COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT

CITY OF HAZLETON, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

B-19-MC-42-0011

FISCAL YEAR 2019
(1/1/2019 THROUGH 12/31/2019)

PREPARED FOR:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

PHILADELPHIA, PA

DISPLAY PERIOD:

March 11, 2020 to March 26, 2020
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Executive Summary

In 2015, the City of Hazleton prepared a Five-Year Consolidated Plan (CP) for the program years 2015 through 2019. Annually, the City of Hazleton must review and report its progress in carrying out its Five-Year strategic plan and the Annual Action Plan.

As required by federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations, every grantee under the CDBG Program is required to prepare and make publicly available an end of year Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). This CAPER report covers the City’s CDBG expenditures from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. This was the fifth and final year of the Five Year Plan 2015-2019. As required, in addition to this narrative, various financial reports as generated by the Integrated Disbursement System (IDIS) are attached.

The City, despite a program year period starting in January, did not receive its FY 2019 allocation from HUD until the November 2019. However, the City was able to undertake street improvements and award this contract during the period between August 16 and the date of the agreement with HUD. The City also carried out activities from older years including park improvements and public services.
## CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee’s program year goals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Source / Amount</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>Expected – Strategic Plan</th>
<th>Actual – Strategic Plan</th>
<th>Percent Complete</th>
<th>Expected – Program Year</th>
<th>Actual – Program Year</th>
<th>Percent Complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development of Affordable Housing</td>
<td>Affordable Housing</td>
<td>CDBG: $</td>
<td>Homeowner Housing Added</td>
<td>Household Housing Unit</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>Non-Housing Community Development</td>
<td>CDBG: $</td>
<td>Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit</td>
<td>Persons Assisted</td>
<td>20000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>24,877</td>
<td>50,200</td>
<td>201.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Infrastructure and Facilities</td>
<td>Non-Housing Community Development</td>
<td>CDBG: $</td>
<td>Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit</td>
<td>Persons Assisted</td>
<td>20000</td>
<td>160140</td>
<td>800.70%</td>
<td>24,877</td>
<td>50,200</td>
<td>201.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Source / Amount</td>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Unit of Measure</td>
<td>Expected – Strategic Plan</td>
<td>Actual – Strategic Plan</td>
<td>Percent Complete</td>
<td>Expected – Program Year</td>
<td>Actual – Program Year</td>
<td>Percent Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Infrastructure and Facilities</td>
<td>Non-Housing Community Development</td>
<td>CDBG: $</td>
<td>Buildings Demolished</td>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service</td>
<td>Non-Housing Community Development</td>
<td>CDBG: $</td>
<td>Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit</td>
<td>Persons Assisted</td>
<td>20000</td>
<td>59425</td>
<td>292.13%</td>
<td>10467</td>
<td>29105</td>
<td>278.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service</td>
<td>Non-Housing Community Development</td>
<td>CDBG: $</td>
<td>Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit</td>
<td>Households Assisted</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service</td>
<td>Non-Housing Community Development</td>
<td>CDBG: $</td>
<td>Homeless Person Overnight Shelter</td>
<td>Persons Assisted</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>210</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation of the Housing Stock</td>
<td>Affordable Housing</td>
<td>CDBG: $</td>
<td>Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated</td>
<td>Household Housing Unit</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>82.86%</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date
Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

The five year goals and objectives and accomplishments are as follows:

**Rehabilitation of Existing Housing Stock:** Promote the rehabilitation and preservation of Hazleton’s existing housing stock through the rehabilitation loan program. The forgiveness loans are for the rehabilitation of single-family owner occupied homes.

**Objective: Housing Rehabilitation:** Provide rehabilitation grants to five housing units in the City of Hazleton over the next five years.

Through a substantial amendment, the City provided funding to housing rehabilitation to correct problems related to previously approved work in two (2) housing units. No new projects were undertaken. The cumulative accomplishment for FY 2015 to 2017 is 28 units. (One accomplishment reported through IDIS is a double count of units from a previously completed activity). The City was close to its goal of 35 units, 82.86%. Lack of funding and capacity made this program impossible to continue.

**Development of Affordable Housing:** Work with local nonprofit organizations to develop housing for extremely low, very low, and low income renters and homebuyers.

**Objective:** Provide funding to create three new housing units for homeowners in the City of Hazleton over the next five years.

No new funds were allocated to new housing development in FY 2019. Cumulative accomplishments include:

- A total of five homes were sold. These were vacant homes that were rehabilitated. Four of the homes were rehabilitated through the NSP and CDBG funded programs and one was a CDBG funded unit.
- The rental development Genarro Gardens opened in 2016. This development is PHFA-funded and provides 36 units of new affordable housing.

**Improve Public Infrastructure and facilities:** Improve parks, streets, and fire-fighting capacity that serve the low-income community.

**Objective:** Expand the efficiency and capacity for fire-fighting through construction of a new fire-house and support for the city’s fire department.

- In 2019, the City provided funds for street improvements at various locations, traffic signal improvements at 5th and Church Streets and Streetscape improvements on Alter Street.
Objective: Provide funds for the rehabilitation of public facilities, particularly those operated by non-profits that provide services to low income residents.

During 2019, the City undertook a variety of activities including:

Completed activities include:

- Street improvements – various.
  - Seybert Street - Reconstruction from Diamond to 8th Street.
  - Carson Street from 9th to Diamond Avenue is also a city-wide street.
  - Wyoming Street from 9th to Diamond serves the entire City as well.
  - Garfield Street from 9th to Diamond
- Site remediation at 13-17 E. Green Street
- East End Playground improvements (DCNR funded)
- West Court Park improvements (DCNR funded)
- Altmiller Park improvements (DCNR funded)
- Active Adult (Senior) Center improvements

CDBG funds were also used to undertake several activities that are ongoing including:

- Beech Street Tennis Court improvements
- Center City Park (LSA funds awarded)
- Alter Street Streetscape
- Traffic Signal Upgrade – 5th and Church St. (Green Light Go) and Grant and 15th Street (LSA funded) are underway Diamond Ave. and Vine St. awaiting award of Green Light Go funds.
- Historic Society handicap barrier removal

Support public services to enhance the quality of life for residents of the City: Provide funding to support services that encourage economic self-sufficiency.

Objective: Ensure the health and welfare of the residents and provide adequate services in the neighborhoods to ensure a decent quality of life.

In 2019 the Hazleton Police Department provided enhanced patrols in low mod areas in the City. The patrols enable the police to focus resources as problem spots shift within the City.

The City also provided funding to Catholic Social Services for a case worker and overnight security at the new homeless shelter.
CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted
Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).
91.520(a)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CDBG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or American Native</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds*

**Narrative**

PR 23 provided a racial breakdown for the housing projects for the City.

CDBG funds were also drawn down for expenses related to enhanced police patrols which benefited 14,235 persons, which includes the enhanced police patrols in high-crime target areas in low income areas. The city-wide population is 41% White (not Hispanic) and 54% Hispanic (all races). (2017 estimated Census data).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hazleton city, Pennsylvania</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>24,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not Hispanic or Latino:</strong></td>
<td>11,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White alone</td>
<td>10,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native alone</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race Description</td>
<td>Count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian alone</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race alone</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races:</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two races including Some other race</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two races excluding Some other race, and three or more races</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino:</td>
<td>13,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White alone</td>
<td>6,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American alone</td>
<td>980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native alone</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian alone</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race alone</td>
<td>5,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races:</td>
<td>621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two races including Some other race</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two races excluding Some other race, and three or more races</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Resources Made Available</th>
<th>Amount Expended During Program Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDBG</td>
<td>public - federal</td>
<td>687,996</td>
<td>440,708.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Funds were expended for the following types of activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount Expended During Program Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clearance and Demolition (04)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$96,273.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleanup of Contaminated Sites (04A)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$26,114.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Acquisition</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>$122,388.04</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount Expended During Program Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks, Recreational Facilities (03F)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$8,636.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Improvements (03K)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$114,710.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Public Improvements Not Listed in 03A-03S (03Z)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$517.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Facilities and Improvements</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>$162,138.50</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime Awareness (05I)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$6,992.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Public Services Not Listed in 05A-05Y, 03T (05Z)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$40,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Services</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>$46,992.70</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Program Administration (21A)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$104,139.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Administration and Planning</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>$104,139.17</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>$440,708.41</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Area</th>
<th>Planned Percentage of Allocation</th>
<th>Actual Percentage of Allocation</th>
<th>Narrative Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citywide</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>City-wide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The City has not targeted funds geographically. The city overall is low to moderate income and funds are utilized in a manner to create area benefit within the low income census tracts and block groups.
Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

The City was successful at leveraging funds from various sources to address local needs. For the parks that were completed this past year, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources had awarded several grants and local foundations also contributed to these projects. The parks include Center City Phase II, Altmiller Park, Beech Street Tennis Court, West Court playground and East End Park.

State administered LSA grants were awarded to the City to undertake several projects including rehabilitation work in several City facilities and the Fire house:

- City Airport equipment $37,500
- Recreation Master Plan (DCNR grant also) $47,50
- Sports netting and infill at Poplar St. Park – HARP $50,000
- Firehouse waterproofing $182,944
- Wiltsie Center auditorium sound system $35,000

LSA Grants were previously awarded for work to be done on:
- Center City Park improvements
- Wyoming Street improvements
- Alter Street improvements
- Upgrade streets lights to energy efficient LEDs
- City Hall including sidewalks
- Business Incubator Phase II
- Purchase of vehicles for each the police and fire departments
- Rehabilitation of the City Arts facility

A local foundation contributed $12,000 in funds to resurface the tennis courts at Beech Street and the County contributed $4,400 as well. Valmont Newmark provided $25,000 in matching funds for the West Court project.

In addition, the Housing Authority received HUD funds for Public Housing improvements through the Capital Fund and several local agencies received funds through the HUD Continuum of Care program for facilities and services to the homeless.

The City does not own any property that will be used to address the needs identified in the Five Year Consolidated Plan.

The City is not a HOME Grantee and has no matching obligation.
CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>One-Year Goal</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 – Number of Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>One-Year Goal</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of households supported through Rental Assistance</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households supported through The Production of New Units</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

The City met 80% of the five-year housing rehabilitation goal. There were no new housing funds or activities in 2019.

The City is part of the Luzerne County Continuum of Care for the homeless. In 2018 the CoC created eight (8) new units of housing through St. Ann’s and a 24 bed Permanent Supportive Housing program but neither is located in Hazleton.
Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The City of Hazleton has discontinued the housing rehabilitation program. The turnover in staff has resulted in a decrease in staff capacity to carry out such an intensive program.

The City is seeking opportunities to invest housing funds in a way that will reverse blight and return the vacant housing stock to decent safe and sanitary housing.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Households Served</th>
<th>CDBG Actual</th>
<th>HOME Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely Low-income</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate-income</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 7 – Number of Households Served*

Narrative Information

There were no activities undertaken that required income intake. The above figures from PR 23 represent the number of homeless individuals served by Catholic Social Services (very low income) and number served by the Active Adult Center (presumed benefit counted as moderate income).
CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)
Evaluate the jurisdiction’s progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

In 2019, the City convened the Hazleton Housing Coalition, which over the past several years has worked to better represent Hazleton on the Luzerne County CoC and to coordinate services locally. The Luzerne County CoC has established a coordinated assessment process in which the agency that is first approached will conduct an intake and screening to determine a household's needs. Referrals to appropriate providers will direct the household to the provider that can best meet those needs. Outreach is conducted by a number of agencies including a local mental health providers and an HIV/AIDS provider.

In the City of Hazleton, referrals are made to Catholic Social Services, which has a small homeless shelter. CEO administers the CoC’s Coordinated Entry System.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The successful coordination of the community service providers in making sure any homeless family with children is provided with shelter means that there are no families on the street. This coordination operates with outreach through HELPLINE (the County's 24 hour information and referral network), police departments and Coalition member agencies such as Children & Youth Services and CEO. When a homeless family with children is identified, they are initially referred to CEO for a voucher eligibility or the county’s Children and Youth office. There is only one family shelter, which is located in the north end of the County.

Catholic Social Services opened a permanent shelter facility in 2019. There are no family shelters in Hazleton.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

CEO provides a limited amount of state-funded homeless prevention rental assistance. Persons who are imminently homeless may receive up to $1,000 in a given year toward rent. Additional funding for prevention is needed to keep families and individuals from becoming homeless. The Hazleton Housing
Coalition will work on developing funding streams and coordination that will maximize the funding that is available.

Discharge planning to assist individuals create a housing plan, connection to local services, case management and counseling are used to prevent homelessness and a return to homelessness.

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

CEO has a Rapid Re-housing program available to assist persons leaving shelter establish permanent housing through rent assistance and case management. CSS and CEO each have connections within the community to identify available housing units. The Luzerne Co. CoC has in place mechanisms to work with the service providers in the county to improve outcomes and stability upon leaving shelter, reducing the time that individuals and families are homeless and preventing homelessness. The coordinated assessment process helps move those that are homeless or seeking prevention services to connect to the appropriate provider. Individual service and shelter providers are working at improving family stability through the identification of barriers to stability identified in the assessment process.
CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Hazleton Housing Authority has not requested any CDBG funding assistance from the City of Hazleton. The Housing Authority used Capital funds to undertake various modernization actions during FY 2019. Hallways were re-tiled, kitchen cabinets and doors were replaced and heat and hot water units were replaced.

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

HHA continues to support homeownership utilizing Catholic Social Services to provide financial literacy and self-sufficiency. Homeownership opportunities are provided by C.E.O.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The HHA is not “troubled”.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

Public policies have not been identified that have a negative effect on housing affordability. The City has land use policies and investment strategies that do not limit or impede private investment. The most significant barrier to affordable housing in the City of Hazleton is lack of income. Despite the comparatively low rents and low cost housing for sale, households in the City of Hazleton still are cost burdened.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City of Hazleton will work with social service agencies and the County of Luzerne to identify and develop strategies to meet the needs of underserved populations as identified. The city funded Catholic Social Services to open a winter homeless shelter and supports their activities that prevent homelessness. Further, the City helped to organize the Hazleton Housing Coalition, a collective of social service agencies created to address homelessness.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

As of April 22, 2010, all contractors in the nation who work in homes constructed prior to 1978 must have an EPA Certification and have at least one person on each job site that has taken the EPA Certification 8-hour class on lead-based paint safety. The City will make available through the Building Code office the EPA Paint, Renovate, Repair, and Painting booklet available for interested residents.

The City’s housing rehabilitation guidelines provided for the administration of the housing program in a manner consistent with the regulations. The City has incorporated the EPA Paint and Renovation guidelines into its code enforcement program as well.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City of Hazleton will continue to invest in job-creating activities with an emphasis on the hiring of low income residents. The City will continue to pursue economic development in all forms to increase the supply of good-paying jobs available to City residents.

The City funded a homeless shelter case manager who will help to lift homeless persons out of poverty.

The City will support applications to HUD and other agencies for funding for such programs.

In the award of contracts, the City will continue to implement the Section 3 Plan which promotes the utilization of firms owned by low income persons.
Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City continues to effectively and efficiently coordinate community development activities in the City of Hazleton. The Interim Community Development Director will participate in HUD training and technical assistance to provide more efficient and comprehensive program management and oversight.

The Hazleton Housing Authority is another public entity in the community that utilizes funding from HUD. HHA’s board is appointed by the Mayor. HHA’s board hires its Executive Director and is responsible for managing its funds.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

During FY 2019, the City continued to work with the Hazleton Housing Coalition and local non-profit agencies to coordinate services and funding for important social programs and physical improvements in the City. The City coordinated with Catholic Social Services and the Commission on Economic Opportunity on the needs of homeless and near-homeless in the City and other special needs populations.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

The City completed its update of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing in late 2018. In this AI, the action steps to be undertaken were identified. In 2019, the City worked on several of these as noted below:
Impediment #1: Fair housing education and outreach efforts continue to be necessary to educate residents about their rights and responsibilities and to deter housing discrimination as demonstrated by:

- Lack of knowledge among landlords about reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities
- Lack of knowledge among residents and municipal officials about what constitutes illegal discrimination under the Fair Housing Act

**Goal 1: Increase** fair housing education and outreach opportunities available to residents; landlords, property management agents and real estate professionals; city staff, appointed boards and commissions; and, city municipal leaders.

**Action 1A:** Partner with a Qualified Fair Housing Enforcement Organization to conduct fair housing education and outreach workshops for residents, landlords, real estate agents, property management agents, lenders, city staff, city Council, and city boards and commissions.

**Action 1B:** Partner with a HUD-certified homebuyer counseling organization to provide homebuyer education and financial management training, especially for groups with low homeownership rates.

**Action 1C.** Annually review progress on achieving the AI goals and objectives.

In 2019 the City met with housing providers to discuss and identify educational opportunities to promote fair housing. While there was consensus on the need to educate landlords and others, no specific activity was identified. The Hazleton Housing Authority agreed to expand on their work with landlords to increase the acceptance of Section 8 tenants and would incorporate fair housing education into that discussion.

Impediment #2: Persons with limited English proficiency may not be able to fully access Hazleton’s housing and community development programs and services for which they are eligible due to language barriers

**Goal 2:** Ensure that persons with limited English proficiency can access the city’s affordable housing and community development services and programs.


**Action 2B:** Continue outreach through the local Spanish-language newspapers for all CDBG publications and notices.
The most current data on language spoken at home (B16001) in American Fact Finder for the City of Hazleton is 2015 data. The changes in the number of persons who speak English less than Very Well” is minimal. The LAP created by the City in 2016 using 2014 ACS data continues to be current.

The City publishes public hearing notices and other important program information in Spanish in two local Spanish language newspapers. Flyers in English and Spanish are distributed to local agencies for display.

**Impediment #3: An inadequate supply of affordable housing throughout Hazleton exists as demonstrated by:**

- **High demand for affordable housing that is also accessible to persons with disabilities**
- **Incomes in Hazleton have not kept up with the cost of housing, leaving renters particularly affected by issues of cost burden.**
- **Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burden:**
  - Black households with incomes at more than 50% AMI
  - Hispanic households with incomes at more than 50% AMI have a far greater number of households with one or more housing problems compared to other groups
- **The difficulty that social service agencies have in securing affordable housing for the elderly, large families and persons with disabilities**

**Goal 3:** Expand affordable housing choice throughout Hazleton to meet existing and future market demand for members of the protected classes.

**Action 3A:** Support the development and preservation of affordable housing in the City of Hazleton and surrounding communities. Limited CDBG funding can be used to leverage other sources of funds to create new affordable housing opportunities.

During 2019 there were no requests for CDBG or City funding to create new housing opportunities. The City recognizes the need for more affordable housing and improvements to the affordable housing stock in the City. To the extent that a developer requests assistance to construct or rehabilitate housing, the City will work with them. At this time a housing rehabilitation program is not a feasible activity for the City to undertake.

**Impediment #4: The public transportation system within Hazleton restricts housing choice and access to employment and education opportunities for residents who are transit-dependent**

**Goal 4:** Advocate for public transit systems to connect lower income neighborhoods and affordable housing communities with major employment centers and education facilities.

**Action 4A:** Work with social service providers to better understand the transportation needs of the protected classes and other lower income households.

The City advocates with the county to expand transportation options at every possible opportunity.
CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements.

The Office of Community Development (OCD) is responsible for ensuring that the recipients of federal funds meet the purposes of the appropriate legislation and regulations, and that funds are disbursed in a timely manner. The OCD monitored activities carried out during FY 2018 to ensure long-term compliance with program requirements. The objectives of this monitoring are to make sure that activities 1) comply with all regulations governing their administrative, financial, and programmatic operations; 2) achieve their performance objectives within schedule and budget; and 3) comply with the Consolidated Plan.

Internal controls have been designed to ensure adequate segregation of duties. OCD prepares agreements for housing and non-housing activities supported by CDBG funds. Invoices are monitored for compliance with the approved spending plan and federal regulations. The OCD administers the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). OCD is also primarily responsible for setting up and administering activities. The City's monitoring standards and procedures ensure that statutory and regulatory requirements are being met and the information submitted to HUD is correct and complete.

The Community Development Office monitors the various programs and activities that are funded with CDBG dollars. A subrecipient monitoring plan has been put in place to ensure compliance by agencies funded with the CDBG public service and public facilities funding. The following key components of the monitoring process ensure that the city's CP goals are being met in a timely and efficient manner:

Recordkeeping Systems – Recordkeeping requirements outlined in 24CFR Part 570.506 are adhered to. Each project file is documented as to eligibility and national objective, the beneficiaries of the activity, procurements, agreements and related compliance issues.

Financial Management – All financial transactions are carefully recorded and reconciled between the in-house system and IDIS.

Audit Management – All audits are conducted in accordance with federal and State regulations, specifically 2 CFR Part 200. The City Auditor is reviewing the 2017 records at this time.
Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

The City of Hazleton placed the CAPER document on public display for a period of 15 days from March 11, 2020 to March 26, 2020.

The City of Hazleton included language in the newspaper ad to indicate that the CAPER could be made available in alternative languages or formats upon request to meet the needs of non-English speaking or disabled individuals. An ad was placed in the Spanish-language newspaper as well.

The effort to outreach to persons with disabilities and non-English speaking persons was made through contact with the local agencies that represent the needs of persons with disabilities. Information about opportunities to comment on the CAPER was provided to local agencies including:

Hazleton Housing Authority
Ms. Dorothy George, Executive Director
320 West Mine Street
Hazleton, PA 18201

Commission on Economic Opportunity
Ms. Cheryl McLaughlin
Broad Street Bus. Exchange, 100 West Broad Street
Hazleton, PA 18201

The Salvation Army
356 W Broad St
Hazleton, PA 18201

Catholic Social Services
Mr. Neil Oberto
214 West Walnut Street, Suite 1
Hazleton, PA 18201

Anthracite Center for Independent Living
Ms. Denise Corcoran
8 West Broad Street, Suite 228
Hazleton, PA 18201

A copy of the Notices follow this page.
Notice of Availability

Comprehensive Annual Performance and Evaluation REPORT (CAPER)
for Program Year 2019

City of Hazleton, Pennsylvania

In accordance with Title I of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, P.L. 101-625, and the regulations 24 CFR Part 91.250, the City of Hazleton Pennsylvania has prepared its Program Year 2019 Comprehensive Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for its Community Development Block Grant Program. This report contains information including: 1) Summary of the resources and accomplishments, 2) Status of actions taken during the year to implement the goals outlined in the Consolidated Plan, and 3) evaluation of the progress made during the year in addressing identified priority needs and objectives.

Copies of the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Performance Report for the City of Hazleton are available for inspection from March 11, 2020 through March 26, 2020 during regular business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at:

City of Hazleton
Office of Community Development
40 North Church Street
Hazleton, PA 18201

Written comments on the Comprehensive Annual Performance Report will be considered until 4 p.m. March 27, 2020. Written comments should be addressed to the Community Development Director, at the address shown above. The City of Hazleton intends to submit the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Performance Report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on or by March 30, 2020.

This report may be made available in alternative formats for persons with disabilities or limited English speaking abilities. For assistance, please call the Office of Community Development (570) 459-4965 (PA Telecommunications Center TTY 7-1-1). La informacion sera proporcionada en espanol por peticion.

Joe Zeller, Economic Development Director
AVISO DE DISPONIBILIDAD

INFORME INTEGRAL DE DESEMPEÑO Y EVALUACIÓN ANUAL (CAPER)
PARA EL AÑO DEL PROGRAMA 2019
Ciudad de Hazleton

De acuerdo con el Título I de la Ley Nacional de Viviendas Asequibles de 1990, P.L. 101-625, y las regulaciones 24 CFR Parte 91.250, la ciudad de Hazleton, Pennsylvania, ha preparado su Informe Anual de Desempeño Anual del Año del Programa 2019 (CAPER) para su Programa de Subsidios Globales de Desarrollo Comunitario. Este reporte contiene información que incluye: 1) Resumen de los recursos y logros, 2) Estado de las medidas adoptadas durante el año para implementar las metas descritas en el Plan consolidado, y 3) evaluación del progreso realizado durante el año para abordar las necesidades prioritarias identificadas y objetivos.

Las copias del Informe Anual Integral de Desempeño 2019 para la Ciudad de Hazleton están disponibles para su inspección desde el 11 de marzo de 2020 hasta el 26 de marzo de 2020 durante el horario comercial regular, de 9:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m. en:

City of Hazleton
Office of Community Development
40 North Church Street
Hazleton, PA 18201

Los comentarios escritos sobre el Informe Anual Integral de Desempeño serán considerados hasta las 4 p.m. 27 de marzo de 2020. Los comentarios escritos deben dirigirse al Director de Desarrollo Comunitario, en la dirección que se muestra arriba. La Ciudad de Hazleton tiene la intención de presentar el Informe Anual de Desempeño Anual 2019 al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano en o antes del 30 de marzo de 2020.

Este informe puede estar disponible en formatos alternativos para personas con discapacidades o habilidades limitadas de habla inglesa. Para obtener asistencia, llame a la Oficina de Desarrollo Comunitario (570) 459-4965 (Centro de Telecomunicaciones de PA TTY 7-1-1).

Por orden de:

Joe Zeller, Economic Development Director
Oficina de Desarrollo Comunitario
CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)
Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction’s program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

The City has prepared a new Five Year Consolidated Plan. Increased emphasis has been placed on public infrastructure and quality of life issues. The City wants the residents to take pride in their City, particularly those for whom it is newly adopted.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

NOT APPLICABLE
Appendix

IDIS Reports

The following IDIS reports are attached:

Con Plan Goals and Accomplishments presents data on the fiscal year relating the accomplishments to the Annual Plan for that year.

Summary of Accomplishments Report (C04PR23) presents data on CDBG/HOME activity counts and disbursements by priority need categories. It also contains data on CDBG accomplishments by various units of measure and housing units by racial/ethnic categories and HOME housing units by various income groups.

Financial Summary Report (C04PR26) provides the key CDBG program indicators. This report shows the obligations, expenditures that the grantee has made for a specified program year. The expenditures are summarized to determine the relevant indicators for low- and moderate-income, planning/administration, public service activities and economic development. (This report contains program year information on statutory requirements regarding overall percentage for low- and moderate-income benefit.)

Summary of Activities (C04PR03) - lists each CDBG activity that was open during a program year. For each activity, the report shows the status, accomplishments, program year narrative and program year expenditures. For each activity the report also shows the activity code, regulation citation and characteristics of the beneficiaries.