# 

# Executive Summary

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

**1. Introduction**

With the momentum starting in 2018 with projects, 2019 is also shaping up to be an extremely productive year for community development efforts being progressed and multiple community initiatives commencing in several different neighborhoods and development areas.  The planning efforts that have been progressed including the Comprehensive Plan, Urban Design Plan, Downtown Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Plan, Erie BOA Plan, Community Needs Assessment, Woodhaven Redevelopment Plan, and the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Plan are all within the field of play and will be leveraging more CDBG funding for the 2019 program year.  In the fall of 2017, the City of Rome was awarded Downtown Revitalization Initiative which includes a portion of CDBG target area, Downtown BOA, Erie BOA, and the Main Street Districts.  Downtown mixed use buildings, residential apartments, streetscapes, civic center improvements, and industrial manufacturing growth are all key components to the DRI with many projects coming out of the design phase.  In 2019 the City will complete the West Dominick Street SMART Walk pedestrian improvements project as a DRI, BOA, and Main Streets implementation project started in 2017. Several major job creation projects will be supported through economic development funding which will assist the public infrastructure surrounding the sites of the Waterfront Village (DeWitt Clinton school redevelopment) and the Rome Cable industrial center.  The City will also continue assisting local businesses with commercial façade upgrades within the target areas and main streets as part of the economic development programming.  The Woodhaven redevelopment area located adjacent to the neighborhoods of east Rome will include public facilities funding to increase the pedestrian connectivity between the neighborhoods, commercial and openspace areas, and the public high school.  The City will continue to invest into target area parks to increase accessibility and safety while promoting a healthy lifestyle and community development.  Real property investments including targeted demolitions to abandoned and derelict structures will also assist with community revitalization efforts and help to fend off blight conditions in targeted neighborhoods. Public Service requests will also play a role in addressing needs demonstrated in the community needs assessment through supporting local nonprofits which seek to impact the community in a positive way and support and strengthen low to moderate income individuals and families.

**2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan**

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

This year’s allocation will continue to help redevelop and improve urban and downtown areas, including the CDBG target areas. This funding also allows the City to leverage other funding sources to provide a more substantial impact in the community such as the recently awarded New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) award focused to revitalize the blocks affected through urban renewal.  The community supports continued funding allocations to Economic Development activities for the Commercial Façade program, as well as business development to downtown and brownfield areas.   Neighborhood ADA accessibility and pedestrian improvements and streetscapes will be completed through the use of Public Facilities funding. Strategic community parks and community trails within the CDBG target area will also include safety and accessibility enhancements through this funding.

In addition to the above, the City will also be committing funding towards managing slums and blight through targeted building demolitions, as well as Public Services funding for non-profit programming city-wide.

In looking to the future, the City has been able to work with the community and invovled departments and agencies to meet long-term and immediate needs that have been neglected throughout the years.  Commencing this year, the community will begin the planning efforts for the Erie Boulevard Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA), and looking at better connectivity between neighborhoods throughout the city by way of greenway and connective corridors.  These neighborhoods and corridors include lands within the CDBG target area.

**3. Evaluation of past performance**

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

The City of Rome continues to use the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) which was a collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and other federal, state, and local partners published in 2017. The CNA will and has served as the basis for a local operating plan that allows the city to have long term goals, as well as an executed 2 year action plan on the most immediate needs stated within the plan.  6 Goals were stated that can be used over many years to continue to help the city grow, create jobs, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, enhance local arts, cultural and tourism opportunities, improve access to health and wellness programs, and provide enhanced housing opportunities.  Throughout the years, the City has used this plan as a guide when identifying needs from one year to another.  Although we have met the immediate needs within this plan, the City continues to use this plan as a road map to continue to meet the goals set forth year to year, with the adapting priorities and views for a specific year.

**4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City of Rome held two public meetings in preparation of the 2019 Annual Action Plan, on 1/9/19 and 1/16/19, and met with its Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) for their recommendations. CDAC is comprised of two city councilors from the target area wards, and residents from the City's wards. The City's 2019 spending plan was also available for the 30-day public review and comment period at City Hall, and the City's website. The City provided notices for the public meetings and the 30-day public review in the legal ad section, as well as a corresponding news article. Meetings were also posted on social media as well as a link to a survey for those unable to attend the meetings.

**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 City of Rome not only took comments from both public meetings, but as well as surveys handed out at the public meetings and an online survey posted on social media and the City’s website for those who were unable to attend the public meetings.  All responses that were noted, went along with the City’s point of view as well.  A lot of comments were based around the needs for pedestrian improvements which this funding will be focusing on, as well as helping build up our downtown which ties in with our previous Annual Action Plans as well as the 10 million dollar DRI state funding the City received. See AP 12 for a detail of this summary.

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

There were no comments or views not accepted from the public during the citizen participation process.

**7. Summary**

The attached image is a map of the CDBG target area for the City of Rome, developed from the 2015 census data.

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

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

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

| **Agency Role** | **Name** | **Department/Agency** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CDBG Administrator |  | Ashley D'Amore |

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

**Narrative (optional)**

**Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

The City of Rome's Department of Community & Economic Development staff prepared the 2015 - 2019 Five Year Consolidated Plan and that staff is responsible for administering the CDBG grant program each year.

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

**1. Introduction**

The City of Rome works with local organizations and agencies whose goals and initiatives overlap those of the community.

**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))**

The City of Rome actively works in partnership with the Utica/Rome Oneida and Madison Counties Continuum of Care to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers (including the Rome Municipal Housing Authority and supportive housing providers with units in Rome including CNY Services, ACR health, YWCA of the Mohawk Valley, Catholic Charities of Oneida and Madison County) and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (including the Oneida County Department of Mental Health, Rome Community Hospital and the Community Recovery Center Behavioral Health Clinic located there and a myriad of additional behavioral health and supportive housing providers. The City of Rome and Rome Municipal Housing Authority have been actively involved in a county-wide coalition to reduce the level of childhood lead poisoning from sub-standard housing with lead paint.

**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.**

Rome, NY has been a key partner in the Utica/Rome, Oneida and Madison Counties Continuum of Care (CoC NY-518) for over 13 years.  This regional Continuum of Care – locally known as the Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition - has a comprehensive set of emergency and supportive housing resources available to residents of the City of Rome which is the second largest city in the two-county CoC.  The City of Rome is represented on the CoC’s Board and is active in strategic planning to end homelessness for the CoC in general and the City of Rome in particular. The center of the jurisdiction’s activities to provide and enhance this coordination is as a Board member of CoC which meets quarterly in addition to participating in 8 plenary meetings each year.  City of Rome representatives and Rome service providers are also actively involved in numerous additional meetings to coordinate activities for domestic violence victims, homeless youth, homeless veterans, and persons in recovery.  See www.mvhomeless.org for meeting minutes and additional details.

**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 Rome does not receive ESG funding at this time.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | City of Rome |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Other government - Local |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | All of the Above |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** |  |

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

The City of Rome welcomes and encourages input from any agency type, and no agency type was knowingly excluded from the process.

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

| **Name of Plan** | **Lead Organization** | **How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Continuum of Care | Coc | Elimination/awareness of Homelessness |
| Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Plan | MVRED Council | Job creation/capacity building |
| City of Rome Community Needs Assessment | HUD/City of Rome | Goals as part of strategic plan |
| Downtown Rome Brownfield Opportunity Area Plan | City of Rome | Accessibility upgrades/Brownfield redevelopment |
| Erie Blvd Brownfield Opportunity Area Plan | City of Rome | Accessibility upgrades/Brownfield redevelopment |
| Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) | NYS Department Of State | Job creation/retention/ADA improvement/ blight removal/ strategic plan |
| Comprehensive Master Plan | City of Rome | Accessibility upgrades/Brownfield redevelopment |
| Woodhaven Redevelopment Strategy | City of Rome | Job creation/retention/ADA improvement/ blight removal/ strategic plan |

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

**Narrative (optional)**

## AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

**Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting**

The City of Rome sought citizen input in a variety of ways. The City's Citizen Participation Plan outlines the policies and procedures to receive input to identify the needs and to allocate CDBG funds. In addition to the informational meetings and public meetings, the City sought input from its Community Development Advisory Committee comprised of two City Councilors and residents from five of the city's seven wards. Also in placing the proposed plan at 4 City organizations, in the newspaper for a 30 day comment period, and posting online information and surveys for citizens who were unable to get out into the community and provide input on site.

**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 | Community Needs Assessment | Non-targeted/broad community | See CNA Roundtable discussions. | See CNA Roundtable discussions. | There were no comments that were not accepted. | http://romenewyork.com/community-and-economic-development/ |
| 2 | Public Meeting | Non-targeted/broad community | 0 Residents attended the January 9th public meeting. | No comments were received during this time. | There were no comments that were not accepted. | N/A |
| 3 | Newspaper Ad | Non-targeted/broad community | 0 | No comments were received during this time. | There were no comments that were not accepted. | N/A |
| 4 | Public Meeting | Non-targeted/broad community | 1 resident attended the January 16th public meeting. | The 1 resident that attended had concerns mostly about the street and sidewalk conditions as well as historic preservation funding. | There were no comments that were not accepted. | N/A |
| 5 | Internet Outreach | Non-targeted/broad community | There were 22 respondents in the online survey. | The survey results are in line with the thoughts of the Cityâ¿¿s in such that the highest need is one Street & Sidewalk reconstruction as well as vacant and abandoned buildings ( Slum & Blight) | There were no comments that were not accepted. | https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9Q8C25X |

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

# Expected Resources

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

**Introduction**

The City of Rome will use the funds designated in the 2019 Annual Action Plan, as well as continue to follow the Consolidated Plan and previous year’s Annual Action Plans to ensure any left over funding is used in a timely manner as well as staying in compliance with HUD, and following the plans designed for the said 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: $** | **Total:**  **$** |
| CDBG | public - federal | Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services | 1,014,780 | 0 | 0 | 1,014,780 | 0 | Funds obligated in PY2019 for Commercial facade program, Public Services, Housing Activities, and Public Street Projects are expected to be used in 2019 along with and prior years funding. It is expected that the City of Rome will receive approximately the same dollar amount of CDBG funding into the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan. |

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

Federal funds will be used to leverage local, state, private and other federal sources of funding to progress community development initiatives and implementation projects.  Public service dollars will be used to leverage local private funding for programs aimed to benefit low to moderate income residents including domestic violence shelters, and youth education.  Public facility dollars will be used to leverage New York State environmental facilities corporation funding to install new pedestrian accessibility and streetscape enhancements along West Dominick Street (SMART Walk).  In addition, public facilities and economic development funding will leverage a myriad of other funding sources (private, public, state, federal) to complete a new manufacturing complex within the downtown area including the public infrastructure to make the project a reality.  This work is the first implementation project of the Erie Boulevard Brownfield Opportunity Area study, a state funded program through the Environmental protection Fund.  CDBG funding is providing the supplemental gap funding to make these projects complete, and without the assistance of such funding, the project could not be implemented.

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

The City recently purchased approximately 100 acres of land in downtown Rome as part of a bankruptcy settlement with the former owners; this land and the associated 140 housing units were formerly base housing for Griffiss Air Force Base, which closed in 1995. The City recently completed the demolition of the structures and cleared the land for development. The City released a Request For Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for the site and now is looking to capitalize on several community development projects in this area including a new community YMCA and a mixed use housing project. Collectively these projects serve to re-establish a neighborhood through smart growth practices. The City remains cognizant of the goals listed in this plan and the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan as it works with Mohawk Valley Edge to develop developer contacts and redevelopment projects for the site also known as the Woodhaven Redevelopment Strategy.

**Discussion**

# Annual Goals and Objectives

**AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives**

**Goals Summary Information**

| **Sort Order** | **Goal Name** | **Start Year** | **End Year** | **Category** | **Geographic Area** | **Needs Addressed** | **Funding** | **Goal Outcome Indicator** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Planning and Administration | 2015 | 2019 |  | CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK | Planning / Administration | CDBG: $197,956 | Other: 176000 Other |
| **2** | Public Services | 2015 | 2019 | Non-Homeless Special Needs Public Services | CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK | Public Services | CDBG: $87,956 | Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted |
| **3** | Public Facilities and Infrastructure | 2015 | 2019 | Non-Housing Community Development | CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK | Public Facilities and Infrastructure | CDBG: $402,956 | Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5000 Persons Assisted |
| **4** | Housing and Commercial Rehabilitation | 2016 | 2019 | Affordable Housing Public Housing | CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK Main Streets Target Area | Economic Development | CDBG: $202,956 | Jobs created/retained: 2 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted |
| **5** | Blight Elimination | 2015 | 2019 | Non-Housing Community Development | CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK | Blight Elimination | CDBG: $122,956 | Buildings Demolished: 4 Buildings |

Table 6 – Goals Summary

**Goal Descriptions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Goal Name** | Planning and Administration |
| **Goal Description** |  |
| **2** | **Goal Name** | Public Services |
| **Goal Description** |  |
| **3** | **Goal Name** | Public Facilities and Infrastructure |
| **Goal Description** |  |
| **4** | **Goal Name** | Housing and Commercial Rehabilitation |
| **Goal Description** |  |
| **5** | **Goal Name** | Blight Elimination |
| **Goal Description** |  |

## Projects

## AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

**Introduction**

The City of Rome proposes to undertake the following projects to fulfill the 2019 Annual Action Plan.

**Projects**

| **#** | **Project Name** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Planning and Administration |
| 2 | Public Services |
| 3 | Public Facilities |
| 4 | Economic Development |
| 5 | Slum & Blight |

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The City in conjunction with the Community Development Advisory Committee as well as public input, have chosen to make improvements in Rome reflecting goals established in the recently published Community Needs Assessment within the CDBG target area.  The allocation also reflects goals and objectives indicated in BOA and other neighborhood redevelopment plan.

## AP-38 Project Summary

**Project Summary Information**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Project Name** | Planning and Administration |
| **Target Area** | CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK |
| **Goals Supported** | Planning and Administration |
| **Needs Addressed** | Planning / Administration |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $197,956 |
| **Description** | The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has allocated $ 197,956.00 in PY2019 funds for program administration; these funds will be used for staff salaries, supplies, equipment, and any housing/environmental study related costs which will aid the City's Department of Community & Economic Development in the administration of its CDBG program. This amount is consistent with CDAC allocations to program administration in prior years. |
| **Target Date** | 3/31/2020 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** |  |
| **Location Description** |  |
| **Planned Activities** |  |
| **2** | **Project Name** | Public Services |
| **Target Area** | CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK |
| **Goals Supported** | Public Services |
| **Needs Addressed** | Public Services |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $87,956 |
| **Description** | The City will have an open RFP period for public service organizations to submit funding proposals. |
| **Target Date** | 3/31/2020 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | Typically our public service organizations submit proposals for programmatic activities that benefit approximately 100-1000 persons per year in aggregate. |
| **Location Description** | The public service organization applying for funding must be locally operated with funding going towards the benefit of Rome citizens exclusively. |
| **Planned Activities** | Activities typically funded include but are not limited to: youth educational development, domestic violence shelters, soup kitchen assistance, and creative development. |
| **3** | **Project Name** | Public Facilities |
| **Target Area** | CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK |
| **Goals Supported** | Public Facilities and Infrastructure |
| **Needs Addressed** | Public Facilities and Infrastructure |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $402,956 |
| **Description** | The Community Development Advisory Committee, and City of Rome routinely allocate significant portions of their entitlement funding award to support of public facilities or improvements. For the 2019 funding, its intended to utilize $402,956.00 in CDBG funding for ADA pedestrian improvements for not only sidewalks, and safety measures on the streets, but as well as target area park enhancements including multiuse trail upgrades. |
| **Target Date** | 3/31/2020 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | The City expects that this project will benefit the entire City of Rome, with special emphasis on those who live, work, and travel in the targeted area.  This project will allow the local parks to be more accessible by all as well as pedestrian improvements to sidewalks and streets located in the CDBG target area. |
| **Location Description** | West Dominick Street, and other areas within the CDBG target areas. |
| **Planned Activities** | Upgrades to target area parks and connecting neighborhoods. |
| **4** | **Project Name** | Economic Development |
| **Target Area** | CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK |
| **Goals Supported** | Housing and Commercial Rehabilitation |
| **Needs Addressed** | Economic Development |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $202,956 |
| **Description** | This funding allocation is for a continuation of the City existing, and successful, commercial facade program. This is a 25% owner match 75% CDBG program intended to create jobs and reduce slum and blight in the CDBG target area. This funding is also supporting small business development. |
| **Target Date** | 3/31/2020 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | Those families who live in, work in, or travel in the neighborhoods improved by the façade program are benefitted by job creation and a reduction in slum & blight in the neighborhood. |
| **Location Description** | The City is soliciting businesses within the main street and downtown areas to participate in the program. |
| **Planned Activities** | Commercial Façade Rehabilitation in the CDBG target area and small business development grants. |
| **5** | **Project Name** | Slum & Blight |
| **Target Area** | CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK |
| **Goals Supported** | Blight Elimination |
| **Needs Addressed** | Blight Elimination |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $122,956 |
| **Description** | The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2019 PY funding, however all buildings have been returned to city control via foreclosure on back-taxes. All buildings demolished are deemed condemned and uninhabitable by the City Codes Department according to NYS Uniform Building Code and local/county ordinances. |
| **Target Date** | 3/31/2020 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | The entire City of Rome will benefit from a reduction in abandoned unsafe, and dilapidated buildings. |
| **Location Description** | The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2019 PY funding, however all buildings have been returned to city control via foreclosure on back-taxes. All buildings demolished are deemed condemned and uninhabitable by the City Codes Department according to NYS Uniform Building Code and local/county ordinances. |
| **Planned Activities** | Slum & blight reduction through targeted demolitions. |

## AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

Public Facilities, Economic Development and Slum Blight will be directed towards the Downtown Rome BOA, Erie BOA, and Woodhaven Area projects will take priority, focusing around accessibility improvements and slums and blight. Strategic demolitions within the target area will help pave the way for neighborhood revitalization and reinvestment. Public services will be city wide but benefitting majority of low to moderate income individuals.

**Geographic Distribution**

| **Target Area** | **Percentage of Funds** |
| --- | --- |
| CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK | 100 |
| BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA | 75 |
| Main Streets Target Area | 75 |
| Woodhaven Park Drive Estates | 10 |

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

**Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

Within the CNA, emphasis has been placed on implementing community projects within these target areas and funding will be tied to implementation projects identified within the BOA and Woodhaven plans as discussed through the CNA process.

**Discussion**

# Affordable Housing

## AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

**Introduction**

While the City of Rome encourages the development of affordable housing structures by private entities, the City itself does not provide affordable housing as a function of government.

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

Table 9 - 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 | 0 |
| Rehab of Existing Units | 0 |
| Acquisition of Existing Units | 0 |
| Total | 0 |

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

**Discussion**

## AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

**Introduction**

The Rome Housing Authority is currently working on the rehabilitation of their Colonial I & II complexes.

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

The City of Rome expects to continue its close working relationship with the Rome Housing Authority to address the public housing needs of the City. The City will continue its support of the Rome Housing Authority as it moves forward with plans to rehabilitate their Colonial I & II complexes.

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

The Rome Housing Authority has a tenant advisory board for the Colonial I, Colonial II and Valentine Apartments.  They meet with the tenants on a monthly basis for coffee hour, to discuss their concerns and get their input on upcoming projects.  There are also two “tenant elect” commissioners who are elected to the Rome Housing Authority Board for a two year period.  These commissioners, along with the five appointed by the Mayor oversee the Rome Housing Authority.

The Liberty Garden Apartments are no longer considered Public Housing however, they are covered under the Housing Choice Project Based Voucher Program for a period of 15 years.  They are establishing a Family Self Sufficiency Program which will encourage the tenants to not only obtain schooling, and better jobs but will also supply them with the possibility of an escrow account that can be used to help purchase a home.

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

The Rome Housing Authority has not been designated as a troubled entity.

**Discussion**

## AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)

**Introduction**

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

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

Reaching out to homeless persons and assessing their individual needs in CoC and in Rome in particular is done at multiple contact points including the Rome office of the Oneida County Department of Social Services, Rome Rescue Mission’s Welcome Hall soup kitchen and Rome Rescue Mission’s emergency housing programs for men and women, the Mohawk Valley Community Action’s Rome office, Catholic Charities Rome office, and the Salvation Army who recently added a drop in center for at risk youth population, all located in central Rome.  Our CoC also has a Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) that responds to crisis situations involving homeless persons with a mental health disability.

**One-Year Goals**:  Increasing the number homeless persons and families who are identified, assessed and able to access supportive housing resources

**Actions:** The CoC initiated its Coordinated Entry System in June of 2017.  All homeless persons and families are now assessed using the VI-SPDAT tool and given access to supportive housing units based their level of need.  The City will aid in publicizing this system that facilitates outreach and assessment.  CoC has strengthen the Coordinated Entry System to conduct faster CE assessments and enroll homeless person and families more quickly into the CE system to reduce their length of time homeless and support their ability to locate sustainable permanent housing.  It’s anticipated for summer of 2019 to hire a designated Coordinated Entry staff person.  CE assessments will be conducted directly by phone and/or in-person at local shelters and other locations where homeless persons and families can be reached (e.g. local soup kitchens and some street locations).  This person will be mobile; helping communities prioritize assistance based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most can receive it in a timely manner and be housed in permanent supportive housing.

In addition, New York State Department of Social Services has new requirements through OTDA for Homeless Planning and Homeless Outcomes which requires the use of HMIS.  The integration of Department of Social Services and the CoC will improve coordination locally, improve data management and reduce homelessness.  DSS will be an active participant of the HMIS system and will assess using the VI-SPDAT tool which in turn will assist with placing individuals/families in appropriate housing in the city of Rome.  The Department of Social Services is planning to hire an outreach worker and is creating a homeless unit with 6 additional staff whom specialize in working with the vulnerable population to provide quality services with trained and culturally competent staff.   This will strengthen the homeless system by simplifying navigation through emergency and housing services.

**Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

The Continuum of Care in Oneida County, NY was established in 2002.  At that time, the City of Rome, located in the western region of the county, had only a 6 shelter beds for homeless women who were domestic violence victims.  Over the past 10-plus years, local providers have developed and maintained additional emergency shelter beds for men and women and transitional housing units and beds for women or men with children located in Rome.  Domestic violence victims in Rome who are homeless are served in our city by Lucy’s House, a 6-bed emergency housing program managed by the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley and by the YWCA’s Safe Horizons Program, which provides transitional housing in community-based apartments with support services for up to two years.  The Rome Rescue Mission has also recently expanded their existing services of emergency housing for homeless men and women with children to include transitional housing units for families.

The 2019 Point-in-Time census revealed a dramatic increase in the number of people in emergency housing in Rome.  There were 24 total persons residing in emergency housing which included 9 single adults including a motel voucher.    Transitional housing increased, with 15 total persons comprised 4 individual single adults and 1 adult with 1 child, 2 adults with 2 children, and 2 adults with 3 children. There are 5 adults’ victim of Domestic violence in transitional housing.   A total of 6 transitional age youth; 2 in transitional housing and 4 in emergency shelter.

When shelters have no beds available the Department of Social Services are utilizing motel vouchers within the city of Rome for individual/families whom are displaced during the code blue period.  During 2019 PIT the city of Rome utilized a motel voucher.   DSS is diligent in keeping the family in the Rome area where children and youth can continue attending schools without any disruptions.

**One-year goal:** Increase both the emergency and transitional housing capacity of the CoC with regard to serving homeless persons and families in Rome.

**Action #1:**Continue supportingYWCAof the Mohawk Valley’s work to increase the number of transitional housing units for DV victims from Rome.  This agency is now in the process of developing this additional capacity using both NY State and federal funding streams.

The YWCA will be launching a new project- New Horizons, a transitional housing program which includes 7 community-based apartments, some which will be in the city of Rome on May 1st 2019.  New Horizons is for transitioned age youth 18+ year of age.  A transitional housing program up to 2 years, which is coupled with intensive case management to TAY victims of domestic and sexual violence.  YWCA is working together with Department of Social Services which will be making appropriate referrals and have partnered up with the Safe Harbor Program.

 YWCA-Lucy’s House is currently being remodeled to better serve and accommodate DV victims from the Rome area.  The program provides 24-hour crisis intervention to victims and secondary victims of domestic and sexual violence. Services include a 24-hour hotline, advocacy and accompaniment through medical, CPS, police and court proceedings.

**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**

**One-Year Goal #1:**  Our jurisdiction’s key one-year goal to increase the number and availability of both supportive and affordable housing units for homeless persons and families and for persons and families at imminent risk of homelessness in the City of Rome.

**Action #1:**  After actively working with supportive housing developer, it is projected for early 2020 in South Rome (our City’s poorest neighborhood) DeWitt Clinton Apartments will have a total of 80 new units.  Centrally located in a residential area near many local amenities.  Forty new permanent supportive housing units with a housing specialist to assist with linking tenants to community services and light case management and an additional forty new affordable permanent housing units consisting of 1 and 2 bedrooms.

**One-Year Goal #2**:  Helping homeless persons and families shorten the time they experience homelessness.  This is a challenge in our jurisdiction where ESG funding is not available for rapid re-housing services for homeless civilians.

Action #2: Our CoC recently (May 2017) set up a new CoC-funded Rapid Rehousing Program that provides housing search and placement, security deposits, short term rental assistance, and case management for both single adults and families with children for homeless persons and families in Rome.  There are two VA-funded SSVF programs serving Rome residents that provide prevention as well as rapid rehousing services for homeless veterans (who are eligible for VA Healthcare benefits) and their family members. Also, the Rome Housing Authority instituted a homeless preference for their public housing units and their Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8.) Programs.  From 10/1/2014 to 3/31/2015 over 14% of all new household admissions to affordable permanent public housing and HCV units managed by Rome Housing Authority were homeless households.

**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.**

Help and assistance for those who are the most likely to become homeless after discharge from publicly funded institutions and systems of care is provided through the Oneida County Department of Mental Health (for those discharged from mental health facilities), the Oneida County Department of Social Services (for youth aging out of foster care), and the Oneida County Prison Reentry Task Force (a program managed by the Oneida County Probation Department that provides reentry services including housing to persons discharged from NYS prisons). New this year, the NYS Division of Parole has funded a 90-day transition-from-prison program that serve Rome residents released from NYS prison, and the NYS Department of Mental Health recently announced they would provide funding for 17 additional units of permanent supportive housing for person with a mental health disability.

**Discussion**

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

**Introduction:**

There are a variety of public policy choices that have a negative effect on affordable housing, the most obvious policies that complicate the ability to provide and supply affordable housing units in Rome is an imposing tax system and an outdated zoning code. Government imposed regulations (i.e. onerous building codes), direct project costs, time delays and increased fees all increase building costs. Other constraints that drive costs up are land use controls, reduction of available funding (both governmental and private capital), available sites for construction (less expensive parcels are typically expensive to develop), and real estate prices. Other constraints that are beyond the control of local government is the cost and availability of capital, labor and materials.

**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**

Assisted by HUD, the City has recently undergone a Community Needs Assessment which we hope will us to better eliminate barriers to affordable housing by identifying ways to reduce the tax burden and improve the economic situation of the City and its residents. The City has undergone a complete zoning code update including subdivisions regulations. The City also recognizes that its last housing study was completed in 2008 in conjunction with the City of Utica and with the ten year anniversary of the study approaching, the city has been in discussions with Utica to undertake a new fair housing study in the near future.

**Discussion:**

## AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

**Introduction:**

**Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

In an effort to meet underserved needs in the community, the City of Rome, in partnership with the HUD Field Office, participated in a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) to determine the community's needs at all levels, but with particular attention to the low to moderate income population, or those populations affected by physical/mental health issues, homelessness, poverty, domestic violence issues and other special needs. The data collected through community roundtable sessions and public & targeted surveys, have resulted in a two-year action plan that have supplemented the 2019 Annual Action Plan and will continue to, for the 2020 Annual Action Plan as well. The City believes that the substantial undertaking of this CNA process will continue to generate a number of ways in which we can meet the needs of the underserved especially while writing the 2020-2025 Con Plan.

**Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

The City of Rome has no immediate plans in 2019 to use CDBG funding to help foster and maintain affordable housing, however the City is working to develop incentives for private investment in the affordable housing market. The City has also gone through a complete zoning code update which aims to help reduce barriers that could prevent the development of affordable housing units.

While this project currently has no CDBG funding, the City does have a developer which has purchased and begun construction in South Rome for an 80-unit affordable housing complex which will include 30 supportive housing units focusing on domestic violence victims and those with mental health disabilities and 30 income guided units with an additional 20 true midmarket priced units.

The City also recognizes that its last Fair Housing Study was done in conjunction with the City of Utica in 2008, with the 10 year anniversary of that study approaching, the City has been in discussions with Utica to undertake a new fair housing study in the near future.

**Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

The City of Rome began serving on the steering committee for the new 'Lead-Free Mohawk Valley' initiative spearheaded by the Community Foundation in 2017; this $1 million dollar, 3-year initiative is aiming to eliminate lead poisoning in Oneida and Herkimer Counties, with the goal being to eradicate childhood lead poisoning by 2030.  After a full 2 years since the coalition has been formed, focus groups have been put in place within the coalition to formulate the best ways possible to get information out to the public as well as get projects out into the community to start the process of eliminating lead poisoning.  This iniative has also received a commitment of $5million dollars over the next 10 years from the Community Foundation as of April of 2018.

**Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

Rome, NY has been a key partner in the Utica/Rome, Oneida and Madison Counties Continuum of Care (CoC NY-518) for over 13 years.  This regional Continuum of Care – locally known as the Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition - has a comprehensive set of emergency and supportive housing resources available to residents of the City of Rome which is the second largest city in the two-county CoC.

Reaching out to homeless persons and assessing their individual needs in CoC and in Rome in particular is done at multiple contact points including the Rome office of the Oneida County Department of Social Services, Rome Rescue Mission’s Welcome Hall soup kitchen and Rome Rescue Mission’s emergency housing programs for men and women, the Mohawk Valley Community Action’s Rome office, the Salvation Army located in central Rome and the Loaves and Fishes community center in central Rome which specializes in connecting with and supporting homeless youth.

Separately, a representative from the City has been actively participating in the Mohawk Valley Anti-Poverty initiative sponsored by Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente, Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi, the Community Foundation, and the United Way of Utica. This effort is in its nascent stage of development but is modeled after the Rochester-Monroe County Anti-Poverty Initiative which began in recent years. The aim of the initiative is to reduce poverty and eliminate homelessness in both rural and urban Oneida County.

**Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

The City of Rome's Department of Community and Economic Development (CED) is currently responsible for the administration of its CDBG program. CDBG projects are carried out by city staff, contractors, and other subrecipients. The City recently finished a CNA which included supplementing the efforts of CED through general fund contracts with Mohawk Valley Edge, a local economic development agency, and will continue to rely on other City Departments and private agencies to help carry out actions identified in the Consolidated and Annual Plans.

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

The City of Rome will continue to serve on the board of the Oneida-Madison County Continuum of Care and is encouraging the commitment of more Rome-based organizations to play an active role in the CoC, with Rome Hospital and the Community Recovery Center having committed to attend meetings beginning back in September 2016 with other organizations attending meetings occasionally. In 2016, the City took an active role as part of the steering committee for the Lead-Free Mohawk Valley Initiative, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida County and has continued as it has almost hit its 2 year mark.  The City's active involvement in this effort will significantly increase CED's understanding of the lead hazard issue, and will hopefully allow for more work to be done within the City on increasing lead hazard awareness, and exercising lead abatement.

**Discussion:**

# Program Specific Requirements

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

**Introduction:**

The City’s proposed projects will benefit at least 70% low/mod.

**Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**

**Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | |
| 1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed | 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. | 71.00% |