing, which requires businesses seeking assistance to work with banks and other private and public sector lenders. The County has recently completed a Racial Equity and Economic Inclusion Plan that addresses many of these concerns.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Ramsey County will address some underserved needs through the use of CDBG and HOME towards the production and preservation of large family units, units for very low and extremely low income households. With rents skyrocketing, funds will be used towards the preservation and rehabilitation of existing affordable units at risk of going market rate. The largest obstacle to meeting underserved needs is a lack of funding for these activities.

An underserved area is renters with past problems that can block access to rental units, such as criminal record or a past eviction. Even Section 8 Voucher holders have a hard time accessing rental units in this tight market. Ramsey County plans to use CDBG funds in a partnership with Housing Link's Beyond Backgrounds program to move some renters into suburban Ramsey County properties.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Ramsey County plans to provide gap financing for leveraging additional dollars for preservation projects and new construction of multifamily project. Descriptions of the specific projects and programs can be found in the Listing of Projects section of this document. Rehab and energy efficiency rehab for LMI households helps maintain both the condition and the affordability of this single family housing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

- Ramsey County will continue to comply with the HUD regulations concerning lead based paint, including notifying applicants of the lead requirements, performing lead screening, requiring abatement by certified workers, and completing clearance testing on HUD funded housing projects. Ramsey County Public Health will continue to offer the window replacement program for homes with children and identified lead paint issues.
- Ramsey County-funded rehabilitation programs are required to provide information to homeowners on lead-based paint assessment/abatement/reduction. The Housing Resource Center provides oversight of the lead based paint regulations in cooperation with Ramsey County Public Health for all rehab

projects.

- In the FirstHOME down payment assistance program all participants are educated on the issue of lead poisoning, and certification that the property is lead hazard-free must be obtained prior to closing.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

CDBG funds will be used to support housing stability and suitable living environment for low income families. This helps families access and maintain jobs and education.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Ramsey County works as a part of the Dakota County Consortium to identify needs that are common and can best be addressed through joint activities. The consortium staff meets at least quarterly.

Ramsey County's institutional structure provides a sound basis for achievement of the goals in the Consolidated Plan. Staff have built strong relationships with the communities that make up the CDBG Urban County entitlement as well as community organizations, faith-based organizations and for-profit businesses and business organizations. Ramsey County seeks out new partnerships between the public, private and non-profit sectors to meet the growing community development needs of the county.

Currently, staff are working with other county departments, the City of St. Paul, and other grantees on regional Section 3 compliance. Internally, the County HRA is part of a Economic Growth and Community Investment service team that helps departments coordinate work related to the county board goal of Cultivating Prosperity. In 2020, the County completed an in-depth Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan, centered on equitable growth and strengthening economic competitiveness.

This strategy prioritizes inclusion in future investments and other actions related to housing, job creation, workforce development and place-based investments, while responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

The actions in this strategy were informed by extensive community and stakeholder input from throughout the county.

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

Ramsey County actively participates in the Twin Cities Fair Housing Implementation Council. County staff are also part of the Interagency Stabilization Group, the Urban Land Institute Housing Collaborative Institute, the Stewardship Council, which provides technical assistance and coordinates the efforts of providers of social services, long-term transitional housing, and providers of subsidized housing to address difficulties and help them meet the needs of residents. Heading Home Ramsey, as part of Heading Home Minnesota, works to coordinate public and private housing, health, and social service agencies to end homelessness in the county. The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners' initiative, Cultivating Prosperity initiative, is developing ways to work in partnership with public and private sector

groups to address issues related to regional economic growth and improving opportunities in areas with higher concentrations of poverty. This fiscal year, CDBG funds will continue to be used in a partnership with Housing Link and Ramsey County Human Services to provide support working with landlords to help them rent to households with significant barriers.

Discussion

Ramsey County's strategies to address impediments identified in the 2020 action plan will focus on those areas most closely aligned with programming of federal funds and where benefit may prove the strongest. Those affirmative efforts will primarily be associated with:

- 1) homeownership opportunities, and
- 2) supporting affordable rental development in suburban Ramsey County.

Ramsey County receives entitlement CDBG and HOME funds for investment in suburban Ramsey County Communities. Projects that receive funding are intended to support a balanced approach to Fair Housing:

- Investments in both people and physical places, focusing on areas of concentrated poverty and neighborhoods that are predominantly populated by persons of color. However, it should be noted that there are few suburban neighborhoods with these characteristics in suburban Ramsey County. Ramsey County's efforts are focused on providing additional housing and other resources to individuals and families wishing to move to areas of greater opportunity.
- Preserving affordability of existing housing and securing property for development of new affordable housing units, and
- Enforcing fair housing laws and efforts to prevent housing discrimination.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction

The program income in this section includes \$18,085 of anticipated program income.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(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	18,085
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:	18,085

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100.00%

Discussion

Overall benefit will be calculated over 3 years, 2020, 2021, 2022

