

DRAFT

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 2023 Program Year saw an increase in activities to benefit Atlantic County Urban County residents. Eight public facilities projects were completed benefitting nearly 5,000 residents in seven different municipalities plus an additional 2,000 seniors, disabled and domestic violence victims countywide via improvements to the county kitchen facility. Other public facilities projects, which are often slow in developing, are under way and expected to reach completion during the 2024 Program Year.

Housing rehab activities exceeded expectations for the year with 19 homes owned by low-mod income residents receiving needed repairs.

The accomplishments listed below are taken from IDIS entries for each individual activity completed during the Program Year.

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.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Administer CDBG & HOME programs	Planning & Administration	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Other	Other	5	3	60.00%	1	1	100.00%
Eliminate slums/blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	3	0	0.00%			

D R A F T

Improve public facilities & infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	150000	45663	30.44%	53294	6996	13.13%
Increase home ownership opportunities	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	2	0	0.00%			
Increase home ownership opportunities	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	0	0		1	0	0.00%
Increase home ownership opportunities	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	0				
Increase home ownership opportunities	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	50	3	6.00%	25	0	0.00%
Preserve existing housing stock	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	100	44	44.00%	15	19	126.67%
Support Public Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	200	7550	3,775.00%	9100	7336	80.62%

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

DRAFT

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.

High Priority needs identified in the Consolidated Plan for the 2021-2025 period include: Preservation of existing housing stock, improvements to infrastructure and support for public services.

During 2023, the County used CDBG and HOME funds exclusively to address high-priority needs. Feedback from the County's municipalities continues to emphasize the importance of CDBG and HOME support for these activities.

D R A F T

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	HOME
White	8,324	11
Black or African American	1,136	7
Asian	795	1
American Indian or American Native	6	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1,561	0
Total	11,822	19
Hispanic	1,696	0
Not Hispanic	10,126	19

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

Narrative

Atlantic County's Community Development Program and its municipal partners brought the benefits of improved public facilities and public services to a diverse cross-section of the County's population during the 2023 Program Year.

DRAFT

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	8,505,711	1,416,649
HOME	public - federal	886,368	446,568

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

For CDBG, the above amounts include resources made available of \$5,157,253.19 of prior years' funding, \$1,160,741.00 in 2023 Entitlement Grant, \$601,298.05 in Section 8 Program income received during the year and \$1,586,419.15 in CDBG-CV funds available at the start of the Program Year. The amount expended includes \$1,404,600.82 in "regular" CDBG funds and \$12,048.05 in CDBG-CV funds.

For HOME, the above amounts include the 2023 Entitlement Grant of \$706,089.00 plus \$9,122 of Program Income on hand at the start of the year plus \$171,157.17 of Program Income received during the year.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Eligible low-mod residential areas	18	19	Other
Otherwise eligible geographic area	28	28	Other
Urban Countywide	54	53	General

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The geographic distribution of CDBG and HOME funds was almost exactly as expected.

DRAFT

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.

From infrastructure projects to public services, virtually all non-housing rehab activities receiving CDBG or HOME funds also receive other forms of support. Those funds include local municipal monies, state transportation funds and a wide variety of public and private resources that support the public services.

HOME match requirements are incorporated in the County's solicitation, review and award of HOME projects. Developers wishing to use HOME funds are encouraged by the application scoring system to include funds from other sources and, in fact, HOME projects other than homeowner rehab are not viable without non-HOME resources being part of the mix.

Public property used to address needs identified in the 2023 plan consisted of the County Central Kitchen and County Library branch in Hammonton, the MLK Community Center in Buena Vista Township, a portion of Tilton Road in Egg Harbor Township, a Mullica Township park, a public beach area in Port Republic, Estell Manor City Hall, Folsom Borough Municipal Court and Linwood City Hall.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	282,124
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	189,033
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	471,157
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	30,797
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	440,360

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

D R A F T

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match
2023-1	08/30/2024	0	5,123	167,000	0	16,910	0	189,033

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at begin-ning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
9,122	171,157	148,311	0	31,968

Table 7 – Program Income

D R A F T

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	239,802	0	19,825	0	22,600	197,377
Number	17	0	1	0	1	15
Sub-Contracts						
Number	2	0	0	0	0	2
Dollar Amount	4,146	0	0	0	0	4,146
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	239,802	22,600	217,202			
Number	17	1	16			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	2	0	2			
Dollar Amount	4,146	0	4,146			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

DRAFT

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0		0		
Businesses Displaced		0		0		
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0		0		
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0		0		
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

DRAFT

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	41	19
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	41	19

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	1	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	15	19
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	25	0
Total	41	19

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

The largest discrepancy between planned accomplishment and actual accomplishment is clearly in the Homebuyer program for the acquisition of existing units. Staff has concluded that the current program Homebuyer program needs an overhaul. The process to revise requirements and terms of the program is under way.

Housing rehabs exceeded the annual goal as backlogs in the program began to be addressed.

DRAFT

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Pending the outcome of the Homebuyer revisions, it is possible that expected outcomes and funding in future plans may be significantly reduced and possibly eliminated if a the program can't develop a suitable set of rules that meet regulatory requirements, fill a need and are attractive to potential participants.

It is expected that owner-occupied housing rehab will remain an important part of the Atlantic County program.

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	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	0	0
Low-income	0	15
Moderate-income	0	4
Total	0	19

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

The housing rehab program served low- and moderate-income households, primarily because home ownership is largely too expensive for very low income households.

D R A F T

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 Atlantic Homeless Alliance, composed of the Atlantic County Department of Welfare, Jewish Family Services and the Pleasantville Housing Authority, has created a single point of entry (SPOE) system for homeless outreach and assistance. The SPOE employs 11 staff to facilitate the coordination of care of those who present as homeless in Atlantic County.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

As it has in previous years, during the 2023 Program Year, the Homeless Committee of the Atlantic County Human Services Advisory Council prepared a request for funding to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the SuperNOFA Continuum of Care for the Homeless Program. The Continuum planning process is led by a voluntary association of service and housing providers, City and County government, faith-based and community-based organizations whose focus is to find collaborative solutions for the needs of homeless persons in Atlantic City and Atlantic County. Funding obtained through this process supports emergency shelter and transitional housing programs, among other efforts directed at homelessness.

Covenant House, the Atlantic County Women's Center and the Atlantic City Rescue Mission operate homeless shelters in the County.

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

During 2023, Atlantic County continued its homeless prevention activities. Specifically, by providing rehabilitation assistance and referral services for low-income households the County aims to prevent the conditions that would precipitate homelessness.

The goal is to make significant steps in eliminating the sources of homelessness by providing not only emergency assistance to the homeless, but also by providing assistance to very low- and low-income households that are threatened by homelessness. The objective is to assist low-income households or

DRAFT

individuals who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless with housing rehabilitation funds, emergency repair funds, emergency utility payments and other forms of emergency assistance.

Through its Department of Human Services, Atlantic County also participates in the formulation and implementation of policies regarding those being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care. Those policies include the provision of information on receiving assistance regarding housing, health, social services, employment, education and youth needs.

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 County's support network, provided by government and private, non-profits alike, includes services that connect the homeless to transitional programs in the areas of health care, employment and training, housing, transportation and life skills.

These efforts are especially directed to chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families and unaccompanied youth, a particular target clientele group for Covenant House.

D R A F T

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

There are 2 Public Housing Authorities located within the Atlantic County Urban County municipalities - the Pleasantville Housing Authority and the Buena Borough Housing Authority.

There were no actions planned or taken during 2023 specifically to address the needs of public housing, though it is likely that public housing residents benefitted from the facilities improvement projects completed during the year.

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

During 2023, both Housing Authorities within the jurisdiction continued to meet with the resident councils that exist at each public housing community and to consider their input for planning and decision making.

Information on the County's homeownership assistance program was made available to Housing Authority residents.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

Neither the Pleasantville Housing Authority nor the Buena Housing Authority is a troubled PHA.

DRAFT

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 major barrier to affordable housing in Atlantic County is the unemployment and underemployment conditions as the region continues to adjust to the contraction of the casino/entertainment industry in Atlantic City, which had been the dominant economic engine for the County and much of the region for decades. That situation was greatly exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. The downturn has moved many families out of consideration for home ownership because their incomes have fallen. Naturally, the ability to pay rent is also impacted by the same dynamics.

While these conditions are caused by market forces rather than public policy, moving the regional economy forward has been a major focus of the County, region and state. Steps taken by the County during the past year included:

- 1) Continued regional economic development efforts, including employer attraction and retention as well as job training efforts.*
- 2) Atlantic County, through the use of HOME funds, continued to assist non-profit affordable housing development. The County also continued to provide technical assistance to non-profit organizations seeking state and federal funds for affordable housing development, both rental and homeownership.*
- 3) The County began the process of revamping its homebuyer program to increase participation.*

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

The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs is a lack of funds. There are many needs in all of the areas - public facilities, public services, infrastructure and economic development – and local resources go only so far. The development of more and better jobs for low and moderate income persons would help reduce the scale or scope of needs as well.

During 2023, Atlantic County continued to seek opportunities to link, leverage and otherwise expand resources for the County and its many partners.

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

Lead hazards are addressed during housing rehabilitation efforts. All pre-1978 homes that receive rehabilitation assistance are tested for the presence of lead-based paint hazards. When evidence of paint hazards is found, surfaces are removed or the material is encapsulated to prevent exposure. In the

DRAFT

homebuyers program, when defective painted surfaces are found, the surface must be tested for lead-based paint as well and treated by a qualified trained contractor.

The County's Lead-Based Hazard reduction strategy, administered by the Department of Health, supports the abatement or reduction of lead-based paint hazards in low-income housing. The Department of Health provides administrative and program delivery staff responsible for conducting application intake, review, and approval; completing environmental reviews; completing housing inspections and when funding is available preparing work write-ups and cost estimates for lead hazard control work; preparing contractor bid packages and supervising advertisement for bids and selection of contractors; managing temporary resident relocation while lead hazard control work is being completed and monitoring work in progress through to completion.

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

The County's anti-poverty strategy is linked to economic programs provided by a variety of entities, including the Atlantic County Improvement Authority, Casino Reinvestment Development Agency (CRDA), Workforce Investment Board and more. The objective of poverty reduction requires programming for job readiness areas, including job training and placement, supportive public services, education and basic skills development. The overriding principle is to create new jobs and opportunities for households with incomes below the poverty level. It is only through comprehensive, coordinated strategies that nurture skills and provide opportunities to gain and retain employment and thus improve the quality of life, that people can improve their situation.

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

During 2023, the Atlantic County Improvement Authority and various departments in County government continued to be active in a broad range of conversations, plans and program implementation ranging from housing to homelessness to social service delivery to job creation and workforce training.

These efforts became particularly complicated and important in developing a response to the public health and economic effects of the global pandemic, the effects of which continue to be felt. Assessing community needs and developing appropriate responses required expanded and intensified coordination and interaction with all levels of government in the County. The Improvement Authority continued to represent Community Development elements of those efforts.

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

As a common partner with so many of the public and private housing and social service providers, the Atlantic County Improvement Authority and Atlantic County government have been a natural conduit for communication and interaction among these entities. During 2023, the County CD Program

DRAFT

continued to serve in that capacity while respecting the autonomy and uniqueness of each partner.

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 Atlantic County Improvement Authority annually reviews its current *Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice*. Impediments identified in the AI were:

- Need for more focus on fair housing laws by Atlantic County officials and housing service providers.
- Continued outreach and education to inform the community about fair housing laws.
- Need to continue addressing the shortage of affordable housing, which tends to impact members of the protected classes to a greater degree, thereby limiting their housing choice.

To address the identified impediments, recommendations developed by Atlantic County include:

- Promote the awareness of the *Fair Housing & Housing Assistance Information* book by means of the Atlantic County website, publication of an annual notice in local newspapers and posting information at organizations that serve the low income in Atlantic County. The staff will meet with organizations that are involved in housing, including the Board of Realtors, Total Living Center and Cape-Atlantic Legal Services. The County provided access to the five Family Centers in the County to Cape-Atlantic Legal Services to provide legal services to residents.
- While the County does not do zoning, the Atlantic County Planning Department does review municipal ordinances, site plans and Subdivision Ordinances to determine regional impacts. The material is reviewed for consistency with fair housing goals as well and meet with local planners to discuss impediments to fair housing that may arise.
- Worked with the Board of Realtors to improve fair housing compliance, listing accessibility as an improvement on units for sale or rent, and encouraging female and minority individuals to enter the real estate business.
- Outreach to rental property owners to encourage awareness of fair housing requirements.
- Outreach to lenders to work with borrowers on credit history and credit repair.
- Continue to expend federal and local resources to make affordable and rehabilitated housing available to low income households.

To address the affordable housing shortage, Atlantic County promoted fair housing by providing assistance for housing activities, including offering funds to CHDO's along with technical assistance to expand the supply of affordable housing.

During FY 2023, owner households received assistance with housing rehabilitation and assistance with purchasing units. The County homebuyer program is marketed in a way that is intended to attract low-income buyers. The program is marketed through meetings with real estate agents, finance companies, the ACIA website and other media. ACIA staff have appeared at various seminars and on local TV

DRAFT

stations to discuss the availability of these programs.

The Atlantic County Improvement Authority Office of Community Development has available a *Fair Housing & Assistance Information* brochure.

Lastly, while the County's next Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice will not be due to HUD for several years, the County continues to review its current version and to monitor fair housing needs in the region. If issues are identified during this process that require immediate attention, the County Community Development effort will incorporate such action into its planning and its procedures.

DRAFT

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 Atlantic County Improvement Authority, through the Office of Community Development, has developed standards and procedures for ensuring that the recipients of Community Development and HOME funds meet the purposes of the appropriate legislation and regulations, and that funds are disbursed in a timely fashion.

The ACIA's standards and procedures for monitoring are designed to ensure that:

- 1) Objectives of all relevant regulations and guidance are met,
- 2) Program activities are progressing in compliance with the specifications and schedule for each program, and
- 3) Recipients are in compliance with other applicable laws, implementing regulations, including Davis-Bacon and related labor requirements, and with the requirements to affirmatively further fair housing and minimize displacement of low-income households.
- 4) For the housing rehabilitation assistance program, the ACIA requires conformance with:
 - Section 504 Handicapped Accessibility
 - Section 106 Historic Preservation
 - Housing Quality Standards
 - Lead-Based Paint regulations
 - Displacement / Relocation regulations

The Office of Community Development reviews all proposed activities for eligibility under statutory and regulatory requirements, and for meeting identified needs in the County Consolidated Plan.

Activities are monitored through the use of checklists and forms to facilitate uniform monitoring of program activities.

Fiscal monitoring includes review and approval of budgets, compliance with executed Grant Agreements, review and approval of vouchers, review of fiscal reports on a monthly basis and a review of municipal and non-profit audits on an annual basis.

Monitoring occurs through on-site visits. These visits are held as necessary, but at least once a year. Labor compliance monitoring is conducted through weekly certified payrolls and on-site visits during the

DRAFT

work period.

Minority Business Outreach - The County encourages participation by minority-owned businesses in CDBG and HOME assisted activities and maintains records concerning the participation of minority-owned businesses to assess the results of its efforts and to complete the semiannual "Minority Business Enterprise Report" to HUD. Qualified minority contractors are encouraged to bid on properties participating in the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Comprehensive Planning Requirements - To ensure compliance with the comprehensive planning requirements of the Consolidated Plan process, the Community Development Program reviews the process on an ongoing basis. The review ensures compliance with federal requirements concerning citizen participation and consistency of actions taken with those specified in the "Citizen Participation Plan." Records documenting actions taken are maintained for each program year.

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 CAPER document was placed on public display for a period in excess of the required 15 days, from November 1, 2024 through November 18, 2024. The CAPER was available online at the County website and at the Atlantic County Improvement Authority office in Egg Harbor Township. Two public hearings on the CAPER were held November 13, 2024 at two different times and in two different accessible locations. The public was notified of the public comment period and public hearing by an advertisement on October 24, 2024 in the local publication *The Press of Atlantic City*. A copy of the advertisement is provided with this report.

D R A F T

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.

Ongoing assessments of community needs and ongoing successes of the County's CDBG program in addressing those needs suggest that no significant changes are needed in the program's objectives. The program will continue to seek efficient, effective means to provide housing, facilities and services to our most vulnerable residents. The County will continue to seek community partners capable of assisting in those efforts.

While objectives will remain unchanged, methods and strategies for meeting them are evolving. Delays by some municipalities in implementing prior activities led the County to move to a competitive process for awarding grant funds starting with the 2024 Action Plan. The program is also revamping its homebuyer program, a HOME-funded effort, but worth noting here.

While always aware of opportunities to improve, the County believes that the overall direction and implementation improvements of its CDBG program meet both the requirements of the federal government and the needs of our local residents.

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

No

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

DRAFT

CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

There are no HOME-assisted affordable rental units within the Urban County's jurisdiction.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)

No individual HOME-funded projects meet the threshold for affirmative marketing requirements. The program as a whole, though, including housing rehab activities, are publicized to all segments of the County's population through general circulation advertising and through information provided by our municipal partners.

Participants in the homeowner rehab program during 2023 were reflective of the County's population diversity. The program assisted 11 white homeowners, 7 African-American homeowners and 1 Asian homeowner.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

Atlantic County used \$139,192.17 in HOME Program Income on projects during 2023. The funds went toward the completion of 12 homeowner rehab projects. Rehab projects assisted 6 white homeowners, 5 African-American homeowners and 1 Asian homeowner. Rehab homeowners included 2 with moderate incomes and 10 with low incomes.

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)

During 2023, the Atlantic County Community Development Program continued to recruit, inform and encourage affordable housing developers interested in providing additional units in the County.

D R A F T

CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	1	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours	97				
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	0				
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0				

Table 14 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.	1				
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.	1				
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.	1				
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					

DRAFT

Other.					
--------	--	--	--	--	--

Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative