



2019 Annual Action Plan Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

This Annual Action Plan (AAP), effective from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, is intended to promote decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing, as well as neighborhood stability within the City of Aurora. It continues to address long-standing housing and community development priorities defined in the City's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, which include physical, economic, demographic, and social conditions throughout the city. As the lead agency, the City of Aurora's Neighborhood Redevelopment Division (NRD) is responsible for carrying out activities to meet the Plan's priority needs.

The Annual Action Plan describes the activities the City intends to undertake in Program Year 2019 with funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The programs include the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

The City's 2019 HUD activities were recommended based upon an estimate as per 100% of the City's 2018 annual allocations and were selected and approved by City Council on January 22, 2019. On April 15, 2019, HUD provided notice of the City's 2019 HUD allocations, which included allocations for the City's CDBG and HOME Programs. The City's 2019 CDBG and HOME allocations decreased slightly from their 2018 allocations by 6% and 8%, respectively. (The City's draft annual action plan included contingency language to address the City's accommodation of increases or decreases in its actual 2019 allocations and the respective adjustments have been made.) The City did not receive a 2019 Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) allocation.

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2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

In keeping with the City's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan priorities, the City identified the following higher priority non-housing needs for the upcoming 2019 Program Year:

The 2019 Program Year Outcomes are found in the AP-20, "Goals and Outcomes." In summary, the City's objectives include increase youth services, especially those proposals/projects which complement overall City goals of violence prevention and youth education; provide supportive services for elderly/disabled persons; provide employment training to unemployed persons. Mitigate or prevent homelessness; increase/improve the quality of facilities (including public service facilities); help smaller businesses create or retain full time jobs at a living wage. Improve rate of survival of micro-enterprise businesses; provide micro-business expansion within locally selected neighborhoods, including the NRSA; and initiate improvement efforts in locally selected geographical areas that complement City Neighborhood Plans.

In addition to meet HUD's CDBG National Objectives of Low to Moderate Income (LMI) Benefit, the City also evaluated projects based upon the following criteria:

1. Ability to address a City Objective
2. Capacity and experience of the organization
3. Leveraged resources
4. Project Readiness
5. Location/service area

The City also continues to work toward meeting its housing priority needs which are as follows:

Existing housing in need of repairs or renovations in order to meet current building codes, lead paint mitigation standards, or greater energy efficiency standards, and owned and occupied by income-eligible households whose housing costs exceed 30% of income.

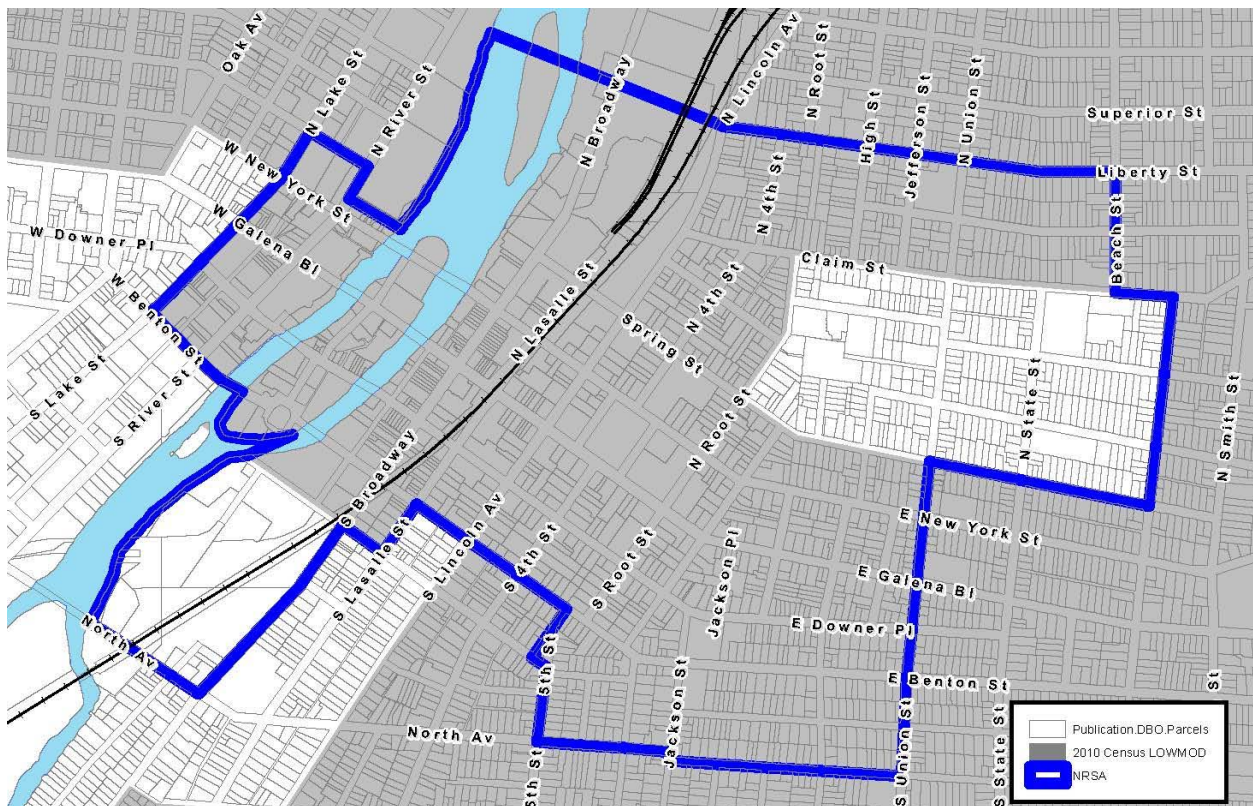
Households between 40% and 80% of median income who that are trying to purchase their own homes and contribute to the stabilization of neighborhoods within the city.

Income-eligible renter households with housing cost burdens greater than 30% of their income, living in housing in need of repairs or renovation in order to meet current building codes, lead paint mitigation

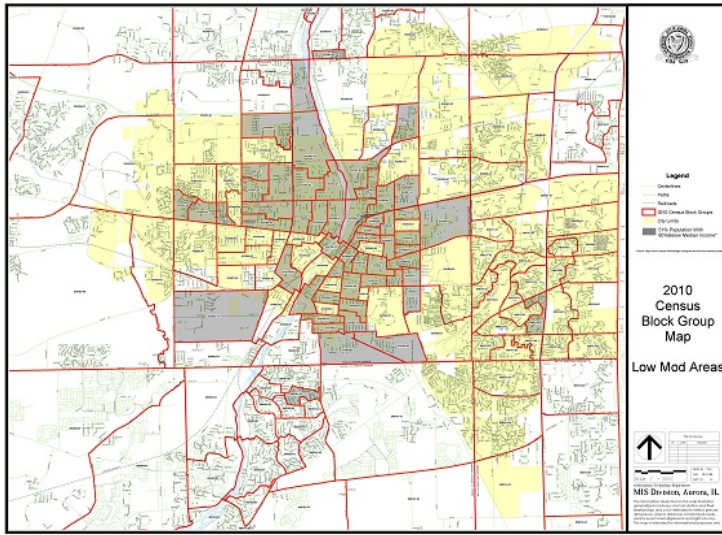
standards, or greater energy efficiency standards.

Very low-income households at risk of becoming homeless or currently homeless households who are currently homeless and that are very mobile within Aurora, and who are proportionately larger users of human services, health care, or emergency services.

The City will also continue to work within the HUD-approved Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) encompassing the City's near-east side and its downtown, covering portions of census tracts 8533.02; 8534.03 (per 2010 Census update, no longer considered an LMI census tract); 8534.04;8536.03; 8536.04; 8537.01; 8537.02; 8541.02. The NRSA has concentrations of low-income residents, substandard housing and overcrowded housing. The NRSA was first approved by HUD in 1999 and was amended and approved in 2011. Since the adoption of its 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, the City recognized changes to CT/BGs within the NRSA impact its boundaries. The City will seek the consultant services to facilitate the public participation process as it reviews the existing boundaries and proposes amendments to address the changing LMI CT/BG areas and to further explore whether areas adjacent to the NRSA can be included. As before, this effort will require HUD approval and until such time as it moves forward, the City will continue to use the amended 2011 Strategy through the remainder of its Consolidated Plan period. The City anticipates that the NRSA amendment effort will commence during the 2019 Program Year in conjunction with the development of the City's 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan.



NRSA Map



City of Aurora LMI Areas (Gray Shaded Areas=LMI BG/CTs)

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

During the 2018 Program Year, the City allocated over \$1million in CDBG funds toward housing, public services, and capital improvement projects. The City’s CDBG 2018 public service funds were used to assist 7,111beneficiaries as follows:

- Operating Costs of Homeless/AIDS Patients Programs: 519
- Senior Services: 6,252 Legal Services: 29
- Youth Services: 210
- Substance Abuse Services: 42
- Battered and Abused Spouses: 59

The City provided down payment assistance to 15 LMI households and housing rehabilitation assistance to 40 households. Through the City’s neighborhood revitalization/infrastructure program goal, LMI 5,175 beneficiaries were served.

All beneficiaries were required to meet HUD’s National Objective of Low-Moderate Income (LMI) Benefit standards. Due to the City’s delayed receipt of 2018 CDBG funds, the capital projects were unable to move forward during the program year; it is anticipated that the projects will move forward during the 2019 Program Year. The anticipated LMI beneficiaries under the City’s capital improvement funding allocations are as follows:

Neighborhood Revitalization: 5,055 (reflects LMI population in service area - CT/BGs: 88529.05 BG2, 8529.07, BG 3, 8534.00 BG 6, 8535.00 BGs 3 and 4, 8536.00 BG 3)

Public Facilities: 751 Aurorans (2,222 total clients)

HUD Timeliness Requirements

In the CDBG program, one regulatory measure used by HUD to evaluate performance is the timeliness ratio test. This is a formula that measures the amount of an entitlement community's unexpended funds sixty days prior to the start of its next program year in relation to the amount of funding it receives, and the ratio cannot exceed 1.5. The City's timeliness is measured on November 2nd of each year. This year the City's timeliness ratio was 1.42, slightly below the 1.5 threshold set by HUD. A few factors contributed to a higher than normal timeliness ratio, including the late disbursement of 2017 program funds, which delayed several capital projects as well as the cancellation of projects. The City expects to expend a large amount of funds before its next timeliness and is confident the timeliness ratio will be well under 1.5 before the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). Since the beginning of the City's CDBG program participation, the City has consistently exceeded HUD's 70 percent requirement in its funding of activities that benefit low and moderate-income persons.

The HOME program uses commitment and expenditure deadlines to measure performance. Although committing CHDO funds has been difficult in the past, the City will continue to be proactive in seeking projects to meet its CHDO and direct activity deadlines.

The ESG program uses drawdown requirements to measure performance. Although the City did not receive 2019 ESG funds, the City will make every effort to ensure consistency in its drawdowns of its 2018 ESG funds.

While these financial tests are required and are measurements of performance, it is also important that projects and programs carried out with these funds meet outcome expectations and benefit eligible persons. Reporting on outcomes and beneficiaries is made available each March in the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

2019 AAP Citizen Participation Process: The City announced its pre-application CDBG workshop on July 2, 2018. The mandatory workshop for potential 2019 applicants was held on August 10, 2018. At that time, in addition to presenting the City's anticipated CDBG allocations, the City also presented its intentions for its HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) allocation with funding designated for

program administration (10% of anticipated allocation) and the Direct Project and Community Housing Development Organization set-aside activities TBD as well as its Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) with funding designated for program administration (7.5%) and the remainder TBD for activities related to: street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing, and/or Homeless Management Information System Data Collection. The CDBG application period was open for over a month. 18 applications were submitted by the October September 21, 2018 deadline, with one of the applications subsequently withdrawn by the applicant on October 30, 2018. City staff reviewed the applications and then conducted a special meeting to review the applications with the Block Grant Working Committee (BGWC) on November 28, 2018. At that time, the BGWC voted on and unanimously approved 10 of the applications and one new to be determined neighborhood revitalization project for recommendation to the City Council. A public hearing conducted on December 17, 2018. The 2019 Annual Action Plan public comment period concluded on January 22, 2019, the date of the City Council's meeting during which time the recommendations were approved by City Council.

The development and adoption of the City's 2019 Annual Action Plan was consistent with the City's Citizen Participation Plan and all applicable HUD regulations.

5. Summary of public comments

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

Please see Appendix A for detailed information pertaining to the City's 2019 Annual Action Plan public participation process. The City followed its Citizen Participation Plan (attached to Appendix A). A public hearing for the City's 2019 Annual Action Plan took place on December 17, 2018. Only one public comment was submitted from Hased House. This comment expressed appreciation to the City for its 2019 CDBG award recommendation.

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

A public hearing for the City's 2019 Annual Action Plan took place on December 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., at City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, Illinois. Public comments were accepted until the close of the public comment period on January 22, 2019. Only one comment was submitted which expressed appreciation to the City for its 2019 funding recommendation. The comment was accepted.

7. Summary

The City's 2019 HUD funds will be used to meet goals and objectives established and approved by HUD. The 2019 Plan's goals and objectives were developed as per the above noted public participation process. The 2019 Plan's funding allocations were also approved by the City in an effort to meet the goals and objectives outlined in the City's overall 2015-2019 Goals and Objectives which were developed based upon the City's consultation with citizens, nonprofit organizations, developers, businesses, funding partners, schools and other governmental bodies. Their overarching purpose is to support the development of viable communities with decent housing, suitable living environments and economic opportunities for the City's low to moderate income households.

The City will pursue these goals and objectives by working with the nonprofit community, housing developers, neighborhood groups, associated businesses, stakeholders, labor union representatives, other local government entities, residents and partners. The Neighborhood Redevelopment Division will also work closely with several other City agencies to jointly plan, implement and evaluate the Plan's core activities.