

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The County of Lexington has been a participant in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program since July 1, 2000. On July 1, 2008, the County became a Participating Jurisdiction (PJ) in the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program. On July 1, 2018 Lexington County became a participant in the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. On March 27, 2020, President Trump sign the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136 to respond to the growing effects of the historic public health crisis. The County was awarded a cumulative CDBG-CV funds in the amount of \$2,501,688 and \$1,746,250 of ESG-CV funds. These funds will be used for the public service, prevention of homes, rapid re-housing, buildings and improvements including public facilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus. These programs are sponsored by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through an annual federal budget allocation.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

In accordance with HUD guidelines, the Annual Action Plan is developed each year to identify specific activities that address priorities and goals established in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

In developing the Annual Action Plan, the County reviews it's Consolidated Plan, seeks public input, and conducts both formal and informal needs assessments to determine whether the County's Consolidated Plan needs to address additional priorities through the County's CDBG and HOME Programs.

The Consolidated Plan outlines the following goals for the County's HUD Entitlement Grant Programs:

- Priority Goal 1: Owner occupied housing rehabilitation.
- Priority Goal 2: Provide and/or support adequate, safe, and affordable housing through Homebuyer Assistance Program.
- Priority Goal 3: Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population.
- Priority Goal 4: Public Facilities / Infrastructure Development.
- Priority Goal 5: Education / Promotion of Fair Housing practices.

- Priority Goal 6: Lead-Based Paint Reduction
- Priority Goal 7: Establish or support programs that provide needed public services and /or increase the level of service provided by existing programs.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

As part of the consolidated planning process Lexington County staff members, as well as its municipal partners, service providers and stakeholders completed an extensive analysis of the County of Lexington's existing CDBG and HOME services, programs and projects. To that end, and as the following Consolidated Plan will lay-out, the highest priority needs continue to be the development of new affordable housing units, the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing units and providing adequate housing and public service opportunities for the County of Lexington's homeless and vulnerable (non-homeless) populations. The County of Lexington will aggressively support its two highly successful owner-occupied housing rehabilitation programs throughout the incorporated and unincorporated communities of our County; these are the minor home repair and the comprehensive housing repair programs. Additionally, the County and its municipal partners will continue to proactively improve public facilities and public infrastructure in the underserved census tracts and block groups of the community, which will in turn help to foster safe and decent living environments for our residents.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Throughout the year, the County provides opportunities for citizen participation, which supports in the development of the Annual Action Plan. The following meetings were open to the public and included discussions of the County's housing and community development needs and activities to be undertaken as described in the Annual Action Plan.

- 11/20/2020 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and Annual Needs Assessment Public Hearing
- 2/9/2021 Grant Programs Division Advisory Committee Meeting
- 3/25/2021 Draft 2021 Annual Action Plan Public Notice
- 4/13//2021 Lexington County Council Administration Committee Meeting
- 4/13/2021 Lexington County Council Approval
- A public notice and notice of a public hearing for the draft 2021 Annual Action Plan was published in *The Lexington County Chronicle* and the draft Plan was placed on the County's

website on March 25, 2021. A virtual public hearing was held on April 9, 2021. No comments were received.

5. Summary of public comments

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

No comments were received.

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

No comments were received.

7. Summary

The County of Lexington's Office of Community Development Grants Program Division is the lead agency responsible for the preparation of the Consolidated Plan. As an Urban Entitlement County, the County of Lexington administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the Home Improvement Partnership Program (HOME) and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program.

The County has Intergovernmental Agreements with the municipalities of Batesburg-Leesville, Chapin, Gaston, Gilbert, Irmo, Lexington, Pelion, Pine Ridge, South Congaree, Springdale, Summit, Swansea, as well as with the cities of Cayce and West Columbia. The County receives and administers CDBG, HOME and ESG funds on their behalf.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	LEXINGTON COUNTY	Community Development
HOME Administrator	LEXINGTON COUNTY	Community Development
ESG Administrator	LEXINGTON COUNTY	Community Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

Lexington County's Community Development Department administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program for Lexington County and is the lead entity responsible for overseeing the county's Consolidated Plan. However, preparation and development of the plan require input from numerous individuals, municipalities, agencies and organizations throughout the county.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

The County of Lexington is engaged in ongoing efforts to increase coordination among a complex network of public, private, and non-profit organizations that deliver housing and social services in our community. As the administrators of the County of Lexington's CDBG, HOME and ESG programs, the County's Office of Community Development, Grant Programs Division acts as a nucleus for community and economic development in the County. What's more, the Grant Programs Division maintains positive and pro-active relationships with many of the County's local governments, non-profit, faith-based and social service agencies.

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

In addition to maintaining an open door policy and having ongoing daily communication with the area's many service providers, specific steps the County has taken to enhance coordination include: entering into intergovernmental agreements with its fourteen (14) municipalities to include the communities of Batesburg-Leesville, Chapin, Gaston, Gilbert, Irmo, Lexington, Pelion, Pine Ridge, South Congaree, Springdale, Summit, Swansea, as well as the cities of Cayce and West Columbia. The Office of Community Development maintains close relationships with the City of Columbia, which administers the Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) Program on behalf of the County, as well as other nearby communities. The County also works closely with the Central Midlands Council of Governments, the Cities of West Columbia and Cayce, Lexington Medical Center and CMRTA on transportation issues.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The County of Lexington's Office of Community Development is an active supporter of local Continuum of Care (CoC) services and is a strong supporter and member of the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH). Moreover, the County has provided general fund, CDBG and ESG resources to the Transitions homeless facility in the City of Columbia, where it is estimated that the facility provides housing transitional services and counseling to some 200 Lexington County residents annually. Each year the County allocates hundreds of thousands of dollars through CDBG and HOME funds for the

acquisition and rehabilitation and rental of affordable housing (in an effort to increase affordable rental housing units to help aid in the prevention of homelessness). The County is a supporter of United Way of the Midlands and One80 Place agencies supported by Lexington's community and an organizations that provides food stability programs, rental and utility assistance to Lexington's low-and-moderate income residents. Additionally, the County uses its resources to consistently provide infrastructure and public service(s) to support to Sistercare's transitional shelter for battered women and their children as a strategy for combating homelessness in our community.

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

United Way of the Midlands (UWM), serves as lead HUD agency for the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH) that is the HUD designated Homeless Continuum of Care (SC-502) for Lexington County. As a team, UWM/MACH are committed to ending homelessness in the Midlands. MACH member agencies and other partners provide the direct services, shelter and housing that assist our community's homeless families, individuals, youth and veterans to stability. The complexity of the issue, diversity of the populations and shifting resources and priorities of the community and federal government make coordination key to community success. UWM/MACH works to ensure quality services, continuous planning, and coordination for efficiency and cost effectiveness and collaborate with Lexington County with these efforts. Lexington County participates in MACH meetings, the annual point-in-time count, and an annual consultation on ESG program certification including developing ESG performance measures.

UWM also serves as the MACH lead agency for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS data is used to collect and report on ESG program results. UWM will support Lexington County's ESG implementation with reporting on agency HMIS data.

MACH collaborates with the other South Carolina CoCs and the South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to establish statewide ESG performance measures, HMIS data collection standards, and standards for agency training and data quality. MACH considers agency capacity to administer funding and successful programs and collaboration with MACH key to community success in addressing homelessness and these factors are prioritized above individual funding categories within ESG.

MACH provides ESG certification based on the following factors:

Participation the Coordinated Entry System – including serving as a MACH Access Point (MAP)

Participation in HMIS (except providers serving domestic violence survivors)

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

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Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	TOWN OF LEXINGTON
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The County maintains a close working relationship with the Town of Lexington. In addition to entering into an Intergovernmental Funding Agreement with the Town for CDBG, HOME and ESG funds, the County regularly meets with grant managers and administrative officials to gain input on how certain projects fit into the Town's overall housing and economic development goals, as well as to gain insight into overall area wide planning and strategy.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The County maintains a close working relationship with the City of West Columbia. In addition to entering into an Intergovernmental Funding Agreement with the Town for CDBG, HOME and ESG funds, the County regularly meets with grant managers and administrative officials to gain input on how certain projects fit into the City's overall housing and economic development goals, as well as to gain insight into overall area wide planning and strategy.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	SISTERCARE, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Lexington consulted with Sistercare, Inc., the community's premiere agency providing services to battered spouses and children to include long-term sheltering, counseling, and job training. The outcome of this consultation included the need for further assistance to Spanish speaking populations, a community which ranked domestic violence as among the highest public service priorities in the community.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Education

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission was consulted as a way to assist the County of Lexington in assessing the needs of children, adults, the elderly and persons with disabilities in the community. The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission is offering groundbreaking programming for adults, seniors, and youth with disabilities and the outcome of the consultation, included the County of Lexington working to implement and support programs for persons with autism and severe disabilities in our community.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Assistance Provider
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Lexington staff consulted with its local CHDO, Community Assistance Providers in an effort to gain a better understanding of the County's housing needs assessment, non-homeless special needs, and market analysis to name a few. The outcome is that the staff gain a wider breadth of the overall housing needs of our low-and-moderate income residents living in our incorporated and unincorporated communities.

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

None

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	United Way of the Midlands	The goals of the annual action plan, as developed in coordination with the local Continuum of Care, will enhance and strengthen programs directly benefitting homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

As the administrator(s) of the County of Lexington's CDBG, HOME and ESG programs, the Office of Community Development acts as a hub for community, economic and social engagement for our community, a role and public trust that we take very seriously. To this end, our staff has worked diligently to maintain and foster open lines of communication between the County and our community's many non-profit and social service agencies. Besides an open door policy, each year our grant staff participate in numerous outreach meetings and hosts housing roundtables and meetings for subrecipients, contractors, and citizens interested in learning more about our grant programs.

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	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Public Notice Placed in the Chronicle	No Comments Received	None	
2	Virtual hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	0 citizens attended virtual public hearing	No Comments Received	None	
3	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Draft 2021 Annual Action Plan placed on County Website	No Comments Received	None	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

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	1,865,909	33,978	0	1,899,887	7,463,636	

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	722,712	27,215	0	749,927	2,890,848	
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	157,470	0	0	157,470	629,880	

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

In an effort to strengthen and increase the utilization of CDBG funds and to leverage additional funding, the County of Lexington requires that all CDBG sub-recipients provide a 10% cash match for the funding awarded. Match funds must be identified on the application and subrecipients

are required to provide documentation of their match funds in the monthly reporting and /or with reimbursement requests. All subrecipients are monitored annually by County staff and provided technical assistance where needed.

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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 County's Administration Building acts as the hub for administering the CDBG, HOME and ESG programs as well as a meeting place for public hearings and meetings to discuss plan goals.

Discussion

Community facilities and services are available to all County residents in the quest to meet the day-to-day needs of the Lexington community and to enhance quality the overall quality of life. Community Facilities are divided into several categories: general government facilities; educational facilities; libraries, and park and recreation facilities. The Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority is a provider of fixed route bus service and demand-responsive Para-transit service for the more urbanized communities of Lexington. The CMRTA offers fares and monthly passes at a discount to college students, senior citizens, and customers with physical and mental disabilities. Service animals are permitted to accompany individuals with disabilities on all vehicles.

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	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs		Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Substandard Owner Occupied Housing	CDBG: \$20,000 HOME: \$197,543	Rental units rehabilitated: 3 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 16 Household Housing Unit
2	Homebuyer Assistance Program	2020	2024	Affordable Housing		Homebuyer Assistance Program	HOME: \$40,000	Homeowner Housing Added: 8 Household Housing Unit
3	Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Geographic Priority Area The Count of Lexington has not designated specific priority areas	Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population Substandard Owner Occupied Housing	HOME: \$412,457	Rental units rehabilitated: 3 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 4 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Public Facilities/Infrastructure Development	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Geographic Priority Area	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Development	CDBG: \$1,320,407	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 25000 Persons Assisted
7	Public Services	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	The Count of Lexington has not designated specific priority areas	Public Services	CDBG: \$263,253	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3000 Persons Assisted
8	Action on Homeless	2020	2024	Homeless	The Count of Lexington has not designated specific priority areas	Action on Homeless	ESG: \$157,470	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 350 Persons Assisted Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 200 Beds Homelessness Prevention: 200 Persons Assisted
9	Administration	2020	2024	Administration			CDBG: \$262,249 HOME: \$72,712	Other: 1 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
10	2015 CDBG-Disaster Recovery	2016	2020	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Housing Buyout	Geographic Priority Area	Action on Homeless		Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 17 Household Housing Unit Homelessness Prevention: 81 Persons Assisted Buildings Demolished: 81 Buildings

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	For the HOME program, an estimated 8 owner occupied homes will receive comprehensive housing rehabilitation to bring the homeowner's home up to code. Also, it is estimated that approximately three (3) homes will be purchased by a local CHDO to provide affordable housing to Lexington County families. CDBG funds will be used to conduct approximately 8 minor home repairs for a low-moderate low income homeowners within Lexington County.
2	Goal Name	Homebuyer Assistance Program
	Goal Description	Approximately 8 - 10 Lexington County low income residents will receive down payment/closing costs assistance as a first time homebuyer.

3	Goal Name	Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population
	Goal Description	<p>CDBG and HOME fund will be used for the minor home repair and comprehensive housing rehabilitation programs which complete general repairs and maintenance to homes. Also, this will include acquisition and affordable housing through the HOME Investment Partnerships program which purchase homes and rehabilitates the homes for either homeownership or rental activities in conjunction with non-profit, for profit or CHDO's and neighborhood revitalization through the CDBG program.</p> <p>DR - The County is about to close out the buyout program for the DR program. The rehabilitation projects are complete.</p> <p>MIT - The County is in the process of opening up phase II of the buyout program through the MIT Program.</p>
4	Goal Name	Public Facilities/Infrastructure Development
	Goal Description	<p>Ensure adequate and safe infrastructure to meet basic needs of county residents.</p> <p>DR - activities/project associated with DR funding are in the final stages of beginning repairs to Bagpipe Road that were caused by 2015 flood.</p> <p>MIT - activities/projects associated with MIT funding are in the planning stages during this time. Attention to the repair of three projects to repair roads that have been damaged by the 2015 flood. This activity will be classed as the South Central Infrastructure project and the Environmental Review is underway.</p>
7	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	This program will include support for public services related to youth services, employment training, and programs for the homeless, battered spouses and children, and persons with disabilities and meet a myriad of needs for the County's low-and moderate income populations.
8	Goal Name	Action on Homeless
	Goal Description	The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, revising the Emergency Shelter Grants Program in significant ways and renaming it the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. This grant provides funding to agencies that respond to the immediate need of at-risk homeless populations. The County of Lexington became a participating jurisdiction of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program on July 1, 2018.

9	Goal Name	Administration
	Goal Description	Administrative
10	Goal Name	2015 CDBG-Disaster Recovery
	Goal Description	

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Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

This program will support the planning and development of adequate public facilities and improvements, including but not limited to, streets, sidewalks, water, sewer, parks, playgrounds, and facilities for persons with special needs such as the homeless.

DR- Lexington County continues with disaster recovery efforts resulting from the 2015 floods through the CDBG-DR program. The Buyout and Rehabilitation programs continue in our on-going effort to provide safe and secure homes for our residents.

All information regarding the program can be found here: <http://www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptAH/communitydevelopment/Pages/CDBG-DR.aspx>

CDBG-CV and ESG-CV - The County will continue to assist the residents of Lexington County to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus through public service, public facility and homeless prevention.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Infrastructure and Public Facilities
2	Public Services
3	CDBG Program Administration
4	Minor Home Repair
5	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)
6	Comprehensive Housing Rehabilitation Program
7	HOME Program Administration
8	Homeowner Assistance Program
9	Affordable Housing/Acquisition
10	HESG21- Lexington County

Table 7 - Project Information

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

During the needs assessment process the Grants Program Division was able to identify a myriad of infrastructure needs in Lexington County low-and-moderate income areas. The needs ranged from water and sewer lines to sidewalks and streets and public facilities, to include community and youth

centers, job training programs ADA compliant bathrooms and diabetic food pantries.

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AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

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1	Project Name	Infrastructure and Public Facilities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities/Infrastructure Development
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,320,407
	Description	This program will support the planning and development of adequate public facilities and improvements, including but not limited to, streets, sidewalks, water, sewer, parks, playgrounds, and facilities for LMI persons and persons with special needs such as the homeless.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 4877 persons and 1075 households will be assisted from these proposed activities.
	Location Description	
2	Planned Activities	Brookland Center for Community Economic Change Town of Batesburg/Leesville Joint Municipal Water and Sewer City of West Columbia
	Project Name	Public Services
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$263,253
	Description	The primary objective of the CDBG Program is to develop sustainable communities for persons of low- and moderate-income (LMI), thereby improving the housing, quality of life, and economic conditions of the Lexington community. HUD defines LMI as household income that is less than 80% of area median income.
	Target Date	6/30/2023

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Public Services should benefit approximately 6768 LMI persons Approximately 100 Homeless Persons assisted with overnight shelter
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Midlands Housing Alliance/Transitions Boys and Girls Club ICRC Afterschool Program ICRC Athletic Scholarship Program Harvest Hope Food Bank Lexington School District #1
3	Project Name	CDBG Program Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Administration
	Needs Addressed	Education/Promotion of Fair Housing Practices
	Funding	CDBG: \$262,249
	Description	Planning and Administration
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used for the administration of the CDBG Program.
4	Project Name	Minor Home Repair
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Substandard Owner Occupied Housing Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000

	Description	The Minor Housing Repair Program assists low-moderate income homeowners with minor repairs to their homes. This activity is a continued Lexington County homeowner housing repair program.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 6 households will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Minor rehab to approximately 6 households.
5	Project Name	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population
	Needs Addressed	Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population
	Funding	HOME: \$192,825
	Description	At least 15% of the County's HOME funds will be set aside for organizations which are designated by the County of Lexington as Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO). Funding allocated for CHDO's may be used for eligible development activities that promote affordable housing activities that are owned, developed or sponsored by CHDOs. HUD has established criteria to certify CHDO's to assist the Community Development Department in accomplishing the goals and objects of the HOME Program.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Acquisition of 2 homes for rental to LMI Lexington County residents using CHDO reserves.
	Location Description	All properties located in Lexington County.
	Planned Activities	Funding allocated for CHDO's to be used for eligible development activities that promote affordable housing activities that are owned, developed, or sponsored by CHDO's. HUD has established criteria to certify CHDO's to assist the Community Development Department in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the HOME Program.

6	Project Name	Comprehensive Housing Rehabilitation Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Substandard Owner Occupied Housing Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction
	Funding	HOME: \$197,543
	Description	The Comprehensive Housing Rehabilitation Program assists low-and moderate income families, disabled, elderly and veteran homeowners with qualifying repairs to their primary residence. Funds will be used to assist approximately 8 homeowners with significant repairs to their homes. Maximum repair amounts for each home typically shall not exceed \$25,000 with limited assistance above \$25,000 in certain circumstances.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 8 homeowners will be assisted with rehab to their homes.
	Location Description	Lexington County
	Planned Activities	Comprehensive Housing Rehabilitation will be provided to approximately 8 Lexington County homeowners to have repairs completed on their homes and home brought up to code compliance.
7	Project Name	HOME Program Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Administration
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	HOME: \$72,712
	Description	Administration
	Target Date	6/30/2022

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Funds used to administer the HOME Program.
8	Project Name	Homeowner Assistance Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Homebuyer Assistance Program
	Needs Addressed	Homebuyer Assistance Program
	Funding	HOME: \$40,000
	Description	The Homeownership Assistance Program will provide down-payment assistance and/or closing costs assistance to low-moderate low income LMI first time homebuyers. The amount of assistance provided will not exceed \$5,000 per single family dwelling unit. recapture provisions will be enacted through deferred forgivable loans Funds will assist approximately 8 first time homebuyers.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 8 Lexington County individuals will be provided with Down Payment and/or closing cost assistance.
	Location Description	Lexington County
	Planned Activities	Assist approximately 8 first time homebuyers with down payment and/or closing costs funds.
9	Project Name	Affordable Housing/Acquisition
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population
	Needs Addressed	Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population
	Funding	HOME: \$219,632

	Description	This activity will continue an existing County program to acquire and rehabilitate affordable housing for either homeownership or rental activities. Funds may be used for non-profit developers, for-profit developers, and in conjunction with the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). Also funds will be used for the promotion of Fair Housing.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 3 families will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Lexington County
	Planned Activities	This activity will continue an existing County program to acquire and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for either homeowners or rental activities. Funds may be used for non-profit developers, for-profit developers, in conjunction with our CHDO's or for Lexington County homeowner residents.
10	Project Name	HESG21- Lexington County
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Action on Homeless
	Needs Addressed	Action on Homeless
	Funding	ESG: \$157,470
	Description	The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, revising the Emergency Shelter Grants Program in significant ways and renaming it the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. This grant provides funding to agencies that respond to the immediate need of at-risk and homeless populations. The County of Lexington became a participating jurisdiction of the Emergency solutions Grant (ESG) Program on July 1, 2018.
	Target Date	6/30/2023

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Estimate 450 will be assisted with overnight shelter and homelessness prevention.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	ESG Funding to be split between United Way of the Midlands, Midlands Housing Alliance/Transitions for HMIS Reporting and Sistercare, Inc. for emergency shelter and HMIS reporting.

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

Target Area Percentage of Fund

Batesburg/Leesville 35%

City of West Columbia 35%

Cayce 16%

Town of Pelion 10%

Columbia 4%

Unincorporated Lexington CDBG 13%

Unincorporated Lexington HOME 87%

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Geographic Priority Area	
The Count of Lexington has not designated specific priority areas	

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Grant Programs Division staff is 100% confident in the geographic distribution of CDBG and HOME funds. The allocations were reviewed and analyzed by the County of Lexington's Grant Advisory Committee and projects were ranked according to need and followed a rigorous application process. Moreover, the County holds intergovernmental agreements with all fourteen (14) municipalities in the County and ensures that each of the communities has access to CDBG and HOME funds once a project has been deemed eligible. Moreover, food bank Programs, job training, as well as the County's housing program are available to low-and-moderate income residents Countywide, regardless of where one lives.

Discussion

As part of this Consolidated Planning effort, Grant Programs Division staff has taken extensive measures to ensure that the County is addressing infrastructure and public facilities, public services, and housing

programs countywide in order to address the needs of our community's low-and-moderate income residents. Additionally, the County operates several programs to include its CDBG and HOME funded owner-occupied housing rehabilitation programs public services, and DPA programs that are open to all low-and-moderate income persons in the County with there being no geographic segregation. The County of Lexington has several pockets of poverty. ESG program addresses our homeless prevention and emergency shelter.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

During Program Year 2021, the County of Lexington along with its municipal partners and its non-profit and for profit housing developers will work diligently through the use of CDBG, HOME and ESG funds toward the development and preservation of affordable housing, homeless prevention and emergency shelter. We will accomplish this through these four broad categories:

- 1) Owner occupied housing repair programs (minor home and comprehensive housing repair program)
- 2) Our ongoing support of homeless prevention services and operations
- 3) The support of organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and our certified CHDO's
- 4) The County of Lexington's DPA (Down Payment Assistance Program)

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	32
Special-Needs	0
Total	32

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	5
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	22
Acquisition of Existing Units	5
Total	32

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

Discussion

With the allocation of ESG funds for with PY 2021 Lexington County will be able to assist further with homeless issues throughout the County. Street outreach, emergency shelter, homeless prevention and rapid re-housing are eligible components of this program and will serve the community well.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The County of Lexington works with the Cayce Housing Authority and the State Department of Housing and Finance; the Cayce Housing and the SC Housing and Finance offers Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and does not have any public housing units. The CHA has a small number of public housing units as well as Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The County has recently engaged the Cayce Housing Authority in an effort to collaborate in expanding the availability of public housing for the community.

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

Continue to collaborate with Cayce Housing Authority for expanding the availability of public housing throughout Lexington County.

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

The County continues to encourage local support service providers to expand existing Consumer Credit Counseling and First Time Home-Buyer programs with funding assistance where possible. Additionally, through the use of CDBG and HOME funds the County of Lexington's Grant Programs Division will continue working with community groups to seek additional resources to build consumer credit education counseling and awareness among low income and minority residents to include local faith-based organizations, higher education institutions, libraries, and other forums for fair housing. All of the County's first time homebuyers must attend a HUD approved homebuyer class before awarded any funds.

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

Not Applicable

Discussion

Not Applicable

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

Introduction

The County of Lexington is focusing on planning efforts that create various ways to address the issues of homelessness and chronic homelessness. It is difficult to accurately measure the number of persons at risk of becoming homeless. Moreover, it is impossible to gauge at any one time the number of people who are threatened with eviction, unemployment, foreclosure, or termination of utilities. Families and individuals are at-risk of becoming homeless when they no longer have any cushion against the perils of life. Most commonly, a family is at-risk when it lives paycheck-to-paycheck without any savings for sudden emergencies. The County's elderly and families are the face of the homeless in Lexington. Experts in the field suggest that if the County can somehow assist entities that addressing issues of mental illness, invest in job training, and work development programs, then our community would begin addressing issues of chronic homelessness. The County's CDBG program supports The Arc of the Midlands with a meal delivery program that teaches adults with disabilities food prep and cooking lessons.

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

Service providers in the County of Lexington will work collaboratively to provide a wide range of expertise in housing, social, and supportive services within each component of the continuum. A strategy to address homelessness in the CoC is to strengthen and enhance these existing assets. In regards to goals for eliminating chronic homelessness, The County of Lexington works closely with other municipalities, community leaders, and other stakeholders to accomplish this goal. Christ Central Ministries currently operates shelters for women and children, families, and veterans facing homelessness. What's more, the faith-based organization has purchased property and intends to open additional shelters for young (teenage) males, families and others within the next five years. As part of the strategic planning initiative, these organizations will include goals set out by the Federal Government's inter-agency Strategic Plan to End Homelessness called Opening Doors. These goals include: 1) Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 5 years; 2) Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 5 years; 3) Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 10 years; 4) Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The County of Lexington, our non-profit organizations and municipal partners will continue to dedicate funding and support the operations of expansion of existing emergency shelters throughout the county. Funding provided to local shelters to expand service and create new programs to address multiple

persons and housing needs.

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

Each year the County of Lexington without a doubt, through the support of its subrecipients is both directly and indirectly assisting individuals from becoming homeless once they are discharged from publicly funded institutions through our support of the job training programs with Goodwill and the Fatherhood Initiative, our collaborations with the Cayce Housing Authority, or support of training and counseling services for Sistercare, Inc, a local non-profit which advocates on behalf of battered spouses and their children and finally through our support of food stability programs which are CDBG through Brookland Foundation Food Bank and Harvest Hope Food Bank. Moreover, working with the Central Midlands Council of Governments, area non-profits, as well as its fourteen (14) municipalities, Lexington County has targeted significant CDBG, HOME and ESG resources within the low-income areas described in this Plan. Each year the County works to leverage these resources, which in turn acts as catalyst to spur additional public and private investment in our Low and Moderate Income areas and serves to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing, as well as help low-to-moderate income residents acquire the skills necessary to improve their employment opportunities.

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.

Additionally, each year the County works with the Central Midlands Council of Governments, area non-profits, as well as its fourteen (14) municipalities to target significant CDBG and HOME resources within the low-income areas described in this Plan. Each year the County works to leverage these resources, which in turn acts as catalyst to spur additional public and private investment in our Low and Moderate Income areas and serves to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing, as well as help low-to-moderate income residents acquire the skills necessary to improve their employment opportunities. For example, during Program Year 2020 the County is not only providing funding for the Midlands Housing Alliance/Transitions Facility, but we are using CDBG resources for job training, as well as to provide resources to persons with disabilities and battered women and their children. Lexington County is also working with its partners Brookland Foundation Food Bank and Harvest Hope Food bank

to address food instability among our children and elderly residents.

Discussion

As part of the strategic planning initiative, various organizations, along with Lexington County, will include goals set out by the Federal Government's inter-agency Strategic Plan to End Homelessness called Opening Doors. These goals include: 1) Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 5 years; 2) Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 5 years; 3) Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 10 years; 4) Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

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

Introduction:

The most recent Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing identifies six areas of concern. The barriers to addressing housing needs, such as demand for both renter and owner-occupied housing units (based on the current inventory of rental units), fair market rent for these units, the current waiting lists for public housing, and the income levels of those experiencing housing problems clearly show a need for affordable rental units. Additionally, the disproportionate level of low wages as compared to high cost of available rental units is another barrier for LMI individuals.

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

The County of Lexington's Grant Programs Division through its housing acquisition and rehabilitation programs through CDBG and HOME has addressed some of the issues of affordability by increasing the availability of affordable single family homes in the County's rental inventory through its partnerships with community CHDO's and developers. Additionally, the County is working with Habitat for Humanity, the faith based community and the Cayce Housing Authority in an effort to identify strategies for collaborative funding opportunities through the use of CDBG, HOME, tax credits, etc.

Discussion:

The County has collaborated with the Urban League of Greater Columbia, the Community Relations Council, as well as the Central Midlands Council of Governments, and USDA-Rural to perform comprehensive outreach and education activities throughout the County of Lexington. The Grant Programs Division will continue to aggressively seek partners that will encourage the development of strategies for affordable housing in the County of Lexington. Over the next four years the County of Lexington anticipates expending approximately \$50,000 on fair housing programs and services.

Due to COVID-19, the County had to cancel the monthly outreach meetings at local libraries to educate residents on Fair Housing and the rules, regulations and rights. Once the public health crisis is over, County staff will return to public meetings to educate on Fair Housing. The County continues to collaborate with other local government entities with various Fair Housing outreach programs/events as well as providing brochures, pamphlets, and social media outreach such as City TV, YouTube, Twitter and Facebook.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The County continues to encourage local support service providers to expand existing Consumer Credit Counseling and First Time Home-Buyer programs with funding assistance where possible. Additionally, through the use of CDBG and HOME funds the County of Lexington's Grant Programs Division will continue working with community groups to seek additional resources to build consumer credit education counseling and awareness among low income and minority residents to include local faith-based organizations, higher education institutions, libraries, and other forums for fair housing

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Grant Programs Division staff intend to engage the non-profit, faith based, state service providers and social agencies in an effort to further identify the resources available to address the housing, child care, mental health services, and economic disparities that exist in the County. Through the Consolidated Plan consultation process, County staff have been able to identify organizations that are providing services in the community. It is important that the County serve as a catalyst to promote collaboration amongst the various organizations. To this end, in 2020 the Grant Programs Division staff intends to host a service provider meeting that will engage these organizations in an effort to better serve our low-and-moderate income populations

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The County continues to support local groups, such as Habitat for Humanity, the Cayce Housing Authority, local developers and non-profit community housing organizations, as well as USDA-Rural, who work to provide affordable homes and seek viable financing options for low to moderate-low income homebuyers. County staff also works with local lenders to identify changes or patterns in lending practices, especially those that impact low-income, minorities, Section 3 residents, and other special populations. The County continuously enters into an agreements with the Cayce Housing Authority, as well as local CHDO's to increase the availability of housing for low-and-moderate income families, as well as seniors that are severely housing cost burdened.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The County currently contracts with a lead based paint specialist and will I continue to support programs available through DHEC and will continue to be diligent in following our lead hazard control program to eliminate lead hazards in housing when a unit undergoes rehabilitation through the CDBG

and HOME Programs

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The County of Lexington has targeted significant CDBG and HOME resources toward the public service, infrastructure, and housing programs designed to address issues and improve the lives of the county's low-and-moderate income populations of the County. The work of the County in conjunction with our numerous partners will act as a catalyst to invite additional public and private investment of capital and services, to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing, and to help low to moderate income residents acquire needed information, knowledge, and skills to improve their employment opportunities.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Lexington County's Grant Programs Division staff intends to host a service provider meeting that will engage these organizations in an effort to better serve our low-and-moderate income populations.

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

The County has entered into an agreements with the Cayce Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity as well as local CHDOs to increase the availability of housing for low-and-moderate income families, as well as seniors that are severely housing cost burdened.

Discussion:

The County continues to support local groups, such as Habitat for Humanity, the Cayce Housing Authority, local developers and non-profit community housing organizations, as well as USDA-Rural, who work to provide affordable homes and seek viable financing options for low to moderate-low income homebuyers.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

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. All Program Income received is automatically reprogrammed to open activities.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	90.00%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)

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

as follows:

Not Applicable

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

The County of Lexington has adopted the recapture provisions for HOME funds. This is a mechanism to recapture all or a portion of the direct HOME subsidy if the HOME recipient decides to sell the house within the affordability period at whatever price the market will bear. Recaptures funds may be used for any HOME-eligible activity. Recaptured funds are deposited in the local HOME account and is treated like Program Income, which includes recording in IDIS as Program Income

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

The County of Lexington does not currently participate in resale activities with HOME Funds and Affordability requirements are imposed by deed restrictions, covenants running with the land. Home assisted rental units must meet the affordability for a specific period, which depends upon the type of activity or level of HOME funding. Specifically, the sale of the property during the affordability period triggers repayment of the direct HOME subsidy, which limits the amount to be recaptured to the net proceeds available from the sale minus loan repayment and closing costs.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

Not applicable to our program as we currently do not do multifamily housing.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Reference 91.220(l)(4)

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)
 - Must be private nonprofit organizations.
 - Agencies must submit 501(c)3 status documentation.
 - Agency's project request for HESG funds must be endorsed by the local Continuum of Care to make sure the agency's project is in line with the CoC's priorities and standards.
 - Agencies must provide a service that HUD prioritizes (Rapid Re-Housing, Street/Community

outreach, Shelter Operations).

- Any agency receiving HESG funds is obligated to maintain both client services activity records and performance outcome measures utilizing HMIS. Domestic violence, AIDS and legal service providers must use a comparable database that collects client-level data over time and generates unduplicated aggregate reports.
2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

United Way of the Midlands (UWM), serves as lead HUD agency for the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH) which is the HUD designated Homeless Continuum of Care (SC-502) for Lexington County. UWM also serves as the MACH lead agency for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS data is used to collect and report on ESG program results. UWM will support Lexington County's ESG implementation with reporting on agency HMIS data.

MACH collaborates with the other South Carolina CoCs and the South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to establish state wide ESG performance measures, HMIS data collection standards, and standards for agency training and data quality. MACH considers agency capacity to administer funding and successful programs and collaboration with MACH key to community success in addressing homelessness and these factors are prioritized above individual funding categories within ESG.

- MACH provides ESG certification based on the following factors:
- Participation the Coordinated Entry System – including serving as a MACH Access Point (MAP)
- Participation in HMIS (except providers serving domestic violence survivors)
- Participation and membership with MACH

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

The County posted a NOFA for agencies to apply for ESG eligible activities. Applications are reviewed and scored by Community Development staff for discussion and funding recommendations. After the required comment period and a Public Hearing, funding recommendations are presented to County Council for approval. For ESG funding, Lexington County must consult with the local Continuum of Care (CoC) in determining how to allocate these funds.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions

regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

A homeless and/or formerly homeless individual participates in the United Way of the Midlands governing body. Lexington County consults UWM when prioritizing policy and funding decisions related to the ESG program.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

Lexington County has established Policy and Procedures for the ESG Program and will adhere to the strict monitoring guidelines for the CDBG program.

Attachments

Citizen Participation Comments

—

APPENDIX A – CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

Introduction

Lexington County receives funds annually from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to implement the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The primary goals of the CDBG program are to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities particularly for low- and moderate-income persons.

To receive CDBG funds, the County is required to develop and implement a Citizen Participation Plan (CPP). The purpose of the CPP is to encourage citizen participation in the development, implementation and evaluation of the specific activities described within the Consolidated Plan and funded through the CDBG program.

The Consolidated Plan is a comprehensive planning process that describes the County's housing market conditions, identifies overall needs for affordable housing and non-housing community development, and provides strategies to address those needs. The Consolidated Plan also serves as the application for Federal funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The Citizen Participation Plan sets forth the policies and procedures for citizen involvement in the following components of the Consolidated Plan:

- Five-Year Consolidated Plan
- Annual One-Year Action Plan
- Substantial Amendments
- Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER)

Definitions

The following terms are used in the Citizen Participation Plan and can be defined as follows:

Consolidated Plan

This is the collective term for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, Annual One-Year Action Plan, and the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Five-Year Consolidated Plan

This document is prepared once every five years and serves as the County's housing and community development plan. HUD requires the Plan from the County to receive CDBG funds.

The Plan is prepared in accordance with the process prescribed in 24 CFR Part 91 and describes the County's housing and community development needs, resources, and priorities and proposed activities to be undertaken over a five-year period.

Annual One-Year Action Plan

This document is prepared annually and is an update to the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. This Plan describes the needs, resources, priorities and proposed activities to be undertaken over a one-year period.

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant Program): A U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant which provides for a variety of community development programs that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

This document is prepared annually and describes the efforts and progress made in implementing the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and One-Year Action Plan for the preceding Program Year.

Program Year

The year in which CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are carried out. The program year begins July 1st and ends June 30th.

Substantial Amendment

HUD requires grantees to submit an amendment to their Annual Action Plan when there is a substantial change in the allocation priorities or methods of distribution to projects funded with CDBG. A substantial amendment is defined as one of the following:

1. Project deletions or changes made in allocation priorities or methods of distribution that have the effect of changing the funding level of individual CDBG projects identified in the Annual Action Plan by more than 30% of an entitlement jurisdiction's annual funding level;
2. Any new eligible activity funded with CDBG not already identified in the Annual Action Plan;
3. Significant changes in the use of CDBG funds from one eligible activity to another, in an amount greater than 30% of the annual CDBG allocation.

Substantial amendments will be made available for public comment at the same locations previously described for the Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan. Resident comments (verbal and written) received during the citizen participation process will be summarized in writing and included in an attachment to any amendments submitted to HUD.

Citizen Participation Plan Adoption / Amendments

The County will make the CPP available to the public and provide citizens with reasonable notice and opportunity to comment on the adoption of, and amendments to, the CPP. Upon request, the CPP will be provided in a format accessible to persons with disabilities. Prior to adopting or amending the CPP, the County will publish a notice in The Chronicle Newspaper and in the Lexington County's Administration Building (a public facility) establishing a minimum of 15 days for the public to comment.

Development of the Consolidated Plan

In developing the Consolidated Plan, the County will utilize information obtained through citizen participation at public hearings, written comments received, electronic and hard copy surveys (provided in English and Spanish) , and consultation with:

- Public and private agencies that provide:
 - Assisted Housing
 - Health Services
 - Social Services For:
 - ∞ Children
 - ∞ Elderly
 - ∞ Persons with Disabilities
 - ∞ Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families
 - ∞ Homeless Persons
- Local Health and Child Welfare Agencies
- (Lead-Based Paint Hazards and Poisoning).
- Adjacent Jurisdictions (Non-housing Community Development Needs)
- State of South Carolina (Non-housing Community Development Needs)
- Area Planning Agencies (Central Midlands Council of Governments)

Amendments to the Consolidated Plan

HUD requires the County to amend its approved Five-Year Consolidated Plan and/or One-Year Annual Action Plan whenever one of the following decisions is made:

- To make a change in allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds;
- To carry out an activity using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan not previously described in the Annual Action Plan (including program income); or
- To change the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity.

Prior to implementation, the County will classify an amendment as either substantial or non-substantial. The public will be notified of any amendments classified as substantial and will be provided the opportunity to comment as described in Section VI (Public Comment). An amendment will be considered substantial if it meets the following criteria:

- The amendment will result in a change in the use of CDBG funds from one eligible activity to another when the activity funds are greater than 30% of the Fiscal Year's CDBG entitlement grant award.

Following the implementation of any amendment, the County will notify HUD that an amendment has been made by submitting a copy of the amendment along with any supporting documentation.

Public Comment

Citizens are encouraged to participate and provide comments on the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, One-Year Annual Action Plan, substantial amendments, and the CAPER. Prior to submission to HUD, the County will place a notice in The Chronicle Newspaper informing citizens of the availability of the document and the time period allowed for submitting comments before the documents are finalized and submitted to HUD. Any public comments received during the comment period shall be considered, summarized and attached to the documents prior to submission to HUD. The numbers of days allowed for public comment on each document are as follows:

- Five-Year Consolidated Plan – **30 days**
- One-Year Annual Action Plan – **30 days**
- Substantial Amendment(s) – **30 days**
- CAPER – **15 days**

Public Hearings

The County will hold a minimum of two (2) public hearings each program year to obtain citizens views and respond to proposals and questions. The purposes of the hearings are to allow the public the opportunity to comment on:

- Program Performance

- Housing and Community Development Needs
- Development of Proposed Activities

Public hearings will be held at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries, and with accommodation for persons with disabilities. The hearings will generally be held at the Lexington County Administration Building. Also, throughout the comment period surveys and comment cards will be left at various public facilities within Lexington County for community input. Accommodations for persons with visual, hearing or other impairments will be made upon request and reasonable notice. If a significant number of non-English speaking persons can be reasonably expected to attend the hearing, the County will make translation services available. At a minimum, hearings will be conducted during normal County business hours. When practical, hearings may be conducted after normal business hours.

The **first public hearing** is held during the development of the Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) and prior to making the Annual One-Year Action Plan or Five-Year Consolidated Plan available for public comment. The purpose of this hearing is to:

- Discuss the County's annual performance in achieving its goals and objectives for the preceding program year, and
- Obtain views from citizens on housing and community development needs, including priority non-housing community development needs, for the upcoming program year.

Input from this hearing is utilized in finalizing the CAPER and developing the Annual One-Year Action Plan or Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

The **second public hearing** is held during the development of the Annual One-Year Action Plan or Five-Year Consolidated Plan. This hearing is held primarily to discuss and obtain views from citizens regarding the draft plan including input on proposed activities, and funding amounts.

- Public Hearing on CAPER August – September
- Public Hearing on proposed Annual Action Plan April - May

Notice of the public hearings will be published in The Chronicle and in the Lexington County's Administration Building (a public facility) at least 7 days before the scheduled hearing date. Notices will include the date, time, location, and purpose of the hearing, and the name and phone number of the County contact person for questions and clarification.

In the event that national or local health officials recommend social distancing and/or limited public gatherings for public health reasons, virtual or web-based hearings will be used in lieu of in-person hearings. If this format is used, real-time responses, timely responses from local officials to all citizen questions and issues, public access to all questions and response and

accommodations for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency will be made to the greatest extent possible.

The hearings generally address housing, social, and community development needs, proposed activities and the review of program performance. On the day of the public hearing, comments may be submitted in writing or made orally during the hearing.

Meetings

In the event local meetings are held in addition to public hearings in the development of the Consolidated Plan, the County will provide citizens with reasonable and timely access. Notice of such meetings will be accomplished by direct invitation, media releases, or similar means to ensure that interested persons have an opportunity to participate. The County will determine the specific form and timing of notification based on the purpose of the meeting.

Availability to Public

Copies of the CPP, Consolidated Plan, substantial amendments and CAPER will be available to the public for review during normal County business hours at the Department of Community and Economic Development, Lexington County Administration Building. All documents will be made available in a form accessible to persons with disabilities upon request and with reasonable notice.

Disasters, Emergency Provisions

In the event of a declared disaster or emergency, it may be necessary to expedite the adoption of the Annual Action Plan and/or substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan. These amendments may include funding new activities and or the reprogramming of funds, including canceling activities to meet needs resulting from a declared disaster or emergency. Therefore, the County may utilize CDBG and ESG funds to meet these needs with a 5 day public comment period instead of a 30 day public comment period (which is otherwise required). With respect to a declared disaster or emergency event, the County may elect to use CDBG and/or ESG funds to address needs not provided for by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration or other disaster relief efforts. Funding for disaster relief may not duplicate other efforts undertaken by federal or local sources unless allowed by the federal government. Potential eligible uses of funds are those that are included in this Citizen Participation Plan, the Consolidated Plan or any other CDBG eligible use. HUD may provide new guidance on eligible uses in which the County will comply with and may utilize as well.

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, or any declared disaster or emergency event, Lexington County is amending its Citizen Participation Plan, to promote and support “social distancing” while

continuing to offer the public an opportunity to provide valuable citizen input and insight into the policies, and procedures of the Department of Housing, particularly as it relates to the administration and implementation of its federal programs. The following process will be used to solicit citizen participation and input into any programmatic amendments necessary to quickly and effectively administer federal funding made available either directly or indirectly as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- When soliciting input for the County's Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, substantial amendments or Annual Performance Report, AFH or substantial AFH revision a short summary description of each will be provided in each public notice for informational purposes and will be posted online on the County's website <https://lex-co.sc.gov/>. Staff will prepare an amendment to its Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Action Plan, where applicable, and the amendment shall include a discussion of the amount of assistance the County expects to receive, the range of activities it will undertake with this assistance, and, to the extent possible, the benefit to low and moderate income people of these proposed activities.
- The Amendment will be posted in a prominent place on the County's website and in the County Administration building (a public facility), along with a notice identifying the availability of the amendment. The Notice will include the opportunity to provide electronic comment for a period of not less than five days. As part of the Notice, the County will provide information on how citizens who have special needs may obtain the Amendment in a form which is accessible to them.
- Any comments received during the public comment period will be considered by the County before the final amended action plan is submitted to HUD. A summary of the comments and the agency's responses will be an attachment to the final amended action plan.
- The procedures and actions discussed above will constitute the County's citizen participation plan for any substantial amendments, which may need to be made in the course of the program year.
- This amended citizen participation plan will itself be made available to the public for a five day public comment period prior to implementation, and any interest groups may review and comment accordingly.
- Public comment will be received solely via the email cdcustomerservice@lex-co.com
- Public hearings may be held virtually, to be consistent with national/local health authorities recommending social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons, and there will be a process in place detailing how citizens can virtually participate in the public hearings.
- The public comment period will be shortened to 5 days

Access to Records

The County will provide citizens, public agencies and other interested parties with reasonable and timely access to information and records relating to the County's Consolidated Plan and the County's use of CDBG assistance. Specific requests for such information must be submitted in writing to:

Robbie Derrick, Director

Lexington County

Community Development Department

212 South Lake Drive

Lexington, South Carolina 29072

Technical Assistance

The County will provide technical assistance to group representatives of persons of low- and moderate-income that request such assistance in developing proposals for funding assistance under the County's CDBG program. The level and type of assistance provided will be determined by the County on a case-by-case basis depending on the needs and capacity of the groups requesting assistance. The technical assistance provided will not include the provision of funds to the groups.

Displacement

The County will make every effort to minimize displacement of persons affected by any CDBG activities. It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (43 U.S.C. 4601), and implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 135.

Complaints

The County will provide, at a minimum, a timely, substantive, written response to all written citizen complaints related to the Consolidated Plan, amendments, and CAPER. The response will

be provided within 15 working days, when practicable, after receipt of the complaint. All complaints must be submitted in writing to the following address:

Robbie Derrick, Director

Lexington County

Community Development Department

212 South Lake Drive

Lexington, South Carolina 29072

Appendix A: Citizen Participation Plan - Revision History

REVISION HISTORY		
Issue No.	Changed By	Approved By Date + Description of Change
1	Sandy Fox	April 2, 2020 – include virtual or web based hearings in lieu of in-person hearings
2	Sandy Fox	August 14, 2020 – Updated Citizen Participation Plan to include CARES Act. Updated to include CDBG-CV and ESG-CV project award and project activities – Approved by Cindi Hennigan
Special Comments:		

Lexington County

Council Districts

District, Representative

1, Scotty "Scott" Whetstone

2, Paul Lawrence "Larry"

Brigham Jr. 3, Darrell

Hudson

4, Debra B. "Debbie"

Summers 5, Gene

"Bimbo" Jones

6, Charlene "Charli"
Wessinger

7, Beth A.

Carrigg 8,

Glenn M.

Conwell 9, M.

Todd Cullum

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