

STARK COUNTY, OHIO FY 2023

(July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024)

One Year Action Plan CDBG and HOME

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
B-23-UC-39-0005

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
M-23-DC-39-0204

Stark County Commissioners



- County Office Building

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Janet Weir Creighton
Richard Regula
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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Brant A. Luther, Esq.

April 19, 2023

Tylon McGee
Office of Community Planning and Development - HUD
200 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

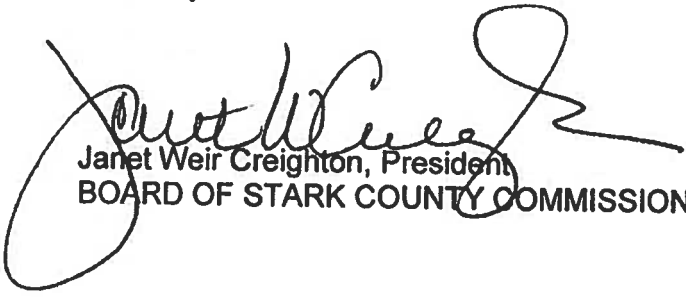
RE: Certifications

Dear Tylon:

Enclosed are the Board of Stark County Commissioners original certifications associated with the County's FY2023 Action Plan.

If you have any questions regarding the Action Plan or Certifications, please contact Diane Sheridan, Chief of Community Development at 330-451-7031 or dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov.

Sincerely,


Janet Weir Creighton, President
BOARD OF STARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CC: File

Enclosures

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The Consolidated Plan covers various programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships program (HOME). Stark County is an Urban County under the CDBG program and a Designated Consortium under the HOME program. The County receives direct allocations of funding for both programs. This one-year action plan is the fifth year of the FY '19 - '23 Consolidated Plan, making it the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan. It summarizes the activities the County will undertake utilizing CDBG and HOME funding.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

In preparing the One-Year Action Plan, the County addressed those needs meeting one of the three national objectives of the CDBG program: benefit low-to moderate-income persons (LMI), elimination of slum and blighting conditions or meet an urgent community need. Specific goals, objectives and outcomes include:

Preservation of affordable housing;

Provide targeted public services for persons that are LMI;

Provide technical assistance to microenterprise business or potential businesses;

Public facility and infrastructure improvements.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

The goals or projects chosen for this program year must meet one of the National Objectives.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Public notices were published in the three general circulation newspapers for the annual CDBG and HOME application workshops that were held in August and October 2022 as well separate notices for the public meetings/hearings. Invitations were sent to all political subdivisions that participate in the CDBG/HOME program, along with non-profit agencies that have applied for funding in the past, current subrecipients and interested parties who expressed any interest in applying at any time throughout the year. Notices were posted on the SCRPC website and on social media. A public meeting to gather comment on the proposed CDBG and HOME budgets was held virtually on March 7, 2023 and two in-person public hearings were held on March 7, 2023 and March 22, 2023.

On April 19, 2023 during a public meeting, the Board of Stark County Commissioners adopted the FY 2023 CDBG and HOME budgets, along with tentative approval of CDBG infrastructure projects for both FY 2024 and FY 2025.

5. Summary of public comments

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

The 30-day comment period began March 3, 2023 and ended on April 2, 2023.

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

There were no comments or views that were not accepted during the 30-day comment period.

7. Summary

2023 is the final year of the five-year Consolidated Plan. Please refer to Section AP-12 Participation for a listing of consultations held during the year. The encouragement and opportunity for public involvement has also been described in the revised Stark County Citizen Participation Plan, adopted April 19, 2023. Throughout the plan, objectives to encourage public participation are outlined in detail. The Citizen Participation Plan can be found in Attachment 4.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	STARK COUNTY	Stark County Regional Planning - Comm Dev. Dept
HOME Administrator	STARK COUNTY	Stark County Regional Planning - Comm Dev. Dept

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

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

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

SCRPC is the contact for the Stark County Consolidated Plan.

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

1. Introduction

The Community Development department at SCRPC conducted active outreach with various entities and service organizations in anticipation of the 2023 program year. These relationships will lay the groundwork for a robust and diverse public participation process and help Stark County develop strong and effective five-year and one-year plans which strive to meet the needs of the county. Section AP-12 Participation outlays the consultations held during the preceding 12 months. Additionally, to broaden public participation, the stakeholder e-mail list was expanded to now include more than 350 recipients, representing various social service agencies, political jurisdictions and community members. These recipients receive notice of upcoming public meetings and public hearings.

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)).

In calendar year 2022, in order to enhance coordination among various providers, health, mental health and service agencies, SCRPC met one-on-one with more than 10 agencies. These meetings were held to educate entities about Stark County CDBG and HOME funds specifically, how these sources can benefit populations such as those who are homeless, veterans and LMI persons. Meetings included, but were not limited to these agencies: Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio, Stark County Sanitary Engineer's Office, Vantage Aging, Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank and Beacon Charitable Pharmacy. Through these meetings, SCRPC was able to learn more about each organizational mission.

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 Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHN) was established over six years ago and serves as the Collaborative Applicant for the Continuum of Care (CoC), operating as the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC: OH-508). SHN coordinates efforts to address the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and unaccompanied youth and persons at risk of homelessness.

Throughout the past year, SCRPC worked collectively with SHN and the City of Canton through the development of Stark County's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. SHN aided in the facilitation of discussion, outreach to key stakeholders, and assisted in obtaining important HMIS data. In addition, quarterly meetings between SCRPC, City of Canton and SHN are new. These meetings allow for informal discussion and have helped develop working relationships among critical partners.

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

The City of Canton is the only ESG recipient in Stark County. The City of Canton administers ESG funds and The SHN works with the City to assist with soliciting, reviewing and allocating ESG funds.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority was consulted to provide information on public housing and its future plans for the AP-60 Public Housing section of the current Action Plan.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Stark Housing Network
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy 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?	The Stark Housing Network was consulted to provide information on homeless and other special needs activities and future plans for each for the AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities section of the current Action Plan.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	STARK COUNTY FAIR HOUSING
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Discrimination & Landlord/Tenant help

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Stark County Fair Housing Department was consulted to provide information on barriers to affordable housing, housing discrimination, landlord/tenant issues, etc. and future plans for each for the AP-75 Barriers to Affordable Housing section of the current Action Plan.
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

There were no agency types not consulted or invited to participate in public meetings and hearings.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County	Section AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities of the current Action Plan was completed with the assistance of the HCCSC through the Executive Director of the SHN. This is done to ensure that goals and objectives are in alignment.

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

Goals were established during the consultation and citizen participation process outlined in the FY19 - 23 Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

As previously mentioned, the public participation process throughout the past 12 months has been expanded to encourage diverse input.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Meeting with local non-profit	Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio	Staff met with Habitat ECO to discuss a potential project idea utilizing HOME funding.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	rpc.starkcountyohio.gov
2	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Notification of the FY23-25 CDBG workshop was sent out on 8/1/22 via e-mail to community stakeholders.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

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	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Notification of the FY23-25 CDBG workshop was published in three newspapers on 8/10/22.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
4	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	More than 35 attendees from different agencies and political jurisdictions were in attendance for the FY23-25 CDBG workshop on 8/26/22.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	rpc.starkcountyoio.gov
5	Meeting with Stark County Sanitary Engineers	Stark County Sanitary Engineers	A meeting was held between RPC and the Sanitary Engineers department to discuss CDBG funds. SC Sanitary Engineers were encouraged to apply for FY23 funding.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
6	After hours event at local non-profit	Vantage Aging	Staff attended an open-house event at Vantage Aging to learn more about their programming and services.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
7	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Notification of the FY23 HOME workshop was e-mailed out on 9/6/22 to community stakeholders.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	rpc.starkcountyohio.gov
8	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Notification of the FY23 HOME workshop was published in three newspapers on 9/14/22.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
9	Meeting with local non-profit to discuss possible CDBG funding	Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank	Staff met with representatives at the Canton hub of the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank to discuss the CDBG application. The Food Bank was encouraged to apply for funding.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
10	Meeting with local non-profit to discuss CDBG funding	Beacon Charitable Pharmacy	Staff met with the Executive Director of Beacon Charitable Pharmacy to better understand the scope of services offered to Stark County Residents. Potential CDBG projects were discussed and Beacon Charitable Pharmacy was encouraged to apply for funding.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
11	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Approximately 10 attendees from different agencies were in attendance for the virtual FY23 HOME workshop on 10/7/22.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	rpc.starkcountyohio.gov
12	Meeting with local non-profit	Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity	Staff met with the Executive Director of Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity to gather more information about the agency's mission and operations. Current and potential HOME funded projects were discussed.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
13	Meeting with local non-profit	Early Childhood Resource Center	A meeting with held between SCRPC and the Early Childhood Resource Center to discuss the CDBG funding application and a potential project idea. Early Childhood Resource Center was encouraged to apply for funding.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
14	Virtual consultation with the City of Alliance regarding FY23 HOME funds	City of Alliance	Community Development staff discussed FY23 HOME funds to determine how the City wishes to utilize their funding on 1/17/23.	The City of Alliance submitted a letter indicating how they intend to allocate their FY23 HOME funding.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
15	Virtual consultation with the City of Massillon	City of Massillon	Community Development staff discussed FY23 HOME funds to determine how the City wishes to utilize their funding on 1/18/23.	The City of Massillon submitted a letter indicating how they intend to allocate their FY23 HOME funding.	No comments were not accepted.	
16	Meeting with local non-profit	Warrior Beat	Staff met with representatives from Warrior Beat in order to learn more about their organization and services offered. Warrior Beat was encouraged to apply for CDBG funding for FY24.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
17	Meeting with local non-profit	Domestic Violence Project Inc.	SCRPC staff met with personnel from DVPI to learn more about the services offered. DVPI was encouraged to apply for funding for FY24.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
18	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Notification of the proposed FY23-25 CDBG and FY23 HOME budgets with information on the upcoming public meeting and hearings was published in three newspapers on 2/21/23.	No comments were received.	No comments were 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)
19	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	E-mail notification was sent on 2/21/23 to community stakeholders of the virtual public meeting on 3/7/23 which discussed the proposed FY23-25 CDBG and FY23 HOME budgets.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	rpc.starkcount yohio.gov
20	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	A virtual public meeting was held on 3/7/23 to discuss the proposed FY23-25 CDBG and FY23 HOME budgets and seek recommendation from the Community Development Citizens' Advisory Council.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	rpc.starkcount yohio.gov

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)
21	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	A public hearing was held on 3/7/23 in which the proposed FY23-25 CDBG and FY23 HOME budgets were presented to the RPC Board.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
22	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	E-mail notification was sent to community stakeholders on 3/9/23 of the public hearing on 3/22/23 regarding the proposed FY23-25 CDBG and FY23 HOME budgets.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

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)
23	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	The Board of Stark County Commissioners held a public hearing was held on 3/22/23 in which the proposed FY23-25 CDBG and FY23 HOME budgets were presented.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	
24	Meeting with local housing authority	Stark County Metropolitan Housing Authority	Staff met with the new Executive Director of the local housing authority. This was an introductory meeting and included brief discussion of County HOME funding.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
25	Quarterly meetings with RPC, City of Canton and Stark Housing Network	RPC, City of Canton, SHN	In early 2023, RPC organized quarterly meetings that include the City of Canton and Stark Housing Network. This is an opportunity to stay connected and discuss new potential projects or potential collaborations.	General discussion has included development of HOME-ARP Allocation Plans.	No comments were not accepted.	
26	Meeting with local non-profit	Perry Helping Perry	Staff met with Perry Helping Perry to discuss potential project ideas utilizing CDBG funding. Perry Helping Perry was encouraged to apply for funding for FY24.	No comments were received.	No comments were not accepted.	rpc.starkcountyo.gov

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Stark County receives HUD formula funding from HUD under the CDBG and HOME programs. Neither Stark County nor its Consortium members receive a direct allocation of ESG funds. Competitive Continuum of Care (McKinney-Vento) funding is not a funding source of the County and is therefore not included in projected funding.

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: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,390,232	5,000	17,551	1,412,783	Anticipated program income will be used for housing rehab administration and soft costs.
						0	

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	1,029,006	15,000	0	1,044,006	0	Anticipated program income will be used for housing rehabilitation or new construction.
Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	public - state	Housing TBRA Other	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 2 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The County strives to fund projects and activities that maximize other funding sources. Whenever possible, CDBG infrastructure projects are leveraged with local funds and/or OPWC funds. Generally, large HOME-funded projects with multiple funding sources provide match.

In order for the County to meet is annual HOME match liability, a large bank of match is carried over year-to-year. The current banked balance is

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more than six million dollars.

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

It is not anticipated that any publicly owned land within the Consortium will be used to meet the needs addressed.

Discussion

Annual Goals and Objectives

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

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Affordable Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	County-wide City Wide - City of Massillon City Wide - City of Alliance	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$471,631 HOME: \$690,705	Homeowner Housing Added: 4 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 27 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 3 Households Assisted
2	Public Services	2019	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Public Services	CDBG: \$65,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 175 Persons Assisted
3	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$549,850	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 150 Persons Assisted Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 56 Households Assisted

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Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Homeless Assistance	2019	2023	Homeless	County-wide	Homeless Assistance	CDBG: \$68,320	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 650 Persons Assisted
5	Permanent Supportive Housing	2019	2023	Homeless	County-wide	Permanent Supportive Housing	HOME: \$235,400	Rental units rehabilitated: 4 Household Housing Unit
6	Economic Development	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	County-wide	Economic Development	CDBG: \$32,000	Businesses assisted: 10 Businesses Assisted
7	Administration and Planning	2019	2023	Administration and Planning	County-wide City Wide - City of Massillon City Wide - City of Alliance	Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$254,613 HOME: \$102,901	Other: 1 Other

Table 3 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	Affordable housing activities to include: CDBG and HOME funded housing rehabilitation throughout the balance of the County, homebuyer and housing rehabilitation activities in the City of Massillon, City of Alliance housing rehabilitation and construction of new single-family homes by Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio and Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity in their respective communities.

2	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	Public service activities shall include Vantage Aging and The Stock Pile.
3	Goal Name	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Activities to consist of a waterline replacement in a low-income block group in the City of North Canton and construction of an ADA compliant restroom facility for a park in Perry Township.
4	Goal Name	Homeless Assistance
	Goal Description	Homeless assistance activities shall consist of CommQuest Services, Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Board and Alliance for Children and Families.
5	Goal Name	Permanent Supportive Housing
	Goal Description	FY 2023 permanent supportive housing goals consist of renovation of two duplexes owned by Stark County's only CHDO, ICAN Housing. These updates will ensure four units of permanent supportive housing remain in the communities' housing stock.
6	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	Economic Development activity consists of Kent State University's Small Business Development Center program.
7	Goal Name	Administration and Planning
	Goal Description	

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

The County utilizes a three-year funding cycle for CDBG funding requests. Applications are solicited and received annually helping to develop a rolling three-year program cycle for potential CDBG activities. The current program year is the first year of the new three-year funding cycle. Applications for the FY23-FY25 years were accepted during the Fall of 2022. CDBG applications were reviewed by the staff for eligibility and scored. Applications were then reviewed by a five-member "Citizen Review Committee" and all scores were averaged to determine the proposed funding.

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

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Administration
2	Fair Housing
3	Housing Rehab - Administration
4	Housing Rehab
5	CommQuest Services, Inc. - Family Living Center
6	Stark County Mental Health Board - Coordinated Entry System
7	Vantage Aging - Feeding Stark County Seniors
8	The Stock Pile - Salary Assistance
9	Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence
10	Kent State University - Economic Development of Small Business
11	City of North Canton - Peachtree Neighborhood Waterline Replacement
12	Stark County Park District - Petros Lake Park ADA Restrooms
13	HOME Administration
14	ICAN Inc. - Woodlawn Avenue Duplex Rehabilitation
15	ICAN Inc. - Perry Drive Duplex Rehabilitation
16	City of Alliance Housing Rehabilitation
17	Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity - East Alliance Revitalization
18	City of Massillon Rehab/Homebuyer Activities
19	Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio 2023 New Construction Builds
20	Stark County Housing Rehabilitation

Table 4 – Project Information

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

All CDBG and HOME funding applications are awarded on a competitive basis. Eligible CDBG projects are evaluated based upon a highly objective scoring system. Priority is also given to eligible large-scale infrastructure projects that will serve a County need and that collaborates with other county and state-

wide agencies resulting in direct and indirect benefits far outreaching the boundaries of the indicted LMI census tract. Highest priority for HOME funding is for viable CHDO projects and projects with all funding sources committed and ready for construction and/or expenditure of funds during the program year.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

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1	Project Name	CDBG Administration
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$170,612
	Description	To provide the administration of the CDBG program for Stark County. This provides the day-to-day oversight of the CDBG program and its related elements.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	CDBG Administration is a project benefitting persons throughout Stark County.
2	Planned Activities	Day-to-day administration and oversight of the CDBG program and its work elements.
	Project Name	Fair Housing
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$84,000
	Description	Provision of fair housing services to all residents of Stark County's CDBG participating political units.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 150 LMI persons will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	Fair housing services are provided throughout Stark County, excluding the city of Massillon.

	Planned Activities	SCRPC will provide fair housing counseling, discrimination complaint investigation, landlord/tenant counseling and other fair housing services to the residents of the CDBG participating political units. The Fair Housing Annual Action Plan is included as an attachment to this document.
3	Project Name	Housing Rehab - Administration
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$198,000
	Description	Provide staffing for the housing rehabilitation program and miscellaneous soft costs associated with the program, including but not limited to location surveys, title work, credit reports, pest inspections and program marketing.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Throughout Stark County's CDBG program areas.
	Planned Activities	Undertaking qualified single-family, owner-occupied housing rehab.
4	Project Name	Housing Rehab
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$471,630
	Description	Housing rehabilitation costs for LMI owner-occupied households within Stark County. The budget for this program year combines a portion of the CDBG grant (\$240,000.00) and the housing rehab RLF (~\$231,630). Historically, CDBG housing rehab grants are funded out of the current program year grant, while the loan projects are funded out of the RLF. All program income earned from the RLF will revolve back into the housing rehab RLF balance. This activity includes emergency rehabs, handicap accessibility projects and septic/sewer projects.

	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 16 LMI households will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Housing rehab projects will take place throughout Stark County, excluding the cities of Massillon and Alliance.
	Planned Activities	Direct financial support of the loans/grants for LMI owner-occupied households. Amount of funding includes approximately \$231,630 from the Revolving Loan Fund, in addition to the \$240,000.00 allocated from FY23 funds.
5	Project Name	CommQuest Services, Inc. - Family Living Center
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Assistance
	Funding	CDBG: \$18,000
	Description	Provision of housing/essential support services provided by the Family Living Center to homeless individuals.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 175 LMI persons will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	This public service is available to all Stark County residents.
6	Planned Activities	The Family Living Center is a homeless shelter located in the City of Massillon and is the only emergency shelter for homeless individuals in the western portion of Stark County. CDBG funding will be utilized to assist with the operation of the facility.
	Project Name	Stark County Mental Health Board - Coordinated Entry System
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Assistance
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000

	Description	Funding will be utilized to fund personnel expenses associated with the Coordinated Entry System of the Stark County Homeless Hotline.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 300 LMI persons will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	This public service will benefit persons throughout Stark County, OH.
	Planned Activities	Activities performed by personnel associated with the Coordinated Entry System of the Stark County Homeless Hotline includes oversight and supervision of the database/phone center specialists. Employees gather data from homeless or precariously housed callers, undertake an initial assessment, provide referrals and service information as well as coordinate with area agencies to provide shelter.
7	Project Name	Vantage Aging - Feeding Stark County Seniors
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$25,000
	Description	Provision of meals provided by Vantage Aging to Stark County Seniors.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 75 LMI persons will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	This public service will serve eligible Stark County seniors.
	Planned Activities	Funding will be utilized to assist with the expenses associated with making, serving and delivering meals to LMI Stark County seniors.
8	Project Name	The Stock Pile - Salary Assistance
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$40,000

	Description	Funding will be utilized to fund personnel expenses associated with The Stock Pile (TSP), a Stark County non-profit organization. TSP is a building reuse store, offering new and gently used building materials at a reduced cost.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 100 LMI persons will benefit from this public service activity.
	Location Description	The project serves all persons throughout Stark County.
	Planned Activities	TSP Staff interact with the public and assist customers in locating merchandise, stock shelves with new products and assist with pick-up and delivery of goods.
9	Project Name	Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Assistance
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,320
	Description	Provision of staff costs related to the operation of the Alliance Emergency Residence, a homeless shelter, in the City of Alliance.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 175 LMI persons will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	The public service is available to all Stark County residents.
10	Planned Activities	The funding is utilized to provide half of the Alliance Emergency Residence Office/Case Manager's salary. The Case Manger provides direct services to the clients including case management, shelter intakes and exits as well as assisting with other various responsibilities.
	Project Name	Kent State University - Economic Development of Small Business
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development

	Funding	CDBG: \$32,000
	Description	Technical assistance to be provided to LMI persons, businesses and potential businesses by the Kent State University Small Business Development Center.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 10 LMI businesses owned by LMI persons will be provided TA from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	This project will encompass all CDBG participating jurisdictions. Physical locations are available at a satellite office in downtown Canton and also at the Small Business Development Center at Kent State Tuscarawas.
	Planned Activities	The KSU Small Business Development Center will provide TA to LMI persons interested in developing microenterprise business and other businesses.
11	Project Name	City of North Canton - Peachtree Neighborhood Waterline Replacement
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$499,950
	Description	CDBG funding (\$482,399.15 of current year funding and reallocation of \$17,550.85 of prior year funding), will be utilized to replace aged waterlines that have exceeded their useful life. The project will be in Census Tract 7118, Block Group 1 = 42.56%. Stark County exception criteria is 41.24%.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The project will directly benefit approximately 56 households within the LMA block group.
	Location Description	This project will directly benefit households south of Everhard Road SW, along Peachtree, Winesap, Morello and Macintosh Streets SW in the City of North Canton.

	Planned Activities	Project includes the replacement of approximately 6,000 LF of water lines. New iron pipe will be installed along with replacing existing fire hydrants with the new quick connection hydrants.
12	Project Name	Stark County Park District - Petros Lake Park ADA Restrooms
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$49,900
	Description	Funding will be utilized to assist with the construction of a fixed, ADA accessible restroom facility at Petros Lake Park. The current restrooms are inadequate for those with mobility impairments, seniors and families with children.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This project is expected to benefit 150 persons including severely disabled adults and others with limited mobility.
	Location Description	This project will take place at one of Stark Park's many facilities, Petros Lake Park, which spans 127 acres in Perry Township. This park has picnic shelters, four nature trails and fishing.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funding will assist with the construction of the ADA access to the restrooms.
13	Project Name	HOME Administration
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	HOME: \$102,900
	Description	Administration of the Consortium's HOME program.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	This project will benefit persons throughout Stark County.

	Planned Activities	Administration of the Consortium's HOME program.
14	Project Name	ICAN Inc. - Woodlawn Avenue Duplex Rehabilitation
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Permanent Supportive Housing
	Needs Addressed	Permanent Supportive Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$119,900
	Description	HOME funds will be used to rehabilitate a duplex owned by Stark County's only CHDO, ICAN Housing.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity will benefit two low-income households.
	Location Description	This duplex is located on Woodlawn Avenue in Perry Township.
	Planned Activities	General rehab is expected to consist of new exterior doors, siding/soffit and fascia, gutters and downspouts, A/C, windows, kitchen cabinets, countertops, furnace, bath updates.
15	Project Name	ICAN Inc. - Perry Drive Duplex Rehabilitation
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Permanent Supportive Housing
	Needs Addressed	Permanent Supportive Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$115,500
	Description	HOME funds will be used to rehabilitate a duplex owned by Stark County's only CHDO, ICAN Housing.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Two low-income families will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	This duplex is located on Perry Drive NW in Perry Township.
	Planned Activities	Renovation to include new exterior doors, siding/soffit and fascia, gutters and downspouts, A/C, windows, kitchen cabinets, countertops, furnace, bath updates.

16	Project Name	City of Alliance Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	City Wide - City of Alliance
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$27,503
	Description	Housing rehabilitation assistance to LMI homeowners in the City of Alliance. All units will meet Residential Rehab Standards upon completion of the rehab work.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that one LMI household will benefit from this proposed activity.
	Location Description	This activity will benefit LMI persons within the City of Alliance.
	Planned Activities	HOME funding will be provided to qualified LMI homeowners in the City of Alliance to assist with housing rehabilitation.
17	Project Name	Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity - East Alliance Revitalization
	Target Area	City Wide - City of Alliance
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$150,000
	Description	Funding will be utilized to build two single-family homes on separate parcels in the City of Alliance. Funding will come from the City of Alliance's current program year HOME allocation. All units will remain affordable for at least 15 years. HOME funding will assist with the hard construction costs of each home.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This project will benefit two LMI households.
	Location Description	The project sites are in the City of Alliance. Locations are among current vacant residential lots in the eastern part of the city.

	Planned Activities	This activity consists of the construction of two single-family homes in the City of Alliance. The project is expected to provide long-term affordable housing for at least 15 years to LMI homeowners.
18	Project Name	City of Massillon Rehab/Homebuyer Activities
	Target Area	City Wide - City of Massillon
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$127,503
	Description	Use of HOME funding for homeownership and housing rehabilitation assistance to qualified LMI single-family homeowners to bring their houses up to Residential Rehab Standards within the City of Massillon. Funding will also be used to provide down payment assistance to assist qualified persons in purchasing a home.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that five LMI households will benefit from this activity. This will include housing rehabilitation and down payment assistance.
	Location Description	This project will benefit LMI persons located in the City of Massillon.
19	Planned Activities	HOME funding will be provided to LMI City of Massillon residents to help with single-family, owner-occupied rehab and/or homeownership down payment assistance. All units will meet Residential Rehab Standards upon completion.
	Project Name	Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio 2023 New Construction Builds
	Target Area	City Wide - City of Massillon
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$110,000
	Description	Funding will be utilized to build two new single-family homes in the City of Massillon. Funding will come from the City of Massillon's current year HOME allocation, (\$50,000) in addition to \$60,000.00 from the County's portion.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This project will benefit two LMI households.
	Location Description	The project sites are in the City of Massillon. Locations are among current vacant residential lots.
	Planned Activities	This activity consists of the construction of two single-family home in the City of Massillon. The project is expected to provide long-term affordable housing for at least 15 years to a LMI homeowner.
20	Project Name	Stark County Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$275,698
	Description	Housing rehabilitation assistance to qualified LMI homeowners in the County's eligible areas, outside of the cities of Alliance, Massillon and the Village of Hills & Dales.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated eight LMI households will benefit from the activity.
	Location Description	This activity will assist eligible LMI homeowners throughout Stark County, outside of the cities of Canton, Massillon and Alliance.
	Planned Activities	HOME funding will be provided to low-to moderate-income Stark County residents to assist with single family housing rehabilitation. All units will meet Residential Rehab Standards upon completion of work.

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

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

The County considers all eligible CDBG participating political units when allocating CDBG funds. The updates to the FY23 Citizen Participation Plan include broadened outreach to actively engage with those living in low-income areas. Such outreach may include holding meetings in lower income areas, sending mailers directly to residents in areas and distributing information to Stark County Metropolitan Housing Authority and other agencies serving LMI individuals.

Consortium members have input regarding the use of HOME funds. For example, the City of Alliance will be using a portion of their HOME funding to support construction of two new single-family homes in the eastern part of the Alliance. The developer, Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity, has targeted this section of Alliance in an effort to revitalize a struggling residential area. Vacant, blighted property is often acquired through land banks and returned to productive use. The City of Massillon will also see two new single-family homes from the developer Habitat for Humanity of East Central Ohio. The sites for new homes are chosen by prospective homeowners.

Geographic Distribution

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

Table 5 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Stark County does not focus on a particular geographic area, as all CDBG projects are awarded on a competitive basis. HOME funding is allocated back to the cities of Alliance and Massillon with the remaining funds utilized in the balance of the County. As mentioned in section AP-12, the County discusses HOME funding with each Consortium member. The most recent HOME Consortia Percentage Report is reviewed and used as a guide when developing the annual budget.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

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

Introduction

Affordable housing goals for FY23 shall be met through a number of eligible activities. Four new single-family homes will be constructed, two in Massillon and two in Alliance. Upon completion, these homes will be sold to households under 80% AMI and will carry 15-year affordability periods. 11 existing single-family homes are expected to be rehabbed, eight within in the balance of the county, 1 in the City of Alliance and two in the City of Massillon. Through the City of Massillon's down payment assistance program, it is anticipated three households will acquire homeownership. Lastly, four units of permanent supportive housing will be renovated.

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

Table 6 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	4
Rehab of Existing Units	11
Acquisition of Existing Units	3
Total	18

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

Discussion

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

Introduction

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

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

In addition to minor and major renovations and general maintenance, SMHA is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and provide a percentage of fully compliant Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) units. The renovation of one site in Massillon is near completion. This renovation includes six units: two with a walk-in shower, two with a roll in-shower, and two UFAS accessible. The countertops will be lowered and the bathroom will be accommodated for walk-in or a roll-in shower. This renovation will assist in serving residents requiring reasonable accommodations. SMHA is in the process of completing another renovation at a family site in Alliance. This renovation will include the complete rehabilitation of the property. Residents have been temporarily relocated while the renovation is underway. Once renovations is complete, residents will have the option of returning to their newly renovated residences. SMHA will continue to work to obtain one hundred and twenty-eight (128) mobility accessible units as required by HUD, by including vision, hearing, and mobility accesses in major renovation projects. SMHA will include a specified number of units to be converted so UFAS compliance is met with major renovation projects.

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

SMHA's Resident Services department coordinates programs and activities for residents with a focus on education, self-sufficiency, health and wellness, community engagement and homeownership through the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. Residents are encouraged to become part of the FSS Program which provides them with the education and the opportunity to purchase their very own home, vehicle, etc. once they complete the program. To date, SMHA has had one public housing resident and one Section 8 Program participant successfully complete the program. Both participants were able to purchase their own home in 2022.

Despite the challenges from the pandemic, SMHA was still able to offer several programs/services to its residents by working in collaboration with local agencies and organizations. These services include food, rental, clothing and utility assistance, job and educational support, housekeeping supplies and classes and summer food assistance. The Resident Services department provides referrals for emergency assistance, mental health counseling and other immediate needs. It is SMHA's goal to provide quality opportunities for residents to engage in supportive services and become self-sufficient. The Section 8

Department continues to provide referrals for housing counseling and direct assistance for their program participants in order to assist in their pursuit of homeownership.

Additionally, a scholarship is available for all SMHA public housing and Section 8 residents. Two awards are given each year in the amount of \$500.

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 at the present time.

Discussion

SMHA is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for approved requests and to satisfy the 128 units required to be mobility accessible by HUD. SMHA also provides referrals to other agencies for financial assistance to residents that meet eligibility requirements, and provide a variety of programs and services for SMHA families.

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities - 91.420, 91.220(i)

Introduction

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

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

The Homeless Hotline, aka Homeless Navigation, is a coordinated entry system for referral and/or placement with homeless housing and service providers in the county. The CoC also has a Coordinated Entry Committee, which guides policy direction and decision-making, and has refined the coordinated entry system. The initial assessment is conducted via the Hotline phone intake, which connects qualified callers to the appropriate homeless provider agency(s). This includes all eligible participants seeking shelter and/or housing, with the end goal of identifying callers who could be best served through diversion, and most appropriate referrals for those who cannot. The CoC oversees the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the database used to capture the data of individuals and families that access the homeless system, to help ensure more coordinated assessment, entry, and tracking. After assessment, the CoC provider community assists participants with completing applications to the most appropriate housing programs that meet the participant's individual needs. The CoC providers continue to work on building strong relationships with local landlords in order to locate appropriate and affordable housing for participants.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

All eligible persons who do not qualify for diversion or homeless prevention will be referred to shelters, or motel vouchers (provided by community agencies) when shelters are full to address their emergency need of having a safe place to stay. An in-depth participant assessment will examine the factors that led to homelessness and determine if the participant is suitable for rapid rehousing (RRH) or permanent supportive housing (PSH). Shelters provide case management with individualized plans detailing how a participant's causes for becoming homeless are addressed, and the steps that will be taken to exit the participant into permanent housing. The number of homeless persons has decreased over the years however, the number of persons at imminent risk of homelessness continues to increase and the number of homeless persons is trending higher based on preliminary 2023 Point-in-Time Numbers. In addition, due to a lack of subsidized and affordable housing units, the CoC is experiencing an increase in persons who return to the shelters after being exited to permanent destinations from RRH projects and an increased length of time for persons to secure housing after being referred to a housing program. It is forecasted that the number of first time homeless is going to increase as well as the length of time homeless due to the shortage of suitable housing units. Transitional housing is best suited to those in transitional life stages such as transition-age youth, families with young children, persons fleeing

domestic violence, ex-offenders, the under educated, and those lacking certain skills. However, as HUD has moved away from funding new transitional housing programs, the CoC has pursued and is currently operating additional rapid rehousing programs that could also serve persons typically assisted through transitional housing, with the potential to achieve self-sufficiency in open market housing within 12 months. Rapid rehousing typically targets families and individuals who are in a crisis state of homelessness and who should be able to sustain themselves after a minimal amount of assistance. Rental assistance is typically provided for on a declining sliding scale over a 12-month period, along with security deposits and housing inspections. Case management is provided prior to housing placement and up to six months following an exit from the program, with linkages to other mainstream services.

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 CoC's policies governing eligibility and prioritization to receive permanent housing include criteria related to households with a minor child, chronically homeless, and veterans. The CoC also has an assigned Veteran Coordinator that leads the housing coordination efforts between the CoC and veteran agency funded housing programs.

Fast housing placement for the most vulnerable is another key component in shortening the period of homelessness. As noted previously, the rapid rehousing program provides a quick transition for individuals and families directly into housing. Rapid rehousing targets those who are literally homeless. The CoC recognizes that the rapid transition will be dependent on the needs of the participant (e.g., time for obtaining education and/or job training), as well as availability of affordable housing and employment opportunities that provide enough income to enable the participant to pay rent.

While the CoC has expanded the rapid rehousing program to serve more participants with barriers, one challenge encountered is identifying landlords willing to rent to participants who may need up to 24 months to gain financial independence. Because Stark County does not have a large stock of safe, decent sanitary units that are affordable, the CoC will continue attempting to build partnerships with landlords and developers to address this issue.

Participants who have severe and possibly life-long barriers to attaining self-sufficiency are referred to PSH. A long-term goal of the CoC is to ensure that there are enough PSH units to immediately refer and place persons into a unit as needed to make the transition to permanent housing and independent living more rapid, thus shortening the period of time that they experience homelessness. In 2021, the CoC prioritized all (61) of the Emergency Housing Vouchers received by the one and only public housing authority for individuals and families who completed the coordinated entry assessment and had the

highest risk scores.

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.

While the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)'s Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) focuses on funding rapid rehousing, funding for homeless prevention in Stark County has historically come from private foundations, the United Way, and ESG. The CoC prioritized homelessness prevention efforts for households that have an annual income at or below thirty percent AMI. Both rapid rehousing and homeless prevention programs are in key positions to identify individuals and families who are “at-imminent risk” of becoming homeless. The homeless prevention provider agency targets participants who are “at imminent risk” of homelessness. The CoC’s homeless prevention policies aim to serve non-leaseholder households by connecting these households with assistance to gaining stable housing with a lease in their name. This prevention strategy focuses on households whose characteristics are more closely aligned to those who have entered shelter meaning these households are at a greater risk of needing shelter. SHN engaged a private consulting firm, Barbara Poppe and Associates, to conduct an independent evaluation of Stark County’s Homelessness Prevention Programs. This evaluation began in December 2020 and ended March 2023. The objective of this evaluation was to work with community partners and staff of the publicly funded homelessness prevention programs participating in the CoCs coordinated entry system in order to: 1) evaluate the programs’ implementation and guide their efficiency in targeting the most at-risk population(s); 2) measure the programs’ outcomes and guide the programs’ effectiveness in using interventions to achieve positive outcomes, and; 3) aid in ensuring that the programs’ designs, operations, and outcomes are equitable. The long-term goal of this evaluation is to reduce homelessness and recidivism. The Stark County protocol for homeless prevention includes collaboration with the CoC, housing providers, homeless services providers and institutions discharging participants.

Discussion

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

Introduction

SCRPC employs a Fair Housing Manager for Stark County. The Fair Housing Manager, Community Development and Comprehensive Planning staff work together towards removing barriers to affordable housing. SCRPC has prepared an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) to satisfy requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

A summary of the impediments to fair housing choice that emerged from the data analysis, public engagement initiatives, and policy review were identified. The AI identified "Potential Impediments" and provided "Recommended Action Steps."

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

Stark County's Fair Housing Manager will continue to undertake the recommended action steps. This includes continuing to speak at the Zoning Inspectors Mutual Assistance Committee meetings and reviewing township zoning resolutions for affordable and fair housing barriers. Staff will review and modify as needed, funding agreements with subrecipients to include a disclaimer that the subrecipient/local government will affirmatively further fair housing.

Once the Final Rule on Affirmatively Further Fair Housing is provided, the fair housing department will collaborate with other program participants in the community and submit a single "Joint Equity Plan." Until the Equity Plan is completed, the fair housing department will continue to address the Recommended Action Plans in the AI.

Discussion

The Fair Housing Manager held a training on disability rights regarding emotional support animals for the Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association. Additionally, a presentation was given to Plain Township Inspectors regarding fair housing and zoning. The Fair Housing Manager has participated in a government agency roundtable discussion and has spoken about housing discrimination at luncheons, sponsored workshops and seminars. She has conducted trainings and presentations to fair housing groups including the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery, Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association, ICAN, Pathway Caring for Children, Community Services of Stark County, Hoover High School, Realtors, students, landlords and tenants. Educational materials are provided to all participants.

The County will continue to support its goals of maintaining and expanding affordable housing. In the

attachments of this Action Plan, the Fair Housing Action Plan is included which identifies the impediments and the action steps that will be undertaken during FY 2023.

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

Introduction

Stark County addresses several items to strengthen the community and the carrying out of the Consolidated Plan/Action Plan as detailed below.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The major obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the need for more funding. Whether it is adequate numbers of affordable housing units, adequate numbers of beds in homeless shelters, permanent supportive housing units, large sanitary sewer expansions or other public facilities, funding is frequently the missing piece. To overcome this obstacle, Stark County generally looks to support projects that have other contributing funding sources.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Affordable housing units will be maintained through the rehabilitation of owner-occupied units, rehab of PSH units and supported by the development four new single-family homes.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

All projects are required to be carried out in a lead-safe manner. Every home that undergoes rehabilitation is evaluated for lead and all work is required to be carried out in a lead-safe manner by licensed contractors. Applicants are given the EPA brochure on lead hazards and the brochure is reviewed with the homeowner and housing counselor. All properties built prior to 1978 are tested for lead once rehabilitation work is completed and if they don't pass inspection, they must be re-cleaned and retested until they pass.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

As referenced in SP70 Anti Poverty Strategy of the FY19-23 Stark County Consolidated Plan, Stark County targets funding towards small business services, homeless shelters and homeless services. These dollars are critical to assist to poverty-level families. FY23 CDBG funds will be used to support Kent State's Small Business Development Center as well as The Family Living Center, Alliance Emergency Residence and Stark County's Coordinated Entry System.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Section SP40 of the County's current Consolidated Plan summarizes SHN's role as the Collaborative Applicant for the CoC. Additionally, through this CoC leadership, various committees and subcommittees have been formed that assume responsibility for various tasks under the HEARTH Act. For example,

some of the committees include the System Performance Committee, Coordinated Entry Committee, Youth and Veterans Subcommittees, and most recent, the By-Names Committee. This By-Names Committee works by regularly reviewing the real-time, up-to-date list of those experiencing homelessness that have been prioritized for housing. The By-Names Committee consists of lead staff members representing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the Collaborative Applicant and Shelter, Housing and Supportive Service providers. The sub-committees provide valuable insight on needs and challenges faced by providers.

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

Ongoing interaction takes place between Massillon, Alliance and Stark County, as members of the HOME Consortium. SCRPC is under contract and assists both cities with their housing rehab programs.

SCRPC coordinates with the Northeast Four County Planning Organization (NEFCO) in the creation of its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which is submitted annually to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The CEDS committee is comprised of private industry representatives, foundations and public agencies (including SCRPC), working together to identify economic goals and priorities for Stark, Summit, Portage and Wayne counties.

Discussion

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed | 0 |
| 2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan. | 0 |
| 3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements | 0 |
| 4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan | 0 |
| 5. The amount of income from float-funded activities | 0 |
| Total Program Income: | 0 |

Other CDBG Requirements

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. The amount of urgent need activities | 0 |
| 2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan. | 80.00% |

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)

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

Stark County will not utilize any other forms of investment beyond those identified in 92.205.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

The County will recapture the prorated HOME subsidy from the net available proceeds. The County and the new homeowner will split the net available proceeds up to the amount of HOME financial assistance to the homeowner.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

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

Under \$15,000 per unit - 5 years

\$15,000 - \$40,000 per unit - 10 years

Over \$40,000 - 15 years

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

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

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

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

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that

will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

Stark County does not plan to use HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds.

Attachments

Grantee Unique Appendices

Attachments

Attachment 1

Copies of publications for public meetings and hearings

Attachment 2

Citizen comments

Attachment 3

FY 2023 Fair Housing Action Plan

Attachment 4

Stark County Citizen Participation Plan

Attachment 5

FY 2023 Adopted Budgets

Attachment 6

Resolution FY 2023 Annual Action Plan Adoption

Attachment 1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING, PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD STARK COUNTY, OHIO

The Consolidated Plan covers various programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. Stark County is an "Urban County" under the CDBG program and a "Participating Jurisdiction" (PJ) under the HOME program. The county receives direct allocations of funding for these two programs and is the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, which includes the cities of Alliance and Massillon.

Stark County has prepared an Annual Action Plan for FY23 which includes a budget for the CDBG & HOME programs. The FY23 plan represents the 5th year of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan for Stark County. The plan also provides an area-wide assessment of housing and homeless needs, housing market analysis, and a strategic plan for the allocation of housing resources within the consortium area. In addition, the Consolidated Plan describes the County's priority community development needs eligible for assistance under the CDBG program. This includes an assessment of the needs for public facilities, infrastructure improvements, public services, accessibility, historic preservation, economic development, fair housing and planning needs. The Plan provides the County's long-term and short-term community development goals and objectives that have been developed to address the national goals of the CDBG and HOME Programs, which include:

- The provision of decent housing that is affordable to households at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.
- The provision of suitable living environment, improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods, increasing access to quality facilities and services, improving housing opportunities, and revitalizing deteriorated neighborhoods.
- The expansion of economic opportunities, creating jobs that promote long-term economic and social viability and that are accessible to persons at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.

In preparing the FY23 Action Plan, the County had to address those needs which met one of the three statutory objectives of the CDBG program: to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, elimination of slum and blighting conditions, or an urgent community development need.

CDBG

Stark County is proposing to undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY23-25. The anticipated FY23 budget of \$1,373,128.00 is based upon the funding received for FY22. Increases or decreases to the total anticipated FY23 funding will be reflected in final funding amounts provided to the various projects at the discretion of the Stark County Commissioners.

Proposed Activity	Proposed FY23	Proposed FY24	Proposed FY25
CDBG Planning & Administration	\$156,508.85	-	-
Fair Housing	\$83,000.00	-	-
Housing Rehabilitation	\$238,000.00	-	-
Revolving Loan Balance (est.)	\$231,630.86	-	-
Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$198,000.00	-	-
CommQuest Services Inc. Family Living Center	\$18,000.00	-	-
Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Coordinated Entry System	\$30,000.00	-	-
Vantage Aging Feeding Stark County Seniors	\$25,000.00	-	-
The Stock Pile Salary Assistance	\$40,000.00	-	-
Alliance for Children & Families AER Office/Case Manager	\$20,320.00	-	-
Kent State University Economic Development of Small Business	\$32,000.00	-	-
City of North Canton Peachtree Neighborhood Waterline Replacement	\$482,399.15	-	-
Stark County Park District Petros Lake Park Restrooms	\$49,900.00	-	-
City of North Canton Woodrow-Lois Waterline Replacement	-	\$499,950.00	-
Village of Brewster - Pump station	-	\$40,000.00	-
Village of Navarre - Playground Equipment for Underwood Park	-	\$40,000.00	-
Stark County Engineer's Office - Perry Drive Reconstruction	-	-	\$100,000.00
City of North Canton Elberta Avenue SW Waterline Replacement	-	-	\$499,995.00
TOTAL (excludes RLF)	\$1,373,128.00	\$579,950.00	\$599,995.00
Reallocation to City of North Canton Peachtree Neighborhood Waterline Replacement	\$17,550.85	-	-

Estimated RLF monies in the amount of \$231,630.86 will be used for owner-occupied rehabs. It is anticipated \$6,000.00 will be used for rehab administration which includes soft costs.

If a funded project has cost savings, slows down, discovers a barrier to completion, or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, an alternative project from the proposed FY23 Action Plan may be selected to continue the timely spending of grant funds. Potential alternative projects may be:

Proposed Alternative Projects	Proposed Amount
St. Luke Lutheran Home Resident Bus	\$50,000.00
Early Childhood Resource Center Childcare Business Start-up	\$48,297.72
St. Luke Lutheran Home Agency Nursing Costs	\$50,000.00
The Straight Path Program Young Men's Outreach	\$174,300.00
ECDI Stark County Small Business Training & Technical Assistance	\$15,000.00
Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio Parking Lot	\$84,402.00
Village of Minerva Bridge Street Waterline Replacement	\$150,000.00
St. Luke Lutheran Home Replacement Windows & Flooring	\$50,000.00
Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District East Canton Foundation Drain Project	\$249,999.00

HOME

Stark County, as the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, is proposing the following budget for the FY23 HOME program. The anticipated FY23 budget of \$1,014,159.00 is based upon the funding received for FY22. Increases or decreases to the total anticipated FY23 funding will be reflected in final funding amounts provided to the various projects at the discretion of the Stark County Commissioners.

Proposed Activity	Proposed FY23
Administration	\$101,415.90
CHDO Set-Aside - ICAN Housing - Renovation of two duplexes	\$235,400.00
City of Massillon - Homebuyer and housing rehabilitation	\$125,321.55
City of Massillon - Habitat for Humanity 2023 new construction build - 1 new single-family home	\$50,000.00
City of Alliance - Housing rehabilitation	\$25,321.55
City of Alliance - Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity - 2 new single-family homes	\$150,000.00
Stark County - Housing Rehabilitation	\$266,700.00
Stark County - Habitat for Humanity 2023 new construction build - 1 new single-family home	\$60,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,014,159.00

Anticipated program income of \$15,000.00 and prior years program income will be utilized for Stark County new construction or housing rehab.

A virtual public meeting will be held for the purpose of obtaining citizen comment on the above-mentioned CDBG and HOME budgets, as part of the FY23 Action Plan on March 7, 2023 at 3:00pm. Those interested can use this information to join the virtual meeting:

In preparing the FY23 Action Plan, the County had to address those needs which met one of the three statutory objectives of the CDBG program: to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, elimination of slum and blighting conditions, or an urgent community development need.

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Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Coordinated Entry System	\$30,000.00	-	-
Vantage Aging Feeding Stark County Seniors	\$25,000.00	-	-
The Stock Pile Salary Assistance	\$40,000.00	-	-
Alliance for Children & Families AER Office/Case Manager	\$20,320.00	-	-
Kent State University Economic Development of Small Business	\$32,000.00	-	-
City of North Canton Peachtree Neighborhood Waterline Replacement	\$482,399.15	-	-
Stark County Park District Pecos Lake Park Restrooms	\$49,900.00	-	-
City of North Canton Woodrow-Lois Waterline Replacement	-	\$499,950.00	-
Village of Brewster - Pump station	-	\$40,000.00	-
Village of Navarre - Playground Equipment for Underwood Park	-	\$40,000.00	-
Stark County Engineer's Office - Perry Drive Reconstruction	-	-	\$100,000.00
City of North Canton Elberta Avenue SW Waterline Replacement	-	-	\$499,995.00
TOTAL (excludes RLF)	\$1,373,128.00	\$579,950.00	\$599,995.00
Reallocation to City of North Canton Peachtree Neighborhood Waterline Replacement	\$17,550.85	-	-

Estimated RLF monies in the amount of \$231,630.86 will be used for owner-occupied rehabs. It is anticipated \$5,000.00 will be used for rehab administration which includes soft costs.

If a funded project has cost savings, slows down, discovers a barrier to completion, or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, an alternative project from the proposed FY23 Action Plan may be selected to continue the timely spending of grant funds. Potential alternative projects may be:

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HOME

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City of Alliance - Housing rehabilitation	\$25,321.55
City of Alliance - Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity - 2 new single-family homes	\$150,000.00
Stark County - Housing Rehabilitation	\$266,700.00
Stark County - Habitat for Humanity 2023 new construction build - 1 new single-family home	\$80,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,014,158.00

Anticipated program income of \$15,000.00 and prior years program income will be utilized for Stark County new construction or housing rehab.

A virtual public meeting will be held for the purpose of obtaining citizen comment on the above-mentioned CDBG and HOME budgets, as part of the FY23 Action Plan on March 7, 2023 at 3:00pm. Those interested can use this information to join the virtual meeting:

Microsoft Teams meeting Join on your computer, mobile app or room device
Meeting ID: 293 403 874 08
Passcode: HQbAP5
Or call in (audio only)
+1 872-215-6905
Phone Conference ID: 256 350 981#

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of obtaining public input on the above-mentioned budgets as part of the FY23 Action Plan on March 7, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office located at 201 3rd Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702.

A public hearing will be held on March 22, 2023 at 11:00am at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office located at: 201 3rd Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702 to obtain public input.

The draft FY23 Action Plan will be available for public comment beginning March 3, 2023 through various methods: 1) digitally via email upon request; 2) hard copy via US Mail upon request; 3) in-person at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office at 201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702; or 4) via the RPC website at rpc.starkcountyohio.gov. To submit a request for a digital copy or hard copy, contact lcanyden@starkcountyohio.gov or call 330-451-7247. Comments are due no later than 4:00pm on April 2, 2023.

Stark County proposes to substantially amend its FY22 Action Plan to reflect changes to the HOME program. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of obtaining public input on the draft amended Action Plan on March 7, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office located at 201 3rd Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702.

The draft amended Action Plan will be available for public comment beginning March 3, 2023 through various methods: 1) digitally via email upon request; 2) hard copy via US Mail upon request; 3) in-person at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office at 201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702; or 4) via the RPC website at rpc.starkcountyohio.gov. To submit a request for a digital copy or hard copy, contact lcanyden@starkcountyohio.gov or call 330-451-7247. Comments are due no later than 4:00pm on April 2, 2023.

The building is ADA accessible. Those needing information in a non-English format, an interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Lisa Snyder at lsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov or 330-451-7247 by March 2, 2023. Those needing full telephone accessibility are encouraged to use Ohio Relay.

**Planning to Apply for
Stark County Community Development
Block Grant (CDBG) Funds?**

Learn how by attending an
Application Workshop

**Friday, August 26, 2022
9:00 - 10:30 am**

**At Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201 3rd Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702**

- Review of the application process for Stark County CDBG funding
- Discussion of eligible activities
- Selection of Application Review Committee

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

**It is requested those planning to attend RSVP by August 1. You may RSVP
by e-mailing ken@starkcountyorhio.gov or by phone at 330-451-7247**


STARK COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

**Planning to Apply for
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**Earn points for your CDBG project application by attending
this FREE training session sponsored by CDBG staff**

It is requested those planning to attend RSVP by August 19th. You may RSVP
by e-mailing csnyder@starkcountyohio.gov or by phone at 330-451-7247.



CARNATION FESTIVAL



"Don't be like me, my love," by Linda C. Smith. A carnation flower with a heart-shaped hole in its petals.



"Don't be like me, my love," by Linda C. Smith. A carnation flower with a heart-shaped hole in its petals.



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"Don't be like me, my love," by Linda C. Smith. A carnation flower with a heart-shaped hole in its petals.

Akron man, Alliance teen tops in photo contest

AKRON, Ohio

Three years of Akron man, John J. Smith, and Alliance teen, John J. Smith, have won the Akron Alliance Photo Contest. Smith, 30, of Akron, Ohio, won the first prize with his photo of a carnation flower with a heart-shaped hole in its petals. Smith, 17, of Alliance, Ohio, won the second prize with his photo of a carnation flower with a heart-shaped hole in its petals.

The Akron Alliance Photo Contest is a yearly event that is held in Akron, Ohio. It is a contest for people of all ages to submit photos of carnation flowers. The contest is held by the Akron Alliance, a local organization that is dedicated to promoting the arts and culture in Akron. The contest is a great way for people to show their talent and creativity.

John J. Smith, 30, of Akron, Ohio, won the first prize with his photo of a carnation flower with a heart-shaped hole in its petals. Smith, 17, of Alliance, Ohio, won the second prize with his photo of a carnation flower with a heart-shaped hole in its petals.

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Trump

Corey L. Thompson

Trump is a man who is known for his controversial statements and actions. He is a man who is known for his controversial statements and actions. He is a man who is known for his controversial statements and actions. He is a man who is known for his controversial statements and actions.



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USE TODAY'S NETWORK

Dining Deals USA

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11 hours of savings on all dining deals. Valid on all dining deals. Valid on all dining deals. Valid on all dining deals.

Valid on all dining deals. Valid on all dining deals. Valid on all dining deals. Valid on all dining deals.

TODAY'S BONUS CODE

Planning to Apply for Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds?

Learn how by attending an Application Workshop

Friday, August 25, 2023

9:00 - 10:30 am

at Stark County Regional Planning Commission

301 W. 1st Street, 1st Floor, Columbus, OH 43215

Free admission. Free refreshments. Free parking.

Free admission. Free refreshments. Free parking.

**Stark County FY 2023 HOME
Required for Proposal/Application Workshop**

**For any agency interested in applying for FY 2023 Stark
County HOME funding***

**Friday, October 7, 2022
9:00 - 10:00 AM**

Via the platform Microsoft Teams

**RSVP to Lisa Snyder at lsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov
or 330-481-7247 by October 6th. When RSVP'ing, please
provide the e-mail address associated with each Workshop
attendee.**

**Materials will be available on the RPC website the morning of the
workshop @ rpc.starkcountyohio.gov**

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



Published in The Repository, Massillon Independent and Athens Herald at Massillon, September 14, 2022

**Stark County FY 2023 HOME
Request for Proposal/Application Workshop**

**For any agency interested in applying for FY 2023 Stark
County HOME funding***

**Friday, October 7, 2022
9:00 - 10:00 am**

Via the platform Microsoft Teams

**RSVP to Lisa Snyder at lsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov
or 330-461-7247 by October 10th. When RSVP'ing, please
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*Stark County HOME funding is available for use throughout Stark County to benefit residents
outside the corporate limits of the City of Canton and the Village of Hills & Dales.

**Stark County
Housing & Community Development
Commission**

Published in The Repository, Canton Independent and Athens Review on Wednesday, September 14, 2022



Attachment 2

FY 2023 Action Plan

Comment Period March 3, 2023- April 2, 2023

No comments received.

Attachment 3

Stark County Fair Housing Department

Fair Housing Annual Action Plan

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 (FY 2023)

I. Mission

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

II. Equity Plan

As recipients of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission's Fair Housing Department is legally obligated to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. The AFFH mandate requires the agency and its program participants to proactively take meaningful actions to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, eliminate disparities in opportunities, and foster inclusive communities free from discrimination. The proposed rule, "Equity Plan," has been published in the Federal Register for public comments. The proposed rule requires program participants to identify fair housing issues facing their communities, using both data provided by HUD and local knowledge, and then commit to taking responsive actions. After SCFHD receives the Final Rule on AFFH, we will collaborate with other program participants in our community and submit a single "Joint Equity Plan" during this fiscal period. The Equity Plan will replace the Analysis of Impediments. However, until the Final Rule is developed, the department will continue to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing by addressing the impediments and action plans in the current AI.

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

Currently, to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing, entitlement communities receiving HUD funds are required to examine and attempt to alleviate housing discrimination within their jurisdiction, promote fair housing choice, provide opportunities for all persons to reside in any given housing development regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or familial status, promote housing that is accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities and comply with the non-discrimination requirements

of the Fair Housing Act. To satisfy the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and to affirmatively further fair housing, the cities of Alliance, Canton and Massillon, and Stark County, for the Board of Stark County Commissioners, completed a Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) is a review of a jurisdiction's laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and practices affecting the location, availability and accessibility of housing, as well as an assessment of conditions, both public and private, affecting fair housing choice.

IV. Impediments and Recommended Action Step

The AI identifies impediments and recommended action steps. The following are the specific impediments, recommendations and actions undertaken:

1. *Potential Impediment:* The County does not yet have an official Language Access Plan.

A four-factor analysis was completed and a LAP draft exists, however, it has not yet been approved and implemented in its entirety. Until there is a written policy approved and implemented, Spanish-speaking persons in the County will not receive the same standard of service with each interaction with the County.

Recommended Action Plan: Finish drafting the Language Access Plan and begin implementing it as soon as possible.

Action Undertaken: The Language Access Plan was approved in September 2019. The plan identifies county programs and services available to individuals within the county.

2. *Impediment:* Expand housing choice for LMI households outside of impacted areas.

There are no explicit policies for the creation of affordable housing outside of impacted areas. Without explicit policies, it is difficult to enforce the County's affordable housing priorities. One of the major policy tools at the County's disposal is its HOME funds. The County's HOME Policies and Procedures manual indicates HOME projects are primarily used for neighborhood revitalization, however, according to the neighborhood site and selection standards in 24 CFR 983.57, the selected site must be consistent with the goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing choice.

Applicants for HOME assistance in new construction projects should abide by the County's goal of expanding housing opportunities outside of impacted areas. The County can ensure compliance with this goal through explicit policies in its Consolidated Plan and HOME manual.

Recommended Action Step: Develop a policy that identifies LMI and racially concentrated areas in county planning documents as the first step in advocating for creating affordable housing opportunities in higher opportunity areas. At the very least, these areas should be identified in the Consolidated Plan in order to monitor if new affordable housing development is occurring in impact areas. These areas should also be addressed in the HOME Policies and Procedures manual as a policy goal for considering alternate development sites.

Action Undertaken: The staff plans to review the HOME Policies and Procedures manual in an effort to include explicit policies for the creation of affordable housing outside of impacted areas.

3. *Impediment:* All County government personnel have not received fair housing training.

All employees of Stark County should receive some form of fair housing training. This will create large pool of public employees trained to identify residents' right to fair housing. By expanding fair housing knowledge to employees countywide, the County creates more instances where a resident comes into contact with someone that can identify when fair housing rights are being violated.

Recommended Action Step: Expand fair housing education and outreach to all employees of Stark County on an annual basis.

Recommended Action Step: The Fair Housing Office should continue its education and outreach initiatives.

Action Undertaken: The staff plans to conduct presentations at the Governmental Law Seminar where county governmental officials attends.

Action Undertaken: To educate all county government personnel, the staff developed its first quarterly fair housing newsletter. This educational newsletter is emailed to all county employees, social service agencies and housing providers.

Action Undertaken: The department will continue its education and outreach initiatives through various trainings to expand the knowledge and increase awareness on fair housing.

4. *Impediment:* The Consolidated Plan continues to require updates

The County amended the Consolidated Plan to include a definition for areas of minority concentration, however, the definition is not sufficient. The new definition compares households rather than all residents.

Recommended Action Step: Amend the comparison to be "residents" rather than households.

Action Undertaken: The staff plans to amend the definition for areas of minority concentration in the Consolidated Plan. The new definition will include “residents” rather than households.

5. *Impediment:* The increase of fair housing complaints indicates that discrimination still occurs in Stark County.

The majority of discrimination complaints reported were disability and race related complaints. The increase in complaints could be related to new fair housing activities that are raising awareness of residents’ rights. These activities should continue in order to keep residents aware of their rights, and keep landlords aware of their responsibilities.

Recommended Action Step: The SCRPC, along with agencies administering similar programs in Canton and Massillon, should continue to invest in landlord outreach, education and testing in order to broaden understanding of responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act.

Action Undertaken: To educate landlords, the staff developed its first quarterly fair housing newsletter. This educational newsletter is emailed to social service agencies and landlords. In addition, the staff conducted presentations to the landlord association and zoning inspectors. During this fiscal period, the staff will conduct a Tester Training Session to obtain a large pool of testers to help ensure that people are not denied housing due to unlawful discrimination. The staff will continue its fair housing activities, including education and outreach, to keep residents aware of their rights and landlords aware of their responsibilities.

V. Action Plan

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

1. Create affordable housing opportunities outside impacted areas.
 - A. Develop a policy that identifies LMI and racially concentrated areas and policies that will create housing opportunities in alternative sites. Include this plan in the Consolidated Plan and HOME Policies and Procedures manual.
 - B. In the Consolidated Plan, amend the comparison for racially concentrated areas to be “residents” rather than households.
2. Improve the County’s ability to offer fair housing services.
 - A. Invest in landlord outreach, education and testing in order to broaden understanding of responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act.

Attachment 4

**Stark County
Citizen Participation Plan
Adopted April 19, 2023**

I. Introduction

Lead Agency and Background

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is under contract with the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the lead agency, to administer the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) and other HUD related programs. The Citizen Participation Plan (Plan) is subject to the requirements of Title 24: Housing and Urban Development Code of Federal Regulations and Part 91: Consolidated Submissions for Community Planning and Development Programs.

The Plan represents the County's plan for providing for and encouraging all citizens to participate in the development, revision, amendment, adoption and implementation of:

- The Citizen Participation Plan (Plan)
- The Consolidated Plan (CP)
- The Annual Action Plan (AP)
- The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Plan (CAPER)

The Plan may be amended within the submission of the AP, CP or at any time through an amendment process. Upon request, the Plan shall be provided at no cost, in a format accessible to persons with disabilities or language barriers.

County Contacts

The following contact information can be used to request accommodations for meetings, access to information, request information and documents or to provide public comments on the documents discussed in this Plan.

Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC)
201 3rd Street NE, #201
Canton, Ohio 44702
330.451.7031 or 330.451.7247
DMSheridan@starkcountyohio.gov
JCSnyder@starkcountyohio.gov

Online Access

The County shall post draft and final documents discussed in this Plan on its website at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

Effective Date

Following approval of this Plan by the Board of Stark County Commissioners and HUD, the Plan shall be effective until it is amended or otherwise replaced.

II. Encouragement of Citizen Participation

Background

The Plan must provide for and encourage citizens to participate in the development of the CP, substantial amendment to the CP or AP and the CAPER. These requirements are designed especially to encourage participation by low- and moderate-income persons, particularly those persons living in a revitalization area or in a slum and blighted area and in areas where CDBG funds are proposed to be used, and by residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The County shall take appropriate actions to encourage the participation of all its citizens, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as provided in 24 CFR 91.105, as well as persons with disabilities.

Low to moderate income individuals (LMI)

The County will actively engage LMIs to participate in HUD funded programs. The County's outreach may include, but not be limited to holding meetings in lower income areas, direct mail to residents of lower income areas, distribution of information to the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority and agencies providing services to LMIs. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow the guidance issued by HUD.

Non-English Speakers

Reasonable accommodations for people with Limited English Proficient (LEP) shall be made. Residents may contact the SCRPC office five business days prior to a meeting date and request an interpreter be present. Meeting notices and presentation materials will be provided in English and additional languages if requested.

Census data will be analyzed to identify areas where non-English speakers reside. If more than 20% of the County's entitlement population speaks a language other than English, notices and some materials will be translated into that language.

Persons with Disabilities

Meetings shall be made accessible by choosing locations that are ADA compliant and/or virtual, when available. Meeting notices will include contact information for the TTY or State of Ohio Relay number for those who are hearing impaired. Notices will include the following language:

The County will make reasonable accommodations for sensory-impaired or disabled residents at public meetings. Translation services may be offered upon request and availability. Individuals requiring such accommodations should contact 330.451.7031 or 330.451.7247 five business days prior to the meeting. Ohio Relay can be reached at 800.750.0750 for English or 800.269.0678 for Spanish.

Social Service Agencies and other Organizations

The County shall encourage the participation of local and regional institutions, lower income residents, businesses, developers, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations, community-based and faith-based organizations to participate in the process of developing and implementing the CP. Participation shall be achieved through various alternative means, including but not limited

to in person meetings, virtual meetings, surveys, internet-based feedback, phone conversations, social media and focus groups.

Stark County Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA)

The County shall encourage, in conjunction with the SMHA, the participation of public housing residents, resident advisory boards, resident councils, and resident management corporations, in the process of developing and implementing the CP along with other low-income residents of targeted revitalization. The County shall provide to SMHA its affirmatively furthering fair housing strategy, and CP activities related to its developments and surrounding communities so the PHA can make this information available at their public hearing(s) for the PHA Plan. Participation shall be achieved through various alternative means, including but not limited to: in person meetings, virtual meetings, surveys, internet-based feedback, phone conversations, social media and focus groups.

Public Comment

As technology improves, the County shall explore alternative public involvement techniques and quantitative ways to measure efforts that encourage citizen participation in a shared vision for change in communities and neighborhoods and the review of program performance.

Public Hearing Notices

The County will publish notices of public hearings, including times, dates and locations, striving for no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the hearing in one newspaper of general circulation. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Public Hearings

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.105(e)(1), the County shall hold at least two public hearings per year to obtain residents' views and to respond to proposals and questions, to be conducted at a minimum of two different stages of the program year. Together, the hearings shall address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, proposed strategies and actions for affirmatively furthering fair housing in addition to reviewing program performance. Per 105(e)(1), at least one of these hearings will be held before the proposed CP is published for comment.

The County will strive to hold hearings at times and locations convenient to potential and actual program beneficiaries and will accommodate individuals with disabilities and non-English speakers in accordance with this Plan. Hearings may be held virtually in order to accommodate those with certain disabilities, long COVID-19 illnesses and without reasonable or affordable transportation.

In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance will be made available by appointment with appropriate staff to assist low- and moderate-income representative groups, agencies or individuals requesting assistance in developing applications/proposals for funding assistance under the CP and/or to provide comments pertaining to documents discussed in the Plan. The County determines the level and types of assistance to be provided at any time based on a number of considerations including, but not limited to staff workloads.

III. The Citizen Participation Plan

Background

The County's Citizen Participation Plan (Plan) outlines the notification procedures by which residents, public agencies and other interested parties will be notified of public hearings and the opportunities available for public to comment on community needs and the documents provided in this Plan. The County shall follow the following procedures below to amend its approved Citizen Participation Plan (Plan).

Amendments

Amendments to the Plan must go through a minimum fifteen (15) day public comment period, including weekends and holidays, after the in person or virtual public meeting. A public hearing is not required but may be held concurrently with the public review of the Consolidated Plan (CP) or Action Plan (AP).

During the public comment period, written or oral comments will be accepted by the County contacts indicated on page 1. Public comments will be considered when feasible and beneficial. The Board of Stark County Commissioners will take action on the Plan after the public comment period.

Edits to the Plan that only update contact information or editorial changes for clarity will not be released to the public for review or comment. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

The Plan can be accessed in person at Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC), 201 3rd Street NE, #201, Canton, Ohio 44702 and posted online at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

Displacement of Persons

The County does not anticipate any residential displacement to occur in the near future but it is required to set forth plans to minimize displacement of persons and to assist any persons displaced, specifying the types and levels of assistance the jurisdiction will make available.

Should displacement of residents be necessary as a result of funding a project with CDBG or HOME funds, the County shall compensate residents who are displaced in accordance with HUD Handbook No. 1378, Tenant Assistance, Relocation and real Property Acquisition. The handbook can also be located at www.hudexchange.info.

Submission to HUD

A copy of the County's amended Plan including a summary of written or oral comments received during the public review period, the County's responses and proof of compliance with the comment period requirements, will be submitted to HUD. A summary of any comments not accepted and the reasons therefore shall be included.

IV. Development of the Consolidated Plan (CP)

Background

The Consolidated Plan (CP) presents a coordinated approach for addressing the County's housing and community development needs over a five-year period. A new CP is prepared every five years. It combines, in one report, important information about the County's demographics, as well as information on the housing and other community development needs of its residents.

At or as soon as feasible after the start of the CP public participation process, the County will make the HUD-provided data and any other supplemental information the County plans to incorporate into its CP available to its residents, public agencies and other interested parties. The County may make the HUD-provided data available to the public by cross-referencing to the data on HUD's website or in other accessible formats.

Prior to adopting the CP, the County will make available to residents, public agencies, and other interested parties information that includes:

- The amount of assistance the jurisdiction expects to receive, including grant funds, RLF and program income
- The range of activities that may be undertaken
- The estimated amount that will benefit lower income persons
- Where copies of the CP can be examined

Consultations

During the development of the CP, consultations will occur with, but not limited to the following:

- Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Other assisted housing providers
- Social service providers including those focusing on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDs and their families, and homeless persons
- Community-based and regionally-based organizations that represent members of protected classes
- Organizations that enforce fair housing laws and other public and private fair housing service agencies
- Broadband Internet Service Providers and organizations engaged in narrowing the digital divide
- Agencies whose primary responsibilities include management of flood prone areas, public land or water resources
- Emergency management agencies
- The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County
- Public and private agencies that address housing, health, social service, victim services, employment or education needs of low-income individuals and families; homeless individuals and families, including veterans, youth, and/or other persons with special needs
- Publicly funded institutions and systems of care that may discharge persons into homelessness
- Business and civic leaders

To an extent practicable, the County will consult with the appropriate adjacent units of general local government regarding issues and solutions extending beyond a single jurisdiction. Consultation will include, but not be limited to:

- Adjacent local governments with regard to non-housing community development needs
- Agencies with metropolitan-wide planning responsibilities
- Agencies and child welfare agencies concerned with lead-based paint hazards and identifying housing units in which children have been identified as lead-poisoned

Homelessness Strategy

When preparing the sections of the CP pertaining to the County's homeless strategy and resources available to address homelessness and the needs of the homeless population, the County shall consult with the agencies listed on page 5, above as well as:

- Public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, victim assistance, employment, and education of LMI and families
- Public and private agencies addressing homeless individuals, families, veterans, youth or persons with special needs
- Publicly funded universities
- Publicly funded institutions that discharge persons into homelessness
- Business and civic leaders

A variety of mechanisms may be utilized to solicit input from entities indicated above. These could include staff participation on coalitions or boards, telephone or personal interviews, mail or online surveys, internet-based feedback, focus groups, virtual meetings and/or consultation workshops.

Public Hearings

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.105(e)(1), the County shall hold at least two public hearings per year to obtain residents' views and to respond to proposals and questions, to be conducted at a minimum of two different stages of the program year. Together, the hearings shall address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, proposed strategies and actions for affirmatively furthering fair housing in addition to reviewing program performance. Per 105(e)(1), at least one of these hearings will be held before the proposed CP is published for comment.

The County will strive to hold hearings at times and locations convenient to potential and actual program beneficiaries and will accommodate individuals with disabilities and non-English speakers in accordance to this Plan. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Display and Comment Period

The County will present the draft CP, in the form of a public hearing, before or during the thirty (30) day comment period. During this time, the draft Plan will be posted for review and written comment for thirty (30) days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Comments on the CP may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

During the thirty (30) day public comment period, in order to afford its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine the CP's content and to submit comments, the County shall:

- Publish a summary of the draft CP in one newspaper of general circulation. The summary shall describe the content and purpose of the CP and must include a list of the locations where copies of the entire CP can be examined
- Make a reasonable amount of free draft copies available at the SCRPC office

- Post a link to the draft CP on social media
- Strive to e-mail County stakeholders indicating the draft CP is posted for review and comments

A concise summary of the participation process, public comments received in writing or orally at public hearings and responses to those comments, as well as comments or views not accepted, will be included in the final draft of the CP.

After the public comment period, the draft CP will be presented to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for consideration and formal action.

No less than 45 days before the start of the County's five-year program cycle, the Plan will be submitted to HUD, unless other guidance is provided by HUD.

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the draft or approved CP by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

Criteria for Amendments and Substantial Amendments

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 91.505, the County shall amend its approved CP whenever it makes one of the following decisions:

- Makes a change in the allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds
- Carries out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the consolidated plan (including program income, reimbursements, repayment, recaptures, or reallocations from HUD), not previously described in the action plan
- Changes the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity

The County will treat amendments and substantial amendments equally and use the words interchangeably. Any dollar amount or any changes in the AP will be cause for an amendment. Edits to the CP that only update contact information or editorial changes for clarity will not be released to the public for review or comment.

In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Public Hearing Notices

The County will publish notices of public hearings, including times, dates and locations, striving for no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the hearing in one newspaper of general circulation. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Public Hearing

The County will present the draft amendment, in the form of a public hearing, before or during the thirty (30) day comment period. During this time, the draft amendment will be posted for review and written comment for thirty (30) days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Comments on the CP may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

Public Display and Comment Period

The County will present the draft amendment, in the form of a public hearing, before or during the thirty (30) day comment period. During this time, the draft amendment will be posted for review and written comment for thirty (30) days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Comments on the amendment may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

During the thirty (30) day public comment period, in order to afford its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine the draft amendment's content and to submit comments, the County shall:

- Publish a summary of the amendment in one newspaper of general circulation. The summary shall describe the content and purpose of the amendment and will include where the amendment can be examined
- Make a reasonable amount of free amendment copies available at the SCRCP office
- Post a link to the draft amendment on social media
- Strive to e-mail County stakeholders indicating the draft amendment is posted for review and comments

A concise summary of the participation process, public comments received in writing or orally at public hearings and responses to those comments, as well as comments or views not accepted, will be included in the final draft of the CP.

After the public comment period, the draft CP will be presented to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for consideration and formal action.

As technology improves, the County shall explore alternative public involvement techniques and quantitative ways to measure efforts that encourage citizen participation in a shared vision for change in communities and neighborhoods and the review of program performance.

In the event of a disaster, the public display and comment period to amend the CP shall be in accordance with guidance released by HUD.

Submission to HUD

Upon completion of the thirty (30) day comment period and formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the County shall make the amendment public and will notify HUD that an amendment has been made. A letter transmitting a copy of the amendment(s) will be signed by the President of the Board of Stark County Commissioners and will be forwarded by email or direct mail to the County's HUD CPD representative.

Amendment Access

The revised CP will be kept on file in the Community Development Department, 201 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, NE, Canton, Ohio 44702 and posted online at: www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the draft or approved CP amendment by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

V. Development of the Action Plan (AP)

Background

The annual Action Plan (AP) is a component of the Consolidated Plan (CP) and it describes the County's proposed use of CDBG and HOME funds available to address the priority needs and objectives indicated in the CP for each year of the year. The AP is the County's method for distributing funds to subrecipients and areas of the County to which it will direct assistance.

Plan Development

In the development of its AP, the County will follow, to the greatest extent feasible the following process and procedures indicated below.

Public Hearings

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.105(e)(1), the County shall hold at least two public hearings per year to obtain residents' views and to respond to proposals and questions, to be conducted at a minimum of two different stages of the program year. Together, the hearings shall address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, proposed strategies and actions for affirmatively furthering fair housing in addition to reviewing program performance. Per 105(e)(1), at least one of these hearings will be held before the proposed AP is published for comment.

The County will strive to hold hearings at times and locations convenient to potential and actual program beneficiaries and will accommodate individuals with disabilities and non-English speakers in accordance to this Plan. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

The public hearings conducted for Year one (1) AP may be conducted concurrently with the required public hearings for the five (5) year Consolidated Plan.

Display and Comment Period

The County will present the draft AP, in the form of a public hearing, before or during the thirty (30) day comment period. During this time, the draft AP will be posted for review and written comment for thirty (30) days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Comments on the AP may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

During the thirty (30) day public comment period, in order to afford its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine the AP's content and to submit comments, the County shall publish, in one newspaper of general circulation that includes:

- A brief summary of the draft AP
- Anticipated funding amounts (including PI and RLF if any)
- The dates of public display and comment period
- The locations where copies of the AP can be examined
- How comments will be accepted
- When the AP will be considered for formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners
- The submission date to HUD

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the draft or approved AP by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

Comments Received

Written comments will be accepted by the contacts indicated on page 1, above. The County will consider any comments or view made either in writing or orally at the public hearing or during the public comment period. In preparing the final AP, a summary of all feedback will be included, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and why shall be attached and submitted to HUD.

Submission to HUD

Upon completion of the thirty (30) day comment period and formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the AP will be submitted to HUD no less than 45 days before the start of the next program year. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

The AP will be kept on file in the Community Development Department, 201 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, NE, Canton, Ohio 44702.

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the AP by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

Amendments to the Action Plan

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 91.505, the County shall amend its approved AP whenever it makes one of the following decisions:

- Makes a change in the allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds
- Carries out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the consolidated plan (including program income, reimbursements, repayment, recaptures, or reallocations from HUD), not previously described in the action plan
- Changes the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity

The County will treat amendments and substantial amendments equally and use the words interchangeably. Any dollar amount or any changes in the AP will be cause for an amendment. Edits to the CP that only update contact information or editorial changes for clarity will not be released to the public for review or comment.

In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Public Display and Comment Period - Amendments

The County will present the draft amendment, in the form of a public hearing, before or during the thirty (30) day comment period. During this time, the draft amendment will be posted for review and written comment for thirty (30) days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Comments on the amendment may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

During the thirty (30) day public comment period, in order to afford its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine the AP's content and to submit comments, the County shall publish, in one newspaper of general circulation that includes:

- A brief summary of the draft AP amendment
- Proposed funding amounts (including PI and RLF), if any
- The dates of public display and comment period
- The locations where copies of the draft amendment can be examined
- How comments will be accepted

- When the draft amendment will be considered for formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners
- The submission date to HUD

In the event of a disaster, the public display and comment period to amend the AP shall be in accordance with guidance released by HUD.

Submission to HUD

Upon completion of the thirty (30) day comment period and formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the County shall make the amendment public and will notify HUD that an amendment has been made. A letter transmitting a copy of the amendment(s) will be signed by the President of the Board of Stark County Commissioners and will be forwarded by email or direct mail to the County's HUD CPD representative.

Amendment Access

The draft and revised AP will be kept on file in the Community Development Department, 201 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, NE, Canton, Ohio 44702 and posted online at: www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the approved AP amendment by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

VI. Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Annually, the County will evaluate and report the accomplishments and expenditures of the previous program year for CDBG, HOME and any additional HUD funding in accordance with HUD requirements.

Public Hearing

The County will present the draft CAPER, in the form of one public hearing, before or during the 15-day comment period. During this time, the draft CAPER will be posted for review and written comment for 15 days prior to action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Comments on the CAPER may be received orally or in writing to the contacts indicated on page 1, above.

The County will strive to hold the hearing at a time and location convenient to potential and actual program beneficiaries and will accommodate individuals with disabilities and non-English speakers in accordance to this Plan. In the event of a disaster, the County will follow guidance issued by HUD.

Public Display and Comment Period

The draft CAPER will be placed on display for a period of no less than 15 days to encourage public comment and review. Public notice of the display and comment period will be published in one newspaper of general circulation before the comment period begins. The public notice shall include:

- A brief summary of the CAPERs purpose
- The amount of total expenditures
- A summary of the program performance
- The dates of public display and comment period
- The locations where copies of the draft amendment can be examined
- How comments will be accepted
- When the CAPER will be considered for formal action by the Board of Stark County Commissioners
- The submission date to HUD

Comments Received

Written comments will be accepted by the contacts indicated on page 1, above. The County will consider any comments or view made either in writing or orally at the public hearing or during the public comment period. In preparing the final CAPER, a summary of all feedback will be included, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and why shall be attached and submitted to HUD.

Submission to HUD

The County will be submitted to HUD within 90 days following the end of the County's annual program year. In the event of a disaster the County will follow guidance issued by HUD

CAPER Access

The draft and final CAPER will be kept on file in the Community Development Department, 201 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, NE, Canton, Ohio 44702 and posted online at: www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

Hard copies will be made available, at no cost, to those requesting the approved AP amendment by contacting the individuals on page 1, above.

VII. Complaints

Interested parties may register a complaint regarding any aspect of the CD&G or HOME programs by contacting the individuals indicated on page 1, above. All complaints must be in writing. If a person is unable to provide the complaint in writing for any reason, assistance may be provided. Complaints need to include the resident's name, address, daytime telephone number, if applicable, an email address.

All written complaints will receive a timely written response within fifteen (15) business days of receipt. If staff is unable to be compliant with the fifteen (15) day period, the complainant will be notified of an approximate date a response will be provided.

Attachment 5

FY 2023-2025 Community Development Block Grant Adopted Budget

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Administration & Planning (20% cap)			
CDBG Planning & Administration	\$ 170,612.85		
Fair Housing	\$ 84,000.00		
Administration & Planning Total	\$ 254,612.85		
Housing Projects			
Housing Rehab	\$ 240,000.00		
Revolving Loan balance	\$ 231,630.86		
Housing Rehab Administration	\$ 198,000.00		
Housing Projects Total	\$ 438,000.00		
Public Service Projects (15% cap)			
CommQuest Services Inc Family Living Center	\$ 18,000.00		
Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Stark County Coordinated Entry System	\$ 30,000.00		
Vantage Aging Feeding Stark County Seniors	\$ 25,000.00		
The Stock Pile Salary Assistance	\$ 40,000.00		
Alliance for Children & Families Alliance Emergency Residence Office/Case Manager	\$ 20,320.00		
Public Service Projects Total	\$ 133,320.00		
Economic Development Projects			
Kent State University Economic Development of Small Business	\$ 32,000.00		
Economic Development Projects Total	\$ 32,000.00		
Infrastructure Projects			
City of North Canton - Peachtree Neighborhood Waterline Replacement	\$ 482,399.15		
Stark County Park District Petros Lake Park Restrooms	\$ 49,900.00		
City of North Canton - Woodrow-Lois Waterline Replacement		\$ 499,950.00	
Village of Brewster - Pump Station		\$ 40,000.00	
Village of Navarre - Playground Equipment for Underwood Park		\$ 40,000.00	
Stark County Engineer's Office - Perry Drive Reconstruction			\$ 100,000.00
City of North Canton - Elberta Ave SW Waterline Replacement			\$ 499,995.00
Infrastructure Projects Total	\$ 532,299.15		
TOTAL POTENTIAL NEW FUNDING (excludes RLF)	\$ 1,390,232.00	\$ 579,950.00	\$ 599,995.00
Reallocation to City of North Canton - Peachtree Neighborhood Waterline Replacement	\$17,550.85		
Anticipated Program Income	\$5,000.00		
TOTAL BUDGET FY 2023	\$ 1,412,782.85		

4/20/2023

FY2023 Stark County HOME Adopted Budget

	Amount
Administration (10% cap)	
Administration	\$ 102,900.60
CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)	
ICAN Housing - Woodlawn duplex rehab	\$ 119,900.00
ICAN Housing - Perry Drive duplex rehab	\$ 115,500.00
City of Alliance	
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 27,503.54
Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity - 2 new single-family homes	\$ 150,000.00
City of Massillon	
Housing Rehabilitation & Homebuyer	\$ 127,503.54
Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio - 1 new single-family home	\$ 50,000.00
Stark County	
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 275,698.32
Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio - 1 new single-family home	\$ 60,000.00
TOTAL POTENTIAL NEW FUNDING	\$ 1,029,006.00
Anticipated Program Income	\$ 15,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET FY 2023	\$ 1,044,006.00

Attachment 6

Resolution

Stark County Commissioners

Distribution
Journal
RPC/LSnyder w/a
File

Adopted April 19, 2023

Subject A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 ACTION PLAN

Regula moved the adoption of the following resolution which was seconded by Smith

WHEREAS, the Board of Stark County Commissioners participates in the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) and Board of Stark County Commissioners held a public hearing held on March 22, 2023, for the proposed funding of the FY 2023-2025 CDBG and FY 2023 HOME programs, which were advertised and provided for a 30-day comment period and;

WHEREAS, this Board desires to adopt the FY 2023 Action Plan and the funding recommendations for FY 2024 and 2025, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as though written in full.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board hereby adopts the FY 2023 Action Plan and the CDBG funding recommendations for FY 2024 and FY 2025, as referenced above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board authorizes its President to sign the FY 2023 Action Plan and authorizes the SCRPC to submit the Action Plan on its behalf to HUD.

Upon roll call the vote resulted as follows:

MS. CREIGHTON - yes

MR. REGULA - yes

MR. SMITH - yes

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Assistant Clerk of the Board of Stark County Commissioners, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Board.

Richard Flory

Grantee SF-424's and Certification(s)

OMAR Revision: 10-10-0601
Expiration Date: 11/30/2025

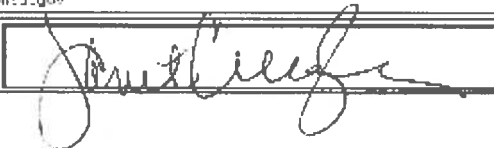
Application for Federal Assistance SF-424		
* 1. Type of Submission ☐ Preapplication ☒ Application ☐ Changed/Corrected Application		
* 2. Type of Application ☒ New ☐ Continuation ☐ Revision		
* 3. Revision, select appropriate letter(s) Other (Specify):		
* 3. Date Received 4. Applicant Identifier		
5a. Federal Entity Identifier 5b. Federal Award Identifier		
State Use Only: 6. Date Received by State 7. State Application Identifier		
B. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
* a. Legal Name: Board of Stark County Commissioners		
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) * c. UEI: 761225001164		
d. Address:		
* Street1: 110 Central Plaza South 2nd Floor * Street2: * City: Canton * County/Parish: * State: OH: 0444 * Province: * Country: USA: UNITED STATES * Zip/Postal Code: 44702-1211		
e. Organizational Unit:		
Department Name: Division Name:		
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:		
Prefix: He, * First Name: Jiana Middle Name: * Last Name: Sperdian Suffix: Title: Chief of Community Development Organizational Affiliation: * Telephone Number: 330-451-7031 * Fax Number: 330-451-7590 * Email: starker_courtney@starkcountyohio.gov		

Application for Federal Assistance 6F-424	
* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type: 6: County Government	
Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type 	
Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type 	
* Other (specify) 	
* 10. Name of Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	
11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 14.218	
CDDA Title: Community Development Block Grant	
* 12. Funding Opportunity Number: 14.218	
* Title: Community Development Block Grant FY 2023	
13. Competition Identification Number: 	
Title: 	
14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.): Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment	
* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project: FY 2023 Funding for the CDDA program. Activities will include administration, planning, public service activities, ex. housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements and economic development.	
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions. Add Attachments Delete Attachments View Attachments	

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424															
16. Congressional Districts Of: * a. Applicant: H. 12 * b. Program/Project: G. 12 															
Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts, if needed. Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment															
17. Proposed Project: * a. Start Date: 07/01/2023 * b. End Date: 06/30/2024 															
18. Estimated Funding (\$): <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">* a. Federal</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">1,290,232.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* b. Applicant</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: right;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>* c. State</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: right;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>* d. Local</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: right;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>* e. Other</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: right;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>* f. Program Income</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">5,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* g. TOTAL</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">1,335,232.00</td> </tr> </table>		* a. Federal	1,290,232.00	* b. Applicant		* c. State		* d. Local		* e. Other		* f. Program Income	5,000.00	* g. TOTAL	1,335,232.00
* a. Federal	1,290,232.00														
* b. Applicant															
* c. State															
* d. Local															
* e. Other															
* f. Program Income	5,000.00														
* g. TOTAL	1,335,232.00														
* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process? ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on: ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review. ☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372															
* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.) ☐ Yes ☒ No If "Yes", provide explanation and attach: Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment															
21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms. If I accept an award, I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001) ☒ I AGREE ** The list of certifications and assurances on our internet site where you may obtain this list is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.															
Authorized Representative: Prefix: Mr. Middle Name: Last Name: Mr. Wright Suffix: First Name: Carol															
Title: President, Board of Stark County Commissioners															
Telephone Number: 330-451-7376 Fax Number: 330-451-7906															
Email: jwright@starkcountyohio.gov															
Signature of Authorized Representative: Date Signed: 4-19-2023															

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424		
* 1 Type of Submission ☐ Preapplication ☒ Application ☐ Change/Corrected Application		* 2 Type of Application ☒ New ☐ Continuation ☐ Revision * (Revisors select appropriate letter(s)) * Other (Specify):
* 3 Date Received 		4 Applicant Identifier
5a Federal Entry Identifier 		5b Federal Award Identifier
State Use Only:		
6 Date Received by State		7 State Application Identifier
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
* a Legal Name Board of Stark County Commissioners		
* b Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) 3450000000		* c UEI TE1NFEW01NFC
d Address:		
* Street: 110 Central Chase South 2nd Floor Street2:		
* City: Canton		
County/Parish:		
* State: OH: Ohio		
Province:		
* Country: UNITED STATES		
* Zip/Postal Code 44702-1211		
e. Organizational Unit:		
Department Name:		Division Name
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:		
Prefix: Ms.		* First Name: Brian
Middle Name		
* Last Name: Shepherd		
Suffix		
Title Chief of Community Development		
Organizational Affiliation		
* Telephone Number: 330-451-7953		Fax Number 330-451-7990
* Email brian.shepherd@starkcountyohio.gov		

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424	
* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type: County Government	
Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type: 	
Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type: 	
* Other (Specify): 	
* 10. Name of Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	
11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 14.235	
CFDA Title: 	
* 12. Funding Opportunity Number: 14.235	
* Title: HOME Investment Partnership Program FY2013	
13. Competition Identification Number: 	
Title: 	
14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.): Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment	
* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project: FY 2023 funding for the HOME program. Activities will include administration, housing rehabilitation throughout the Community, homebuyer assistance, and new construction of single-family homes.	
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions Add Attachments Delete Attachments View Attachments	

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424	
16. Congressional District Of:	
* a. Applicant 0111	* b. Program/Project 5,13
Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.	
	Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment
17. Proposed Project:	
* a. Start Date: 07/01/2023	* b. End Date: 06/30/2024
18. Estimated Funding (\$):	
* a. Federal	1,323,006.00
* b. Applicant	
* c. State	
* d. Local	
* e. Other	
* f. Program Income	15,000.00
* g. TOTAL	1,344,006.00
* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12972 Process? ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12972 Process for review on ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12972 but has not been selected by the State for review. ☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12972	
* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.) ☐ Yes ☒ No If "Yes", provide explanation and attach Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment	
21. "By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications" and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances" and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001) ☒ "I AGREE -- The list of certifications and assurances, as an internet site where you may obtain the list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions	
Authorized Representative:	
Prefix Mr.	* First Name Carol
Middle Name	
* Last Name Creighton	
Suffix	
* Title President, Board of State County Commissioners	
* Telephone Number 330-451-7225	* Fax Number 330-451-7205
* Email jwcreighton@statecountyschools.org	
* Signature of Authorized Representative: 	* Date Signed: 4-19-2023

CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the consolidated plan regulations, the jurisdiction certifies that:

Affirmatively Further Fair Housing --The jurisdiction will affirmatively further fair housing.

Uniform Relocation Act and Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan -- It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4601-4655) and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24. It has in effect and is following a residential anti displacement and relocation assistance plan required under 24 CFR Part 42 in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the Community Development Block Grant or HOME programs.

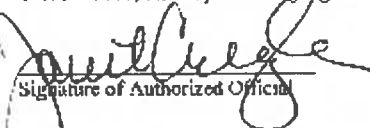
Anti-Lobbying --To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-L.L.L., "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and
3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Authority of Jurisdiction --The consolidated plan is authorized under State and local law (as applicable) and the jurisdiction possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations.

Consistency with plan --The housing activities to be undertaken with Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant, and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS funds are consistent with the strategic plan in the jurisdiction's consolidated plan.

Section 3 -- It will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 75.


Signature of Authorized Official

4-19-2023
Date

President, Board of Stark County Commissioners
Title

Specific Community Development Block Grant Certifications

The Entitlement Community certifies that:

Citizen Participation -- It is in full compliance and following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105.

Community Development Plan -- Its consolidated plan identifies community development and housing needs and specifies both short-term and long-term community development objectives that have been developed in accordance with the primary objective of the CDBG program (i.e., the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and expanding economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low and moderate income) and requirements of 24 CFR Parts 91 and 570.

Following a Plan -- It is following a current consolidated plan that has been approved by HUD.

Use of Funds -- It has complied with the following criteria:

1. **Maximum Feasible Priority.** With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG funds, it has developed its Action Plan so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low- and moderate-income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The Action Plan may also include CDBG-assisted activities which the grantee certifies are designed to meet other community development needs having 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 (see Optional CDBG Certification).

2. **Overall Benefit.** The aggregate use of CDBG funds, including Section 108 guaranteed loans, during program year(s) 2023 [a period specified by the grantee of one, two, or three specific consecutive program years], shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period.

3. **Special Assessments.** It will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds, including Section 108 loan guaranteed funds, by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements.

However, if CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of a fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of public improvements (assisted in part with CDBG funds) financed from other revenue sources, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds.

In addition, in the case of properties owned and occupied by moderate-income (not low-income) families, an assessment or charge may be made against the property for public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds if the jurisdiction certifies that it lacks CDBG funds to cover the assessment.

Excessive Force -- It has adopted and is enforcing:

1. A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and
2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

Compliance with Anti-discrimination laws -- The grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-3619) and implementing regulations.

Lead-Based Paint -- Its activities concerning lead-based paint will comply with the requirements of 24 CFR Part 35, Subparts A, B, J, K and L.

Compliance with Laws -- It will comply with applicable laws.


Signature of Authorized Official

4-19-2023
Date

President, Board of Stark County Commissioners
Title

Specific HOME Certifications

The HOME participating jurisdiction certifies that:

Tenant Based Rental Assistance -- If it plans to provide tenant-based rental assistance, the tenant-based rental assistance is an essential element of its consolidated plan.

Eligible Activities and Costs -- It is using and will use 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.

Subsidy layering -- 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 more HOME funds in combination with other Federal assistance than is necessary to provide affordable housing.


Signature of Authorized Official

4-19-2023
Date

President, Board of Stark County Commissioners
Title

APPENDIX TO CERTIFICATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING LOBBYING CERTIFICATION:

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.

FY 2023 Community Development Block Grant

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0008
Expiration Date: 03/28/2025

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 16 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

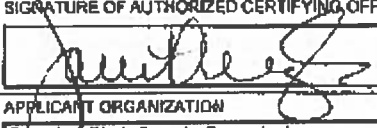
1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to ensure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4726-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of GPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4001 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (e) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (f) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1581-1663, and 1681-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (g) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-618), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

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Standard Form 424D (Rev. 7-87)
Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 48 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) initiation of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-203).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11693 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1998 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
	President, Board of Stark County Commissioners
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
Board of Stark County Commissioners	4-19-2023

5F-424D (Rev. 7-87) Back

FY 2023 HOME Investment Partnerships

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0008
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0345-0042), Washington, DC 20503

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4726-4733) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §784), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-253), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§260 dd-3 and 280 cc 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

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Standard Form 424-D (Rev. 7-87)
Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11734; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11980; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11983; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 108(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from: (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
	President, Board of Stark County Commissioners
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
Board of Stark County Commissioners	4-19-2023

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