



First Program Year Action Plan

The CPMP First Annual Action Plan includes the [SF 424](#) and Narrative Responses to Action Plan questions that CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG grantees must respond to each year in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations. The Executive Summary narratives are optional.

Narrative Responses

GENERAL

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary is required. Include the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan and an evaluation of past performance.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Executive Summary:

The City of Akron, Ohio has prepared an Annual Plan for 2010 that includes the budget for the 2010 federal Community Development Block Grant program, the HOME Partnership Program and the Emergency Shelter Block Grant Program. This Consolidated Strategy Action Plan addresses the housing needs of low-income families, homeless families and others with special needs that require supportive services. The plan includes a one-year budget for applying available resources to meet identified needs.

The City of Akron anticipates committing \$9,065,000 in total program funding including \$6,815,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds; \$1,950,000 in HOME funds and \$300,000 in Emergency Shelter Block Grant funds. Of these funds, approximately \$200,000 is program income.

The proposed plan includes the following initiatives: Neighborhood Redevelopment Program, Neighborhood Housing Initiative Program (eligible areas); Lead Elimination Action Program (LEAP); Lead Hazard Demonstration Grant, Minor (Emergency) Home Repair (city-wide); Non-Profit Community Housing Projects; Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation New Construction; Neighborhood Partnership Program; Paint programs; Waiver Demolition Program; Emergency and Transitional Shelter Housing (city-wide); Neighborhood Business Districts Program; HOME Support for HOPE VI, Community Services Programs (supporting Education, the Arts, Security, Health and Fair Housing) and General Administration.

At least 70% of the Community Development funds are required to be used for activities that principally benefit low-income persons. All HOME funds and ESG funds will be used for activities that benefit low-income persons.

Consolidated Strategy and Plan

Each year the City drafts an Action Plan that budgets funding for the upcoming fiscal year based on priorities that are established in a five-year Consolidated Plan. The 2010 Action Plan is the first year of the five-year strategy for 2010 to 2014.

The Five Year Consolidated Plan and Strategy for 2010 to 2014 combines three federal Department of Housing and Urban Development Programs: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG). The National Affordable Housing Act requires that, for certain federal Housing and Urban Development programs, the City of Akron must have an approved Consolidated Strategy and Plan. A copy of the five-year strategy is available in the office of the Department of Planning and Urban Development, City of Akron.

Goal of the Strategy and Plan

The goal of the Consolidated Strategy and Plan is to provide a five-year strategy and annual numerical goals to serve as a working guide for the use of federal resources to address local housing, quality of living, and economic needs. A strategic plan sets forth goals, objectives, and performance benchmarks for measuring progress and establishes a framework for measuring progress.

Statutory Program Purpose

The Consolidated Strategy and Plan must satisfy the minimum Congressional statutory requirements for Akron's three federal community planning and development formula programs: Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership and Emergency Shelter Grant. Each of these programs must primarily benefit low and very low-income persons. In addition, there are three goals for the CDBG program. The first is the elimination of slum and blight. The City's objective is to provide decent housing, including programs aimed at assisting persons to obtain affordable housing; retain decent, safe and sanitary affordable housing; and increase the availability of this housing. The second goal of the program is to provide a suitable living environment. The third major statutory goal is to expand economic opportunity.

Consolidated Strategy for 2010 to 2014

The City of Akron set forth the priority activities to be followed in the five-year strategy as follows:

Priority based on household need:

1. Low Income Owner Household
2. Low Income Renter Household
3. Homeless Families and Individuals
4. Non-Homeless Special Needs Persons

Priority based on activity:

1. Neighborhood Rehabilitation, Owner-occupied Housing
2. New Housing Construction
3. Acquisition and removal of blighted properties.
4. Rental Housing Rehabilitation or Construction
5. Support Facilities and Public Services
6. Homeless Persons, Individuals, and Families Assistance

The Consolidated Strategy includes a narrative describing the housing needs of low-income families, homeless families and others with special needs that require supportive services. The five-year strategy also identifies obstacles to meeting identified needs, target goals for the number of households assisted, and target dates for completion. The Consolidated Annual Action Plan includes a one-year budget for applying available resources to the needs identified.

Coordinating and Managing the Process

The City of Akron, Department of Planning and Urban Development (DPUD), is the lead agency in the coordination and management of the process and preparation of the Plan. The City will lead and coordinate the consolidated planning, submission and implementation process. The City will continue to be involved in activities over the coming year which enhances coordination between public and non-profit housing providers and private and public health and service agencies.

The City of Akron DPUD has HUD-certified staff trained in HOME Regulations for policy, procedures and monitoring. These individuals are responsible for ensuring HOME funded projects are necessary, prudent, and meet HUD defined criteria.

Consolidated Plan/Citizen Participation:

Every year the City of Akron convenes a meeting of interested citizens, community organizers, low-income neighborhood residents and others including affordable housing advocates, providers, social service agencies, homeless housing advocates, lending institutions and the Public Housing Authority to allow citizens an opportunity to present their views on community needs. The 2010 Annual Plan represents the first year of the five-year strategy. The full schedule is explained in the Citizen Participation section on page 9. Information will be

disseminated utilizing mailing lists, neighborhood based groups, block clubs, City Council newsletters and various print media outlets.

Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

As part of the Consolidated Plan process, the Fair Housing Task Force was established in June of 2000 to conduct an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Through a process of meetings, presentations and research, an action plan was developed. The Plan was submitted and accepted by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2001. The Task Force remains active to review concerns of Fair Housing Choice in Akron, Ohio. The Task Force is scheduled to meet on October 21, 2009 to review the “Impediments to Fair Housing Matrix” and adjust some of the recommendations. A copy of the revised matrix is attached.

Action Plan

The City’s housing program focuses on targeted acquisition in deteriorated areas to remove blighting conditions and create buildable lots for new housing construction while expanding some of the rehabilitation programs to assist low and moderate income persons. The City continues to support the rehabilitation of existing housing in specific areas through the Neighborhood Initiative Area program, the City’s Minor Home Repair and Lead programs. A greater emphasis is now placed on rebuilding neighborhoods with pockets of new housing, rehabilitation assistance for properties that do not need to be removed, new streets, new curbs, new sidewalks and new street trees where necessary.

Akron will afford property owners in targeted areas the opportunity to make an investment in each property to improve its outward appearance and make sure that its major systems – heating, electrical and plumbing – are in good working order. The City will invest up to \$15,000 in each property that is rehabilitated in the Neighborhood Rehabilitation Areas and the Lead Abatement areas. City programs and there descriptions that will make up our strategy are below

1. Neighborhood Redevelopment Program (Refer to page 15)
2. Neighborhood Initiative Program(Refer to page 15)
3. Program Continuation, (Refer to page 15)
4. Lead Hazard Reduction/Rehabilitation, (Refer to page 13)
5. Other programs that will be undertaken in 2010: (Refer to page 32)
 - a. Other Economic Development Activity
 - Akron BioMedical Corridor:

General Questions

1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed during the next year. Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.
2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) during the next year and the rationale for assigning the priorities.
3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.
4. Identify the federal, state, and local resources expected to be made available to address the needs identified in the plan. Federal resources should include Section 8 funds made available to the jurisdiction, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds expected to be available to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the strategic plan.

Program Year 1 Action Plan General Questions response:

A1. The City provides assistance City-wide with a concentration of spending in City-designated Neighborhood Rehabilitation Areas. Historically, the City has chosen a targeted-neighborhood approach for housing rehabilitation; this has occurred in large area (500+ units of housing) and smaller, petition areas (25-80 units of housing). The Department of Planning and Urban Development will be recommending new areas to the Administration and Akron City Council before the end of 2009. The recommended areas will be a hybrid of our past programs targeting rehabilitation assistance to moderately sized (150 to 250 homes) Neighborhood Areas; eligible property owners could receive matching grants and loans from the program. These areas are generally located in neighborhoods with high owner-occupancy rates (51%+) and housing conditions that need some work but are not deteriorated. Property owners must meet CDBG and HOME funding criteria (i. e. income eligible, household size). The City anticipates opening one or possibly two of these selected areas in 2010.

A2. The basis for allocating investments geographically is based on income levels, with most of the assistance directed to low-income areas. In order to be able to serve low-income persons City-wide, some programs are directed to middle to outer-ring neighborhoods where residents are income-qualified to receive assistance. The City, in selecting the areas to receive intensive housing treatment, looks to 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 incomes, structuring the rehabilitation program to meet the needs of low income households and monitoring this activity, Akron

assures that a majority of the rehabilitation carried out will assist low income needs. Needs of the handicapped are also addressed by Akron's housing rehabilitation program. Loan and grant monies are available for the alteration of homes within the Community Development housing improvement areas enabling these homes to become handicap accessible.

The City of Akron has applied for funding provided by the 2008 Housing and Economic Recovery Act (Neighborhood Stabilization Program MAP 7) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Community Development Block Grant Recovery (received \$1.9 million) and Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 funds (applied).

A3. The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs is lack of funding. Obviously, every City wishes they had the financial resources necessary to meet all of the underserved needs that have been identified, but this is impossible. The City has broadened the scope of its housing program to be more inclusive to the needs of low-income persons in non-target areas.

Activities in Neighborhood Redevelopment Areas include extensive acquisition and removal of blighted properties to facilitate new housing construction combined with housing rehabilitation and public improvements. Upon completion, these areas have received more of a facelift than a makeover. Neighborhood Redevelopment Programs are nearing completion in the Cascade Village (formerly known as Elizabeth Park) and Hickory Street Renewal Areas and are well under way in the Edgewood Renewal Area (activities in the Edgewood Areas are in support of adjacent Hope VI initiatives overseen by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority in coordination with the City of Akron).

Rehabilitation activities are also concentrated in Neighborhood Initiative Areas. Residents petitioned for assistance in these areas that are open for approximately two years each. At least one Neighborhood Initiative Area was selected in each of the 10 wards in the City of Akron (See Map 3); these programs are closing down and planned to be completed by the end of 2010.

The City Minor Home Repair Program is offered citywide. The Senior Home Improvement Paint program is offered in the Greater Westside Council of Block Clubs (GWCBC) service areas of Wards 3 and 4. With the initiation of Lead Base Paint Regulations, the program participants must be able to meet all of the regulations necessary to meet lead-safe clearance.

Managing the Process

1. Identify the lead agency, entity, and agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.
2. Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.

3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to enhance coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Managing the Process response:

A1. The City of Akron Department of Planning and Urban Development is the lead agency responsible for the coordination and management of the process and preparation of the Consolidated Plan. The City leads and coordinates the consolidated planning, submission and implementation process. The Akron Health Department is an important participant. The City also contracts with development organizations and service agencies for other aspects of the program.

A2. The development of the plan is an ongoing process that results in adjustments in the plan from year to year based on feedback from area agencies, groups and organizations and from the recognition of needs that are not being addressed. The list of organizations participating in the process is numerous but includes all of the various agencies that receive funding through the plan as their input is essential (see attached list of participating entities).

A3. Coordination and communication is ongoing between public and non-profit housing providers and private and public health and social service agencies. The City will continue to schedule regular meetings with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, the Homebuilders Association, neighborhood organizations, neighborhood residents, business associations and health and social service providers.

The City works hand-in-hand with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority and various partners on the Hope VI projects that have received funding (the Cascade Village and the Edgewood developments). In turn, the City works with neighborhood residents, businesses, social service agencies, etc. when preparing the Renewal Plans for the Neighborhood Development Areas either associated with the Hope VI areas or individually selected (the Hickory Corridor / Cascade Locks Redevelopment Area). Where new housing is involved, the City works with both the Homebuilders Association and private builders as necessary.

In 2010, extensive cooperation with all parties will be necessary to oversee development in all of the selected Neighborhood Redevelopment Areas. Both the City and the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority have learned from problems that arose during the first Hope VI, so this should expedite the process for the Edgewood Hope VI project.

The Continuum of Care is an extensive network of health and social service agencies, shelter providers and City and County officials working together to combat homelessness. The Continuum of Care adopted a set of committees and sub-committees structure. These committees will meet regularly to network and

identify solutions to specific identified needs and assist in the preparation of the annual Continuum of Care application.

Citizen Participation

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.
2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.
3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.
4. Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.

*Please note that Citizen Comments and Responses may be included as additional files within the CPMP Tool.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Citizen Participation response:

A1. Citizen participation is sought year-round, but the City of Akron convenes an annual meeting of interested citizens, community organizations, low-income neighborhood residents and others (generally including affordable housing advocates, providers, social service agencies, homeless housing advocates, lending institutions and the Public Housing Authority) to specifically address housing and community development needs in conjunction with the preparation of the Consolidated Plan. This years meeting was conducted by the Comprehensive Planning Division of the Akron Department of Planning and Urban Development on August 26, 2009 at the Akron-Summit County Public Library and was attended by representatives of twenty-two area agencies.

The Table below identify's the City's Citizen participation process

Citizen Participation Activity	Date of Activity
Public hearing on Housing and Community Development needs (Minutes Attached)	August 26, 2009
Presentation to Ward meeting (Wards 3 and 4)	September 30, 2009
Publish Akron's Consolidated Annual Plan in newspaper(s); begin 30-day public comment period	October 9, 2009
Planning Commission Public Hearing on Consolidated Plan (Minutes Attached)	October 16, 2009
University of Akron Presentation	October 19, 2009
Fair Housing Task Force Meeting	October 21, 2009
Akron City Council reviews	November, 2009
End 30-day public comment period	November 10, 2009

Submission of Annual Plan to HUD	November 13, 2009
Emergency Shelter Grant Request for Proposals Due:	November 23, 2009
Program year begins	January 1, 2010

A2. Comments were positive concerning the goals of the Consolidated Plan and the funding allocated to meet identified needs. Specific comments illuminated needs that might not yet be specifically addressed in the plan but cannot be ignored. Homeless shelters are struggling to maintain existing services due to cuts in Federal and State funding. These cuts are hindering the provision of services for unaccompanied children up to age 16 and especially single women without children. Assistance is also needed to assist residents who are quickly forced to vacate their homes due to condemnation orders, foreclosures, etc. The prevalence of abandoned and boarded up houses is a big problem (the City’s Waiver Demolition program that provides free demolition of vacant structures for willing property owners is already overloaded). There was a request for a new low-interest home repair loan program (maximum loan \$15,000) for persons earning closer to 70-80% of AMI who fall through the cracks of many income-based programs.

A3. The City undertakes an extensive mailout to agencies, organizations and individuals as part of the Consolidated Plan process. According to census statistics, only 1.01% of the City’s population cannot understand English well, and for over 94% of the population English is their only language, so language barriers are not considered a problem; some organizations such as Fair Housing Contact Service have taken the initiative to provide information and services in multiple languages. Minorities and organizations representing persons with disabilities are well represented in the process, but efforts to expand participation by solicitations to neighborhood organizations and at neighborhood meetings are ongoing. The City is aware of the needs of persons with disabilities and is now including provisions for “visitability” into City-backed new housing developments.

A4. All comments were accepted.

Institutional Structure

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to develop institutional structure.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Institutional Structure response:

A1. In the five-year strategy, the City describes the institutional structure, including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions, through which it will carry out the affordable and supportive housing strategy. The City also assesses existing strengths and gaps in that delivery system and

sets forth a plan for improvement. The following steps will continue to be implemented over the coming year to eliminate identified gaps and strengthen, coordinate, and integrate the institutions and delivery systems:

- a) Pursue other funding sources for affordable housing as they become available.
- b) Develop an approach to coordinate social services with housing treatment areas.
- c) Hold quarterly meetings with AMHA to help ensure coordination on programs and monitor progress.
- d) Pursue developing and expanding programs with lenders who serve the Akron area.
- e) Continue work with non-profit housing developers.
- f) Serve on committees/boards involved in housing and social service delivery.
- g) Hold public meetings to inform citizens of housing programs.
- h) Conduct meetings with non-profit developers.

Monitoring

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Monitoring response:

A1. The City of Akron, Department of Planning and Urban Development currently has a monitoring strategy in place to review the production of housing programs and community development projects undertaken by the City of Akron. The strategy involves not only direct communication from field staff through management, but also monthly housing production reports. Monthly progress reports that include housing programs are made available to management level in the Planning Department, Service Department, Public Safety and Finance Departments as well as to the Mayor, Cabinet and Akron City Council.

As a recipient of federal CDBG, HOME and ESGP funds, the City also prepares a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPERS). The next report (to be released March 2010) will cover the Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME, and ESG Progress for the period from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 including project descriptions, the year the activity

was first funded, expenditures for each project, and the accomplishments for each project activity. The C.A.P.E.R.S. and IDIS reports contain a summary of program funds received and expended, the amount of funds benefiting low and moderate income persons, a report on the total number of households assisted by income and race, and a summary of citizen comments and concerns. These reports are made available for public inspection in April. Monitoring for the Consolidated Plan would incorporate such reporting information. The City coordinates with Community Groups throughout the year to review specific concerns.

The City has greatly expanded the Continuum of Care network in the past two years and this continues to grow and become more organized. This network is in the process of being restructured with new committees and meeting schedules. In 2010, the Continuum of Care will consist of a Community Committee that meets quarterly, a Steering Committee to meet monthly and four Sub-Committees, some of which will meet bi-monthly down to twice annually. All of this will substantially increase the accuracy of monitoring in the effort to decrease homelessness and conditions leading to homelessness. The Continuum of Care Review and Ranking Committee monitors Continuum of Care funding recipients through site visits and review of the Annual Performance Reports.

The City will monitor the Consolidated Plan as required by the Department of Housing & Urban Development and in conformance with all applicable regulations. Groups are encouraged to take an interest in the Consolidated Plan and evaluate its impact. The City will prepare the required federal report documents for the 2010 program year. The 2010 Annual Consolidated Plan monitoring reports and any substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan will be made available for public inspection and comment. Copies will be available to the public.

Lead-based Paint

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards in order to increase the inventory of lead-safe housing available to extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Lead-based Paint response:

A1. Within the central part of the city, Akron will combine housing rehabilitation assistance with lead paint abatement activity by the Akron Health Department. Low-income homeowners with children six years old and under who are at risk for lead poisoning are eligible for this assistance. Over 90% of the City's homes were constructed before 1980 and, of Akron's 92,000 households, over ten percent of them have children under the age of 6. According to a recent article in

the Akron Beacon Journal, city officials have estimated that up to 25 percent of children in some inner-city neighborhoods are threatened and 1 in 10 Akron children are affected by lead base paint. Akron typically treats 100 to 150 children a year for lead poisoning.

In 2005, the City of Akron Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Program was awarded a 4 million dollar federal grant to continue lead hazard reduction within the jurisdiction of the City of Akron. The grant was awarded in November 2005 and continued through October 2008. The Akron Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program's goals over the 36 month grant period are as follows: 1) to complete 170 lead risk assessments/inspections unit evaluations, 2) to make at least 145 units lead safe in which low to moderately low income families with children under the age of six reside, 3) to provide a minimum of 36 training sessions to educate minorities and low income contractors and workers 4) to perform at least 150 outreach/education events to promote community awareness on lead poisoning and prevention.

The Akron Lead Hazard Control Program is for families which reside in the jurisdiction of the City of Akron. Through the program, our clients can receive windows, interior and exterior doors, siding and porch repairs. The program is open to both rental and owner occupied units.

The following are key organizations which are vital to the Akron Lead Hazard Control Grant: The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA), East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation (EANDC), The Akron Health Department and The Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine.

Locally, First Merit Bank is working with the City of Akron Housing Rehabilitation Program to assist owners to rehabilitate and reduce lead hazards in their homes. Other partners include East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation and Nazareth Housing Development Corporation.

In October of 2008, it was announced that the City of Akron will be awarded \$3,000,000 in Lead Hazard Control funds to perform Lead Hazard Control activities in 126 units. The Akron Health Department has various working partners to assist in the goal of reducing lead hazards by contributing leverage and matching funds of over \$1.4 million. The partners are participating in lead hazard testing, lead hazard control, including interim controls, community awareness, education and outreach, lead training of workers and contractors, and program evaluation. (Source: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/2008projdesc.doc>)

Lead Elimination Action Program, (LEAP),

The Lead Elimination Action Program, (LEAP) is operated by EANDC on behalf of the Mahoning Valley Real Estate Investors, Association. The Department of Planning and Urban Development entered into a contract with East Akron

Neighborhood Development Corporation for the rehabilitation of 30 rental units in the City of Akron.

The objective of the program in Akron is to provide lead hazard reduction and housing rehabilitation assistance to low income families in rental housing in the City of Akron. The goal is to assist a total of 30 units, within the term of the LEAP grant agreement, with funding limited to 1-4 unit rental housing. The goal is also to maximize the combination of children under the age of 6 years old protected from lead poisoning and housing units where lead hazards are controlled.

Within the central part of the city, Akron may combine housing rehabilitation assistance with lead paint abatement activity by the Akron Health Department. Low-income homeowners with children six years old and under who are at risk for lead poisoning are eligible for this assistance.

City of Akron Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant

The City of Akron, Department of Planning and Urban Development was awarded a Lead Hazard Demonstration Grant for \$4,000,000.00 for a three (3) year period (December 1, 2009-November 30, 2012).

Lead hazards will be eliminated and/or controlled in two hundred eighty-five (285) housing units. An average of \$14,035.00 of the Akron Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant funds are projected to be expended per unit. Of the 285 units, 60 units will also be eligible for City of Akron CDBG or HOME housing rehabilitation assistance.

The City of Akron Department of Planning and Urban Development will partner with area agencies in communities including the City of Barberton, the City of Youngstown, and Summit County. The Akron Lead Hazard Reduction Grant program will give priority to inner city enterprise zones and enterprise communities. These areas have very high socio-economic and environmental risk factors. These factors include the age of housing, high poverty, crime, low proficiency scores and concentrated ethnicity.

The Goals and Objectives of the City of Akron Lead Demonstration Grant Program are as follows:

- 1.) The elimination and/or control of all identified lead hazards in 285 housing units involving low to very low income families with children under 6 years old;
- 2.) Using matching funds:
 - a. conduct the recruitment and training of minority and low income lead contractors and workers;
 - b. conduct outreach programs;

- c. implement programs which will effectively increase the number of children screened for lead;
- 3.) Implement loan programs involving First Merit Bank of Akron to assist homeowners with repairs;
- 4.) Develop a comprehensive fair housing training initiative by conducting workshops and training seminars to housing providers, both public and private, civic and community-based organizations, as well as elected and appointed City and County officials;
- 5.) Provide lead training and awareness not only in the City of Akron, the City of Barberton and the City of Youngstown, but on a regional basis involving Summit and Mahoning Counties.

The City of Akron Health Department (Lead Division) supplied the following information:

- 1) A total number of 2877 lead tests were completed in 2008. There were 62 elevations for this year (2.1%). Please refer the “Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention” section.
- 2) We use data from high risk zip codes and not census tracts. We consider all zip codes in Akron “high risk”.

In 1975, in order to demonstrate the scope and magnitude of childhood lead poisoning in Akron, the Akron CLPPP conducted one of the first screenings and identification programs in the State of Ohio to identify lead poisoning in children six years and younger. The survey found 8.5 % of tested children in Akron with elevated lead levels. In an EPA summary report for Project LEAP (Lead Education and Abatement Program) produced in 1992, Akron was listed in the top ten of 83 mid-western cities that have both a very high percentage of high-risk housing and a very high percentage of at risk children that may have concentrations of blood lead exceeding 10 mg/dl. Since the inception of the Akron CLPPP, Akron has been in the forefront of identifying and treating lead-poisoned children. In 1995, the AHD partnered with area hospitals and was involved in the development of a federally qualified health center: The Akron Community Health Resource Center was developed to assist low-income residents within the federally designated Enterprise Community. The Akron CLPPP, has initiated blood lead screening for children 6 years and younger at this clinic site. The Akron CLPPP program has been recognized as a model program for others to follow. The AHD and Akron CLPPP work together to identify and offer the most comprehensive and cost effective services to children at risk for lead poisoning to include: 1) identification and control of lead paint hazards, especially in housing units built before 1978; 2) identification and care for children with elevated blood lead levels 3) increased screening and testing of children under the age of six; 4) increased educational and outreach activities in targeted areas that focus on primary prevention and raise awareness about the

problems associated with childhood lead poisoning; 5) to maintain and improve our surveillance system used to collect, analyze and interpret data pertaining to children's blood lead levels and monitor trends; and 6) to sustain existing childhood lead poisoning prevention partnerships and to increase the establishment of new efforts through the development of new partnerships. Throughout the years, the AHD and its CLPPP have collaborated with numerous community organizations in the effort of reducing childhood lead poisoning in the City of Akron.

The current lead problem in Akron, Ohio is extremely serious. One mission of the State of Ohio's Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) is to document the number and proportion of cases of lead poisoning in each county in Ohio. According to the 2000 US Census, 18,842 children under 6 years of age reside in the City of Akron. Census tract information reveals 16,245 blood lead tests were completed in 2005-2007. One thousand thirty-four children (6.0%) had elevated blood lead levels ≥ 10 ug/dl on initial testing. Confirmation testing revealed three hundred and ninety seven children (2.4%) remained above the lead poisoning threshold established by the Centers for Disease Control, which remains above the national average. According to 2000 Census data the eleven targeted Census Tracts (Population 33,447) indicates that 28% of the population is living at or below the poverty level. Within the targeted census tracts there are 4,068 (12%) individuals living at or below 50% of the median income for Akron, while an additional 4,870 (28%) do not exceed 80% of the median income. All of the targeted areas are within the Enterprise Community or the Community Development Areas.

Housing Age and Tenure and Very Low-income Population examination of the 2000 census tract figures illustrates that a significant majority of the pre-1950 housing is within the Enterprise Community and is in need of both exterior and interior abatement. Environmental factors which contribute to the prevalence of lead hazards are:

1) Housing characteristics: According to 2000 census tract data, a total of 97,265 housing units constructed in the City of Akron. Of those units constructed, 91% (88,094) of the housing stock was built from 1939 or earlier to 1979; 68% (66,219) was built from 1939 or earlier to 1959; and 35% (33,754) was built from 1939 or earlier.

2) Economic characteristics: According to 2000 census tract data, the median household income in 1999 was \$31,835 in Akron, Ohio versus \$41,994 in the United States; the median family income in 1999 was \$39,381 in Akron, Ohio versus \$50,046 in the United States; the per capita income in 1999 was \$17,596 in Akron, Ohio versus \$21,587 in the United States; the number of families below the poverty lines was 14% (7,595) in Akron, Ohio versus 9.2% in the United States; and the number of individuals below the poverty line was 17.5% (36,975) in Akron, Ohio versus 12.4% in the United States.

HOUSING

Specific Housing Objectives

*Please also refer to the Housing Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve during the next year.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

A1. The City housing program focuses on targeted acquisition in deteriorated areas to remove blighting conditions and create buildable lots for new housing construction while expanding some of the rehabilitation assistance to low and moderate income residents City-wide. The City will continue to support the rehabilitation of existing housing in specific areas through the Neighborhood Initiative Area program and Minor Home Repair and Lead programs. A greater emphasis is now placed on rebuilding neighborhoods with pockets of new housing, rehabilitation assistance for properties that do not need to be removed, new streets, new curbs, new sidewalks and new street trees where necessary.

Property owners in targeted areas will have the opportunity to make an investment in their property to improve its outward appearance and make sure that its major systems – heating, electrical and plumbing – are in good working order. The City will invest \$15,000 in each property that is rehabilitated in the Redevelopment Areas, the Lead Abatement areas, and the Neighborhood Initiative areas. Property owners will be eligible for a \$7,500 grant and a \$7,500 deferred loan. Low interest loans are available for owners wishing to make greater investment in their property.

1. Neighborhood Redevelopment Program

In the oldest parts of Akron, the city will support and revitalize existing neighborhoods by removing dilapidated housing, facilitating new housing construction, upgrading the public infrastructure and rehabilitating the remaining existing housing. New construction will occur by for-profit and non-profit builders with the assistance of the City.

Properties will be acquired, families relocated and land assembled for new development. Activities in each selected area will last about three years.

As stated previously under General Questions (page 5), the Department of Planning and Urban Development will be recommending new areas to the Administration and Akron City Council before the end of 2009. The City anticipates opening one, possibly two of these selected areas in 2010

2. Neighborhood Initiative Program

Owners in small neighborhoods (20-80 homes) petition the City to designate their neighborhood eligible to receive financial and technical assistance. Selection of petitions is largely based on the degree of owner participation and support. Work within selected petition neighborhoods is underway. This program is scheduled to conclude by the end of 2010.

3. Program Continuation

The City will continue to fund a number of programs that have proven their value over the years:

- I. Non-profit housing development – the City will provide subsidies to non-profit development corporations for the development of new housing or the acquisition, rehabilitation and sale of existing housing.
- II. Waiver demolition – the City will demolish a house or garage for free at the request of the owner. The owner retains ownership of the lot.
- III. Minor Home Repair – Small-scale assistance (\$4,000) to low-income homeowners or the elderly on a fixed income to correct an emergency problem.

4. Lead Hazard Reduction/Rehabilitation Programs (refer to pages 12-15).

Strategy Implementation:

1. **Priority A: Neighborhood Rehabilitation, Owner-occupied Housing**

The City considers its housing stock and neighborhoods to be important physical assets of the City, as well as important locations where Akron residents live. By concentrating on removal of deteriorated housing, new housing construction, public improvements and rehabilitation improvements in strictly defined, deteriorated neighborhoods of not more than three or four-square blocks, the new investment creates an observable impact and will motivate homeowners and owners of rental properties to invest in their properties and take advantage of the surrounding improvements. In addition, the Community Services Program offers a range of social services to persons, including special programs for security, fair housing, arts, education and health.

Sometimes it is necessary to take unresponsive owners to court. If properties are so severely deteriorated that they are unable to be repaired, the City offers to tear them down for free through the Waiver Demolition Program.

a) City of Akron Housing Rehabilitation Program

Housing rehabilitation is performed primarily in targeted neighborhoods through the Neighborhood Redevelopment or Neighborhood Initiative programs. Repair estimates and contractor selection are free. Grants and loans help owners pay for major repairs such as furnace, plumbing, electrical, windows, roof, etc. In the Housing Rehabilitation Program, eligible applicants qualify for grant funds and deferred loan funds. Additional low interest loan funds are available. Streets, sidewalks, curbs, sewers and lighting in the areas are improved where necessary.

b) Non-profit and Community Housing Development Organization, (CHDO)

The provision of affordable housing in Akron through rehabilitation also can be addressed through local non-profit development corporations in the City of Akron. Assistance is targeted to different income groups including very low-income households (50% of median income or below) and low-income households (80% of median and below). The City supports non-profit housing organizations through CDBG and HOME funds.

The following non-profit housing agencies are currently operating in Akron: East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation, Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation, Westside Neighborhood Development Corporation, Nazareth Housing Corporation, Habitat for Humanity and Mustard Seed Development Center.

c) Minor Home Repair

Many low-income homeowners throughout the City need assistance in fixing up their house. The City contracts with a local non-profit to operate a Minor Home Repair Program to assist those most in need, the very low-income elderly and persons with disabilities. A grant of up to \$4,000 will fix one or two serious or emergency problems, like a bad roof, wiring or furnace.

d) Paint Program

Program involves contracting with 501 (C)(3) non-profits to offer painting assistance using volunteers. Funds are used to purchase supplies. Elderly, handicapped, low-income households are recipients of the program. The project area is restricted to the Greater Westside Council of Block Clubs Service Area.

The City actively encourages the leveraging of private funds. Residents are required to commit matching funds based on income. The Housing Rehabilitation program promotes the use of subsidized low interest home improvement loans through local lenders. The City of Akron currently works directly with area banks in Akron's Housing Rehabilitation Program. An agreement with First Merit Bank allows for reduced interest home improvement loans to eligible applicants. Other local banks have been approached to participate in our programs.

Under the Neighborhood Initiative Program, residents are also encouraged to use subsidized low interest loans. Residents are required to commit matching funds based on income. In addition, under the Neighborhood Initiative Program, owners below 80% of the median income are provided additional funds in the form of a deferred loan. By requiring a lien to be placed on the property for the amount of the deferred loan, funds can be recycled. At sale of the property or upon vacation of the property, the owner repays the funds and the lien is released.

Under the HOME program, a 12.5% matching requirement will apply for 2010 funds. The City will utilize local funds (income tax, etc.) from the street improvements program for HOME funded neighborhoods as match. Matching funds from a Primary Jurisdiction (Akron) must be: 1) a permanent contribution to affordable housing; 2) from a non-federal source; and 3) provided by a broad array of public and private donors such as local and state agencies, charitable organizations/foundations, and private sector organizations.

2. Priority B: Rental Rehabilitation

a. City of Akron Programs

Rental rehabilitation of properties will be addressed through components of the new housing strategy. Eligible properties can receive assistance through the Neighborhood Redevelopment Program, Neighborhood Initiative Program or the Lead Hazard Demonstration Grant Program. These programs offer financial assistance to rental property owners for properties primarily in the inner core of the City. Market rate loans are available for landlords only if they are qualified by Akron Health Department through the City's Rental Registration Program. Landlords benefit from the Rental Registration Program by marketing a property that has been inspected and made safe for habitation.

b. Non-Profit Housing Organizations

Non-profit CHDO's, utilizing HOME funds, can expend funds for the rehabilitation of rental housing (the amount is dependent on proposal requests received.) The City contracts with non-profit organizations when allocating these funds.

c. State of Ohio Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program

Federal tax credits, channeled through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, are used to provide equity in affordable housing projects. Funds are utilized by non-profit and profit developers for the creation of affordable rental housing, including substantial rehabilitation.

d. AMHA Operated Programs

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority owns and manages over 4,600 dwelling units in its public housing program. Additionally, the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority utilizes approximately \$24 million for Section 8 rental assistance. This activity is funded through HUD directly and not through the City of Akron. AMHA is the primary provider of tenant assistance for very low-income persons. In addition, approximately \$4 million is provided through other types of HUD housing assistance payments or rent subsidy. The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority utilizes around \$10 million each year in HUD funds to rehabilitate their public housing units. The AMHA's future capital improvement plans will be contained in the Five Year Plan and Annual Agency Plan submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. These plans will, for the most part, take the place of the Comprehensive Grant Plan.

3. Priority C: New Construction

The provision of affordable housing in Akron through new construction can be addressed through local development corporations in cooperation with other governmental organizations such as the City of Akron. Housing is targeted to different income groups including very low-income households (50% of median income or below) and low-income households (80% of median and below). The City strives for a mix of incomes in order to sustain neighborhoods.

a) The Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation contracts with local builders for construction of quality homes on in-fill lots, currently priced below \$90,000. Each home has three bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms, family room, full basement, two car garage, vinyl siding, landscaping and a concrete drive. These homes blend with the neighborhood architecture and bring new life to old neighborhoods. UNDC plans the following production in 2010:

Number of Units to start construction: 5

Number of Units to be sold: 5

The City of Akron's Dollar home program legislation was signed by the mayor on July 21, 2008. Since passage of this legislation, the City has acquired seven properties and is in the position to acquire more. The CDBG funds would be able to finance the rehabilitation of these homes. The purpose is to provide guidance for implementing the city of Akron dollar home program so that it can be an effective tool to assist the city of Akron in stabilizing its neighborhoods. This program is also operated by UNDC.

b) The City receives HOME funds each year and sets aside a portion of these funds for projects by non-profit housing organizations or CHDOs. A portion of the budget for CHDOs is allocated for new construction. These funds can be used to facilitate new construction in conjunction with the State of Ohio Low Income Housing Tax Credit Programs.

c) State of Ohio Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program and State of Ohio HOME Program - State of Ohio HOME funds awarded to non-profit housing organizations or for-profit organizations receiving LIHTC approval.

d) Community Development Corporation (CDC's) are utilized for new construction within neighborhood areas. East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation (EANDC) and Nazareth Housing Corporation are active in new construction projects. Other notable agencies or non-profit providers of new housing include Habitat for Humanity, which utilizes private donations and volunteers.

4. 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 individuals to become homeowners in order to maintain or increase home ownership in program neighborhoods. Homes that are affordable for lower income residents are often deteriorated and in need of rehabilitation. Even at low costs, many households do not have the money for a down payment.

a) Non-Profit Housing Organizations

The City sets aside HOME funds each year for use by non-profit Housing Organizations or CHDO's. These funds may be used for rehabilitation, new construction or for programs which include a Homebuyer Assistance component.

b) Other Programs

Provisions in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program outline any person purchasing a home must have at least 8 hours of Homebuyer education from United States Department of Housing and Urban Development certified counselors.

Needs of Public Housing

1. Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake during the next year to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.
2. If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation during the next year.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Public Housing Strategy response:

A1. In the Five Year Strategy, the City describes the number, physical condition and restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units operated by the local public housing agency. The City also sets forth the public housing agency's plan for improving the management and operation of such public housing, and the strategy for improving the living environment of public housing residents. The actions and steps to be taken by the AMHA to improve the management and operation of public housing and the living environment of public housing residents over the coming year are as follows:

- a) Maintain the overall occupancy rate (adjusted for units under modernization).
- b) Maintain vacant unit turnaround times.
- c) Continue to convert undesirable efficiency size apartments to marketable one-bedroom dwelling units.
- d) Continue a lead-based paint testing and abatement program.
- e) Reduce total tenant accounts receivables.
- f) Continue to modernize senior and family dwelling units in accordance with approved funding schedule.

In the five-year strategy, the City also described activities to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in the management of public housing, and to encourage them to participate in homeownership. AMHA will undertake the following activities over the coming year to encourage involvement of residents in management and encourage their participation in homeownership:

- a) Continue the operation of AMHA's Resident Support Services programs and grants to encourage service coordinator move families to economic self-

sufficiency (family goal setting, budgeting and home maintenance) and homeownership.

b) Continue efforts to offer residents options in potential homeownership by working with banks and lenders who can provide Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) funds for first-time homebuyer mortgages. AMHA will work with non-profits to supply potential homebuyers to utilize the American Dream Down-payment Initiative. Other homeownership options include the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program, Section 32 Public Housing Homeownership Program, and soft second mortgage assistance for Edgewood Village Phase 2.

A2. N/A.

Barriers to Affordable Housing

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to remove barriers to affordable housing.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Barriers to Affordable Housing response:

A1. The provision of affordable housing is one of the City's three main priorities for the CDBG program. In its five year strategy, the City of Akron was required to assess the effects of public policies impacting upon the availability of affordable housing, and set forth a plan to remove or ameliorate their negative effects. The specific actions or reform steps to be taken as part of that plan over the coming year to remove or ameliorate these negative effects are as follows:

- a) Provide adequate land for a variety of housing types through review by Zoning and Land Use and Development Guide Plan updates.
- b) Work to eliminate obsolete and prescriptive building code requirements.
- c) Continue educating the public on the need for affordable housing and promote a diversity of affordable housing programs.
- d) Continue the practice of one-stop permitting.
- e) Coordinate with local, state and federal agencies in implementing programs that support affordable housing (e.g. State of Ohio Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Summit County Land Reutilization program and federal programs such as HOPE III, HOPE VI, etc.).

Program Year 1 Action Plan HOME/ADDI response:

A1. N/A

HOMELESS

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction’s plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.
2. Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.
3. Chronic homelessness—The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.
4. Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
5. Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Special Needs response:

- A1. The City of Akron anticipates a 2010 Emergency Shelter Grant entitlement of \$300,000. The City of Akron issued a request for proposals in September, 2009 to homeless service providers. Funding priorities are given to homeless shelters requesting rehabilitation assistance. Funds are also available to agencies for operating and essential services. Local shelters have indicated that there are new criteria for Title XX funds thus decreasing their funding. Consideration will be given to agencies serving Title XX clients.

The City of Akron is the lead entity for the Continuum of Care planning process. The City of Akron and surrounding communities receive approximately \$3,000,000 annually through the SuperNOFA Continuum of Care process. These funds are primarily used for permanent supportive housing for the disabled, transitional housing and supportive services.

- A2.** The three specific objectives in the City's Homeless Strategic Plan are to:
- a. address the need for renovation and major rehabilitation or conversion of structures for shelter space and emergency and transitional shelters;
 - b. address the need for furnishings, equipment, utilities, maintenance, insurance, operating costs for homeless emergency shelters and transitional shelters;
 - c. provide essential services including medical, education, food counseling, training, etc. for homeless shelters.

The City's 2010 Action Plan follows the strategies outlined above in the allocation of funding to shelter facilities. The City's first priority is the rehabilitation of emergency and transitional facilities. The City is committed to assuring that the community's facilities for the homeless provide decent, safe and sanitary residence. Because of the transient nature of shelter operations, these facilities incur significant wear and tear. It is important that the physical condition of these facilities remain high to provide good living conditions for the residents and maintain a standard of quality acceptable to surrounding properties and the community.

The City's second funding priority is for operating costs of shelter activities with an emphasis on the purchase of furniture and equipment. Again, the City is concerned with maintaining a quality living environment for residents and to respond to the inevitable wear and tear on facilities. Normal facility operating costs are also eligible for funding.

The City's third funding priority is for essential services, especially those that assist shelter residents to secure permanent housing. Other eligible activities will be considered for funding if they link residents with needed services or programs.

Obstacles to overcome are a lack of funding to provide adequate staffing and the oversight necessary to assure that individuals can be constantly monitored and steered through a system that will provide the support systems necessary to provide job training, employment, affordable housing, alcohol and drug dependence treatment, child care, etc. to stave off conditions that will lead to a recurrence of homelessness.

The City reviewed ESGP program requirements and outlined the City's funding goals as stated in the application. The City solicited proposals from all interested parties, allowing approximately 45 days returning proposals with the proposal deadline of November 23, 2009.

The City follows several policies in its review of ESGP proposals:

- a) The City will provide assistance to a wide variety of shelters, recognizing the variety of service needs.
- b) Priority will be given to emergency and transitional facilities.
- c) Rehabilitation of structures and the purchase of furniture and equipment will be emphasized.
- d) Existing shelters that provide an essential service will receive priority over the funding of new shelters.
- e) New activities receiving funding will assist in securing transitional and permanent housing for residents.
- f) The City will consider ESGP financial support of new residential developments only if the most recent preceding development by that organization has been outside of the City and is of similar or greater size than that proposed for development within the City. This policy will apply to all organizations developing residential options for the homeless or special needs populations. (For further explanation of this section, please refer to: City of Akron Consolidated Strategy and Plan for Housing and Community Development Programs FY 2010-2014).

The City will strive to complete its review of proposals within 45 days. Nonprofit organizations receiving assistance will be required to provide matching funds. These funds will come from a variety of federal, state, local and private sources.

A3. Obviously, eliminating chronic homelessness is nearly impossible (this is akin to saying we are eliminating alcoholism, drug dependence, etc.), but the City is working in the Summit County Continuum of Care to identify the causes of chronic homelessness and assist individuals to overcome the hardships that are causing recurrent episodes of homelessness. The goal of ending chronic homelessness is ambitious and several approaches are necessary. The Akron / Summit County Continuum of Care will focus on the following key elements to reduce homelessness:

- Establish/develop resources within our community to fund homeless prevention;
- Strengthen homeless prevention programs within the community;

- Expand outreach services to the homeless by creating teams to specifically target subpopulations;
- Improving coordination and access to services;
- Expand availability of affordable housing within the community;
- Improve access to affordable housing for homeless persons;
- Work with the needs of special sub-populations;
- Evaluate role of faith-based organizations;
- Improve job placement linkages.

The primary obstacles to overcome are the inherently complicated nature of the problem, the coordination necessary between all parties in order to assure the proper delivery of individuals through the system and the lack of funds, manpower and time to devote to each client in order to assure that every individual will end up in affordable housing that will remain viable over an extended period of time.

A4. The Akron/Summit County/Barberton community has a Continuum of Care in place to address the immediate needs of families and individuals at risk of becoming homeless. In 2010, agencies will continue to provide short-term (and in many cases one-time) rental / mortgage assistance, assistance in paying utility bills and food assistance. Legal services are available to those at risk of eviction or foreclosure. These resources are limited and are quickly depleted due to heavy demand, but the community has a strong network of organizations that work closely to maximize assistance available to clients. The Summit County Department of Jobs and Family Services Prevention, Retention and Contingency Program will continue to provide short-term benefits and services to low-income families.

The Akron / Summit County Continuum of Care intends to incorporate an eligibility module into the Homeless Management information System (H.M.I.S.) that is now up and running. This new module will allow service providers to access additional community services during the client intake process and assist the client on how to access services. Community organizations have already developed resource manuals to assist individuals and families in locating appropriate services. Street Cards, or “quick guides” that explain available services to people on the street, are available at local agencies and libraries.

The City of Akron has been allocated \$2,790,522 in **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)** funds for financial assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. HPRP funds are made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

HPRP assistance will be provided to those individuals and families that are already homeless, residing in emergency or transitional shelters and to those on the verge of becoming homeless (due to foreclosure or eviction). The intent of HPRP is to provide temporary financial assistance, housing relocation, and stabilization services to individuals and families who are homeless, or who would be homeless *but for* this assistance. Program should focus on individuals and families that can remain stably housed after this assistance ends.

HPRP assistance will focus on housing stabilization; linking participants to 'mainstream benefits' and community resources; and assisting participants to develop plans to prevent future housing instability.

Contract agency will provide:

- Direct financial assistance
 - Security deposit
 - Rent
 - Utility deposits and payments
 - Other household "start up costs"
- Case management to resolve issues that are barriers to achieving housing stability
- Certify eligibility at least one every three months
- Conduct initial and follow-up inspections meeting local habitability standards

Assistance amount :

Family Size	Block Amount
1	\$2,000
2	\$2,450
3	\$2,650
4	\$2,850
5	\$3,050
6	\$3,250

A5. The Continuum of Care realizes that a key component of homelessness in this community continues to be the lack of a comprehensive homeless and discharge policy from various systems of care. In 2006, the Continuum of Care attempted to evaluate current hospital and jail discharge policies, but did not receive formal responses. In 2010, continued efforts will be made to work with both hospitals and jails to evaluate current discharge practices, and to obtain their formal policies. At this time there is no mandate for either hospitals or jails to work with the Continuum of Care. The Network will attempt to strengthen this connection by engaging their participation in the Network in 2010.

The Continuum of Care Community Committee plans to develop a comprehensive strategy to coordinate successful discharges to the community. The Network is still at the first step of information gathering to understand all of the discharge policies at all of the various agencies and shelters in order to prioritize the most glaring weaknesses. Once the weaknesses are identified, a strategy will be developed to eliminate the flaws in the existing system and assure appropriate notifications and communication at the time of release.

The Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care will sponsor Project Homeless Connect in May 2010. Project Homeless Connect is a one-stop shop model for delivering services to people experiencing homelessness. The Project allows for an immediacy of care rather than a referral. Over 1,000 individuals are anticipated to attend the 2010 event. Akron is partnering with service providers, hospitals, businesses and housing providers to bring multiple resources to one location where people can come and find services they need.

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

Program Year 1 Action Plan ESG response:

N/A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.
2. Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

*Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Community Development response:

A1. The City's priority non-housing community development needs (as outlined in the Strategic Plan) include infrastructure improvements, transportation projects, improvements to public facilities, economic development activities, business assistance programs in City-designated Neighborhood Business Districts, recapture of brownfields and support of the City's Industrial Incubator.

A2. The primary statutory objective of the CDBG program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. Accordingly, the City funds community development programs in order to attain this objective through both long and short-term projects with specific objectives for various programs.

Each year, the City prepares a 5-Year Capital Investment Program to schedule capital improvements throughout the City, many of which are located in low-income neighborhoods. This includes improvements to infrastructure (streets and sewers), public facilities, public services and economic development activities. This schedule of capital improvements is programmed to meet the following objectives:

- To maintain and repair facilities vital to the residents of Akron
- To reduce long-term operating costs
- To encourage private investment
- To match Federal, State and private funds
- To provide for the orderly growth of the City

The City also undertakes programs that support economic revitalization within neighborhoods and correct slum and blight conditions within low-income neighborhoods, including the following activities:

a) Waiver Demolition:

This program provides demolition and removal of dilapidated structures, including garages, commercial and residential units, free of charge to property owners. This program directly addresses slum and blight conditions.

b) Neighborhood Business District (NBD) Program

This program provides funds to enable neighborhood business owners to undertake revitalization activities on their property. Within the NBD, matching grants of up to \$30,000 are available for exterior improvements and loans up to \$150,000 are available for interior and/or exterior improvements. Program areas are primarily low and moderate income. The project objectives are to encourage owner reinvestment and new business, rehabilitation of blighted structures and beautification, general public improvements and improvement of safety

conditions.

c) Public Improvements within Neighborhood Development areas, Redevelopment Areas and Neighborhood Initiative Program Areas

The reconstruction of streets, walks, curbs, gutters, and the installation of storm sewers and street trees within Neighborhood Development areas is an important component of a comprehensive improvement program. Just as the rehabilitation of older, yet viable housing is an important component of the neighborhood revitalization, so too is the reconditioning and upgrading of old infrastructure. This activity benefits low and moderate income areas.

d) Neighborhood Partnership Program projects:

The Neighborhood Partnership Program is made available to neighborhood organizations and block clubs. Matching grants of \$500-\$7,500 are available for small neighborhood-based projects based on innovative ideas for improving neighborhoods. The program is offered citywide. The Akron Community Foundation supports this program with a matching commitment of \$100,000 each year.

e) City of Akron Brownfield Program

Brownfield recapture is an important component of the Annual Consolidated Plan and is one of the City's community development objectives, particularly in light of the absence of vacant land in the City of Akron (within the 62 square miles of the corporate limits of Akron, there is less than 2% vacant land). Brownfield redevelopment is coordinated with the City's Neighborhood Business District program, its Economic Development Program and the Community Development Block Program for industrial, commercial, and residential rehabilitation and new construction.

The City of Akron has developed a comprehensive Brownfield Program. For the past ten years, the City has actively pursued a variety of brownfield initiatives ranging from identification, acquisition and redevelopment to face lifting privately-owned brownfields in order to meet industrial, commercial, retail and residential needs of the community.

The City utilizes CDBG funding to leverage other Federal and State funding, including U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment Funding and State of Ohio / Clean Ohio funding. As an example, the \$14 million Middlebury Market Place development, the first new retail center in central Akron in 40 years, was leveraged utilizing a combination of federal and state brownfield programs.

The recapture of brownfields is an integral part of the City's revitalization strategy and reflects the City's commitment to re-utilizing its land resources in an efficient

manner. In 2008, the City of Akron was able to secure major redevelop/reinvestment projects with the Goodyear World and North American HQ and Bridgestone World Technical Center as important examples of brownfield reuse resulting retention of 4000 jobs. Plans for both initiatives are proceeding.

- f) Section 108 Loan Guarantee (The following projects will require Section 108 Loan guarantee):
- Cascade Hotel-- In 1996, the City of Akron provided loan assistance to a renovated Ramada Plaza Hotel. The Hotel offers 292 rooms for the use of business travelers and families. An Economic Development Initiative Grant of \$300,000 was awarded.
 - Middlebury Grocery-- In 2003, the City of Akron was awarded Section 108 funding for the development of the Middlebury Grocery Store and retail development. Private repayment by Middlebury Market Place LLC began in 2005.

Antipoverty Strategy

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Antipoverty Strategy response:

- A1.** The City of Akron will continue to implement an antipoverty strategy over the coming year in the following programs. These programs contribute to the removal of households from poverty status through provision of supportive services and transitional housing with support services.

Community Services Program

The City of Akron will use CDBG funds over the next year to offer service programs to residents in the fields of education, health, security, the arts and fair housing. Organizations citywide have submitted proposals in order to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Akron.

Affordable Housing

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) - The City is supportive of the Akron metropolitan Housing Authorities Family Self-Sufficiency Program, which provides supportive services to participating families to reach their goal of economic independence and self-sufficiency.

Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's)

The City contributes CDBG funds for operating expenses to non-profit Community Housing Development Corporations. The East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation offers home maintenance and budgeting training for its participants under its HOPE III Program. WENDCO is planning purchase/rehab/resale home projects and new housing in FY 2010.

Crime Prevention

Areas of poverty are often associated with high crime. The City is making a comprehensive effort utilizing federal, state and local funds to undertake community policing. The City encourages and supports neighborhood block watches within our Housing Program.

Transitional Housing

The City of Akron supports the provision of housing for the homeless with CDBG/ESG funds. The City encourages the continuation of existing emergency shelters while also encouraging transitional housing with supportive services as part of the Continuum of Care. The goal is to integrate homeless individuals back into the community. The intent of emergency housing is to serve as a stepping-stone to, first, transitional housing and then on to affordable permanent housing. Organizations applying for funds must commit to participate in the Continuum of Care process.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

Non-homeless Special Needs (91.220 (c) and (e))

*Please also refer to the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve for the period covered by the Action Plan.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

Program Year 1 Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

The City continues to provide CDBG funds for non-homeless persons with special needs. The City will operate the Minor Home Repair Program to assist the elderly and persons with disabilities. The City provides CDBG or HOME funds for residents of the Neighborhood Redevelopment Program areas or selected Neighborhood Initiative Areas who need to make their home handicapped accessible, including (but not limited to) funding for the installation

of ramps for wheelchair accessibility.

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS

*Please also refer to the HOPWA Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Provide a Brief description of the organization, the area of service, the name of the program contacts, and a broad overview of the range/ type of housing activities to be done during the next year.
2. Report on the actions taken during the year that addressed the special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, and assistance for persons who are homeless.
3. Evaluate the progress in meeting its specific objective of providing affordable housing, including a comparison of actual outputs and outcomes to proposed goals and progress made on the other planned actions indicated in the strategic and action plans. The evaluation can address any related program adjustments or future plans.
4. Report on annual HOPWA output goals for the number of households assisted during the year in: (1) short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to avoid homelessness; (2) rental assistance programs; and (3) in housing facilities, such as community residences and SRO dwellings, where funds are used to develop and/or operate these facilities. Include any assessment of client outcomes for achieving housing stability, reduced risks of homelessness and improved access to care.
5. Report on the use of committed leveraging from other public and private resources that helped to address needs identified in the plan.
6. Provide an analysis of the extent to which HOPWA funds were distributed among different categories of housing needs consistent with the geographic distribution plans identified in its approved Consolidated Plan.
7. Describe any barriers (including non-regulatory) encountered, actions in response to barriers, and recommendations for program improvement.
8. Please describe the expected trends facing the community in meeting the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and provide additional information regarding the administration of services to people with HIV/AIDS.
9. Please note any evaluations, studies or other assessments that will be conducted on the local HOPWA program during the next year.

Program Year 1 Action Plan HOPWA response:

**N/A- City of Akron does not receive HOPWA funds.
Specific HOPWA Objectives**

Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the Action Plan.

Program Year 1 Specific HOPWA Objectives response:

N/A- City of Akron does not receive HOPWA funds.

Other Narrative

Include any Action Plan information that was not covered by a narrative in any other section.

N/A