

City of North Little Rock



Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

FY2017 Program Year



Community Development Agency
500 West 13th Street
North Little Rock, AR 72114
501-340-5342

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Executive Summary

Eligible local governments may receive annual grants for community development and affordable housing through application to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As an entitlement City, the City of North Little Rock applies yearly for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds.

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is an annual report required by HUD. This CAPER covers Program Year 2017 (January 1 through December 31, 2017.) The performance report must include a description of the resources made available, the investment of available resources, the geographic distribution and location of investments, the families and person assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of persons assisted), and actions taken to affirmatively further fair housing. The CAPER identifies the level of progress made towards addressing the priority needs and goals established in the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan for FY2016-2020 and Annual Action Plan for FY2017. The City's Five Year goals were based on quantitative estimates of desired accomplishments given anticipated monetary resources. These estimates were not given as benchmarks for success or failure of specific programs, but used as a guide in the allocations of resources to address priority needs.

The City received \$540,441 in CDBG funds and \$191,236 in HOME funds for Program Year 2017. The CDBG funds were allocated for infrastructure improvements in low to moderate income areas of the City and allotted to nonprofit organizations which provide essential services for low to moderate income persons. Likewise, strategic investments of HOME funds were allocated to improve the quality of life for some of North Little Rock's needy citizens by providing affordable housing development activities. The City continued to meet the goal of Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing through efforts to address issues identified in its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing report.

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.

In FY2017, the City assisted 565 low to moderate income persons and families through a variety of affordable housing and public service activities funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and/or Home Investment Partnership (HOME) funds.

An identified high priority need was public infrastructure improvements in low to moderate income areas of the City. In Ward 1, \$126,916 was allocated to a street/drainage/sidewalk improvements project on Marion Street from 15th to 18th. Work on phase 1 of this multi-year funded project is anticipated to begin in 2018. In Ward 2, work on phase 1 (Alma to Mosley) of the Poe Street from Alma to Glenview street/drainage/sidewalk improvements project began in late 2016 and was completed in 2017. An additional \$126,916 was allocated towards phase 2, with construction expected to begin in 2018. In Ward 3, \$126,916 in CDBG funds were committed to phase 2 of the 39th Street from Pike to approximately Hays street/drainage/sidewalk improvements project. Phase 1 (Pike to Burks) was completed in 2017. City drainage funds have been and/or will be used to supplement the cost of these projects.

Another priority need established was affordable housing through rehabilitation or development. The CDBG program funded 11 housing rehabilitation activities, including roof replacements, sewer line repairs, and weatherization improvements. In partnership with the Telephone Pioneers volunteer group, wheelchair ramps were built for disabled residents. Previous year HOME funds provided substantial home repairs for one resident. The City encouraged new development of affordable housing by allocating 90% of its 2017 HOME funds for use by certified Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Agreements were executed committing funds to the construction of three new homes. Work began on one house in late 2017, and all three homes will be completed and sold in 2018.

Public services were also identified as a priority need. The North Little Rock Boys and Girls Club Positive Place for Kids program was awarded \$23,300 in CDBG funds to provide after school and/or summer programs for youth at two locations, benefitting 362 youth in 2017. Central Arkansas Area Agency on Aging (dba CareLink) was allocated \$23,305 in 2017 CDBG funds and \$9.50 in 2016 CDBG funds to deliver Meals on Wheels to 48 elderly citizens. The Recovery Centers of Arkansas nonprofit was awarded \$5,000 for the provision of outdoor exercise equipment to be utilized by substance abuse treatment program clients. Installation of the equipment is anticipated in 2018. The River City Ministry Prescription Drug Assistance program was funded with \$4,000 in 2016 CDBG funds, allowing River City's medical clinic to provide essential prescription drugs to 143 homeless clients in 2017.

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
Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Other	Other	5	2	40.00%	1	1	100.00%
Affordable Housing - Rehabilitation / Development	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	7	2	28.57%	1	0	0.00%
Affordable Housing - Rehabilitation / Development	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	50	100.00%	0	0	0.00%
Public Improvements - Infrastructure / Facilities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	8620	5706	66.19%	0	0	0.00%

Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	4000	763	19.08%	875	553	63.20%
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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.

In regard to the priority need for Public Improvements – Infrastructure and Facilities, a total of \$380,748 in 2017 CDBG funds were equally divided and allocated for three street and drainage improvement projects in low to moderate income areas. Due to the high cost of street improvements as well as decreased annual grant allocations, each of these improvement projects require multi-year funding. *Note: Goal in table 1 above for Public Improvements shows 0 persons estimated to be assisted for 2017, because projected goal of 2,685 persons was entered on 2016 Annual Action Plan and should not be duplicated. All street and drainage projects reflected in this plan are multi-year projects. Accomplishments will be reported in the year that entire project is complete.

To address the identified priority need of Affordable Housing – Rehabilitation or Development, 2017 HOME Program funds in the amount of \$172,113 were allocated to new home construction activities through a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), to increase the availability of affordable housing stock for low income persons. *Note: CHDO agreements were executed in late 2017 to commit funding for construction of three new affordable housing units. Work began on one home in late 2017 and completion of all three units is anticipated in 2018. Accomplishments will be reported at that time. The CDBG and HOME rehabilitation programs ended in 2017 but the 12 final homes on the waiting lists were assisted with previous year funds. The 12 units are reflected in the “50” in the strategic plan areas of the above table.

The priority need for public services for low to moderate income persons was addressed with the 2017 CDBG allocation of \$51,605 to three nonprofit organizations which provide essential services focused on youth, the elderly, and homeless, veteran, and other residents in need of substance abuse treatment. *Note: 2017 funds were not available until September of 2017, causing public service activities to begin later in the year than anticipated. Activities will not be completed until 2018, and therefore partial performance accomplishments will not be reported until 2018. Note: “Expected Strategic Plan” and “Expected Program Year” goals in Table 1 above were adjusted, when applicable, to include estimated goals accomplished in program year 2017, but resulting from prior year(s) activities.

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	105	0
Black or African American	439	1
Asian	2	0
American Indian or American Native	1	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
Total	547	1
Hispanic	16	0
Not Hispanic	531	1

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

Narrative

The table above displays the race and ethnicity of families and persons assisted with CDBG and HOME funded activities. Some race categories were not listed in the above table. CDBG activities also benefitted 1 Black/African American & White person, 1 American Indian/Alaskan Native and White person and 15 Other Multi-Racial persons.

Note, the first phases of two multi-year infrastructure projects were completed in 2017. Beneficiaries will be measured by area benefit but will not be reported until project completion, which is expected to occur in 2018.

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	CDBG	1,306,138	604,895
HOME	HOME	595,762	37,772
HOPWA	HOPWA		
ESG	ESG		
Other	Other		

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The \$1,306,261 available amount of CDBG funding shown in Table 3 includes the City's FY2017 allocation of \$540,441, FY2017 program income in the amount of \$363 (\$123 more than estimated in 2017 Action Plan), and \$765,457 from previous year grant allocations. The \$595,762 available amount of HOME funding shown in Table 3 reflects the City's FY2017 allocation of \$191,236 plus \$404,526 from previous year grant allocations. 2017 Investments/Expenditures are listed below:

\$ 66,363.75	CDBG Rehabilitation/Emergency/Housing/Weatherization/Ramps/Activity Delivery
\$ 117.88	Ward 1 Marion St from 15th–18th Street/Drainage/Sidewalk Improvements
\$199,061.58	Ward 2 Poe St from Alma to Mosley Street/Drainage/Sidewalk Improvements
\$218,204.09	Ward 3 39th St from Pike to Burks Street/Drainage/Sidewalk Improvements
\$ 6,643.23	Boys and Girls Club/Positive Place for Kids Program
\$ 6,528.50	CareLink/Meals on Wheels Program
\$ 2,004.68	River City Ministry/Prescription Drug Program
<u>\$105,970.94</u>	Planning and Administrative Costs
<i>\$604,894.65</i>	<i>TOTAL 2017 CDBG Expenditures</i>
\$ 3,762.14	HOME Program/Rehabilitation
\$ 6,900.00	HOME Program/CHDO New Construction
<u>\$ 27,110.17</u>	HOME Planning and Administrative Costs
<i>\$ 37,772.31</i>	<i>TOTAL 2017 HOME Expenditures</i>

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
CDBG ELIGIBLE AREA	52	82	INFRASTRUCTURE
CITYWIDE	48	18	OTHER

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

Planning and Administrative Costs listed above were not included in geographic distribution percentage calculations. Infrastructure improvement projects were targeted to CDBG eligible low to moderate income areas. Housing programs were offered citywide to income qualified residents. Public service activities were allocated to nonprofit organizations serving low to moderate income residents citywide. Access to FY2017 funding was not received until September of 2017. Public service activities will continue into 2018, causing “Citywide” category to reflect a lower than anticipated percentage of allocation for 2017.

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.

When possible, the City attempts to budget drainage funds per City Ward each year, which the Council Members may allocate to needed drainage improvement projects in their elected areas. These funds are often used to jointly fund CDBG public infrastructure activities. In 2017, Ward 2 drainage funds were committed to phase two of the Poe Street project, which is expected to be completed in 2018. Ward 3 City drainage funds were allocated in order to complete phase 1, Pike to Burks, on the 39th Street project. The nonprofit organizations that expended CDBG funding to offer public services in 2017 offset their costs through funding obtained from other sources, including other grants and fundraising efforts. The City met its 2017 HOME Match requirement with banked match funds from previous years. A City-owned vacant lot was donated to Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH), a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), for the construction of a new affordable housing unit, but its value cannot be considered as HOME Match until the sale of the property in 2018.

The Jericho Way Resource Center is located in Little Rock but is jointly funded by the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock. The center provides essential services for the homeless population including case management, job counseling, training, medical care, housing referrals, transportation, and meals.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	247,157
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	247,157
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	4,296
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	242,861

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

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
-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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 \$
0	0	0	0	0

Table 7 – Program Income

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	6,900	0	0	0	0	6,900
Number	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	6,900	0	6,900			
Number	1	0	1			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

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

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

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	0	10
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	2
Total	0	12

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	0	12
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	1	12

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

Estimate shown for production of new units will be realized in 2018. Funds were committed to project and work began in late 2017. Project will be completed and accomplishment reported in 2018.

Goals for rehabilitation were based on 2017 activities, which did not include a rehabilitation program. However, the actual number of 12 units shown above in tables 11 and 12 were completed with previous year funding.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Future annual action plan goals will continue to be estimated based on a review of previous year outcomes and anticipated funding allocations.

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	6	0
Low-income	4	1
Moderate-income	1	0
Total	11	1

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

In 2017, the CDBG Rehabilitation Program provided assistance to eleven (11) homeowners. HOME-funded rehabilitation was provided on one (1) home. The table above displays the number of households assisted at each income level. Owner-occupied households served met the definition of Affordable Housing as defined in HOME regulations at 24 CFR 92.254. Due to limited funding, the housing activities described in this section apply only to owner-occupied homes, with the exception that handicapped ramps were available to either owner-occupied or renter-occupied households. No renter-occupied households applied for ramps, therefore, no renter households were assisted with CDBG or HOME funds in 2017. No middle income or homeless persons were assisted.

In addition, agreements committing funds for construction of three affordable housing units were executed in 2017 with Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH). Work began on one house in late 2017 and completion and sale of all three units is anticipated in 2018.

Progress made in meeting projected objectives and goals is discussed above. Housing activities were application based, so it was not possible to precisely predict the income categories of the persons who would contact our office during the year for assistance. However, the programs were set up to aid any persons/households in the extremely low income, low income, and moderate income categories, or any persons/households at 80% or less of area median income. Other organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Jumpstart, and Ozark Mission Project played important roles in providing additional assistance towards maintaining affordable housing in the City.

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 River City Ministry Prescription Drug Assistance activity was funded through CDBG in 2016. River City operates a medical clinic and this activity allowed doctors at the clinic to provide prescription medicines to their homeless clients in 2017. Also, 2017 CDBG funding for outdoor exercise equipment was allocated to the Recovery Centers of Arkansas which assist homeless clients with substance abuse treatment.

The City of North Little Rock maintained its participation in the local Continuum of Care (CoC) through membership in Central Arkansas Team Care for the Homeless (CATCH). Regular meetings of the CATCH membership provided opportunities for discussion and consultation regarding coordination of outreach efforts among homeless service and housing providers. The CoC conducts annual point in time (PIT) counts and surveys to determine the homeless population in the area and to reach out to homeless individuals, including unsheltered persons, in order to better assess their needs. Donations were solicited for items provided to the homeless. Backpack bags containing essential items including coats, gloves, socks, toiletries, snacks, etc. were given to those that participated in the count. North Little Rock's Community Development Agency Director participated in the planning process and the actual January 2017 PIT count.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of North Little Rock joined forces with the City of Little Rock and shared the costs of purchasing and renovating a building that opened in 2013 as the Jericho Way Resource Center. The two cities continue to share annual operating costs. This day shelter for the homeless provides a centralized location where multiple services, such as case management, housing referrals, job counseling and training, and transportation, are coordinated with the goal of transitioning clients out of homelessness.

The City's CDBG strategic plan goals include providing financial assistance to homelessness-related public service activities, but funding is limited. The City's homelessness strategy goals continue to be supported by participation in CATCH membership meetings to collaborate and best coordinate with homeless service providers and agencies in addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of 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 Little Rock/Central Arkansas CoC continued communications with mainstream service providers to implement strategies for persons being discharged to homelessness. Collaboration among local service providers builds a network of coordinated services to help raise awareness of services and facilitate referrals. The CoC includes organizations which administer homelessness prevention programs.

Utilizing funding allocations from previous program years, CDBG activities helped low income families avoid becoming homeless by providing emergency repairs and housing rehabilitation of aging housing stock to enable families to remain in their homes.

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 continued to maintain communication and coordination with our partner agencies in the CATCH membership to most efficiently prioritize and cover all aspects of the Little Rock/Central Arkansas Continuum of Care's homelessness needs. Staff from the cities of North Little Rock, Little Rock, and Jacksonville served on the Rank and Review Committee for applications for annual CoC funding and focused on a combination of qualified programs that provide counseling and assistance as well as permanent housing for all categories of the homeless, including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth.

CATCH continues to streamline its Coordinated Entry Process in order to make quick and effective referrals for the high priority populations of chronically homeless, veterans, and families with children. The members of CATCH received Coordinated Entry System technical assistance. The entry process prioritizes permanent housing options for veterans and families in an attempt to bypass shelters when possible. The goal is to ensure that homeless individuals and families who need assistance are quickly connected to proper housing and services.

The NLRHA focuses on homeless veterans through the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, VA and our local veterans support organizations. Currently, NLRHA has 200 vouchers in its inventory that contribute toward reducing homelessness.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Established in 1939, the North Little Rock Housing Authority (NLRHA) is the oldest and second largest public housing authority (PHA) in Arkansas. NLRHA builds and maintains affordable housing, identifies supportive services, encourages self-sufficiency, and offers upward mobility opportunities to low income families, veterans, elderly and disabled persons. As the City's largest provider of low income housing in North Little Rock, the PHA manages 1,023 units consisting of four elderly and disabled sites and four family complexes with roughly 1,650 residents. The PHA maintains a 98% occupancy within its portfolio.

Multi-family public housing sites in North Little Rock are Eastgate Terrace, Hemlock Courts, Silver City Courts, and Windemere Hills. Elderly-disabled sites are Campus Towers, Heritage House, and SW Bowker. Willow House is a near elderly-elderly site.

Along with public housing, NLRHA owns 18 unsubsidized scattered site units, six of which were developed with Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) funds.

Public Housing Funding

Along with site reserves, the NLRHA receives an average of \$1.2 million each year from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that is used across all residential facilities to:

- maintain upkeep
- modernize public housing units
- implement energy saving measures
- address accessibility needs

Section 8

NLRHA also administers a Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV), commonly known as Section 8, which provides a subsidy for rental housing and homeownership to 1342 participants. The HCV wait list opens where senior and disabled applicants are priority. The PHA also takes part in HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) where they direct 200 housing vouchers and collaborate with support agencies to ensure that veterans receive wraparound services.

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

Resident councils are in place at all public housing family sites and three senior sites. HUD has allocated Resident Participation Funds for each location to assist the Housing Authority in training residents for participation in the council, to help promote activities for the betterment of the developments. In addition to the site-based resident councils, the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) was created as a housing-authority-wide resident council. The RAB consists of members with each site fairly represented. The RAB's purpose in conjunction with the resident council is to:

- Respond to resident concerns
- Improve quality of life
- Represent resident interests
- Involve residents in creating a positive living environment

Also, the RAB works in partnership with the Housing Authority to determine activities and the distribution of funds. Members are comprised of representatives from each site. The Board's additional roles includes:

Resident Meetings

Over the next five years, the NLRHA will develop and rehabilitate its entire portfolio through HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration Program. The PHA has, and will, continue to hold a series of informational sessions with residents to keep them updated and garner their input on the planning process for this extensive undertaking.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program – ROSS Grant

The North Little Rock Housing Authority has administered the Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency program since 2006. The purpose of the program is to link participating families to the supportive services they need to achieve self-sufficiency and no longer need public assistance. The Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program provides case management and supportive services to residents of our family sites. Participants sign a 5-year contract to participate in the program and an Individual Training and Service plan is developed with each participant upon enrollment. Escrow accounts are established when a participant's earned income increases. Instead of paying higher rent because of the increased income, the "extra rent" goes into an escrow account.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The North Little Rock Housing Authority is not a troubled agency.

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)

No known negative effects of public policies on affordable housing were identified. Barriers exist that are not public policy related, including declining areas due to aging housing stock and unstable neighborhoods, the need for improved management of properties by homeowners and landlords, and the limited land available within the City limits to develop new affordable housing.

The City has taken a proactive role in boarding and securing vacant and derelict buildings in order to minimize their negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood as well as to protect them for future rehabilitation and reuse. The City has been aggressive in condemning and demolishing houses that are an eyesore and potential safety hazard to the community. North Little Rock employs a full time Code Officer to address rental property issues.

The City continued to support its CHDO, Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH), by providing increased funding towards its efforts to increase the number of new affordable housing units.

HUD has given the nation's Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) a powerful tool through the Rental Assistance Demonstration program (RAD) to address barriers to affordable housing. The North Little Rock Housing Authority anticipates that RAD will allow the PHA to access funding through private and public dollars. With a projected start date in 2018, the PHA looks to begin transforming and modernizing its entire housing portfolio. The PHA envisions the project to be a combination of new construction and substantial rehabilitation with features and upgrades that focus on new systems, green/energy-efficiency, wellness, and accessibility.

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

A major obstacle to meeting the needs of the underserved is a lack of adequate funding and resources. Reductions in funding at all levels of government, including the City's CDBG and HOME grant allocations, as well as declining donations to the nonprofit sector in recent years, have severely restricted the ability of the City and its subrecipients to aggressively respond to underserved needs.

Feedback received through citizen participation and input from our partner organizations was carefully analyzed. The City maintained its strong relationships with our nonprofit and housing providers in order to coordinate efforts. The Community Development Agency continued to support nonprofit human service agencies. Limited resources were targeted for the greatest impact toward neighborhood revitalization.

Current directories of available resources were updated in order to best direct those in need. Citizens and neighborhood groups were informed of services provided by other City departments, such as our Electric Department's free Energy Evaluation, as well as beneficial programs conducted by other organizations, including the Ozark Mission Project, Jumpstart, and the William F. Laman Public Library.

The NLR Housing Authority continued to meet the needs of its residents by providing affordable housing opportunities to those of modest means and supportive services through partnerships with local nonprofits and government agencies.

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

The North Little Rock Community Development Agency's Housing Rehabilitation programs ensured that lead-based paint hazard reduction regulations were followed on housing rehabilitation projects undertaken with federal funds.

The NLRHA complies with HUD's Notice PIH 2017-13 in regard to the minimization and abatement of lead-based paint hazards and elevated blood lead levels of children under age six (6). Where lead paint hazards exist and the NLRHA is made aware of the potential hazards and a confirmed case from a medical professional, within five (5) days, the HA will notify the local field office, Office of Lead Hazard Control (OLHCHH) and Arkansas Health Department's Lead-Based program of the EBLL case. NLRHA will conduct environmental investigation within 15 calendar days of receiving notification. NLRHA contracts with a certified company to abate or remove lead-paint hazards. NLRHA completes the lead-hazard reduction within 30 calendar days of receiving the environmental investigation report.

NLRHA is currently reviewing the recent grant opportunity announced by HUD that would identify and eliminate lead-based paint hazards. Furthermore, the PHA will address potential hazards as it prepares for redevelopment and substantial rehabilitation through RAD and Section 18.

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

Recognizing that many factors contributing to poverty lie outside of local control, the City's overarching goal for its CDBG and HOME programs is nonetheless to assist persons living in poverty, and most especially those groups that are disproportionately affected.

To fight poverty over the long term, the City worked to stabilize neighborhoods by ensuring that the number of problem properties were reduced, thereby protecting the value of neighborhood property. With the limited funding available, the CDBG-funded Housing and Emergency Rehabilitation program helped homeowners maintain their homes by funding needed repair work so their limited household income could be utilized for day-to-day needs. Support for Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat's efforts helped less affluent citizens purchase affordable new homes. Low income and first time homebuyers who were attempting to rise out of poverty by building equity through homeownership were directed to homebuyer counseling/down payment/subsidy assistance programs.

CDBG-funded public service activities were geared towards poverty level and low income youth, elderly, homeless, veteran, and those in need of substance abuse treatment. North Little Rock Boys and Girls Club's after school and summer programs provided essential child care so parents could remain at their jobs. CareLink's Meals on Wheels program delivered meals to the homes of low income elderly citizens. River City Ministry's prescription drug assistance program aided its medical clinics in providing needed health care services to the homeless. Recovery Centers of Arkansas received funding for additional outdoor exercise equipment to encourage healthy living for those receiving treatment.

The Cities of North Little Rock and Little Rock assisted in funding the Jericho Way Resource Center for the homeless. This day shelter, while operated in Little Rock, served both cities and provided essential services including meals, clothing, showers, transportation, case management, job counseling, internet access, and housing assistance to the homeless.

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

Cooperation between the City's Community Development Agency and our partners has a long track record of success. The City continues its strategy of working closely with the North Little Rock Housing Authority, local nonprofit service and affordable housing providers, and private industry to assist in coordination of services and activities offered to address the needs of the community and to make the best use of the limited funding available. The City of North Little Rock continues its active partnership in the Central Arkansas Team for Homeless Care (CATCH), attending regular meetings to facilitate communication and coordination among key service providers.

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

The NLR Housing Authority continues work with a committee that is meant to enhance coordination between the agency and external agencies. Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) clients are regularly referred to the agencies represented on that committee, and other agencies for fair housing assistance, home inspections, credit counseling services, required first-time homebuyer training, Money Smart Classes, Credit Report Request Services, Homestead Tax Services, Energy Assistance, Federal Home Loan Bank down payment assistance, Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) down-payment assistance, and Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC) weatherization assistance.

NLRHA seeks to build and expand on their current resident support services through the formation of a Resident Empowerment and Second-Generation Outcomes Initiative geared toward residents ages 18-49. This is a demographic of persons that if given the right tools are better positioned to move from public assistance. The NLRHA has identified health, workforce training and education, early childhood education, financial management, legal support and disability outreach as its areas of focus in its goal to change the trajectory for the betterment of its residents.

In 2014, the PHA formed Arkansas Housing and Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit affiliate. AHCDC creates initiatives focused on economic self-sufficiency and enhancing access to supportive services for low income residents of North Little Rock, specifically those who reside in NLRHA sites. Over the past year, the nonprofit and the PHA have identified and currently collaborate with organizations that are assisting with the implementation of the resident engagement goals. Entities include Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Arkansas Workforce Service Centers, UALR, HIPPY USA, Clinton Foundation, Humana, Arkansas Hunger Alliance, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Arkansas Grade Level Reading, and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

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

Housing affordability and disparate impacts of mortgage lending were identified as impediments to minorities and lower income persons. Many households are cost burdened and severely cost burdened. Affordable housing for these residents is often limited to older neighborhoods in poor condition. The City addressed these issues by utilizing previous year funding to administer housing rehabilitation programs to assist the remaining homeowners on our waiting list with needed home repairs. Ramps were built for disabled persons to allow them to maintain accessibility. PCNAH will be able to make an even greater impact by enabling low income homeowners to purchase newly constructed homes with affordable monthly payments due to 0% financing provided by Habitat for Humanity. PCNAH/Habitat affirmatively market their programs to ensure outreach to minorities, and assist only low income persons. PCNAH and Habitat aid residents in utilizing subsidy programs. The City maintains a list of private lenders providing affordable housing financing. Neighborhood “clean-up” campaigns by organizations such as Habitat, Jumpstart, and the Ozark Mission Project offered assistance. The City’s Fit2Live department continued its work with community gardens.

Socio-economic impediments were noted with more jobs paying “living wages” needed. Our Mayor is constantly working to encourage private investment in the City, in an effort to add jobs at all levels. The Mayor’s administration assists businesses by facilitating the formation of Business Associations. The City supports the Arkansas Innovation Hub, an organization which focuses on entrepreneurship, mentorship and job creation to build and strengthen our workforce. The NLR Chamber of Commerce, NLR Economic Development Corporation, and U of A-Pulaski Tech Business and Industry Center partnered to offer free soft skills courses focusing on job skills development. NLR’s Laman Library offered a Life Skills workshop to encourage financial literacy.

An impediment noted was the need for greater public awareness of Fair Housing. The City supported outreach and education through posters and brochures and the direction of complaints to the appropriate HUD offices. Subrecipients of grant funding were provided outreach materials. Assistance was offered on all Citizen Participation activities to non-English speaking citizens.

Part of NLRHA's mission is to ensure that applicants and residents are met with no barriers as it relates to affordable housing within its system and to provide various opportunities that will assist them with self-reliance and upward mobility. Some of the services that NLRHA includes are financial literacy training, resident outreach days with presentations from different industries, collaborations with the school district, mentoring opportunities for youth, health and wellness, job training and GED outreach from AR Workforce Services, and digital outreach as a ConnectHome Community. NLRHA is currently being considered for the newly launched Envision Center program.

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 of North Little Rock monitors its CDBG and HOME programs to ensure compliance with HUD regulations and attainment of Consolidated Plan goals. Annual Action Plan activities are set up and progress and accomplishments are tracked in HUD's Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). IDIS reports are run on a monthly basis and reconciled against City Finance department records to facilitate ongoing review of activity expenditures.

During the program year, the City conducts desk monitoring and schedules on-site monitoring visits with subrecipients. This monitoring reviews program performance, financial performance, and regulatory performance. Subrecipients are required to submit information regarding the beneficiaries they have served.

The City of North Little Rock has a long-standing policy of assuring that affirmative marketing practices are undertaken, and those policies continue. Participation of minority, disadvantaged, and woman owned business enterprises is encouraged in the City's procurement process. From October, 2016 to September, 2017, the Community Development Agency contracted eighteen (18) times with minority owned contractors and nine (9) times with woman owned contractors, for a total of thirty (27) times with minority and/or woman owned businesses. These numbers indicate minority and/or woman owned contractors were awarded more than 85% of the jobs performed during this period of time.

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 of North Little Rock considers citizen participation a priority and continues to encourage input from our residents, particularly those who reside in low to moderate income areas. Notice of a 15-day public comment period on the CAPER was published on March 1, 2018. The notice was advertised in the local newspaper, and included the locations at which the CAPER could be reviewed. Paper copies of the CAPER were made available for public review at the Community Development Agency and at North Little Rock City Hall. The CAPER was also posted on the City's website. The Notice of Public Comment Period on the CAPER was mailed to the North Little Rock Housing Authority as well as local nonprofit agencies that provide services to low to moderate income households and individuals, including minorities, disabled, and non-English speaking persons, in an effort to provide notice and an opportunity for comment to all citizens.

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.

The City is satisfied with the performance and accomplishments of its Program Year 2017 CDBG activities. Access to 2017 funding in IDIS was not made available to the City until September of 2017. Public service activity start dates were delayed, and total anticipated accomplishments were not realized in 2017. However, activities will carry over to 2018 and additional beneficiaries will be reported for the 2018 program year. At this time, the City's 2018 funding amounts are unknown. The uncertainty of the timing of receipt of annual grant funds and the possibility of grant cuts are impediments to effective planning and estimation of goal indicators.

The City may consider adjusting Plan objectives based on demand for services and available funding in order to maximize benefits with limited funding. An example of this was the Substantial Amendment that was submitted for the City's 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan. The CDBG homeowner rehabilitation program was discontinued in 2017, when the balance of 2016 funding allocated for this activity was expended. Several factors contributed to this decision. The demand for the service lessened even with efforts to expand community outreach and awareness of the program. Over the past few years, while the costs of material and labor for rehabilitation work and the staff costs to administer the program increased, the overall grant funding received by the City decreased. The City was approaching the end of its rehabilitation waiting list and was able to assist all eligible applicants on the list before ending the program.

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

No

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

CR-50 - HOME 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 §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.

No rental housing was assisted under the City's HOME program.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 92.351(b)

The HOME program requires that affirmative marketing steps are taken by participating jurisdictions when using HOME funds for rental and homebuyer projects. Affirmative marketing steps consist of actions to provide information and attract eligible persons in the housing market to available housing without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, familial status or disability.

Subrecipient agreements require a nonprofit to submit an affirmative marketing plan. The City reviews affirmative marketing practices and activities.

As indicated above, no rental housing was assisted, but the City's 2017 HOME program did allocate funding for homebuyer activities to its Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), which is Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH). Coverage of PCNAH/Habitat activities was carried in newspapers, television spots, radio coverage, and other media opportunities. PCNAH/Habitat of Humanity made presentations to community groups, civic and business groups and city/county officials to emphasize the need for low income housing. Presentations included information on PCNAH's commitment to fair housing practices and inclusiveness in all operations. Volunteers are actively involved in PCNAH/Habitat and are solicited from all walks of life through churches, business, civic groups, women's organizations, retirees, etc. PCNAH/Habitat families are diverse, representing many ethnicities, employment backgrounds, and family structures.

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

No program income was received from HOME projects.

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

Priority needs of adding affordable housing units for low and moderate income households and increasing homeownership in neighborhoods to strengthen and revitalize areas were identified in the City's Consolidated Plan. Funding for new unit production was allocated through the use of HOME funds designated for construction of affordable homes by PCNAH. Funding agreements were executed with PCNAH in late 2017, committing HOME funds for the construction of three new affordable homes in North Little Rock, to be completed and sold to qualified homebuyers in 2018. Previous year HOME allocations were also used to fund one homeowner rehabilitation activity to improve aged and deteriorated housing for a low income resident.