

Program Year One

2020 Annual Action Plan

City of St. Cloud, Minnesota | Community Development Block Grant

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

DRAFT

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

As of 2018, the City of St. Cloud is estimated to have 70,239 people and 27,129 households. The City is located in Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns counties and is one of four metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) in the State of Minnesota. St. Cloud is one of Minnesota's fastest growing metropolitan areas with over 250,000 people in its region, including 30,000+ college students. St. Cloud is a regional center for government, health care, education, industry, retail, and social services.

As an entitlement city, the City of St. Cloud receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds each year from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For Program Year 2020, the City's entitlement amount is estimated to be \$500,000 for the period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

Funds will be used to address the following priorities within the HUD performance measurement system:

- Create a suitable living environment;
- provide decent housing; and
- create economic opportunities for the community.

The City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2020-2025) outlines how residents, institutions, businesses, and community organizations are encouraged to participate in the development of the City's housing and community development goals and objectives. This includes the participation of residents and stakeholders in the development of the City's Annual Action Plans. The Plan states that for the City to achieve the overall goals and objectives, citizen participation is necessary at all levels and all stages of the Action Plan process. Consistent with the Citizen Participation Plan, the following strategies were implemented for the Program Year 2020 Action Plan: emails, mailings, public notices, distribution of information via social services agencies and other community organizations such as the United Way Working Group on Homeless and St. Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). As vital are the partnerships continually being forged between the City, housing developers, business partners as well as local non-profits to execute strategies in the Consolidated Plan leading into CDBG Annual Action Plan submissions.

The Program Year 2020 began with the City receiving 13 CDBG applications seeking more than available CDBG dollars in requests from area non-profit and for-profit businesses. Pre-application meetings with the applicants verified that their proposed activity(s) appeared to meet the federal requirements for the use of CDBG funds. The following is a listing of final applications received: St. Cloud HRA, City of St. Cloud Parks Department, Anna Marie's Alliance, LSS St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery, Boys & Girls Club of Central Minnesota, Catholic Charities, Habitat for Humanity, Central Minnesota Mental Health Center, Pathways 4 Youth, Greater Public Safety Foundation, City of St. Cloud Health Department, Place of Hope and Tri-County Action Programs Project Connect. Following the release of the draft Action Plan, members of the public are invited to share their comments independently as well as in a public meeting setting. On January 16, 2020, the St. Cloud Planning Commission held a work session to discuss five-year Consolidated

Planning process and upcoming annual Action Plan process. On February 11, 2020, the St. Cloud Planning Commission held a public hearing and # persons testified. The St. Cloud Planning Commission considered public testimony received and recommended a funding scenario to the St. Cloud City Council. On March 9, 2020, the St. Cloud City Council held a public hearing and # persons testified. These two public hearings allow the public to directly address members of the Planning Commission and City Council sharing thoughts and concerns regarding the draft plan.

The primary objective of citizen participation in drafting this Action Plan is to increase awareness of community needs and effectively implement programs that assist low income persons.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

City of St. Cloud CDBG Program Mission Statement: In accordance with the overarching goals of the CDBG program, as set forth in 24 CFR § 91.1(a)(1), the City’s mission is to utilize CDBG funding to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, providing a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities principally for low/moderate income (LMI) persons.

CDBG funds will be used to address priorities within the HUD performance measurement system, which are to: (1) create a suitable living environment, (2) provide decent housing, and (3) create economic opportunities for the community. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan process utilizes technical studies, on-going partnerships with community organizations, and input of various community stakeholders to define the high priority needs and five-year goals. The five-year goals as stated in the draft 2020-2025 St. Cloud Consolidated Plan guides expenditure of the City’s annual allocation of CDBG entitlement funds. They are outlined as follows:

- Affordable Housing: Increase the supply and improve the condition of affordable owner-occupied and rental housing in the community.
- Public Facilities and Infrastructure: Provide public facilities and infrastructure meeting the needs of low-moderate income persons.
- Support Services: Reduce poverty, increase stability, and address homelessness by supporting health, well-being and self-sufficiency programs.
- Economic Development: Increase economic opportunity for residents through job training and business assistance programs.

High Priority Needs:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Public Facilities and Infrastructure
3. Support Services
4. Economic Development
5. Fair Housing
6. Homelessness

In Program Year 2020 the City of St. Cloud will invest CDBG funds to align with the five-year goals by considering funding the following activities: single family housing rehabilitation program; facility improvements to a mental health facility, domestic violence shelter, youth day center, homeless shelter; funds for youth programming in a low-income neighborhood; improvements to a transitional house for women with children; neighborhood park improvements in a low-income census tract, building a new affordable single-family home; funds toward code enforcement/outreach in manufactured home parks; operating dollars for emergency child care and an annual event connecting those experiencing homelessness to local services. Additionally, program administration will include fair housing activities and training in line with 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan goals.

3. Evaluation of past performance

This Annual Action Plan represents the first year of implementation of the objectives set forth in the 2020 – 2025 Consolidated Plan. For more detailed information on past performance for program years of PY2015 - PY2019, the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER) is available on the City's website and upon request.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The primary objective of citizen participation in drafting the 2020 Action Plan is to increase awareness of community needs and effectively implement CDBG funding to assist low-to-moderate income persons. In December 2017, the City updated its Citizen Participation Plan in accordance with the guidance provided in HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 91.105. The Planning & Zoning Department provides oversight and management of CDBG for the City of St. Cloud. The Department works in concert with other City departments, public service groups, non-profit organizations, and residents to plan and carry out the activities proposed each year in the Annual Action Plan. In drafting the 2020 Action Plan, the Planning Department conducted outreach to engage a wide range of public and private agencies, housing developers and providers, social service agencies, and community residents. This includes:

- a public application process to apply for project funding in program year 2020 including Request for Proposal (RFP) published in local newspaper;
- email sent to over 100 community-based agencies and groups inviting participation in the process and notifying that the 2020 CDBG funding application is available via City website, email, mail, or hard copy up at City Hall as well as the upcoming important CDBG dates;
- two public hearing notices published in local newspaper in February and March;
- meetings with several of non-profit and for-profit organizations to identify eligibility of potential projects;
- discussion with several city departments to help identify eligible projects for the upcoming program years;
- discussion of CDBG funding opportunities and priorities at a variety of meetings held by community-based coordinating bodies and coalitions including the St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition and St. Cloud Housing & Redevelopment Authority.

As a result, the City received 13 CDBG applications from area non-profit and for-profit businesses. Pre-application meetings with the applicants verified that their proposed activity(s) appeared to meet the federal requirements for the use of CDBG funds. The following chronology summarizes the City's formal public participation efforts for PY2020:

- December 14, 2019 – City published a notice in the St. Cloud Times requesting proposals for the City of St. Cloud CDBG Program – PY2020
- December 16, 2019 – January 3, 2020 - Met with area non-profit and for-profit businesses and City Departments to discuss potential activities.
- January 17, 2020 - City received 13 CDBG applications, totaling more than a million dollars in requests.
- February 1, 2020 – City published a public hearing notice in the St. Cloud Times for the upcoming public hearings at the Planning Commission and City Council.
- February 11, 2020 – Planning Commission held a public hearing and made a recommendation to the City Council.
- February 22, 2020 – City published a public hearing notice in the St. Cloud Times for March 9 City Council meeting.
- March 9, 2020 – City Council held a public hearing and adopted Resolution authorizing submittal of the 2020 Action Plan.

The Action Plan has been developed using an estimated entitlement amount that the City plans to receive from HUD. Funding amount revisions will be made to activities in the Action Plan should the exact amount of funding awarded by HUD differ from the estimate. The City of St. Cloud may re-allocate and/or de-obligate funds up to 50 percent to an already approved CDBG project. An activity funding amount revision will be based on the priorities and program's funding caps along with the City Council authorization of additional funds use in the HRA Single-Family Rehabilitation Program.

The City will adhere to the Citizen Participation Plan amendment requirements if an activity will be added to or cancelled from the Action Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

The City of St. Cloud solicited public involvement in the development of the 2020 Action Plan, which is consistent with the City of St. Cloud's Citizen Participation Plan. On February 11, 2020, the St. Cloud Planning Commission held a public hearing and # persons testified. The Planning Commission considered public testimony and recommended a funding scenario to the St. Cloud City Council. On March 9, 2020, the St. Cloud City Council held a public hearing and # persons testified. The City Council considered public testimony and approved funding scenario for the 2020 Action Plan.

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

All comments were accepted. There were no comments or views submitted after the City Council meeting.

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	ST. CLOUD	Community Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Matt Glaesman, Community Development Director
matt.glaesman@ci.stcloud.mn.us
320-255-7218

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

1. Introduction

The Consolidated Plan is designed to be a collaborative process whereby our community establishes a unified vision for community development actions. It offers local organizations the opportunity to shape the various housing and community development strategies.

In preparation for the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan, the City of St. Cloud retained Maxfield Research to conduct an update the 2015 Comprehensive Housing Needs. The 2019 Comprehensive Housing Market Study provides recommendations on the amount and types of housing that should be developed to meet the needs of current and future households who choose to reside in St. Cloud. The scope of the study included analysis of the demographic and economic characteristics of the City; review of characteristics of existing housing stock, trends and land supply; and an analysis of the market conditions for a variety of rental and for-sale housing products.

The Consolidated Plan process solicited input from numerous for profit and nonprofit housing and service providers in the community in a number of ways including in-person discussions, focus groups, key stakeholder interviews, community survey, a strategic planning session as well as opportunities for comment at public meetings and public hearings. All meetings were held at an accessible meeting place and it was advertised that special accommodations would be made available upon request prior to the meeting. The purpose of soliciting public input is to allow for the opportunity to identify community housing and non-housing community development needs.

Overall, the Community Development Section obtained the views of citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties for the development of the City's priorities for the 2020-2025 Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

The City updated its Citizen Participation Plan in 2017 which encourages all citizens to participate in the consolidated planning and annual action plan process. Accommodations are made for non-English speaking persons and persons with mobility, visual, or hearing impairments.

The 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan is due to HUD by May 2020. The 2020 Action Plan is the first program year falling under the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan.

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))

In preparing the Action Plan, the City consulted with all City departments and outside agencies that have responsibility for administering programs covered or affected by the Action Plan. Local services agencies

were invited to participate in the CDBG process with activities focusing on Five-Year Con Plan goals including affordable housing, assisting homeless and those at-risk of homelessness, special needs clientele and fair housing. Informal consultation with social service agencies and housing developers also happened throughout the development of the Action Plan and contributed to the PY2020 funding submissions. Through direct relationships and its involvement in several community coalitions, the City works closely with the public housing agency, local non-profits, and other service agencies to enhance coordination and achieve the objectives outlined in this Action Plan.

Additionally, City staff continues to be involved in the community by networking with local partners and constantly interfacing with citizens. Through enhanced collaboration, the City is able to work closer with partners to streamline efforts and initiatives. The ultimate result is more effective service provision. The City of St. Cloud will continue to work with governmental, public, and private partners to meet the needs of residents and encourage coordination and collaboration for betterment of the City. When developing the Consolidated Plan, the City launched a collaborative effort to consult with elected officials, City departments, community stakeholders and past and potential recipients of CDBG funding to inform and develop the priorities and strategies contained within the five-year plan. Results of the community meetings and surveys were published on the City's website and reported publicly to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board and the St. Cloud City Council. As part of the effort to implement policies, programs and projects identified in the Consolidated Plan, the City works collaboratively with staff from the St. Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and three City Council members serve on the HRA Board of Commissioners to inform and further the housing and homeless priorities and strategies within the Con Plan and contained in this Action Plan.

The City of St. Cloud will continue to participate with Stearns County and other local government entities (HRA, county human services, and community development) in a series of meetings during Program Year 2020 to evaluate existing housing and support service needs to identify potential gaps or opportunities to enhance through closer coordination.

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 lead agency for the Central Minnesota Continuum of Care (CoC) is the Central Minnesota Housing Partnership. The Central Minnesota Continuum of Care (CoC) is a network of organizations, community residents and businesses that plan programs with the primary goal of alleviating homelessness in 13 counties in Central Minnesota, as well as the City of St. Cloud. The counties include: Cass, Crow Wing, Todd, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Stearns, Benton, Sherburne and Wright. There are public meetings in which the community of providers and stakeholders are welcome to attend and provide comment. The City is represented in general membership and consults with the CoC to develop cooperative plans and strategies to leverage resources to provide emergency shelter and rapid re-housing services, and is informed on changes in local goals, objectives and performance measures.

Representatives from the City actively participate in a number of similar committees and associated CoC groups including Homeless Concerns Group, the Housing Pillars Task Force lead by United Way, St. Cloud Rotary to develop a teen opportunity center, and area counties and cities to evaluate existing housing and support service needs in our region.

In Program Year 2020, the City will support several CDBG projects that address the need of homeless or persons at risk of homelessness. For example, possible projects to be funded include facility improvements at Place of Hope, Anna Marie's Alliance and Catholic Charities Domus as well as Pathways 4 Youth day center space expansion and the event of Project Connect allowing low income individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access services at one location on the same day.

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

Not applicable as the City of St. Cloud is not recipient of ESG funding.

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	St. Cloud HRA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding
2	Agency/Group/Organization	LSS St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding

3	Agency/Group/Organization	Tri-County Action Programs
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding

4	Agency/Group/Organization	Anna Marie's Alliance
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Catholic Charities
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Pathways 4 Youth
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding
	Agency/Group/Organization	Boys and Girls Club of Central Minnesota

7	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Place of Hope
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Central Minnesota Mental Health Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Homeless Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding

11	Agency/Group/Organization	Greater St. Cloud Public Safety Foundation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Applicant for 2020 funding

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

None.

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Central MN Housing Partnership	Point-in-Time count informed homeless data in Consolidated Plan as well references to the Coordinated Assessment tool.
2019 Comprehensive Housing Market Study	City of St. Cloud	Multiple references to homeless, affordable housing needs and community development issues.
2018 State of Minnesota Report of the Governor's Task Force on Housing	State of Minnesota	Details issues, goals and recommendations for actions for a resilient housing system statewide.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
2015 Comprehensive Plan	City of St. Cloud	References affordable housing as a significant need to be addressed in the next 5-10 years.
St. Cloud HRA Public Housing Plan	St. Cloud HRA	References to annual improvement plan and Five-Year Plan.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

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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 citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

The City of St. Cloud solicited public involvement in the development of the 2020 Action Plan consistent with the City of St. Cloud's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan and 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan. The City is required to have a citizen participation plan establishing means by which the City will engage the public in decisions regarding CDBG funds. The City Council adopted an updated Citizen Participation Plan in December of 2017 expanding engagement efforts in technology, non-government organizations and inclusion of hard to reach populations.

In PY2020, the City solicited input from St. Cloud residents in all phases of its community development efforts, from the initial planning and project/program implementation to reporting and assessing accomplishments/outcomes. This process fosters the open and inclusive identification of needs and delivery of services to City residents. It also helps to ensure that the overall direction of the CDBG program is consistent with the residents' expectation and responsive to neighborhood and stakeholder concerns.

The City encourages citizen participation in all stages of the planning process. From the drafting of the Consolidated Plan and its five-year goals to the submittal of the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), the City hosts public meetings, provides draft copies of the plans, encourages, accepts, and incorporates citizen input and feedback, and holds special public hearings whenever any substantial amendments are proposed.

The City also works with non-profit organizations to encourage the participation of program beneficiaries, including low- and moderate-income residents. Bi-lingual services and additional assistance for persons with disabilities are available upon request.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	City published 4 notices in the St. Cloud Times requesting proposals and notifying of public hearing during the drafting of the PY2020 Action Plan.	N/A	No comments were not accepted.	
2	Public Hearing	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 11, 2020 and the City Council held a public hearing on March 9, 2020. # persons testified in total with # persons at Planning Commission and # persons at City Council.	Comments detailed in Executive Summary, in question 5.	No comments were not 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 (if applicable)
3	Public Meeting	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The City held two public meetings associated with development and adoption of the 2020 Action Plan.	Comments detailed in Executive Summary, in question 5.	No comments were not accepted.	
4	Internet Outreach	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	This is an on-going effort.	N/A	N/A	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

For the purpose of developing the Program Year 2020 Action Plan, the City estimated a flat grant amount of \$500,000 with \$10,000 in Program Income.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 5				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$	
CDBG	Public - federal	Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	490,000 (estimated)	10,000	0	500,00	2,500,000

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

Leveraging of private and nonfederal resources by the use of federal funds will be attempted and encouraged whenever possible. Leveraging of private and non-federal resources in conjunction with the use of federal CDBG funds will continue to be a priority to maximize accomplishments of both programs.

In addition to a strong network of service providers and excellent intra-agency cooperation, the overall charitable conscience of area residents is a strength of the delivery system. Non-profit organizations such as Tri-Cap (County Action Programs), United Way of Central Minnesota, Central Minnesota Housing Partnership, Place of HOPE, Catholic Charities, Central Minnesota Council on Aging, Salvation Army, New Beginnings and Central MN Task Force on Battered Women understand their needs and know how to raise volunteer and financial dollars for project impact.

Relationships with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, and state and local foundations will enable the City to gain additional financial and service support for implementing portions of the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan, which is critical to the success of the Consolidated Plan, but not able to be funded by limited CDBG funds.

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

None.

Discussion

N/A

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Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

The five-year goals as stated in the draft 2020-2025 St. Cloud Consolidated Plan guides expenditure of the City's annual allocation of CDBG entitlement funds. They are outlined as follows:

- Affordable Housing: Increase the supply and improve the condition of affordable owner-occupied and rental housing in the community.
- Public Facilities and Infrastructure: Provide public facilities and infrastructure meeting the needs of low-moderate income persons.
- Support Services: Reduce poverty, increase stability, and address homelessness by supporting health, well-being and self-sufficiency programs.
- Economic Development: Increase economic opportunity for residents through job training and business assistance programs.

High Priority Needs:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Public Facilities and Infrastructure
3. Support Services
4. Economic Development
5. Fair Housing
6. Homelessness

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome –2020 CDBG Projects
1	Affordable Housing	2020	2025	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	City Wide St. Cloud CDBG Target Area	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development Fair Housing Homelessness	CDBG	St. Cloud HRA Single Family Housing Rehab Place of Hope - Living Hope Center Facility Improvements St. Cloud Health & Inspections – Manufactured Homes Outreach
2	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	2020	2025	Community Development Needs	City Wide St. Cloud CDBG Target Area	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG	City Park Improvements in LMI Neighborhoods Boys and Girls Club of Central MN Security Upgrades Pathways 4 Youth Facility Upgrades
3	Support Services	2020	2025	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	City Wide St. Cloud CDBG Target Area	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development Fair Housing Homelessness	CDBG	LSS – St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery Tri-CAP Project Connect

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome –2020 CDBG Projects
4	Economic Development	2020	2025	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	City Wide St. Cloud CDBG Target Area	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development Fair Housing Homelessness	CDBG	

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	Increase the supply and improve the condition of affordable owner-occupied and rental housing in the community.
2	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Provide public facilities and infrastructure meeting the needs of low-moderate income persons.
3	Goal Name	Support Services
	Goal Description	Reduce poverty, increase stability, and address homelessness by supporting health, well-being and self-sufficiency programs.
4	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	Increase economic opportunity for residents through job training and business assistance programs.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Based on application review criteria in the St. Cloud CDBG Application Guidelines and the 2020-2025 City of St. Cloud Consolidated Plan, City staff recommends the following activities to be undertaken in Program Year 2020 with use of federal CDBG funds.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	St. Cloud HRA Single Family Housing Rehab
2	Boys and Girls Club of Central Minnesota Security Upgrades
3	Pathways 4 Youth Facility Expansion
4	City Park Improvements in LMI Neighborhood
5	Place of Hope - Living Hope Center Facility Improvements
6	St. Cloud Health & Inspections – Manufactured Homes Outreach
7	LSS - St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery
8	Tri-CAP Project Connect
9	Program Administration

Table 7 - Project Information

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

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1	Project Name	St. Cloud HRA Single Family Homeowner Rehab
	Target Area	Citywide/St. Cloud CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development Fair Housing Homelessness
	Funding	STAFF RECOMMENDS CDBG: \$150,000
	Description	This activity provides funding for necessary improvements to homeowners in the City of St. Cloud. The goal is to help low and moderate-income families maintain their homes and make the necessary improvements to their home along with providing energy efficiency and accessibility upgrades.
	Target Date	6/1/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity serves low-to-moderate income households by providing a deferred loan to complete necessary home improvements.
	Location Description	The impact areas for this program is residential neighborhoods in the City of St. Cloud.
	Planned Activities	The St. Cloud HRA will provide deferred loans up to \$25,000 for rehabilitation of single-family homes. Primary improvements include health, safety and weatherization improvements.
2	Project Name	Boys and Girls Club of Central Minnesota
	Target Area	Citywide/St. Cloud CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development
	Funding	STAFF RECOMMENDS CDBG: \$30,000
	Description	This activity provides funding for security cameras inside and outside Eastside, Roosevelt & Southside Clubs as well as a vestibule lock at the Roosevelt Club.

	Target Date	6/1/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The Boys and Girls Club serves youth ages 5 – graduation from high school. Services provided include mentoring, tutoring, and prevention activities for members after school until 9 p.m.
	Location Description	Eastside, Roosevelt & Southside Clubs
	Planned Activities	Install security cameras inside and outside three buildings and a vestibule lock on one club.
3	Project Name	Pathways 4 Youth
	Target Area	Citywide/St. Cloud CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development Fair Housing Homelessness
	Funding	STAFF RECOMMENDS CDBG: \$13,000
	Description	Pathways 4 Youth operates a youth resource center offering services including education and career counseling, personal coaching, mental and physical health assessments, serving kitchen with hot meals, food pantry, clothing room, laundry, shower, lockers and storage.
	Target Date	6/1/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Pathways 4 Youth have served over 2,000 youth guests since 2018. Their mission is to help youth experiencing homelessness on a path to grow and become contributing members of our community.
	Location Description	203 Cooper Ave North
	Planned Activities	Remodel an expanded space to allow additional growth in services.
4	Project Name	City Park Improvements in LMI Neighborhood
	Target Area	Citywide/St. Cloud CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Funding	STAFF RECOMMENDS CDBG: \$40,000

	Description	The project supports the procurement of enhanced playground equipment in the City park of Schmidt. Funds will be utilized to make direct improvements to the City's park system specifically for playground equipment in this low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.
	Target Date	6/1/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This park is in low-to-moderate income census tract serving the immediate residential neighborhood as well as the visitors to the area.
	Location Description	705 18th Street South
	Planned Activities	The project supports the procurement of enhanced playground equipment, site furnishings and basketball standards in the City park of Schmidt Park.
5	Project Name	Place of Hope - Living Hope Center Facility Improvements
	Target Area	Citywide/St. Cloud CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development Fair Housing Homelessness
	Funding	STAFF RECOMMENDS CDBG: \$64,000
	Description	Place of Hope provides shelter for those experiencing homelessness as well community meals, a residential living center, life skills, H.O.P.E. on Ninth Apartments, and community outreach.
	Target Date	6/1/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The project will serve over 700 persons annually.
	Location Description	511 9 th Avenue North

	Planned Activities	Place of Hope is requesting facility upgrades to the lower level that includes installation of egress windows to upgrade room and improvements to building accessibility including accessible showers as well as upgrades to electrical and plumbing for expanded laundry facilities on the six shelter floors.
6	Project Name	St. Cloud Health & Inspections – Manufactured Homes Outreach
	Target Area	Citywide/St. Cloud CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Fair Housing Homelessness
	Funding	STAFF RECOMMENDS CDBG: \$89,000
	Description	During assessments of manufactured home parks, significant issues were noted that include homes in severe disrepair, unsafe additions and accessory structures illegally constructed, homes occupied without permits, exterior nuisance issues, feral animal issues, and manufactured homes being illegally used as rentals. Due to the size of the manufactured home parks and the complexities manufactured home parks pose, it is difficult for current city staffing levels to appropriately address issues.
	Target Date	6/1/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	There are close to 300 manufactured homes that will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Sherwood Manor; Cloverleaf; Riverview Park
Planned Activities	Add one full-time Environmental Health Technician with 100% of hours assigned to the manufactured home parks and other low to moderate income areas with urgent need.	
7	Project Name	Lutheran Social Services – St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery
	Target Area	Citywide/St. Cloud CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Support Services Economic Development

	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Support Services Economic Development Fair Housing Homelessness
	Funding	STAFF RECOMMENDED CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	Lutheran Social Services operates a Crisis Nursery to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing short-term emergency childcare placement, 24-hour crisis line and additional support services.
	Target Date	6/1/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Most parents served are single women (98%) with very young children and no other means of support. These mothers are low-income with 99% of families served at or well below the federal poverty guidelines.
	Location Description	Crisis Nursery serves families in St. Cloud with children 0 to 12 years of age.
	Planned Activities	The Crisis Nursery will help strengthen and stabilize families by placing children in crisis care, offering a 24-hour crisis line as well as additional support services including homelessness, health and mental health and domestic abuse.
8	Project Name	Tri-County Action Programs - Project Connect
	Target Area	Citywide/St. Cloud CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development Fair Housing Homelessness
	Funding	STAFF RECOMMENDED CDBG: \$4,000
	Description	Project Connect is a one-day event for individuals and families who are homeless or near homeless. The purpose of the event is to allow low income individuals and families to access services and resources at one location on the same day.
	Target Date	6/1/2021

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	There will be an estimated 60 vendors providing key services such as haircuts, cell phones, health insurance, childcare, legal services and many more.
	Location Description	The one-day event will take place at River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota.
	Planned Activities	Project Connect will allow low income individuals and families to access services at one location on the same day. This allows people to connect with many organizations and services without traveling across the city.
8	Project Name	Program Administration
	Target Area	Citywide/St. Cloud CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Support Services Economic Development Fair Housing Homelessness
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Administration and management of the Community Development Block Grant program and implementation of the 2020-2025 Con Plan.
	Target Date	6/1/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The planning and execution of CDBG administration serves the City of St. Cloud as a whole and especially low-to-income residents and associated services needed.
	Location Description	City of St. Cloud is located at 400 2nd Street South.
	Planned Activities	Administration and management of the Community Development Block Grant program and implementation of 2020-2025 Con Plan.

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 St. Cloud does not direct its CDBG funds to any particular geographic or areas of the City.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
St. Cloud CDBG Target Area	70

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

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Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The provision and preservation of affordable housing is a high priority need as illustrated by the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Therefore, the City will continue to assist in funding existing housing programs and will also continue to work with and support other agencies in producing and preserving affordable housing to the maximum extent possible with funding made available from various federal programs. The housing needs determined to be a high priority will be given preference for CDBG funding.

The table below summarizes the 2020 CDBG funded activities designed to foster and maintain affordable housing in St. Cloud.

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

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

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

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

Discussion

The provision and preservation of affordable housing is a high priority need as illustrated by the City’s Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. The Draft 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing outlines fair housing concerns and assesses how a variety of conditions in a community contribute to housing discrimination and affect the accessibility of housing based on the arbitrary factors. These conditions may include laws, real estate practices, and local conditions that can result in impediments to fair housing choice. The process led by the City along with participation by 40+ stakeholders examining these impediments, determined goals and what actions may be taken to lessen or eliminate impacts. A summary of the impediments and associated goal is as follows:

Goal A – Lack of Sufficient Affordable Housing Supply

1. Rental housing in poor condition.
2. Insufficient housing for large families.
3. Homeownership and mortgage lending gaps.
4. Prohibitive standards for rentals (income requirements, high security deposits, no past record of credit).
5. Affordable housing and landlords accepting housing choice vouchers.

Goal B – Expand Access to Housing for Persons with Disabilities and/or In Need of Special Services

1. Shortage of affordable, accessible housing.
2. Shortage of resources to make accessibility improvements.
3. Shortage of resources to transition into independent living setting.
4. Shortage of mental health supportive services.

Goal C - Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing Rights

1. Limited knowledge of fair housing laws and resources.
2. Availability of bi-lingual housing counselors.

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AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The City of St. Cloud enjoys an excellent working relationship with St. Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). The agencies work together in an attempt to create and maintain affordable housing opportunities.

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

To be determined.

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

The St. Cloud HRA will continue its efforts to communicate and foster relationships with the Public Housing residents.

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

St. Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has not been designated by the Public Housing Assessment System as “troubled.” The St. Cloud HRA is designated as a “high-performer.”

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

Introduction

The St. Cloud community is committed to addressing the needs of the homeless population. The City of St. Cloud and Housing and Redevelopment Authority recognize that strategies are based on multi-agency cooperation and successful attainment of funds. The lead agency for the Central Minnesota Continuum of Care (CoC) is the Central Minnesota Housing Partnership. The City of St. Cloud participates in their public meetings which the community of providers and stakeholders are welcome to attend and provide comment. The CoC is responsible for conducting the annual count of homeless and identifying potential gaps in services regarding housing and needed homeless care. The CoC's highest priority is the implementation of the Central Region's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. The City does provide referrals to entities that counsel persons that may fall into homelessness and will continue to collaborate with local public service partners who are on the front line when it comes to homelessness.

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 2020 Action Plan may provide funding for Project Connect- a one-day event for individuals and families who are homeless or near homelessness. The purpose is to gather as many local providers in one place and help break the barriers to homelessness by connecting individuals/families to area resources. Providers range from services including chemical dependency, childcare, deaf and hard of hearing services, disability services, domestic violence services, education, emergency shelter, employment, employment training, family support, financial counseling, food shelf, haircuts, housing assistance/counseling, legal assistance, medical services, mental health services, MN Sure/health care, county services, re-entry for ex-offenders, seniors, transportation, and veterans. The City of St. Cloud Police Department has a booth at the event and serves on the planning committee for Project Connect. Also, because local shelters continue to have waiting list for families, another PY2020 possible activity- the Crisis Nursery, assists families by providing safe overnight care to children who are homeless. Other 2020 applicants that reach out to and serve homeless persons include Pathways 4 Youth, Place of Hope, Catholic Charities, Central MN Habitat for Humanity and Anna Marie's Alliance.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

In PY2020, the City of St. Cloud continues efforts to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families, to prevent low-income individuals and families with children from becoming homeless, to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, and to address chronic homelessness will occur primarily through an ongoing partnership with the Central MN Continuum of Care Consortium (CoC). Organizations that further the work of the CoC who may receive PY2020 CDBG dollars include St. Cloud HRA, Anna Marie's Alliance,

Catholic Charities, Pathways 4 Youth, Habitat for Humanity, Place of Hope, St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery and Tri-Cap.

The CoC includes 14 rural/metro counties. The CoC's goals in their "10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in 14 Counties Report" is to prevent homelessness, provide coordinated outreach, develop housing opportunities, improve service delivery, and build capacity for self-support. CoC membership includes individuals, agencies, and traditional homeless service providers representing homeless persons. Services include transitional and permanent supportive housing, emergency shelter, loan programs, and foreclosure prevention.

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

Permanent housing for homeless is a top priority for this region. Working to help transition families to permanent housing and low-income renters to becoming homeowners will require the cooperation of local, state and federal agencies and funding plus the involvement of the private sector housing. The City will continue to support the City's Economic Development Department in its effort to enhance St. Cloud's economic vitality and expanding the city's tax and employment base as well as partner with the Continuum of Care and move forward their efforts and with the local agencies that address these needs specifically. These agencies include Anna Marie's Alliance, Salvation Army, Tri-County Action Program, Catholic Charities, Central MN Ren-Entry Project, Place of Hope, and Lutheran Social Services of MN.

The 2020 Action Plan considers possible projects that help homeless people that range from being event based such as Project Connect to operating expenses like the St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery. Both proposed activities help homeless individuals, families, veterans and children by providing access to services or assistance if needed. Both Project Connect and Crisis Nursery provide counseling and support and referrals to several other agencies in the St. Cloud that include: St. Cloud HRA, Salvation Army, Place of Hope, Overcomers International Fellowship, Al Loehr Veterans and Community Studio Apartments, HOPE on Ninth, River Crest, and Central MN Re-Entry Project.

The 2020-2025 City of St. Cloud Consolidated Plan provides further detail on priority homeless needs and homeless inventory of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing with support services. The 2019 Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis Community Housing Study provides further detail on priority homeless needs and homeless inventory of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing with support services as well as recommendations designed to address housing and homeless needs.

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.

The Central MN CoC utilizes the Healthy Transitions model to help foster youth transition to independence and stable housing. The State is primarily responsible for the care of individuals within publicly funded institutions. Central MN CoC instilled a collaborative approach that includes staff from child protection services, housing departments, mental health, public health, foster care and other service providers to assist youth transitioning from foster care to develop a discharge plan with their assigned county case manager that must include housing and employment options. The CoC/Heading Home Central MN uses state and private resources to increase the number of permanent and transitional housing for youth leaving foster care. The Minnesota Department of Human Services has directed counties to develop discharge plans with all youth beginning at age 16. All 5 goals in the Ten-Year Plan pertain to preventing and ending homelessness among the youth. The main goal of the Catholic Charities homeless youth program is prevention (to never become homeless) as well as self-sufficiency. Lutheran Social Services provides independent living skills instruction to youth leaving the foster care system.

The Central MN CoC/Heading Home Central MN's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness has representatives from the local county mental health units who have developed housing options for persons with mental illness released from state facilities using state and private resources. Such housing options include adult foster care, shared living arrangements, and state rental subsidies. Central MN CoC partner agencies work with hospitals and mental health providers to provide seamless housing to people leaving those institutional settings. Per state mandate, all persons committed to any of the state regional treatment facilities are assigned a mental health case manager. Discharge planning begins while the individual is committed and before the person is discharged. Housing remains a part of the treatment plan after discharge to ensure housing is maintained/sustained.

All the Central MN CoC partner agencies will continue to close discharge gaps by continuing to work with and maintain relationships with mental health facilities, County Drug Courts, chemical dependency treatment centers, to encourage early contact with "Next Step" housing resources to initiate housing related credential restoration, support system development and housing search agendas supported by their current case managers. Central MN CoC has representatives from the local county mental health units who have developed housing options for persons with mental illness released from state facilities using state and private resources. Multiple mental health service providers are active members of the Central MN CoC and provide housing and services to persons leaving Mental Health Facilities using non-HUD McKinney-Vento resources. These providers ensure that persons are not discharged to homelessness.

Stearns County Jail has implemented the Release Advance Planning (RAP) group. Every week a group of 8-10 professional volunteers meet with an inmate to assist transitioning out of incarceration. The volunteer

professionals are from Stearns County, Street Outreach, Workforce Center, Mental Health Unit, MN Department of Corrections (DOC) and work with members of the CoC to eliminate significant barriers to rehousing ex-offenders. MN DOC has state funds to pay for 6 to 8 months of emergency rental assistance if the offender has exhausted all personal financial resources for housing. The Central Minnesota Re-Entry Project (CMNRP) provides ex-offenders transitional housing and links offenders to people and organizations that provide jobs, housing, and volunteer mentoring in the 14 county CoC area. CMNRP offers ex-offenders the opportunity to participate at least 120 days prior to their release from prison or jail.

Discussion

The 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan provides further detail on priority homeless needs and homeless inventory of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing with support services. The 2019 Community Housing Study also provides further detail on priority homeless needs and homeless inventory of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing with support services as well as recommendations designed to address housing and homeless needs.

The City of St. Cloud works to reduce the number of poverty-level families by promoting economic development, partnering with the Continuum of Care (COC) and with the local service providers to address the identified needs of poverty-level families including: housing, job training, employment opportunities, child care resources, criminal background barriers, and access to services.

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

Introduction:

The City of St. Cloud consulted with several local service providers, city departments, and local organizations while formulating the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan as well as 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. The consultation process primarily consisted of outreach to local organizations through community forums, meetings, surveys and focus groups. Housing providers, social service providers, private housing professionals, mental health professionals, social service agencies, bankers and other local funders were consulted in developing both documents. Public hearings were held providing time to City Council members, community agencies and citizens to ask clarifying questions, accept further public comment and confirm the priority needs identified through the public forums, surveys and focus groups and adopted in the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan. The Draft Consolidated Plan is available online, hard copy at City Hall along with the 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, Annual Action Plans, CAPERS, Citizen Participation Plan and 2019 Community Housing Study.

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

Based on the Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing updated in 2020, no public policies have been identified as barriers or as having a negative effect upon the availability of affordable housing. Therefore, the City does not propose any reform measures. The Analysis of Impediments provides critical framework to plan and implement actions to overcome identified impediments to fair housing choice going forward. The impediments identified through the AI process in 2020 are listed below. Efforts to address these impediments will be made during the five-year period covered by the Consolidated Plan.

Goal A – Lack of Sufficient Affordable Housing Supply

6. Rental housing in poor condition.
7. Insufficient housing for large families.
8. Homeownership and mortgage lending gaps.
9. Prohibitive standards for rentals (income requirements, high security deposits, no past record of credit).
10. Affordable housing and landlords accepting housing choice vouchers.

Goal B – Expand Access to Housing for Persons with Disabilities and/or In Need of Special Services

5. Shortage of affordable, accessible housing.
6. Shortage of resources to make accessibility improvements.
7. Shortage of resources to transition into independent living setting.
8. Shortage of mental health supportive services.

Goal C - Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing Rights

3. Limited knowledge of fair housing laws and resources.
4. Availability of bi-lingual housing counselors.

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AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

No obstacles were identified in meeting underserved needs; therefore, no specific actions will be taken. The City of St. Cloud is committed to soliciting greater involvement from traditionally underserved populations. This is done through notification of social service providers about the needs assessment hearings at the start of the planning process.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of St. Cloud will continue to administer existing housing programs and will also continue to work with and support other agencies in producing and preserving affordable housing to the maximum extent possible with funding made available from various federal programs. The housing needs determined to be a high priority will be given preference for funding.

The City of St. Cloud has also identified the following Five-Year goals all of which address some aspect of affordable housing and associated quality of life for low-to-moderate income persons:

- Affordable Housing: Increase the supply and improve the condition of affordable owner-occupied and rental housing in the community.
- Public Facilities and Infrastructure: Provide public facilities and infrastructure meeting the needs of low-moderate income persons.
- Support Services: Reduce poverty, increase stability, and address homelessness by supporting health, well-being and self-sufficiency programs.
- Economic Development: Increase economic opportunity for residents through job training and business assistance programs.

The City of St. Cloud has identified through its consolidated planning process the priority needs: Affordable Housing; Public Facilities and Infrastructure; Support Services; Economic Development; Fair Housing; and Homelessness.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The Single-Family Homeowner Rehabilitation Program will continue in 2020. As part of rehabilitation projects, lead-based paint hazards are identified and remediated in compliance with federal lead-based paint requirements.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will continue to support agencies aiding low-income families through traditional means as well as CDBG funding. These programs and tools are being provided with the intent of improving families' living situations hopefully to the point that they are no longer living in poverty. One such tool is the St. Cloud

Vista project which provides a full-time staff person to research the barriers to sustainable employment through workforce development and identify new and emerging best practices. The goal of the project is to decrease poverty by equipping and empowering underserved populations to obtain employment through a response by the City of St. Cloud to address current gaps, support entrepreneurship, and advance self-sufficiency of its residents. Additionally, the City will continue in its Economic Development efforts to attract new businesses and jobs to the City and encourage the expansion of existing businesses. The approach of the City has been successful as the economy is as strong as ever. St. Cloud has the fastest labor force growth in the State of Minnesota and U.S. since 2005. The City's economic development efforts have generally resulted in increased job opportunities for households of all income levels throughout the area.

Finally, St. Cloud is fortunate to boast the ever-expanding supply of training and educational resources to prepare workers for all types of career opportunities. St. Cloud is home to several higher educational facilities including Minnesota's second-largest university, St. Cloud State University. Also, other local institutions include St. Cloud Community & Technical College, Rasmussen College, Minnesota School of Business, College of St. Scholastica, and College of St. Benedict and St. John's University.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

St. Cloud is fortunate to have numerous private non-profit agencies that play a role in the delivery of housing and housing related services to low-income households. There is no lack of concern for special needs populations and homeless people.

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

The City works to enhance coordination with many local housing and service providers. This office will continue to promote its programs when opportunities arise.

Discussion:

Please see above.