



ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
for
Community Development Block Grant Program Year 45

CARES Act Amendment

CDBG-CV1 & CDBG-CV3

Norwalk Redevelopment Agency
3 Belden Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850

Annual Action Plan
2019

1

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Amendments required to add CDBG-CV CARES Act Funding to the FY2019 Annual Action Plan.

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

Program Year 45 (PY45), July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020, of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program represents the final year of the City of Norwalk's 5-year Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development (ConPlan) (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2020). The Annual Action Plan contained herein summarizes the manner in which the City will utilize and administer its available community development resources to address the needs of Norwalk's low and moderate-income households.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) allocation is \$845,023 in CDBG funding for the City of Norwalk in PY45. When combined with anticipated program income (\$353,312.42) and reprogrammed funds (\$14,955.27) the estimated total amount available in PY45 is \$1,046,185.

CARES Act Amendment:

On March 27, 2020 the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) was signed into law to assist communities in their efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included supplemental formula grant allocations to HUD's Community Planning & Development (CPD) programs, and were awarded in three rounds over the course of the first few months of the pandemic. CDBG-CV funds were allocated in Round 1 and Round 3 to the City. CARES Act funds allocated to Norwalk in Round 1 for CDBG-CV1 was for \$521,436, with related provisions to citizen participation and provisions specific to the grant allocation and allows HUD to waive further program requirements if necessary. The Annual Action Plan is being amended to reflect the addition of \$521,436 in CDBG-CV funding.

CARES Act Amendment Round 3 (CDBG-CV3): On September 11, 2020, HUD made available the remaining CDBG-CV allocation funds to entitlement grantees. The allocation named CDBG-CV3 (Allocation 3 – Part A) will be the final allocation for CDBG CARES Act funding. The CDBG-CV3 formula allocation was developed by HUD to meet the statutory requirements of the CARES Act and the President's August 8, 2020 Executive Order "Fighting the Spread of COVID-19 by Providing Assistance to Renters and Homeowners." The CDBG-CV3 funding allocated to the City is \$808,049 and the Annual Action Plan is being amended to reflect the additional CDBG-CV funding.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The 5-year Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) establishes four priority needs, in addition to planning and programmatic administration, with associated goals to be met over the five-year period (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2020). They are:

- Increase high quality and affordable housing opportunities
- Expand economic opportunities
- Modernize public facilities and infrastructure
- Increase available social services

In PY45, \$979,288 of CDBG funds are committed to each priority need with the listed outcome expected:

- Increase high quality and affordable housing opportunities - **\$346,858**, 4 projects, 4 owner-occupied units one of which is a group home for 10 individuals, code enforcement of 10 units, the Residential Rehabilitation Loan Program (estimated 5 units), and the Residential Facade Improvement Program (estimated 10 units).
- Expand economic opportunities - **\$100,000**, 1 project, Walk Bridge Business Mitigation Program (at least 5 businesses)
- Modernize public facilities and infrastructure - **\$204,976**, 3 projects, 2 facilities, urban parks, streets, and community cleanups
- Increase available social services - **\$154,684**, 7 organizations, 1,221 people
- Planning and CDBG administration - **\$239,667***, 1 organization, city-wide area benefit due to the implementation of the PY45 CDBG program

* The Planning and Administration number is higher than 20% of the allocation because of program income totaling \$353,312.42. Adding this number to our allocation puts the administration amount at \$239,667.

CARES Act Amendment:

A total of \$1,329,485 (\$521,436 for CDBG-CV1 & \$808,049 for CDBG-CV3) funds are committed to each priority need:

- Increase available social services to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus COVID-19 - **\$832,049**, 18 organizations.
- Expand economic opportunities for businesses (Job Retention) negatively affected by COVID-19 - **\$358,295**.
- Planning and Administration of CDBG-CV - **\$139,141**.

3. Evaluation of past performance

Program Year 45 (PY45) is the final year in the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan period. At this time, Norwalk is on track towards accomplishing its Goals and Priority Needs by the close of the 5-year period.

Initiatives supported by CDBG funding in PY41, PY42, PY43, and PY44 are expected to address high quality and affordable housing opportunities in 284 housing units, 254 renter-occupied units, 30 owner-occupied units, and code enforce 10 units (five-year goal is 440 housing units - 400 renter-occupied, 30 owner-occupied, 10 code enforcement); expand economic opportunities to 45 businesses (five-year goal is 20 businesses); modernize public facilities and infrastructure used by 89,000 people (citywide benefit; five-year goal 50,000) plus community cleanup activities directed at 8 acres assisting 89,000 people (citywide benefit; five-year goal is 12,000 people and 8 acres); increase available social services to 2,800 people and 1,383 households (five-year goal is 2,800 people and 400 households).

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The planning and citizen participation activities for PY45 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) began in December 2018.

On December 11, 2018, the Notice of Funding Availability was released following two legal notices of its upcoming availability (November 27, 2018 and December 4, 2018). PY45 applications were due on January 23, 2019, and were presented by the applicants at a public meeting of the Planning Committee of the Common Council on February 7, 2019. They were also posted for public viewing on the Agency's page of the City of Norwalk's website.

On March 12th the Common Council addressed any Council Members that may have a Conflict of Interest with any applicants. It was recognized that there were no conflicts with any of the Common Council Members.

Following two legal notices of its upcoming availability (March 23, 2019 and March 29, 2019), the draft PY45 Annual Action Plan (AAP) was available for a 30-day public comment period from March 25, 2019 until April 23, 2019. The AAP was made available online and in hard copy at organizations throughout Norwalk's Urban Core. A public hearing was held on April 4, 2019, at a fully accessible location during the regular meeting of the Planning Committee of the Norwalk Common Council to discuss the Plan. The public hearing was announced in multiple media sources including the legal notices in the Norwalk Hour on March 23, 2019, and March 29, 2019.

CARES Act Amendment:

CARES Act Amendment Round 3 (CDBG-CV3): The City of Norwalk under the provision of the CARES Act held a 5-day public comment period from October 29, 2020 to November 4, 2020. The round 3 funds of

the CARES Act Amendment to the Plan could be downloaded and viewed from the City's website at: <https://www.norwalkct.org>

A public hearing was held on November 5, 2020 by the Planning Committee of Norwalk's Common Council to recommend PY45 CDBG-CV and PY46 CDBG funding activities and advance them to the Common Council for consideration. Public comments will be read and discussed if any are received. A second public hearing was held on November 10, 2020 during Common Council for the approval of the amendment.

5. Summary of public comments

There were no comments received.

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

There were no comments received.

7. Summary

There were no comments received.

CARES Act Amendment:

CARES Act funds allocated to entitlement grantees came in three rounds, of which the City of Norwalk received Round 1 & Round 3 grants for CDBG-CV:

Round 1: \$521,436 for CDBG-CV1

Round 2: \$0

Round 3: \$808,049 for CDBG-CV3

This AAP has been amended to reflect the addition of CDBG-CV funds, and how those funds will be used to help people living in Norwalk affected by the coronavirus pandemic. CARES Act funds are provided with related provisions to citizen participation and provisions for the grant allocation and allows HUD to waive further program requirements if necessary.

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	Norwalk	Norwalk Redevelopment Agency

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Norwalk designated the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency) as the administrator of Norwalk’s annual entitlement of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. As administrator of the CDBG program, the Agency is responsible for overall program management, coordination, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

The Agency is responsible for the implementation of the City’s CDBG program and ensuring its activities are carried out in a timely manner consistent with grant conditions, State and Federal regulations; for acting as contact point between the CDBG program and other City departments, Federal and State agencies and the general public; for seeking out and applying for other funding sources to help leverage funds; for monitoring all activities for timely implementation; for preparing certificates of consistency for Norwalk social service providers; for compiling and submitting grant reports; for supervising personnel; for initiating and obtaining approvals for program and budget amendments; for processing payment requests; and for ensuring that appropriate program and financial records are maintained. The Agency works with the Mayor and Common Council for appropriate program approval, as stated in the Citizen Participation Plan.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

As administrator of the City of Norwalk's CDBG program, the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency coordinates the development of the Annual Action Plan. All funding recommendations are made by the Common Council of the City of Norwalk and approved for endorsement by the Mayor prior to submission to HUD. Agency staff supports the Planning Committee of the Common Council which initiates the funding recommendations. The Planning Committee is made up of seven elected officials from four of the five districts, plus an at-large member.

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 Norwalk enhances coordination in planning and implementation at several levels. The City, with the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency) playing a lead role, works with regional nonprofits such as United Way of Coastal Fairfield County and Fairfield County's Community Foundation to determine needs in areas such as housing, mental health and other services. The Agency is in continual contact with developers, owners and executives of small and large businesses and others discussing economic development opportunities in Norwalk. The City works continuously within the Continuum of Care to address homelessness on a regional basis. The Norwalk Hospital Foundation's Services Navigator coordinates activities of homeless service providers. This position was originally created with the support of a CDBG grant.

For citywide programs and multiple target areas, the City works extensively with housing providers such as the Housing Development Fund (HDF) and the Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA). The City works with HDF and NHA to define need. The City has funded both of these entities for projects including accessibility improvements and housing counseling. As part of an annual process for community development, the Agency assesses need in the community. Housing and social service agencies detail need for their clients; the Agency and the City review that need and fund projects to meet it.

The City/Agency also coordinates work for redevelopment at a neighborhood scale. The Washington Village/South Norwalk Transformation Plan is funded in large part by a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant. The Plan and its implementation is a joint project with the NHA and the Agency. As part of that initiative, a 273 unit mixed-income housing development will replace 136 public housing units at Washington Village. The plan also addresses safety, open space, parks and recreation improvements and storm resiliency. The self-sufficiency part of the plan addresses needs and formulates goals in several areas including educational improvements for early education, K-12 education and college and career readiness. The planning and implementation of the education improvements will involve the community college and the local school board.

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.

In southwestern CT all state-operated mental health authorities are represented by collaborative outreach and engagement programs and in addition, daily homeless outreach occurs via 3 PATH funded agencies (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness), Catholic Charities, Open Door Shelter, and Shelter for the Homeless to ensure services are provided to street homeless and that providers are familiar with the unsheltered. Homeless outreach teams are comprised of individuals with expertise in mental health, substance abuse, housing and vocational services.

Outreach teams visit locations where homeless individuals are known to congregate such as abandoned cars, rail stations, temporary outdoor encampments, food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless drop-in centers, to ensure that any newly unsheltered household is identified as soon as possible. Services begin with triage via the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index--Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool), and all data on outreach activities and enrollments are documented in HMIS. Case managers record entry and exit destinations to determine the effectiveness of outreach efforts, and all households are added and prioritized appropriately on the regional housing registry for housing resource assignment. All are referred to Community Care Teams, which are collaborations of all the agencies that provide services to the homeless, for follow up to ensure safety, track hospital/emergency room visits and prepare them for assignment to permanent housing. Multiple referrals are made for primary health care, job training, and educational services and relevant supports are identified to secure housing. Information collected in 2014 & 2015 Point in Time counts indicate that such outreach coordination supported a reduction in unsheltered homelessness by 55% while no increase occurred in sheltered homeless.

Since 2014, the VI-SPDAT has been used by all projects funded by the Connecticut Department of Housing, as the front door triage instrument for housing assistance in addressing immediate barriers to housing access. To assign resources appropriately and efficiently, the tool enables staff to define the level of housing or services each household needs (e.g., community resources, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing), as indicated by the results of the survey's assessment. In addition to assessing individual needs, the VI-SPDAT has also enabled the Fairfield County region to initiate a by-name registry, prioritized by the unique vulnerability each household presents. This process ensures that housing is assigned to those who are most in need and who are most likely to perish on the streets without the appropriate housing and service interventions.

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

Opening Doors of Fairfield County Continuum of Care works with the Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) to ensure alignment between the CoC's strategic goals and the uses of Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG). Homeless housing assistance and service providers within the Opening Doors of Fairfield County CoC are eligible to submit competitive grant applications to the State for ESG. The CoC is working to increase coordination with the DOH by acting as a quality control agent when an agency within the Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC receives ESG from the State. In this role the CoC collects project performance reports and ensures the project maintains compliance with ESG requirements.

The Opening Doors of Fairfield County CoC designated the Connecticut Coalition to End Homeless (CCEH) as the lead homeless management information systems (HMIS) organization. The CoC has a HMIS policy and Procedures Manual which requires the lead organization to input data accurately and in a timely manner.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Norwalk Human Relations Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff members are active in housing issues, especially homeless issues.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Norwalk Fair Rent Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This commission works on affirmative action items for the City. It mediates rent and repair issues between landlords and tenants. Staff members are active in housing issues, especially homeless issues.

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

All appropriate Agency's were consulted.

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 Coastal Fairfield County	Goal three of the continuum of care is "affordable housing is available on a continuum of need in Greater Norwalk". This is aligned with the Strategic Plan priority need, "limited high quality and affordable housing opportunities."
Five-Year Plan - Norwalk Public Housing Authority	Norwalk Housing Authority	The five-year plan and the Consolidated Plan explicitly coordinated efforts to address housing issues in the City.
Ten-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness	City of Norwalk & United Way of Coastal Fairfield County	The goals of the ten-year plan address housing and supportive services which are identified as priority needs in the Consolidated Plan.
Choice Neighborhoods Initiative	Norwalk Redevelopment Agency & Norwalk Public Housing Authority	This collaborative effort addresses the needs of a low-opportunity neighborhood in a comprehensive manner, in-line with the priority needs and goals identified in the Consolidated Plan.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency obo The City of Norwalk, judiciously followed all guidance, policies and procedures provided by HUD with respect to the **CARES ACT/CDBG-CV Grant**.

The following process was expedited:

- April 25, 2020 - Legal Notice: Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) & Substantial Amendment to Citizen Participation Plan & PY45 Annual Action Plan
- April 30, 2020 - Last day to accept public comment (No public comments were received)
- May 20, 2020 - CDBG-CV Applications due
- May 28, 2020 - Legal Notice: CARES Act/CDBG-CV Public Hearing
- June 4, 2020 - Applicants presented to Planning Committee of the Common Council
- June 25, 2020 - Legal Notice: Amended Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan Available for 5-day Public Comment
- June 30, 2020 - Last day to accept public comment (No public comments were received)
- July 2, 2020 - Planning Committee of the Common Council public hearing for citizen comment on amended PY45AAP and CPP
- July 14, 2020 - Common Council approves the amended PY45AAP with the CDBG-CV proposals

CARES Act Amendment (Round 3 CDBG-CV3): The City under the provision of the CARES Act held a held a 5-day public comment period from October 29, 2020 to November 4, 2020. The City also held a public hearing on November 5, 2020 by the Planning Committee of Norwalk's Common Council to recommend PY45 CDBG-CV and PY46 CDBG funding activities and advance them to the Common Council for consideration. A second public hearing was held on November 10, 2020 during Common Council for the approval of the amendment.

The planning and citizen participation activities for PY45 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) began in December 2018.

On December 11, 2018, the Notice of Funding Availability was released following two legal notices of its upcoming availability (November 27, 2018 and December 4, 2018). PY45 applications were due on January 23, 2019, and were presented by the applicants at a public meeting of the Planning Committee of the Common Council on February 7, 2019. They were also posted for public viewing on the Agency's page of the City of Norwalk's website.

On March 12th the Common Council addressed any Council Members that may have a Conflict of Interest with any applicants. It was recognized that there were no conflicts with any of the Common Council Members.

Following two legal notices of its upcoming availability (March 22, 2019 and March 29, 2019), the draft PY45 Annual Action Plan (AAP) was available for a 30-day public comment period from March 25, 2019, until April 23, 2019. The AAP was made available online and in hard copy at organizations throughout Norwalk's Urban Core. A public hearing was held on April 4, 2019, at a fully accessible location during the regular meeting of the Planning Committee of the Norwalk Common Council to discuss the Plan. The public hearing was announced in multiple media sources including the legal notices in the Norwalk Hour on March 22, 2019, and March 29, 2019.

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
1	Public Hearing	Minorities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing Applicant Organizations	There were no comments received.	There were no comments received.	There were no comments received.	
2	Public Comment Period	Minorities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing Applicant Organizations	There were no comments received.	There were no comments received.	There were no comments received.	
3	Public Comment Period	Non-targeted/broad community	CARES Act Amendment (Round 3 CDBG-CV3): The City under the provision of the CARES Act held a held a 5-day public comment period from October 29, 2020 to November 4, 2020.	All comments accepted.	All comments accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL
4	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	CARES Act Amendment (Round 3 CDBG-CV3): The City under the provision of the CARES Act held a public hearing on November 5, 2020 by the Planning Committee of Norwalk's Common Council to recommend PY45 CDBG-CV and PY46 CDBG funding activities and advance them to the Common Council for consideration.	All comments accepted.	All comments accepted.	
5	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	CARES Act Amendment (Round 3 CDBG-CV3): The City under the provision of the CARES Act held a public hearing on November 10, 2020 during Common Council for the approval of the amendment.	All comments accepted.	All comments accepted.	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Community Development Block Grants are the only formula grant received by the City of Norwalk. The 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) estimated the City of Norwalk would receive approximately \$4,495,000 in CDBG funds. **The total amount available in PY45 (2019-2020) is \$1,115,890.**

CARES Act Amendment:

On March 27, 2020 the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) was signed into law which included supplemental formula allocations to HUD's CPD programs, including CDBG entitlement funds. **Additional CDBG-CV funds available is \$521,436.**

CARES Act Amendment Round 3 (CDBG-CV3): On September 11, 2020, HUD made available the remaining CDBG-CV allocation funds to entitlement grantees. The allocation named CDBG-CV3 (Allocation 3 – Part A) will be the final allocation for CDBG CARES Act funding. The CDBG-CV3 funding allocated to the City is \$808,049.

The total amount available for Round 1 and Round 3 of CDBG-CV funds is \$1,329,485.

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	845,023	255,912	14,955	1,115,890	0	The City will use HUD, CPD funds to increase high quality affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, modernize public facilities and infrastructure, and increase available social services to the residents of Norwalk.
Other CDBG-CV	public - federal	Other To prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus	1,329,485	0	0	1,329,485	0	CDBG-CV funds to be used to prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus. Round 1 CDBG-CV1 funds were for \$521,436 and Round 3 CDBG-CV3 funds were for \$808,049.

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

The City awards a portion of its annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation as grants to local organizations through a competitive process and recommends applicants provide matching funds, \$2/\$1 match for public service programs and a \$1/\$1 match for all other programs. Organizations in receipt of these grants receive support from an array of public and private sources to provide high quality and innovative programming in service of the community.

The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency) works strategically so that federal funds attract additional funding and spur private development to meet the needs of the community. The Agency leveraged portions of its CDBG award to access additional federal funds: two Section 108 loan guarantees, one providing seed capital to the Economic and Community Development Loan Fund and the other for the Wall Street Theater project. The Norwalk Housing Authority and the Agency were awarded a \$30 million HUD Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant in June 2014 and are leveraging significant public and private resources to reposition the neighborhood to build a better future for current residents and to welcome new households and businesses to the area.

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

Two City-owned vacant properties are being developed into mixed-income housing for the CNI project described above. Ryan Park in South Norwalk and Freese Park in the Wall Street area are being redesigned to be more responsive to community needs.

Discussion

The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency will administer the \$979,288 in CDBG funding to further advance Norwalk's high priority needs that are addressed in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

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	Residential rehabilitation	2015	2019	Affordable Housing		Increase high quality and affordable housing	CDBG: \$391,715	Rental units rehabilitated: 26 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 9 Household Housing Unit
2	Code enforcement	2015	2019	Affordable Housing		Increase high quality and affordable housing	CDBG: \$59,958	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 10 Household Housing Unit
3	Economic development: technical assistance	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development		Expand economic opportunities	CDBG-CV: \$427,866	Jobs created/retained: 19 Jobs
4	Public facility rehabilitation	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development		Modernize public facilities and infrastructure	CDBG: \$339,740	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 9523 Persons Assisted
5	Community cleanups	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development		Modernize public facilities and infrastructure	CDBG: \$49,958	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5357 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	Basic services	2015	2019	Non-Homeless Special Needs		Increase in available social services	CDBG: \$56,986 CDBG-CV: \$901,620	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 9615 Persons Assisted
8	Health & mental health services	2015	2019	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs		Increase in available social services	CDBG: \$67,816	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 186 Persons Assisted
9	Employment training	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development		Expand economic opportunities	CDBG: \$88,786	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 175 Persons Assisted
10	Housing services	2015	2019	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs		Increase in available social services	CDBG: \$60,928	Homelessness Prevention: 285 Persons Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Residential rehabilitation
	Goal Description	The residential rehab goal is inclusive of single- and multi-unit residential rehab CDBG matrix codes 14A and 14B, respectively; public housing modernization CDBG matrix code 14C; acquisition CDBG matrix code 14G; and housing rehab administration CDBG matrix code 14H.
2	Goal Name	Code enforcement
	Goal Description	The Agency will distribute funding to the Code Enforcement Officer to conduct inspections. The Code Enforcement Officer will then provide options to the homeowner on remediation of potential violations.
3	Goal Name	Economic development: technical assistance
	Goal Description	The Chief of Economic and Community Development will Administer the Walkbridge Business Mitigation Program however this is not characterized as technical assistance. This goal has been met otherwise. CARES Act Amendment: CDBG-CV funds provided for Job Retention activities.
4	Goal Name	Public facility rehabilitation
	Goal Description	The public facility rehab goal is inclusive of senior centers CDBG matrix code 03A; handicapped centers CDBG matrix code 03B; homeless facilities CDBG matrix code 03C; youth centers CDBG matrix code 03D; neighborhood facilities CDBG matrix code 03E; parks and recreational facilities CDBG matrix code 03F; fire stations/equipment CDBG matrix code 03O; and facilities for AIDS patients CDBG matrix code 03S.
5	Goal Name	Community cleanups
	Goal Description	The community cleanups goal is inclusive of: cleanup of contaminated sites and neighborhood cleanups, CDBG matrix codes 04A and 05V, respectively. The Agency will be funding community cleanups in urban parks.

7	Goal Name	Basic services
	Goal Description	Basic services are inclusive of: senior services CDBG matrix code 05A; youth services CDBG matrix code 05D; and childcare services CDBG matrix code 05L. CARES Act Amendment: CDBG-CV funds provided for vital public services that work to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.
8	Goal Name	Health & mental health services
	Goal Description	Health and mental health services are inclusive of substance abuse services CDBG matrix code 05F; services for battered and abused spouses CDBG matrix code 05G; services for abused and neglected children CDBG matrix code 05N; and mental health services CDBG matrix code 05O.
9	Goal Name	Employment training
	Goal Description	This goal includes Matrix Code 05H - Employment Training.
10	Goal Name	Housing services
	Goal Description	Housing services are inclusive of: operating costs of homeless and HIV/AIDS patient's programs CDBG matrix code 03T; fair housing activities CDBG matrix code 05J; subsistence payments CDBG matrix code 05Q; security deposits CDBG matrix code 05T; and housing counseling CDBG matrix code 05U.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The projects funded in the 2019 Annual Action Plan meet the needs of low- and moderate-income individuals and households. Public service projects comprise 15% of the Norwalk CDBG allocation and are designed to serve low- and moderate-income individuals and families, including youth, adults, children, and persons with disabilities.

Public facility activities will address building improvements to a community center, funding for a Walkbridge Mitigation Program that will facilitate the retention of low/moderate income jobs in for businesses disrupted by the replacement of the bridge. There will also be planning efforts and transportation improvements to the South Norwalk Train Station, improvements to the Carver Center and the Norwalk Senior Center, all LMI Census Tracts or servicing LMI individuals.

Housing activities include rehabilitation of a rehabilitation group home and 3 homeowner housing units. The City Neighborhoods Program will also administer the Residential Rehabilitation Program to LMI families as well as the Residential Facade Improvement Program within the Choice Neighborhoods area.

Planning and Administration activities will be carried out by the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency which will administer the City's CDBG program.

The City Neighborhoods program includes the continued implementation of the Residential Rehabilitation Program and the Residential Facade Improvement Program, clean up of urban parks, and help to staff code enforcement activities throughout the City.

All projects are defined in accordance with HUD's uncapped income limits.

CARES Act Amendment: Regular CDBG funded projects have been consolidated by activity type. CDBG-CV funded projects are Administration, Public Services and Job Retention.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG: Public Services
2	CDBG: Public Facilities
3	CDBG: Housing Programs
4	CDBG: Planning and Administration
5	CDBG: Code Enforcement and Community Cleanups
6	CDBG-CV Administration
7	CDBG-CV Public Services
8	CDBG-CV Job Retention

Table 7 - Project Information

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

Many of the allocation priorities were focused on meeting ConPlan goals as it is the final year. Pending the final CAPER for the final year, the City will reassess all goals and counts to assure that all goals were met and reported properly.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

(see following table)

CDBG-CV Projects start on Page 35

1	Project Name	CDBG: Public Services
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Basic services Health & mental health services Employment training Housing services
	Needs Addressed	Expand economic opportunities Increase in available social services
	Funding	CDBG: \$154,684
	Description	\$154,684 will go to 7 different organizations to provide services to over 896 individuals.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	7 organizations will provide services and training to 896 individuals.
	Location Description	All programs are available to all LMI Norwalk residents. The physical locations of the establishments are: 100 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851; 51 Van Zant Street, Norwalk, CT 06855; 20 West Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06856; 55 Chestnut Street, Norwalk, CT 06854; 76 South Main Street, Norwalk, CT 06854; and 11 Allen Road, Norwalk, CT 06851. All are located within LMI Census Tracts.

<p>Planned Activities</p>	<p><u>Child Guidance Center - DBT Program(\$21,628)</u>: DBT is an evidence-based treatment designed for adolescents who present with high-risk behaviors (self-injurious behaviors, suicidal ideations, etc.). DBT is designed to increase overall functioning and unlock potential in the adolescents we serve so they can actively participate in their home-life, school, and community; thus, increasing the likelihood that they grow to become independent, self-sufficient adults.</p> <p><u>Domestic Violence Crisis Center - Norwalk SafeHouse Basic Needs (\$27,028)</u>: DVCC will provide services to help their clients with basic needs of shelter, food, clothes, and hygiene. SH Advocates provide clothing for the client (and children if needed), give each person a hygiene kit, and give them a tour of the SH, including the kitchen and where the food stores are. After these needs are met staff will help with the client's trauma and find them a safe place to live after the SH.</p> <p><u>East Norwalk Library Association – STEAM Program (\$7,000)</u>: Will provide 25 individuals with access to information and to aid them in their pursuit of education, information, and recreation. The organization will introduce local, noted authors and lecturers for adults, as well as demonstrative programs like cooking and music. This includes the start of a robotics program for our youth and expanded early literacy for preschool children and families.</p> <p><u>Higher Education Learning Professionals (HELP) – College Edge Program (\$14,000)</u>: The College Edge Program is a comprehensive series of college & career readiness workshops, SAT test preparation lessons, college tours, and private coaching sessions designed to guide students and families to and through the college application process. The goal of the College Edge Program is 100% college placement for 20 low-income Norwalk program participants.</p> <p><u>Open Door Shelter - Changing Lives Through Living Wage Jobs (\$37,828)</u>: The Changing Lives Through Living Wage Jobs program at the Smilow Life Center will leverage community organization programs to increase skill levels and job opportunities through job skills training, coaching and placement in jobs with a focus on skilled trades jobs training for homeless individuals, disenfranchised youth and individuals living in poverty. CDBG funds are requested specifically for staffing that will guide Norwalk residents in the program through the job training process and ensure program completion leading to financial and housing independence. Currently, 95% of participants in the program are Norwalk residents.</p> <p><u>Person to Person - Emergency Assistance Program (\$30,970)</u>: The grant will be dedicated to staff time interviewing Financial Assistance clients and administering payments to avoid eviction, prevent utility shut off, or allow clients to obtain more suitable housing by providing security deposits, paid directly to the landlord or utility provider, for approximately 285 households.</p> <p><u>Senior Services Coordinating Council - Healthy Lifestyles Program (\$16,230)</u>: SSCC is looking to promote healthy behaviors and educate the senior community about a variety of health topics including healthy eating and communicable diseases because of infection rates for STD's keep climbing among Americans 60 and older. Also many of the diseases suffered by older persons are the result of dietary factors. We will touch on topics such as tick-borne illnesses since a study of 1,454 patients showed 33% of people over 65 tested positive for Lyme. We will also share information on cancer prevention and healthy homes. SSCC will provide group talks with the Health Dept to encourage healthy lifestyles and help promote change in elderly communities. Educating 205 seniors in Norwalk.</p>
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2	Project Name	CDBG: Public Facilities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public facility rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Expand economic opportunities Modernize public facilities and infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$309,782
	Description	\$197,576 is reserved for public facilities funding such as activities that will assist in replacing bleachers of a community center gymnasium and complete HVAC improvements to a senior center. City Neighborhoods: Public Facility and Infrastructure improvements will be made at the South Norwalk Train Station in South Norwalk.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Funds will assist at least 5 business owners to retain low-income jobs as well as provide an area benefit to over 6,239 people.
	Location Description	The Walkbridge Mitigation Program will be applicable to all businesses affected by the Walkbridge project. These include LMI Census tracts in South Norwalk and East Norwalk. The other locations are 11 Allen Road, Norwalk, CT 06851 and 7 Academy Street, Norwalk, CT 06850. City Neighborhoods: Public Facility and Infrastructure improvements will be made at the South Norwalk Train Station in South Norwalk.
Planned Activities	Gymnasium bleachers will be replaced at the Carver Community Center (\$29,533), HVAC improvements will be made to the Norwalk Senior Center (\$68,043), and businesses that are negatively affected by the Walkbridge project will be assisted with direct financial assistance to retain low-income jobs (\$100,000). City Neighborhoods Public Facility and Infrastructure improvements at the South Norwalk Train Station in South Norwalk (\$112,206)	
3	Project Name	CDBG: Housing Programs
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Residential rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Increase high quality and affordable housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$361,757

Description	<p>CDBG funds of \$101,212 will be used to make improvements to 3 owner-occupied units, 1 group home for disabled individuals, and 16 supportive housing units.</p> <p>Housing programs includes the City Neighborhoods Program, which will include Rehab Admin (\$122,760) and Multi-Family Rehab (\$131,785). City Neighborhoods funding will be used at various addresses throughout the City of Norwalk. Applications for the Residential Rehabilitation program are accepted from LMI individuals throughout the City. Residential Facade Improvements are made in the Choice Neighborhoods geography in South Norwalk.</p>
Target Date	6/30/2020
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	<p>Three low-income families will be assisted through a home revitalization program, 16 homeless families will be assisted through supportive housing rehabilitation, and 10 individuals will be assisted through the rehabilitation of a group home.</p> <p>City Neighborhoods: Housing assistance is anticipated to include continuing the Residential Facade Improvement Grant Program (10 units - LMI Restricted), the Residential Rehabilitation Program (5 Loans - LMI restricted), and Revolving Loan Fund.</p>
Location Description	<p>Projects will be selected on a rolling basis for the home revitalization program. The other activities will occur at 125.5, 127, 129, 139 South Main Street, Norwalk, CT 06854; 4 Couch Street, Norwalk, CT 06854; and 4 St. John Street, Norwalk, CT 06850.</p> <p>City Neighborhoods Residential Rehabilitation program funding will be used at various addresses throughout the City of Norwalk for eligible LMI households. Residential Facade Improvements are made in the Choice Neighborhoods geography in South Norwalk.</p>

	Planned Activities	<p><u>HomeFront - Home Revitalization (\$15,000):</u> HomeFront will perform critical home repairs, ensuring a healthy living environment and improving handicap accessibility for three very low-income homeowners in Norwalk.</p> <p><u>Keystone House - Improvements to St. John Street Facility (\$25,000):</u> Keystone will use funds to replace the driveway, repair the deteriorating retaining wall alongside the driveway and to renovate the first-floor bathroom. St. John Street home provides affordable housing and services for adults with a serious mental illness. Keystone House provides essential mental health services and creates suitable/affordable living environments for individuals receiving mental health services at this location. By continually upgrading the living environment, Keystone House is ensuring the continued availability/accessibility of this living environment/services to individuals recovering from a mental illness.</p> <p><u>Open Door Shelter - Renovations to Supportive Housing (\$55,313):</u> Open Doors Shelter will use funds to improve the safety and energy efficiency of supportive housing units for homeless families by renovating multifamily houses at 125.5, 127, 129 and 139 South Main Street and 4 Couch Street in South Norwalk. Renovations include heating systems and new roofs. These five buildings contain a total of sixteen supportive housing units for homeless families. These buildings are close to shelter services (food, health care, clothing, and case management).</p> <p><u>City Neighborhoods Program - Rehab Admin (\$122,760), Multi-Family Rehab (\$131,785):</u> Housing assistance is anticipated to include continuing the Residential Facade Improvement Grant Program (10 units - LMI Restricted), the Residential Rehabilitation Program (5 Loans - LMI restricted), and Revolving Loan Fund.</p>
4	Project Name	CDBG: Planning and Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Residential rehabilitation Code enforcement Economic development: technical assistance Public facility rehabilitation Community cleanups Basic services Health & mental health services Employment training Housing services
	Needs Addressed	Increase high quality and affordable housing Expand economic opportunities Modernize public facilities and infrastructure Increase in available social services

	Funding	CDBG: \$239,667
	Description	The Agency will use \$239,667 of CDBG funds to cover costs associated with the administration of the City's CDBG program for the 2019-2020 fiscal year as well as complete the 2020-2025 Consolidated Planning Process.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The Agency will use \$239,667 of CDBG funds to cover costs associated with the administration of the City's CDBG program for the 2019-2020 fiscal year which will benefit the City wholistically and all of its 33,385 households.
	Location Description	The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency is located within Norwalk City Hall at 125 East Avenue, Room 202; Norwalk, CT 06851.
	Planned Activities	Norwalk Redevelopment Agency - CDBG Planning & Administration (\$239,667): The Agency will administer the City's CDBG program for the 2019-2020 fiscal year as well as undertake the 2020-2025 Consolidated Planning Process.
5	Project Name	CDBG: Code Enforcement and Community Cleanups
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Residential rehabilitation Code enforcement Public facility rehabilitation Community cleanups
	Needs Addressed	Increase high quality and affordable housing Modernize public facilities and infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	\$50,000 in CDBG funds will be used to fund the Agency's City Neighborhoods Code Enforcement and Community Cleanups. Code enforcement and neighborhood cleanups will be completed throughout the City.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	City Neighborhoods will clean city parks, and proactively code enforce 10 units.

	Location Description	Code enforcement and neighborhood cleanups will be completed throughout the City.
	Planned Activities	As part of the City Neighborhoods program: Code Enforcement (\$30,000) Community Cleanups (\$20,000)

CARES Act Amendment Projects (CDBG-CV1 & CDBG-CV3)

6	Project Name	CDBG-CV Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Basic services Health & mental health services Employment training Economic development: technical assistance
	Needs Addressed	Increase in available social services Expand economic opportunities
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$139,141
	Description	Funds to cover costs associated with the administration of the City's CARES Act/CDBG-CV program. The City will allocate CDBG-CV funds to admin with from \$58,337 from CDBG-CV1 (20%) and \$80,804 from CDBG-CV3 (10%).
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A. Admin activities will be towards administering the CDBG-CV activities.
	Location Description	The administrative planning and operation for the CDBG-CV program will be conducted at the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency: 3 Belden Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06850
	Planned Activities	Funds to cover costs associated with the administration of the City's CARES Act/CDBG-CV program.
7	Project Name	CDBG-CV Public Services
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Basic services Health & mental health services Employment training
	Needs Addressed	Increase in available social services
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$832,049

Description	Funds will be used to cover approved public services applications associated with the City's CDBG-CV program. There are currently 13 selected applicants to receive funding. Another 5 selected applicants were added for CDBG-CV3 funding.
Target Date	6/30/2021
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	<p>CDBG-CV1: An estimated 6,227 LMI individuals and 800 LMI families will benefit from the proposed activities. These estimates come from the CDBG-CV applications and were confirmed via phone calls to individual organizations.</p> <p>CDBG-CV3: An estimated 3,388 LMI individuals and 200 LMI families will benefit from the proposed activities from Rd 3 funding.</p>

<p>Location Description</p>	<p>Public services in the CDBG-CV program will assist eligible individuals and households throughout the City. Service provider locations are listed below.</p> <p>Bridgeport Rescue Mission: 1088 Fairfield Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06605</p> <p>Carver Foundation: 7 Academy Street Norwalk, CT 06850 & 46 Concord Street Norwalk, CT 06850</p> <p>Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC): 16 River Street, First Floor, Norwalk, CT 06850</p> <p>ElderHouse: 7 Lewis Street Norwalk, CT 06851</p> <p>Family & Children's Agency: 9 Mott Avenue Norwalk, CT 06850</p> <p>Filling in the Blanks: 346 Main Avenue, Suite 3A, Norwalk, CT 06851</p> <p>Greater Norwalk Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GNHCC): 197 Newtown Avenue Norwalk, CT 06851</p> <p>Higher Education Literacy Professionals (HELP): 100 Wolfpit Avenue, Unit 7, Norwalk, CT 06851</p> <p>Malta House: 5 Prowitt Street Norwalk, CT 06855</p> <p>Mid Fairfield AIDS Project: 618 West Avenue Norwalk, CT 06850</p> <p>Norwalk Senior Center: 11 Allen Road Norwalk, CT 06851</p> <p>Person-to-Person: 76 South Main Street Norwalk, CT 06854</p> <p>Serving all Vessels Equally (SAVE): 31 Concord Street Norwalk, CT 06854</p> <p>Jewish Family Services: Citywide services</p> <p>Keystone House: 147 Main Street, Norwalk CT 06851</p> <p>Mid Fairfield Child Guidance Center: 100 East Ave, Norwalk, CT 06851</p> <p>Early Childhood - City of Norwalk Community Services: 125 East Ave., Room 324, Norwalk, CT 06851</p> <p>Supportive Housing Works: Citywide services</p> <p>Triangle Community Center: 650 West Ave., Norwalk, CT 06850</p>
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<p>Planned Activities</p>	<p><u>Round 1 CDBG-CV1:</u></p> <p>Bridgeport Rescue Mission: Food Delivery & Pantry Operation</p> <p>Carver Foundation: Summer Enrichment Program</p> <p>Domestic Violence Crisis Center: PPE & Office Updates in Response to COVID-19</p> <p>ElderHouse: COVID-19 Program Enhancement Project</p> <p>Family & Children's Agency: PPE & Sanitation Product to safely serve Norwalk's most vulnerable residents due to COVID-19</p> <p>Filling in the Blanks: Weekend Meal Program</p> <p>Greater Norwalk Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Rise to respond & prevent COVID-19</p> <p>Higher Education Literacy Professionals: College Edge Program COVID-19 Adjustments</p> <p>Malta House: Residential Program</p> <p>Mid Fairfield AIDS Project (MFAP): Support for COVID-19 affected and infected persons living with AIDS</p> <p>Norwalk Senior Center: Meals on Wheels</p> <p>Person-to-Person: Door2door, Norwalk</p> <p>Serving all Vessels Equally: COVID-19 Prevention and Awareness</p> <p><u>Round 3 CDBG-CV3:</u></p> <p>Carver Center: COVID screening room</p> <p>Domestic Violence Crisis Center: Youth and Family Counseling</p> <p>Elder House: Job Retention and COVID Cleaning Supplies</p> <p>Filling in the Blanks: Weekend Meal Program</p> <p>Jewish Family Services: Meal delivery to senior citizens</p> <p>Malta House: Support for pregnant mothers or mothers with infants</p> <p>Keystone House: Laptop purchases and laptop use training for clients</p> <p>Mid Fairfield Child Guidance Center: Mid Fairfield Child Guidance Center</p> <p>Early Childhood - City of Norwalk Community Services: PPE and sanitation</p> <p>Norwalk Senior Center: Meals on Wheels</p> <p>Person to Person Emergency Assistance: Emergency Assistance Program</p> <p>Supportive Housing Works: Rent relief and financial assistance</p> <p>Triangle Community Center: Technology for case management and mental health telehealth & PPE</p>
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8	Project Name	CDBG-CV Job Retention
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Economic development: technical assistance
	Needs Addressed	Expand economic opportunities
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$358,295
	Description	The City will allocate CDBG-CV funds towards Job Retention activities for workers affected by COVID-19. This activity will assist workers affected by COVID-19.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated total 19 Jobs. (13 jobs from Maritime Aquarium and 6 jobs from Stepping Stones)
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	CDBG-CV funds will go towards Job Retention activities at organizations Maritime Aquarium and at Stepping Stones.

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

The City of Norwalk does not allocate funding based solely on geographic requirements. Individuals or households must meet income qualifications in order to receive direct assistance from activities and services in the CDBG program. For eligible activities to public facilities & infrastructure improvements as well as economic development opportunities the City will be targeting low- to moderate-income identified census tract areas in need. See below on how the City will determine these areas.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Wall Street	0
South Norwalk	0
Citywide	0

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City of Norwalk does not allocate funding based solely on geographic requirements. When the project or planned activities are intended to serve individuals or households directly, those individuals or households must meet income qualifications, as well as residency requirements, in order to receive assistance from the program. In these instances, City staff and/or one of its partner agencies shall complete an in-take and eligibility status review of the applicant individual, or household, before the project/activity is initiated.

Additionally, the City has identified infrastructure and public facility improvement activities. In which case, the planned activities will serve a community, neighborhood or “area”. These projects (or activities) are said to have an “area-wide” benefit. Per HUD requirements, these areas must be within an eligible Census Tract, as defined by HUD-CDBG regulations, whereby the majority of the residents are low to moderate-income.

To determine these Tracts the City will be utilizing HUD CDBG Low Mod Income Summary Data (LMISD) from the HUD Exchange website, which has redefined the eligible tracts within the jurisdiction. The identified census block group tracts within the jurisdiction that are considered low-moderate income can be found on the HUD Exchange website at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/acs-low-mod-summary-data/>

Discussion

N/A

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Increasing the number of high quality and affordable housing is a high priority in the City of Norwalk. Sufficient amounts of affordable housing in a community can have multiple positive impacts on lower-income households, including housing choice and the opportunity to save money and build financial security. According to HUD’s 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, only 62.0 rental units are affordable and available for every 100 very low-income renters, and only 37.7 units are affordable and available for every 100 extremely low-income renters. Additionally, according to HUD's 2017 report to Congress, despite a strengthening national economy, the number of cost-burdened individuals is at an all-time high and as a result, produces an extreme need to analyze affordable housing options throughout Norwalk as well as the nation as a whole.

The age of the housing stock in Norwalk has implications for the need for housing rehabilitation and lead abatement. Housing needs and qualities are analyzed and discussed in more detail in the Needs Assessment and Market Analysis sections of the Consolidated Plan. Housing activities include a home revitalization project which will repair 3 owner-occupied homes, improvements to a low-income group home that houses 10 individuals, and improvements to 16 supportive housing units. The City Neighborhoods project will renovate an additional 15 housing units.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	301
Non-Homeless	19
Special-Needs	0
Total	320

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	285
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	35
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	320

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

Discussion

Person to Person has an Emergency Assistance program that provide rental assistance, utility assistance,

and eviction prevention services.

HomeFront is leveraging CDBG funds to rehabilitate 3 homes for low-income families. Keystone House is making improvements to a group home that contains ten low-income individuals.

The City Neighborhoods program will assist 15 low-income families or individuals with rehabilitation to their homes or apartments via the Residential Rehabilitation Loan Program and the Residential Facade Improvement Grant Program.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA), the principal provider of assisted housing in the City, has 1,131 public housing units and 680 housing choice vouchers. The NHA forms strategic partnerships with the City and nonprofits to serve its residents.

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

With City of Norwalk Capital Budget funding, the NHA plans on addressing the following in its developments (with the exception of Washington Village): health and safety issues and meeting ADA requirements; heating systems; other needs, with priorities to older properties.

The NHA, partnering with the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency, was awarded a Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant in 2014 for South Norwalk. The Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) project represents the largest capital improvement for the NHA in 2016. The development will replace 136 units of housing at Washington Village (an NHA family development) with 273 units of mixed-income housing. When finished, the development will include a Community Center and a resource center.

According to the Norwalk Housing Authority's (NHA) FY2019 Annual Plan, the NHA intends to explore all opportunities including Project-Based Vouchers & Supportive Housing, Demolition and/or Disposition, and improvements to 20 West Avenue and Roodner Court. These activities support their #1 Goal: Transformation Initiatives which focuses on creating and sustaining more high-quality public housing units throughout the City.

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

The NHA has a resident advisory board (RAB) with a membership of 18 to 22 people. On occasion, a member resigns or leaves the NHA and a volunteer member is recruited to fill the vacancy. The RAB meets at least quarterly and is briefed by the NHA staff on changes to policy and improvements to the housing developments. In addition to the RAB, the NHA Board of Directors has a resident representative, and each development has a resident group that meets three to four times a year or as needed. Each of these groups participated in the formulation of the Five Year Plan for the NHA which was completed in 2014 as well as the FY2019 Annual Plan.

Goal #4 of the NHA's FY19 Annual Plan is to "Improve Opportunities for Residents". The NHA works to encourage self-sufficiency, reduce dependency and help break the cycle of poverty. The NHA has 138 participants in the targeted Family Self-Sufficiency program. This program serves a range of households

with programs ranging from managing finances to establishing careers and improving employment.

For the CNI, the NHA and its consultants will reach out continuously to Washington Village residents to keep them engaged in the development of the replacement units. The NHA will implement a general "people plan" that includes a broad network of community partners. The total CNI funded commitment for the "people plan" is over \$4 million, leveraging over \$18 million. For instance, the Norwalk Community College and Workforce Inc. will provide educational and workforce training opportunities to Washington Village residents that could lead to an income level that would support homeownership.

Supported by the CNI, the NHA will help Washington Village residents become economically self-sufficient and more able to meet their personal wellness goals. Key partners include Norwalk Community College, Career Resources, Inc., Norwalk Community Health Center, Day Street Health Center and Norwalk Hospital.

Other goals of the NHA's FY19 Annual Plan are to "Improve the Wellbeing of Residents", "Increase Assisted Housing Choices", "Breaking the Cycle of Poverty", and "Promote Fair Housing". In fulfilling these goals, the NHA encourages residents to become more involved in management and participatory in homeownership.

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

The PHA is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) continually evaluates the needs of residents and institutes program initiatives to meet those needs. Those efforts include programs often found at housing agencies, like the Family Self-Sufficiency program. In addition, the NHA reaches out with programs not normally found at housing authorities.

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

Introduction

The City of Norwalk is not a direct recipient of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) or Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds. The City's Director of Fair Rent/Human Relations is the co-chair of the Opening Doors of Fairfield County Continuum of Care (CoC). The Agency works closely with social service providers in the City. The City has awarded CDBG grants and loans in support of efforts to prevent and end homelessness and meet the needs of non-homeless people with special needs. Through the CDBG goals for basic, health and mental health, and housing services and employment training, the City will support homeless housing and service providers to prevent and end homelessness. The Agency will continue to support social service providers in the City, financially and as a collaborative partner, in the coming year.

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

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

The members of the CoC will continue working together to reach out to homeless persons and assess their needs. Homeless and special needs housing and service providers, the Norwalk Police Department and local businesses have joined the SoNo Alliance and are connecting unsheltered homeless people with services through information and transportation. To ensure housing first, United Way's 2-1-1 call center and homeless housing and service providers will continue to conduct initial assessments with people in need followed by the Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) assessment when people are housed.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Open Door Shelter, Malta House and 40 South Main, the emergency shelter and transitional housing providers in Norwalk, respectively, will continue to provide comprehensive services to their clients. It is the CoC's policy that no funded program (CoC or ESG) contracted to serve families may deny admission to any family with a child under 18 or to any member of the family.

The Domestic Violence Crisis Center will continue operating its Norwalk SafeHouse emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence.

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

Homeless housing and service providers in Norwalk will continue to help homeless persons make the transition into permanent housing and independent living by implementing the strategies established by the CoC. These strategies will continue to include diversion when possible; prioritizing placement of households into permanent housing by length of time homeless; working with partners such as the Agency and the Norwalk Housing Authority to facilitate access to affordable housing and preventing relapses into homelessness by connecting clients to the appropriate services and following up with clients on a regular basis until it is determined that support services are no longer required.

The Norwalk Housing Authority has designated a number of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers to homeless individuals and families.

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.

Homeless housing and service providers in Norwalk will continue to be partners by participating in planning and coordinating activities through the CoC.

The City uses CDBG monies to support anti-poverty programs which help get households on the road toward financial security in order to avoid homelessness. The Agency will provide technical assistance to area businesses and employment training programs which will work in concert to strengthen and grow the job market and develop a qualified workforce. The Agency will continue the Residential Facade Improvement Program and the Residential Rehabilitation Loan program in order to maintain the number of high-quality affordable housing units in Norwalk.

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

Introduction:

While it does not involve a public policy, the greatest barrier to affordable housing in Norwalk is the general market condition and the cost of housing. Norwalk uses all possible sources of funding and leverage to create and preserve affordable housing. The City of Norwalk is also currently updating its Plan of Conservation and Development which will include an affordable housing component and promotes the need of a comprehensive affordable housing strategy Citywide.

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 Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) is an example of the City's work to overcome expectations for a return on private investment for housing, and the general condition of the housing market. By combining resources, including the CNI grant of \$30 million, housing tax credits and other resources, the City and the Norwalk Housing Authority can offer an attractive investment for housing development. The CNI will feature a mixed-income housing development of 273 units, including 136 replacement units for Washington Village, which will be owned and managed by Trinity Financial.

Land use and building regulations in Norwalk have overcome impediments to affordable housing allowing and promoting such innovations as accessory apartments. For the "inclusionary zoning" benefits for affordable housing, the development has to be located in the City's urban core. The City will examine the extension of the requirement to other areas in the City.

The City will consider changes to its Housing Code (Chapter #59-9) which defines rooming houses as three unrelated individuals living together and includes extensive requirements for certifying/permitting a rooming house. Agencies assisting people with disabilities contract with owners of residential buildings to house people with disabilities; however, the requirements for obtaining a rooming house permit create an impediment to housing people with disabilities.

The City is also looking to assess the affordable housing needs and address such needs in the new Plan of Conservation and Development to be adopted in 2019. Certain geographies of the City, such as in the South Norwalk Transit Oriented Development area, have taken steps to increase the inclusionary zoning requirement and as a result, a broader approach is also being analyzed in other similar areas.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Norwalk has many initiatives in place to address other City needs including but not limited to an inclusionary zoning requirement, programs in place to address lead hazards, and a Language Access Plan that ensures proper outreach to any and all community members.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Norwalk will continue to work to meet the needs of the community, including continued implementation of its Language Access Plan.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Through a mix of funds, including a HUD Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant and State and private resources, an increasing number of new affordable rental and ownership units will be made available over the next year and in the following three years for extremely low-, low- and moderate-income households.

The City will continue implementing its inclusionary zoning ordinance which requires new, converted or renovated housing developments in the Urban Core to make 10% of their housing units affordable to persons of very-low, low and moderate income once 20 or more units have been built. Additionally, the City will consider expanding the geographic scope of this ordinance beyond the Urban Core.

Norwalk Redevelopment Agency's (Agency) will continue to administer the Residential Rehabilitation Loan Program and the Residential Facade Improvement Program both of which help maintain high-quality affordable housing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) will address lead-based paint (LBP) hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards through the replacement of all 136 units of Washington Village apartments. When Washington Village was built in the late 1930s, lead paint was still in use.

The Agency will continue rehabilitating units in the South Norwalk area. When these affordable housing units are finished, they will be free of LBP hazards. All housing developments supported by the Agency, in South Norwalk or elsewhere in the City, will be without LBP hazards.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) will provide intensive case management to connect residents of the Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) with services and programs that will help achieve their goals. Key

partners include Norwalk Community College, Career Resources, Inc., Norwalk Community Health Center, Day Street Health Center and Norwalk Hospital. The plan also includes educational improvements and reforms. The NHA's scholarship program assists NHA residents to continue their education after high school.

The Agency will provide technical assistance to area businesses and employment-training programs, which together will strengthen and grow the job market by developing a qualified workforce.

The Economic and Community Development loan fund will provide capital to projects with positive economic and community development benefits within the City of Norwalk's Urban Renewal Areas, expanding job opportunities.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Opening Doors of Fairfield County Continuum of Care (CoC) provides structure to the organizations which comprise the homeless institutional delivery system.

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

The Choice Neighborhood Initiative will significantly enhance coordination between public and private housing as the development will include replacement public housing units, workforce housing units and market rate units mixed together will all units designed to the same standards, regardless of the resident's income level.

The CoC will continue to be the main organization by which social service agencies coordinate and collaborate.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The total amount of funding for PY45 is estimated to be \$1,115,890. This includes the allocation of \$845,023, program income of \$255,912, and reprogrammed funds of \$14,955.

CARES Act Amendment: Additional funds from CDBG-CV1 (\$521,436) and CDBG-CV3 (\$808,049) for a total amount of \$1,329,485 in funds to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

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	255,912
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:	255,912

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.	100.00%

Annual Action Plan 50
2019