

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The 2021 calendar year will be the City of Rome's 18th year as a CDBG Entitlement community. CDBG funding is an important source of funds in the City's efforts to address the priority needs of its low and moderate income citizens and in the revitalization of distressed urban neighborhoods. CDBG funds have historically provided approximately \$425,000 per year for use on housing and public improvements. The 2019 award was \$425,407 and the 2020 award was \$438,553. The City also received a CDBG-CV allocation in the amount of \$513,523 from the CARES Act. The 2021 grant award is \$473,259.

CDBG focuses on three facets within the low and moderate income community:

1. Housing
2. Public facilities (buildings, infrastructure and services)
3. Economic Development (job creation/retention)

Rome has concentrated its previous CDBG awards in public facilities and housing areas and continues to do so in the 2021 program year with the addition of assistance to a local day care center for much needed building upgrades.

Following are the proposed 2021 projects:

- Housing Rehabilitation Program
- Sidewalk and street improvements within low income census tracts
- Assistance to Rebecca Blalock Child Development center for building improvements
- Grant administration

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.

Same as above.

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 of Rome manages a very successful Housing Rehabilitation Program and continues to fund it annually due to the ongoing need. Approximately 7 homes are assisted each year and Community Development staff continues to manage a waiting list for assistance. This program meets a need in the low income community and helps older individuals remain in their homes for a longer period of time. The program was revamped in 2019 from a Minor Repair Program and now provides more assistance per residence. During the pandemic this program was delayed which has affected spending the funds timely.

The sidewalk improvements that continue to take place in the neighborhoods make pedestrian access easier and safer. Many of the sidewalks have fallen into disrepair and these funds allow the sidewalks to be brought up to current standards.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Regular updates on the CDBG program are made at the Community Development Services Committee meeting that is normally held on the second Tuesday of each month at City Hall. These meetings are open to the public with an agenda posted in advance of the meeting. The meetings are well covered by local media. The City's Citizen Participation Plan requires public input at the Annual Action Plan development stage and at the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. It also requires public notification of any change of 25% or more of the grant awarded in a project or activity and the elimination or addition of a new project/activity.

City staff also meet with two neighborhood groups, the South Rome Redevelopment Corporation and the North Rome Community Action Committee to provide updates and receive input on neighborhood needs.

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.

The proposed budget was presented to the Community Development Services Committee (CDSC) on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 for discussion and review (these meetings are advertised and open to the public).

A public hearing was held on Thursday, April 15, 2021 to receive further input and the budget was presented to CDSC again on June 8, 2021 for final approval. The Action Plan was completed and put out for a 30 day comment period from 6/28/21 through 7/28/21.

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

Based on the needs assessment, market analysis, consultations with public agencies and staff of the City of Rome, the City determined that the most appropriate use of its CDBG allocation during the 2021 program year is for public infrastructure improvements (such as sidewalks, curb and gutter, pedestrian safety, ADA compliance, new sidewalks in areas that are in need), public facility improvements, housing rehabilitation (single family) and grant administration. These are goals outlined in the five year 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan.

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

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Rome Community Development Department is the lead agency within the City of Rome for CDBG administration.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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City of Rome

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

1. Introduction

Three City of Rome Commissioners oversee the Community Development Services Committee and the CDBG Entitlement program. This group is responsible for reviewing and approving the Annual Action Plan each year for use of CDBG funds. This is usually completed in November after an exhaustive look at the needs of the City and its citizens during the period of June-September and after soliciting input from agencies that work in community development and from departments of the City that are knowledgeable about community needs. At times, the actual budget is approved once the exact allocation is known during the following year. The year of 2020 and 2021 were delayed due to the global pandemic but the same process was followed.

This plan was developed by the City of Rome's Community Development Department with input from the following:

- City Management
- Elected Officials
- Citizens of the City of Rome
- Rome's Public Works Division
- Rome's Water and Sewer Division
- Rome/Floyd Housing Team
- Rome/Floyd Planning Department
- Rome/Floyd Building Inspection Department
- South Rome Redevelopment Corporation/South Rome Alliance
- Northwest GA Housing Authority
- Non-profit providers

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(I))

The City of Rome has an affordable housing team with members representing different housing providers in Rome, GA. This housing team was formed in 2009 as part of a State of GA housing initiative called the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH). The City's team actively participated for three years and has been classified as an alumni team. This allows the team to continue updating the housing plan and attending the twice a year training. This Rome/Floyd Housing Team is made up of City and County staff, realtors, lenders, and non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity, Northwest Georgia Housing Authority, South Rome Redevelopment Corporation and for-profit housing developers that construct assisted housing such as Charles Williams REIC. This team continues to stay in contact and meets on average two times a year or as needed to discuss opportunities as they arise.

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 City of Rome fall within the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC). The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) staffs the CoC and allocates Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds across 152 counties statewide to assist with emergency shelter, transitional housing and homeless prevention, outreach, and supportive services. Rome routinely supports local non-profit agencies that seek funding through DCA to assist persons in need, such as those that fall within categories listed above.

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 of Rome is not involved in the decision making process regarding which agencies receive funding through the State of Georgia's Continuum of Care Program administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. They have a competitive process and receive more funding requests than can be awarded annually. The following agencies were consulted and currently receive funding through the Georgia Balance of the State Continuum of Care program, or have received funding in the past. Highland Rivers, Action Ministries, Hospitality House for Women, Salvation Army (Rome), and Living Room Inc. Any comments provided by these agencies were considered.

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	Agency/Group/Organization	Northwest Georgia Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Rome and NWGHA work in partnership together to further affordable housing in Rome whenever possible. The City and NWGHA are currently collaborating on a Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant for a portion of the East Rome Redevelopment area. Upon completion, this document will be a transformation plan for the neighborhood that addresses housing, blight, economic development, poverty, homelessness, etc.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	South Rome Redevelopment Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Education Planning organization Non profit Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Neighborhood needs and Early Education efforts

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Community Development Department staff and the SRRC Executive Director are in regular contact each month regarding the South Rome Redevelopment efforts. The City and SRRC partner together to construct affordable single family housing for income eligible purchasers using HOME funds through a competitive process through the GA Department of Community Affairs and serves on the SRRC early education committee for pre-k 3 efforts, and Housing Development Committee.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Salvation Army (Rome)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs - Veterans
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted via email.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Charles Williams REIC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was contacted in person during a local housing symposium and via email.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Boys and Girls Club of Northwest GA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was contacted in person and through email/phone.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	William S. Davies Homeless Shelter
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was contacted in person, via email and by phone.

7	Agency/Group/Organization	Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Employment Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was contacted in person, via phone and email.

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

Efforts were made to consult as broad a group of community stakeholders as possible. No agency types were excluded from participation.

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	Georgia Department of Community Affairs	The DCA provides homeless McKinney Vento Act funds to agencies in Rome through the Balance of State Continuum of Care. These funds assist with emergency shelter, transitional housing, homelessness prevention, and outreach. Point in time homeless counts prepared by the Continuum of Care are reported in the Needs Assessment.
City of Rome and Floyd County Comprehensive Plan	Rome/Floyd Planning Department	Economic Development; Public facility needs (street/sidewalk, infrastructure improvements); Housing

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
The Rome/Floyd County Plan for Quality Housing	Rome Community Development Department	Promote rehabilitation of substandard owner occupied housing units; promote construction of affordable housing options
City of Rome Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housi	City of Rome Community Development	Impediments identified will be addressed during plan period
Rome-Floyd 2020 III Community & Economic Strategy	Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce	Building vibrant, diverse and healthy communities

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

A public meeting was held on April 15, 2021 where the proposed 2021 CDBG Action Plan and budget were discussed. The proposed Action Plan was also discussed at the Community Development Services Committee meetings on April 13, 2021 and June 8, 2021 which were open to the public.

A 30 day public comment period was held from June 28, 2021 through July 28, 2021.

Goal setting took place during the Consolidated Plan period (for plan 2019-2023), the 2021 Action Plan was put into action to complete goals already identified.

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 Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	April 13, 2021 Community Development Services Committee meeting. The agenda posted in advance of the meeting. City staff, Rome City Commissioners and the news media were in attendance.	The committee was in favor of moving forward with the draft activities and budget through the public input and comment phase.	No comments were rejected.	
2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	A public hearing was held on Thursday, April 15, 2021 to receive input and comments on proposed activities for the 2021 Action Plan. The hearing was advertised in the Rome News Tribune on April 13, 2021. City staff was in attendance.	No comments were received.	No comments were received.	

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)
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	June 8, 2021 Community Development Services Committee meeting. The agenda posted in advance of the meeting. City staff, Rome City Commissioners and the news media were in attendance.	The committee was in favor of the activities proposed and approved the plan and budget.	No comments received.	
4	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	A public notice that summarized the proposed 2021 CDBG Action Plan activities and budget was published in the Rome News Tribune on June 28, 2021, on the City of Rome's social media sites and on the City of Rome website. Comments were taken during a 30 day comment period.			

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The City anticipates that the only funds available during program year 2021 for the selected CDBG projects will be CDBG funds. These funds will be used for the design and construction of sidewalks and improved walkways located in LMI Census tracts, housing rehabilitation for income eligible households, building upgrades to the Rebecca Blaylock Child Development Center, and administration/planning activities.

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	473,259	0	0	473,259	787,000	The City of Rome estimates receiving approximately \$425,000 each year in CDBG funds to allocate to approved projects.

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

For 2021, CDBG funds will not be leveraged with other City, State or Federal funds. There are no matching requirements for the CDBG program.

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 proposed street and sidewalk improvements will take place in the current public right-of-way, meaning land acquisition is not anticipated.

Discussion

For 2021, CDBG funds will not be leveraged with other City, State or Federal funds. There are no matching requirements for the CDBG program.

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
1	Public Facility Improvements	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	51% and greater LMI Census Tracts	Public Facility and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$299,259	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Persons Assisted
2	Housing Rehabilitation	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	City-wide Effort	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$90,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 7 Household Housing Unit
4	Grant Planning and Administration	2019	2023	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development CV-Public Services	City-wide Effort	Housing Rehabilitation Public Facility and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$84,000	Other: 4 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Public Facility Improvements
	Goal Description	
2	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	
4	Goal Name	Grant Planning and Administration
	Goal Description	

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The one-year 2021 Action Plan identifies specific activities which are to be conducted in support of many of the priorities and objectives outlined in the 2019-2023 five-year Consolidated Plan for the City of Rome, GA. It is anticipated that the majority of the objectives identified will be met and or exceeded. The one-year Action Plan is updated and presents the specific programs and projects to be implemented in 2021 along with their respective funding sources and allocations.

Projects

#	Project Name

Table 7 - Project Information

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

Funding priorities are consistent with those outlined in the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan. The City will continue to encourage and seek input from the community on conditions and needs through public hearings, Rome City Commission meetings, Rome City Committee meetings, City departmental meetings, social media, public events and general conversations with non-profit and public service providers along with citizens. Community Development staff will continue to make numerous contacts within the community that are conduits for learning about the needs of our residents.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

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

Approximately 37% of the 2021 CDBG funds will be used in the low/mod census tracts in the City of Rome for sidewalk replacement/improvements. The remaining funds for the Housing Rehabilitation program will be funded on a city-wide basis and the need is based on household income. However, the majority of those assisted through the housing rehabilitation program typically fall within the targeted census tracts.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
51% and greater LMI Census Tracts	37
City-wide Effort	19

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The majority of local need for these type services fall within neighborhoods within the low income census tracts.

Discussion

N/A

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City of Rome has administered a very successful rehabilitation program through the CDBG program for many years.. This program allows income eligible homeowners to apply for financial assistance to address much needed repairs to their homes. The City plans to continue funding this program each year as long as the demand remains (continually waiting list). To date over 116 homeowners have been assisted since the program began in 2007. The City of Rome also receives funds from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs through their CHIP program (funded with HOME dollars) which allows construction of new single family homes to be sold to low/mod income homebuyers.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	7
Special-Needs	0
Total	7

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	7
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	7

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

Discussion

The City of Rome's affordable housing strategy is to continue to provide assistance to low/mod income homeowners by funding the Housing Rehabilitation Program through CDBG dollars and to regularly seek CHIP funding from the GA Department of Community Affairs in order to continue constructing new single family housing. The City will also partner with and support agencies where possible in the creation of affordable housing through their obtaining funding from the state through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The City of Rome does not plan to undertake capital improvements in 2021 that directly affect public housing. The City and Northwest GA Housing Authority were awarded a Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant in the fall of 2019 to create a transformation plan for a targeted neighborhood in East Rome (located census tract 16). The public housing complex to be addressed is John Graham Homes. The City and NWGHA look forward to this planning period to create a plan that will benefit all that live in the neighborhood and identifies implementation opportunities once completed.

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

There are no specific actions planned during 2021 to address the needs for public housing. The NWGHA does a great job at accessing these needs and has changed the face of public housing in Rome and Rockmart Georgia.

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

The City of Rome does not plan to become directly involved in the management of the NWGHA.

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

N/A

Discussion

The City of Rome and Northwest Georgia Housing Authority continue to support each others efforts as redevelopment opportunities of low income areas arise. Both agencies have a great working relationship.

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

Introduction

With respect to homelessness, the Annual Action Plan must include the jurisdiction's strategy for reducing and ending homelessness through:

1. Helping low-income families avoid becoming homeless;
2. Reaching out to homeless person and assessing their individual needs;
3. Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons; and
4. Helping homeless persons (especially any persons that are chronically homeless) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

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

The City of Rome will coordinate new efforts with agencies that provide services to the homeless population through a partnership with United Way. This will help us better understand the needs and support the agencies require. A newly formed Interagency Council on Poverty and Homelessness was formed late in 2019 between the City of Rome, United Way and Floyd County, each contributing local funds towards the salary of one part-time employee to update the local 10 year plan to end homelessness. During the 2021 calendar year the goal is to meet with local services providers to identify gaps of service and highlight overlaps where new partnerships could be formed.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Rome will continue to support local public service agencies efforts that assist individuals and families with transitional 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

The City of Rome will continue to support public service agencies and providers within the City such as Salvation Army, William S. Davies Homeless Shelter, Action Ministries and others by offering support

letters for federal or state funding and providing technical assistance whenever possible.

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.

The City of Rome will continue to support public service agencies and providers that assist low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless within the City such as Salvation Army, William S. Davies Homeless Shelter, Action Ministries and others by offering support letters for federal or state funding and providing technical assistance whenever possible.

Discussion

The City of Rome is a small CDBG grantee and does not receive direct allocation of funding to address homelessness.

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

Introduction:

The City of Rome has public policies that can affect the cost of housing and the ability to develop, maintain, and improve affordable housing. These policies include building permits with minimum lot size requirements, set back restrictions, zoning requirements and other building codes. These fees and requirements add to the final cost of housing.

The City of Rome does not provide waivers of building fees associated with affordable housing. However, the Community Development Department meets with City Officials and Building Officials regularly to discuss ways the fees could be waived or reduced on the request of developers for the construction of new or rehabilitation of existing affordable housing.

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

Based on the impediment listed above identified in the 2018 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, the City will convene a discussion among City leaders, city staff and the affected community stakeholders to review the effects and possible barriers the local zoning ordinances may have towards creation of affordable housing.

Many discussions have transpired on this subject and the local Unified Land and Development Code (ULDC) in place for the City of Rome is currently being studied and re-written. This will be an 18 month process with requiring substantial community involvement and input.

Discussion:

N/A

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The Annual Action Plan must describe the jurisdiction's planned actions to carry out the following strategies outlined in the Consolidated Plan: -Foster and maintain affordable housing; -Evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards; -Reduce the number of poverty-level families; -Develop institutional structure; and -Enhance coordination

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Rome will partner with the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority in a combined effort to create a transformation plan using the Choice Neighborhoods Planning grant received in 2019 for revitalization of John Graham Homes (public housing) and the surrounding neighborhood.

Once the planning period is complete (24 months) The next step will be to find additional funds for implementation. The CNI grant also includes approximately \$1 million dollars for an action activity that will be identified during the planning phase.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The following actions will be taken to help foster and maintain affordable housing in Rome: -Continued partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority, private developers and the South Rome Redevelopment Agency/Corporation. -Probable 2021 CHIP application to DCA to continue the Single Family Housing Development program. -Support letters to nonprofit agencies of groups who apply for funding under Georgia's Continuum of Care for homeless and other special needs populations. -Support letters to private developers who involve the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program in their developments. -Continue review of local ordinances and processes to insure that these do not pose a barrier to provision of affordable housing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City of Rome is addressing lead based paint issues through the city-wide Housing Rehabilitation Program. The City of Rome employees certified staff in the Rome/Floyd Building Inspection Department as a Lead Based Paint Risk Inspector. The City now has the ability to test houses on a local level and bid out the abatement or interim control work that is needed to each home prior to the regular rehabilitation work beginning. The majority of the homes assisted through the local housing rehabilitation program were built prior to 1978.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

No actions are planned with CDBG Program funds during the Program Year 2021 that are directly related

to reducing the number of poverty level families. The City of Rome believes that its many partnerships with other agencies that are meant to improve job availability in our community address this need in an adequate manner.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Rome's current institutional structure includes many service agencies including the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, Action Ministries, United Way, South Rome Redevelopment Agency/Corporation, William S. Davies Homeless Shelter, Rome Salvation Army, Highland Rivers, Hospitality House and Community Kitchen.

Rome believes the current structure is strong and sufficient for community needs. Rome staff will make efforts to stay in contact with these agencies throughout the plan period.

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

The City of Rome will continue to be involved with numerous cooperative groups of agencies such as a revamped Homeless Committee, Rome/Floyd Housing Team, Habitat for Humanity, Appalachian Housing and Redevelopment Corporation, South Rome Redevelopment Agency, Action Ministries and the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority. The majority of the agencies identified are members of the local housing team. The City will make an effort to foster regular quarterly meetings with this group to stay informed of housing needs as they change locally and look for additional funding sources that can be used to address needs of the community.

Discussion:

Fair Housing Goals

The City of Rome and the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority partnered together to complete an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing in 2018. The AI identified the following fair housing goals based on the research and findings. The goals will direct strategies to alleviate fair housing issues and contributing factors.

1. Increase mobility for residents seeking access to areas of greater opportunity: For many low-income households in Rome, opportunities to move to a range of neighborhoods within the city are hampered by lack of affordable housing, inability to find a rental unit that will accept housing choice vouchers, moving costs, and lack of information about available housing. Public housing and housing choice voucher holders tend to be concentrated in R/ECAP census tracts and neighborhoods in South and East Rome. While many residents desire to remain in these neighborhoods, others may wish to move to other parts of the city or Floyd County, and should be supported in doing so. Additionally, homeownership rates indicate that African American and Latino households are less likely to own their homes than whites, and continued homeowner counseling and downpayment assistance would expand

housing opportunities for these households.

2. Focus community development activities in disinvested neighborhoods: This study identified one area including parts of downtown and West Rome as a Racially and Ethnically Concentrated Area of Poverty (R/ECAP). Additionally, block groups in the South Rome and East Rome neighborhoods have populations that are more than 50% people of color and poverty rates of over 40%. Stakeholders note that deteriorated and abandoned properties and code enforcement issues are more prevalent in these neighborhoods than in other parts of the city. They also identify the need for public investment in these areas, and continued revitalization efforts to improve economic opportunity and jobs access, and reduce poverty.

3. Support new construction of affordable housing in high opportunity areas: Over 40% of households in Rome face one or more housing needs, the most common of which is affordability. Continued development of new affordable units in areas with access to quality schools, job opportunities, and other critical community resources will expand housing opportunities for these households and increase affordability in high opportunity areas of the city.

4. Increase accessible housing options for people with disabilities: The AFH identified several opportunities to increase housing opportunity for and better address the needs of disabled persons in Rome. The Rome-Floyd County Unified Land Development Code should be reviewed and amended to treat personal care homes that meet the ordinance's definition of a household in the same manner as other single-family housing. Additionally, spacing requirements that specify a distance of at least 1,500 feet between personal care homes with more than two persons should be eliminated.

5. Provide fair housing education and outreach to protected classes: The City of Rome and NWGHA (including through the Appalachian Housing Counseling Agency) have made progress in developing educational materials and programs about fair housing over the last few years. However, many residents, landlords, and social service providers still lack information about fair housing rights, responsibilities, and where to report a fair housing complaint. The City can improve its fair housing education efforts by developing targeted curriculums for specific groups (such as residents, landlords, or city staff) and planning to hold at least one fair housing education event or presentation per quarter in cooperation with various community organizations.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The City anticipates that the only funds available for the 2021 projects identified will be CDBG funds. These funds will be used for the design and construction of new sidewalks and/or rehabilitation of existing sidewalks in the low/mod income census tracts of Rome; the Housing Rehabilitation program; building improvements and upgrades to the Rebecca Blaylock Child Development Center, and for Planning/Administration of the programs.

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.	80.00%

N/A

