

City of North Little Rock



Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

FY2020 Program Year



Community Development Agency
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North Little Rock, AR 72114
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CAPER

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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 FY2020, the City assisted low to moderate income persons and families through a variety of public facilities, affordable housing, and public service activities funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and 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, funds have been allocated annually since 2016 to a street, drainage, and sidewalk improvements project on Marion Street from 15th to 18th Streets. Work on Phase I (16th to 18th) of the multi-year project was completed in 2019. FY2019 funds were committed towards Phase 2 (15th to 16th) and Phase 2 was completed in 2020. FY2019 funds were committed and preliminary work began on the Ward 2 project on 9th Street from G to I Streets in 2019. Work was completed on this project with an anticipated completion date in 2021. In Ward 3, preliminary work began and FY2019 funds were obligated for a project on 50th Street from Camp Robinson Road to Allen Street and work was completed in 2020.

Another priority need established was affordable housing through rehabilitation or development. The City encouraged new development of affordable housing by allocating 90% of its FY2020 HOME funds for use by certified Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) through the commitment of prior year HOME funds. One new affordable home was built and sold in 2020. Construction was completed on a second new home in 2019, and was sold to a low income homebuyer in mid-2020.

Public services were also identified as a priority need. Central Arkansas Area Agency on Aging (dba CareLink) was allocated FY2020 CDBG funding to deliver Meals on Wheels to elderly citizens. The North Little Rock Boys and Girls Club Great Futures program was awarded FY2020 CDBG funds to provide after school and/or summer programs for youth at two locations in North Little Rock.

This activity is not included in the Table 1 Accomplishments – Program year. Through The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-136) funding for grants to prevent, prepare for or respond to Coronavirus, the City amended it's 2019 Action Plan to provide economic opportunities and relief to microenterprises and small businesses impacted by economic hardships due to the pandemic. Under a goal of Economic Development, the City estimated 20 businesses would be served and 10 jobs retained overall by a Small Business Forgivable Loan program. The City awarded \$38,250 in grants to four eligible low to moderate income microenterprises and one small business. For 2020, 1 microenterprise business was assisted with \$10,000. The four other businesses assisted will complete activities to be

reported in 2021.

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	5	100.00%	1	1	100.00%
Affordable Housing - Rehabilitation / Development	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	7	7	100.00%	2	2	100.00%
Affordable Housing - Rehabilitation / Development	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	50	100.00%			
Public Improvements - Infrastructure / Facilities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	8395	12640	150.57%	4040	4245	105.07%

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	4185	104.63%	545	428	78.53%
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted		0		0	0	

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, in 2020, CDBG funds in the amount of \$534,000 were equally divided and allocated for one street and drainage improvement project in a low to moderate income area in each of Wards 1, 2 and 3. Due to the high cost of street improvements, Ward 2 and 3 required multi-year funding. Construction on all three drainage improvement projects are scheduled to be completed in 2021.

To address the identified priority need of Affordable Housing – Rehabilitation of Development, 2020 HOME Program funds in the amount of \$282,751 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. Utilizing previous year HOME funds, Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat, a CHDO, constructed and sold one home in 2020. A home that was built and completed in 2019 was sold to a low income homebuyer in 2020.

The priority need for public services for low to moderate income persons was addressed with the 2020 CDBG allocation of \$67,000 to nonprofit organizations which provide essential services focused on youth, the elderly and the homeless.

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	99	0
Black or African American	286	2
Asian	4	0
American Indian or American Native	2	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
Total	391	2
Hispanic	12	0
Not Hispanic	379	2

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

Narrative

The table above displays the race and ethnicity of persons assisted with CDBG funded public service activities and HOME funded affordable housing activities. Beneficiaries of public infrastructure street and drainage projects are not tracked by race, and are therefore not included in the numbers shown. Out of the person assisted with CDBG funds there were 132 female head of households assisted. Thirty-seven of the persons assisted identified as being disabled. One of the low to moderate income persons assisted through the HOME funded affordable housing activities uses a wheelchair for mobility purposes, freedom and independence. Some race categories are not listed in the above table. CDBG activities also benefited 8 American Indian/Black American persons, 3 American Indian/White American persons, 1 Asian/White person, 13 Black/White persons and 12 Other Multi-Racial persons that were not Hispanic.

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	1,672,647	804,844
HOME	public - federal	951,487	206,386

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The \$1,672,647 available amount of CDBG funding shown in Table 3 includes the City's FY2020 allocation of \$690,717, and 981,930 from previous year grant allocations. The \$951,487 available amount of HOME funding shown in in Table 3 reflects the City's FY2020 allocation of \$314,167 plus \$637,320 from previous year grant allocations, Program year 2020 Investments/Expenditures are listed below:

\$169,446.96 Ward 1 - Marion St. from 15th to 16th Street Drainage/Sidewalk Improvements

\$169,887.34 Ward 2 - 9th St. from G to I Street Drainage/Sidewalk Improvements

\$316,767.43 Ward 3 - 50th St. from Camp Robinson Road to Allen Street Drainage/Sidewalk Improvements

\$19,901.86 Boys and Girls Club/Great Futures for Kids' Program

\$35,995.95 Care Link/Meals on Wheels Program

\$505.66 River City Ministries/Over-the-Counter-Prescription Medications

\$92,339.28 Planning and Administrative Costs

\$804,844.48 TOTAL 2020 CDBG Expenditures

\$195,261.00 HOME Program/CHDO Development New Construction

\$11,125.37 HOME Planning and Administrative Costs

\$206,386.37 TOTAL 2020 HOME Expenditures

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
CDBG ELIGIBLE AREA	60	48	INFRASTRUCTURE
CITYWIDE	40	22	OTHER

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

Planning and Administrative Costs listed above are not included in geographic distribution percentage calculations. Infrastructure improvement projects were targeted to CDBG eligible low to moderate income areas. On Multi-year projects, only funds expended in 2020 were used in calculation above actual allocation percentages. Expended amounts could include previous year allocations. Housing programs were offered citywide to income qualified residents. Public service activities were allocated to nonprofit organizations serving low to moderate income residents citywide.

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 local funds per City Ward each year to be used for street and drainage improvement projects. These local funds were used to jointly fund CDBG public infrastructure activities. Ward 1 drainage funds were committed to phase two of the Marion Street project from 15th to 16th Streets. Ward 2 drainage funds were committed to 9th Street from G to I Streets. Ward 3 drainage funds were committed to 50th Street from Camp Robinson Road to Allen Street. The nonprofit organizations that expended CDBG funding to offer public services in 2020 offset their costs through funding obtained from other sources, including other grants and fundraising efforts. HOME matching requirements for the federal FY2020 period were met with donations of vacant lots (one from the City), appliances and other construction materials to Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH), a Community Housing Development (CHDO), for the development of new affordable housing. Match requirements were also met with banked match funds from previous years. Under the official memorandum dated April 10, 2020 Availability of Waivers and Suspensions of the HOME Program Requirements, and upon determination of good cause, in accordance with 24 CFR 5.110, HUD waived the regulatory provision subject to statutory limitations for participating jurisdictions by a major disaster declaration under Title IV of the Stafford Act as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thereby reducing the matching requirement for participating jurisdictions by 100% to 0.0% for FY2020 and FY2021. 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, assistance with obtaining identity documents, training, medical care, housing referrals, transportation, and meals.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	208,183
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	12,835
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	221,018
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	0
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	221,018

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
599 appliances	06/05/2020	0	0	0	0	1,428	0	1,428
599 dishwasher	06/05/2020	0	0	0	0	407	0	407
599 lot	06/05/2020	0	0	11,000	0	0	0	11,000

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	131,800	0	0	0	0	131,800
Number	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sub-Contracts						
Number	9	0	0	1	3	5
Dollar Amount	51,731	0	0	3,997	17,159	30,575
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	131,800	0	131,800			
Number	1	0	1			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	9	0	9			
Dollar Amount	51,731	0	51,731			

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

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	0	2
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	0	2

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

This year's goal for number of households supported through the production of new units was two. One unit was constructed and sold in 2020. A second unit was constructed in 2019, but was sold in 2020.

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	0	0
Low-income	0	2
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	0	2

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

No renter-occupied households were assisted with CDBG or HOME housing activity funds in 2020. While CDBG or HOME funded activities did not address renter households, the North Little Rock Housing Authority (NLRHA) provided resources through public housing. Section 8 vouchers, and VASH vouchers to address worst case needs. Owner household assisted met the Section 215 definition of affordable housing. No middle income or homeless persons were assisted with housing activities. One of the low to moderate income persons assisted through the HOME funded affordable housing activities uses a wheelchair for mobility purposes, freedom and independence. Residents with issues due to disabilities were referred to agencies who could assist them with needs such as wheelchair ramps.

Although this question ask for number of persons served, the accompanying table asks for number of households served. Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH) completed construction and sold one new affordable unit to a one person, low income household 2020. Construction was completed on a second new home in 2019, but the home was sold in 2020 to a one person, low income household.

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 person who would contact our office or PCNAH offices during the year for assistance. However, programs were available to aid persons/households in these income categories. Other organization such as Habitat for Humanity and Ozark Mission Project played important roles in providing additional assistance towards maintaining affordable housing in the City. Callers were referred to ICAN for installation of wheelchair ramps and Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC) for winterization and utility assistance.

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

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

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

The City 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). North Little Rock's Community Development Agency Director attended regular meetings of the CATCH membership which provided opportunities for discussion and consultation regarding coordination of outreach efforts amount homeless service and housing providers. An annual count of sheltered homeless is conducted and a bi-annual count of unsheltered homeless is conducted by CATCH.

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 shard 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, training, and transportation, are coordinated with the goal of transiting 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 to 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 has built a network of coordinated series to help raise awareness of services and facilitate referrals. The CoC includes organizations which administer homelessness prevention programs.

The City's CHDO, Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance of Habitat, (PCNAH) has worked with homeless service providers in providing opportunities for persons in transition out of homelessness.

The City allocated local funding to the Ozark Mission Group, a nonprofit organization who provides needed repairs to homes in the North Little Rock area.

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 more 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 work towards streamlining 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. Goals include prioritizing permanent housing options in an attempt to bypass shelters when possible. Intake and entry procedures attempt to ensure that homeless individuals and families who need assistance are quickly connected to proper housing and services.

The NLRHA serves homeless veterans through the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program. Currently, NLRHA has 200 vouchers in its inventory that contribute toward reducing the homeless veteran population.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

NLRHA builds and maintains affordable housing. In addition to housing, the PHA identifies and coordinates supportive services, encourages self-sufficiency, and offsets upward mobility opportunities to low-income families, veterans, elderly and disabled person.

Following years of planning, the authority was able to enter into private/public, nonprofit partnerships to obtain funding for modernization of the senior/disabled complexes. In 2019, NLRHA began the transformation of its public housing portfolio to improve the quality of housing. The modernization is addressing years of deferred maintenance and updates due to a lack of funding.

NLRHA will continue modernizing the portfolio through participation in the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program and the HUD Section 19 process. While undertaking the modernization process, some tenants are allowed an option of utilizing tenant protection vouchers to relocate to other communities.

Additional housing in the NLRHA portfolio includes 18 unsubsidized scattered site units, 6 of which were developed with Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) funds.

Public Housing and Housing Choice Boucher Program Funding

In FY2019, NLRHA received about \$1.3 M in subsidies for rental assistance and about \$1.9 M for modernization and capital upkeep.

Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)

NLRHA administers a Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV), commonly known as Section 8, which provides subsidies for rental housing and homeownership. The regular voucher program serves 1392 participants. NLRHA is a partner with the Veterans Administration (VA) in administering 200 vouchers for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program. The VA collaborates with support agencies to ensure that the veterans receive wraparound services.

With the substantial rehabilitation and redevelopment taking place under Section 18 and the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) programs, 453 tenant protection vouchers were obtained for the elderly/disabled residents. That increased the total inventory of vouchers to 1845 as of January 2020. As a result of the RAD and Section 18 modernizations, all of the public housing units will eventually convert and the residents will receive their housing assistance through project-based vouchers.

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

Though the NLRHA is converting its portfolio from public housing to a private/nonprofit ownership structure, tenant representation (i.e. resident councils) remain important and viable. HUD requires that the properties continue to acknowledge and set aside funds at each location to assist in training residents for participation in the councils and to help promote activities for the betterment of the developments. In addition to the site-based resident councils, the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) served as a housing-authority-wide resident council. As there is low participation from residents of "family sites," the NLRHA makes certain to present all substantial issues to the RAB to facilitate some resident input on their behalf. 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

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

The NLRHA has administered a Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program since 2006. The purpose of the program is to link participating families to the supportive services they need to achieve self-sufficiency and to move the family to a point of no longer needing public assistance. The Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program provides case management and coordination of supportive services for residents of family sites and the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Participants sign a 5 year contract. An individual Training and Services plan is developed in cooperation 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.

For FSS participants who enrolled through 2019 and identified homeownership as a goal, the housing authority continues to work with them to become eligible to purchase a home using their voucher. Some of the guidance that FSS participants receive include budgeting and saving, credit counseling services, and the step-by-step process of purchasing a home. Participants are also made aware of state and national down payment assistance programs. For FSS participants enrolled after 2019, the program remains available.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The NLRHA 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 limited land available within the City limits to develop new affordable housing.

The City's Code Enforcement Department 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 funding towards its efforts to increase the number of new affordable housing units.

As a result of Governor Asa Hutchinson's directive to state agencies to partner directly with faith based organizations, the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) awarded Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas both NSP and HOME funding and began construction on 9 new houses in North Little Rock in 2020. Seven houses were completed and sold to low to moderate income household in 2020. One house was sold in 2021 to a low to moderate income household and 1 home is still under construction and will be sold to a low to moderate income household. The City of North Little Rock and the North Little Rock School District contributed with property donation as the City Council also supported the project with additional City funding.

With the new construction and rehabilitation of 8 public housing properties, NLRHA has made substantial progress in the modernization of 6 of its 8 public housing properties in 2020. Modernization of 2 remaining housing properties is schedule to begin in 2021-2022 and the outcomes will be reported in those years. The NLRHA is working to identify additional opportunities to widen its engagement in numerous revitalization efforts in the City. Specific areas of interest are in NLR neighborhoods where the housing authority owns properties, some of which have not experienced investment in decades.

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, 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 Evaluations. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, beginning in March 2020, NLR Electric suspended non-pay disconnects. This allowed customers to access electricity during the uncertainty of the pandemic. Prior to resuming non-pay disconnections, NLR Electric mailed each customer who was not current on their electric bill to make them aware that the City would start non-pay disconnects in October 2020 and that there was a COVID Payment Arrangement available. Non-pay disconnects resumed October 6, 2020. Also, NLR Electric authorized Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC) to administer and provide for the delivery of Home Energy Assistance "financial aid" to qualified low income electric customers in addition to State funding. Other beneficial programs conducted by other organizations were the Ozark Mission Project and Jumpstart.

The NLRHA 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. As scheduled in 2020, NLR did not receive funding to implement the job and learning center that would provide support services and resources that target 18-40 year old public housing and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) holders. However, the NLRHA still has plans to collaborate with private industry to access Section 3 opportunities for businesses and qualified residents, and will research opportunities to serve budding entrepreneurs, women in non-traditional jobs, and apprenticeships.

Hemlock Courts was the last remaining public housing property in 2020. Built in the 1960s, Hemlock Courts, a 106 unit family site, is located in the East Broadway district. This geography is part residential, commercial and industrial. Residents have indicated they do not feel included in new and rehabilitative activities that are occurring in other neighborhoods and are hungry for "new things." The current location of development presents challenges to redeveloping at that location. An option to redevelopment is voluntary conversion wherein the current resident can be offered tenant based vouchers to relocate to housing in communities of their choice.

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

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 6. Where lead-based paint hazards exist and the NLRHA is made aware of the potential hazards and receives a confirmed case

from a medical professional, within 5 days, the NLRHA will notify the local field office, Office of Lead Hazard Control (OLHCHH) and the Arkansas Health Department's Lead-Based program of the EBL case. NLRHA will conduct an environmental investigation within 15 calendar days of receiving notification. NLRHA contracts with a certified company to abate or remove lead-paint hazards. NLRHA will complete the lead-hazard reduction within 30 calendar days of receiving the environmental investigation report. Furthermore, the FHA 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 has worked to stabilize neighborhoods by ensuring that the number of problem properties were reduced, thereby protecting the value of neighborhood property. Support for Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat's efforts has 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, and homeless populations. North Little Rock Boys and Girls Club's after school and summer programs provided essential child care for working parents. CareLink's Meals on Wheels program delivered meals to homebound elderly citizens. CATCH members assembled survival bags that were given to homeless participants of the Point in Time Count.

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, serves 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 its 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 public services 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 Care for the Homeless (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)

NLRHA continues to build and expand relationships with private and nonprofit agencies to develop housing and create resident services. Supporting this work is the housing authority's nonprofit affiliate, Arkansas Housing and Community Development Corporation (AHCDC). In the last couple of years, seniors and disabled residents benefited from a holistic health initiative with heart disease, diabetes, nutrition, and mental health counselling at the core. These services were offered in partnership with health foundations, universities, and corporations. At this family site, mental health, workforce training and education, early childhood education, financial management and digital inclusion have been identified as the areas of social service needs. Partnerships continue to include private developers, national foundations, nonprofits, universities, corporations, state agencies and workforce services.

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

Affordable housing and disparate impacts of mortgage lending were identified as impediments. Many households are cost burdened/severely cost burdened. Affordable housing for these residents is often limited to older neighborhoods in poor condition. PCNAH will be able to make a positive impact by offering newly constructed, energy efficient homes with affordable monthly payments due to its 0% financing program. PCNAH affirmatively markets its program to ensure outreach to minorities and low income persons.

The City had a major campaign to make all North Little Rock residents aware of the 2020 Census. Efforts included targeted outreach to the Hispanic community with signage, and YouTube videos.

Socio-economic impediments were noted with more jobs paying "living wages" needed. In an effort to add jobs, the City's Mayor and Economic Development staff worked to encourage private investment. The City's downtown is flourishing with the completion of the Argenta Plaza. Construction of new apartment complexes, business and restaurants brought jobs to the area. In 2020, over 1,100 jobs were created with the opening of or expansion of Amazon, Old Dominion Freight Line, Today's Power, CARTI, Baptist Health, Kopper's Inc., Oakley Trucking and Safe Foods.

An impediment noted was the need for greater public awareness of Fair Housing. Due to COVID-19, Laman Library was not able to provide its normal skills, legal and technology workshops after March 16, 2021. The City supported education through posters, brochures and the direction of complaints to the appropriate HUD offices. Subrecipients of grant funding were provided with outreach materials. Citizen participation notices offered special accommodations upon request and encouraged participation by non-English speaking persons. Citizen participation notices were mailed to the Butterfly Community/Seis Puentes Hispanic outreach Center located in the Levy neighborhood, which includes a

number of residents of Hispanic ethnicity. City Public Notices are partially published in Spanish, with instructions to request a full translation if needed. This organization supports and empowers the Hispanic/Latino community through education and information. The City, with funding from its General Fund, continued to support Butterfly Community's youth development programs. The City is currently working on a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan.

NLRHA actions included:

1. Furthering its mission of providing safe, secure and decent housing to its residents, NLRHA underwent and completed a rebranding process. The new brand will better represents the housing authority's mission today. The new brand will be rolled out in the summer of 2021.
2. Utilizing HUD's RAD and Section 18 development programs, NLRHA had completed 6 of its 8 public housing projects. The modernization will help reduce the \$90 million backlog of deferred maintenance and modernization needs of its properties. The redevelopment lessens the risk of subpar housing and provides residents with a higher quality of life for residents in the impacted low-income communities.
3. To ensure that NLRHA staff remains informed about and adheres to policies related to fair housing practices, NLRHA continues to commit to ongoing training, continuing to foster current partnerships and cultivating new ones that champion the need for affordable homes in economically developing and existing neighborhoods that speak to potential and current gentrification.
4. In 2020, all NLRHA regular staff participated in at least one day of Fair Housing Training. New staff is scheduled for training within 180 days of onboarding.

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, 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. Subrecipient agreements require submission of affirmative marketing plans. City records are maintained and subrecipient data is collected on the dollar amount and number of contracts executed with minority and woman business enterprises, so that reporting is reflected in section CR-15 of this CAPER can be generated and reviewed.

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 April 14, 2021. The notice was advertised in the local newspaper, and included the locations where the CAPER could be reviewed. Paper copies of the CAPER were made available for public review at the Community Development Agency and at the 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 NLRHA 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.

The City of North Little Rock did not receive any citizen comments on the 2020 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) during the 15-day comment period that ended April 29, 2021. There were no request, inquiries or phone calls received concerning the 2020 CAPER, it's contents, preparation or submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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 2020 CDBG activities. 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.

The City does not have an existing Section 108 guaranteed loan.

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 previously, no rental housing was assisted, but the City's 2020 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 for Humanity activities was carried in newspapers, television spots, and other media opportunities. PCNAH/Habitat for 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 for Humanity and are solicited from all walks of life through churches, businesses, civic groups, women's organizations, retirees, etc. PCNAH/Habitat for Humanity 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 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 development of affordable homes by a CHDO. PCNAH built and sold one new home with 0% interest financing in North Little Rock in 2020. In addition, one new home that was built in 2019 and a certificate of occupancy was received. The house was sold to an eligible buyer in early 2020.