Blue Springs City Hall – 903 W. Main Street – Development Conf. Room 128
Please enter through the side entrance next to the water bill drop-off box

CDBG ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, December 5, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

1 CALL TO ORDER

- Minutes – June 20, 2024

2 PUBLIC HEARING / 2023-2024 CAPER

- Affidavit of Publication in *The Examiner* on November 20, 2024
- Open minimum 15-day public comment period ending on Friday, December 20, 2024
- Review and discuss draft CAPER (Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report) for submission to HUD on or before December 31, 2024

3 OTHER BUSINESS

4 ADJOURN

If special accommodations are required for citizen participation in this meeting,
PLEASE CALL 228-0207 (VOICE) OR 228-0250 (TDD)

Agenda posted at the following locations:
City Hall, 903 W. Main Street
City's website
http://www.bluespringsgov.com/AgendaCenter
December 4, 2024
A quorum of the City Council may be in attendance however no City Council votes will be taken.
Community Development

City of Blue Springs
903 W. Main
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015

CDBG ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES Thursday, June 20, 2024

A meeting of the CDBG Advisory Committee of the City of Blue Springs was held in the City Hall Conference Room 210 located at 903 W. Main Street at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2024, with the following members, guests, and staff in attendance:

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT	Ken Horrell, Chair Jaime Russell, Downtown Review Board Kent Edmondson, Council Dist. 2 Galen Ericson, Council Dist. 1 Susan Stokenbury, PC Rep. Lyle Shaver, Downtown Alive! Susan Culpepper, Council Dist. 3
STAFF / OTHERS	Mike Mallon, Com. Dev. Director Cara Elbert, Asst. Director, Com. Dev. Adam Hilgedick, Asst. Director, Public Works Traci Breshears, Recording Secretary
CALL TO ORDER	Chairperson Ken Horrell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Chairperson Miller requested action on the June 5, 2024 meeting minutes. Committee Member Lyle Shaver made a motion to approve the minutes and Committee Member Jaime Russell seconded the motion.
OPEN PUBLIC HEARING	Chairperson Horrell opened the public hearing for the 2023- 2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN/PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES at 5:01 p.m.
AGENDA ITEM 2 PUBLIC HEARING / 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN/PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	Chairperson Horrell defers to Ms. Elbert to introduce an overview of the summarization of numbers for what was chosen to fund and how much. Chairperson Horrell spoke to CSL and Hope House as some of the City Council members were worried the money being donated was going to citizens in other cities. Ms. Ebert went into depth on how those funds are monitored by the city to ensure the funds go to Blue Springs citizens.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Ebert went by line item, the 1st being $50,000 (10 repairs) to minor home-repair program. Chairman Horrell asked what the max out is. Ms. Ebert stated that the limit is $25,000. Committee Member Russell asked if that was per person or per address, to which Ms. Ebert answered that it was per address. Chairman Horrell asked how much we put in last year, to which Ms. Ebert answered that $150,000 was put in minor home-repair program last year. Committee Member Russell motioned to approve the $50,000 to minor home-repair program. Committee Member Stokenbury seconded. The motion was passed by the Council.

Ms. Ebert then asked about the Façade Program stating that she entered $25,000 to the grant as that is the amount that had been allocated in the previous years. Chairman Horrell stated that that money could be moved to pay for downtown projects. Committee Member Shaver asked how that change happens. Ms. Ebert said that they would just have to hold a public hearing. Committee Member Russell approved the motion to approve the $25,000 to the façade program. Committee Member Shaver seconded. The motion was passed by the Council.

The next line was public services. Hope House has $13,471 currently set to be allocated to them. Councilwoman Culpepper asked if Hope House was ok with that as they only asked for $12,750. Ms. Ebert said there was a little extra left in the public services portion so they split it between the two non-profits. Ms. Ebert reached out to both, and they agreed that they would love that. The total entered to CSL was $25,721. Committee Member Russell approved the motion to approve the $13,471 to Hope House and $25,721 to CSL. Committee Member Shaver seconded. The motion was passed by the Council.

The fourth line item was for Sidewalk improvement Program. The total entered into the program is $114,841. Chairman Horrell summarized what was discussed in the previous meeting when deciding. Ms. Ebert stated that Public Works reached out for an estimate for the design which was $50,000. Committee Member Shaver approved the motion to approve the $114, 841. Councilman Ericson seconded. The motion was passed by the Council.

The last line item was for Administration and Planning of $52,258. Councilwoman Culpepper approved the motion to approve the $52,258. Committee Member Stokenbury seconded. The motion was passed by Council.

Ms. Ebert explained next steps and that the City Council Meeting the plan will be discussed in a public hearing on August 5. Once this is approved, the numbers will go to HUD. Committee Member Stokenbury asked if a special meeting would occur if anything changes during the 30 day public comment period. Ms. Ebert said yes, and that if we want to change any of the numbers later we would have to have a public hearing for it.

HEARING CLOSED

Chairperson Horrell closed the public hearing for the 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN/PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES at 5:36 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Horrell brought up pro-rating Minor Home Repair Funds if someone moves within the 3 year period. Ms. Ebert suggests year one to year two they would pay 2/3; from year 2 to 2 ½ they would pay back 1/3. Councilman Edmondson stated that we do half, 1/3 and then nothing. Ms. Ebert stated that whatever the number it

needs to be a percentage as they don't have to ask for the max $5,000. Chairman Horrell asked if they needed to vote on tonight or if we can wait until the wording is typed up. Ms. Ebert stated that they could vote on it in November. Committee Member Stokenbury asked if we should just have them pay back all within the 3 year period as if they sell the house, they will be making money on it. Councilman Ericson suggested that since the program is meant to clean up neighborhoods which in turn benefits the city that they not repay at all. Councilwoman Culpepper asked how many times people could participate in the program. Ms. Ebert stated 5 times, but each time must be a different program year. Councilwoman Culpepper suggested that if we decide to not repay, that we lower the limit. Councilman Ericson asked if it was first-come-first-serve, or if they used a process to choose, to which Ms. Ebert stated yes there is a process. Committee Member Russell asked about putting repeat applicants through an extra process to make sure they weren't taking advantage. Ms. Breshears suggested pro-rating the funds after the first-time of use. Mr. Mallon stated that most of the funds are for exterior improvements. Ms. Ebert stated she would come up with wording and that it could be discussed further in November.

Ms. Elbert stated the next CDBG Advisory Committee Meeting and Public Hearing would be November 2024 at Blue Springs City Hall.

MEETING ADJOURN

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ericson to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Edmondson.

_____

Respectfully Submitted by,
Traci Breshears, Recording Secretary

_____ _____

Ken Horrell, Chairperson Date

Column

OFFICIAL AD PROOF

This is the proof of your ad scheduled to run in **Examiner** on the dates indicated below. If changes are needed, please contact us prior to deadline at **(816) 254-8600**.

Notice ID: 3SNxchWaCzPjJFLqvZUl | **Proof Updated: Nov. 19, 2024 at 08:23am CST**
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Subtotal	$155.23
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See Proof on Next Page

Public Notice
City of Blue Springs, Missouri
Community Development Block Grant
Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

The City of Blue Springs is in the process of developing the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2023-2024 fiscal/program year for public review and comment. Each jurisdiction that has an approved Consolidated Plan shall annually review and report on the progress it has made in carrying out the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan. The CAPER describes the specific Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities undertaken during the fiscal program year, including activities related to housing, homelessness, and community and economic development needs and resources.

The purpose of this Notice is to inform the public that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 5th, 2024, at 6:00 PM in Room 128 (Community Development) at City Hall at 903 W. Main Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

Staff will present the CAPER at the public hearing and a 15-day public comment period will be opened. **Public comments will be accepted beginning at the public hearing on Thursday, December 5th, 2024, and accepted through Friday, December 20th, 2024.** The Committee and the City shall consider the views of citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties in preparing its final submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A summary of public comments will be attached to the CAPER and submitted to HUD on or before December 31, 2024.

Beginning Wednesday, December 4th, 2024 , the draft CAPER may be viewed within the CDBG Advisory Committee meeting agenda packet on the City's website: at http://www.bluespringsgov.com/ agendacenter . Individuals who do not have access to internet may request a copy or a viewing of the draft plan by calling 816-228-0211 or visit the Community Development Department at City Hall. For more information about the CAPER or to make a public comment, contact Aliyah Kincade, Business Services Coordinator, Community Development, at 816-228-0211 or akincade@bluespringsgov.com . Written comments may be submitted to the City of Blue Springs Community Development Department, Attention: Aliyah Kincade, Community Development, 903 W. Main Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

Published in the Examiner, Nov 20, 2024

2897610

City of Blue Springs, Missouri

Community Development Block Grant Funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Topics Included and Reported on:

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

The City of Blue Springs expended $341,140.86 in CDBG funds during the 2023 program year (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024) out of the total budget of $668,387.95. The largest expenditure among the standard CDBG allocation was $165,500 for the Rotary Park Bathroom replacement project. The second largest expenditure was the Minor Home Repair Program at $80,282.86, which included home improvements for 21 low-income homeowners in the City of Blue Springs. The City funded three (3) public services, including $1,235.25 for the Fieldhouse Recreation Scholarships program to provided reduced rate passes for low-moderate income households, $10,370.00 for Hope House to provide counseling for victims of domestic violence, and $20,000 to Community Services League (CSL) to provide subsistence payments for housing and utility assistance to low-moderate income households. Other expenditures include $15,520.00 towards the Downtown Lighting Improvements and $48,232.75 in program administration and planning. The only activity in which no funds were expended were for the Commercial Façade Grant Program.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

City of Blue Springs, Missouri

Community Development Block Grant Funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development

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Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
AFH Local: Assistance & Support to Homeowners; Minor Home Repair Program	Maintain Existing Housing/Facilities	CDBG: $154,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	60	55	21%%	30	21	70%
AFH Local: Review Codes & Incentives	Affordable Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Adult Education	AFH		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Affordable Housing Information	AFH		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: AFH Metrics	AFH		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Education/Job Training	AFH		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Expand CDFIs and Tax Credits	Affordable Housing		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			

AFH Reg: Fair Housing Education	AFH		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Fair Housing Information	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Housing Locator Service-Vouchers	Public Housing		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Lot Size Zoning Code	Non-Housing Community Development		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Model Zoning Codes	Non-Housing Community Development		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Regional Housing Voucher System	Public Housing		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Regional Transit Plan	Non-Housing Community Development AFH		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			

AFH Reg: Regional Transportation for Jobs	AFH		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Univ'l Design for Public Subsidy Units	AFH		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
AFH Reg: Universal Design Standards	Non-Homeless Special Needs		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
Encourage Diversity of Housing Options	Affordable Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs		Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
Financial Assistance to LMI Households	Affordable Housing Maintain Existing Housing/Facilities	CDBG: $154,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	60	30	52%	30	21	52%
Financial Assistance to LMI Households	Affordable Housing Maintain Existing Housing/Facilities	CDBG: $154,000	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	60	55	52%	30	21	52%
Redevelop Downtown Blue Springs	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: $25,000	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	3	0	0.00%	3	0	0.00%

Reinvest In Existing Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: $154,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	12835	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Reinvest In Existing Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: $154,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	12835	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Reinvest In Existing Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: $154,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	3470	0	0	3470	3470	88%
Reinvest In Existing Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: $30,000	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	3	0	0.00%	3	0	0.00%
Support Public Service Agencies	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: $32,750	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	2100	404	92.7%	420	404	92.7%

Support Public Service Agencies	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: $32,750	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction's use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

The City of Blue Springs is dedicated to key priorities such as maintaining affordable housing, enhancing public services, and revitalizing Downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods. A notable example of these efforts is the Minor Home Repair Program, which plays a crucial role in preserving affordable housing options for local residents. Additionally, the City has invested in upgrading the Rotary Park bathroom, located in a low- to moderate-income (LMI) area. This project is designed to benefit LMI residents by providing a sustainable, accessible public space for the entire community to enjoy.

In line with its redevelopment efforts, the City is focused on revitalizing Downtown, a designated slum/blight area, to help rejuvenate the community. As part of its ongoing public service initiatives, the City continues to administer the Fieldhouse Recreation Scholarships program, which offers reduced-rate passes to the Fieldhouse community recreation center for low- and moderate-income residents.

Beyond the Fieldhouse Scholarships, the City supported two other vital public services during the program year. Hope House provides counseling for victims of domestic violence, while the Community Services League offers subsistence payments for housing and utilities to low- and moderate-income households. Additionally, the City funded a sidewalk improvement program designed to ensure safe routes to school for children in low- and moderate-income areas.

Program administration funds are essential for maintaining these programs and services. These funds are typically used for public notices, recording liens and lien releases, conducting planning and environmental reviews, and updating the City's plans for future projects and initiatives.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted). 91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	55
Black or African American	22
Asian	0
American Indian or American Native	0
Hispanic	1
Total	**78**
Hispanic	1
Not Hispanic	77

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

With the 2023 CDBG allocation, a total of 78 households received assistance through the Minor Home Repair Program, Fieldhouse Recreation Scholarships, Hope House, and the Community Services League. Of these households, approximately 70% were White, 28% were Black/African American, and 2% were multiracial or identified as other races not listed in the table above. Less than 1% of the households reported having Hispanic heritage. The racial and ethnic data provided pertains only to the households receiving assistance through the standard allocation.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	$668,387.95	$341,140.86

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The City had a total of $668,387.95 allocated in the 2023 Annual Action Plan, which included the 2023 allocation of $245,596, $396,681.95 in reprogrammed pre-2020 funds, and $26,110 in returned grant funds. Of the total amount, $341,140.86, or approximately 51%, was expended.

The City continues to make efforts to expeditiously expend funds; however, the 2022 program year faced several challenges. The primary focus shifted to addressing unspent grant-funded activities carried over from multiple fiscal years, which delayed other projects, including the Sidewalk Improvement Program and the Commercial Façade Program. Additionally, the Minor Home Repair Program was

impacted by labor and material shortages. Despite these setbacks, the City remains committed to expending as many funds as possible in each program year.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation
Downtown Blue Springs	6	0
Low-Mod	70	61

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The City allocated 80% of its 2023 program funds to low- to moderate-income (LMI) census block groups. This includes funding for a sidewalk project in an identified LMI area, as well as the Minor Home Repair and First-Time Homebuyer Programs, which both serve individuals meeting LMI guidelines. Additionally, public services funding was directed to LMI clientele.

In contrast, the City allocated 6% of its 2022 program funds to Downtown Blue Springs, a designated slum/blight area. This allocation included funds for the Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program. However, due to the lower amount of program funds expended, only 6% of the expended allocation was directed toward Downtown Blue Springs.

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

Most activities funded through the City's programs leverage additional funds from other sources. For example, the Fieldhouse Recreation Scholarships program offers reduced-rate passes, with residents contributing a portion of the fee based on their income. Similarly, both Hope House and the Community Services League receive funding from a variety of private and local sources, along with significant volunteer support.

The City also leverages funds for staffing and managing the CDBG program and related activities, except for special planning studies or projects that require external consultants. The only activities during the program year that did not include leveraged funds were the Minor Home Repair Program and the Park

Improvements Program. However, several recipients of the Minor Home Repair Program have contributed private funds to complete projects exceeding the grant amount

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	83	21
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	**83**	**0**

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	50	16
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	25	21
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	8	0
Total	**83**	**37**

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

The City did not support any activities that meet HUD's definition of affordable housing assistance during the 2023-2024 year. However, rental assistance was provided to 16 households, which represents 44% of the established goal. Both the rental assistance and Minor Home Repair/Rehabilitation programs fell short of their goals.

Rental assistance was administered by the Community Services League as subsistence payments, which also included utility assistance. The majority of the 36 households assisted through subsistence payments received support for utilities rather than rental assistance.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The City is confident that the Minor Home Repair Program will continue to be successful, as it has proven to be an effective means of maintaining affordable housing and supporting residents in need. The program addresses critical home repair needs that allow homeowners to remain in their homes and preserve the overall quality of housing in the community.

In addition to the Minor Home Repair Program, the use of funds for subsistence payments through public services was particularly impactful during the 2023 program year. These funds played a crucial role in supporting low- and moderate-income households by providing rental and utility assistance.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual
Extremely Low-income	16
Low-income	67
Moderate-income	0
Total	**83**

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Of the 16 households receiving assistance for housing, 16 were very low-income.

Additionally, the City funded three programs that have income requirements by family size to determine eligibility, including: Minor Home Repair Program, Fieldhouse Recreation Scholarships, and Community Services League (CSL) (subsistence payments). Hope House falls under a presumed low-moderate income benefit due to the clientele served (victims of domestic violence). Of the 83 total households served, 16 were extremely low-income and 67 were considered low income of those households were provided subsistence payments through CSL. Most persons receiving assistance for owner-occupied housing were more likely to have a higher income than those receiving subsistence payments or recreation scholarships. There were a total of 83 households served with CDBG funds in the City of Blue Springs in FY 23-24, 16 or 19% were considered very low income households and 67 or 81% were considered low income.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

The City coordinates with several organizations to address homelessness, including the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH), Community Services League (CSL), and the Blue Springs School District (BSSD). CSL is a centrally-located resource in Blue Springs that can refer assistance to homeless individuals and families. When the City is aware of a homeless individual, or is contacted by a homeless individual, they are directed to CSL for resources. The City's Police Department continues to work with CSL on providing emergency supply kits to homeless persons, including blankets, non-perishable foods, and personal hygiene supplies.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City does not have any emergency shelters or transitional housing located within the community. The City coordinates with CSL on locating available shelters and transitional housing for homeless persons. The City's Police Department also assists with locating shelters for homeless persons.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after 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); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

The City partners with the Community Services League (CSL) to connect individuals and families to rental and utility assistance programs, targeting low-income households at risk of eviction or discharge from facilities or systems of care. During the 2023-2024 program year, CSL received program funds to provide subsistence payments that helped households with rental expenses. This support allowed 16 households to avoid eviction and the risk of homelessness, providing crucial stability during challenging times.

In addition to rental assistance, CSL offers a range of programs focused on helping individuals and families achieve long-term economic stability. These programs assist with job placement and skills training, helping households secure stable employment and become financially self-sufficient. CSL also works closely with families, particularly those with children, to ensure that children remain in school while parents are supported in finding local employment opportunities.

The City also supports low-income households through the Minor Home Repair Program, helping families remain in their homes by addressing critical repair needs. Both the Minor Home Repair Program and CSL's rental assistance efforts help alleviate financial burdens, ensuring that residents can maintain safe, stable,

and affordable housing options for themselves and their families.

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.

The City works with CSL and the GKCCEH on locating emergency shelters and transitional housing for homeless persons. The CSL and local PHAs help provide housing assistance to households transitioning from homelessness to permanent affordable housing. The CSL also works with households on helping them locate permanent housing, stable employment and living arrangements, which reduces the risk of becoming homeless again.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Blue Springs does not have a Public Housing Authority (PHA) within the City limits. Blue Springs residents are served by PHAs in Jackson County, including Independence, Kansas City (MO), and Lee's Summit. The City worked closely with all three PHAs on the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan submitted to HUD in August 2022, and continues to be in contact with the PHAs during the development of Annual Action Plans. The PHAs serving Jackson County currently have waiting lists with limited inventory available.

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

Currently, no specific actions have been taken to actively encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management or participate in homeownership. However, the City recognizes the importance of empowering residents to take a more active role in their communities and housing opportunities.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

None of the PHAs serving Blue Springs are classified as troubled.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken 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. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

The City of Blue Springs adopted a new Comprehensive Plan in 2014 and a Unified Development Code (UDC) in 2015, both promoting a mix of building types, development styles, and mixed-use housing. As part of the 2016 Assessment of Fair Housing, the City set a goal to encourage multi-family developments with more ADA units than required to meet the housing needs of individuals with disabilities. Additional goals include fostering small-lot development to increase affordable housing.

A 2019 Community Housing Assessment Team (CHAT) Study revealed that while most homes are affordable to households earning between $25,000 and $75,000, there is a shortage of affordable housing for households earning under $25,000. The study cited challenges such as limited housing supply, rising construction costs, and the conversion of affordable single-family homes into rentals, reducing homeownership opportunities.

The City's Comprehensive Plan, UDC, and CHAT Study aim to create more mixed-income, mixed-use neighborhoods.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City coordinates with several public service agencies on addressing obstacles to meeting underserved needs, including agencies that are consulted through the development of the Annual Action Plan and the Consolidated Plan. These agencies include CSL, Hope House, and the Blue Springs School District which all have a strong presence in Blue Springs, as well as other agencies outside of Blue Springs, including Public Housing Authorities in Jackson County (Independence, Kansas City, Lee's Summit), Habitat for Humanity, Hillcrest Transitional Housing, The Whole Person, and the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Applicants of the Minor Home Repair Program with homes built before 1978 are required to either provide proof of lead-based paint testing or have a lead-based paint test completed as part of their repairs to any painted surfaces. Any disturbed lead-based paint must be abated. Applicants of the First Time Home Buyer Program purchasing homes built before 1978 are required to submit a lead-based paint disclosure form acknowledging any lead-based paint hazards before closing. Lead-based paint hazards information is provided in all application packets.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City coordinates with public service agencies and organizations to provide assistance to families below or near the poverty-level. CSL provides housing and employment assistance to families with the goal of fostering stability. The City encourages the development of mixed-income housing and expansion of economic opportunities in the community, both of which can help families in Blue Springs rise out of poverty and decrease the risk of falling back below the poverty-level. Recent economic development projects have added hundreds of new employment opportunities in the community.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City, continues to refine and improve the administrative processes and procedures to ensure compliance and expending funds in a timely manner. Staff has created a new set of administrative guidelines that provides step by step process information for each activity and program. The administrative guidelines also include communication processes to subrecipients and contractors to ensure all individuals receiving funds are in compliance.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City will continue to coordinate with aforementioned public service agencies and organizations to provide assistance to low-moderate income households in need of housing, employment, and other support services.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

The City collaborated with area communities (Independence, Kansas City – MO & KS, and Leavenworth) in the metro area in 2022 to complete the 2022-2026 Assessment of Fair Housing. Both local and regional goals and objectives were included in the 2022-2026 AFH and the 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan. Status updates to each goal have been reported on in this CAPER. The participating communities and the Mid-America Regional Council continue to meet periodically to review goals and status updates, as well as coordinate shared programs and events.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

The City maintains both paper and electronic records of activities. Activities and programs are included in the Annual Action Plan and reviewed annually to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations and processes. Staff has created a new set of administrative guidelines that provides

step by step process information for each activity and program to ensure compliance. The annual review process is done internally by staff typically in the Spring of each year to review activities in each Annual Action Plan and if those are being completed, or if the CDBG Advisory Committee should discuss evaluating the effectiveness of the activities at the Advisory Committee Meetings in order to change of update activities that are funded in the following years Annual Action Plan. The City encourages women-owned and minority-owned businesses, as well as Section 3 businesses, to apply for all contracted work. The City reports this data annually as required.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

The City requires a public notice to be posted at least 15 days prior to the CAPER public hearing. There is an additional 15 day public comment period following the public hearing. This process provides a longer review and comment period than required to provide citizens ample opportunity to review and comment on the performance report.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

There were no changes made to program objectives during the 2023 program year. The City's objectives remained the same as approved under the allocation approved in June 2023. The City continues to utilize the goals and objectives outlined in the 2022- 2026 Consolidated Plan. However, the City does continue to review and refine processes and applications for various CDBG activities and programs to better meet the needs of applicants, CAPER 22 OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2022) subrecipients, and contractors, as well as to meet all applicable Federal regulations and processes. The City started a new pre-approved contractor list for the Minor Home Repair Program in 2018, which has helped to expedite home repairs by making it easier for homeowners to locate qualified contractors who are aware of the program requirements and meet licensing requirements. Staff also updates applications and program guidelines annually and continues to improve processes based on past experiences.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

N/A

Attachment

Public Participation Documentation