

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

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

The City of Harrisonburg is an entitlement jurisdiction, receiving an annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a recipient of CDBG funds, the City is required to prepare a five-year strategic plan that identifies housing and community needs, prioritizes these needs, identifies resources to address the needs, and establishes annual goals and objectives to meet the identified needs. This five year plan is known as the Consolidated Plan.

The purpose of the Consolidated Plan is to outline a strategy for the City to follow in using CDBG funding to achieve the goals of the CDBG program, *"To develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons."* This Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) addresses the goals identified in Harrisonburg's 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan which was approved in July of 2018. Each year the City is required to submit its CAPER to provide the public and HUD with an assessment of its accomplishments toward meeting the priority goals outlined in the Five Year Consolidated Plan. This CAPER provides a review and evaluation of the City of Harrisonburg's progress toward meeting the annual goals and outcomes as outlined in the Action Plan for the 2020 Program Year, as well as the larger five year goals of the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan. This report will summarize the City's accomplishments for the time period of 07/01/2020-06/30/2021. The city made significant strides to further fair housing in the city and utilized CDBG funding to carry out many projects that specifically target LMI individuals and the services and goals identified in the Consolidated Plan.

Overall, the City has been pleased with the funded CDBG programs and their ability to meet their anticipated goals. The goals accomplished do seem to directly address the needs and objectives in the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan. A few projects are behind schedule, but the City sees the program as successful, and estimates that all of the 2020 funds should be spent by the end of PY21. All of the projects in this reporting period overall benefited low- and moderate- income (LMI) individuals at a greater than 51% rate. Most projects benefitted individuals at a 100% rate for Year Three (this reporting period). The City's CDBG funds have been used exclusively to address HUD's three national objectives.

The tables that follow provide a comprehensive overview of the Consolidated Plan's 5 year goals and the City's progress toward attaining those goals.

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

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

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
AFH: Admin, training, investigation & enforcement	Administration	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%	1	0	0.00%
AFH: Improve access to and quality of housing	Affordable Housing Public Housing	CDBG: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	40	40	100.00%	40	40	100.00%
AFH: Improve access to and quality of housing	Affordable Housing Public Housing	CDBG: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	12	4	33.33%	6	4	66.67%
AFH: Improve access to and quality of housing	Affordable Housing Public Housing	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%
AFH: Pursue improved utility of public transit	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	31	13	41.94%	31	13	41.94%

AFH: Pursue improved utility of public transit	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%
Improve public facilities and infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	22210	22210	100.00%	2435	0	0.00%
Infectious Disease Response	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	79	584	739.24%	79	584	739.24%
Infectious Disease Response	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added	Beds	6	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%
Infectious Disease Response	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	0	0		10	0	0.00%
Infectious Disease Response	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	10	0	0.00%			
Provide public services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	2929	2929	100.00%	429	1085	252.91%

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

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

The City of Harrisonburg effectively achieved many goals and objectives set forth in the 2020 Action Plan. The Office of the City Manager implements the City's CDBG programs. Activities accomplished by other agencies under CDBG sub-recipient agreements also fall under the oversight of the City Manager's Office. In July of 2017, the City of Harrisonburg adopted the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2017-2021), which listed five goals. For the 2020 program year the City continued to support several activities which had been supported in previous years. These activities continue to provide supportive services to some of the most at need populations in the City while also meeting several goals of the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan.

Improve access to and quality of housing: The City continued to provide \$140,000 to the HRHA for debt servicing of the Harrison Heights housing development that provided 40 units for LMI residents.

Provide Public Services: The five year strategic plan identifies the provision of public services to LMI residents as a goal for the CDBG. During the 2020 plan year, five projects fulfilled this goal. The VPAS Meals on Wheels program delivered meals to many in the elderly population of Harrisonburg who would not be able to remain in their homes without this basic assistance. The Suitcase Clinic provided medical care to the homeless population in Harrisonburg. The Arc used CDBG funds for the down payment of an accessible vehicle and for health tracking technology for its participants. Way to Go provided employment transportation services for those who are LMI. The CASA Child Advocacy program utilized funds to pay for a part time position that trained and oversaw an additional volunteer staff. Additionally, Meals on Wheels, Way to Go, and The Suitcase Clinic were each awarded additional COVID CARES Act funding to expand their programs and services. CDBG-CV funding was also awarded to Mercy House, who used the funding for emergency rental assistance. The hotel isolation project was cancelled and the funding will be reallocated.

Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure: CDBG funding was allocated to the Vine Street and Water Street projects. Both projects are still in the development stage.

Pursue Improved Utility of Public Transit: CDBG and CDBG-CV funds were used to support the services of Way to Go.

Administration, training, investigation and enforcement: CDBG funds were used to provide continuing administrative support to the grant, though the majority of funds were spent from the 2019 program year.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	833
Black or African American	195
Asian	6
American Indian or American Native	2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5
Total	1,041
Hispanic	98
Not Hispanic	0

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

Narrative

The 2012-2016 ACS Five Year Estimates show that the families assisted are a fairly accurate representation of the community as a whole. The overall population of Harrisonburg is 90% white alone. CDBG funding served an 80% white alone population. While only 7% of Harrisonburg's population is Black or African American, 19% of those assisted with CDBG funds were of this race. While 19% of Harrisonburg's population is Hispanic, only 9% of those assisted with CDBG funding were of this ethnicity. During the 2017 PY, in an effort to communicate more effectively with our citizens, CDBG staff developed a Language Access Plan for CDBG. This plan enables city staff to reach these other populations with the CDBG more efficiently. In PY2020, staff continued to work towards more effectively communicating with those in our community who speak English less than proficiently. Significant progress has been made.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	622,312	196,615
Other	public - federal	314,293	212,594

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

There are several projects very near completion at this time. The largest unspent amounts of funding are in the administration category and the public facilities category.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Citywide	100	100	Harrisonburg

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

All funding was allocated to projects either located in the City of Harrisonburg, or to those that serve Harrisonburg residents.

Leveraging

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

City departments such as the Public Works Department, Public Utilities, and the Transportation Department occasionally seek funding from other state and federal agencies to address needs. The non-profit agencies to which the City sub-granted CDBG funds, for the most part, rely heavily on public and private grant funds other than CDBG to support their operations. Furthermore, the City Council provides monetary support to many of the CDBG sub-recipients out of the City's General Fund. This is in addition to CDBG funds.

The following is a list of the organizations funded in this reporting period and the matching funds they spent on the funded activities, along with other resources that the CDBG funding assisted in leveraging.

- The Suitcase Clinic had in kind matches totalling \$22,645.
- VPAS reported \$18,749 of in-kind funds and \$12506 of volunteer time.
- CASA provided \$15,000 in matching donations from community members and other grant sources.
- The Arc received \$52,306 in matching donations.
- Mercy House reported \$820.327 in matching funds.
- The HRHA reported \$541,072 in matching funds for the Harrison Heights project, and \$34,978 in matching funds for the closing cost assistance project.
- Way2Go provided \$300,077 in matching funds.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	46	44
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	46	44

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	40	40
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	6	4
Total	46	44

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

The city has used the CDBG program to direct its efforts and funding towards the debt repayment of the Harrison Heights development with the HRHA. While these 40 additional additional housing units cannot be shown on the above chart, this multi year annual commitment of \$140,000 is providing housing that is serving this targeted population. The city has met or exceeded each of these goals.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The city sees the current plan as successful and will continue on a similar course in the future. The city is also currently involved in discussions regarding the HRHA commitment and determining a timeframe for moving on to different housing goals.

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

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	54	0
Low-income	69	0
Moderate-income	122	0
Total	245	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Forty units were created when the Harrison Heights complex was rehabilitated about ten years ago. These units continue to serve LMI individuals and families. Even though the City continues to use a large percentage of our allocation for this project each year, the units are not counted in this table (\$140,000 annually).

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

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

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

The following actions were taken during the program year to address the needs of homeless persons and the special needs of persons that are not homeless but require supportive housing and related services:

- \$140,000 was granted to the **Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA)**.
- \$39,988 was provided to the **Valley Programs for Aging Services** Meals on Wheels Program.
- **The IHHS Suitcase Clinic** received \$46,938 in CDBG funds to provide medical care to individuals at shelters in the City.
- \$250,000 was granted to **Mercy House** to assist with rental assistance.

Due to its limited CDBG funding allocations, the City of Harrisonburg did not use CDBG funds to directly reduce or end homelessness, but it supports the efforts of agencies who seek to do so through implementation of the Ten Year Plan for Ending Homelessness in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The following CDBG funding was provided to organizations working directly with the current homeless or transitional homeless population:

- \$140,000 was granted to the **Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA)**.
- \$39,988 was provided to the **Valley Programs for Aging Services** Meals on Wheels Program.
- **The IHHS Suitcase Clinic** received \$46,938 in CDBG funds to provide medical care to individuals at shelters in the City.

These projects all provided much needed care for individuals either currently or recently facing homelessness. CDBG funding for these projects has helped the individuals to be able to have a secure place to sleep and receive needed care.

The City will continue to work with and through the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority and other agencies to assist the homeless in transitioning to permanent housing and independent living.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after

being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

The City of Harrisonburg used FY 2020 CDBG funds to provide funding for the following supportive services that addressed the needs of non-homeless special needs populations:

- The Arc (Persons with disabilities): CDBG provided down payment assistance for a vehicle suitable to transport individuals with disabilities, and also provided funding for health technology equipment for those in the program.
- Valley Program for Aging Services, Inc. (elderly): CDBG provide funding for the Meals on Wheels Program.
- CASA- Funding was provided to this organization that werves children who have been abused.
- Funding was provided to Way2Go to provide employment transportation for LMI individuals.
- Mercy House received funds for rental assistance.

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

The City is a member of the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Continuum of Care (CoC) and collaborated with CoC member agencies to implement the strategies in the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness (TYP). The Harrisonburg/Rockingham Continuum of Care (CoC) meets on a monthly basis to address and discuss homeless issues in our local community. Harrisonburg's Continuum of Care CORE Housing Alliance and the Healthy Community Council work together with and through the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority to obtain affordable housing and to eliminate sub-standard housing in local areas. The members of the CoC are: City of Harrisonburg Police Department, Harrisonburg CDBG Staff, Harrisonburg City Schools, Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Blue Ridge Legal Services, Community Resource Center, Elkton Area United Services, First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence, Habitat for Humanity, Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Department of Social Services, Harrisonburg/Rockingham Community Services Board, Hope Community Builders, Inter-Faith Association, Mercy House, Rebuilding Together, Salvation Army of Harrisonburg/Rockingham County, United Way of Harrisonburg/Rockingham County, Valley AIDS Network, and the Valley Housing Alliance.

Factors that affect income and poverty are education, job training, health, housing quality, cost of living and employment. As a single unit of government, the City of Harrisonburg has only limited influence on

the overall factors that cause poverty. However, the City attempts to collaborate with human service, social service, and economic development agencies and organizations to facilitate their efforts and maximize their resources to provide quality services to low-income residents to help them improve their incomes. Through the collaboration described above, the City positively influences the likelihood of poverty-stricken residents moving up and out of poverty, reduces the number of residents living in poverty by minimizing threats to individual and family financial stability, and extends services that will provide adequately for those in need.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Homebuyer Assistance Program began in July 2018 and provides down payment assistance for low- to moderate-income households interested in purchasing a home in Harrisonburg City. The program serves clients of the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program, as well as members of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County community. This program is jointly funded by HRHA and the City of Harrisonburg through CDBG funds and is managed by HRHA's FSS and Housing Coordinator.

In 2020-2021, HRHA's coordinator continued to connect with interested individuals, completing the necessary intake forms and recommending additional services and support to become homeowner ready, where necessary. Those supports included financial wellness classes at DuPont Community Credit Union; credit counseling and repair through the Green Path debt counseling and financial wellness program; and, for those closer to home purchase, the online VHDA Free Homebuyer Education class. Credit counseling is particularly critical, as credit history is the greatest barrier for interested participants. The coordinator also met with local USDA Rural Development-Rural Home Loan representatives and can now refer applicants who want to buy in the county to these rural home loan and repair programs.

HRHA's Housing Coordinator has expanded financial institution participation to include Pioneer Bank, George Mason Mortgage, Bank of the James, DuPont Community Credit Union, and Movement Mortgage. Realtor connections have grown to include Hometown Realty Group, Funkhouser Real Estate Group, and Kline May Realty, whose professionals are willing to work with program participants searching for a home. From the program's start, five head of households have purchased a home using closing cost and/or down payment assistance.

HRHA has maintained and expanded its website page dedicated to the Homebuyer Assistance Program. It also launched a Facebook page and a bi-monthly newsletter to further distribute information on the Homebuyer Assistance Program on a regular basis. The website has a dedicated space to share information as well as a built-in form to help interested participants apply more easily. The HRHA Coordinator and CDBG Coordinator also publicized the program through informational flyers and an email alert to area employers.

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

During the spring of 2018, HRHA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program connected with the DuPont Community Credit Union Community Development Specialist to offer budgeting and smart money management sessions to housing clients. The Community Development Specialist also provides financial planning sessions on an as needs basis for potential homeowners, who were connected to the

resource by HRHA's FSS & Housing Coordinator. Also during this period, the HRHA Coordinator met with the Virginia Cooperative Extension's Senior Extension Agent to learn more about their in-person VHDA homebuyer classes and the assistance they provide to clients completing the online module.

The Homebuyer's Assistance Program, coordinated by HRHA's FSS & Housing Coordinator, began in July 2018 and provides down payment assistance for low to moderate-income households interested in purchasing a home within the Harrisonburg City limits. The homebuyer assistance program serves clients of the FSS program, as well as members of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County community. This program is jointly funded by HRHA and the City of Harrisonburg, through CDBG grant funds, and managed by HRHA's FSS & Housing Coordinator. The Coordinator works directly with clients to assess their eligibility for the program and connect them to resources, such as DuPont's financial literacy program and VA Cooperative Extension homebuyer classes, to help them work towards their homeownership goals. For eligible clients, the HRHA Coordinator also provides a list of resources to clients to work with lenders and realtors familiar with the homebuyer assistance program, to ensure they are supported throughout the process. The HRHA Coordinator and CDBG Coordinator publicized the program through informational flyers, an email alert to area employers, the HRHA website, and Facebook postings. The HRHA Coordinator continues to publicly share information about the program and encourage interested individuals to apply. This program has now been funded twice by CDBG funds in recent years.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The local housing authority (HRHA) is not troubled so no actions were needed in this regard.

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

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

On November 13, 2018, the City adopted an updated version of the Comprehensive Plan. Among many other details, the Comprehensive Plan includes information and goals, objectives, and strategies related to “Land Use and Development Quality” and “Neighborhoods and Housing.” Within these chapters of the Plan there are broad objectives that go toward positive outcomes for affordable housing. One of the objectives, which is a priority objective for the next five years is “[t]o promote affordable housing options, including affordable rental properties and affordable homes for ownership.” This priority objective works along with two other priority objectives including Objective 5.2, which is “[t]o develop approaches to increase the percentage of single-family detached and duplex housing units,” as well as Objective 7.3, which is “[t]o provide support for educational programs for workforce development, apprenticeship, training and retraining to meet the demands of business and industry, as well as, improving the skills of individual community members.” Identifying these three objectives are key policies that will help the City and the community take action to our affordable housing issues. With the approval of the Comprehensive Plan, the entire incorporated limits of the City are now designated as an Urban Development Area (UDA), which among other things, encourages the city to plan development that allows residents to work, shop, and carry out many of life’s other activities within the neighborhood through a mix of land uses, and a variety of housing types, densities and costs, while continuing to build a more robust and broad transportation system.

On June 25, 2019, the City adopted a new zoning district titled R-8, Small Lot Residential District. This district is intended for medium to high density residential development allowing for single family detached homes and duplexes and in special circumstances townhouse development. Vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle transportation is facilitated through a connected system of roads, sidewalks, and shared use paths, so as to provide many choices with regard to mode and route, and to provide a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment that promotes walkability for residents and visitors. This district allows single family detached homes at a density of 15 units per acre and duplexes at 24 units per acre. Increasing the ability to build more detached single family homes and duplexes could reduce the cost of homeownership by having more units available.

In early 2021, the city completed a Comprehensive Housing Assessment and Market Study (housing study) that will serve as a significant resource for years to come. The consultant heading the housing study provided much insight into the needs of the city so that steps can be made to move in a positive direction in this area. One of the recommendations was for the City to hire a Housing Coordinator. The approved FY 21-22 City budget includes funds to hire a Housing Coordinator that could begin as early as January 1, 2022. City staff have also been moving forward with the next step in the overall affordable housing realm by working on preparing a strategy plan for the housing study. Staff has created a housing

technical working group (HTWG) and is working toward creating a housing summit for City Council.

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

The City of Harrisonburg directed its 2020 CDBG activities to low/moderate income neighborhoods where concentrations of poverty, deteriorated infrastructures and community facilities, and poor housing conditions are most prevalent. The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the limited funding resources available to address identified priorities.

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

Harrisonburg is not included on the Virginia Department of Health's listing of "high risk areas" for lead poisoning. In 2012, the VA State Health Commissioner published the "Reportable Disease Surveillance in Virginia." Only two cases of lead-elevated blood levels were reported in children ages 0-15 in Harrisonburg and the entire surrounding Rockingham county.

Despite the apparently minor extent of lead-based paint hazards in Harrisonburg's housing stock, the City seeks to reduce these hazards as much as possible. The City works with other parties to achieve cost effective methods for controlling these hazards through the following:

- As part of its code enforcement efforts, Harrisonburg's building code department continues to educate City residents about lead paint hazards.
- Properties are made lead safe during renovation of older residential units.
- Harrisonburg continues to demolish pre-1978 nuisance housing, which often contains lead-based paint.
- The City continues to monitor Virginia Department of Health reports regarding Harrisonburg children with elevated blood lead levels.

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

Poverty is a function of income. Factors that affect income are education, job training, health, housing quality, cost of living and employment. As a single unit of government, the City of Harrisonburg has only limited influence on the overall factors that cause poverty. However, the City attempts to collaborate with human service, social service, and economic development agencies and organizations to facilitate their efforts and maximize their resources to provide quality services to low-income residents to help them improve their incomes.

Through the collaboration described above, the City can positively influence the likelihood of poverty-stricken residents moving up and out of poverty, reduce the number of residents living in poverty by minimizing threats to individual and family financial stability, and extend services that will provide adequately for those in need.

Harrisonburg continues to support organizations that provide supportive services to encourage local economic development, and to preserve and improve affordable housing options as part of its strategy to prevent and alleviate poverty.

Furthermore, the City has an active Economic Development Department focusing on growing small businesses, recruiting technology companies and cultivating entrepreneurship. The Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board, an active partner with the city's economic development department, also has a variety of programs for career seekers, including training programs for high-demand careers.

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

In its HUD FY 2017-FY 2021 Consolidated Plan, the City of Harrisonburg identified numerous agencies, organizations and institutions that may participate in the implementation of Consolidated Plan activities. The City feels that the existing institutional structure is sufficient for carrying out activities to address identified housing, homeless and community development needs. The City will continue to work directly with the implementing agencies and attempt to identify any gaps in the delivery system.

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

During the reporting period, the City coordinated its public service funding with social service agencies and local non-profits that had experience running those types of targeted programs. The City coordinated its housing and public service efforts with the HRHA and non-profits such as Open Doors, JMU's Institute for Health and Human Services, VPAS, Pleasant View, Mercy House, and The Arc.

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

- HRHA continued to maintain list of local publicly supported developments with expiring subsidies to identify partners and potential sources of funding for preservations
- The city completed comprehensive housing study to determine the effects of residential developments on fair housing choice. Existing incentives for housing development are being evaluated to determine their effect upon fair housing choice. The city anticipates that this study will have a profound benefit to fair housing choice in the city moving forward.
- HRHA developed a partnership with the city's CDBG program to continue a closing cost assistance program that was funded in PY2018 and PY2020. Five eligible participants successfully became homeowners within the City of Harrisonburg through this partnership.
- The city's Department of Transportation continues to adjust transit schedules and routes to provide improved access to underserved locations within the city.
- In 2019, a more robust language access plan was rolled out for the entire city and access to public meetings was significantly bolstered through additional communication.
- In June 2021 the City and HRHA staff were trained in how to refer callers about fair housing

issues to the proper person on staff. Staff was also trained about how to communicate with people with language barriers and were given the tools necessary assist these citizens as needed.

- CDBG staff reached out to HOME of VA numerous times throughout PY18, PY19 and PY20. Their staff remained too busy to conduct paired testing for housing discrimination in Harrisonburg. The National Fair Housing Organization was also not able to conduct this testing for us. CDBG staff will continue to pursue options to have fair housing testing done in the city, but there are few leads.
- HRHA staff conducted training and coordination meetings with Virginia Apartment Management Association membership concerning the implementation of the Commonwealth of Virginia's "source of funding" fair housing protected class.
- As part of the homebuyer assistance program, the HRHA FSS and Housing Coordinator worked with clients to assess their eligibility for the program and then connect eligible applicants with the Virginia Cooperative Extension for assistance with the VHDA homebuyer education course and DuPont Community Credit Union to receive financial literacy education. The Coordinator also worked one-on-one with clients, on an as need basis, to address financial literacy questions.
- The city intended to partner with HRHA through the CDBG program to provide a fair housing forum for local organizations, businesses and individuals in the spring of 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this was unable to happen.
- The City and HRHA partnered to hold a Fair Housing Training for Elected Officials, Appointed Boards, and Department Staff in June of 2021. This training was more limited than usual due to the pandemic, but included video training materials and pamphlets.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

Each project in this reporting period was monitored carefully by the City to ensure appropriate use of CDBG funds. As a part of their applications for funding, all sub recipients submitted an action plan with measurable objectives to be achieved each quarter. Quarterly progress reports were submitted for each project receiving grant funds. These included a description of all project activities, photographs, a description of progress and obstacles, a reimbursement summary description, matching funds information, and LMI, race, ethnicity, gender, and presumed LMI information. The final quarterly report served as the final project report and also included a thorough assessment of the project, including successes and weaknesses; a comparison of projected accomplishments and objectives to actual accomplishments and goals achieved, including reasons for any discrepancies between the two; notation of any CDBG funds or matching funds that were not expended and reasons why; total **number** and **qualifying LMI characteristics of persons or households** assisted with CDBG funds or other resources leveraged by using CDBG funds, including any matching funds or donations that would not have been received without CDBG assistance; and identification of future related projects that may be eligible for CDBG assistance. For those projects that received extensions, their final reports will not be submitted until their project is closed. Each sub recipient submitted periodic requests for reimbursement. Each reimbursement request was accompanied by a City request form, documentation of payment for eligible expenses (i.e., invoices, receipts, copies of checks, time sheets, etc.), documentation of matching funds expenditure or donations (i.e., volunteer time logs, time sheets, mock invoices for donated items, etc.), and other supporting documentation. Each sub recipient was required to maintain records of all project expenses, activities, correspondence, and other information as requested by the City, for a period of no less than five years from the date of the final project report. The City had no trouble with these reports, and all documentation is maintained in the City's CDBG files. Additionally, the City has a system in place to determine whether a site visit to inspect the progress of a project is necessary. For all projects requiring building construction or rehabilitation, City officials completed site inspections prior to reimbursements to ensure that materials for which reimbursements were requested were in place on the building. Reimbursements for construction/building materials were only made once the materials were in place. The City is committed to compliance with minority business outreach by posting all ITBs and RFPs on Virginia's procurement website (eVA), which notifies the city of the number of vendors reached who are MBEs. The city also makes frequent use of the Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity website. In its 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan (CP), the City identified numerous agencies, organizations and institutions that may participate in the implementation of CP activities. The existing institutional structure is sufficient for carrying out activities to address identified housing, homeless and community development needs.

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

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

The City Manager's Office welcomes public participation and citizen comments year-round. Staff attends community and other meetings where discussions of the CDBG program may occur. The City formally hosts public meetings every winter and spring to gather public input and to discuss the CDBG program.

The annual performance reporting process is dictated by the need to provide the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with a completed document within 90 days of the end of the program year. The federal agency also requires that this report be the subject of a public hearing and a 15 day public review and comment period. To meet the HUD determined guidelines, the City of Harrisonburg adhered to the following schedule for developing its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER):

August 03, 2021	Notice of Public Hearing & Comment Period in Newspaper
August 24, 2021, 7:00pm	Short Presentation and Public Hearing at Regular Council Meeting
August 24, 2021	Public Comment Period Begins
September 9, 2021, 9:00am	Public Comment Period Closes

The Public Notice advertised the public hearing and the public comment period, and it provided a summary of the report as well as the location of the full report. A copy of this report was made available in the City Manager's Office and on the City website at www.harrisonburgva.gov.

No comments from the public were recieved during the public hearing at the August 24th council meeting or in the public comment period that followed. UPDATE

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

experiences.

The 2020 Action Plan was amended twice to account for CDBG-CV funding. The objective “Infectious Disease response” was added to the Action Plan. This enabled the city to change course throughout the year to use CDBG-CV funding to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City is on track with the current objectives and there are not sufficient reasons to make any changes at this point in the process.

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

No

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

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