



2023 Annual Action Plan

DRAFT (07/05/2023)

City of Fort Pierce
Grants Administration Division
100 North U.S. Hwy 1
Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction:

The City of Fort Pierce is an entitlement community and receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds annually through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Through entitlement formula grant CDBG funds, the city will work to preserve and develop decent and affordable housing, provide for economic opportunities, and create a suitable living environment for extremely low- to moderate-income households in Fort Pierce.

The Consolidated Plan for 2021-2025 was developed through data analysis in the housing needs assessment, a market analysis, and citizen participation process. The city's priority needs were identified, and goals were developed to address the identified needs. This process formed the basis of the Strategic Plan years 2021-2025 of the Consolidated Plan. In each year of the 5-Year Strategic Plan, the city will develop an Annual Action Plan (AAP), which will describe the activities to be taken to meet the goals that will address the identified priority needs.

This AAP includes the city's priority needs and goals identified in the city's 5-Year Strategic Plan. The activities in the AAP work toward accomplishing the established goals associated with the identified needs. By addressing these priority needs in the community, the city can improve residents' quality of life in Fort Pierce.

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

The City of Fort Pierce has developed its strategic plan based on analyzing the Consolidated Plan data and a community participation and consultation process. Through these efforts, the city has identified four priority needs with associated goals to address the needs.

The priority needs with associated goals are:

- 1. Accessibility for the purpose of providing decent affordable housing**
- 2. Affordability for the purpose of providing decent affordable housing**
- 3. Sustainability for the purpose of providing decent affordable housing**
- 4. Accessibility for the purpose of creating suitable living environments**
- 5. Sustainability for the purpose of creating suitable living environments**

3. Evaluation of past performance:

The City of Fort Pierce, with other public, private, and nonprofit community housing providers and non-housing service agencies, has made significant contributions to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing and a suitable living environment especially for extremely low- to moderate-income (LMI) individuals and those with special needs in the community. However, the preservation of affordable housing, vital public service, economic development, and public improvements remain some of the city's most prolific conditions, as documented by the current Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan accomplishments and highlights include:

In total, the City of Fort Pierce expended **\$411,308.70** in CDBG funds for program year 2022-23 (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023). Funding was utilized in the pursuit of the City's and HUD's mutual goals of providing decent housing, creating a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities. An overview of the expenditures:

Public Service Projects – The City expended **\$6,832.96** for service projects for LMI citizens. Funds were expended for the funding of Marine Clean-up, Community Garden and Youth Activities.

Housing Programs – The City expended **\$245,596.46** for Rapid Rehousing to assist residents to avoid homelessness. **\$20,000** was also expended on Weatherization/home rehabs for very low-income citizens.

Community Based Development Organizations – The City expended **\$50,000** of the \$100,000 allocation to support CBDO's that promote economic development, job creation, tourism, historic preservation, and energy efficiency improvements.

Economic Development – The City expended **\$23,835.08** for marketing/advertising to strengthen the capacity and sustainability of existing micro-enterprise businesses, the Lincoln Park Minority Business Expo **provided** businesses with workshops and technical assistance, and the **5th Annual Job Fair** in a very low-income neighborhood.

Public Facilities – The City expended **\$11,590.06** for improvements to public facilities and improvements to playgrounds located in lower income neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Revitalization – The City expended **\$13,823.43** to recognize, promote and celebrate Native and African American Latino/Hispanic, Cuban and Haitian cultures throughout the city.

Program Administration – The City expended **\$39,630.71** for project oversight, management, monitoring, and coordination of the CDBG program.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process:

As part of the planning process, the city conducted a public hearing to assess the needs and priorities of the community. The City of Fort Pierce conducted a public hearing on August 7, 2023, to solicit input on the priorities and needs in the city to include in the Annual Action Plan. Participants were asked to provide feedback on community needs and how funds should be allocated to programs and projects related to housing, homelessness, special needs, and community development. The public hearing also served as an opportunity for the city to provide an overview of existing programs and to summarize the city's accomplishments in meeting identified goals over the past year.

An internet survey for the 2023-24 CDBG Annual Action Plan Community Needs Assessment Survey was conducted to collect public comments. The survey was available via link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S9YC9LX> on the Grants Administration homepage from May 3, 2023-June 29, 2023.

The citizen participation process also includes consultation with housing providers, housing authorities, health and social services providers, and the Continuum of Care (CoC) for the city's homeless population. The Consortium consulted these entities throughout the preceding year concerning ongoing topics of mutual interest and during the preparation of the Consolidated Plan. Consultation occurred via email invitations and correspondence, online surveys, public meetings, public hearings, focus group consultations, and webinars. In some cases, specific reports and agencies' plans were referenced or utilized in preparing the Plan.

5. Summary of public comments:

Sixty-Six comments via Internet survey were collected and accepted regarding the 2023-24 CDBG Annual Action Plan Community Needs Assessment Survey. The survey was available via link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S9YC9LX> on the Grants Administration homepage from May 3, 2023-June 29, 2023.

The overall needs in ranking order collected from the survey were as follows:

- Assist nonprofit agencies that provide community services (such as senior or youth centers and food banks)
- Improve city facilities (parks, libraries, etc.)
- Address crime/safety issues
- Improve access to affordable housing
- Improve streets and roads
- Provide small business assistance
- Homeless shelters

Public notice was printed in the St. Lucie News Tribune from July 7, 2023, and July 14, 2023, for a 30-day Public Comment Review Period and Public Hearing.

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

Throughout the citizen participation process, the community was invited and encouraged to participate. A public hearing was held at the City of Fort Pierce City Hall on August 7, 2023; the following comments were provided:

All public comments received during the comment period were accepted.

7. Summary:

Based on the information obtained through its Citizen Participation process, the City of Fort Pierce has designed its 2023 Action Plan. Activities have been designed to address the most pressing needs of the community. This plan will help the city to make the best possible use of limited funding to address the City's priority needs.

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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 administering each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	FORT PIERCE	Finance Department/Grants Administration Division

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional):

The City of Fort Pierce Grants Administration Division, located in the Finance Department, is the lead entity charged with preparing the Consolidated Plan (ConPlan), the Annual Action Plan (AAP), and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). In this capacity, the city cooperates with other key government, nonprofit, and for-profit agencies addressing affordable housing and other community development issues. Collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders are indispensable to the community's success in addressing the needs of low- and moderate-income residents and improving the quality of life for all the residents. These partnerships help to ensure that all residents, regardless of race, gender, age, income level, or disability, have equal access to affordable housing, community development resources, jobs, and services available in the city.

The City of Fort Pierce receives federal Community Development Block (CDBG) funds allocated through HUD's Community Planning Development program, intended to primarily serve low- to moderate-income households and special needs communities. The City's Finance Department/Grants Administration Division is the lead responsible city department for the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. It administers CDBG grant funds and ensures compliance with HUD regulations and guidelines.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Brittany Marinello, Manager, City of Fort Pierce Grants Administration Division
100 North U.S. Hwy. 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 467-3161
grantsadministration@cityoffortpierce.com

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

1. Introduction

The City of Fort Pierce recognizes that preparing the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan requires discussion and consultation with many diverse groups, organizations, and agencies. During the planning process for the plan, the city encouraged citizen, nonprofit, and for-profit participation. While preparing this document, City staff provided a community presentation and a public hearing. They met with supportive service providers within the city to discuss and gather input on their ideas for improving community development needs.

Partnering with other local, public, and private entities is vital to addressing the identified priority needs related to affordable housing, homeless, special needs, and community development. City of Fort Pierce's Citizen Participation Plan incorporates the goals, policies, and implementation strategies that the city will undertake to encourage and ensure adequate citizen participation in the development of the Consolidated Plan, the Annual Action Plan, any substantial amendments to the Plans, and the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Citizen participation provides a means of involving the citizens of Fort Pierce in an advisory capacity in all phases of HUD programs. Citizen participation in such efforts is essential if the activities to be undertaken are genuinely successful and responsive to the community's needs and concerns. The Citizen Participation Plan provides for and encourages residents to explain their needs and voice their concerns. Emphasis is placed on persons of low- and moderate-income residents of common- and moderate-income areas where funds are proposed to be used. However, at the same time, residents are reminded that their input is advisory and that final authority for decision-making rests with the Board of County Commissioners, which is responsible to both the citizens of Fort Pierce and the Federal government.

Notices of public meetings, public hearings, and availability for viewing of the draft Annual Action Plan and proposed use of funds were advertised in the local newspaper (St. Lucie News Tribune) on the City's Grants Administration Division website at <https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/170/Grants-Administration>.

A public meeting was conducted to determine the needs and priorities of the community. The public meeting allowed citizens and interested parties to learn about Fort Pierce housing, community development programs, and eligibility requirements. Participants were asked to provide input on how funds should be allocated to programs and projects related to housing, homelessness, special needs, and community development.

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 public participation process included consultation with housing providers/housing authorities/health and social services providers/Continuum of Care (CoC) for the city's homeless population. The Consortium consults entities throughout the preceding year concerning ongoing topics of mutual interest and during the Consolidated Plan/Action Plan preparation. Consultation occurred via email/correspondence/public meetings/hearings. In some cases, specific reports/plans of agencies were referenced/utilized in preparing the Plan.

Public notice was advertised in the local newspaper (St. Lucie News Tribune) and placed on the city's Grants Administration Division webpage to broaden public participation. Advisory emails/invitations were sent to all participating public service providers (housing/homeless/health/social services) and other interested parties to advertise public meetings/hearings and request comments on the Plan. Subrecipients were invited to attend public meetings to gather information on client needs. Attendees had the opportunity to identify priority needs for housing/homeless/special needs/community development.

To be inclusive of various agencies and organizations, the city disseminated Community Needs Assessment Surveys to an outreach list that included the following types of local agencies:

- Nonprofit service providers that cater to the needs of low- and moderate-income households and persons with disabilities or special needs.
- Housing professionals.
- Public agencies.
- Economic development and employment organizations.
- Local Housing Authority.
- Government staff of participating jurisdictions.
- Community and neighborhood groups.

The City of Fort Pierce is a member of the Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council (TCHSC), the CoC for Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties. As detailed in our 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan, the city and many of our support service providers will continue to request funding or other assistance from the CoC to help address our growing homeless population. The city is currently working with the Fort Pierce Housing Authority (FPHA) and St. Lucie County to create a homeless strategy that includes identifying the key factors contributing to homelessness (job security, rent increases, home inventory) and how to combat these (emergency assistance, conduct more job fairs, and provide more workshops for community members that include, but are not limited to, financial literacy and tenant rights). The city aims to coordinate with the CoC to create a partnership to address the homeless population's needs, including

individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied minors. Local partners continue to review behavioral health efforts in conjunction with these initiatives.

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 City of Fort Pierce is a member of the Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council (TCHSC), the CoC for Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties, which meet monthly to discuss the homeless population's needs.

Consortium members and nonprofit agencies also work closely with the TCHSC, attend general meetings, and provide staff support for the Point-in-Time count. Every January, the Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts annual Point-in-Time surveys to determine the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, unaccompanied youth, and persons at risk of homelessness.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate Emergency Solutions Grant (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:

Consortium member agencies have consulted with the CoC regularly to determine how to allocate ESG funds by the CoC and the Consolidated Plan and review applications for funding requests. The City of Fort Pierce periodically consults with the CoC on homeless matters, including allocating funds and developing performance standards, outcomes, and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The City of Fort Pierce Community Resource Specialist serves on various committees of the CoC. The Community Resource Specialist attends monthly coordination meetings with the Consortia.

ESG funds are awarded to agencies that provide case management, homeless prevention, and emergency shelter and services to homeless persons.

The CoC is responsible for administering and operating the HMIS. Policies and procedures in place are consistently reviewed for necessary updates. ESG agencies awarded funds are required to enter client data into HMIS by HUD guidelines.

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:

The city works with several organizations regarding Homeless prevention, including TCHSC, Lincoln Park Mainstreet, Career Source Research Coast, and St. Lucie County, as described in Table 2.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, and organizations who participated.

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Lincoln Park Mainstreet
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Planning organization Business and Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted regarding needs that could be satisfied via the CDBG program for those served by the agency.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	CareerSource Research Coast
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Education Services-Employment Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	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 City of Fort Pierce collaborates with CareerSource Research Coast and consults with the agency on the annual Job Fair, Lincoln Park Business Expo, and summer youth internship programs.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	St. Lucie County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Needs Assessment, Homeless Needs-Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs-Families with Children; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Lead-based Paint Strategy; Anti-Poverty Strategy; Non-Housing Community Development Strategy
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted regarding needs that could be satisfied via the CDBG program for those served by the agency, collaborated on affordable housing needs, fair housing assessment, and county stakeholder input regarding community needs.

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

The City of Fort Pierce coordinates with the local CoC. As part of the citizen participation process, the city strives to receive input and participation from all interested agencies, groups, and organizations, including low-income persons and persons residing in local neighbor revitalization areas, local target areas, and slum/blighted areas. The city's Health Department, public housing authorities, state government agencies, and business and civic leaders are included in citizen participation outreach.

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	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council (TCHSC)	The TCHSC supports homeless services located in Indian River County. However, as our CoC for Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin Counties, they use all our PIT numbers to secure grants for homeless services.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Consortium Plan	St. Lucie County	This Plan includes strategies for rehabilitating homes belonging to very low-income Fort Pierce Citizens. The City's Consolidated Plan also has strategies for addressing this issue through our State Housing and Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program funds.
Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing	St. Lucie County	Fair Housing goals overlap in both plans.

Table 3 – Other local/regional/federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional):

Effective implementation of the Consolidated Plan involves a variety of agencies both in the community and the city. The City of Fort Pierce also reviews and approves plans of the local housing authorities for consistency with the City's Consolidated Plan. Coordination and collaboration between agencies are essential to addressing the community's needs. The Fort Pierce Consortium maintains an ongoing relationship with local housing authorities, affordable housing providers, and agencies providing services to low- and moderate-income populations and people experiencing homelessness. Not all agencies could attend the public hearings but consult and discuss needs with the Community Resource Specialist throughout the year as needed.

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AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

Summarize the citizen participation process and how it impacted goal setting:

The Consortium made every effort to broaden citizen participation. Public notice was advertised in the local newspaper (St. Lucie News Tribune) and on the City's Grants Administration Division webpage <https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/170/Grants-Administration>. In addition, advisory emails were sent to all participating jurisdictions; public service providers (e.g., housing, homeless, health, and social services); and other interested parties to advertise public meetings and public hearings and to request comments on the Action Plan.

Public participation efforts were designed to identify strengths and needs, increase the community's knowledge, establish partnerships, align resources, and allow for community support of the Plan.

The City of Fort Pierce's Consolidated Plan for 2021-2025 results from an ongoing consultation and coordination process to ensure that all residents have an opportunity to help shape a community vision for the city. Regularly, housing and community development needs are made known to County and City staff and housing and service providers through various means:

1. Administration of Affordable Housing Programs for the City of Fort Pierce.
2. Participation of city staff on committees of local agencies.
3. Technical assistance to agencies and other entities for the CDBG program.
4. Participation in public forums such as the Behavioral Health Summit at the direction of the Health and Human Services and neighborhood meetings with communities.
5. Meetings with public housing authorities; and
6. Outreach to minorities, non-English speakers, and persons with disabilities: public hearings and meetings are the primary means by which individual citizens can provide input into the Consolidated Plan. Open meetings are held at the city level, and countywide level. All such meetings are scheduled in advance and posted in the community.

As part of the Citizen Participation process, the City of Fort Pierce held a public hearing on August 7, 2023. Participating residents, partner agencies, and community organizations were encouraged to participate and provide input on how funds should be allocated to programs and projects related to housing, homelessness, special needs, and community development. The feedback received during the public meetings helped identify the priority housing and community development needs for the following year.

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Summary of 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	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/ Broad Community	Meeting notices were posted on the Grants Administration Division webpage on May 3, 2023-June 29, 2022, for the 2023-24 CDBG AAP Community Needs Assessment Survey.	66 Public Comments were received. Overall needs ranking: Assist nonprofit agencies that provide community services (such as senior or youth centers and food banks), Improve city facilities (parks, libraries, etc.), Address crime/safety issues, improve access to affordable housing, improve streets and roads, Provide small business assistance, Homeless shelters.	All public comments are accepted.	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S9YC9LX
2	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/ Broad Community	Public meeting notices for the 2023-24 CDBG AAP Community Needs Assessment Survey were	Not applicable (no comments received on the newspaper ads specifically). Notice to the general public,	Not applicable (no comments received on the newspaper ads specifically).	

			published by the St. Lucie News Tribune on June 30, 2023, and July 14, 2023, for Public Notice of a 30-day Public Comment Review Period and Public Hearing.	participating cities, partner agencies, and community organizations.	
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ Broad Community	2023-24 CDBG AAP Community Needs Assessment Survey Public Hearing was held by the City of Fort Pierce, on August 7, 2023, in person at the City of Fort Pierce City Hall.	Housing activities such as expanding affordable housing, addressing gaps in homeownership	All comments were considered during the development of the Action Plan.

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction:

In 2021, the City of Fort Pierce completed the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan, a five-year strategic planning document developed with input from community residents, local governments, nonprofits, and other interested groups, identifying the city's priority housing, homeless and special populations, and community development needs. The Annual Action Plan, submitted each of the five years of the Consolidated Plan, identifies specific projects and activities to be undertaken each year to address the needs identified in the Consolidated Plan and further the identified five-year priorities and strategies.

Federal CDBG funds are allocated annually to entitlement communities through HUD to carry out housing and community development activities to benefit low- and moderate-income households. Planning for 2023-24 was done using PY 2022-23 allocation amounts and projected program income. Based on PY 2022-23 allocations, the city anticipates receiving approximately \$564,875 in Federal formula grant funding. This third-year Annual Action Plan outlines how the city will target these Federal resources to address the city's housing and community development needs during the upcoming fiscal year from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. The Project Summary table in AP-38 details how the city will adjust project funding based on actual allocation amounts received.

The City of Fort Pierce Grants Administration Division implements the CDBG program. The Grants Administration Division is the lead agency in developing, coordinating, submitting, and implementing the City of Fort Pierce's Annual Action Plan. The City of Fort Pierce Mayor and City Commission are responsible for approving the application of grant funds for various activities identified in the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans.

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Anticipated Resources:

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				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	564,875.00	0	1,110,895	1,675,770	1,675.770	CDBG funds are used to support housing, homeless, non-homeless special needs, non-housing community development activities, and program administration.
(SHIP)	Public-State	Acquisition, Admin and Planning, Homeowner rehab; Housing; Multifamily rental new construction, Multifamily rental rehab; New construction for ownership; Rental assistance, Services	549,324.00	0	0	549,324	549,324	State SHIP funds are used to meet the local match requirements to support housing activities and program administration.

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 of Fort Pierce makes every reasonable effort to leverage financial support from other sources for projects receiving federal grant funds. CDBG program applicants must identify project funding from other sources as part of the competitive application process. As part of the project selection process, projects with other non-federal leverage funding receive additional points based on the amount of other non-federal funding contributed to the project. This process encourages applicants to structure project funding to include additional private, state, and local resources to leverage federal funds. In addition to CDBG funding, the City of Fort Pierce uses State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funding to address affordable housing needs and meet identified affordable housing goals.

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

A major priority of the City of Fort Pierce is to reverse blight, increase home ownership and stability of property values, provide affordable housing, improve health and safety of neighborhoods within the City, and disposition of vacant, abandoned, tax delinquent, and City lien properties.

Discussion:

As stated, the city utilized SHIP funds to meet match program requirements. Cooperation between programs enhances program effectiveness by affording more residents housing opportunities that otherwise would not be available to them. The State requires that 65% of SHIP allocations be expended on home ownership activities and 75% on construction activities.

The City of Fort Pierce will utilize 15% of its annual allocation plus 15% of the prior year's program income to determine the resources available to fund public service activities for each fiscal year. For the fiscal year 2023-24, the annual CDBG allocation is \$564,875 (15%, approximately \$84,731.25).

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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	1A Expand and Improve Public Infrastructure	2023	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	City limits of Fort Pierce	Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities	CDBG: \$50,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 14000 Persons Assisted
2	1B Improve Access to Public Facilities	2023	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	City limits of Fort Pierce	Expand/Improve Public Facilities	CDBG: \$50,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 15000 Households Assisted
3	2A Housing Rehabilitation	2023	2024	Affordable Housing	City limits of Fort Pierce	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements	CDBG: \$45,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 30 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	2B Affordable Housing Opportunity	2023	2024	Affordable Housing	City limits of Fort Pierce	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$40,000	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 20 Households Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 20 Persons Assisted Other: 1000 Other
5	3A Provide Supportive Services for Special Needs	2023	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	City limits of Fort Pierce	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements	CDBG: \$30,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1000 Households Assisted
6	3B Provide Vital Services for LMI Households	2023	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	City limits of Fort Pierce	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements	CDBG: \$30,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Households Assisted
7	4A Provider for Small Business Assistance	2023	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	City limits of Fort Pierce	Economic Development	CDBG: \$110,000	Businesses assisted: 100 Businesses Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
8	Neighborhood Revitalization	2023	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	City limits of Fort Pierce	Economic Development	CDBG \$146,900	We estimate that approximately 15,500 lower-income families will benefit from these proposed activities.
9	Program Administration	2023	2024	Administration	City limits of Fort Pierce	Administration	CDBG \$112,975	Administration costs, not direct benefits.

Table 5 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions:

1	Goal Name	1A Expand and Improve Public Infrastructure
	Goal Description	The city will work to expand and improve public infrastructure in Fort Pierce. These activities include improvements to infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks, ADA improvements, and storm water and water systems in low- to moderate- income neighborhoods.
2	Goal Name	1B Improve Access to Public Facilities
	Goal Description	The city will work to improve access to public facilities in Fort Pierce. These activities include improvements for neighborhood facilities, community centers and park and recreational facilities in low- to moderate- income neighborhoods.
3	Goal Name	2A Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	The city will provide for housing rehabilitation activities for low- to moderate- income homeowners aimed at improving housing to withstand the elements and making it more energy efficient to decrease utility bills; and minor housing repairs for low- to moderate- income households.
4	Goal Name	2B Affordable Housing Opportunity
	Goal Description	The city may provide affordable housing opportunities for low- to moderate- income households. These activities may include a down payment program and closing cost assistance for eligible first-time homebuyers.
5	Goal Name	3A Provide Supportive Services for Special Needs
	Goal Description	The city will work to increase the capacity of local service providers that offer vital services to the special needs' population such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, the homeless, and victims of domestic abuse.
6	Goal Name	3B Provide Vital Services for LMI Households
	Goal Description	The city will work to increase the capacity of local service providers that offer vital services that improve the quality of life for low-to moderate- income households. Public Services that are intended to help assist low- to moderate- income residents include activities such as food pantry, summer programs, youth services, health services, and more.

7	Goal Name	4A Provider for Small Business Assistance
	Goal Description	The city will provide financial assistance to small businesses in low- to moderate- income neighborhoods; provide technical assistance and marketing/advertising for small micro enterprises; provide job training and employment opportunities to residents in low- to moderate- income neighborhoods; provide commercial façade grants for properties located in lower income deteriorated areas. The city will also support neighborhood revitalizations activities that promote economic development and small business assistance for minority groups in Fort Pierce. These activities range from local art and cultural heritage to tourism with various projects designed to recognize, promote, and celebrate Native and African American Latino/Hispanic, Cuban, and Haitian cultures throughout the city.
8	Goal Name	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Goal Description	The city will provide financial assistance to various projects including promotion of local art and cultural heritage projects, creative placemaking initiatives, historic preservation; grants for CBDs.
9	Goal Name	Administration
	Goal Description	Administration costs, not direct benefits

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Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction:

The City of Fort Pierce has identified the following programs due to the priority needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. The activities recommended in each program for initial funding have been evaluated for eligibility, readiness to proceed, leveraged funds, and capacity of the entity carrying out the activity. Additionally, should funds become available from unanticipated program income or activities coming under budget, the city has identified alternate activities or may add additional activities to the recognized priority programs.

Projects:

#	Project Name
1	Housing Programs
2	Economic Development
3	Public Services
4	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
5	Program Administration
6	Neighborhood Revitalization

Table 6 - Project Information

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

In making allocation recommendations, several factors were considered: activities must comply with CDBG national objectives; must address a priority identified in the Consolidated Strategic Plan; and must provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, or expand economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The City of Fort Pierce allocates investments geographically within its jurisdiction by utilizing a target area concept. Redevelopment and revitalization funds continue to be directed to the city's targeted areas and support redevelopment activities. All areas are either principally low- and moderate-income as determined through the most up-to-date HUD-provided Low- and Moderate-Income Summary Data or slum/blight areas designated by the local governments. This target area concept does not preclude the possibility that projects will be selected that may operate citywide or otherwise outside of one of the identified target areas.

Housing programs are available throughout the city, focusing on areas with a concentration of older housing and specially targeted areas.

The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the limited resources available to address the identified priorities. The city can only fund some project proposals received during the application cycle. In addition, some of the obstacles to meeting underserved needs are as follows:

1. Lack of supply of affordable housing for extremely low-, low-, moderate- and middle-income families. Housing costs continue to rise. The City of Fort Pierce has experienced an unprecedented increase in the market rates for rental housing and an almost 14% increase in the median sales price of homes over the past 12 months.
2. City experienced continued steady improvement in the overall economic climate; however, the COVID-19 outbreak remnants throughout the country continue to strain the availability of resources and services. Additionally, Federal funding is being provided to mitigate the impact.
3. Local governmental policies, such as building codes, subdivision standards, and impact fees, are enacted to protect and further the public's general welfare. However, a complex regulatory environment can have the unintended effect of creating barriers to housing affordability by increasing per-unit costs associated with housing development.
4. Based on 2015-2019 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, The City of Fort Pierce has a significant housing affordability issue with both ownership (7,715) and rental housing (9,005) households. Citywide, 1,430 owner households are cost burdened and spend more significant than 30% of their income on housing. 2,375 renter households experience the same cost burden. Families transitioning to rental due to foreclosure are finding it difficult to secure and maintain housing due to recent rent increases. One of the barriers for these families is the inability to qualify for accommodation due to credit issues and unemployment or underemployment.
5. The supply of rental housing in the Consortium, affordable to extremely low-, low-, moderate-, and middle-income families, must catch up with the increased demand for rental housing. Average rents are not affordable, and households can barely afford rent, making it difficult to afford necessities such as food, clothing, medical care, or transportation.

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AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Housing Programs
	Target Area	City limits of Fort Pierce
	Goals Supported	2A Housing Rehabilitation; 2B Affordable Housing Opportunity
	Needs Addressed	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing
	Funding	\$85,000
	Description	The city will provide for housing rehabilitation activities such as a weatherization program for LMI homeowners aimed at improving housing to withstand the elements and making it more energy efficient to decrease utility bills; and minor housing rehab to LMI households. Additionally, affordable housing initiatives such as income-based rental assistance and homeless services will be addressed.
	Target Date	9/30/24
	Estimate the number and type of families benefitting from the proposed activities.	Housing rehabilitation activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefits: 10 Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 20 Homelessness Prevention: 20
	Location Description	City limits of Fort Pierce
2	Planned Activities	Planned activities include a weatherization program, minor housing rehab for LMI households, income-based rental assistance, and housing workshops.
	Project Name	Economic Development
	Target Area	City limits of Fort Pierce

	Goals Supported	4A Provider for Small Business Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	\$110,000
	Description	The city will aid small businesses in LMI neighborhoods and support neighborhood revitalization activities promoting minority groups in Fort Pierce.
	Target Date	9/30/24
	Estimate the number and type of families benefitting from the proposed activities.	Businesses assisted: 50
	Location Description	City limits of Fort Pierce
	Planned Activities	Planned activities include assistance to small businesses in LMI neighborhoods, technical assistance, and marketing/advertising for small micro-enterprises: commercial facade grants for properties located in lower-income deteriorated areas. Planned activities also include supporting neighborhood revitalization activities that promote economic development and small business assistance for minority groups in Fort Pierce. These activities range from local art and cultural heritage to tourism, with various projects designed to recognize, promote, and celebrate Native and African American Latino/Hispanic, Cuban, and Haitian cultures throughout the city. HUD Matrix Codes, economic development (18A, 18B, 18C).

3	Project Name	Public Services
	Target Area	City limits of Fort Pierce
	Goals Supported	3B Provide Vital Services for LMI Households; 3A Provide Supportive Services for Special Needs
	Needs Addressed	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements
	Funding	\$60,000
	Description	The city will provide vital services that improve the quality of life for LMI households and special needs groups in the city limits of Fort Pierce.
	Target Date	9/30/24
	Estimate the number and type of families benefitting from the proposed activities.	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000
	Location Description	City limits of Fort Pierce
	Planned Activities	Public Service projects include grants to nonprofits that provide public services to lower-income citizens and youth residing in very low-income minority neighborhoods. All organizations previously approved for funding through this public service activity will add new services or increase the number of people served to their existing projects.
4	Project Name	Public Facilities & Infrastructure
	Target Area	Citywide low-mod
	Goals Supported	Improvements to playgrounds, community centers, and homeless shelters in lower-income neighborhoods.
	Needs Addressed	Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities
	Funding	\$50,000

	Description	Various projects for Public Facilities, including improvements to playgrounds, community centers, and homeless shelters in lower-income neighborhoods.
	Target Date	09/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families benefitting from the proposed activities.	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000
	Location Description	Citywide low-mod
	Planned Activities	Planned activities include improvements to streets, parks, and recreational facilities.
5	Project Name	Program Administration
	Target Area	City limits of Fort Pierce
	Goals Supported	1A Expand and Improve Public Infrastructure 2A Housing Rehabilitation 4A Provider for Small Business Assistance 3B Provide Vital Services for LMI Households 2B Affordable Housing Opportunity 3A Provide Supportive Services for Special Needs
	Needs Addressed	Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities; Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing; Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements; Economic Development
	Funding	\$112,975
	Description	Planning and administration of CDBG Programs
	Target Date	09/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families benefitting from the proposed activities.	N/A
	Location Description	N/A

	Planned Activities	Planning and Administration of the CDBG programs.
6	Project Name	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Target Area	These activities will take place within the city limits of Fort Pierce.
	Goals Supported	Encourage activities that promote economic development for small businesses and citizens alike in the City of Fort Pierce.
	Needs Addressed	The city will also support neighborhood revitalization activities that promote economic development and small business assistance for minority groups in Fort Pierce. These activities range from local art and cultural heritage to tourism with various projects designed to recognize, promote, and celebrate Native and African American Latino/Hispanic, Cuban and Haitian cultures throughout the city.
	Funding	CDBG \$146,900
	Description	Various projects include promoting local art and cultural heritage projects, creative placemaking initiatives, historic preservation, and grants for CBDOS.
	Target Date	09/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families benefitting from the proposed activities.	We estimate that approximately 15,500 lower-income families will benefit from these proposed activities.
	Location Description	These activities will take place within the city limits of Fort Pierce.
	Planned Activities	<u>Annual Highwaymen Heritage Trail Art Show and Festival</u> - Promote local minority art and cultural heritage with a yearly event in very low-income minority neighborhoods to increase civic pride, new business startups, and economic

	development. 570.203; Matrix Codes 18B and LMA <u>Lincoln Park Main Street</u> - provide grants to Community-Based Development Organizations to assist low to moderate-income business owners by promoting neighborhood and downtown revitalization, economic development, job creation, tourism, historic preservation, tourism, and energy conservation. 570.204(a)(1) Matrix Code 18A; LMA <u>Main Street Fort Pierce</u> - provide grants to Community-Based Development Organizations to assist low to moderate-income business owners by promoting neighborhood and downtown revitalization, economic development, job creation, tourism, historic preservation, tourism, and energy conservation. 570.204(a)(1) Matrix Code 18A; LMA <u>Art Murals</u> - provide grants to local artists to design and create art within the city limits to promote/educate the public on the rich history of Fort Pierce.
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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:

Redevelopment and revitalization funds will continue to be directed citywide. Targeted areas consist of low- and moderate-income concentration areas. Additionally, funds will continue to be used to provide support for redevelopment activities in cooperating cities with slum/blight areas as designated by the local government.

For activities involving people experiencing homelessness or special needs, the emphasis continues to be cooperation with other entitlement communities in the city to ensure that those in need within all areas of the city are served.

Geographic Distribution:

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
N/A	N/A

Table 7 - Geographic Distribution

The rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically:

The City of Fort Pierce does not allocate funding based solely on geographic requirements. When the project or planned activities are intended to serve individuals or households directly, beneficiaries must meet income and residency requirements to receive assistance. CDBG program funds will be utilized to develop programs and activities that will aid low- and moderate-income residents and benefit the city as a whole in improving the quality of life for the residents.

The city has also identified public facility and infrastructure improvement activities as a need in Fort Pierce. These planned activities have an “area-wide” benefit. Per HUD requirements, these areas must be within an eligible Census Block Group Tract, as defined by HUD-CDBG regulations, whereby most residents are low- to moderate-income (51%).

The city utilizes HUD's CDBG Low Mod Income Summary Data (LMISD) from the HUD Exchange website to determine these tracts, defining the eligible block group tracts within the jurisdiction. The tracts can be found at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/acs-low-mod-summary-data/>

Low/Mod Block Group Tracts: 3801001, 3802001, 3802002, 3802003, 3802004, 3803001, 3803002, 3803003, 3803004, 3803005, 3803006, 3804001, 3804002, 3804003, 3804005, 3805001, 3805002, 3805003, 3805004, 3805005, 3805006, 3806001, 3806002, 3806003, 3807002, 3807003, 3809011, 3809012, 3809021, 3809024, 3814011, 3814012, 3814014, 3814015 & 3814022.

Discussion:

The City of Fort Pierce's strategic vision is to improve the quality of life for Fort Pierce

residents and aims to have engaged citizens. The city works together to align resources better, revitalize and redevelop communities, and protect our natural resources.

Allocations will be made using the rating scale for projects that consider several criteria:

- The severity of the need.
- The availability of other funds to ensure project viability.
- How the project meets national CDBG objectives and goals.
- How well the project addresses local needs.
- How significant will the impact on residents, i.e., the number of beneficiaries?

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Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction:

Providing access to affordable housing for all residents continues to be a high priority for the City of Fort Pierce. Affordable housing will be provided through Federal CDBG and State SHIP funds. Priorities include acquiring, constructing, and/or rehabilitating new and/or existing owner, renting, homeless, and special needs housing, providing short-term rental assistance to homeless or at-risk individuals and households, and providing down payment and closing cost assistance for low- and moderate-income households.

One-Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	50
Non-Homeless	15
Special-Needs	20
Total	85

Table 8 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One-Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	50
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	5
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	55

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

Discussion:

The city employs a variety of approaches to maintaining, creating, and improving the quality of affordable housing. Housing is still the top priority in the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction:

Public Housing Authorities in Florida are created as independent organizations under Florida Statutes. Thus, the city interfaces with the local housing authorities on activities as requested, and the city has contributed toward safe and sound public housing and the provision of recreational and other social accommodations. The city's policy, however, is to refrain from substituting CDBG funds for funds available to the Housing Authority through other Federal programs.

Actions planned during the next year to address the need for public housing:

The city will continue collaborating with the Fort Pierce Housing Authority and area supportive service providers to develop a transitional housing program for our growing homeless families.

No specific activities are planned with public housing authorities for the 2023-24 fiscal year. FPHA continues to provide support and youth services to our programs' residents and voucher holders. FPHA maintains the property making necessary repairs, etc., to ensure they provide safe, sanitary, and decent housing.

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

The city will continue to partner with the Fort Pierce Housing Authority (FPHA) to promote our down payment and closing cost assistance for first-time home buyers and the workshops provided by the FPHA that teach and mentor on financial responsibility and improving credit scores.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe how financial assistance will be provided or other assistance:

The Fort Pierce Housing Authority continues to be designated as a High Performer.

Discussion:

N/A

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

Introduction:

Homeless prevention resources are available in Fort Pierce. However, the limited resources available fall short of providing adequate services to meet the growing needs of the emerging homeless population and residents at risk of becoming homeless. While gaps exist, solid nonprofit organizations are coordinating to ensure this population is served. The city will continue collaborating with Continuum of Care to provide supplemental services and coordination of funding to carry out the policy goals.

Describe the jurisdiction's 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 TCHSC serves as the CoC for three counties, which include Indian River, St. Lucie (the City of Fort Pierce), and Martin. The TCHSC publishes the homeless numbers for St. Lucie County on its website, including an assessment of their needs. The CoC is responsible for setting and implementing policies for the homeless services, implementing and advocating for design and critical activities of the city; monitoring and reporting on system and provider performance towards adopted goals and outcomes; designing, tracking, and reporting results to ensure effective use of resources to ensure homeless persons gain stable housing; performing lead agency responsibilities for Federal and State funding; administering Federal, State, and local public and private funding for homeless services; providing strategic alignment of funding to meet the needs best; coordinating between Interlocal Agreement entities; and advocating for effective homeless or at-risk services at the Federal, State, and local levels.

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

The City of Fort Pierce will continue to collaborate with the Fort Pierce Housing Authority and local supportive service organizations in developing a transitional housing program for our growing number of homeless families; additionally, the city will allocate funding through our Public Facilities activity to help cover the costs associated with rehabilitating the showers and enlarging the kitchens in our existing emergency homeless shelters.

All outreach personnel meet monthly to discuss challenges, identify the

increases/decreases in specific populations, and discuss proposed solutions.

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 that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again:

The CoC continues to explore strategies and potential initiatives to shorten the period families are experiencing homelessness. Continual monitoring/tracking of families/individuals who return to homelessness will evaluate the measures taken to reduce the chance of return. The most critical steps for the CoC are to assist families/individuals enrolled in cash/non-cash mainstream resources before exit and ongoing case management/contact with 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:

To ensure that residents of the City of Fort Pierce are referred to partner agencies for services, the city partners with counties on the Treasure Coast to sponsor the "Where to Turn" - 211 Network. The 211 Network provides computer and telephone information and referral for all social service needs. The network offers persons needing assistance a single point of contact for finding solutions to their problems.

The city will continue to monitor the availability of additional Federal funds that may become available to address homelessness and homeless prevention activities. The city will coordinate these activities with other jurisdictions within the county to ensure that eligible recipients are moving smoothly to access the funding.

Discussion:

The CoC will continue to meet and collaborate monthly to coordinate mutual concerns and benefits issues.

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

Introduction:

The City of Fort Pierce continues to work to eliminate barriers that limit the preservation and/or production of affordable ownership and rental housing for residents in the city. Based on Needs Assessment data, Fort Pierce needs more affordable ownership and rental housing. The current purchase prices of homes in the city have increased 14% in the last year, with a median purchase price of \$283,000, and are not affordable to low- and moderate-income households. Rent prices have seen unprecedented increases in the past year, widening the affordability gap. In 2023, data from the National Low-Income Housing Coalition identified Florida as the eleventh-highest housing wage in the country.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the adverse 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, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment:

Several factors impede the development of affordable housing in the city. Government review processes have prolonged development timelines, increasing per-unit housing development costs. Impact fees, charged to defray the cost of constructing and maintaining water, sewer, and transportation systems, can increase the costs of single and multifamily developments. Zoning and Land Use Codes can restrict unit density, impacting the supply of affordable housing. Although enacted to protect general public welfare, these policies hinder affordable housing development. The city will continue to focus on preserving existing housing and producing new affordable units.

Barrier: Government Review Processes and Fees/Construction Costs. To help enhance these barriers, the city will continue to support the established Affordable Housing Incentive Program to provide private sector builders and developers with regulatory and financial incentives to produce affordable housing.

Incentives include an expedited permitting process, impact, and review fee waivers, allowance of increased density levels, reduction of parking and setback requirements, and use of an established process to consider, before adoption, proposed land development code changes that may significantly impact the cost of housing. These incentives are periodically reviewed in conjunction with the State of Florida statutory requirements of the State's SHIP Affordable Housing funds. An Affordable Housing Advisory Committee involved with the planning and implementing affordable housing reviews established policies and procedures, ordinances, and land development

regulations.

Barrier: Tenant/Purchaser Issues. The city will continue educating citizens about obstacles that can be eliminated, such as poor credit. This will be done through staff educational efforts, as well as through agencies that provide credit counseling and pertinent workshops.

Discussion:

The most significant barrier continues to be the need for more financial resources available to address affordable housing needs in the city. The city will continue to pursue and identify additional funding sources to reduce and remove barriers to affordable housing. The city will also continue to foster collaboration with housing and service providers to enhance and implement new strategies to address affordable housing barriers.

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AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Listed below are the actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs, foster and maintain affordable housing, reduce lead-based paint hazards, reduce the number of poverty-level families, develop institutional structure, and enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs:

The City of Fort Pierce's most significant obstacle is the need for more funding for affordable housing. The city continues to lose affordable housing units as affordability requirements expire; however, the limited available budget restricts the ability to respond to preserving the units. The city will continue to work with nonprofits to identify additional funding for the purchase and purchase/rehabilitation of existing affordable units.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing:

Promoting and preserving affordable housing that may be lost from the assisted housing inventory is a high priority for the city. The city has established two priority programs to address affordable housing needs in FY 23-24, the Housing Preservation/Rehabilitation and Homeownership Promotion Programs.

Specifically, the city will use CDBG and State SHIP funds to:

- Providing down payment/closing cost assistance to homebuyers. Housing Counseling and Education will be supported with SHIP funding and aims to assist low- to moderate-income households.
- Preservation of existing housing stock.
- Production of new affordable housing
- Provide rental assistance and rapid rehousing for homeless prevention.

The city will continue to support the programs, initiatives, and efforts of Housing Alliance in their goal to provide decent affordable housing to low-moderate income residents.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards:

In all programs where Federal funds are expended on a housing unit, the city incorporates the current procedures for hazard reduction or LBP abatement guidelines as defined in 24 CFR Part 35. The purpose of the regulation is to protect residents from lead-based paint hazards in housing that is receiving assistance from the Federal government or is being acquired or disposed of by the government. All houses built before 1978 are subject to the Lead-Safe Housing Rule Checklist and associated

guidance to assure compliance with the Lead-Safe Housing Rule.

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

The city, to the extent allowed by the level of funding and economic conditions (the housing market, job opportunity rate, health care systems, the willingness of the target populations to utilize the preferred assistance, etc.), acts to reduce the housing costs and fund services that could assist individuals in stabilizing their lives and increasing their job skills and marketability. By funding the maximum number of programs possible with available resources, the city helps agency programs that contribute to the reduction of the number of persons living below the poverty level.

The vision for the future of Fort Pierce is bold, inclusive, and sustainable, a vision that capitalizes on the city's strengths while addressing the city's challenges and embracing opportunities, a vision that captures the city's values, aspirations and potential.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure:

The City continuously works to increase the cooperation among departments and other entities to improve and streamline the delivery of housing serviced to the City of Fort Pierce citizens. The city also continues to participate in the CoC to assist people experiencing homelessness, promote better coordination among agency programs, and inform state and local governments and public and private sector organizations about the availability of federal homelessness assistance.

The city will continue to partner with realtors and banks to advertise and promote the Homebuyer Assistance Program.

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

Key agencies involved in the implementation of the Plan and additional resources that may be available are described below.

The Grants Administration Division administers community development and affordable housing programs, including programs that assist target-income residents, and serves as the lead agency for CDBG and State SHIP funds.

Florida's Health Department offers a variety of services and programs to residents, such as childcare licensing, childhood lead poisoning, family planning, Florida KidCare, Healthy Start, HIV/AIDs programs, WIC, and women's health, among others.

Fort Pierce Housing Authority assists families and individuals with increasing the number of affordable rental units available to residents.

Supportive services are provided by Children and Family Services, the Health Department, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Departments of Elder Affairs, Veteran's Affairs, Juvenile Justice, and the Agency for Workforce Innovation. Funding

needs to be improved for the needs they are expected to meet.

A host of nonprofit agencies serve target-income households within the city. A coordinated effort is necessary to facilitate service provisions to varying groups throughout the city. As a member of the CoC, cooperation and collaboration are instrumental in accomplishing identified goals and activities.

The private sector is an essential collaborator in the services and programs associated with the Consolidated Plan, bringing additional resources and expertise that can be used to supplement existing services or fill gaps in the system. Lenders, affordable housing developers, business and economic development organizations, and private service providers offer a variety of assistance to residents, such as healthcare, small business assistance, residential mortgage programs, commercial lending, and assisted housing.

Discussion:

The City of Fort Pierce is committed to continuing its participation and coordination with Federal, State, municipal, and local agencies, as well as with the private and nonprofit sector, to serve the needs of target-income individuals and families in the city. In particular, the city will continue to closely coordinate with city departments regarding infrastructure improvements and the provision of services.

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Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The City of Fort Pierce plans to use twenty percent (20%) of the total available CDBG funds for planning and administrative costs. The city plans to use 100% of the remaining CDBG funds on activities that will assist low- and moderate-income families individually or on an area basis. The city will calculate the overall low- and moderate-income benefits within one year.

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 available for use included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the following program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees 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 number of urgent needs activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two, or three years may 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%