

County of Lexington Annual Action Plan



PROGRAM YEAR 2019
JULY 1, 2019– JUNE 30, 2020

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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The County of Lexington has been a participant in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program since July 1, 2000. On July 1, 2008, the County became a Participating Jurisdiction (PJ) in the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program. On July 1, 2018 Lexington County became a participant in the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. These programs are sponsored by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through an annual federal budget allocation.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

In accordance with HUD guidelines, the Annual Action Plan is developed each year to identify specific activities that address priorities and goals established in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

In developing the Annual Action Plan, the County reviews its Consolidated Plan, seeks public input, and conducts both formal and informal needs assessments to determine whether the County's Consolidated Plan needs to address additional priorities through the County's CDBG and HOME Programs.

The Consolidated Plan outlines the following goals for the County's HUD Entitlement Grant Programs:

- Priority Goal 1: Owner occupied housing rehabilitation.
- Priority Goal 2: Provide and/or support adequate, safe, and affordable housing through Homebuyer Assistance Program.
- Priority Goal 3: Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population.
- Priority Goal 4: Public Facilities / Infrastructure Development.
- Priority Goal 5: Education / Promotion of Fair Housing practices.
- Priority Goal 6: Lead-Based Paint Reduction
- Priority Goal 7: Establish or support programs that provide needed public services and /or increase the level of service provided by existing programs.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

As part of the consolidated planning process Lexington County staff members, as well as its municipal partners, service providers and stakeholders completed an extensive analysis of the County of Lexington's existing CDBG and HOME services, programs and projects. To that end, and as the following Consolidated Plan will lay-out, the highest priority needs continue to be the development of new affordable housing units, the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing units and providing adequate housing and public service opportunities for the County of Lexington's homeless and vulnerable (non-homeless) populations. The County of Lexington will aggressively support its two highly successful owner-occupied housing rehabilitation programs throughout the incorporated and unincorporated communities of our County; these are the minor home repair and the comprehensive housing repair programs. Additionally, the County and its municipal partners will continue to proactively improve public facilities and public infrastructure in the underserved census tracts and block groups of the community, which will in turn help to foster safe and decent living environments for our residents.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Throughout the year, the County provides opportunities for citizen participation, which supports in the development of the Annual Action Plan. The following meetings were open to the public and included discussions of the County's housing and community development needs and activities to be undertaken as described in the Annual Action Plan.

- 7/11/2018 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and Annual Needs Assessment Public Hearing
1/8/2019 Grant Programs Division Advisory Committee Meeting
3/7/2019 Public Notice Placed in *The Chronicle*
3/15/2019 Draft 2016 Annual Action Plan Public Hearing
3/12/2019 Lexington County Council Administration

Committee Meeting 3/26/2018 Lexington County Council Approval A public notice and notice of a public hearing for the draft 2019 Annual Action Plan was published in *The Lexington County Chronicle* and the draft Plan was placed on the County's website on March 7, 2019. A public hearing was held on March 15, 2019 at the County Administration Building in Lexington, South Carolina. Additionally, a 30-day comment period was open from March 7, 2019 to April 8, 2019. No comments were received.

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.

No comments were received

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

No comments were received

7. Summary

The County of Lexington's Office of Community Development Grants Program Division is the lead agency responsible for the preparation of the Consolidated Plan. As an Urban Entitlement County, the County of Lexington administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Home Improvement Partnership Program (HOME).

The County has Intergovernmental Agreements with the municipalities of Batesburg-Leesville, Chapin, Gaston, Gilbert, Irmo, Lexington, Pelion, Pine Ridge, South Congaree, Springdale, Summit, Swansea, as well as with the cities of Cayce and West Columbia. The County receives and administers CDBG and HOME funds on their behalf.

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

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

Describe the agency/entity 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	LEXINGTON COUNTY	Community Development
HOME Administrator	LEXINGTON COUNTY	Community Development
ESG Administrator	LEXINGTON COUNTY	Community Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

Lexington County's Community Development Department administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program for Lexington County and is the lead entity responsible for overseeing the county's Consolidated Plan. However, preparation and development of the plan require input from numerous individuals, municipalities, agencies and organizations throughout the county.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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Annual Action Plan
2019

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

1. Introduction

The County of Lexington is engaged in ongoing efforts to increase coordination among a complex network of public, private, and non-profit organizations that deliver housing and social services in our community. As the administrators of the County of Lexington's CDBG, HOME and ESG programs, the County's Office of Community Development, Grant Programs Division acts as a nucleus for community and economic development in the County. What's more, the Grant Programs Division maintains positive and pro-active relationships with many of the County's local governments, non-profit, faith-based and social service agencies.

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))

In addition to maintaining an open door policy and having ongoing daily communication with the area's many service providers, specific steps the County has taken to enhance coordination include: entering into intergovernmental agreements with its fourteen (14) municipalities to include the communities of Batesburg-Leesville, Chapin, Gaston, Gilbert, Irmo, Lexington, Pelion, Pine Ridge, South Congaree, Springdale, Summit, Swansea, as well as the cities of Cayce and West Columbia. The Office of Community Development maintains close relationships with the City of Columbia, which administers the Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) Program on behalf of the County, as well as other nearby communities. The County also works closely with the Central Midlands Council of Governments, the Cities of West Columbia and Cayce, Lexington Medical Center and the Town of Springdale on transportation issues.

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.

The County of Lexington's Office of Community Development is an active supporter of local Continuum of Care (CoC) services and is a strong supporter and member of the Midlands Area Consortium for the

Homeless (MACH). Moreover, the County has provided general fund and CDBG resources to the Transitions homeless facility in the City of Columbia, where it is estimated that the facility provides housing transitional services and counseling to some 200 Lexington County residents annually. Each year the County allocates hundreds of thousands of dollars through CDBG and HOME funds for the

acquisition and rehabilitation and rental of affordable housing (in an effort to increase affordable rental housing units to help aid in the prevention of homelessness). The County is a supporter of Lexington Interfaith Community Services, an agency supported by Lexington's faith based community and an organization that provides food stability programs, rental and utility assistance to Lexington's low-and-moderate income residents. Additionally, the County uses its resources to consistently provide infrastructure and public service(s) to support to Sistercare's transitional shelter for battered women and their children as a strategy for combating homelessness in our community.

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

United Way of the Midlands (UWM), serves as lead HUD agency for the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH) that is the HUD designated Homeless Continuum of Care (SC-502) for Lexington County. As a team, UWM/MACH are committed to ending homelessness in the Midlands. MACH member agencies and other partners provide the direct services, shelter and housing that assist our community's homeless families, individuals, youth and veterans to stability. The complexity of the issue, diversity of the populations and shifting resources and priorities of the community and federal government make coordination key to community success. UWM/MACH works to ensure quality services, continuous planning, and coordination for efficiency and cost effectiveness and collaborate with Lexington County with these efforts. Lexington County participates in MACH meetings, the annual point-in-time count, and an annual consultation on ESG program certification including developing ESG performance measures.

UWM also serves as the MACH lead agency for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS data is used to collect and report on ESG program results. UWM will support Lexington County's ESG implementation with reporting on agency HMIS data.

MACH collaborates with the other South Carolina CoCs and the South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to establish statewide ESG performance measures, HMIS data collection standards, and standards for agency training and data quality. MACH considers agency capacity to administer funding and successful programs and collaboration with MACH key to community success in addressing homelessness and these factors are prioritized above individual funding categories within ESG.

MACH provides ESG certification based on the following factors:

Participation the Coordinated Entry System – including serving as a MACH Access Point (MAP)

Participation in HMIS (except providers serving domestic violence survivors)

2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction’s consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	<p>Agency/Group/Organization</p>	<p>TOWN OF LEXINGTON</p>
	<p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p>	<p>Other government - Local</p>
	<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy</p>
	<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>The County maintains a close working relationship with the Town of Lexington. In addition to entering into an Intergovernmental Funding Agreement with the Town for CDBG and HOME funds, the County regularly meets with grant managers and administrative officials to gain input on how certain projects fit into the Town's overall housing and economic development goals, as well as to gain insight into overall area wide planning and strategy.</p>
2	<p>Agency/Group/Organization</p>	<p>City of West Columbia</p>
	<p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p>	<p>Other government - Local</p>
	<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy</p>

<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>The County maintains a close working relationship with the City of West Columbia. In addition to entering into an Intergovernmental Funding Agreement with the Town for CDBG and HOME funds, the County regularly meets with grant managers and administrative officials to gain input on how certain projects fit into the City's overall housing and economic development goals, as well as to gain insight into overall area wide planning and strategy.</p>
<p>3 Agency/Group/Organization</p>	<p>Housing Authority of Cayce</p>
<p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p>	<p>Other government - Local</p>
<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy</p>
<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>The Cayce Housing Authority is the only public housing authority in the County and traditionally assists nearly 100 residents in five different housing communities. The outcome of this consultation area includes better coordination and perhaps an increase in cooperation and a sharing of resources.</p>
<p>4 Agency/Group/Organization</p>	<p>SISTERCARE, INC.</p>
<p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p>	<p>Services-Victims of Domestic Violence</p>
<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy</p>

<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Lexington consulted with Sistercare, Inc., the community's premiere agency providing services to battered spouses and children to include long-term sheltering, counseling, and job training. The outcome of this consultation included the need for further assistance to Spanish speaking populations, a community which ranked domestic violence as among the highest public service priorities in the community.</p>
<p>5 Agency/Group/Organization</p>	<p>Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission</p>
<p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p>	<p>Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Education</p>
<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development</p>
<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission was consulted as a way to assist the County of Lexington in assessing the needs of children, adults, the elderly and persons with disabilities in the community. The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission is offering groundbreaking programming for adults, seniors, and youth with disabilities and the outcome of the consultation, included the County of Lexington working to implement and support programs for persons with autism and severe disabilities in our community.</p>
<p>6 Agency/Group/Organization</p>	<p>Community Assistance Provider</p>
<p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p>	<p>Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing</p>

<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy</p>
<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Lexington staff consulted with its local CHDO, Community Assistance Providers in an effort to gain a better understanding of the County's housing needs assessment, non-homeless special needs, and market analysis to name a few. The outcome is that the staff gain a wider breadth of the overall housing needs of our low-and-moderate income residents living in our incorporated and unincorporated communities.</p>

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

None

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	United Way of the Midlands	The goals of the annual action plan, as developed in coordination with the local Continuum of Care, will enhance and strengthen programs directly benefiting homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 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**

As the administrator(s) of the County of Lexington’s CDBG, HOME and ESG programs, the Office of Community Development acts as a hub for community, economic and social engagement for our community, a role and public trust that we take very seriously. To this end, our staff has worked diligently to maintain and foster open lines of communication between the County and our community’s many non-profit and social service agencies. Besides an open door policy, each year our grant staff participate in numerous outreach meetings and hosts housing roundtables and meetings for subrecipients, contractors, and citizens interested in learning more about our grant programs.

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	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Public Notice Placed in The Chronicle	No comments received	None	

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)
2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	3 citizens attended public hearing	None received	None	
3	Internet Outreach	Persons with disabilities	Draft of PY19 Annual Action Plan placed on County website	No comments received	None	www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptAH/communitydevelopment/Pages/PlansandReports.aspx

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

CDBG, HOME and ESG are the three formula entitlement grant funds that the County of Lexington receives directly from HUD. The projects listed will be funded through the County 2019 - 2020 CDBG Allocation of \$1,790,054, HOME allocation of \$644,944 and ESG \$152,129.

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: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,790,054	0	0	836,882	

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: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	644,944	0	0	644,944	164,140	
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	152,129	0	0	152,129	152,129	Lexington County has received Emergency Solutions Grant Funds (ESG) for the second year. First year funds in the amount of \$143,711 is on schedule to be completely expended by due date.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table
Annual Action Plan
2019

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

In an effort to strengthen and increase the utilization of CDBG funds and to leverage additional funding, the County of Lexington requires that all CDBG sub-recipients provide a 10% cash match for the funding awarded. Match funds must be identified on the application and subrecipients are required to provide documentation of their match funds in the monthly reporting and /or with reimbursement requests. All subrecipients are monitored annually by County staff and provided technical assistance where needed.

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

The County's Administration Building acts as the hub for administering the CDBG, HOME and ESG programs as well as a meeting place for public hearings and meetings to discuss plan goals.

Discussion

Community facilities and services are available to all County residents in the quest to meet the day-to-day needs of the Lexington community and to enhance quality the overall quality of life. Community Facilities are divided into several categories: general government facilities; educational facilities; libraries, and park and recreation facilities. The Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority is a provider of fixed route bus service and demand-responsive Para-transit service for the more urbanized communities of Lexington. The CMRTA offers fares and monthly passes at a discount to college students, senior citizens, and customers with physical and mental disabilities. Service animals are permitted to accompany individuals with disabilities on all vehicles.

Lexington County **ESTIMATES** the following funds will be spent in Program Year 2019 on the activities listed:

Buyout Program : \$750,000

Home Repair : Complete

Administration / Planning : \$150,000

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
2	Homebuyer Assistance Program	2015	2019	Affordable Housing		Homebuyer Assistance Program	HOME: \$80,000	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 16 Households Assisted
3	Public Facilities/Infrastructure Development	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Facilities and Infrastructure Development	CDBG: \$1,110,114	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 4877 Persons Assisted Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1075 Households Assisted
4	Public Services	2015	2019	Non-Homeless Special Needs		Public Services	CDBG: \$268,496	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 300 Persons Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 100 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Action on Homeless	2018	2019	Homeless		Action on Homeless	ESG: \$152,129	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 439 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 78 Persons Assisted
6	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	2015	2019	Affordable Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs		Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction	CDBG: \$53,434 HOME: \$300,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 2 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 21 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 9 Household Housing Unit

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

2	Goal Name	Homebuyer Assistance Program
	Goal Description	The Downpayment Assistance Program will provide down-payment assistance and /or closing costs assistance to low-and-moderate-income (LMI) first time homebuyers. The amount of assistance will typically not exceed \$5,000 per single family dwelling unit.
3	Goal Name	Public Facilities/Infrastructure Development
	Goal Description	Ensure adequate and safe infrastructure to meet basic needs of county residents. DR- activities / projects associated with DR funding are in the planning stages during this time and hope to begin during PY19

4	Goal Name	Public Services
Goal Description	This program will include support for public services related to youth services, employment training, and programs for the homeless, battered spouses and children, and persons with disabilities and meet a myriad of needs for the County's low-and-moderate income populations.	
5	Goal Name	Action on Homeless
Goal Description	The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, revising the Emergency Shelter Grants Program in significant ways and renaming it the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. This grant provides funding to agencies that respond to the immediate need of at-risk and homeless populations. The County of Lexington became a participating jurisdiction of the Emergency solutions Grant (ESG) Program on July 1, 2018.	
6	Goal Name	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
Goal Description	CDBG & HOME Eligible Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Services consists of Minor Home Repair and Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programs which complete general repairs and maintenance to homes. Also, to include acquisition and affordable housing through HOME Program which purchase homes and rehabilitates them for either homeownership or rental activities in conjunction with non-profit for profit or CHDO's and neighborhood revitalization through the CDBG program.	
DR - The County continues with the buyout programs for the DR Program. The rehabilitation projects are complete.		

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

This program will support the planning and development of adequate public facilities and improvements, including but not limited to, streets, sidewalks, water, sewer, parks, playgrounds, and facilities for persons with special needs such as the homeless.

DR- Lexington County continues with disaster recovery efforts resulting from the 2015 floods through the CDBG-DR program. The Buyout and Rehabilitation programs continue in our on-going effort to provide safe and secure homes for our residents.

All information regarding the program can be found here: <http://www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptAH/communitydevelopment/Pages/CDBG-DR.aspx>

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Infrastructure and Public Facilities
2	Public Services
3	Planning and Administration
4	Affordable Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization
5	Acquisition / Affordable Housing
6	Comprehensive Housing Rehabilitation Program
7	Homebuyer Assistance Program
8	Community Housing Development Organization
9	HOME Program Administration
10	HESG Activities Program

Table 7 - Project Information

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

During the needs assessment process the Grants Program Division was able to identify a myriad of infrastructure needs in Lexington's low-and-moderate income areas. The needs ranged from water and sewer lines to sidewalks and streets and public facilities, to include community and youth centers, job training programs and diabetic food pantries.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Infrastructure and Public Facilities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities/Infrastructure Development
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,110,114
	Description	This program will support the planning and development of adequate public facilities and improvements, including but not limited to, streets, sidewalks, water, sewer, parks, playgrounds, and facilities for persons with special needs such as the homeless.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 4877 persons and 1075 households will be assisted from these proposed activities
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	City of Cayce State Street Sewer Line Replacement Town of Batesburg/Leesville Chemical Feed Modification Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Watermain Replacement Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Bus Shelter
2	Project Name	Public Services
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$268,496
	Description	The primary objective of the CDBG Program is to develop sustainable communities for persons of low- and moderate-income (LMI), thereby improving the housing, quality of life, and economic conditions of the Lexington community. HUD defines LMI as household income that is less than 80% of area median income.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Public Services should benefit approximately 6768 LMI persons Approximately 100 Homeless Persons assisted with overnight shelter

	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Irmo Chapin Recreation Senior and Special Needs Transportation Van Purchase Irmo Chapin Recreation Athletic Scholarship Program Irmo Chapin Afternoon Adventures Midlands Alliance/Transitions Harvest Hope Diabetic Food Bank Boys and Girls Club - BE GREAT Academy Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority COMET Day Pass
3	Project Name	Planning and Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$358,010
	Description	Funds used for the administration of the CDBG Program
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used for the administration of the CDBG Program
4	Project Name	Affordable Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	Substandard Owner Occupied Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$53,434
	Description	The Minor Home Repair Program is an on-going program that assists LMI homeowners with minor repairs to their homes.
	Target Date	6/30/2021

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 6 households will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Within Lexington County.
	Planned Activities	Minor rehab to approximately 6 households. Habitat for Humanity is purchasing land to build approximately 21 homes for low to moderate low income individuals/families.
5	Project Name	Acquisition / Affordable Housing
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	Substandard Owner Occupied Housing Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction
	Funding	HOME: \$300,000
	Description	This activity will continue an existing County program to acquire and rehabilitate affordable housing for either homeownership or rental activities. Funds may be used for non-profit developers, for-profit developers, and in conjunction with the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO).
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Estimate approximately 3 families will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Within Lexington County.
	Planned Activities	This activity will continue an existing County program to acquire and rehabilitate affordable housing for either homeowners or rental activities. Funds may be used for non-profit developers, for-profit developers and in conjunction with our CHDO's.
6	Project Name	Comprehensive Housing Rehabilitation Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Substandard Owner Occupied Housing Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction

	Funding	HOME: \$85,298
	Description	The Comprehensive Housing Rehabilitation Program assists low- and moderate-income families, disabled, elderly, and veteran homeowners with qualifying repairs to their primary residence. Funds will be used to assist approximately 5 homeowners with significant repair needs. Program guidelines are structured to allow maximum repair amounts for each home typically not to exceed \$25,000, with limited assistance above \$25,000 in certain circumstances.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This will assist approximately 5 homeowners with rehab to their homes.
	Location Description	All homes are within Lexington County.
	Planned Activities	
7	Project Name	Homebuyer Assistance Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Homebuyer Assistance Program
	Needs Addressed	Homebuyer Assistance Program
	Funding	HOME: \$80,000
	Description	The Homeownership Assistance Program will provide down-payment assistance and/or closing cost assistance to low- and moderate- income (LMI) first-time homebuyers. The amount of assistance provided will typically not exceed \$5,000 per single family dwelling unit. Recapture provisions will be enacted through deferred forgivable loans. Funds will be used to assist approximately 16 first-time homebuyers. The specific guidelines of the Homeownership Assistance Program have been developed by HOME Program staff.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 16 families will benefit from this on-going program.
	Location Description	All will be in Lexington County.
	Planned Activities	

8	Project Name	Community Housing Development Organization
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	Housing for Non-Homeless Special Population
	Funding	HOME: \$106,800
	Description	Funding allocated for CHDOs to be used for eligible development activities that promote affordable housing activities that are owned, developed, or sponsored by CHDOs. HUD has established criteria to certify CHDOs to assist the Community Development Department in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the HOME Program.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Acquisition of 1 home for rental to LMI Lexington County resident using CHDO reserves.
	Location Description	All properties are located within Lexington County.
	Planned Activities	Funding allocated for CHDO's to be used for eligible development activities that promote affordable housing activities that are owned, developed, or sponsored by CHDO's. HUD has established criteria to certify CHDO's to assist the Community Development Department in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the HOME Program.
9	Project Name	HOME Program Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	HOME: \$72,846
	Description	Funds used to administer HOME Program
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Funds used to administer the HOME Program.

10	Project Name	HESG Activities Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Action on Homeless
	Needs Addressed	Action on Homeless
	Funding	ESG: \$152,129
	Description	The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, revising the Emergency Shelter Grants Program in significant ways and renaming it the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. This grant provides funding to agencies that respond to the immediate need of at-risk and homeless populations. The County of Lexington became a participating jurisdiction of the Emergency solutions Grant (ESG) Program on July 1, 2018
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Estimate 450 will be assisted with overnight shelter and homelessness prevention.
	Location Description	Within Lexington County
	Planned Activities	ESG Funding to be split between United Way of the Midlands for HMIS Reporting and Sistercare, Inc. for emergency shelter and HMIS reporting.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Traget Area	
Batesburg/Leesville	35%
City of Cayce	
Town of Pelion	40%
Columbia	4%
Uncorporated Lexington CDBG	13%
Uncorporated Lexington HOME	90%

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Grant Programs Division staff is 100% confident in the geographic distribution of CDBG and HOME funds. The allocations were reviewed and analyzed by the County of Lexington’s Grant Advisory Committee and projects were ranked according to need and followed a rigorous application process. Moreover, the County holds intergovernmental agreements with all fourteen (14) municipalities in the County and ensures that each of the communities has access to CDBG and HOME funds once a project

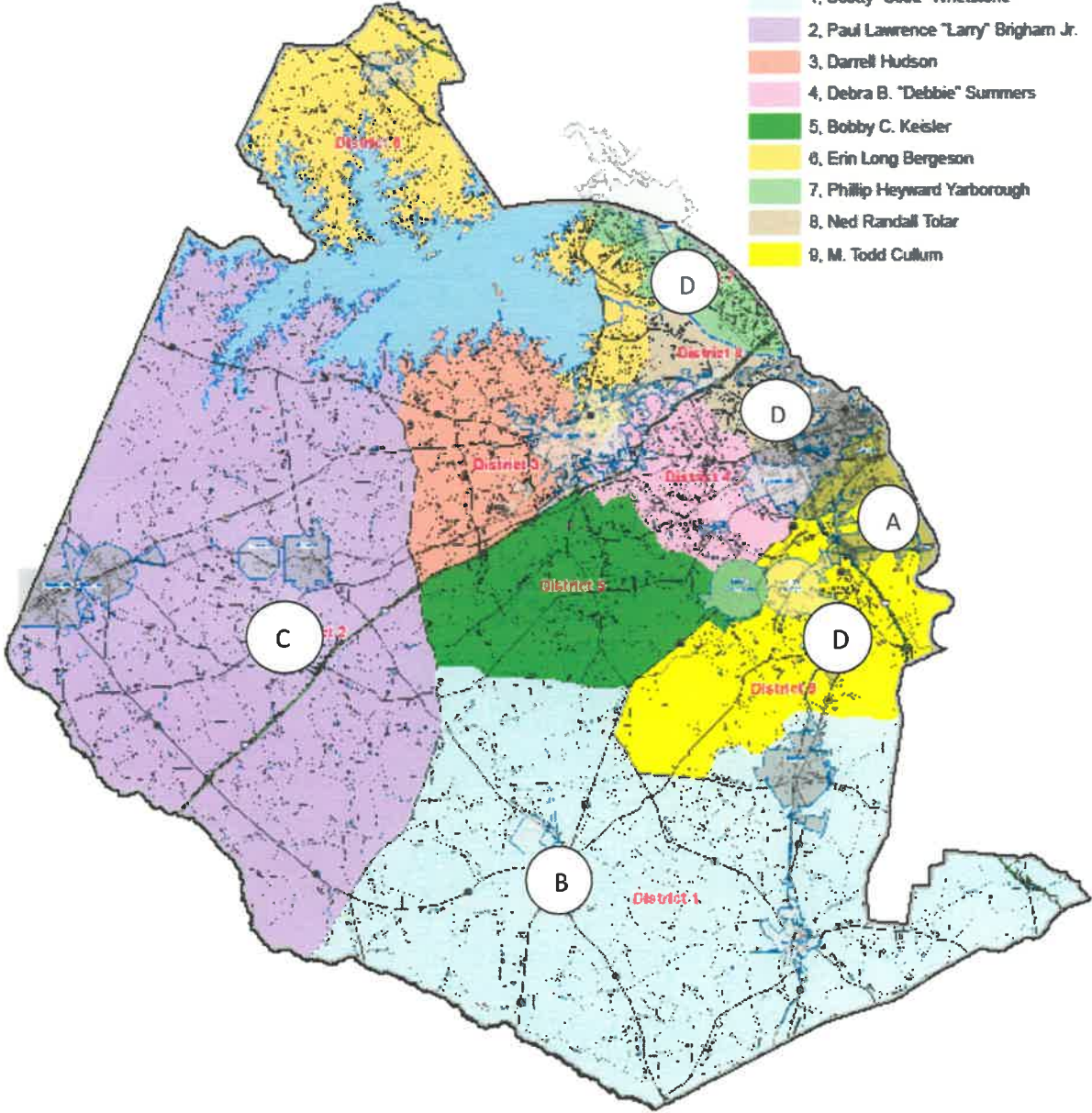
has been deemed eligible. Moreover, food bank Programs, job training, as well as the County's housing program are available to low-and-moderate income residents Countywide, regardless of where one lives.

Discussion

As part of this Consolidated Planning effort, Grant Programs Division staff has taken great pains to ensure that the County is addressing infrastructure and public facilities, public services, and housing programs countywide in order to address the needs of our community's low-and-moderate income residents. Additionally, the County operates several programs to include its CDBG and HOME funded owner-occupied housing rehabilitation programs, public services, and DPA program that are open to all low-and-moderate income persons in the County with there being no geographic segregation. The County of Lexington has several pockets of poverty.

Lexington County Council Districts

- District, Representative**
- 1. Scotty "Scott" Whetstone
 - 2. Paul Lawrence "Larry" Brigham Jr.
 - 3. Darrell Hudson
 - 4. Debra B. "Debbie" Summers
 - 5. Bobby C. Keisler
 - 6. Erin Long Bergeson
 - 7. Phillip Heyward Yarborough
 - 8. Ned Randall Tolar
 - 9. M. Todd Cullum



A. City of Cayce Sewer Line Phase III
B. B. JMWSC – Watermain Project

C. Town of B/L-Wastewater Treatment
D. CMRTA – Bus Shelters

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

During Program Year 2019, the County of Lexington along with its municipal partners and its non-profit and for profit housing developers will work diligently through the use of CDBG and HOME funds toward the development and preservation of affordable housing. We will accomplish this through these four broad categories:

- 1) Owner occupied housing repair programs (minor home and comprehensive housing repair program)
- 2) Our ongoing support of homeless prevention services and operations
- 3) The support of organizations such as habitat for humanity and our certified CHDO's
- 4) The County of Lexington's DPA (Down Payment Assistance Program)

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	29
Special-Needs	0
Total	29

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	2
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	25
Acquisition of Existing Units	2
Total	29

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

With the allocation of ESG funds for with PY 2019 Lexington County will be able to assist further with homeless issues throughout the County. Street outreach, emergency shelter, homeless prevention and

rapid re-housing are eligible components of this program and will serve the community well.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The County of Lexington works with the Cayce Housing Authority and the State Department of Housing and Finance; the Cayce Housing and the State Department of Housing and Finance offers Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and does not have any public housing units. The CHA has a small number of public housing units as well as Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The County has recently engaged the Cayce Housing Authority in an effort to collaborate, using HOME funds in expanding the availability of public housing the community.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing

Continue to collaborate with Cayce Housing Authority for expanding the availability of public housing throughout Lexington County.

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

The County continues to encourage local support service providers to expand existing Consumer Credit Counseling and First Time Home-Buyer programs with funding assistance where possible. Additionally, through the use of CDBG and HOME funds the County of Lexington's Grant Programs Division will continue working with community groups to seek additional resources to build consumer credit education counseling and awareness among low income and minority residents to include local faith-based organizations, higher education institutions, libraries, and other forums for fair housing.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance

Not applicable

Discussion

Not applicable

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)

Introduction

The County of Lexington is focusing on planning efforts that create various ways to address the issues of homelessness and chronic homelessness. It is difficult to accurately measure the number of persons at risk of becoming homeless. Moreover, it is impossible to gauge at any one time the number of people who are threatened with eviction, unemployment, foreclosure, or termination of utilities. Families and individuals are at-risk of becoming homeless when they no longer have any cushion against the perils of life. Most commonly, a family is at-risk when it lives paycheck-to-paycheck without any savings for sudden emergencies. The County's elderly and families are the face of the homeless in Lexington. Experts in the field suggest that if the County can somehow assist entities that addressing issues of mental illness, invest in job training, and work development programs, then our community would begin addressing issues of chronic homelessness.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

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

Service providers in the County of Lexington will work collaboratively to provide a wide range of expertise in housing, social, and supportive services within each component of the continuum. A strategy to address homelessness in the CoC is to strengthen and enhance these existing assets. In regards to goals for eliminating chronic homelessness, The County of Lexington works closely with other municipalities, community leaders, and other stakeholders to accomplish this goal. Christ Central Ministries current operates shelters for women and children, families, and veterans facing homelessness. What's more, the faith-based organization has purchased property and intends to open additional shelters for young (teenage) males, families and others within the next five years. As part of the strategic planning initiative, these organizations will include goals set out by the Federal Government's inter-agency Strategic Plan to End Homelessness called Opening Doors. These goals include: 1) Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 5 years; 2) Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 5 years; 3) Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 10 years; 4) Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The County of Lexington, our non-profit organizations and municipal partners will continue to dedicate funding and support the operations of expansion of existing emergency shelters throughout the county. Funding provided to local shelters to expand service and create new programs to address multiple persons and housing needs.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

Each year the County of Lexington without a doubt, through the support of its subrecipients is both directly and indirectly assisting individuals from becoming homeless once they are discharged from publicly funded institutions through our support of the job training programs with Goodwill and the Fatherhood Initiative, our collaborations with the Cayce Housing Authority, or support of training and counseling services for Sistercare, Inc, a local non-profit which advocates on behalf of battered spouses and their children and finally through our support of food stability programs which are CDGB through Lexington Interfaith Community Services (LICS) and Harvest Hope Food Bank. Moreover, working with the Central Midlands Council of Governments, area non-profits, as well as its fourteen (14) municipalities, Lexington County has targeted significant CDBG and HOME resources within the low-income areas described in this Plan. Each year the County works to leverage these resources, which in turn acts as catalyst to spur additional public and private investment in our Low and Moderate Income areas and serves to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing, as well as help low-to-moderate income residents acquire the skills necessary to improve their employment opportunities.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: 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); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

Additionally, each year the County works with the Central Midlands Council of Governments, area non-profits, as well as its fourteen (14) municipalities to target significant CDBG and HOME resources within the low-income areas described in this Plan. Each year the County works to leverage these resources, which in turn acts as catalyst to spur additional public and private investment in our Low and Moderate

Income areas and serves to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing, as well as help low-to-moderate income residents acquire the skills necessary to improve their employment opportunities. For example, during Program Year 2018, the County is not only providing funding for the Transitions Facility, but we are using CDBG resources for job training, as well as to provide resources to persons with disabilities and battered women and their children. Lexington County is also working with its partners Harvest Hope Food bank to address food instability among our children and elderly residents.

Discussion

As part of the strategic planning initiative, various organizations, along with Lexington County, will include goals set out by the Federal Government's inter-agency Strategic Plan to End Homelessness called Opening Doors. These goals include: 1) Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 5 years; 2) Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 5 years; 3) Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 10 years; 4) Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)

Introduction:

The most recent Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing identifies six areas of concern. The barriers to addressing housing needs, such as demand for both renter and owner-occupied housing units (based on the current inventory of rental units), fair market rent for these units, the current waiting lists for public housing, and the income levels of those experiencing housing problems clearly show a need for affordable rental units. Additionally, the disproportionate level of low wages as compared to high cost of available rental units is another barrier for LMI individuals.

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 County of Lexington's Grant Programs Division through its housing acquisition and rehabilitation programs through CDBG and HOME has addressed some of the issues of affordability by increasing the availability of affordable single family homes in the County's rental inventory through its partnerships with community CHDO's and developers. Additionally, the County is working with Habitat for Humanity, the faith based community and the Cayce Housing Authority in an effort to identify strategies for collaborative funding opportunities through the use of CDBG, HOME, tax credits, etc.

Discussion:

The County has collaborated with the Urban League of Greater Columbia, the Community Relations Council, as well as the Central Midlands Council of Governments, and USDA-Rural to perform comprehensive outreach and education activities throughout the County of Lexington. The Grant Programs Division will continue to aggressively seek partners that will encourage the development of strategies for affordable housing in the County of Lexington. Over the next four years the County of Lexington anticipates expending approximately \$50,000 on fair housing programs and services.

The County Grants staff has started monthly outreach meetings at local libraries to educate residents on Fair Housing and the rules, regulations and rights. The County also continues to collaborate with other local government entities with various Fair Housing outreach programs/ events.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The County continues to encourage local support service providers to expand existing Consumer Credit Counseling and First Time Home-Buyer programs with funding assistance where possible. Additionally, through the use of CDBG and HOME funds the County of Lexington's Grant Programs Division will continue working with community groups to seek additional resources to build consumer credit education counseling and awareness among low income and minority residents to include local faith-based organizations, higher education institutions, libraries, and other forums for fair housing

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Grant Programs Division staff intend to engage the non-profit, faith based, state service providers and social agencies in an effort to further identify the resources available to address the housing, child care, mental health services, and economic disparities that exist in the County. Through the Consolidated Plan consultation process, County staff have been able to identify organizations that are providing services in the community. It is important that the County serve as a catalyst to promote collaboration amongst the various organizations. To this end, in 2019 the Grant Programs Division staff intends to host a service provider meeting that will engage these organizations in an effort to better serve our low-and-moderate income populations

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The County continues to support local groups, such as Habitat for Humanity, the Cayce Housing Authority, local developers and non-profit community housing organizations, as well as USDA-Rural, who work to provide affordable homes and seek viable financing options for low to moderate-low income homebuyers. County staff also works with local lenders to identify changes or patterns in lending practices, especially those that impact low-income, minorities, Section 3 residents, and other special populations. The County is hoping to enter into an agreement with the Cayce Housing Authority, as well as a local CHDO to increase the availability of housing for low-and-moderate income families, as well as seniors that are severely housing cost burdened.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The County currently contracts with a lead based paint specialist and will continue to support programs available through DHEC and will continue to be diligent in following our lead hazard control program to eliminate lead hazards in housing when a unit undergoes rehabilitation through the CDBG

and HOME Programs

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The County of Lexington has targeted significant CDBG and HOME resources toward the public service, infrastructure, and housing programs designed to address issues and improve the lives of the county's low-and-moderate income populations of the County. The work of the County in conjunction with our numerous partners will act as a catalyst to invite additional public and private investment of capital and services, to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing, and to help low to moderate income residents acquire needed information, knowledge, and skills to improve their employment opportunities.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Lexington County's Grant Programs Division staff intends to host a service provider meeting that will engage these organizations in an effort to better serve our low-and-moderate income populations

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

The County is hoping to enter into an agreement with the Cayce Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity as well as a local CHDO to increase the availability of housing for low-and-moderate income families, as well as seniors that are severely housing cost burdened

Discussion:

The County continues to support local groups, such as Habitat for Humanity, the Cayce Housing Authority, local developers and non-profit community housing organizations, as well as USDA-Rural, who work to provide affordable homes and seek viable financing options for low to moderate-low income homebuyers.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

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. All Program Income received is automatically reprogrammed to open activities.

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.	90.00%

**HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)**

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

Not applicable

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

The County of Lexington has adopted the recapture provisions for HOME funds. This is a mechanism to recapture all or a portion of the direct HOME subsidy if the HOME recipient decides to sell the house within the affordability period at whatever price the market will bear. Recaptures funds may be used for any HOME-eligible activity. Recaptured funds are deposited in the local HOME account and is treated like Program Income, which includes recording in IDIS as Program Income

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

The County of Lexington does not currently participate in resale activities with HOME Funds and Affordability requirements are imposed by deed restrictions, covenants running with the land. Home assisted rental units must meet the affordability for a specific period, which depends upon the type of activity or level of HOME funding. Specifically, the sale of the property during the affordability period triggers repayment of the direct HOME subsidy, which limits the amount to be recaptured to the net proceeds available from the sale minus loan repayment and closing costs.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

Not applicable to our program as we currently do not do multifamily housing.

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Reference 91.220(I)(4)**

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)
 - Must be private nonprofit organizations.
 - Agencies must submit 501(c)3 status documentation.
 - Agency’s project request for HESG funds must be endorsed by the local Continuum of Care to make sure the agency’s project is in line with the CoC’s priorities and standards.
 - Agencies must provide a service that HUD prioritizes (Rapid Re-Housing, Street/Community outreach, Shelter Operations).
 - Any agency receiving HESG funds is obligated to maintain both client services activity records and performance outcome measures utilizing HMIS. Domestic violence, AIDS and legal service providers must use a comparable database that collects client-level data over time and generates unduplicated aggregate reports.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

United Way of the Midlands (UWM), serves as lead HUD agency for the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH) which is the HUD designated Homeless Continuum of Care (SC-502) for Lexington County. UWM also serves as the MACH lead agency for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS data is used to collect and report on ESG program results. UWM will support Lexington County’s ESG implementation with reporting on agency HMIS data.

MACH collaborates with the other South Carolina CoCs and the South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to establish state wide ESG performance measures, HMIS data collection standards, and standards for agency training and data quality. MACH considers agency capacity to administer funding and successful programs and collaboration with MACH key to community success in addressing homelessness and these factors are prioritized above individual funding categories within ESG.

- MACH provides ESG certification based on the following factors:
- Participation the Coordinated Entry System – including serving as a MACH Access Point (MAP)
- Participation in HMIS (except providers serving domestic violence survivors)
- Participation and membership with MACH

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

The County posted a NOFA for agencies to apply for ESG eligible activities. Applications are reviewed and scored by Community Development staff for discussion and funding recommendations. After the required comment period and a Public Hearing, funding recommendations are presented to County Council for approval. For ESG funding, Lexington County must consult with the local Continuum of Care (CoC) in determining how to allocate these funds.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

A homeless and/or formerly homeless individual participates in the United Way of the Midlands governing body. Lexington County consults UWM when prioritizing policy and funding decisions related to the ESG program.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

Lexington County has established Policy and Procedures for the ESG Program and will adhere to the strict monitoring guidelines for the CDBG program.

