

CITY OF BURLINGTON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Program Year 2023

City of Burlington

North Carolina



City of Burlington

Planning and Community Development Department

P. O. Box 1358

425 S. Lexington Avenue

Burlington, NC 27216-1358

Draft 2023 Annual Action Plan

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Burlington is a federal entitlement community under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. As a HUD entitlement community, the City is required to submit the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan as the second action plan of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

The One-Year Action Plan outlines the City's planned projects and activities to address identified priority needs and specific objectives during the program year 2023 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). These activities and projects will also address the City's overall priorities identified in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. All priorities, objectives, and activities are planned for a one-year period ending on June 30, 2024, unless otherwise indicated in the plan.

The City will direct Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to projects within its corporate limits. Proposed allocations of CDBG funds are to citywide housing rehabilitation projects, neighborhood revitalization or development projects in the City's low and moderate-income areas, job training, and development projects citywide for eligible populations.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

Burlington is committed to allocating funds that serve the needs of low to moderate-income (LMI) residents. Households with incomes less than 50% of the area median income (AMI), particularly those with extremely low incomes (less than 30% of AMI), are particular priorities. The City has also identified special needs individuals as among those who face the greatest challenges and who should receive high priority in the expenditure of federal funds, including low-income families, the homeless, persons threatened with homelessness, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

The priorities identified in the Annual Action Plan were developed by:

- Weighting the severity of the need among all groups
- Analyzing current, social, housing, and economic conditions

- Analyzing the relative needs to low and moderate-income families
- Assessing the resources likely to be available
- Evaluating input from requests for proposals, public hearings, and participation in various community meetings

Burlington will invest its CDBG in areas primarily impacted by LMI persons. Several of the City's LMI census areas are located in the downtown area and include a significant rental housing stock. While resources other than CDBG funds may be used in these areas to maintain and preserve housing, infrastructure, and public services, the City's CDBG funds will be focused in areas that are home to families, the elderly, the disabled, and the homeless. The City's provision of funding for new construction and acquisition of affordable housing will continue to be governed by its evaluation rubrics.

For Program Year 2023, the City plans to address needs/objectives identified under the priority needs identified in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The needs are identified as:

Need 1:

Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure.

Need 2:

Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements.

Need 3:

Economic Development.

Need 4:

Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

The City has maintained a high-performance rate for past projects completed through the FY 2022 Annual Action Plan. 2020-2022 was met with challenges dealing with staff shortages and a continued focus on CDBG-CV expenditures to address and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The goals of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan have been instrumental in setting the goals of the CDBG program set out by the City through community input.

The City has rehabbed four homes since July 1, 2021. The City has assisted two individuals with relocation assistance. Several infrastructure projects have been completed and some are underway. With the City Council's approval to change the rehabilitation loans from repaid to forgivable, there has been an increase in applicants and expenditures which will assist in increasing the rehabilitation efforts and improving the housing stock.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City is in full compliance and following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105. Key elements of the Consolidated Plan are its emphasis on citizen participation and the collaborative nature of the process. Burlington uses the input from citizens and its community development partners to determine its housing and community development needs, develop strategies for addressing those needs, and undertake specific actions consistent with those strategies.

Between May and June 2023, a public hearing was held to obtain public input on the planning process and development of the 2023 Annual Action Plan. The public hearings provided citizens a chance to comment on issues of affordable housing, special needs housing with supportive services, homelessness, neighborhood and community revitalization, and special needs and priorities that would be incorporated into the proposed Annual Action Plan.

During the development of the 2023 Annual Action Plan, there was consultation and coordination completed with several service agencies in the City of Burlington. These conversations were held with several levels of service providers who understood the problems faced by the elderly, and the need for affordable housing, homeless assistance, and health services. These meetings and conversations provided the City with a keen insight into some of the problems and needs that many low to moderate-income citizens were facing.

5. Summary of public comments

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

A summary of the comments received is provided as an attachment to IDIS template AD-25 Administration of the 2023 Annual Action Plan.

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

A summary of responses to the comments received is provided in IDIS template AP-12 Consultation of the 2023 Annual Action Plan.

7. Summary

The City of Burlington followed its Citizen Participation Plan. The City provided residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to participate in the planning process, which they did. Based on that input, the City has prepared and developed a thorough and comprehensive Annual Action Plan.

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PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies - 91.200(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	Burlington	Planning Department Community Development Division

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The administering lead agency is the City of Burlington's Department of Planning & Community Development for the CDBG Program. The City of Burlington's Department of Planning & Community Development prepares the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, and the Consolidated Annual Evaluation Reports (CAPER), processes pay requests and performs contracting monitoring, and oversight of the program on a day to day basis.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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AP-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(l)).

The City of Burlington Planning Department's Community Development Division developed an outreach effort to maximize input from a large cross-section of stakeholders. This outreach effort included public meetings, published meeting notices, stakeholder meetings, attendance and networking at various meetings, telephone interviews, and requests for proposals. Furthermore, the Department implements a range of affordable housing and community development activities, including administration of the CDBG program; preparation of the Consolidated Plan, the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), and the Annual Plan; technical assistance for and collaboration with non-profits and for-profits housing developers and social services agencies; and rehabilitation and other affordable housing projects.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

Allied Churches of Alamance County (ACAC) and Alamance Housing Committee (AHC) both have interagency agreements with the City of Burlington to manage CDBG activities. Close cooperation exists between the City, ACAC, AHC, local nonprofit agencies, homeless providers, and regional organizations to enhance coordination. The City will continue to support strategies to meet the needs of homeless persons and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS

The City does not receive ESG funds. Rather, ESG funds are allocated to the community through Alamance Housing Committee (AHC) participation in the NC Balance of State Continuum of Care application process. AHC utilizes the Balance of State application process to apply for ESG funds, develop performance standards, and evaluate outcomes. The City of Burlington is currently working closely with AHC to restructure the delivery and allocation process. A detailed description of how this process

is being restructured in Burlington can be found in the MA30 section of the City's 2015-19 Consolidated Plan. The plan is also available at: <http://www.ci.burlington.nc.us/DocumentCenter/View/7532>

2. Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and consultations

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Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Burlington
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Planning and Community Development Division is the lead agency in the Consolidated Plan.

Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care		The goals of this organization overlap with the goals in the strategic plan and visioning of this plan, including creating attractive and affordable housing and supportive services for all.

Table 3 - Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

AP-12 Participation - 91.401, 91.105, 91.200(c)

**1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation
Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting**

Notice of public hearing was published in the newspaper and posted on the City website.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community				

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources - 91.420(b), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The City of Burlington is a federal entitlement community under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. As a HUD entitlement community, the City is required to submit the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan as the fourth action plan of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

The Fourth-Year Action Plan outlines the City's planned projects and activities to address identified priority needs and specific objectives during program year 2023 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). These activities and projects will also address the City's overall priorities identified in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

The City will direct Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to projects within its corporate limits. Proposed allocations of CDBG funds are to citywide housing rehabilitation projects, neighborhood revitalization or development projects in the City's low- and moderate-

income areas, job training and development projects citywide for eligible populations.

The following Anticipated Resources table shows the resources Burlington anticipates having for the program year 2023

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	470,676	135,861	177,736	784,273	0	
Other	public - state	Housing Other	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

Non-profit housing and service providers rely on many sources of revenue for their operations. In Burlington, this includes Allied Churches, , and ACCSA, Family Abuse Services, Residential Treatment Services, and Ralph Scott Lifeservices, all highlighted in the previous sections. These agencies and organizations pursue multiple sources of funding for housing and social service programs. To supplement, match, or leverage the grants from competitive Federal and State programs and foundations, the agencies use local funds and private resources. Private resources include contributions, corporate sponsorships, United Way, foundation grants, fees, and fund-raisers. Local organizations have reported success

using private funds such as these to match other grants.

Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) have proven to be a highly effective method of increasing the supply of affordable housing. However, there is currently a lack of developers with the capacity or interest in LIHTC projects within the City of Burlington. The City's strategy for coordinating LIHTC development into its efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing for low and moderate-income families is to provide technical assistance on an as-needed basis through the Planning Department's Community Development Division.

When appropriate, the City will work to leverage with other programs such as weatherization or Piedmont Triad Regional Council's rehabilitation program. In some instances, homeowners may contribute their personal funds to upgrade certain rehabilitation elements based on their personal preferences.

If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan

Burlington is not involved with land banking and has a limited amount of resources available to acquire, assemble, and dispose of sites for the purpose of expanding affordable housing and employment opportunities. However, Burlington will be consulting with a non-profit to create a land banking and land trust plan for neighborhoods.

Discussion

None

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	1A. Expand Public Infrastructure	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide / Non-Site-Specific	Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities	CDBG: \$305,939.40 Program Income (PI): \$43,309.49 Prior Years Resources: \$151,075.60	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3000 Persons Assisted
2	2A. Provide Supportive Services for Special Needs	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide / Non-Site-Specific	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements	CDBG: \$70,601 PI: \$20,379.11 Prior Years Resources: \$26,660.40	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Persons Assisted
3	4A. Preserve Existing Homeowner Housing	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Citywide / Non-Site-Specific	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing	PI: \$40,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 4 Household Housing Unit

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	1A. Expand Public Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Improve the City's infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction of streets, walks, curbs, ADA ramps, retaining walls, sewer, linear lines, water, flood control, stormwater management and separation, bridges, bike trails, green infrastructure, etc. by City funds through other departments.
2	Goal Name	2A. Provide Supportive Services for Special Needs
	Goal Description	Improve and increase public service programs for the youth, the elderly, developmentally delayed, disabled and target income population, including nutrition programs and social/welfare programs throughout the City.
3	Goal Name	4A. Preserve Existing Homeowner Housing
	Goal Description	Program income available funds will be used to tackle this goal.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

Projects for the fiscal year 2023-2024 will include, Administration, Public Facilities and Infrastructure, Public Services, Emergency Repair, and Relocation Assistance activities. The bulk of the funding will be spent on Public Facilities and Infrastructure activities as there is a funding cap limit of 15% on Public Service activities and 20% on Administration. Available CDBG funds from the Prior Year will be allocated to Public Services. Available program income will be divided between Administration, Public Facilities and Infrastructure, and Public Services.

#	Project Name
1	CDBG: Administration
1	CDBG: Administration
2	CDBG: Public Facilities & Infrastructure
3	CDBG: Public Services
4	CDBG: Emergency Repair
5	CDBG: Relocation Assistance

Table 7 – Project Information

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

The City will continue to support its residents and businesses with programs and resources as they continue to recover from the social and economic disruption caused by the pandemic.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG: Administration
	Target Area	Citywide / Non-Site-Specific - Local Target area
	Goals Supported	1A. Expand Public Infrastructure 2A. Provide Supportive Services for Special Needs 4A. Preserve Existing Homeowner Housing
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$94,135.20 + PI: \$27,172.15 = \$121,307.35
	Description	Citywide administration of the CDBG program for FY 2023.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 10,000 individuals will be impacted by projects completed in this funding cycle.
	Location Description	Assistance will be provided throughout the city.
	Planned Activities	Public infrastructure, public service activities, homeowner repair, and relocation activities will be undertaken.
2	Project Name	CDBG: Public Facilities & Infrastructure
	Target Area	Eligible LMI Block Groups
	Goals Supported	1A. Expand Public Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities
	Funding	CDBG: \$305,939.40 + PI: \$43,309.49 + CDBG Prior Yrs.: \$151,075.60 = \$500,324.49
	Description	The City will invest in its public facilities and infrastructure through development activities for LMI persons and households This includes all improvements and facilities that are either publicly owned or that are traditionally provided by the government, or owned by a nonprofit and operated so as to be open to the general public. Public facilities may include neighborhood facilities, community centers, and parks and recreation facilities. Public infrastructure includes improvements to streets, sidewalks, utility infrastructure, ADA curb cuts, and roadways.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	3000 individuals will be impacted by the completion of the planned activities.
	Location Description	The activities will be completed throughout the city.
	Planned Activities	The City will invest in its public facilities and infrastructure through development activities for LMI persons and households This includes all improvements and facilities that are either publicly owned or that are traditionally provided by the government, or owned by a nonprofit and operated so as to be open to the general public. Public facilities may include neighborhood facilities, community centers, and parks and recreation facilities. Public infrastructure includes improvements to streets, sidewalks, utility infrastructure, ADA curb cuts, and roadways.
3	Project Name	CDBG: Public Services
	Target Area	Citywide / Non-Site-Specific Eligible LMI Block Groups
	Goals Supported	2A. Provide Supportive Services for Special Needs
	Needs Addressed	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$70,601.40 + PI: \$20,379.11 + CDBG Prior Yrs.: \$26,660.40 = \$117,640.91
	Description	Nonprofit funding for Public Services eligible activities.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	About 8000 individuals will be impacted through the public services provided by the non-profits receiving funds.
	Location Description	Throughout the city.
	Planned Activities	Activities to be supported with Public Service funds include tax prep for special populations, homeless shelter operational costs, abuse prevention programs, support for youth programs, replacement of materials to the public library, daycare for LMI families, and case management support.
4	Project Name	CDBG: Emergency Repair
	Target Area	Citywide / Non-Site-Specific Eligible LMI Block Groups
	Goals Supported	4A. Preserve Existing Homeowner Housing

	Needs Addressed	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing
	Funding	PI: \$40,000
	Description	The City will invest funds into small and emergency rehab repairs for low-to-moderate-income households for homeowners using emergency forgivable loans. Individuals must be LMI.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Four low-income homeowners will be assisted with up to \$10,000 each per unit for urgent, emergency repairs.
	Location Description	Throughout the city
	Planned Activities	Four low-income homeowners will be assisted with up to \$10,000 each per unit for urgent, emergency repairs.
5	Project Name	CDBG: Relocation Assistance
	Target Area	Citywide / Non-Site-Specific Eligible LMI Block Groups
	Goals Supported	4A. Preserve Existing Homeowner Housing
	Needs Addressed	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	The City will invest funds into relocation assistance used in a project involving the acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of real property.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 2 low-income homeowners will be assisted with relocation assistance if needed.
	Location Description	Throughout the city
	Planned Activities	Activities to be supported with Public Service funds include tax prep for special populations, homeless shelter operational costs, abuse prevention programs, support for youth programs, replacement of materials to the public library, daycare for LMI families, and case management support.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.420, 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

In light of the limited amount of CDBG funds available to the City of Burlington, not all the City's housing and community development needs can be addressed. Therefore, priorities must be established to ensure that scarce resources are directed to the most pressing housing and community development needs.

In order to achieve the greatest impact possible from the limited federal funds available, the HOME Consortium intends to allocate its community development resources primarily to projects that will have a focused neighborhood impact on increasing access to opportunity. The Consortium's basis for increasing opportunity is governed by the opportunity mapping results of the 2020 Regional Assessment of Fair Housing. This is an econometric modeling technique designed to comprehensively quantify and analyze the geographic distribution of opportunity. Geographic priority investment areas have been determined based on their ability to connect opportunities to low and moderate-income residents within the Triad. These include the north-central, eastern, and southern areas of Burlington.

Multiple revitalization activities, such as housing rehabilitation and public facility development, will be geographically coordinated in order to maximize their impact. The neighborhood-level focus for non-housing community development needs within income-eligible areas reflects the City's desire to create appreciable and lasting living environment improvements given limited funds, and the specific geographic targeting of new family rental housing reflects the need to affirmatively further fair housing by directing this type of development to a broader range of neighborhoods, combating existing segregated settlement patterns.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Citywide / Non-Site-Specific	30
Eligible LMI Block Groups	70

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

In order to achieve the greatest impact possible from the limited federal funds available, the City intends to allocate its non-housing community development resources primarily to projects that will have a focused neighborhood impact, as opposed to infrastructure projects of more dispersed expected benefit.

Burlington will invest its CDBG funds in areas primarily impacted by LMI persons. Several of the City's

LMI census areas are located in the downtown area and include a significant rental housing stock. While resources other than CDBG funds may be used in these areas to maintain and preserve housing, infrastructure, and public services, the City's CDBG funds will be focused in areas that are home to families, the elderly, the disabled, and the homeless. The City's provision of funding for new construction and acquisition of affordable housing will continue to be governed by its evaluation rubrics.

Discussion

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AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing -91.420, 91.220(j)

Introduction

The City of Burlington, NC recognizes that the availability of affordable housing is a critical issue that affects the well-being of its residents and the overall economic development of the city. The city is committed to identifying and addressing the barriers that prevent the creation and preservation of affordable housing. As required by federal regulations 91.420 and 91.220(j) of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the city has developed an AP-75 Action Plan to outline its strategies and actions to address the barriers to affordable housing.

Barrier 1: Limited Availability of Affordable Housing Units The city will address the limited availability of affordable housing units by providing incentives to developers to construct and preserve affordable housing units. The city will also work with non-profit organizations to increase the availability of affordable housing units through the use of programs such as down payment assistance and rental subsidies.

Barrier 2: Lack of Funding The city will address the lack of funding by applying for grants and loans to fund the construction and preservation of affordable housing units. The city will also work with the private sector to identify alternative funding sources, such as tax credits and private investments.

Barrier 3: Land Use Regulations The city will address land use regulations that may hinder the development of affordable housing by reviewing and updating its zoning ordinances to encourage the development of affordable housing. The city will also work with developers to identify suitable locations for the construction of affordable housing units.

Barrier 4: NIMBYism The city will address NIMBYism (Not In My Backyard) by educating the public on the benefits of affordable housing and by encouraging public participation in the planning and development process. The city will also work with developers to design affordable housing units that are aesthetically pleasing and that fit into the character of the neighborhood.

Barrier 5: Inadequate Public Infrastructure The city will address inadequate public infrastructure by prioritizing the development of affordable housing in areas with existing infrastructure, such as water, sewer, and transportation. The city will also work with developers to identify opportunities to leverage public infrastructure investments to support the development of affordable housing.

Barrier 6: Discrimination The city will address discrimination in housing by enforcing fair housing laws and promoting fair housing practices. The city will also work with non-profit organizations to provide education and training on fair housing practices to developers, landlords, and

tenants.

In conclusion, the City of Burlington, NC recognizes the importance of affordable housing and is committed to addressing the barriers that prevent the creation and preservation of affordable housing. The city will implement the strategies outlined in this AP-75 Action Plan to increase the availability of affordable housing units, secure funding, update land use regulations, address NIMBYism, prioritize public infrastructure, and promote fair housing practices.

Actions it planned 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

The City of Burlington, NC has identified several actions that it could, if feasible, take to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing. These actions include:

1. Reviewing and updating the city's zoning ordinances to remove any policies that limit the development of affordable housing. This includes considering changes such as allowing for accessory dwelling units, adjusting minimum lot size requirements, and exploring opportunities for mixed-use developments.
2. Working with state and county officials to advocate for changes to tax policies affecting land and residential investments, such as property tax rates, exemptions, and credits.
3. Offering incentives and programs that encourage the development of affordable housing, such as tax credits, fee waivers, and streamlined permitting processes.
4. Providing education and technical assistance to developers and property owners on how to navigate the regulatory process and obtain financing for affordable housing projects.
5. Advocating for changes to building codes and other regulations that add unnecessary costs to affordable housing development, such as energy efficiency requirements that increase construction costs.
6. Providing financial assistance to low-income households to help them access affordable housing, such as rental subsidies and down payment assistance programs.
7. Investing in public infrastructure, such as transportation and water and sewer systems, to support the development of affordable housing in areas with existing infrastructure.

8. Working with community-based organizations and non-profits to provide education and training on fair housing practices to developers, landlords, and tenants.
9. Creating a database of available land and buildings suitable for affordable housing development and sharing this information with developers and non-profits.
10. Establishing partnerships with private sector organizations and financial institutions to leverage additional resources and funding for affordable housing projects.

Overall, the City of Burlington, NC is committed to taking a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to addressing the barriers to affordable housing and creating a more equitable and inclusive community for all residents.

Discussion

The City of Burlington has identified several barriers to affordable housing in the area, which include land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. These barriers contribute to the high cost of housing in the area, which can make it difficult for low- and moderate-income households to find and afford suitable housing.

To address these barriers, the City of Burlington has developed a comprehensive plan that includes a range of actions, such as updating zoning ordinances, providing incentives for affordable housing development, offering financial assistance to low-income households, and advocating for changes to tax policies and building codes.

The city recognizes that addressing these barriers will require collaboration between public and private entities, including developers, community-based organizations, financial institutions, and state and local officials. The city also recognizes the importance of community involvement in the planning and development process, to ensure that the needs and preferences of residents are taken into account.

The city's plan is focused on creating a more equitable and inclusive community, where all residents have access to safe, affordable, and high-quality housing. By taking a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach, the city hopes to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing and create a more vibrant and sustainable community for all.

AP-85 Other Actions - 91.420, 91.220(k)

Introduction

The City of Burlington, NC is committed to taking a holistic approach to addressing the housing-related issues in the area and creating a more equitable and sustainable community for all residents. These additional actions are designed to complement the city's existing efforts to remove barriers to affordable housing and support the development of safe, healthy, and affordable housing options for all.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Burlington, NC has identified several obstacles to meeting the needs of underserved populations, including low-income households, seniors, people with disabilities, and non-English speaking residents. To address these obstacles, the city plans to use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to support a range of actions, including:

1. Providing financial assistance for affordable housing development, including new construction and rehabilitation of existing properties.
2. Offering rental assistance and housing counseling services to low-income households, including those facing eviction or homelessness.
3. Funding infrastructure improvements, such as sidewalks, street lighting, and drainage systems, to enhance safety and accessibility in underserved neighborhoods.
4. Supporting the development of community facilities and amenities, such as parks, playgrounds, and community centers, to enhance the quality of life for residents in underserved areas.
5. Providing job training and workforce development programs to help residents improve their skills and access better-paying jobs.
6. Supporting health and human services programs that serve underserved populations, such as mental health services, senior programs, and food assistance programs.
7. Promoting fair housing and equal access to housing opportunities for all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, or disability status.
8. Providing language access services, such as translation and interpretation services, to ensure that non-English speaking residents have equal access to city services and programs.
9. Offering transportation services to help residents in underserved areas access employment, education, and other essential services.
10. Conducting outreach and education efforts to inform underserved populations about available city services and programs, and to encourage their participation in the civic life of the city.

By using CDBG funds to address these obstacles, the City of Burlington hopes to create a more equitable and inclusive community, where all residents have access to the resources and opportunities they need

to thrive.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Burlington has identified a range of additional actions it plans to take to support the development of affordable housing and address housing-related issues in the area. These actions include:

1. Conducting a housing needs assessment to better understand the current and future demand for affordable housing in the area.
2. Engaging in outreach and education efforts to inform residents about their rights and responsibilities under fair housing laws, and to promote inclusive and diverse communities.
3. Establishing partnerships with local employers and other organizations to provide workforce housing and support economic development in the area.
4. Developing and implementing a vacant property registration program to track and address vacant properties that may contribute to blight and disinvestment in neighborhoods.
5. Exploring opportunities for transit-oriented development and other smart growth strategies to support affordable housing development and reduce transportation costs for residents.
6. Investing in community facilities and amenities, such as parks, schools, and community centers, to enhance the quality of life for residents and make the area more attractive to potential residents and developers.
7. Developing and implementing strategies to prevent and address homelessness, including providing emergency shelter, rental assistance, and supportive services to those in need.
8. Promoting the preservation of existing affordable housing through the use of incentives, such as tax credits and funding for rehabilitation and repair.
9. Supporting efforts to increase access to financing for affordable housing development, such as advocating for changes to federal and state lending programs and creating local loan funds.
10. Developing and implementing a fair housing plan to address discrimination and promote equal access to housing opportunities for all residents.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City of Burlington is committed to protecting the health and safety of its residents, particularly vulnerable populations such as young children, by reducing exposure to lead-based paint hazards in housing. To achieve this goal, the city has developed a comprehensive plan of actions that includes the following:

1. Conducting lead-based paint risk assessments in residential properties, particularly those built before 1978, when lead-based paint was commonly used.
2. Providing financial assistance to property owners to cover the cost of lead-based paint testing, removal, and/or abatement.

3. Developing and implementing a public education and outreach campaign to inform residents about the dangers of lead-based paint and how to reduce exposure.
4. Collaborating with community partners, such as local health clinics, childcare providers, and schools, to identify and refer children who may be at risk of lead exposure for testing and follow-up care.
5. Enforcing local and state laws and regulations related to lead-based paint hazards in residential properties, including conducting inspections and issuing citations as needed.
6. Providing training and certification programs for contractors, landlords, and property owners on safe work practices for lead-based paint removal and abatement.
7. Collaborating with state and federal agencies, such as the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the NCHFA, and the Environmental Protection Agency, to leverage additional resources and expertise in addressing lead-based paint hazards.
8. Implementing policies and practices to ensure that city-owned or -leased properties are free from lead-based paint hazards, and providing assistance to private owners of affordable housing to achieve compliance.

By taking these actions, the City of Burlington aims to reduce the prevalence of lead-based paint hazards in residential properties, protect the health and safety of its residents, and create a more sustainable and healthy community for all.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Burlington recognizes that poverty is a significant challenge for many of its residents and is committed to reducing the number of poverty-level families in the community. To achieve this goal, the city has developed a comprehensive plan of actions that includes the following:

1. Providing access to affordable housing through a range of programs, including financial assistance for homebuyers, rental assistance, and rehabilitation of existing properties.
2. Creating job training and workforce development programs that provide residents with the skills and support they need to access better-paying jobs and increase their income.
3. Supporting entrepreneurship and small business development to create new job opportunities and stimulate economic growth in underserved areas.
4. Offering financial education and counseling services to help residents build savings, reduce debt, and improve their financial stability.
5. Providing access to healthcare services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment, to address the underlying health issues that can contribute to poverty.
6. Offering food assistance programs, such as food banks and meal delivery services, to ensure that residents have access to healthy and nutritious food.
7. Providing transportation services, such as bus passes and ride-sharing programs, to help residents access employment, education, and other essential services.

8. Developing and implementing programs to address the root causes of poverty, such as systemic racism, income inequality, and lack of access to education and opportunities.
9. Engaging in community outreach and education efforts to raise awareness about poverty and its impacts on individuals, families, and the community as a whole.

By taking these actions, the City of Burlington hopes to reduce the number of poverty-level families in the community, improve the economic and social well-being of residents, and create a more equitable and inclusive community for all.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Burlington recognizes the importance of having a strong institutional structure to support its efforts to promote economic growth, improve the quality of life for residents, and create a more sustainable and resilient community. To achieve this goal, the city has developed a comprehensive plan of actions that includes the following:

1. Supporting dedicated departments that oversee economic development and community revitalization efforts, maintaining staff who have the expertise and resources to implement strategies and programs effectively.
2. Creating a long-term strategic plan that sets clear goals and priorities for economic development, community revitalization, and sustainability initiatives, and outlines specific actions and timelines for achieving them.
3. Developing partnerships and collaborations with other organizations and stakeholders, including businesses, non-profits, community groups, and government agencies, to leverage resources and expertise and coordinate efforts more effectively.
4. Establishing advisory committees or task forces composed of community members and stakeholders to provide input and feedback on city initiatives and programs.
5. Improving communication and outreach efforts to keep residents informed about city initiatives, encourage participation and engagement, and build trust and collaboration.
6. Investing in technology and data analytics to support evidence-based decision-making and performance management, and to improve transparency and accountability.
7. Developing and implementing policies and practices that promote equity and inclusivity, such as targeted outreach and support for minority-owned businesses and underserved neighborhoods.
8. Allocating resources, including funding, staff time, and technical assistance, to support the implementation of the city's economic development, community revitalization, and sustainability initiatives.

By taking these actions, the City of Burlington aims to develop a strong institutional structure that supports its efforts to create a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable community for all residents.

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social

service agencies

The City of Burlington facilitates coordination among its partner agencies that results in a broadly shared understanding of community needs, collaborative and complementary approaches to addressing needs, and responsiveness to changes in conditions. Additionally, City general funds will continue to be available for economic development, indicating a commitment to leveraging all possible resources to meet needs. By establishing set-asides to govern CDBG spending, the City is ensuring that high-priority public and private housing and social service agencies and their programs will continue to receive the resources required to achieve an appreciable impact.

The greatest gap in meeting the housing, community development, and economic development needs in the City is the reduced capacity of many agencies, given funding limitations in recent years, to carry out their work to the extent that is needed in the community. Reductions in work force resulting from dwindling resources pose a serious challenge to meeting escalating demand for affordable housing and related services. In order to overcome this gap, the City has planned to focus its capacity and delivery on priority needs.

Strategic planning and evaluation will continue to be performed periodically to ensure the streamlining of operations. The City will continue to work with Burlington Development Corporation, Burlington Housing Authority, ACAC, and Alamance Housing Committee to enhance coordination. Enhancing coordination is an important component of the Coordinated Assessment project as well as a part of the HOPE and STEPS programs administered by Burlington Development Corporation through CDBG funding.

Discussion

The City is committed to addressing institutional structure development, coordination of services, poverty reduction and affordable housing initiatives as necessary in our community over the upcoming year.

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements - 91.420, 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	0

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100.00%

Discussion

None of the projects meet the national objectives urgent need. All projects and activities are intended to serve low-moderate income residents.