



## Executive Summary

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

#### 1. Introduction

Serving as a strong foundation for the following 5 years of CDBG Action Plans (2020-2024), the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan establishes a defined path of community needs and appropriate actions to undertake projects identified through community outreach and adopted community plans with CDBG funding. CDBG funds will be leveraged with a combination of local, state, federal, and private resources to see community improvement and low-moderate income benefit support projects are undertaken and successfully completed which result in true community development and place-based enhancements.

The City of Rome has undertaken multiple planning studies over the past several years to assess and plan for the revitalization and community stabilization and growth of targeted neighborhoods. Many of these planning studies are contained within or overlap the CDBG low to moderate income area map utilizing the most recent 2015 American Communities Survey data. The local adopted plans include the 2017 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) funded through CDBG, 2004 Comprehensive Plan, 2005 Urban Design Plan, Downtown Brownfield Opportunity Area Implementation Plan (BOA) including a housing inventory and real estate analysis, Erie Boulevard Nomination BOA Study including a rental housing market study, 2018 Woodhaven Revitalization Plan including a market analysis of single family, multi-family, and senior housing, and the 2018 New York State (NYS) Downtown Revitalization Initiative Strategic Investment Plan (DRI). Currently, the City of Rome is undertaking an update to the 2008 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) to address the federal requirement to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH) in partnership with the City of Utica. The local planning documents can be found at [www.romenewyork.com](http://www.romenewyork.com) and [www.romerises.com](http://www.romerises.com).

With so many available resources to build the 5 year foundational Consolidated Plan, the challenge of this plan is not producing actionable and implementation items, but prioritizing them based on the identified needs into a realistic and viable strategy. The needs assessments will continue provide strong direction of the identified goals to implement. Each project assisted with CDBG funding, in combination, will touch a spectrum of individuals within the Rome community and will result in a positive benefit to low/moderate income individuals, slums and blight reduction, and economic development opportunities.

As positive economic progress continues through the Mohawk Valley and the City of Rome, it's important to note that over the past decade of Consolidated Planning, the CDBG low/mod target area block groups have expanded into new neighborhoods and census tracts. This data is demonstrated in

the 2015 ACS and on the CPD GIS maps. The City of Rome looks forward to addressing this through implementing community plans and leveraging the CDBG entitlement funding over the next 5 years.

## **2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview**

The City of Rome will target the goals identified within the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) which include the following:

### Goal #1: Expand Employment Opportunities

Projects that assist in and directly are attributed to job growth and retention specifically to low/moderate income individuals and positions will be supported. Economic Development Programs including the Commercial Façade Improvement Program and the Small Business Grant Program, Public Service Subrecipient Grants, and Public Facility improvements can all contribute to expanding employment opportunities.

### Goal #2: Increase Economic Activity

Projects that increase economic activity could include the elimination of slums and blight through the Real Property Site Clearance activity by removing real or perceived barriers to area investment related to brownfields and slum neighborhood properties. Supporting projects that progress BOA and DRI implementation items could include public facility upgrades and public recreation enhancements related to job growth and residential/mixed-use housing development.

### Goal #3: Raise Educational Achievement

Projects that build on public services funded activities will be supported. Emphasis will be placed on supporting the community schools model to transform schools in distressed neighborhoods into service hubs. Projects could include family support, academic support, food and nutrition, and financial literacy. Projects could also include supporting higher education preparatory actions, and workforce development to include both the digital workforce jobs and the construction trades.

### Goal #4: Enhance Local Arts, Cultural, and Tourism Opportunities

Projects that enhance and build a strong community through pedestrian and place-making measures could include activities such as public facility improvements to targeted streets, sidewalks, public spaces and recreation resources will be supported. As Rome has many cultural and tourism assets, projects that support the continued development of targeted neighborhoods, including the Downtown Arts District and surrounding residential neighborhoods, should continue to be supported through public facility and ED funding. CDBG funding will be leveraged by other sources to promote Rome's assets and the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. Continued support for small business development will be undertaken to include both commercial building improvements and other business grant. These initiatives are identified throughout the aforementioned local planning documents.

### Goal #5: Improve Access to Health and Wellness Programs

Projects which advance access to healthy neighborhoods and services will be supported. Activities such as multiuse recreation trail upgrades including ADA accessibility measures, connection to parks and open space/greenways, and other similar public facilities will be undertaken. Public Services will be supported to advance connecting safety and healthcare personnel to at risk community members. At risk community members could include homeless youth, DV victims, and other presumed low/moderate

income families and individuals. Programs that are supported could also include early prevention programs within the community schools, and community events.

Goal #6: Provide Enhanced Housing Opportunities

Projects to support housing opportunities will include continued allocations to slums and blight real property programs, Residential Façade Grants, public facilities funding for targeted neighborhoods and identified priority projects such as new housing developments and downtown mixed-use projects. The City of Rome will affirmatively further fair housing and address the identified issues contained in the Assessment to Impediments such as improving public awareness of fair housing and landlord tenant law explore options of supporting first time homebuyers.

**3. Evaluation of past performance**

In preparation for the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, the City of Rome undertook the 4 step process of assessing the needs of the community through the 2017 Community Needs Assessment (CAN). This assessment expanded upon neighborhood level planning studies which were either completed or in progress and have since been finalized. The CNA was a community-wide assessment and included a community profile; community roundtables including community members, business owners, service providers, municipal staff, HUD representatives, and Cornell Cooperative members; community surveys both digital and paper; and an action plan.

**Economic Development**

The City of Rome has continued to support CDBG allocation to the Commercial Façade Improvement Program (CF). These projects are important to both the businesses and the surrounding neighborhoods as it addresses both an economic and financial feasibility issue with each business, and it also provides a reduction of blighted conditions of historically neglected main street and downtown storefronts. In prior years, the CF has assisted business within the Main Streets District Areas including East Dominick St, West Dominick St, North James St, South James St, and the Downtown Business District.

**Public Services**

The City of Rome in coordination with the Community Development Advisory Committee has released Request for Proposals annually and awarded grants to non-profit organizations for Public Service funding. This program has provided direct benefits to low/moderate income individuals related to youth services, access to health and wellness programs, educational services, domestic violence victims, and employment opportunities. These programs directly assist in-need community residents of the City of Rome.

**Public Facilities**

The City of Rome has strongly supported its public facilities in prior years. Support for its public parks and recreation assets has been acknowledged through equipment upgrades and ADA accessibility enhancements throughout the CDBG target area. Street, sidewalks, and streetscape enhancements have been undertaken within target area neighborhoods to deliver an improved level of accessibility and service, which have been coupled with additional sources of funding to transform neighborhoods into vibrant and proper public realms.

### **Elimination Slums and Blight**

The City of Rome has undertaken significant measures to eliminate slums and blight through the Real Property program. This program includes the assessment, investigation, mitigation, monitoring, and removal of unfit and unsafe structures that negatively impact surrounding properties and neighborhoods. The program includes residential, commercial, and industrial demolitions and supports and leverages the Brownfield Opportunity Areas redevelopment strategies, and brownfield remediation throughout the CDBG target area.

## **4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process**

The Citizen and consultation process included both targeted and broad community outreach and engagement. First, the City developed a series of community surveys which included requests for information on both general and specific issues and requests from the citizens about improving community quality of life and quality of the community overall. Second, the City researched and developed a mailing list of the highest percentage of low/mod housing through the CPD GIS Mapping Tool and developed a custom informational postcard on the Con Plan. The mailing offered a brief statement about the Consolidated Plan, why the surveys and community engagement are important, and directed people towards the online surveys. In addition to the online surveys, the City developed drop box locations for the surveys that were deployed throughout the community generally located at areas of community activity such as public hubs and public services (library, senior centers, etc). Digital platforms were also used and provided the greatest amount of public feedback. Social media including Facebook, Instagram, and twitter were used to disseminate the online surveys, and the city utilized its electronic mail system to distribute the surveys to the community. Next, the City advertised a series a public informational meetings and public hearings on both the Con Plan and Action Plan. These meetings were held both during daytime and nighttime to capture greater participation, and the public hearings were held at several locations both during work hours and the evening. Lastly, several 30-day public comment periods allowed the community to review the plans and comment formally. As the bookend of the 30-day comment period, the local Common Council was tasked with publicly advertising the intent to submit the Con Plan and Action Plan to HUD through local legislation. The Common Council meetings were advertised and open to the public and the Council allows for public comments on the meeting's agenda.

## **5. Summary of public comments**

## Demo

The City of Rome received comments from public meetings & hearing, online and in person surveys, and 30 day comment periods on the spending plan for the Annual Action Plan as well as the Consolidated Plan. The City took additional measures to maximize community involvement throughout this process. The applicable and very useful comments received allowed us to evaluate the gaps in our community from those directly affected. We can now take the data collected from the surveys which requested site specific activities for each project level, and create a priority list of activities to be awarded throughout the program year. The City also received comments from developers wishing to meet a need in the community of supportive affordable housing for our seniors. Along with trail enhancements, demolition, and commercial facade projects identified from the community, they also stated affordable housing needs. Housing and mixed-use development projects will be supported through public facility and economic development funding as appropriate. CDBG funding will provide the important gap funding for these projects to make each project complete and transformational.

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

There were no comments not accepted.

### **7. Summary**

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

## The Process

### PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	ROME	Ashley D'Amore

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

### Narrative

#### Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

The City of Rome’s Community and Economic Development staff is responsible for the preparation of the Annual Action Plans (AAP) as well as the 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan along with the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER). Such staff is responsible for administering the CDBG grant program each year.

## **PR-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.110, 91.200(b), 91.300(b), 91.215(I) and 91.315(I)**

### **1. Introduction**

The City of Rome continues to have a close working relationship with local organizations and agencies whose goals and initiatives align with those of the community and the CDBG Program.

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

The City of Rome has been an active member of 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 house providers with units in Rome including ACR health, YWCA of the Mohawk Valley, Catholic Charities of Oneida and Madison County, Ican, Helio Health) 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**

Over the past 14 years, the City of Rome has been a key partner in the Utica/Rome, Oneida and Madison Counties Continuum of Care (CoC NY-518). Locally known as the Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition, this region has a comprehensive set of emergency and supportive housing resources available to the residents of the City of Rome, which makes up 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](http://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 and evaluate outcomes, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the 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 jurisdictions consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities**

**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	City of Rome
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	All of the Above
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	All City Departments were consulted during this process to make sure all of the needs of each department as well as Council members to cover all aspects of the City were included. City Hall was also a drop box location.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	ROME HOUSING AUTHORITY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Public Housing Needs
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The RHA was consulted for data for the public housing sections, as well as some updates on current housing projects and any new updates they felt applicable. The RHA was also a drop box location for the public surveys which requested insight from the community on how CDBG funds should be spent over the next 5 years.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Mohawk Valley Continuum of Care
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Lead-based Paint Strategy Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Coc helped in updates with point in time data, as well as detailed narratives on certain homelessness sections of the plan that incorporated new projects and updates to programs.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Rome Alliance for Education
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Education

Demo

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Drop box location
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Rome Alliance for Education was a drop box location for the public surveys which requested insight from the community on how CDBG funds should be spent over the next 5 years.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Mohawk Valley Community College
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Drop box location
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	MVCC was a drop box location for the public surveys which requested insight from the community on how CDBG funds should be spent over the next 5 years.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Rome Jervis Library
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Public Library
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Drop box location
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Jervis Library was a drop box location for the public surveys which requested insight from the community on how CDBG funds should be spent over the next 5 years.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	SOUTH ROME SENIOR CENTER
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Drop box location
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	South Rome Senior Center was a drop box location for the public surveys which requested insight from the community on how CDBG funds should be spent over the next 5 years.
8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	AVA DORFMANN SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons

Demo

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Drop box location
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Now known as Copper City Connections, was a drop box location for the public surveys which requested insight from the community on how CDBG funds should be spent over the next 5 years.
9	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC)
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Planning Committee
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	2020 Spending plan
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The CDAC committee meets periodically throughout the program year, for the purpose of this plan they met to go over prior year's spending plans to make the 2020 spending plan recommendations to the Mayor. They also included input on where funding should be spent throughout the next 5 years, and filled out the community surveys.
10	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	YMCA OF THE GREATER TRI-VALLEY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Drop box locations
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The YMCA was a drop box location for the public surveys which requested insight from the community on how CDBG funds should be spent over the next 5 years.

**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 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**

**Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))**

Federal funds will be used to leverage local, state, private and other sources of funding to progress community development initiatives and implement related projects to culminate in an improved well-rounded quality community. The City works with a myriad of local, state, and federal agencies to progress community development goals. These agencies include but are not limited to Rome City School District, Oneida County, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Department of State, NYS Department of Transportation, NYS Environmental Facilities Corp, NYS Canal Corporation, National Grid, NYS Empire State Development, NYS Homes and Community Renewal, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Public service dollars will be used to leverage local private and public organizational funding for programs aimed to benefit low to moderate income residents including domestic violence shelters, and youth education and at risk preventative programs. Public facility dollars will be used to leverage a combination of New York State, private developers, and federal funding to support and enhance community development and housing projects. These projects will include pedestrian accessibility and streetscape enhancements throughout the Main Streets areas, Brownfield Opportunity Areas, Woodhaven Redevelopment Area, and the Downtown Revitalization Initiative area. Funding will leverage projects which include job creation, low to moderate income individual benefits, and elimination of slums and blight. Public facilities will also include targeted improvements to target area

## Demo

parks and brownfield sites, which will be leveraged with local, state, and federal dollars as necessary. Housing and mixed-use development projects will be supported through public facility and economic development funding as appropriate. CDBG funding will provide the important gap funding for these projects to make each project complete and transformational.

### **Narrative (optional):**

## **PR-15 Citizen Participation – 91.105, 91.115, 91.200(c) and 91.300(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, to the greatest extent possible created a pathway for all citizens to exercise their voice and influence on the CDBG Consolidation and Action Plan. In addition to the baseline requirements of the Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), the City of Rome expanded their outreach efforts beyond the traditional methods of community outreach and engagement. A strong effort was made to reach as many members of the community as possible, with a special emphasis on efforts to encourage participation from low/moderate income persons, residents of blighted neighborhoods, and predominately low/moderate income areas, public housing residents, local and regional institutions and other organizations (including businesses, developers, and nonprofit organizations). The City of Rome deployed community drop box locations at community hubs. The drop boxes included a large display and sheet information on the CDBG Con Plan focused on the following topics:

- Public Services
- Vacant Structures/Slums & Blight and Public Facilities
- Commercial Facades/ Economic Development Programs
- Passive and Active Parks

The drop box displays and 4 different surveys were situated at 7 public locations around the City (Rome Jervis Public Library, South Rome Senior Center, YMCA of the Greater Tri Valley, Mohawk Valley Community College, Rome Alliance for Education, Copper City Connections, and Rome City Hall). The City continued with 4 public meetings, two at lunch time and two after work hours, all at a local downtown organizations. In addition, we also held 2 public hearings one at lunch time and one after work hours, located directly at City Hall. The drop box surveys displayed around the City were also available online for those unaware of the drop box locations or who were unable to reach the locations due to transportation issues. The links to the 4 different surveys were posted on multiple occasions on the City's social media platforms, as well as sent out by email. Before launching the survey's, the City created over 500 post cards that were mailed to residents living in the highest percentage of low/moderate income census tracts within the City of Rome with links to the surveys and a brief description of why the feedback was so essential. We also held two separate 30-day public comment periods, one on the Annual Action Plan's spending plan, and one on the 2020-2040 Consolidated Plan. The City focused heavily on the 4 surveys that were distributed throughout the 7 drop box locations and posted online for building the Con Plan and Action Plan.

Demo

The City is also currently, in partnership with the City of Utica, undertaking updating the Analysis of Impediments of Fair Housing Choice (AI). This process includes between 5 and 12 community and stakeholder meetings and consultation with involved fair housing organizations. The issues identified as part of the 2008 AI for the Cities of Rome and Utica will be updated and addressed through the Action Plans.

**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	Postcard Mailings	Targeted/location specific	500 postcards were sent out to specific low/moderate target neighborhoods	N/A	N/A	N/A

Demo

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	There were 204 respondents to the online survey.	The comments received from the online and hard copy surveys continued to base around the same priorities identified in the Community Needs Assessments, as well as other local planning documents mentioned throughout this plan that the City has continued to use as a roadmap while	There were no comments that were not accepted.	<a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CommercialFace">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CommercialFace</a> <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PublicServices">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PublicServices</a> <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Passiv">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Passiv</a>

Consolidated Plan

ROME

Demo

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Postcard Mailings	Targeted/location specific	44 hard copy surveys were filled out and submitted into the drop box locations. Most of the surveys completed were located at Rome City Hall.	The comments received from the online and hard copy surveys continued to base around the same priorities identified in the Community Needs Assessments, as well as other local planning documents mentioned throughout this plan that the City has continued to use as a roadmap while ROME	There were no comments that were not accepted.	N/A

Consolidated Plan

Demo

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)
4	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	0 residents attended the noon or 5pm October 15th meeting.	No comments were received during this time.	There were no comments that were not accepted.	N/A
5	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	0 residents attended the noon or 5pm October 16th meeting.	No comments were received during this time.	There were no comments that were not accepted.	N/A
6	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	0 residents attended the November 14th 5pm hearing.	No comments were received during this time.	There were no comments that were not accepted.	N/A

Demo

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)
7	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	No comments were received during this time of the 30 day spending plan comment period. The comment period was held December 9, 2019 and ended January 8, 2020.	No comments were received during this time.	There were no comments that were not accepted.	N/A

Demo

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)
8	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	1 during the 30 day comment period for the Con plan draft. The comment period was held March 9th and ended April 7th.	The only comment received was from a developer with plans to do a housing project located in north Rome that would have 48 affordable supportive housing units for seniors within the community.	There were no comments that were not accepted.	N/A

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

## Needs Assessment

### NA-05 Overview

#### Needs Assessment Overview

The City of Rome utilized the 2015 American Communities Survey data as the default needs assessment data. The online CPD GIS mapping tool, results from the public outreach and community input, locally adopted neighborhood redevelopment plans, the Community Needs Assessment, and the consultation process with the Continuum of Care and Community Development Advisory Committee were used to prioritize the community needs.

Based on the data provided, the most pronounced problem with housing overall is the housing cost burden from 30-50 % of income with no other problems such as substandard housing and overcrowding.

## NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment - 24 CFR 91.205 (a,b,c)

### Summary of Housing Needs

The total population of the City of Rome decreased from years 2009 to 2015 by 2% or 810 individuals. While a total number of households was reduced by 828, there was a rise in median income between years 2009 and 2015 by 11% from \$39,007 to \$43,323.

Demographics	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2015	% Change
Population	33,725	32,915	-2%
Households	14,068	13,240	-6%
Median Income	\$39,007.00	\$43,323.00	11%

**Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics**

Data Source: 2005-2009 ACS (Base Year), 2011-2015 ACS (Most Recent Year)

### Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	1,870	1,520	2,670	1,390	5,785
Small Family Households	455	515	800	425	2,775
Large Family Households	110	60	70	80	350
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	435	390	520	285	1,335
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	239	280	530	280	485
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	290	375	359	220	440

**Table 6 - Total Households Table**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

**Housing Needs Summary Tables**

1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
<b>NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	60	40	15	0	115	0	0	15	0	15
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	15	10	15	10	50	0	0	4	0	4
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	30	4	4	60	98	4	0	0	0	4
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	890	245	40	0	1,175	280	185	150	45	660
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	205	415	495	25	1,140	30	185	390	165	770

Demo

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	75	0	0	0	75	50	0	0	0	50

**Table 7 – Housing Problems Table**

Data 2011-2015 CHAS  
Source:

2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
<b>NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	995	300	70	70	1,435	285	185	175	45	690
Having none of four housing problems	410	750	1,385	435	2,980	50	285	1,040	840	2,215
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	75	0	0	0	75	50	0	0	0	50

**Table 8 – Housing Problems 2**

Data 2011-2015 CHAS  
Source:

3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
<b>NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>								
Small Related	350	345	165	860	65	50	175	290
Large Related	75	15	20	110	20	20	15	55
Elderly	345	240	144	729	155	225	195	575
Other	400	115	205	720	75	80	150	305

Demo

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Total need by income	1,170	715	534	2,419	315	375	535	1,225

Table 9 – Cost Burden > 30%

Data 2011-2015 CHAS  
Source:

4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	310	90	10	410	50	30	15	95
Large Related	65	0	0	65	20	0	0	20
Elderly	265	120	4	389	140	110	65	315
Other	300	35	25	360	75	50	70	195
Total need by income	940	245	39	1,224	285	190	150	625

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data 2011-2015 CHAS  
Source:

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	45	10	19	60	134	4	0	4	0	8
Multiple, unrelated family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other, non-family households	0	4	0	10	14	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	45	14	19	70	148	4	0	4	0	8

Table 11 – Crowding Information – 1/2

Data 2011-2015 CHAS  
Source:

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Households with Children Present	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 12 – Crowding Information – 2/2

Data Source  
Comments:

**Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.**

According to the data provided, there are a total of 134 single family households who are renters living at or below the AMI that are dealing with overcrowding and are in need of assistance. There are a total of 8 single family households that are at or below the AMI who own their homes that are dealing with overcrowding and are in need of assistance. In reviewing the data on the CPD Mapping Tool, there was no apparent connection between any one individual census tract or tracts and the issue of overcrowding of single family households.

**Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.**

The local women and children domestic violence shelter has estimated that they will serve an estimated 175 women and children who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking over the next 5 years. The Rome Housing Authority’s Section 8 waiting list indicates that there are 79 applicants who have at least one family member who is disabled.

**What are the most common housing problems?**

Of the 4 main types of housing problems, cost burden is demonstrated as the most common housing issue facing Rome residents. 2,315 renters at or below AMI are experiencing a cost burden and 1,430 owners at or below AMI are also experiencing such a burden.

**Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?**

Its noted that 38% of the total housing cost burden is being experienced by owners vs a total of 62% of renters experiencing the same burdens. So, 2/3rds of the total affect cost burden cohorts are renters.

**Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the**

**needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance**

The Continuum of Care agency works with families that are living combined with other families who are in need of assistance due to 1 of the 4 housing problems noted above. Families who are cohabitating with other families are imminent risk of becoming homeless. Families are in this situation due to lack or change in employment, a change in family make-up, and/or substandard housing conditions that they are moving from. Needs of these families include:

1. Permanent full-time employment with a living wage
2. Affordable Housing/Fair Housing
3. Reliable Transportation
4. Support services on an as-needed basis

**If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:**

The jurisdiction does not estimate the at risk population in Rome.

**Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness**

A renter at less than 30% AMI having 1 or more of the housing problems identified above have an increased risk of homelessness totaling 995 within the City of Rome.

**Discussion**

**NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)**

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

**Introduction**

The City of Rome total current population estimates based on the data provided is 32,915 people. Based on the below numbers, there is no significantly higher percentage of housing needs based on racial backgrounds. The data shows that 12.5% of whites have experienced housing needs, 2.8% of blacks have experienced housing needs, and 13.4% of other have experienced housing needs. There is no apparent housing needs based on racial backgrounds alone, and it seems that equal opportunities exist for housing within the City of Rome. With Rome’s community not being as diverse as some other metro communities, its important for Rome to continue to work on keeping inequality housing needs properly addressed as they arise.

**0%-30% of Area Median Income**

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,515	225	125
White	1,365	210	105
Black / African American	4	10	0
Asian	20	4	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	15	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	75	0	0

**Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room,
4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

**30%-50% of Area Median Income**

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,090	430	0
White	1,015	385	0
Black / African American	10	30	0
Asian	10	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	19	15	0

**Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room,
4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

**50%-80% of Area Median Income**

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,125	1,540	0
White	945	1,470	0
Black / African American	50	25	0
Asian	35	4	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	55	40	0

**Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room,
4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

**80%-100% of Area Median Income**

<b>Housing Problems</b>	<b>Has one or more of four housing problems</b>	<b>Has none of the four housing problems</b>	<b>Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems</b>
Jurisdiction as a whole	305	1,085	0
White	290	1,000	0
Black / African American	0	40	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	15	50	0

**Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room,
4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

**Discussion**

**NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)**

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

**Introduction**

The City of Rome total current population estimates based on the data provided is 32,915 people. Based on the below numbers, there is no significantly higher percentage of severe housing needs based on racial backgrounds. The data shows that 6.6% of whites have experienced housing needs, .6% of blacks have experienced housing needs, and 8% of other have experienced housing needs. There is no apparent severe housing needs based on racial backgrounds alone, and it seems that equal opportunities exist for housing within the City of Rome. With Rome’s community not being as diverse as some other metro communities, it’s important for Rome to continue to work on keeping inequality housing needs properly addressed as they arise.

**0%-30% of Area Median Income**

<b>Severe Housing Problems*</b>	<b>Has one or more of four housing problems</b>	<b>Has none of the four housing problems</b>	<b>Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems</b>
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,280	460	125
White	1,175	400	105
Black / African American	4	10	0
Asian	20	4	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	10	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	50	25	0

**Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

\*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than 1.5 persons per room,
4. Cost Burden over 50%

**30%-50% of Area Median Income**

<b>Severe Housing Problems*</b>	<b>Has one or more of four housing problems</b>	<b>Has none of the four housing problems</b>	<b>Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems</b>
Jurisdiction as a whole	485	1,035	0
White	435	970	0
Black / African American	10	30	0
Asian	10	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	4	25	0

**Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

\*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

**50%-80% of Area Median Income**

<b>Severe Housing Problems*</b>	<b>Has one or more of four housing problems</b>	<b>Has none of the four housing problems</b>	<b>Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems</b>
Jurisdiction as a whole	245	2,425	0
White	180	2,235	0
Black / African American	0	75	0
Asian	4	40	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	55	40	0

**Table 19 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

\*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

**80%-100% of Area Median Income**

<b>Severe Housing Problems*</b>	<b>Has one or more of four housing problems</b>	<b>Has none of the four housing problems</b>	<b>Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems</b>
Jurisdiction as a whole	115	1,275	0
White	115	1,175	0
Black / African American	0	40	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	65	0

**Table 20 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

\*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than 1.5 persons per room,
4. Cost Burden over 50%

**Discussion**

**NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens – 91.205 (b)(2)**

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

**Introduction:**

Based on the data below there is a larger housing cost burden for whites at 44% which is a significantly higher percentage than all other races. The housing cost burden for blacks is approximately 21% and all other races is 29%.

The City of Rome through several market analysis studies and public neighborhood plans has understood that there is a need for more fair wage jobs which will ultimately work to ease housing cost burdens over time. The City of Rome is committed to supporting economic development projects that will assist in job creation. Recently, a distribution facility and advanced manufacturing facility have announced that they will be breaking ground on new projects sites in Rome that will include more than 500 new jobs which do not require an advanced degree beyond a high school diploma. The City of Rome will continue to support its economic development projects with public facilities improvements to better connect neighborhoods to places of employment, and through business development grants which could include the commercial façade and business grant programs.

**Housing Cost Burden**

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	9,015	2,150	1,905	155
White	8,205	1,955	1,700	135
Black / African American	380	50	14	0
Asian	130	30	30	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	10	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	240	55	110	0

**Table 21 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

**Discussion:**

### **NA-30 Disproportionately Greater Need: Discussion – 91.205(b)(2)**

#### **Are there any Income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?**

There are no income categories in which racial or ethnic group has a disproportionately greater need than the needs of the income category as a whole.

#### **If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?**

The needs not outlined in the charts above include improved incomes, job creation/availability, housing improvements, homebuyer education, removal of brownfields and blighted structures, public services such as translation and transportation services, and improved connectivity to job centers. Rental housing built before 1980 and 1949 is shown on the CPD mapping tool as prevalent within the CDBG low/moderate income target area. The overall condition of the housing is considered fair and is actively enforced through local codes enforcement. It should be noted that continued efforts should be made to enforce zoning laws/building codes, seek out and eliminate blighted properties, and assess and plan for continued housing rehabilitation efforts; which could include tax credit programs as through the NYS and federal preservation laws for historic properties.

#### **Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?**

Based on the CPD mapping tool, there is no identified census tract that demonstrates an imbalance in population of racial or ethnic groups. 3 census tracts within the low/moderate income target area demonstrate a black population over 5%, and one census tract outside of the low/mod area demonstrates 30% black population. However, this tract includes a NYS prison (Mohawk Correctional Facility).

## NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

### Introduction

The Rome Housing Authority (RHA) is the owner, manager, and administrator of subsidized, assisted housing projects and programs for the benefit of lower income elderly, disabled, handicapped individuals and families residing primarily within the City of Rome. These projects and programs receive financial subsidies and operate pursuant to the policies, rules, and regulations of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and New York State Homes and Community Renewal. The RHA is designated as a high performer for the Public Housing Assessment System with a score of 98% for the federal programming.

### Totals in Use

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	0	0	326	397	1	383	13	0	0

**Table 22 - Public Housing by Program Type**

**\*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

**Characteristics of Residents**

	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher	
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
Average Annual Income	0	0	12,820	12,373	11,700	12,386	12,033	0
Average length of stay	0	0	5	5	0	5	0	0
Average Household size	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	0
# Homeless at admission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	0	138	122	0	122	0	0
# of Disabled Families	0	0	150	147	0	142	5	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	0	326	397	1	383	13	0
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 23 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type**

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

**Race of Residents**

Race	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	0	312	351	1	339	11	0	0
Black/African American	0	0	13	40	0	39	1	0	0
Asian	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**\*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**

**Table 24 – Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type**

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

**Ethnicity of Residents**

Ethnicity	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	0	14	45	0	45	0	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	0	312	352	1	338	13	0	0

**\*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**

**Table 25 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type**

**Data Source:** PIC (PIH Information Center)

**Section 504 Needs Assessment: Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units:**

As previously outlined in the 2015-2019 Con Plan, a greater variety of multi-bedroom handicapped units were identified as in need. A greater need for wheelchair accessibility, wider hallways and doorways, ramping, railings, and elevator access was also identified. The Rome Housing Authority has undertaken significant steps to see these improvements were addressed. Liberty Gardens renovations have been completed and the project now includes 6 fully accessible 1 bedroom units, 6 visit able 1 bedroom units, 5 accessible 2 bedroom units, 2 accessible 3 bedroom units, and 1 accessible 4 bedroom unit. Further, Colonial 1 Apartments has undergone a complete renovation and includes 2 accessible efficiency units, and 7 accessible 1 bedroom units. Colonial 2 Apartment is in the planning stages of its renovation at this time and will be addressing the same accessibility issues during the design and renovation.

The Analysis to Impediments of Fair Housing is being completed and will be integrated into the subsequent annual action plans and amended as needed. It's not anticipated that substantial variation in needs from the 2008 assessment will be shown based on the provided demographics in the American Communities Survey.

**Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice voucher holders**

Section 8 affordable housing availability and education for both landlords and tenants regarding new legislated laws for landlords and tenants. Currently, there are 748 individuals and families on waiting lists for Public Housing Section 8 vouchers within the City of Rome. As noted previously, accessibility is a major need for some public housing residents, and that need is being addressed through capital projects and renovations to the Rome Housing Authority projects.

**How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large**

The needs of public housing residents are similar to those of the overall population of Rome. Those needs include transportation options, connectivity and accessibility, safe living conditions and neighborhoods, etc. The issues that are problematic with low to moderate income residents experiencing a cost burden could be more pressing for those who do not reside in public housing or have a housing voucher. Currently, the population at large is experiencing a lack of market or luxury housing or apartments, which is creating a market gap in the workforce within some employment sectors. The lack of mid-market and higher end housing hurts recruitment and thus employment. Projects such as the DeWitt-Clinton (80 unit low/mod and mid-market) project and the Copper City Lofts (64 unit low/mod and mid-market), and the Air City Lofts (luxury 84 unit apartment mixed-use) project will all assist in providing the required housing that has been identified as a market gap.

**Discussion**

## NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)

### Introduction:

Currently our CoC and community utilizes the Coordinated Entry Housing assessment and VI-SPDAT tool to determine housing needs and to identify barriers or issues that a client may have. This assessment is done by either the shelter in which the client resides, our Coordinated Entry Specialist or by providers who have been trained to complete the assessment. We utilize the no wrong door approach and can link clients to someone who can complete the assessment at any time. Upon completion of the assessment, clients are placed on a master list and are prioritized based on length of stay, chronic homelessness, those who are experiencing Domestic Violence, are Veterans or who are street homeless. This assessment is also used to determine program eligibility and aids in identifying additional needs and gaps in services that the client may have. Monthly case conferences occur to discuss the most complex cases for both Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. Additionally, we have task forces specific to Veterans and Runaway Homeless Youth to address the specific needs of these populations.

### Homeless Needs Assessment

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	3	44	0	0	0	0
Persons in Households with Only Children	0	2	0	0	0	0
Persons in Households with Only Adults	11	108	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Individuals	0	6	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	1	12	0	0	0	0
Unaccompanied Child	0	19	0	0	0	0
Persons with HIV	0	2	0	0	0	0

**Table 26 - Homeless Needs Assessment**

**Data Source Comments:**

Indicate if the homeless population is: Has No Rural Homeless

**If data is not available for the categories "number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year," and "number of days that persons experience homelessness," describe these categories for each homeless population type (including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth):**

**Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)**

<b>Race:</b>	<b>Sheltered:</b>	<b>Unsheltered (optional)</b>
White	0	0
Black or African American	0	0
Asian	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0
<b>Ethnicity:</b>	<b>Sheltered:</b>	<b>Unsheltered (optional)</b>
Hispanic	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	0

Data Source  
Comments:

**Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.**

The 2019 data for Madison and Oneida Counties indicates that a total of 14 families with at least one adult and one child were homeless and in need of assistance. Also in 2019, the data indicated that 1 veteran household with at least 1 adult and 1 child was in need of housing assistance, 10 veterans households without children were in need of assistance.

Homeless families in the City of Rome have both emergency and transitional housing options. Homeless households with children are identified and served quickly by the Rome Rescue Mission, or the Johnson Park Family Shelter. If the families identify as domestic violence victims they could be served by either Lucy’s House in Rome or Willow Commons in Utica. Evelyn’s House in Utica just underwent upgrades and services young, homeless mothers and children providing 24/7 support, and is available to Rome residents.

Currently, there are few homeless veterans in Rome due mainly to 3 existing program options for homeless veterans. Two VA SSVF programs serve Rome veterans and their family members provide outreach and immediate emergency housing and the Rome Housing Authority manages 35 VASH (permanent supporting housing) vouchers for homeless veterans and other members of their household. In 2020 DePaul Properties will open the DeWitt-Clinton Apartments and Condos. This project will provide housing options with access to health services with 84 total units. The project is a mix of affordable and mid-market housing rates and will help support veteran housing options within the Rome community.

**Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.**

In 2019, the total number of households that were homeless within Utica/Rome/Oneida and Madison Counties was 134 with a total of 168 people and 30 of those were under the age of 18. The total number of racial and ethnic individuals who were documented as homeless in 2019 were 154 Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino, 14 Hispanic/Latino, 39 Black or African American, 2 Asian, 1 Native American, 2 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Of households with ethnicity and at least one adult and one child there was a total of 42 non-Hispanic/non-Latino, and 5 Hispanic/Latino individuals. Racially, there was a total of 6 Black or African Americans, and 5 Multiple Race individuals in the same cohort. There were 2 Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino individuals in households with children only, and 1 individual of Multiple Races. Households without children included 110 Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino, 9 Hispanic/Latino, 33 Black or African American, 2 Asian, 1 American Indian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 4 Multiple Race.

### **Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.**

The total number of homeless households in 2019 within Madison and Oneida County was 134 with 12 of those being unsheltered vs 122 sheltered. Of that total household count there were 168 people of which 14 were unsheltered. There was a total of 30 children under the age of 18 of which 1 was unsheltered. 4 females and 8 males were unsheltered with a total of 69 and 96 respectively. There was 1 unsheltered transgender and 1 unsheltered gender non-conforming. By race and ethnicity there were 14 Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino unsheltered and 140 sheltered, 9 Hispanic sheltered, 38 Black or African American sheltered and 1 unsheltered, 2 Asian sheltered, 1 American Indian unsheltered, and 1 sheltered Native Hawaiian and 1 unsheltered.

### **Discussion:**

## **NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment - 91.205 (b,d)**

### **Introduction:**

The City of Rome also addresses non-homeless special needs community members through public service funding and public facilities funding. Each year the City of Rome allocates a significant portion of the CDBG entitlement funding to making the public spaces, around the community and within the target area specifically, more safe and accessible through street, sidewalk, and public park upgrades focused on ADA accessibility. Prior to the American with Disabilities Act, many public spaces were nearly impossible for a special needs resident to navigate. Abrupt curbs drops and steep walk ramps created a serious issue for those populations that were disabled. The City has been making progress on public space improvement for the special needs through facility upgrades within the public rights of ways and the City parks system. Public services including the ramps and rails program and SAFE through the Homeownership Center have allowed special needs residents include the elderly and disabled to improve the physical conditions of their homes. The City will continue to support these and similar activities so assist the special needs community.

### **Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:**

The City of Rome has a diverse special needs population characterized by those individuals whom are elderly (age 62 and older), frail elderly (elderly person who requires assistance with 3 or more activities of daily living), persons with mental, physical and/or developmental disabilities, persons with alcohol and/or other drug addiction, victims of domestic violence, and persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

### **What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?**

Although the Coc itself does not work directly with the special needs population, the local Housing and Homelessness Coalition meetings put on by the Continuum are made up of a multitude of public service organizations and agencies from all over the Mohawk Valley. This allows for local services to overlap in a way that isn't funded directly through Coc programs, yet can still help bridge a gap in the community of housing and support services.

### **Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:**

The HIV/AIDS population within Rome is small as is Rome's total population comparatively to other metros throughout the US. The City of Rome does however have support services to help those who are

affected by HIV/AIDS. Affected individuals and families have access to proper care and treatment within the City of Rome.

**Discussion:**

## **NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs – 91.215 (f)**

### **Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Facilities:**

Identified needs for public facility improvements include street and sidewalk upgrades, downtown beautification and blight reduction, improvements to parks and recreational trails and greenways, youth areas, brownfield remediation, and pedestrian and bicycle and other alternative transportation connectivity.

### **How were these needs determined?**

These needs were identified through several community planning documents including the Community Needs Assessment, Downtown BOA, Erie Boulevard BOA, Comprehensive Plan, Urban Design Plan, and the Woodhaven Redevelopment Plan. Each of these recently adopted plans include public engagement activities to solicit public input and direction as all community based planning efforts. The needs were also developed through a series of public engagements and informational meetings regarding the 2020-2024 CDBG Con Plan and Annual Action Plan including the CDAC Committee meetings.

### **Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Improvements:**

As a City that was incorporated 150 years ago this year, the public facilities themselves include both historic, aging, and rebuilt infrastructure that is forever changing. As one of the largest land area communities in the US, the City of Rome is burdened with an overall low population compared to its infrastructure footprint and the maintenance required to keep such facilities in good and safe order for its residents. Within the CDBG target area there is a need to address infrastructure including streets, sidewalks, water infrastructure, sewer infrastructure, signage, street trees, lighting, and overall streetscapes. In addition to the street networks, the CDBG target area also includes several public parks and recreation trails which are heavily utilized by the community which are in constant need of upgrades and enhancements to meet the demands of an ever evolving community.

### **How were these needs determined?**

These needs were identified through several community planning documents including the Community Needs Assessment, Downtown BOA, Erie Boulevard BOA, Comprehensive Plan, Urban Design Plan, and the Woodhaven Redevelopment Plan. Each of these recently adopted plans include public engagement activities to solicit public input and direction as all community based planning efforts. The needs were also developed through a series of public engagements and informational meetings regarding the 2020-2024 CDBG Con Plan and Annual Action Plan including the CDAC Committee meetings.

### **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:**

Public service needs within the City of Rome include but are not limited to senior services, youth services, family services, transportation services, services for battered and abused spouses, health services, services for neglected and abused children, substance abuse services, employment training and job skill building, crime awareness, fair housing counseling, child care, end of life care, and mental health services. Noted as top public service priorities in the CNA were neighborhood development organizations, homebuyer and housing services, job training, childcare services, and education programs.

### **How were these needs determined?**

The Community Needs Assessment was utilized in determining priority community actions and identifying community needs including public services. Annually, the City of Rome in consultation with the Community Development Advisory Committee advertises the Public Services Request for Proposals. Local non-profit organization can submit proposals to be reviewed by the Community Development Advisory Committee and the Mayor's Office. With recommendation from the advisory committee, the Mayor awards grants to those agencies whose programs will benefit Rome residents who are of low to moderate income individuals or families.

# Housing Market Analysis

## MA-05 Overview

### Housing Market Analysis Overview:

This section provides information on the affordability and condition of the housing market in the City of Rome. The data tables populated by HUD using the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) five year data set allow us to look at the total number of housing units in Rome and see what and where we are lacking as a community in conjunction with the recommendations of our Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. ACS data shows that the City has a total of 15,235 housing units with 13,234 units (86.9%) occupied, split between 7,204 (54.4%) owner-occupied and 6,030 (45.6%) renter-occupied units. The total percentage of renter-occupied units has increase over the past 5 years, in turn the percentage of owner-occupied units have decreased. This is a trend that has been seen nationwide, people are more likely to rent than own and we are continuing to see a need for this, especially for our aging population.

## MA-10 Number of Housing Units – 91.210(a)&(b)(2)

### Introduction

#### All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	8,325	55%
1-unit, attached structure	240	2%
2-4 units	4,105	27%
5-19 units	1,235	8%
20 or more units	865	6%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	465	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,235</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 27 – Residential Properties by Unit Number**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

#### Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	4	0%	125	2%
1 bedroom	120	2%	1,855	31%
2 bedrooms	1,580	22%	2,415	40%
3 or more bedrooms	5,500	76%	1,635	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,030</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 28 – Unit Size by Tenure**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

#### Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs.

The Rome Housing Authority currently has public housing units located in the newly renovated Colonial I, Colonial II and Valentine Apartments. The RHA also manages the recently renovated Section 8 housing complex Liberty Gardens. With over half of the property type of residential structures being 1 unit detached structures, the City has begun working with a subrecipient to manage a residential façade program, to help residents who income qualifies for funding the opportunity to improve the façade of their property and help alleviate blighted neighborhoods.

#### Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.

The City of Rome does not anticipate any units being lost from the affordable housing inventory.

**Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?**

Rome has historically not had a housing shortage, and affordability has been strong compared to the national average, but this is no longer the case. Currently, there is an extensive waiting list for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, households on the waiting list for the elderly/disabled facilities and households on the waiting list for public housing for extremely low and low-income families - and the low to moderate income elderly.

**Describe the need for specific types of housing:**

With 76% of the housing units having 3 or more bedrooms for those owning homes, and 40% of renters occupying 2 bedroom units, it is to be said larger scale housing at a affordable rate is a needed to meet the needs of the residents of Rome.

**Discussion**

## MA-15 Housing Market Analysis: Cost of Housing - 91.210(a)

### Introduction

### Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2015	% Change
Median Home Value	83,600	90,500	8%
Median Contract Rent	430	574	33%

**Table 29 – Cost of Housing**

Data Source: 2005-2009 ACS (Base Year), 2011-2015 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	2,160	35.8%
\$500-999	3,680	61.0%
\$1,000-1,499	95	1.6%
\$1,500-1,999	55	0.9%
\$2,000 or more	34	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,024</b>	<b>99.9%</b>

**Table 30 - Rent Paid**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

### Housing Affordability

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	470	No Data
50% HAMFI	1,625	730
80% HAMFI	3,965	1,985
100% HAMFI	No Data	2,943
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,060</b>	<b>5,658</b>

**Table 31 – Housing Affordability**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

### Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	0	0	0	0	0
High HOME Rent	0	0	0	0	0

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Low HOME Rent	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 32 – Monthly Rent**

Data Source Comments:

**Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?**

Unfortunately, there is not sufficient housing for housing for households at all income levels within the City of Rome. Rome has sufficient housing stock for those individuals and families making above the area median income, but for those individuals and families below the median income, especially in the extremely low to low range, the need for affordable housing is critical.

**How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?**

Affordability of housing is on the decline as the cost of housing for both owners and renters is outpacing the growth of median income.

**How do HOME rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?**

The Fair Market Rent and Area Median Rent does not to have a large enough difference to where we would need to alter our strategy of producing or preserving affordable housing in any way.

**Discussion**

## MA-20 Housing Market Analysis: Condition of Housing – 91.210(a)

### Introduction

The following section outlines “selected” housing conditions as defined by the Census. The first two conditions refer to the housing unit, while the remaining two conditions refer to the household. The Census defines a “selected” condition as:

- Lacking complete plumbing facilities
- Lacking complete kitchen facilities
- More than one person per room
- Housing cost burden greater than 30% of household income

### Definitions

The City of Rome uses the following definitions for "substandard condition" and "substandard condition but suitable for rehabilitation":

*Substandard* means a housing unit lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities.

*Substandard suitable for rehabilitation* means a housing unit, or in the case of multiple unit buildings the building or buildings containing the housing units, which have at least three major systems in need of replacement or repair and the estimated cost of making the needed replacements and the repairs is less than 75% of the estimated cost of new construction of a comparable unit or units.

### Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	1,650	23%	2,430	40%
With two selected Conditions	4	0%	160	3%
With three selected Conditions	0	0%	4	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	5,550	77%	3,435	57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 33 - Condition of Units**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	120	2%	80	1%
1980-1999	730	10%	795	13%
1950-1979	3,100	43%	2,370	39%
Before 1950	3,260	45%	2,785	46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,210</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,030</b>	<b>99%</b>

**Table 34 – Year Unit Built**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

## Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	6,360	88%	5,155	85%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	204	3%	90	1%

**Table 35 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS (Total Units) 2011-2015 CHAS (Units with Children present)

## Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units	0	0	0
Abandoned Vacant Units	0	0	0
REO Properties	0	0	0
Abandoned REO Properties	0	0	0

**Table 36 - Vacant Units**

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

## Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

The City of Rome has undertaken several steps in assessing the owner-occupied and rental housing market within the city limits. A housing inventory and real estate market analysis were completed for the Downtown Rome and Erie Boulevard BOAs, which are included completely within the CDBG low/mod target area. The results of the studies concluded that the multi-family inventory in Rome has remained stagnant over the last 9 years, with vacancy rates swiftly decreasing. This indicates a demand, but no new units were brought online to date. The studies also indicated that the existing housing stock within the target area is aged with the majority of home built prior to 1939. The studies further indicated that there exists a diverse range of housing stock with a lower percentage of single family homes and a higher percentage of duplexes and 3-4 unit structures. This condition is similar to that of

the larger CDBG target area, however there are a number of new low/mod income target area census tracts that include primarily single family homes. The needs for owner and rental rehabilitation is generally high within these tracts due to the age and lack of owner-occupied care given to the housing stock. There has also been discussion on how to address some of these needs through registering the local Historic District with the state and federal registry of historic places in order to take advantage of potential tax credit programs for building rehabilitation.

### **Estimated Number of Housing Units Occupied by Low or Moderate Income Families with LBP Hazards**

Based on the data provided, the estimated number of housing units with lead-based paint hazards existing is 11,515 units total. This number is derived from the age of the housing stock being built before 1980, which is assumed to contain lead-based paint. However, the number of units build prior to 1980 with children present in the home dropped drastically to 294 units which is about 4% of the total units.

### **Discussion**

## MA-25 Public and Assisted Housing – 91.210(b)

### Introduction

The City of Rome works closely with the Rome Housing Authority to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing to eligible residents in a professional, efficient, and ethical manner. The Rome Housing Authority is the owner, manager, and administrator of the subsidized, assisted housing projects and programs for the benefit of lower income elderly, disabled, handicapped individuals and families residing in Rome. These projects and programs receive financial subsidies and operate pursuant to the policies, rules, and regulations of the United State Department of Housing and Urban Development and the New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Further, DePaul Properties in nearly complete with a 68 unit apartment and townhouse project that will serve similar demographics and held offset and support some of the housing needs from the Rome Housing Authority.

### Totals Number of Units

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project -based	Tenant -based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available			334	627			245	0	0
# of accessible units									
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 37 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

**Describe the supply of public housing developments:**

**Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:**

The overall physical condition of the public housing units is considered fair to good with several projects being excellent condition as newly renovated. The overall condition has improved over the past several years with the complete renovations of the Liberty Gardens and Colonial 1 Apartment Complexes. These renovations include energy efficiency upgrades, accessibility measures, and community space and programming improvements. The RHA plans on fully rehabilitating Colonial 2 apartments within the coming years.

**Public Housing Condition**

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score

**Table 38 - Public Housing Condition**

**Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:**

As the Rome Housing Authority has been making great strides over the past decade on upgrading and enhancing the existing stock of housing units, plus the addition of a number of units to Liberty gardens through the total facility renovation, it plans on continuing the progress. The Rome Housing Authority with support from the City of Rome and other partners will continue the efforts of facility rehabilitation into the future to address the aging building of Colonial 2 Apartments through a complete gut rehabilitation. The project is in the planning stages and will be progress over the next several years with assistance from NYS.

**Describe the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:**

The Rome Housing Authority’s strategy for improving the living environments of low- and moderate-income families will be to place emphasis on supportive services that help tenants grow in self-sufficiency. Education, job training, small business development and youth enrichment programming will assist tenants and their children in attaining the skill set necessary to achieve gainful employment and break the cycle of poverty. The Community Schools program will also take part in assisting the living environment enrichment through afterschool and family support services located within proximity to RHA project sites. The City of Rome will continue to support such efforts and work with non-profits, community organizations and businesses to reach the RHA supportive programming goals.

**Discussion:**

## MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services – 91.210(c)

### Introduction

#### Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	6	0	2	0	10
Households with Only Adults	14	0	0	0	30
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	0	0	0	0	0
Unaccompanied Youth	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 39 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households**

Data Source Comments:

**Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are used to complement services targeted to homeless persons**

Our CoC-funded supportive housing agencies require that all homeless persons and families that enter one of their TH, TH/RRH or PSH programs are either enrolled in or in the process of applying for Public Assistance, TANF, Medicaid, and SNAP. While many homeless persons and families enter an EH, TH or PSH program without mainstream benefits, all CoC funded programs provide staff to assist with the consolidated application used by the County Department of Social Services, including help obtaining necessary documents, and advocacy for those who encounter obstacles with the application process. Both the Oneida County and Madison County Departments of Social Services are active members of the CoC and have been diligent partners in ensuring that homeless persons and families are enrolled in the mainstream programs they are eligible for. The CoC monitors APR and ESG data for income from all sources to ensure that a high percentage of program participants are utilizing Public Assistance, Food Stamps, TANF and SSI. SSI eligibility and enrollment services are managed by the SOAR Lead Agency in the CoC: Central NY Health Home Network. Also, the CoC CE specialist is SOAR certified.

**List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.**

Central NY Health Home network has become a lead agency in providing care management services to high risk and high need individuals with chronic conditions and/or severe mental illness with Medicaid which encompass homeless persons. Providing care management ensures that appropriate referrals are being made and individuals are following through with appointments. CNY helps manage medical needs, appointments and support. Referrals to CHBS, Upstate Family Health Care in Utica and Rome, The Neighborhood Center for mental health services etc.

Veteran's services include the Rome VA outpatient clinic which houses not only mental and physical health services but also HUD-VASH program which provides intensive case management with a focus on housing stability to homeless Veterans. Additionally, Soldier- On and the Central New York Veterans Outreach Center provide both Rapid Rehousing and Homeless prevention services as well as case management that links Veterans to additional resources.

## **MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services – 91.210(d)**

### **Introduction**

**Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs**

The 40 units that will be available are specific to homeless individuals/families with a documented mental health diagnosis. In addition, Municipal Housing Authority of City of Utica will be accepting referrals and applications for its newly funded Mainstream Voucher Program rental assistance which includes 30 vouchers for non-elderly (age 18 to 61) person with a disability. The Mainstream Program serves all of Oneida County, including the city of Rome. Voucher programs provide decent and safe affordable housing for low-income people and play a critical role in reducing homelessness.

**Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing**

Coordinated Entry is used to identify specific supportive housing needs for all the above-named populations. Specific needs may be identified using the VISPDAT tool which allows providers to determine program eligibility and make referrals to specific housing resources.

**Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)**

The City will fund public service programs that support low and moderate income individuals with special needs that are not currently homeless, including those that are developmentally disabled, hearing and visually impaired.

**For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. (91.220(2))**

These clients are prioritized within the Coordinated Entry list to ensure they are housed with the appropriate resources. There are multiple housing resources within the community that ensure these populations receive the appropriate supportive housing. These include Shelter Plus Care through CNY services which is specifically for individuals who score for permanent supportive housing and have a

mental health and/ or substance abuse diagnosis and are engaged in treatment. This program offers long term case management and is housing first focused. Furthermore, the recently opened Dewitt Clinton project is available for high need individuals who have an active SPOA referral through OMH. This project is providing 40 units of housing for this population.

## **MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.210(e)**

### **Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment**

As overall home prices within the City of Rome are generally within the affordable range as compared to the US average, the local taxing system and building codes of New York State could be having a negative overall effect on home-ownership. Over the next decade, its anticipated that a mix of both market rate, mid-market, and affordable housing options will be constructed within the City of Rome. This could lead to the existing housing market to be less competitive and overall pricing to level out based on supply and demand assumptions. However, with economic development trending in a positive direction and population loss expected to decline, the overall effect from the new housing options on the existing housing stock could be negligible. Agencies such as the Rome Housing Authority will continue to upgrade their existing facilities into updated modern units and continue to provide a high level of supply to the affordable availability of the area.

## MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets – 91.215 (f)

### Introduction

The City of Rome has a somewhat diverse variety of industries who are seeking workforce from the community. The workforce needs include a variety from lower to higher educational levels. Currently, industries of education, manufacturing, retail, and professional, scientific and management services are seeking the most workers to fulfill current positions.

### Economic Development Market Analysis

#### Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	42	31	0	0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	1,165	1,349	13	12	-1
Construction	236	173	3	1	-2
Education and Health Care Services	2,332	2,968	25	25	0
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	825	529	9	5	-4
Information	172	156	2	1	-1
Manufacturing	1,152	1,631	12	14	2
Other Services	315	299	3	3	0
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	618	1,067	7	9	2
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	1,440	2,044	16	18	2
Transportation and Warehousing	620	1,265	7	11	4
Wholesale Trade	307	165	3	1	-2
Total	9,224	11,677	--	--	--

**Table 40 - Business Activity**

**Data Source:** 2011-2015 ACS (Workers), 2015 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

## Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	14,870
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	13,905
Unemployment Rate	6.52
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	19.43
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	3.52

**Table 41 - Labor Force**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	2,950
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	535
Service	1,625
Sales and office	3,355
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	894
Production, transportation and material moving	755

**Table 42 – Occupations by Sector**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	10,605	80%
30-59 Minutes	2,240	17%
60 or More Minutes	395	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,240</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 43 - Travel Time**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Education:

### Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	635	120	1,060
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	3,470	245	2,340
Some college or Associate's degree	4,290	215	1,615

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,005	35	545

**Table 44 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

### Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	55	39	155	400	460
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	525	480	230	500	575
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	900	1,480	1,250	3,325	2,445
Some college, no degree	855	1,285	945	1,655	1,060
Associate's degree	220	460	755	1,045	305
Bachelor's degree	185	545	425	1,155	505
Graduate or professional degree	25	335	430	710	405

**Table 45 - Educational Attainment by Age**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

### Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	16,435
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	26,397
Some college or Associate's degree	32,234
Bachelor's degree	43,432
Graduate or professional degree	62,660

**Table 46 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

### Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

According to the business table above education, healthcare services, retail trade, and manufacturing are the employment sectors with the most employees.

### Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

Currently, the business community is in need of employees to undertake operations. It's been trending that employers have been seeking employees but have been experiencing a lack of interest from the local community to fill such positions. A wide range of employees are being sought after and include skilled labor, higher education degrees, non-skilled labor, professional certificate holders. In addition to employees needed, the business sector has been seeking assistance in public facilities upgrades and related infrastructure and capital improvements for either new construction or expansion of existing facilities. Smaller brick and mortar businesses are in need of business grants to help in marketing, capital improvements, and operations. Streetscape improvements, commercial façade improvements, and business grants are all needed by the existing and emerging business community.

**Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.**

Major projects that will have an important economic impact at the local level include the Orgil Project, a new distribution center at 600,000 s/f of new space with nearly 500 total new local jobs. Also Cold Point Corporation has committed to relocating and expanding their workforce within Rome with a new 50,000 s/f advanced manufacturing facility which will include nearly 20 new jobs created. Regionally, several catalyst projects are being undertaken which include the Cree Inc. constructing a \$1 billion silicon carbide manufacturing and research plant in Marcy NY, a 10 minute drive from the City of Rome limits. The estimated job creation numbers from this project is approximately 600 and is poised to change the trajectory of the economic development climate within the Mohawk Valley region. In addition, Oneida County government is undertaking substantial efforts in being one of the leading domestic unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) test centers through a collaboration with private companies and the United States government. This project will ultimately lead to the demand of supply chain businesses and industries to support such large efforts.

**How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?**

Currently, the skills of the current workforce will need to be expanded to include emerging industries and employment sectors to progress economic development opportunities throughout the region. A number of skilled trade laborers and educated professionals exist to meet some of the demands, but more experience and technical training will be needed in the near future.

**Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.**

The City of Rome works with local agencies and organization such as Mohawk Valley Community College on job training and job skills refinement related to the construction industry. By supporting and/or initiating programs that teach hands on training skills the City is able to help support youth development programs that result in direct workforce capacity. Such efforts are supported in the Con Plan by providing partnerships with public and private organizations through economic development and public service funding.

**Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?**

**If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.**

No.

**Discussion**

## **MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion**

### **Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")**

Through review of the CPD mapping tool, there is no defined area of concentration of multiple housing problems within the City of Rome. However, there are several census tracts that demonstrate an aged housing stock both built prior to 1980 and prior to 1949. The age of the housing in these areas combined with the data that such areas contained a higher percentage of low to moderate income individuals could result in the hypothesis that these areas will hold a greater concentration of multiple housing problems. The assumption is made that the CDBG low/mod target area is comprised of areas of multiple housing problems.

### **Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")**

The CDBG target areas hold the highest concentration of low to moderate income families. There is no identified census tracts that provide striking evidence of higher concentrations of racial or ethnic minorities, with the exception of the Mohawk Correctional Facility census tract which is located in a rural district.

### **What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?**

The characteristics of the CDBG target area are slums and blighted neighborhoods, possibly due to the high rate of rentals and non-owner occupied structures, sidewalks and streets which have been in need of rehabilitation to better serve the community within the surrounding neighborhoods, and an increased percentage of low to moderate income individuals. The characteristics are urban, longstanding neighborhoods, that are some of the oldest within the City of Rome and include the downtown core.

### **Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?**

Yes. There are various community assets throughout the target area which include waterfront lands, active and passive parks, local historical districts, recreation centers, public and private schools, senior centers, commercial districts, public community trails, and medical care facilities.

### **Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?**

Yes. As indicated in the Con Plan, there are multiple neighborhood level community based planning and revitalization strategies which will be used as a roadmap and a source of identified projects to implement. The plans include the Downtown Rome BOA, Erie Boulevard BOA, Comprehensive Plan, Woodhaven Revitalization Plan, Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and the Urban Design Plans.



## **MA-60 Broadband Needs of Housing occupied by Low- and Moderate-Income Households - 91.210(a)(4), 91.310(a)(2)**

**Describe the need for broadband wiring and connections for households, including low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods.**

The City of Rome's telecommunication network included the availability of fiber optic cable and broadband to most areas. Certain residential neighborhoods could be enhanced with better or faster internet speeds. Wireless internet service in the downtown and waterfront areas should and have been considered as part of future economic development initiatives.

**Describe the need for increased competition by having more than one broadband Internet service provider serve the jurisdiction.**

Encouraging competition within broadband internet service providers would serve the community of Rome by ensuring the best possible internet, at competitive pricing, rather than one monopolizing rate for all. In the field of telecommunications, things are always changing and the need for a good internet service at a low price becomes very attractive to businesses looking to relocate to an area.

## **MA-65 Hazard Mitigation - 91.210(a)(5), 91.310(a)(3)**

### **Describe the jurisdiction's increased natural hazard risks associated with climate change.**

The City of Rome is located within the Mohawk Valley and the Mohawk River Watershed of New York State. Nearly 30 percent of the total land area within the Corporation Line of the City of Rome NY is comprised of both state and federally regulated wetlands, and water courses. The most prominent water features within the City of Rome include Delta Lake (a man-made water impoundment intended to act as a feeder source to the NYS Barge Canal), the Mohawk River (connects Delta Lake to the NYS Canal), and the NYS Barge Canal. A small water course known as Wood Creek also plays a roll in potential risk impacts to neighborhoods. These water features collectively have the most risk potential because of their proximity to large population areas. Most of the wetlands are located within the outside district area which is less dense and more rural in community composition.

Climate change could play a role in the natural hazard risk of flooding and drought issues related to the four primary bodies of water within the City of Rome. However, the NYS Canal Corporation and the New York Power Authority (NYPA) have commenced work on studying the flooding mitigation measures, which could prove to ultimately curtail major flooding events around the canal and its associated hydraulically connected infrastructure. Also, the Department of Environmental Conservation in partnership with the Mohawk River Watershed Coalition have published a watershed plan that includes recommendations that communities can take to restore and preserve the watershed. One of the seven goals identified in the plan was to promote flood hazard risk reduction and enhance flood resilience. This goal revolves around reducing or eliminating development within the flood hazard areas identified through FEMA mapping, and taking steps to reduce the overall existing flood area development. Further, NYS has adopted smart growth practices which include limiting development in potentially high risk areas such as floodplains. The City of Rome has also adopted smart growth practices as part of the Comprehensive Plan which are intended to lead to more sustainable communities and community growth. Overall, with the adoption of state, regional, and local policies and regulations, the potential for increased natural hazards due to climate change (specifically through flooding events) is low, but work must continue on strengthening policies and promoting smart growth practices to limit hazard exposure.

### **Describe the vulnerability to these risks of housing occupied by low- and moderate-income households based on an analysis of data, findings, and methods.**

In reviewing the CPD mapping tool, the CDBG low and moderate income eligible census tracts within the City of Rome do contain areas of flooding potential related to the waterbodies identified in the previous description. The highest potential risk areas are also shown as the tracts with the highest rate of poverty which range from 28-43% poverty, and the highest housing cost burden. Optimistically, the tracts with the highest percentage of structure having 20 or more housing units, and extremely low income households with substandard housing are not located within the vulnerable areas.



# Strategic Plan

## SP-05 Overview

### Strategic Plan Overview

The City of Rome will target the goals identified within the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) which include the following:

#### Goal #1: Expand Employment Opportunities

Projects that assist in and directly are attributed to job growth and retention specifically to low/moderate income individuals and positions will be supported. Economic Development Programs including the Commercial Façade Improvement Program and the Small Business Grant Program, Public Service Subrecipient Grants, and Public Facility improvements can all contribute to expanding employment opportunities.

#### Goal #2: Increase Economic Activity

Projects that increase economic activity could include the elimination of slums and blight through the Real Property Site Clearance activity by removing real or perceived barriers to area investment related to brownfields and slum neighborhood properties. Supporting projects that progress BOA and DRI implementation items could include public facility upgrades and public recreation enhancements related to job growth and residential/mixed-use housing development.

#### Goal #3: Raise Educational Achievement

Projects that build on public services funded activities will be supported. Emphasis will be placed on supporting the community schools model to transform schools in distressed neighborhoods into service hubs. Projects could include family support, academic support, food and nutrition, and financial literacy. Projects could also include supporting higher education preparatory actions, and workforce development to include both the digital workforce jobs and the construction trades.

#### Goal #4: Enhance Local Arts, Cultural, and Tourism Opportunities

Projects that enhance and build a strong community through pedestrian and place-making measures could include activities such as public facility improvements to targeted streets, sidewalks, public spaces and recreation resources will be supported. As Rome has many cultural and tourism assets, projects that support the continued development of targeted neighborhoods, including the Downtown Arts District and surrounding residential neighborhoods, should continue to be supported through public facility and ED funding. CDBG funding will be leveraged by other sources to promote Rome's assets and the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. Continued support for small business development will be undertaken to include both commercial building improvements and other business grant. These initiatives are identified throughout the aforementioned local planning documents.

#### Goal #5: Improve Access to Health and Wellness Programs

Projects which advance access to healthy neighborhoods and services will be supported. Activities such as multiuse recreation trail upgrades including ADA accessibility measures, connection to parks and open space/greenways, and other similar public facilities will be undertaken. Public Services will be supported to advance connecting safety and healthcare personnel to at risk community members. At

risk community members could include homeless youth, DV victims, and other presumed low/moderate income families and individuals. Programs that are supported could also include early prevention programs within the community schools, and community events.

Goal #6: Provide Enhanced Housing Opportunities

Projects to support housing opportunities will include continued allocations to slums and blight real property programs, Residential Façade Grants, public facilities funding for targeted neighborhoods and identified priority projects such as new housing developments and downtown mixed-use projects. The City of Rome will affirmatively further fair housing and address the identified issues contained in the Assessment to Impediments such as improving public awareness of fair housing and landlord tenant law explore options of supporting first time homebuyers.

## SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.215 (a)(1)

### Geographic Area

Table 47 - Geographic Priority Areas

<b>1</b>	<b>Area Name:</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Area Type:</b>	Local Target area
	<b>Other Target Area Description:</b>	
	<b>HUD Approval Date:</b>	
	<b>% of Low/ Mod:</b>	
	<b>Revital Type:</b>	Commercial
	<b>Other Revital Description:</b>	
	<b>Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.</b>	
	<b>Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.</b>	
	<b>How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?</b>	
	<b>Identify the needs in this target area.</b>	
	<b>What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?</b>	
	<b>Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?</b>	

### General Allocation Priorities

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA)

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, DRI, and Woodhaven plans. The Downtown Revitalization Initiative area is now included as a targeted planning area within the City of Rome.

## SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)

### Priority Needs

Table 48 – Priority Needs Summary

1	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Other
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Description</b>	The City of Rome's Department of Community and Economic Development carries out the administration and daily oversight of the City's CDBG allocation. Continued funding will ensure all the CDBG program is being carried out in professional manner by a dedicated staff.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	High: staff salaries and planning and administration.
2	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High

	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill veterans Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Public Services
	<b>Description</b>	As it has done in the past, the City will utilize CDBG funds for public services for low and moderate income individuals and families in Rome. The City will fund programs such as job training programs, youth art programs, homeless youth, and domestic abuse services.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	High: Local organizations depend on the opportunity for public service funding.
<b>3</b>	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High

	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Description</b>	The City of Rome will continue to fund public facilities and infrastructure projects geared towards improving accessibility of street and sidewalks in the CDBG target area.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	High: Street, sidewalk, ADA compliance and public infrastructure upgrades attribute to a large bulk of CDBG funds due to the harsh winters in upstate NY.
4	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Description</b>	It's essential that the City continues to fund economic development projects in Rome; this funding gives low/moderate individuals opportunities for unspecialized job creation and retention.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	High: Job creation/retention as well as elimination of blighted neighborhood is one of the City's main goals.

<b>5</b>	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Slum and Blight
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Slum and Blight
	<b>Description</b>	Blight elimination on a spot and area basis as well as codes enforcement to remove conditions detrimental to public health and safety.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	High: Elimination of slums and blighted neighborhoods as well as public safety concerns are a continued City priority.

**Narrative (Optional)**

**SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions – 91.215 (b)**

**Influence of Market Conditions**

<b>Affordable Housing Type</b>	<b>Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type</b>
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	The Rome Housing Authority and Oneida County government administers programs for Tenant Based Rental Assistance
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	The Rome Housing Authority offers units for elderly and disabled persons.
New Unit Production	The City continues to support new housing projects to fulfill the needs of the growing and changing economy. New unit production is continually ongoing.
Rehabilitation	The City will continue to work in partnership with appropriate agencies to fulfill residential unit rehabilitation and support such projects through income eligibility and/or public facility improvements.
Acquisition, including preservation	The City will continue to undertake Real Property programming which could include the acquisition, remediation, demolition, or preservation of buildings and real property within the City of Rome low/mod income target areas.

**Table 49 – Influence of Market Conditions**

**SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)**

**Introduction**

The City of Rome will use the funds designated in the 2020 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	1,040,600	0	0	1,040,600	0	Funds obligated in PY2020 for Commercial facade program, Public Services, Economic Development Activities, and Public Street Projects are expected to be used in 2020 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 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

**Table 50 - Anticipated Resources**

**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 sources of funding to progress community development initiatives and implement related projects to culminate in an improved well-rounded quality community. Public service dollars will be used to leverage local private and public organizational funding for programs aimed to benefit low to moderate income residents including domestic violence shelters, and youth education and at risk preventative programs. Public facility dollars will be used to leverage a combination of New York State, private developers, and federal funding to support and enhance community development and housing projects. These projects will include pedestrian accessibility and streetscape enhancements throughout the Main Streets areas, Brownfield Opportunity Areas, Woodhaven Redevelopment Area, and the Downtown Revitalization Initiative area. Funding will leverage projects which include job creation, low to moderate income individual benefits, and elimination of slums and blight. Public facilities will also include targeted improvements to target area parks which will be leveraged with local and state dollars as necessary. Housing and mixed-use development projects will be supported through public facility and economic development funding as appropriate. CDBG funding will provide the important gap funding for these projects to make each project complete and transformational.

**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 has been working diligently on repurposing a significant tract of land within the CDBG low/mod target area. As noted in previous Action Plans, the City acquired approximately 100 acres of land within the inside district as part of a bankruptcy settlement with the former owners. This land and the associated 140 units of housing were formerly used as Air Force Base housing, which was decommissioned in 1995. The City recently completed demolition of the hazardous structures and completed a redevelopment strategy for the land, including a new zoning district and associated zoning code. Through responses to a request for proposals, the City is now looking forward to phase 1 of the redevelopment which will include a new neighborhood YMCA facility, which will service a formerly underserved neighborhood. Phase 2 will include implementation of mixed-use and housing which will support the growth of the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in the coming decades. The City remains cognizant of the goals listed in this plan and the 2020-2024 Con Plan as it works with a combination of local, state, and private agencies to see this project is supported and progressed.

**Discussion**

## SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
City of Rome	Government	Economic Development Non-homeless special needs Planning neighborhood improvements public facilities public services	Other
Mohawk Valley Continuum of Care		Homelessness	Region

Table 51 - Institutional Delivery Structure

### Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

Strengths of our local service delivery system include coordination with our Coc and partnering agencies as well as many resources for clients to access and supporting and expanding specific services that target homeless person such as adding to our housing stock affordable units, increasing rental assistance programs to specific special need population such as elderly and person with substance disorder.

### Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
<b>Homelessness Prevention Services</b>			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	
Legal Assistance	X		
Mortgage Assistance			
Rental Assistance	X	X	X
Utilities Assistance			
<b>Street Outreach Services</b>			
Law Enforcement	X		
Mobile Clinics			X
Other Street Outreach Services		X	X
<b>Supportive Services</b>			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	

Child Care	X		
Education	X		
Employment and Employment Training	X		
Healthcare	X		
HIV/AIDS	X		X
Life Skills	X		
Mental Health Counseling	X		
Transportation	X		
<b>Other</b>			
	X		

**Table 52 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary**

**Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)**

The above listed services meet the needs of homeless persons in many ways, particularly the most vulnerable and chronic cases. One specific way is through our housing programs, as our CoC follows the HUD Housing First Model. Within our community we have Rapid Rehousing assistance through Central New York Services which assists homeless clients with security deposit and up to six months’ rent. During this time the case managers will work with the client to ensure they will be able to achieve housing stability once closed to the program. Additionally, Central New York Services has permanent supportive housing through its Shelter Plus Care Program which encompasses the City of Rome. This project targets our high need homeless population with mental illness or substance abuse. This is a long-term housing program in which clients can receive assistance with rent and are continually engaged with support services. Veteran specific programs include HUD-VASH through the VA as well as Rapid Rehousing and homeless prevention through the Central New York Veterans Outreach Center and Soldier On. In addition to these programs, Evelyns House provides services and housing assistance to young women/ youth who are pregnant and parenting. Recently, Gradys Way, a shelter for boys 12-18 has opened also. They will aid and guidance to at risk boys. Gradys Way also has permanent supportive housing available for boys 18-24. The above mentioned are for all Oneida County, which serves Rome residents.

**Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above**

Oneida County has received funds to begin a Street Outreach program that will specifically target those who are street homeless by HUD definition. These workers will cover all of Oneida County and will assist clients with getting into shelter, housing and engaged with appropriate services. This program will target

all populations from chronically homeless to Veterans in need. Other agencies who engage in outreach include ACR Health and the CNY Veterans Outreach Center.

Support services for clients are available through many agencies including Community and Behavioral Health, Milestones clinic, Beacon Center, CNY Health Homes, Insight House, ACR Health, Sitrin for Post 9/11 Veterans, Upstate Cerebral Palsy, and Upstate Family Health who provides primary care to those in need. These agencies and many more provide wrap around services to all homeless and vulnerable populations and work to coordinate with housing programs and other agencies such as Department of Social Services to ensure that clients are receiving appropriate care.

**Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs**

Strengths of our local service delivery system include coordination with partnering agencies as well as many resources for clients to access and supporting and expanding specific services that target homeless person such as adding to our housing stock affordable units, increasing rental assistance programs to specific special need population such as elderly and person with substance disorder.

## SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.215(a)(4)

### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Planning and Administration	2020	2024	Administration	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Planning and Administration	CDBG: \$178,120	Other: 850000 Other
2	Public Services	2020	2024	Public Services	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Public Services	CDBG: \$108,120	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1000 Persons Assisted
3	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$563,120	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 25000 Persons Assisted
4	Economic Development	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Economic Development	CDBG: \$108,120	Jobs created/retained: 10 Jobs  Businesses assisted: 10 Businesses Assisted
5	Slum and Blight	2020	2024	Demolition	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Slum and Blight	CDBG: \$83,120	Buildings Demolished: 20 Buildings

Table 53 – Goals Summary

### Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has allocated \$ 178,120.00 in PY2020 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.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Activities typically funded include but are not limited to: youth educational development, domestic violence shelters, health services, and creative development.
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Goal Description</b>	For the 2020 funding, its intended to utilize \$563,120.00 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, and greenway connectivity.
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Goal Description</b>	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 or retain low/moderate income jobs and reduce slum and blight in the main street corridors. This funding is also supporting small business development in the City of Rome.
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Slum and Blight
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2020 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.

**Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)**

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.



**SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement – 91.215(c)**

**Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)**

Not applicable

**Activities to Increase Resident Involvements**

The City of Rome will continue to work closely with the CDAC Committee, Common Council, and the Rome Housing Authority to establish programs that will increase resident involvement in decision making regarding housing accessibility.

**Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?**

**Plan to remove the ‘troubled’ designation**

No

## **SP-55 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.215(h)**

### **Barriers to Affordable Housing**

As overall home prices within the City of Rome are generally within the affordable range as compared to the US average, the local taxing system and building codes of New York State could be having a negative overall effect on home-ownership. Over the next decade, it is anticipated that a mix of both market rate, mid-market, and affordable housing options will be constructed within the City of Rome. This could lead to the existing housing market to be less competitive and overall pricing to level out based on supply and demand assumptions. However, with economic development trending in a positive direction and population loss expected to decline, the overall effect from the new housing options on the existing housing stock could be negligible. Agencies such as the Rome Housing Authority will continue to upgrade their existing facilities into updated modern units and continue to provide a high level of supply to the affordable availability of the area.

### **Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing**

For the last couple of years, our CoC has been actively working and advocating for affordable units with supportive housing developers to invest in our county. Several projects are in the works for Oneida County including the Dewitt Clinton Apartments projected to open May 2020 in the city of Rome. Dewitt Clinton Apartments will have a total of 80 new units. It is essential that people experiencing or with histories of homelessness have meaningful access to existing and new affordable rental units. The CoC continues to seek new opportunities to increase the housing stock in Oneida County. For there to be true access to housing for this population, there must be enough units that are both affordable and available to households at the lowest income levels and there must be concerted efforts to connect people experiencing homelessness to those units and to identify and remove barriers to such access. The 40 units that will be available are specific to homeless individuals/families with a documented mental health diagnosis. In addition, Municipal Housing Authority of City of Utica will be accepting referrals and applications for its newly funded Mainstream Voucher Program rental assistance which includes 30 vouchers for non-elderly (age 18 to 61) person with a disability. The Mainstream Program serves all of Oneida County, including the city of Rome. Voucher programs provide decent and safe affordable housing for low-income people and play a critical role in reducing homelessness. The CoC continues to support agencies in expanding programs that increase the housing stock and give access to low income persons and homeless individuals to affordable housing.

Further, housing can be made more readily available to those with poor or no credit history, criminal records, and poor rental history through the implementation of Housing First practices and principles. Such access is often not realized even within communities' existing affordable housing. Increased access is promoted through ongoing education of housing, as well as through requirements attached to state and local funding. The CoC continues to educate and train on Housing First practice and principles to help aid access to affordable housing.

Overall, the CoC continues to inform, educate, and improve access and eliminate barriers to affordable housing in Oneida County.

## **SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)**

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

Our CoC recently added a Street Outreach Program serving all Oneida County funded through Solutions to End Homelessness Program. Street outreach workers will be the initial contact to unsheltered persons. They reach out directly and build crucial relationship with people experiencing homelessness to assist them in finding resources and shelter. Street Outreach workers will complete coordinated entry assessment that will help determine what type of housing project such as Rapid Re-Housing or Permanent Supportive Housing best suits the individual based on their level of need.

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:** In 2019, the CoC added a Coordinated Entry Specialist. All homeless persons and families are 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. Specialist manages all the assessments and placements for all persons. 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). One of the CE specialist responsibilities is 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. As of January of 2020, DSS has become 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 has created a homeless unit with 6 additional staff who 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 along with the addition of the street outreach workers who will be an integral part of the homeless unit. The Department of Social Services has also been awarded a grant to employ two outreach workers who will be responsible for identifying and linking individuals who are street homeless per HUD to shelter and other resources.

### **Addressing the emergency 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 who 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 supporting YWCA of the Mohawk Valley's work to increase the number of transitional housing units for DV victims from Rome. This agency has expanded services to the TAY population using both NY State and federal funding streams. The YWCA launched a new project- New Horizons, a transitional housing program which includes 7 community-based apartments, some which will be in the city of Rome. 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.

In addition, YWCA has been awarded the DV Bonus Project through HUD which will expand their RRH project to serve more individuals/families fleeing DV, some being from the city of Rome.

YWCA-Lucy's House was remodeled in 2019, 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.**

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 rehousing services for homeless civilians.

Action #2: Our CoC has a 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.

**Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and 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).

## **SP-65 Lead based paint Hazards – 91.215(i)**

### **Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards**

Actions to address LBP hazards are centered on the City of Rome’s active participation in a regional initiative to raise awareness and to effectively address LBP hazards in Oneida and Herkimer Counties, including in the City of Rome. This regional initiative was developed in 2018 and is coordinated by the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties and involves multiple partners including the Oneida County Department of Health, the Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition (CoC NY-518) and the Cities of Utica and Rome in Oneida County, NY. Actions taken by this group that is managed by four full-time staff dedicated to reducing LBP hazards include 1.) a public awareness campaign, production and dissemination of both print and video materials; 2.) providing funding for and facilitating the introduction of lead testing of children at local health clinics and schools; 3.) Supporting Lead-Free MV Coalition member organizations to provide information to the community about lead poisoning prevention at home shows in both Utica & Rome; 3.) Holding Lead Compliance Workshops in Oneida County in which HUD & EPA staff provide information and materials to improve understanding and increase compliance of current lead regulations by landlords, agencies, housing authority staff, and government officials; 4.) Targeted outreach to Rome’s CDBG target area to increase lead testing and awareness in Rome involving the Rome Community Schools staff who worked through their existing venues (Rome Summer Program, Parent University and Kid’s Farmer Market) to distribute childhood lead poisoning prevention information to parents with young children, and 5.) Development and implementation of a Community Cost Sharing Window Replacement Project that provides incentives and education for landlords who are willing to correct lead paint housing conditions specifically related to deteriorating windows. This incentive based, cost sharing approach requires applicants to comply with local ordinances and utilize interim controls for remediation of lead hazards in order to receiving financial assistance for window replacement.

### **How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?**

While Oneida County, NY has one of the highest rates of childhood lead exposure in NY State, the primary areas affected by high rates of childhood lead exposure are in the City of Utica in zip codes 13501 and 13502. The City of Rome has a level of childhood lead exposure that is less than half that found in Utica, but is still sufficiently high to warrant attention and action and work done by Lead Free Mohawk Valley Coalition partners, including the City of Rome as outlined above, is designed to reduce this rate. The existence of even a low rate of exposure to LBP justifies the extensive efforts outlined above.

### **How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?**

Actions related to the reduction of LBP exposure in Rome are connected to the City’s efforts to upgrade and expand the inventory of both affordable and market rate housing to support the City’s growing population and growing local economy. With regard to expanding the inventory or lead-safe rental units

that eliminate or reduce the likelihood of exposure to LBP hazards, the City of Rome has been working actively with the Rome Housing Authority to support a \$20 million dollar rehabilitation (including lead remediation) of 83 public housing rental units that were built in 1966 with lead paint used in the building. In addition to this major effort, Rome Housing Authority administers a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program that provides rental assistance to low-income city residents via disbursements to over 350 Landlords who provide rental housing for this HUD-funded program and all HCV rental assistance payments in Rome are for units where a Housing Quality Standards inspection has been completed (in which any issues with chipping or peeling paint must be addressed). Additionally, the City of Rome is actively supporting the development of new affordable and supportive housing units to increase the community's inventory of rental units that are totally lead free. For example, in May of this year (2020) the largest new affordable and supportive housing project built in the Rome in the last 50 years will open and include 80 new rental units (40 new affordable units and 40 new supportive units for persons with a mental health disability) built in south Rome on an old school site. This project was developed by DePaul of Rochester, NY in partnership with CoC NY-518 and the City of Rome.

## **SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy – 91.215(j)**

### **Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families**

Poverty reduction goals, programs, and policies in general have two main objectives: to increase income from employment and other sources and to keep housing costs at an affordable level for the City. Affordable housing initiatives to both maintain and upgrade the existing stock of affordable housing and to add new affordable housing unit within the City are at the center of the intersection of poverty and affordable housing availability within the City and we are actively involved in a number of specific initiatives in both these general areas.

### **How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan**

For example, in May of this year (2020) the largest new affordable and supportive housing project built in the Rome in the last 50 years will open for new residents and include a total of 80 new rental units (40 new affordable units and 40 new supportive units for persons with a mental health disability) built in south Rome on an old school site. This project was developed by DePaul of Rochester, NY in partnership with CoC NY-518 and the City of Rome. Currently, Rome has an overall poverty rate of 19.3%, substantially higher than the overall poverty rate for NY State (13.6%) but substantially lower than nearby Utica, NY (also in Oneida County) which has a poverty rate of 30%) and we are making progress in terms of adding new employment opportunities in the City in conjunction with preserving and adding affordable rental housing units.

## **SP-80 Monitoring – 91.230**

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

## Expected Resources

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

#### Introduction

The City of Rome will use the funds designated in the 2020 Annual Action Plan, as well as continue to follow the Consolidated Plan and previous year’s Annual Action Plans to ensure any leftover 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	1,040,600	0	0	1,040,600	0	Funds obligated in PY2020 for Commercial facade program, Public Services, Economic Development Activities, and Public Street Projects are expected to be used in 2020 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 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

Table 54 - 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 sources of funding to progress community development initiatives and implement related projects to culminate in an improved well-rounded quality community. Public service dollars will be used to leverage local private and public organizational funding for programs aimed to benefit low to moderate income residents including domestic violence shelters, and youth education and at risk preventative programs. Public facility dollars will be used to leverage a combination of New York State, private developers, and federal funding to support and enhance community development and housing projects. These projects will include pedestrian accessibility and streetscape enhancements throughout the Main Streets areas, Brownfield Opportunity Areas, Woodhaven Redevelopment Area, and the Downtown Revitalization Initiative area. Funding will leverage projects which include job creation, low to moderate income individual benefits, and elimination of slums and blight. Public facilities will also include targeted improvements to target area parks which will be leveraged with local and state dollars as necessary. Housing and mixed-use development projects will be supported through public facility and economic development funding as appropriate. CDBG funding will provide the important gap funding for these projects to make each project complete and transformational.

**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 has been working diligently on repurposing a significant tract of land within the CDBG low/mod target area. As noted in previous Action Plans, the City acquired approximately 100 acres of land within the inside district as part of a bankruptcy settlement with the former owners. This land and the associated 140 units of housing were formerly used as Air Force Base housing, which was decommissioned in 1995. The City recently completed demolition of the hazardous structures and completed a redevelopment strategy for the land, including a new zoning district and associated zoning code. Through responses to a request for proposals, the City is now looking forward to phase 1 of the redevelopment which will include a new neighborhood YMCA facility, which will service a formerly underserved neighborhood. Phase 2 will include implementation of mixed-use and housing which will support the growth of the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in the coming decades. The City remains cognizant of the goals listed in this plan and the 2020-2024 Con Plan as it works with a combination of local, state, and private agencies to see this project is supported and progressed.

**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	2020	2024	Administration	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Planning and Administration	CDBG: \$178,120	Other: 170000 Other
2	Public Services	2020	2024	Public Services	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Public Services	CDBG: \$108,120	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted
3	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$563,120	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5000 Persons Assisted
4	Economic Development	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Economic Development	CDBG: \$108,120	Jobs created/retained: 2 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted
5	Slum and Blight	2020	2024	Demolition	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Slum and Blight	CDBG: \$83,120	Buildings Demolished: 4 Buildings

Table 55 – Goals Summary

#### Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has allocated \$ 178,120.00 in PY2020 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.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Activities typically funded include but are not limited to: youth educational development, domestic violence shelters, health services, and creative development.
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Goal Description</b>	For the 2020 funding, its intended to utilize \$563,120.00 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, and greenway connectivity.
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Goal Description</b>	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 or retain low/moderate income jobs and reduce slum and blight in the main street corridors. This funding is also supporting small business development in the City of Rome.
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Slum and Blight
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2020 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.



# Projects

## AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

### Introduction

The City of Rome proposes to undertake the following projects to fulfill the 2020 Annual Action Plan.

### Projects

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

Table 56 – 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 (CDAC) as well as the public comments received throughout this process have chosen to allocate funding as stated in section AP-38 Project Summary. The allocation also reflects goals and objectives indicated in the BOA, DRI and other neighborhood redevelopment plan.

**AP-38 Project Summary**  
**Project Summary Information**

<b>1</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$178,120
	<b>Description</b>	The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has allocated \$ 178,120.00 in PY2020 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.
	<b>Target Date</b>	3/31/2021
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	N/A
	<b>Location Description</b>	N/A
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	N/A
<b>2</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Target Area</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$108,120
	<b>Description</b>	The City will have an open RFP period for public service organizations to submit funding proposals.
	<b>Target Date</b>	3/31/2021
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Typically our public service organizations submit proposals for programmatic activities that benefit approximately 100-1000 persons per year in aggregate.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The public service organization applying for funding must be locally operated with funding going towards the benefit of Rome citizens exclusively.

	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Activities typically funded include but are not limited to: youth educational development, domestic violence shelters, health services, and creative development.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Facilities
	<b>Target Area</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$563,120
	<b>Description</b>	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 2020 funding, its intended to utilize \$563,120.00 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, and greenway connectivity.
	<b>Target Date</b>	3/31/2021
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	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.
	<b>Location Description</b>	West Dominick Street, Culverton Ave, Bloomfield Street, Willett Street, and other areas within the CDBG target areas.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Upgrades to public street and pedestrian areas, target area parks, and connecting neighborhoods.
<b>4</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Target Area</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$108,120
	<b>Description</b>	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 or retain low/moderate income jobs and reduce slum and blight in the main street corridors. This funding is also supporting small business development in the City of Rome.

	<b>Target Date</b>	3/31/2021
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Those families who live in, work in, or travel in the neighborhoods improved by the façade or small business grant program are benefitted by job creation/retention, and a reduction in slum & blight in the surrounding area.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The City is soliciting businesses within the main street and downtown areas to participate in these programs.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Commercial Façade Rehabilitation in the CDBG target area and small business development grants.
5	<b>Project Name</b>	Slum & Blight
	<b>Target Area</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Slum and Blight
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Slum and Blight
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$83,120
	<b>Description</b>	The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2020 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.
	<b>Target Date</b>	3/31/2021
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The entire City of Rome will benefit from a reduction in abandoned unsafe, and dilapidated buildings.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2020 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.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	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 projects will be strategically selected each year in targeted areas throughout the low/moderate income target area map. These areas will be selected through a collaboration of city departments working together to address the highest priority needs each year. The projects used to leverage funding in the Downtown Rome BOA, Erie BOA, DRI target area, and Woodhaven Area will take priority, focusing around accessibility and sustainability. 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**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	100

**Table 57 - 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, DRI, and Woodhaven plans. The Downtown Revitalization Initiative area is now included as a targeted planning area within the City of Rome.

### **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 58 - 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 59 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

#### Discussion

## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

### **Introduction**

The Rome Housing Authority has currently finished phase I of the Colonial complex upgrades, with a complete renovation to Colonial building I. Phase II on Colonial building II is expected to begin summer 2020 to then complete 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 complete the rehabilitation 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**

Our CoC recently added a Street Outreach Program serving all Oneida County funded through Solutions to End Homelessness Program. Street outreach workers will be the initial contact to unsheltered persons. They reach out directly and build crucial relationship with people experiencing homelessness to assist them in finding resources and shelter. Street Outreach workers will complete coordinated entry assessment that will help determine what type of housing project such as Rapid Re-Housing or Permanent Supportive Housing best suits the individual based on their level of need.

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:** In 2019, the CoC added a Coordinated Entry Specialist. All homeless persons and families are 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. Specialist manages all the assessments and placements for all persons. 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). One of the CE specialist responsibilities is 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. As of January of 2020, DSS has become 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 has created a homeless unit with 6 additional staff who 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 along with the addition of the street outreach workers who will be an integral part of the homeless unit. The Department of Social Services has also been awarded a grant to employ two outreach workers who will be responsible for identifying and linking individuals who are street homeless per HUD to shelter and other resources.

### **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 who 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 supporting YWCA of the Mohawk Valley's work to increase the number of transitional housing units for DV victims from Rome. This agency has expanded services to the TAY population using both NY State and federal funding streams. The YWCA launched a new project- New

Horizons, a transitional housing program which includes 7 community-based apartments, some which will be in the city of Rome. 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.

In addition, YWCA has been awarded the DV Bonus Project through HUD which will expand their RRH project to serve more individuals/families fleeing DV, some being from the city of Rome.

YWCA-Lucy's House was remodeled in 2019, 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**

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 has a 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.

**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).

## **Discussion**

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

### **Introduction:**

As overall home prices within the City of Rome are generally within the affordable range as compared to the US average, the local taxing system and building codes of New York State could be having a negative overall effect on home-ownership. Over the next decade, its anticipated that a mix of both market rate, mid-market, and affordable housing options will be constructed within the City of Rome. This could lead to the existing housing market to be less competitive and overall pricing to level out based on supply and demand assumptions. However, with economic development trending in a positive direction and population loss expected to decline, the overall effect from the new housing options on the existing housing stock could be negligible. Agencies such as the Rome Housing Authority will continue to upgrade their existing facilities into updated modern units and continue to provide a high level of supply to the affordable availability of the area.

### **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 had undergone a Community Needs Assessment which we have continued to use 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 recognized that its last housing study was completed in 2008 in conjunction with the City of Utica. The City has undertaken partnering with the City of Utica once again to update these Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. This will give the city an updated look at barriers that no longer are a major concern, new unknown barriers, or other approaches to undertake the barriers found within this study.

### **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 2020 Annual Action Plan. 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 throughout the 2020-2024 Con Plan.

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

For the last couple of years, our CoC has been actively working and advocating for affordable units with supportive housing developers to invest in our county. Several projects are in the works for Oneida County including the Dewitt Clinton Apartments projected to open May 2020 in the city of Rome. Dewitt Clinton Apartments will have a total of 80 new units.

The City of Rome is also working with a non-profit developer named CDS Monarch, Inc. (CDS) to develop a greatly needed affordable and integrated supportive housing community. CDS is proposing the adaptive-reuse of the vacant Fort Stanwix School building, located 110 – 112 West Linden Street in Rome, in order to create approximately 48 new and high-quality affordable senior housing units. The redevelopment of the former Fort Stanwix School will directly address several goals that are identified in the Community Needs Assessment including the goal to Increasing Economic Activity by reducing blight and the goal to Provide Supportive Housing Opportunities. It is essential that people experiencing or with histories of homelessness have meaningful access to existing and new affordable rental units. The CoC continues to seek new opportunities to increase the housing stock in Oneida County. For there to be true access to housing for this population, there must be enough units that are both affordable and available to households at the lowest income levels and there must be concerted efforts to connect people experiencing homelessness to those units and to identify and remove barriers to such access. The 40 units that will be available are specific to homeless individuals/families with a documented mental health diagnosis. In addition, Municipal Housing Authority of City of Utica will be accepting referrals and applications for its newly funded Mainstream Voucher Program rental assistance which includes 30 vouchers for non-elderly (age 18 to 61) person with a disability. The Mainstream Program serves all of Oneida County, including the city of Rome. Voucher programs provide decent and safe affordable housing for low-income people and play a critical role in reducing homelessness. The CoC

continues to support agencies in expanding programs that increase the housing stock and give access to low income persons and homeless individuals to affordable housing.

Further, housing can be made more readily available to those with poor or no credit history, criminal records, and poor rental history through the implementation of Housing First practices and principles. Such access is often not realized even within communities' existing affordable housing. Increased access is promoted through ongoing education of housing, as well as through requirements attached to state and local funding. The CoC continues to educate and train on Housing First practice and principles to help aid access to affordable housing.

Overall, the CoC continues to inform, educate, and improve access and eliminate barriers to affordable housing in Oneida County.

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

Actions to address LBP hazards are centered on the City of Rome's active participation in a regional initiative to raise awareness and to effectively address LBP hazards in Oneida and Herkimer Counties, including in the City of Rome. This regional initiative was developed in 2018 and is coordinated by the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties and involves multiple partners including the Oneida County Department of Health, the Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition (CoC NY-518) and the Cities of Utica and Rome in Oneida County, NY. Actions taken by this group that is managed by four full-time staff dedicated to reducing LBP hazards include 1.) a public awareness campaign, production and dissemination of both print and video materials; 2.) providing funding for and facilitating the introduction of lead testing of children at local health clinics and schools; 3.) Supporting Lead-Free MV Coalition member organizations to provide information to the community about lead poisoning prevention at home shows in both Utica & Rome; 3.) Holding Lead Compliance Workshops in Oneida County in which HUD & EPA staff provide information and materials to improve understanding and increase compliance of current lead regulations by landlords, agencies, housing authority staff, and government officials; 4.) Targeted outreach to Rome's CDBG target area to increase lead testing and awareness in Rome involving the Rome Community Schools staff who worked through their existing venues (Rome Summer Program, Parent University and Kid's Farmer Market) to distribute childhood lead poisoning prevention information to parents with young children, and 5.) Development and implementation of a Community Cost Sharing Window Replacement Project that provides incentives and education for landlords who are willing to correct lead paint housing conditions specifically related to deteriorating windows. This incentive based, cost sharing approach requires applicants to comply with local ordinances and utilize interim controls for remediation of lead hazards in order to receiving financial assistance for window replacement.

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

Poverty reduction goals, programs, and policies in general have two main objectives: to increase income from employment and other sources and to keep housing costs at an affordable level for the

City. Affordable housing initiatives to both maintain and upgrade the existing stock of affordable housing and to add new affordable housing unit within the City are at the center of the intersection of poverty and affordable housing availability within the City and we are actively involved in a number of specific initiatives in both these general areas.

### **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 supplements the efforts of CED through general fund contracts with professional service providers as well as 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 4 year mark with an extended funding award from the Community Foundation for an additional 10 years of funding. 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. The city has recently started serving on a newly formed Equity Task force, funded through the Rome City School District. The goal of this task force is to help the Rome City School District achieved its goal to improve cultural competency, social awareness and educational equity across all domains of the organization. In having this solution oriented, focused on improvement efforts task force, it has allowed the City as a partner to focus on tangible ways we can help bring this purpose model out of the schools and into the community.

### **Discussion:**

## Program Specific Requirements

### AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I)(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(I)(1)

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

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

#### 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%



## Appendix - Alternate/Local Data Sources

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Data Source Name</b></p> <p>Utica-Rome Continuum of Care (NY-518)</p>
	<p><b>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</b></p> <p>Steve Darman, Utica Rome Oneida and Madison Counties Continuum of Care (NY-518)</p>
	<p><b>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</b></p> <p>The data provided information about the homeless population in Rome; including estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night, persons experiencing homelessness each year, persons becoming homeless each year, people exiting homelessness each year, and number of days people experience homelessness.</p>
	<p><b>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</b></p> <p>The purpose of creating this data set was to better understand and assess the homeless conditions in Rome.</p> <p>These needs are determined via client assessments conducted at the point of entry into our homeless service system. Points of entry include the Oneida County Department of Social Services' Rome Office, the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley's Domestic Violence Shelter system, the Rome Rescue Mission's shelter, shelters in nearby Utica that also serve Rome residents, ACR Health's HOPWA Program, and VA Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing (SSVF), and permanent supportive housing (VASH) program.</p>
	<p><b>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</b></p> <p>The Utica-Rome Continuum of Care's data collection was a thorough analysis of the homeless population in Rome. The housing and supportive service needs for Rome's homeless adults and children are varied, but they all have two things in common. All homeless sub-groups need skilled and specialized case management services to 1.) Navigate multiple housing and support service options, 2. Facilitate document collection and enrollment in healthcare, supportive housing, and public assistance programs, and 3.) Facilitate the housing search and placement for those eligible for permanent housing but who lack the knowledge or ability to locate and secure a housing unit. In addition to these near-universal housing and supportive service needs, homeless persons with a behavioral health disability, a physical disability, and/or experiencing domestic violence have a need for specialized treatment or clinical services- and since these services are located elsewhere in Rome, they need access to and funds for transportation to and from these services. Homeless households with younger children need childcare options they can afford and access if the adult caretaker is employed or needs to leave the home to receive clinical services.</p>

	<p><b>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</b></p> <p>The data was collected between October 2013 and October 2014.</p>
	<p><b>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</b></p> <p>The data set provided by the Utica-Rome Continuum of Care is considered to be accurate and complete.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Data Source Name</b></p> <p>2015 ACS</p>
	<p><b>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</b></p>
	<p><b>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</b></p>
	<p><b>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</b></p>
	<p><b>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</b></p>
	<p><b>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</b></p>
	<p><b>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</b></p>
	<p><b>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</b></p>