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# **2000 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT**

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## Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report - FY2000

### INTRODUCTION

The City of Akron prepares a Consolidated Strategy and Plan to fulfill the goals of the National Affordable Housing Act. The Act has the objective of reaffirming the national commitment to decent, safe and sanitary housing for every American. The Act requires that in order to obtain certain Federal Housing and Urban Development programs, state and local governments must have an approved Consolidated Strategy and Plan. The Consolidated Plan is a consolidated process for three Community Planning and Development formula programs: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG).

The Act requires Akron to describe its housing needs and market conditions, to set out a 5-year strategy that establishes priorities for meeting those needs, to identify resources anticipated to be available and to establish a one-year investment plan. The City of Akron prepared a 2000-2004 five year Strategy and a 2000 Annual Plan. This Strategy is a comprehensive planning document that serves as a working guide for the application of resources to address local housing, quality of living environment and economic needs.

This Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) identifies progress in carrying out the annual Consolidated Plan, provides the City an opportunity to assess its annual performance in relationship to its overall five-year Consolidated Plan priorities and objectives, and discusses what actions or changes it may contemplate as a result of its annual performance.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Covered Period of Performance

This Consolidated Annual Plan Performance and Evaluation Report covers activities through the 2000 Federal fiscal year, January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000.

### Submission Deadline

This Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report must be received by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) no later than March 31, 2001.

### Citizen Participation

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for the 2000 Federal fiscal year, was made available for public comment on March 15, 2001.

The City has made this report available to the public for examination and comment for a period of 15 days. The City is submitting with the performance report a description of the process it undertook to ensure the public had an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed report.

Advertisements notifying the public of the availability of the CAPER appeared in the Akron Beacon Journal March 15, 2001 and on the City's website. No public comments were received regarding the Report as a result of the public participation process. A copy of the CAPER as submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development will be available for examination by the public upon request.

## **SECTION 1. NARRATIVE STATEMENTS**

### **A. Assessment of Three to Five Year Goals and Objectives**

In this section, the City is required to demonstrate how activities undertaken during the program year address pertinent Strategic Plan objectives and areas of high priority identified in its five year Consolidated Plan. The tables beginning on page 7 summarize how activities address these objectives, so that overall performance in meeting Consolidated Plan goals can be assessed.

#### **Areas of High Priority**

The City of Akron worked to address the following priorities through activities outlined in the 2000 Annual Consolidated Plan:

#### **Priority A: Neighborhood Rehabilitation, Owner Occupied Housing**

##### **1. Housing Rehabilitation Program**

The City, in selecting the areas to receive intensive housing treatment, considered a broad range of criteria including not only the age, value and condition of the housing stock, but also owner occupancy rates, household income and other demographics. By selecting areas which have a relatively high level of households with low and moderate incomes, Akron has structured the rehabilitation program to meet the needs of low income households. By monitoring this activity, Akron has assured that a majority of the rehabilitation carried out assisted low income needs.

Public improvements have been provided within Neighborhood Development Areas and Neighborhood Housing Petition Areas. Improvements ranged from reconstruction of streets, walks, curbs, installation of storm sewers and street trees. Just as rehabilitation of older, yet viable housing is an important component of neighborhood revitalization, so too is the reconditioning and upgrading of old infrastructure. This activity benefits low and moderate income areas.

To date, 28 neighborhoods comprised of over 17,500 homes and apartments, have participated in the program.

## **2. Neighborhood Housing Petition Program**

The Petition eligibility area generally encompasses the central ring of the City. In this area, 60% or more of the households are low and moderate income. The area is characterized by aged housing in declining condition. This area does not include areas previously served as Neighborhood Development Areas, and also does not include the downtown or the Opportunity Park Urban Renewal Area. The Petition Area is generally surrounded by Neighborhood Development Areas. The Neighborhood Petition Program areas contain far fewer homes than Neighborhood Development Areas. Never the less, substantial improvements are made in these small neighborhoods.

## **3. Minor Home Repair**

Needs of very low income elderly and people with disabilities have been addressed by Akron's Housing Rehabilitation Program and Minor Home Repair Program. Grant monies are available for the alteration of homes owned by low income, disabled persons, enabling these homes to become accessible to the disabled.

### **Priority B: Rental Housing Rehabilitation**

The Rental Rehabilitation Program offers financial assistance to rental property owners in Neighborhood Development and Housing Petition Areas for the correction of housing code violations. In order for an investor-owner to utilize the rental rehabilitation program, match money must be committed to the project. Units are predominantly occupied by very low or very, very low income families.

The City has also provided funds for rehabilitation of rental housing through non-profit housing organizations usually as part of a Low Income Housing Tax Credit project. The City contracts with non-profit organizations on a project basis.

### **Priority C: New Housing Construction**

The provision of affordable housing through new construction has been addressed through local development corporations in cooperation with the City of Akron. Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) is targeted to income groups from extremely low income households to moderate income households. The LIHTC program was created by the Tax Reform Act of 1986 as an alternate method of funding housing for low and moderated income

households. States receive a tax credit of \$1.25 per person that they can allocate toward funding housing that meets program guidelines. Tax Credits are used to leverage private capital into new construction or acquisition and rehabilitation of affordable housing.

The City strives for a mix of income to promote viable neighborhoods. The City has set aside a portion of its HOME funds for projects by non-profit housing organizations or Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). These funds are used to facilitate new construction often in conjunction with the State of Ohio Low Income Housing Tax Credit Programs.

The Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation (UNDC) has contracted with local builders for construction of quality homes on infill lots usually in the City's Neighborhood Development Areas. These homes blend with the neighborhood architecture and bring new life to old neighborhoods.

CHDOs constructing homes this year included the, East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation. Other notable agencies or non-profit providers of new housing include Habitat for Humanity, which utilizes private donations and volunteers, and Alpha Phi Alpha Homes.

#### Priority D: Homebuyer Assistance

Home ownership is a key ingredient for neighborhood stability and economic well being. The City's goal is to assist more lower income residents to become homeowners. Frequently, homes that are affordable to lower income residents are in need of rehabilitation. When homes are affordable, many prospective buyers may lack savings for a down payment.

Akron's Home Purchase Incentive Program (HPIP) has enabled persons buying homes in targeted areas to use up to \$2,000 to match their own down payment funds. The remainder of the grant and low interest loans have been used for home repair. Buyers agree to live in their house for at least five years or part of their grant is repaid. This program has been available in both the Neighborhood Development Areas and in Neighborhood Housing Petition Areas.

The City also sets aside HOME funds for use by non-profit and CHDOs, which may include a home buyer assistance component.

## Priority E: Support Facilities and Public Services

The City believes that in many instances support services are crucial to the success of housing programs. Akron has funded agencies to provide supportive services to individuals in Neighborhood Development Areas and Petition Areas. Service categories include senior citizens programs, youth-related programs, home maintenance training programs, fair housing programs, and general supportive services programs.

### Priority F: Homeless Persons, Individuals and Families Assistance

Akron has worked to provide emergency housing to homeless persons, increase the supply of transitional housing and improve housing opportunities for formerly homeless families.

The top priorities have been to assist with the rehabilitation and support of existing facilities. Other funded activities support assistance in securing permanent housing.

### Priority G: Acquisition of Property to Remove Blight or Assemble Land for New Construction

Akron has planned acquisition of vacant land and/or properties with CDBG funds for the purpose of development of housing in coordination with CHDO, other non-profit housing agencies or private for profit builders. The City land banks appropriate parcels for future redevelopment city-wide.

The City has initiated a Land Reutilization program authorized by the State of Ohio. While federal funds are not used directly for this program, the program can result in the construction of new homes, including those funded by the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), non-profit developers, or market rate housing. The City exercises its right to acquire parcels for both residential and commercial purposes within the City limits as they become available.

Over 2,200 dilapidated, vacant structures have been acquired and demolished to eliminate slum and blighted conditions. (See Non-Housing Community Development Plan.) Acquisition takes place within Neighborhood Program Areas. (No table is provided for this section because City programs indicated are found under other priorities.)

### Priority H: Non-Homeless Persons with Special Needs

During the program year, the City has provided CDBG funds for non-homeless persons with special needs. The City operates the Minor Home Repair Program (see Priority A) to assist low-income elderly, and persons with disabilities. The City provides CDBG or HOME funds for the residents of the Neighborhood Development Areas or Neighborhood Petition Areas who are in need of adaptations to make their home handicapped accessible, such as funding for the installation of ramps for wheelchair accessibility. (No table is provided for this section because City programs indicated are found under other priorities.)

### Non-Housing Community Development Programs

The City has also undertaken the following non-housing Development Programs which support economic revitalization within neighborhoods, correct slum and blight conditions within low income neighborhoods and allow completion of Urban Renewal activities (See Non-Housing Community Development Plan).

The Waiver Demolition Program enables the demolition of dilapidated structures, including garages, commercial and residential units at no charge to owners. This program addresses slum and blight conditions and frees vacant land for redevelopment. This program is city-wide in scope.

Akron's Neighborhood Business District Program has provided funds to revitalize neighborhood business districts in low income areas. In 2000, the program was active in the Middlebury, Tallmadge Avenue and Copley Road East Neighborhood Business Districts. Funds are for business property rehabilitation as well as acquisition, relocation and clearance of dilapidated property. Public improvements to the existing infrastructure are an important aspect of the program.

Small Business Assistance was provided through the Enterprise Community Loan Program. CDBG funds, local City funds and a U.S. Treasury Grant as a Community Development Financial Institution are used to match bank commitments to fund small business loans. This fund, as well as a technical assistance program, is operated by the East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation. The activity area is Akron's Enterprise Community Area and Enterprise Zone.

The Minority Business and Technical Assistance Program provides loans from a revolving loan fund to new minority businesses on a matching basis with

banks. The purpose of the program is job creation/retention of businesses. Technical Assistance is also provided.

The Neighborhood Partnership Program is made available to neighborhood organizations. Matching grants of \$500-\$7,500 are awarded for small neighborhoods based projects based on innovative ideas for improving a neighborhood. The program is offered city-wide through local funds and partnerships with the Akron Community Foundation.

The tables on the following pages summarize the accomplishments for the objectives outlined above. The activities meet one of the following objectives:

1. Encourage and support Housing Rehabilitation and Repair within target areas.
2. To encourage New Home Construction for households with a variety of incomes.
3. To provide Homebuyer Assistance to households.
4. Provide Support Services and Facilities for low income residents.
5. To pursue Acquisition of Property for New Construction within target areas of the City.

**Priority A: Home Ownership Neighborhood Rehabilitation**

Activities	Strategy/ Objective	Geographic Distribution	Goals	Accomplishments
1. Housing Rehabilitation and Repair	1	Neighborhood Development Areas See Map #2	Improve neighborhoods by providing financial assistance to homeowners including direct or matching grant, subsidized bank loans, technical assistance. Rehabilitation goal was to complete 275 homes in 2000.	Rehabilitation of 279 single owner-occupied units in 2000 in active neighborhood development areas. (Includes 12 owner occupied homes. Also see two-family Priority B1).
2. Neighborhood Housing Petition Program	1	Petition Areas See Map #3	Enable Akron residents in eligible areas to petition the City for a housing improvement program in their neighborhood. Program combines housing inspections and code enforcement with financial assistance for repairs. Goal was 30 households.	Rehabilitation of 27 single, owner occupied units was completed in active petition areas.
3. Neighborhood Based Non-Profit Housing Rehabilitation	1	Low Income Service Areas	Preservation of 20 deteriorated low income owner occupied houses by Community Housing Development Organizations.	4 units completed by BICEE.
4. Emergency Home Repair	1	City wide	Provide health and safety housing repairs to extremely low income homeowners. Goal was 125 households.	97 grants for repairs made.
5. Paint Program (Greater Westside Council of Block Clubs)	1	Club service area: Wards 3 and 4	Paint homes of elderly and low income households. Goal was 30 households.	34 houses painted.

Priority A: Home Ownership Neighborhood Rehabilitation				
Activities	Strategy/ Objective	Geographic Distribution	Goals	Accomplishments
6. Christmas in April	1	Citywide	City/County union joint venture to provide repairs to 18 houses of homeowners who are at least 60 and disabled and meet low income guidelines.	Service to 18 households.
7. City Paint Program	1	Designated Areas	City supplies paint, owner labor.	Service to 17 households.

Priority B: Rental Housing Rehabilitation				
Activities	Strategy/ Objective	Geographic Distribution	Goals	Accomplishments
1. Rehabilitation of Rental Housing	1	Neighborhood Development Areas and Petition Areas. See Map #2 and Map #3	Preservation of rental housing stock in moderate to extremely low income groups. 45 households to be served.	Rehabilitation of 12 multi-family housing units in NDAs and petition areas. In Neighborhood Development Areas, 43 were rental properties. 12 additional rental units reported in Priority A., Item 1 as the second unit in two-family owner-occupied homes. 14 Petition Area single-family homes. 69 total units of rental housing as listed.
2. CHDO/Non-Profit Developers Rental Rehabilitation	2	Throughout Central City	Preservation of rental housing undertaken by non-profit organizations – 24 very low income households to be served.	No CHDO/Non-Profit rental rehab in 2000.
3. Nonprofit Developers Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program	2	Qualified census tracts. See Map #5	Increase the supply of affordable rental housing units for low income households. Enable low income households to lease to own their homes. Goal was 35 households.	No LIHTC rehabilitated rental housing in 2000.

<b>Priority C: New Housing Construction</b>				
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Strategy/ Objective</b>	<b>Geographic Distribution</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
Nonprofit New Housing Construction UNDC	2	UNDC service area	Construction of 20 single family homes selling from \$68,900 to \$125,000.	11 homes completed.
Rental Housing Construction EANDC, Annunciation Terrace	5	EANDC service area and Broad Street	Construction of 85 rental units for very low income.	40 units completed by EANDC. 33 units of Annunciation Terrace completed in 2000.

<b>Priority D: Homebuyer Assistance</b>				
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Strategy/ Objective</b>	<b>Geographic Distribution</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
Home Purchase Incentive Program	3	Neighborhood Development and Petition Areas	Overcome barriers to home purchase by providing down payment assistance to homebuyers in conjunction with housing rehab funds.	4 homebuyers assisted.

Priority E: Support Facilities and Public Service					
Activities	Strategy/ Objective	Geographic Distribution	Goals	Accomplishments	
<b>HOME MAINTENANCE TRAINING</b>	1, 4	Active Neighborhood Development Areas (NDAs) and Petition Areas	Train up to 250 homeowners to properly maintain their homes.	The program provided 12 home maintenance seminars that were attended by 70 residents. The seminars provided attendees with the skills necessary to perform home repairs.	
<b>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</b>	4	Active NDAs	The aggregate goal for all supportive services was to assist 50,000 - 55,000 low and moderate-income persons or households.		
<b>A. Home Accessibility Program. Administered by United Disability Services</b>			Home modifications to increase accessibility and independence.	The program provided home modifications for 12 families with disabled family members. The program provided 8 wheel chair ramps, 1 stair lift, 3 bathroom modifications, 4 porch lifts and hand rails.	
<b>B. Consumer Credit Counseling Service. Administered by Family Services of Summit County (FSSC).</b>			Financial counseling services for low to moderate income families.	Conducted Debt Management and Individual Budget Counseling for 124 individuals. Conducted 12 money management classes.	

<p>C. Crouse Caring Community Program. Administered by Children's Services Board</p>		<p>Crouse CD Area</p>	<p>Coordinated community services designed to encourage a public/private/ volunteer partnership.</p>	<p>Served 1,400 people. Developed neighborhood Block Watch Groups in cooperation with the Akron Police Department. Improve educational opportunities for Crouse School Students. Promotion of services which support families including the monthly Community Family Nights, Weekly Community Coffee Hour for community residents and others and Counseling Services. Developed Information Resource Center. Summer youth activity 2-week program for over 38 children. After school activities included a 16-member gospel choir, a 51-member Arts and Crafts Appreciation Club, 20 member martial arts program, 20 member 10-week African dance program, a 11 member Crouse Knights Chess Club, a 15-member after school Science Club, 16 member girl scout troop, 20 member boy scout troop. Mentored 30 youth.</p>
<p>D. Family and Schools Together. Administered by Family Services of Summit County</p>		<p>Goodyear Area</p>	<p>For elementary students with academic and behavioral problems. Provides a family setting to modify behavior.</p>	<p>24 group sessions were attended by 167 persons, 32 families at Seiberling and Hotchkiss schools. The activities: family meals, "buddy time", parent groups, "special play", "kids time", etc. were a part of each weekly group session.</p>
<p>E. Information and Referral services. Administered by Info-Line, Inc.</p>		<p>Citywide</p>	<p>Provide information and referral of local services to persons in need of human services.</p>	<p>Provided 59,854 units of information and referral service. The top information and referral request for services were emergency food, housing, utility, medical and clothes assistance.</p>

<p>F. Crisis Intervention Program. Administered by Victims Assistance</p>		Citywide	<p>The program, working with the Police Department, provides crisis intervention and victim assistance services to Akron residents.</p>	<p>Direct services were provided 1,365 victims of various crimes.</p>
<p><b>YOUTH PROGRAMS</b></p>				
<p>A. Summer Day Camp Program. Administered by CYO and Community Services, Inc.</p>	4	Active NDAs	<p>Support education, crime prevention and medical counseling specifically for 4,500 to 5,000 youth that are low income.</p>	<p>The program provided services to 58 youth.</p>
<p>B. Tutorial Assistance Program. Administered by Youth Education Services</p>			<p>Individual or small group tutoring to students having difficulty in one or more subject.</p>	<p>Provided tutoring services to 14 youth.</p>
<p>C. Promoting Adolescents Through Health Services (PATHS). Administered by Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron</p>			<p>Comprehensive adolescent health service program. The program provides health, mentoring and tutoring services.</p>	<p>The program served 25 youth. The following activities were offered: medical, family life and sex education, employment assistance, case management, fitness, performing arts, cultural enhancement and education.</p>

<p>D. Child Assault Prevention Program. Administered by Akron Summit Community Action Agency</p>			<p>Provides assault prevention services to preschool/ elementary/school children, parents and staff.</p>	<p>The program served a total of 2,734 teachers, parents and children (1,314 children) at the following schools: Findley, Selberling, Pfeiffer, Lincoln, Smith, Forest Hill, Heminger, Leggett, Margaret Park, and Robinson. Services were also provided to pre-schoolers at the Five-Points, Waterloo and Cedar Head Start Programs. Presented fourteen teachers' staff in-service sessions, 19 parents' education workshops, 26 preschool children's workshops, and 89 elementary children's workshops.</p>
<p>E. Say Yes to Tennis, No to Drugs</p>			<p>Uses tennis to develop supportive relationships with at risk youth.</p>	<p>Provided weekly tennis instruction and drug, alcohol, gang violence prevention classes to 24 youth.</p>
<p>F. Summer Employment Program. Administered by Boys &amp; Girls Club</p>			<p>Provide summer enrichment and employment.</p>	<p>The program provided employment opportunities to 27 youth at 20 hours per week for 10 weeks.</p>
<p>SENIOR PROGRAMS</p>	4	Active NDAs	<p>Service to low income senior citizens. To serve 1,500 to 2,000 elderly.</p>	
<p>A. Retired Senior Volunteer Program</p>			<p>Provide meaningful volunteer assignments to retired seniors.</p>	<p>The program provided 16 volunteer sites. The 64 volunteers completed 13,500 volunteer hours.</p>

<p><b>D. Homemaker Service Program.</b> Administered by Senior Workers Action Program (SWAP).</p>			<p>Provide temporary in-home homemaker and health care to older adults living alone.</p>	<p>The program provided 1,422 hours of home care service to 219 older or handicapped residents. Chore Services were provided on an as needed basis.</p>
<p><b>C. Senior Citizens Outreach Program.</b> Administered by SWAP.</p>			<p>The program provided the following services for seniors: Case Management, Client Assessment, Forms Preparation Assistance, etc.</p>	<p>The program provided 23 client assessments and 384 personal contacts and client referrals.</p>
<p><b>D. Lifeline Emergency Alarm Response System.</b> Administered by Info-Line, Inc.</p>		<p>Neighborhood Development Areas</p>	<p>Electronic protective service for elderly and handicapped persons living alone.</p>	<p>The program provided Lifeline Emergency Alarm units to 67 residents.</p>
<p><b>FAIR HOUSING PROGRAM</b> Administered by Fair Housing Contact Service</p>	<p>3, 4</p>	<p>city-wide</p>	<p>Improve minority access to rental and for sale housing. Service area includes Akron and surrounding cities.</p>	<p>The program processed 132 discrimination complaints, conducted 43 audits of the rental sales market, and 2,689 tenant landlord services. Home ownership counseling provided to 130 persons and 22 training sessions or public forums.</p>

**Priority F: Homeless Persons, Individuals and Families Assistance**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Strategy/ Objective</b>	<b>Geographic Dist/ Location</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
ACCESS Step II	4	245 S. High Street	Transitional shelter for single, homeless women.	10 single persons served.
Community Aids Network	4	Micah House 667 N. Main Street	Transitional housing and essential services for persons infected with HIV/AIDS.	8 single persons served.
H.M. Life Opportunities Transitional Housing Program/Supportive Housing Demonstration	4	Broad Street Copley Road Treeside Drive	Transitional housing and supportive services for homeless persons and families leaving temporary shelters.	29 families served; 79 total persons served.
Damage Deposit Program / Fair Housing Contact Service	4	Citywide	Provide security deposits for families leaving transitional and emergency shelters.	120 families assisted.
Battered Women's Shelter Step II	4	Locations suppressed	Transitional housing for battered women.	91 families served; 29 single persons served; 321 total persons served.
Legacy III	4	Census Tract 5069 244 West Center Street	Transitional housing and supportive services for homeless women recovering from chronic substance abuse.	8 persons served.

Priority F: Homeless Persons, Individuals and Families Assistance					
Activities	Strategy/ Objective	Geographic Distribution	Goals	Accomplishments	
ACCESS	4	230 W. Market Street	Operating and support services.	104 families served; 195 single persons served; 516 total persons served.	
Salvation Army Booth Manor	4	219 S. Maple Street	Shelter to homeless families.	72 families served; 13 single persons; 274 total persons served.	
Shelter Care Safe Landing	4	39 W. Cuyahoga Falls Avenue (boy) 587 Seiberling Street (girl) plus 8 other locations throughout Summit County	Emergency housing for homeless youth.	497 families served; 1,465 youth served; 2,995 total persons served.	
Battered Women's Shelter	4	Locations suppressed	Emergency shelter for battered women.	145 families served; 126 single persons served; 525 total persons served.	

Non-Housing Community Development Plan					
Activities	Strategy/ Objective	Geographic Distribution	Goals	Accomplishments	
Waiver Demolition Program	2, 5	Citywide	Demolition of vacant, blighted structures infeasible to rehabilitate and representing a threat to health and safety. Structures demolished include houses, garages and commercial buildings (includes asbestos removal). Goal was 85 units.	A total of 8 commercial buildings, 44 horres and 143 garages were razed under this program.	
Neighborhood Business District Program	4	Middlebury and Copley Road East areas	Provide funds to enable business to undertake property revitalization within low income areas. Goal was 15 businesses.	2 land acquisitions 4 businesses assisted	
Enterprise Community Fund Small Business Assistance	4	Enterprise Community and Enterprise Zone	Revolving loan fund for small businesses.	2 businesses received loans, totaling \$45,467. 5 jobs created.	
Minority Business Technical Assistance Program	4	EC/EZ	Provide loans from a revolving loan fund to new minority businesses on a matching basis with bank. Provide technical assistance to 290 minorities, small business.	24 businesses received technical assistance.	
Public Improvements	1, 2	NDA's and Petition Areas	Reconstruction of streets, sidewalks, curbs, storm sewers and street trees. \$1,535,000 budgeted in 2000 plan.	Over \$2,000,000 in public improvements completed in 2000.	
Neighborhood Partnership Program	4	City	Grants for small neighborhood based projects and innovative ideas. Goal 10 organizations.	7 neighborhood - based organizations assisted.	
Grocery Store Development	4	West Akron, Middlebury	Assist with development of full service grocery stores.	Grocery store opened in West Akron.	

**B. Actions Taken to Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing**

The City utilizes Fair Housing Contact Service (FHCS) to promote the policy and practice of equal housing opportunity. FHCS activities are broken down into three major divisions: client services, research and public/industry education.

Client Services Division - provides direct advisory and referral services to residents with investigation, housing counseling and requests for information, tests the housing delivery system for discriminatory patterns and practices and investigates reported incidents of housing discrimination and harassment.

Research Division - staff review, investigate and monitor the local lending industry for compliance under fair housing laws and conduct research of local housing markets, housing providers and communities to assess the effectiveness of fair housing programs.

Public/Industry Education - combines the outreach and affirmative marketing activities of the agency. This division also provides for education of real estate professionals, lenders, public officials, and community groups and offers various speaking engagements and community events to promote awareness of fair housing.

In 2000, the City of Akron's Department of Planning and Urban Development conducted a series of meetings of the Fair Housing Task Force to complete the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice required to complete the City's Consolidated Plan. As a HUD-funded Entitlement Community, the City of Akron is charged with identifying impediments to fair housing choice and preparing a plan to address them. Over 60 representatives from municipal, community, and civic organizations having information or ability to provide information regarding Fair Housing Choice participated.

The mission of the Fair Housing Task Force was to research, review, and identify current and potential impediments to fair housing choice in the City of Akron. An impediment to fair housing is any policy or practice that causes or allows housing discrimination to occur. Some of these are unintentional, such as advertising for a male or female roommate.. There was a consensus that clear guidelines, definitions, and procedures should be available and readily accessible to the public, as well as to government entities, lenders, mortgage brokers, realtors and others associated with housing. Fair Housing Task Force agreed to remain intact and meet quarterly to review Fair Housing concerns and progress.

## ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING

The City of Akron, Ohio, Department of Planning and Urban Development commissioned an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Contact Service, a nonprofit fair housing organization in Akron, Ohio. This Analysis of Impediments was commissioned according to Akron's obligation as an entitlement grantee of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that it will affirmatively further fair housing.

In 1998, Fair Housing Contact Service, under contract from the City of Akron, Department of Planning and Urban Development, conducted an Analysis of Impediments (AI) to fair housing choice. This Analysis examined the public and private housing sectors in relation to possible housing impediments. The AI was conducted according to the suggested format for the analysis of impediments listed in the Fair Housing Planning Guide (1996).

Since the AI was completed in the fall of 1998, the City of Akron has been cooperating with HUD concerning the findings and implementation. To date, there has been no final resolution to the outstanding issues. The City of Akron plans to solicit further comments from citizens and community organizations about impediments that may exist and means to overcome those impediments. However, since no changes had been officially made to the AI of 1998, the following update outlines the actions being taken by the City to address the impediments identified.