

2015

CDBG Action Plan



City of Rome
Community Development Department
607 Broad Street
Rome, GA 30161

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The 2015 calendar year will be the City of Rome's 12th year as a CDBG Entitlement community. CDBG funding is an important source of funds in the City's efforts to address the priority needs of its low and moderate income citizens and in the revitalization of distressed urban neighborhoods. CDBG funds have historically provided approximately \$400,000 per year for use on housing and public improvements. The 2014 award was \$406,047 and the 2015 allocation is \$404,746 which is \$1301 less than the previous year.

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

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

Rome has concentrated its previous CDBG awards in public facilities and housing areas and continues to do so in the 2015 program year.

Following are the proposed 2015 projects:

- Minor Repair Program
- Code Enforcement (targeted program within low income neighborhoods)
- Sidewalk improvements within low income neighborhoods
- Grant administration

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

This information is located in AP 20.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

The City of Rome manages a very successful Minor Rehabilitation Program and continues to fund it annually. Approximately 17 homes are assisted each year and Community Development staff continues to have a waiting list. This program meets a need in the low income community and helps older individuals remain in their homes for a longer period of time.

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

The new program introduced with 2014 funds, targeted Code Enforcement, has just began. Staff feels this program will have a large impact in the neighborhoods and has been requested by residents to help eliminate and reduce blighted conditions.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

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

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

5. Summary of public comments

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

The proposed budget was presented to the Community Development Services Committee on August 6, 2014 and again on September 3, 2014 for discussion and review. A 30 public comment period was held on from October 9, 2014 through November 9, 2014. A public hearing was held on October 20, 2014. The Rome City Commission took formal action to approve the 2015 Action Plan at their regular meeting on Monday, March 9, 2015 prior to submittal to HUD.

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

No public comments were received.

7. Summary

Based on the needs assessment, market analysis, consultations with public agencies and staff of the City of Rome, the City determined that the most appropriate use of its CDBG allocation during the 2015 program year is for public infrastructure improvements (such as sidewalks, curb and gutter, pedestrian safety, ADA compliance, new sidewalks in areas that are in need), housing rehabilitation (single family), code enforcement and grant administration. These are basically a continuation of activities identified in the 2014 Action Plan and will help reach the goals outlined in the five year 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan.

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

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

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	ROME	
CDBG Administrator	ROME	Community Development Department
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator		
HOPWA-C Administrator		

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

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

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

There are three City of Rome Commissioners who oversee the Community Development Department and the CDBG Entitlement program. This group is responsible to make a recommendation for the budget and the Annual Action Plan for CDBG funds to the full nine member Rome City Commission. This is done in November after an exhaustive look at the needs of the City and its citizens during the period of June-September and after soliciting input from numerous agencies that work in community development and from departments of the City that are knowledgeable about community needs.

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

- City Management
- Elected Officials
- Citizens of the City of Rome
- Rome's Public Works Division
- Rome's Water and Sewer Division
- Rome/Floyd Housing Team
- Rome/Floyd Planning Department
- Rome/Floyd Building Inspection Department
- South Rome Redevelopment Corporation
- Rome's Redevelopment Team
- Rome's Neighborhood Sustainability Director

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(I))

The City of Rome will continue to be involved with numerous cooperative groups of agencies such as Homeless Task Force, Rome/Floyd Housing Team, Habitat for Humanity, Appalachian Housing Counseling Agency, Northwest Georgia Housing Authority, South Rome Redevelopment Corporation and the North Rome Community Action committee.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The City of Rome does not receive homeless funds directly from HUD, rather a number of local service agencies (Salvation Army, Rome Action Ministries, the Davies Homeless Shelter, Highland Rivers and others) receive funds from the Continuum of Care at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Additionally, local agencies receive support through the Rome/Floyd United Way annual campaign. One other agency, the Open Door Home for Children, also receives support from the state and local governments. Many local churches also provide support in various ways such as the local "Community Kitchen" which serves lunch (free) five days a week.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS

The City of Rome falls within the State of Georgia's Continuum of Care service area that is managed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The City participates and attends meetings regarding the program in the region when invited and provides comments. The City also certifies through the "Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan" process established by HUD to continue funding for four agencies in the Rome area.

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

See table.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Northwest Georgia Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Rome and NWGHA work in partnership together to further affordable housing in Rome whenever possible. Rome and NWGHA are currently co-applicants for a Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant for the East Rome Redevelopment Area.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	South Rome Redevelopment Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Neighborhood Organization Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Neighborhood needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The SRRC was contacted during their monthly board members with updates and request for neighborhood needs.

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

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care		

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

Two public meetings were held (August 6, 2014 and September 3, 2014) where the proposed 2015 plan and budget were discussed. A 30 day public comment period was held from October 9, 2014-November 9, 2014. A public hearing was held on October 20, 2014 to formally present the draft budget and receive input.

Goal setting took place during the Consolidated Plan period (2014-2018), the 2015 Action Plan was put into action to complete goals already identified.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
1	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	August 6, 2014 Community Development Services Committee meeting. Agenda posted on the City of Rome website in advance of the meeting. City staff, Rome City Commissioners and the news media were in attendance.	No comments were received.	No comments were received.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	September 3, 2014 Community Development Services Committee meeting. The agenda was posted to the City of Rome website in advance of the meeting. City staff, Rome City Commissioners and the news media were in attendance.	No comments were received.	No comments were received.	
3	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	A public hearing was held on Monday, October 20th at 4:30 PM. A large block ad was placed in the Rome News Tribune to advertise the meeting.	No comments received.	No comments received.	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The City anticipates that the only funds available in 2015 for the selected CDBG projects will be CDBG Entitlement funds. These funds will be used for the design and construction of sidewalks and improved walkways in LMI census tracts, targeted code enforcement efforts in the low income census tracts 6, 16 and 21 (block group 1 and 3), and housing rehabilitation for individuals 55 years or older or disabled that have a household income at or below 80% AMI.

Priority Table

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	404,746	0	0	404,746	1,216,840	The City of Rome estimates receiving approximately \$400,000 each year in CDBG funds to allocated to approved projects.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The City of Rome will seek to leverage its general city sidewalk improvement funds with the CDBG funds to be able to assist a larger area in the low income neighborhoods. The City of Rome also uses general city funds to help offset the administration costs for grant and program administration.

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

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

Discussion

The City of Rome will seek to leverage its general city sidewalk improvement funds with the CDBG funds to be able to assist a larger area in the low income neighborhoods. The City of Rome also uses general city funds to help offset the administration costs for grant and program administration. Rome is committed to utilize its grant award responsibly and use any other funds as leverage that are available. There are no match requirements for the CDBG program.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Housing Rehabilitation	2014	2018	Affordable Housing	City-wide Effort	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$100,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 17 Households Assisted
2	Public Infrastructure Improvements	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	51% and greater LMI Census Tracts	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$150,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Persons Assisted
3	Grant Planning and Administration	2014	2018	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide Effort	Public Improvements and Infrastructure Housing Rehabilitation Code Enforcement Activities	CDBG: \$80,500	Other: 3 Other
4	Code Enforcement Activities	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	51% and greater LMI Census Tracts	Code Enforcement Activities	CDBG: \$50,000	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 30 Household Housing Unit

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	
2	Goal Name	Public Infrastructure Improvements
	Goal Description	
3	Goal Name	Grant Planning and Administration
	Goal Description	
4	Goal Name	Code Enforcement Activities
	Goal Description	

Table 7 – Goal Descriptions

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.215(b):

The City of Rome does not receive a HOME allocation.

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The one-year 2015 Action Plan identifies specific activities which are to be conducted in support of many of the priorities and objectives outlined in the 2014-2018 Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the City of Rome, GA. It is anticipated that the majority of the objectives identified will be met and or exceeded. The one-year Action Plan is updated and presents the specific programs and projects to be implemented in FY 2015 along with their respective funding sources and allocations.

#	Project Name
1	Sidewalk Improvement Project
2	Rehabilitation- Single Family
3	Code Enforcement
4	Administration and Planning

Table 8 – Project Information

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

Funding priorities are consistent with those outlined in the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan. The City will continue to encourage and seek input from the community on conditions and needs through public hearings, city council meetings, and other meetings and conversations with low-to moderate income persons through their programs. Community Development staff will continue to make numerous contacts within the community that are conduits for learning about the needs of our residents.

Projects

AP-38 Projects Summary

Project Summary Information

Table 9 – Project Summary

1	Project Name	Sidewalk Improvement Project
	Target Area	51% and greater LMI Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Public Infrastructure Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000
	Description	The city-wide sidewalk program will improve, rehab and/or replace existing sidewalks in the low income census tracts of Rome. This may also include the installation of new sidewalks in areas that need them along with curb and gutter improvements
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	All families living within the assisted area will have a benefit from improved sidewalks and pedestrian access.
	Location Description	The locations will vary within the low income census tracts of Rome.
	Planned Activities	To rehab or replace existing sidewalks, and/or install new sidewalks in areas of need.
2	Project Name	Rehabilitation- Single Family
	Target Area	City-wide Effort
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation

	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	This project is for single family rehabilitation of existing homes.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that approximately 17 households will receive assistance.
	Location Description	This program assists qualified households with needed repairs to their homes.
	Planned Activities	This project will assist low to moderate income families at or below 80% of the area median income. Homeowners must be 55 years old or older, or be disabled as confirmed by Social Security to qualify for assistance through the Minor Repair Program.
3	Project Name	Code Enforcement
	Target Area	51% and greater LMI Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Code Enforcement Activities
	Needs Addressed	Code Enforcement Activities
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	This project will fund a Code Enforcement Officer to work (target) specifically within the low income census tracts identified as 6,16 and 21.
	Target Date	12/31/2014
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	All families residing within the low income census tracts that will be targeted will benefit by the removal of slum and blight.
	Location Description	Census tracts 6, 16 and 21.

	Planned Activities	Targeted code enforcement activities.
4	Project Name	Administration and Planning
	Target Area	City-wide Effort
	Goals Supported	Grant Planning and Administration
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure Housing Rehabilitation Economic Development Activities Code Enforcement Activities
	Funding	CDBG: \$80,500
	Description	This activity/project will fund portions of the Community Development Department in the oversight, management, monitoring and coordination of CDBG activities.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	This activity/project will fund a portion of the administration and planning costs of the Community Development Department.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

All of the 2015 CDBG Entitlement funds will be used in the low/mod income census tracts in the City of Rome or for the Minor Repair program that is funded on a city-wide effort in which the need is based on individual household income. All households assisted with rehabilitation will be at or below 80% AMI. Also, the majority of those assisted in the Minor Repair program tend to also fall within the targeted census tracts.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
51% and greater LMI Census Tracts	49
City-wide Effort	31

Table 10 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The majority of local need for these type of projects identified with 2015 funding fall within neighborhoods that exist within the low income census tracts of Rome. The Minor Repair Program is offered city-wide and continues to be very successful. Qualified applicants must meet the age restriction and income restrictions established for the program. All recipients are categorized as a direct benefit. The sidewalk improvement project will be available in the identified low income census tracts (5,6,11,16,21) and will meet a low/mod area benefit. The targeted Code Enforcement program is being utilized in three of the low income census tracts (6,16 and 21) where a large inventory of blighted properties exist.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City of Rome continues to administer a very successful rehabilitation program through the CDBG program known locally as the Minor Repair Program. This program assists individuals 55 years or older and/or disabled homeowners with grants of up to \$5,000 to complete much needed repairs to their home. The City plans to continue funding this program each year. To date over 120 homeowners have been assisted since the program began in 2007. The City of Rome also receives funds from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs through their CHIP program (funded with HOME dollars) which allows an additional local rehabilitation program to be administered known as the Moderate Repair Program. This program also targets low income elderly homeowners and allocates \$25,000 per home to bring them up to minimum property standards. The City of Rome also was awarded \$600,000 from a competitive DCA NOFA this year to construct new single family housing in the South Rome area. These homes will be constructed and sold beginning in 2015.

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

Table 11 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	17
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	17

Table 12 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

The City of Rome's affordable housing strategy is to continue to provide assistance to low/mod income homeowners by funding the Minor Rehabilitation Program using CDBG dollars and to regularly seek

CHIP funding from the GA Department of Community Affairs in order to continue the Moderate Repair Program as long as it is feasible. The new housing construction program will generate a revolving fund as the homes are sold and give Rome the ability to continue to build and sale until the funds are exhausted.

The City will continue to partner and support agencies where possible in the creation of affordable housing through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program administered by the State.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

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

The Northwest Georgia Housing Authority (with the City of Rome as co-applicant) has applied for the 2015 Choice Neighborhood Planning grant. NWGHA and the City of Rome will target the East Rome area (East 14th Street, 12th Street, Maple Avenue and South Broad Street) in efforts to revitalize this area and to replace the Altoview Terrace Apartments (public housing) that were demolished in December 2013.

NWGHA is currently meeting with the City of Rome to discuss the possibility of NWGHA purchasing twenty-two (22) homes located in the Northwest Regional Hospital Community site (which was closed by the state) that are located outside the fenced area. If donated or purchased, this area will be a multi-use development.

NWGHA plans to demolish units located at Willingham Village which are located in the RAD Development Phase II that does not qualify for renovation.

NWGHA plans to replace cabinets, floors, put sheet rock over block walls and switch to total electric in the Park Homes complex.

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

Property managers will continue to recruit and encourage resident participation in Resident Associations in their perspective communities. Through participation in the Family Self Sufficiency program, residents are encouraged to work toward homeownership. Homebuyer seminars are available free of charge with the services at Appalachian Housing Counseling Agency.

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

N/A. The Northwest Georgia Housing Authority is not designated as a troubled public housing authority.

Discussion

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

Introduction

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

- Helping low-income families avoid becoming homeless;
- Reaching out to homeless persons and assessing their individual needs;
- Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons; and
- Helping homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living

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

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

The City of Rome will coordinate a meeting with agencies that provide services to the homeless community during the program year to better understand the current needs. It will also give an opportunity to review the 10 year Homeless Plan that was completed in 2009.

The City is not proposing to use any CDBG funds to take specific actions to combat or address homelessness in 2015. The City's plan is to continue to work with public service agencies in place that currently offer these type of services and assist in identifying gaps or additional programs that may need to be created.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

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

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families

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

The City of Rome will continue to support public service agencies and providers within the City such as the Salvation Army, William S. Davies Homeless Shelter, Action Ministries and other by offering support letters for federal or state funding and providing technical assistance whenever possible.

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

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

Discussion

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family
Tenant-based rental assistance
Units provided in housing facilities (transitional or permanent) that are being developed, leased, or operated
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds
Total

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

Introduction

Per information obtained from the City of Rome’s 2013 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice:

Comprehensive planning is a critical means by which governments address the interconnection and complexity of their respective jurisdictions. The interconnectedness of land uses means that a decision as to the use of a particular piece of property has consequences not only for the surrounding property, but for a myriad of other issues as well. From a regulatory standpoint, local government measures to control land use through zoning often define the scope and density of housing resources available to residents, developers and other organizations within certain areas. Land development activities in the City of Rome are regulated through the Unified Land Development Code of Floyd County and the City of Rome. This joint county-city code establishes zoning provisions. The zoning code was originally adopted in 2001 and most recently amended in 2013. Because the local zoning code presents a crucial area of analysis for a study of impediments to fair housing choice, the Rome-Floyd County Development Code was obtained and reviewed against a set of fair housing issues. Overall the City of Rome scored an average of 1.61 in this analysis. The City’s code scored very well regarding low administrative barriers to obtaining permits and delineation of procedures for appealing a rejected zoning or permit application. However, Rome’s ordinance was found to be restrictive on the rights of people with disabilities (with respect to personal care homes) and the siting of modular and manufactured homes.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

The City of Rome had one AI impediment listed (impediment #3) that related to zoning that could be considered a barrier to affordable housing. The impediment is identified as follows:

Rome’s zoning code defines a personal care home as “a place of residence for adults where lodging, meals, and personal care are provided 24 hours per day, seven days per week and where federal and/or state licensing or permitting is required”. When the Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital in Rome

closed, it created a large need for this type of development and care in the community. Despite a growing need, personal care homes are not permitted as of right in any residential zoning districts. Further, their classification by number of residents, when the zoning code's "family" definition is not qualified similarly is problematic.

The City of Rome plans to follow the recommendation made during the AI process to convene a discussion among interested and affected community stakeholders of the effects of its ordinance on the location of personal care homes. The City will further facilitate a meeting between this stakeholder group and local planning staff and officials to determine whether changes to the City's ordinance may be appropriate. This action will begin in 2015.

Discussion

As stated above, based on the impediment found in the 2013 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, the City will convene a discussion among City leaders, city staff and the affected community stakeholders to review the effects and possible barriers the local zoning ordinance may have towards the creation of affordable housing, particularly to those in personal care homes during the program year of 2015.

There were a total of five impediments identified in the 2013 AI:

- Limited Supply of Decent, Accessible and Affordable Housing
- Uneven Distribution of Community Resources
- Restrictive Zoning Provisions
- Local Attitudes Resisting Fair Housing Opportunities
- Lack of Fair Housing Education

The City of Rome will work to address each issue by focusing attention on Fair Housing during the month of April, attending a Fair Housing Symposium hosted by the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority, and having a training session on Fair Housing at the City of Rome Housing Summit for local housing providers and non-profit service providers.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction

The Annual Action Plan must describe the jurisdiction's planned actions to carry out the following strategies outlined in the Consolidated Plan:

- Foster and maintain affordable housing
- Evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards
- Reduce the number of poverty-level families
- Develop institutional structure
- Enhance coordination

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Rome has partnered with the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority in a combined effort to receive HUD funds from the Choice Neighborhoods program for a planning grant to establish a transformation plan for one of the low income neighborhoods in Rome known as East Rome (census tract 16). An application was submitted in the summer of 2014 and if selected an award is anticipated from HUD by January 2015. Should these funds be approved, the City and NWGHA will work together by jointly establishing a redevelopment plan over the next two years. The construction of additional affordable housing would be included in the plan.

The City of Rome is also partnering with the South Rome Redevelopment Corporation and Laurel Street Residential by supporting a tax credit application submitted in June 2014 for the addition of new affordable housing in the South Rome area. An announcement of funding is anticipated by the end of the year. If funded construction would begin late 2015.

Due to the large waiting list in place for assisted housing, Rome understands that this is a great need in the area.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Rome plans to continue with the following actions to help foster and maintain affordable housing in Rome, GA:

- Continue partnerships with Habitat for Humanity. The Rome Chapter constructs new single family affordable housing in Rome as well as offers rehabilitation programs to assist low/mod income homeowners with repairs to maintain their homes.
- Continue partnerships with the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority, the South Rome Redevelopment Corporation and other private developers looking to construct new affordable housing in the area.
- Provide support letters for nonprofit agencies or groups who apply for funding under Georgia's Continuum of Care for homeless and other special needs populations
- Continue review of local ordinances and processes to insure that these do not pose a barrier to the provision of affordable housing.
- Continue to provide housing rehabilitation assistance through grant programs.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City of Rome is addressing lead based paint issues through both the Minor Repair Program and the Moderate Repair Program (funded by DCA CHIP funds). In 2011, the City of Rome sent an employee from the Rome/Floyd Building Inspection Department to be trained and receive certification as a Lead Based Paint Inspector. This certification must be updated and reapproved each year. The City of Rome has the ability to test houses on a local level and bid out the abatement or interim control work that is needed to each home prior to the regular rehabilitation work beginning. The majority of the homes assisted through the local housing rehabilitation program were constructed prior to 1978.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

No specific actions are planned with CDBG Program funds during the 2015 program year that are directly related to reducing the number of poverty level families. The City of Rome believes that its many partnerships with other agencies that are meant to improve job availability in our community address this need in an adequate manner.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Rome's current institutional structure includes many service agencies including the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, Action Ministries, United Way, South Rome Redevelopment Agency, South Rome Redevelopment Corporation, William S Davies Homeless Shelter,

Rome Salvation Army, Highland Rivers, Hospitality House and Community Kitchen. Rome believes the current structure is strong and sufficient for community needs. Staff makes efforts to stay in contact with these agencies throughout the plan period.

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

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

Discussion

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction

The City anticipates that the only funds available for the 2015 projects identified will be CDBG funds. These funds will be used for the design and construction of new sidewalks and/or rehabilitation of existing sidewalks in the low/mod income census tracts of Rome; the Minor Repair Program (housing rehabilitation); targeted Code Enforcement in census tracts 6, 16 and 21 (block group 1 and 3); and for Planning/Administration of the programs.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	0

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100.00%

Discussion

City of Rome
Demographic Information

2014 City of Rome Demographics per CHAS data

Census Tract	White % alone (not Hispanic)	African American % (Black)	Hispanic %	Asian %	Other %	Low/Mod Tract %	Qualified Tract %	% Low/Mod
5	42.38	23.07	32.74	.46	.80	Yes	Yes	57.14
6	32.44	53.05	11.18	.97	2.36	Yes	Yes	58.82
11	45.33	37.46	15.79	0	1.42	Yes	Yes	69.75
12	46.8	18.34	27.9	5.84	1.13	Yes	No	56
16	31.68	52.23	12.31	0	3.78	Yes	Yes	66.01
21	29.35	39.7	30.95	0	0	Yes	No	52

DP-1

**Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010
2010 Demographic Profile Data**

NOTE: For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/dpsf.pdf>.

Geography: ▼

		Subject	Number	Percent
1 - 186 of 186	SEX AND AGE			
		Total population	36,303	100.0
		Under 5 years	2,967	8.2
		5 to 9 years	2,669	7.4
		10 to 14 years	2,309	6.4
		15 to 19 years	2,339	6.4
		20 to 24 years	2,667	7.3
		25 to 29 years	2,676	7.4
		30 to 34 years	2,462	6.8
		35 to 39 years	2,305	6.3
		40 to 44 years	2,172	6.0
		45 to 49 years	2,291	6.3
		50 to 54 years	2,306	6.4
		55 to 59 years	2,167	6.0
		60 to 64 years	1,818	5.0
		65 to 69 years	1,340	3.7
		70 to 74 years	1,131	3.1
		75 to 79 years	982	2.7
		80 to 84 years	848	2.3
		85 years and over	854	2.4
		Median age (years)	35.1	(X)
		16 years and over	27,940	77.0
		18 years and over	26,983	74.3
		21 years and over	25,542	70.4
		62 years and over	6,171	17.0
		65 years and over	5,155	14.2
		Male population	17,285	47.6
	Under 5 years	1,535	4.2	
	5 to 9 years	1,318	3.6	
	10 to 14 years	1,109	3.1	
	15 to 19 years	1,218	3.4	
	20 to 24 years	1,368	3.8	
	25 to 29 years	1,300	3.6	
	30 to 34 years	1,277	3.5	
	35 to 39 years	1,179	3.2	
	40 to 44 years	1,021	2.8	
	45 to 49 years	1,118	3.1	
	50 to 54 years	1,096	3.0	
	55 to 59 years	1,029	2.8	
	60 to 64 years	819	2.3	
	65 to 69 years	591	1.6	
	70 to 74 years	440	1.2	

Subject	Number	Percent
75 to 79 years	357	1.0
80 to 84 years	304	0.8
85 years and over	206	0.6
Median age (years)	33.1	(X)
16 years and over	13,089	36.1
18 years and over	12,579	34.7
21 years and over	11,854	32.7
62 years and over	2,346	6.5
65 years and over	1,898	5.2
Female population	19,018	52.4
Under 5 years	1,432	3.9
5 to 9 years	1,351	3.7
10 to 14 years	1,200	3.3
15 to 19 years	1,121	3.1
20 to 24 years	1,299	3.6
25 to 29 years	1,376	3.8
30 to 34 years	1,185	3.3
35 to 39 years	1,126	3.1
40 to 44 years	1,151	3.2
45 to 49 years	1,173	3.2
50 to 54 years	1,210	3.3
55 to 59 years	1,138	3.1
60 to 64 years	999	2.8
65 to 69 years	749	2.1
70 to 74 years	691	1.9
75 to 79 years	625	1.7
80 to 84 years	544	1.5
85 years and over	648	1.8
Median age (years)	37.4	(X)
16 years and over	14,851	40.9
18 years and over	14,404	39.7
21 years and over	13,688	37.7
62 years and over	3,825	10.5
65 years and over	3,257	9.0
RACE		
Total population	36,303	100.0
One Race	35,407	97.5
White	20,821	57.4
Black or African American	10,075	27.8
American Indian and Alaska Native	214	0.6
Asian	694	1.9
Asian Indian	277	0.8
Chinese	65	0.2
Filipino	31	0.1
Japanese	20	0.1
Korean	41	0.1
Vietnamese	177	0.5
Other Asian [1]	83	0.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	70	0.2

Subject	Number	Percent
Native Hawaiian	4	0.0
Guamanian or Chamorro	65	0.2
Samoan	0	0.0
Other Pacific Islander [2]	1	0.0
Some Other Race	3,533	9.7
Two or More Races	896	2.5
White; American Indian and Alaska Native [3]	94	0.3
White; Asian [3]	86	0.2
White; Black or African American [3]	330	0.9
White; Some Other Race [3]	224	0.6
Race alone or in combination with one or more other races: [4]		
White	21,613	59.5
Black or African American	10,501	28.9
American Indian and Alaska Native	382	1.1
Asian	831	2.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	106	0.3
Some Other Race	3,827	10.5
HISPANIC OR LATINO		
Total population	36,303	100.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5,892	16.2
Mexican	2,613	7.2
Puerto Rican	112	0.3
Cuban	24	0.1
Other Hispanic or Latino [5]	3,143	8.7
Not Hispanic or Latino	30,411	83.8
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Total population	36,303	100.0
Hispanic or Latino	5,892	16.2
White alone	1,847	5.1
Black or African American alone	84	0.2
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	126	0.3
Asian alone	4	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	53	0.1
Some Other Race alone	3,460	9.5
Two or More Races	318	0.9
Not Hispanic or Latino	30,411	83.8
White alone	18,974	52.3
Black or African American alone	9,991	27.5
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	88	0.2
Asian alone	690	1.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	17	0.0
Some Other Race alone	73	0.2
Two or More Races	578	1.6
RELATIONSHIP		
Total population	36,303	100.0
In households	34,697	95.6
Householder	13,885	38.2
Spouse [6]	5,262	14.5
Child	10,355	28.5
Own child under 18 years	7,776	21.4

Subject	Number	Percent
Occupied housing units	13,885	100.0
Owner-occupied housing units	6,706	48.3
Population in owner-occupied housing units	17,093	(X)
Average household size of owner-occupied units	2.55	(X)
Renter-occupied housing units	7,179	51.7
Population in renter-occupied housing units	17,604	(X)
Average household size of renter-occupied units	2.45	(X)

X Not applicable.

[1] Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

[2] Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

[3] One of the four most commonly reported multiple-race combinations nationwide in Census 2000.

[4] In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population, and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

[5] This category is composed of people whose origins are from the Dominican Republic, Spain, and Spanish-speaking Central or South American countries. It also includes general origin responses such as "Latino" or "Hispanic."

[6] "Spouse" represents spouse of the householder. It does not reflect all spouses in a household. Responses of "same-sex spouse" were edited during processing to "unmarried partner."

[7] "Family households" consist of a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. They do not include same-sex married couples even if the marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage certificates for same-sex couples. Same-sex couple households are included in the family households category if there is at least one additional person related to the householder by birth or adoption. Same-sex couple households with no relatives of the householder present are tabulated in nonfamily households. "Nonfamily households" consist of people living alone and households which do not have any members related to the householder.

[8] The homeowner vacancy rate is the proportion of the homeowner inventory that is vacant "for sale." It is computed by dividing the total number of vacant units "for sale only" by the sum of owner-occupied units, vacant units that are "for sale only," and vacant units that have been sold but not yet occupied; and then multiplying by 100.

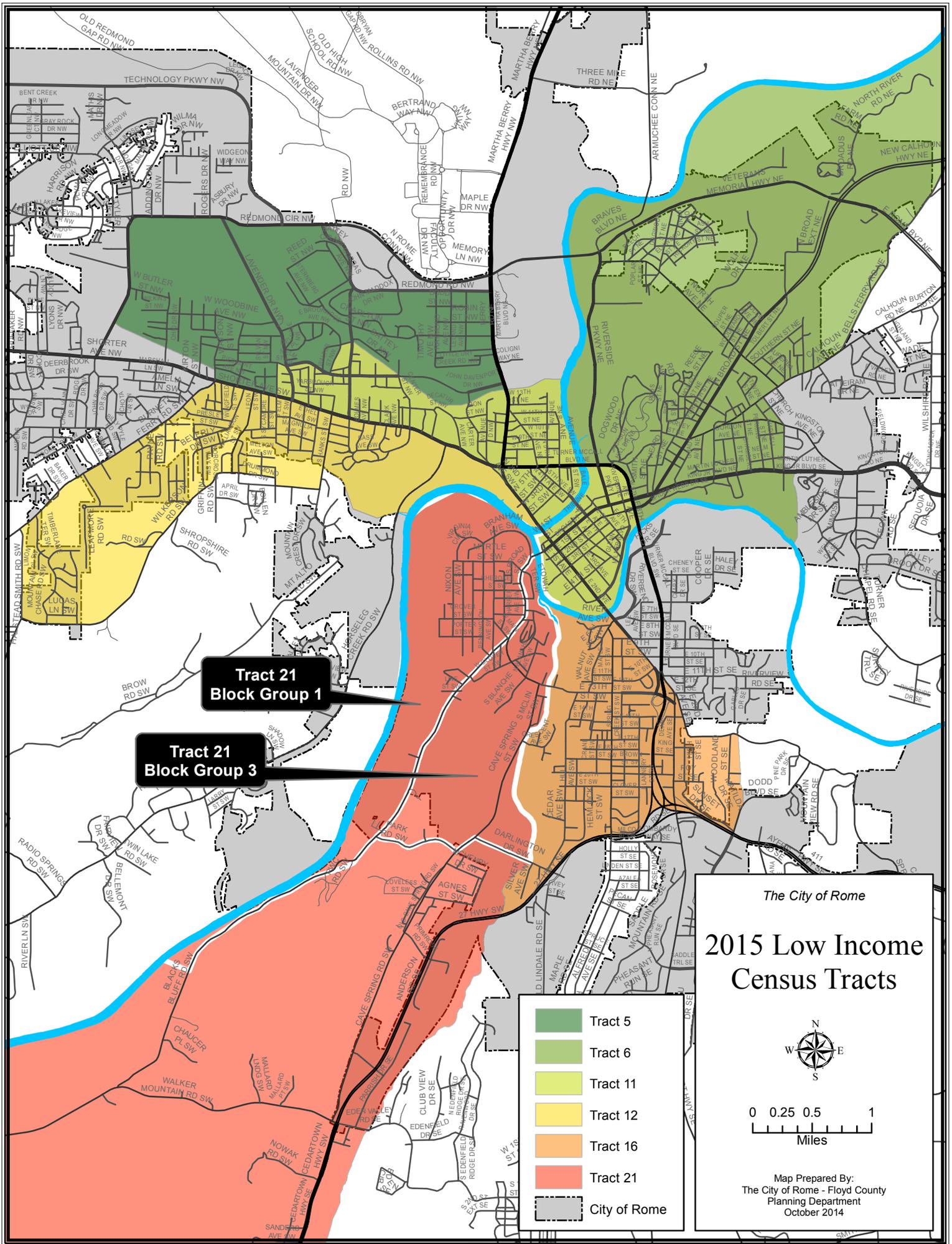
[9] The rental vacancy rate is the proportion of the rental inventory that is vacant "for rent." It is computed by dividing the total number of vacant units "for rent" by the sum of the renter-occupied units, vacant units that are "for rent," and vacant units that have been rented but not yet occupied; and then multiplying by 100.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau | American FactFinder

City of Rome

Low Income Census Tract Map



**Tract 21
Block Group 1**

**Tract 21
Block Group 3**

The City of Rome

2015 Low Income Census Tracts

0 0.25 0.5 1
Miles

Map Prepared By:
The City of Rome - Floyd County
Planning Department
October 2014

- Tract 5
- Tract 6
- Tract 11
- Tract 12
- Tract 16
- Tract 21
- City of Rome

City of Rome

Public Notice and Public Hearing



PUBLIC NOTICE

Planned Activities for the 2015 CDBG Program Year

The Rome City Commission is contemplating the Statement of Specific Annual Objectives for the 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program. The Annual Statement will become part of the Program Year 2015 Annual Action Plan and is presented in summary form below to describe how the City will use these funds for specific objectives meant to address priority needs as described in the five-year Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Plan will be delivered to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before November 15, 2014 in order to access these funds by January 1, 2015.

Prior to delivering these plans to HUD, the City will provide them for public review and public comment for a period of thirty (30) days. They are available online at the City's website, www.rome/floyd.com and at the Community Development Department offices, Carnegie Building, 607 Broad Street, Rome, Georgia 30161. Copies of the plans can be prepared for those interested in receiving them by calling (706) 236-4477 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Comments concerning the plans will be received until close of business on November 10, 2014.

Community Development Department staff will conduct a **public hearing on Monday, October 20th at 4:30 PM** in the **Carnegie Building Training Room, 607 Broad Street, Rome, GA 30161** to answer questions concerning the proposed 2015 Action Plan budget. The public is invited to attend this hearing and to become informed of the proposed projects. Persons with special needs relating to disability access, vision impairment and or language barriers should contact Bekki Fox (706-236-4477) prior to the meeting day. The hearing impaired may use the Georgia Relay Service at 1-800-255-0056.

City of Rome
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Annual Action Plan
For the 2015 HUD Entitlement Grant

The City of Rome anticipates receiving approximately \$406,047 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as its Entitlement funding allocation for Program Year 2015 under the Community Development Block Grant Program. This will be the total amount of formula funding available from the CDBG grant and program income for the program year 2015. An exact allocation will not be known until Congress has completed the appropriations process for HUD's FY 2015 and the City of Rome is formally notified by HUD of the amount. If

funding is increased or decreased by HUD the City will proportionally increase or decrease the budgets for approved eligible activities.

CDBG funded activities must meet one of three National Objectives, which are:

1. Benefit to low and moderate income persons.
2. Addressing of slum or blight.
3. Meeting a particular urgent need that cannot be addressed by other means.

The following activities will meet or exceed the requirement that 70% of overall program funds must benefit low and moderate income persons during a two year period of 2014-2015.

Proposed activities and projects for Program Year 2015 are:

Housing Activities.....\$100,000

This activity will continue to address housing needs of the very low income and the elderly through housing rehabilitation. The funds will be used by the City of Rome to continue a minor repair or similar program for homeowners. The National Objective is to benefit low and moderate income persons.

City-wide sidewalk Program.....\$150,000

The City-wide sidewalk program will look to improve, rehab and/or replace sidewalks in the low income census tracts of Rome. This could also include the installation of new sidewalks in areas that need them along with curb cuts for handicap accessibility. The census tracts that will be targeted are 5, 6, 11, 16 and 21. The National Objective is to benefit low and moderate income persons.

Code Enforcement Activities\$50,000

These funds will be used to conduct concentrated code enforcement efforts within the low income census tracts of Rome. The targeted census tracts are 6, 16 and 21. The National Objective is to benefit low and moderate income persons.

Administration.....\$81,200

This activity will pay for portions of the costs of the Community Development Department in the oversight, management, monitoring and coordination of the activities shown above.

Contingency/Undesignated.....\$24,847

These funds will be used as contingency for other planned projects and/or activities or for use in potential new projects that may arise during the program year.

Total Expenditures.....\$406,047

For additional information, contact Bekki Fox, City of Rome Community Development Department at (706) 236-4477.



Community Development CDBG
Carnegie Training Room, 607 Broad Street Rome, GA

Public Hearing
October 20, 2014
4:30 PM

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Discussion/Update on the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan
- 2015 Action Plan Draft
- Questions and Answers
- Adjourn

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program

PUBLIC HEARING

Carnegie Building Training Room

October 20, 2014

4:30 PM

Public Hearing

PRESENT

	Public	Staff/Other
None		Bekki Fox Suzanne Parris

MINUTES

The Public Hearing to receive input into the 2015 Action Plan was called to order at 4:30 PM.

Since there were no public attendees, the public hearing was closed at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Parris

Administrative Program Assistant

LOCAL

of each month
Court Clerk Bar-
on and the Geor-
services Program.
ormation call 706-

Exchange Club
day at noon at
m, Coosa Valley
. They will have a
eeting. For more
contact Elizabeth
6-232-7767.

Appreciation
Friday from 11
m. at the Rome
linic, 30 Chateau
vaccines will be
or veterans only. All
family and friends
ned to attend.

View Garden
our the Cherokee
brary in Atlanta on
ci Catron, recent
of the Southern
istory Society, will
ur. For more infor-
ll 404-428-1550.

Friends will have a
married and single
day at the Charles C.
enter from 7 to 10 p.
reen costumes will be
e of the dress and the
umes will win a prize.
in is \$7. For more in-
n call 706-378-8375.

DAY

ake Puryear" De-
nt of the Marine
League will meet Sat-
the Rome-Floyd
Library, 205 Riverside
y. They will have coffee,
uts and camarade-
8:30 to 9:30 a.m., a
s meeting from 9:30 to
a program from 10 to
Hal Gosnell will speak
he Toys for Tots pro-
nd the Marines' role in
ting this vital charity. For
nformation call Dick
at 706-857-7995.

National Alliance on
Illness will offer NAMI
s, a free six-week
e, to adult family mem-
caregivers or providers
child with emotional or
rioral issues. It is sched-
o begin Saturday from
a.m. until noon in Rome.
ore information and to
er call Bonnie at 706-
3314.

19th annual Trout Un-
ed Chili Cook Off will be
riday at Ridge Ferry Park.
is open to the public at
t 10:30 a.m. Admission is
er person for both adults
children older than 5. The
t is the primary
raiser for the Coosa Val-
Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

ibeFest will be Saturday
n 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at
hucree High School. Trib-
t is a collaboration be-
en the Armuchee Ruritan
b and Armuchee Glen-
d Education Foundation.
ormances by school cho-
groups, sales of barbeque
d vendors' wares, and an
ction will be among the
hlights.

The Coosa All Alumni
rd annual party will be
aturday at 6 p.m. at the
yld County Wildlife Club,

Mental Illness will release
balloons to commemorate
Mental Illness Awareness
Week today at noon in front of
the Rome City Auditorium,
601 Broad St. The theme for
the event is titled "Send
Stigma To the Sky." For more
information call NAMI Rome
at 706-506-5010.

The **Rome Rotary Club**
will meet today at noon at
Coosa Country Club, 110
Branham Ave. SW. Rich
Lampkin of The United Way
will speak. For more
information contact Peg Arey
at 706-378-4768.

The **Rome Chapter of**
the National Association
of Active and Retired
Federal Civil Service
Employees will meet today
from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. at
the Landmark restaurant on
Martha Berry Highway. A
representative from Blue
Cross/Blue Shield of Georgia
in charge of the Federal Civil
Service Employees/Retirees
program will provide some
timely information regarding
program changes for 2015.
There is a possibility to make
arrangements for a current
transportation to individuals
who are interested in learning

disease." Registration is free
but required. To register or for
more information call 1-800-
272-3900.

The **South Rome**
Community Garden
Group will meet today at 5
p.m. at 607 Pennington Ave.
For more information call
706-235-8626.

The **Rome Area Writers**
will meet today at 6 p.m. at
the Rome-Floyd County
Library, 205 Riverside
Parkway, in the Etowah
Room. The guest speaker will
be novelist J.R. McLemore.
For more information call
706-528-7488.

The **Rome Chapter of**
The Compassionate
Friends will meet today at 7
p.m. at Redmond Regional
Medical Center in the lower-
level classroom. For more
information call DeeAnn at
706-936-9021 or Sandra at
706-506-6108.

The **Northwest Georgia**
Winds and guests will
present a "Bride of Creepy
Classics" concert today at
7:30 p.m. at the Rome City
Auditorium, 601 Broad St. The
Haunting Melodies from Stage
and Screen II concert will
feature highlights from
"Wicked." Admission is free.

909 Holland Road. The event
will include live entertainment
featuring several special
guests. Attendees should
bring their own snacks and

beverages. All alumni T-shirts
will be on sale at the home-
coming game on Oct. 10. For
more information call Karen
Lyn Dobson at 706-728-8247.



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Total Expenditures.....	\$406,047

For additional information, contact Bekki Fox, City of Rome Community Development Department at (706) 236-4477.

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Saturday, October 11th
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City of Rome
Fair Housing Checklist

AAP CHECKLIST

Grantee: The City of Rome

Grant Type: CDBG HOME ESG HOPWA

Program Year: _____ Reviewer: _____

Date of Review: _____

Recommendation: Approval Conditional Approval Disapproval

- 1a. Did the jurisdiction provide a summary of its citizen participation and consultation process (including efforts to broaden public participation) in the development of the plan, a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan, and a written explanation of the comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted? (See 24 CFR 91.220(b), and 320(b)).

The City of Rome adopted its Citizen Participation Plan in 2004 and the amended version in 2011. The plan serves as the City's official policy for involving the community in the development of all planning documents related to the CDBG program, and the evaluation of the programs annual performance. In compliance with the Citizens Participation Plan, the City held a public hearing for citizen input. This hearing was held on Monday, October 20, 2014. In addition to this specific public hearing, the plan was discussed during the Community Development Services Committee meetings held on August 6, 2014 and September 3, 2014. Both meetings and the public hearing were open to the public and advertised to the public.

In addition to receiving public comments and consulting with public service agencies, the City of Rome has maintained a webpage dedicated to the CDBG Program in an effort to broaden public participation in the process. All comments were accepted by the City during the Citizen Participation process.

- b. Are the comments posted on the jurisdiction website? If yes, provide line to website:

There were no comments received, however a summary to citizen participation is attached to this checklist.

- c. Briefly summarize the public participation activities, or refer to page/s of AAP where jurisdiction summarizes the activities.

See Section AP-12 of the 2015 Annual Action Plan.

2. Is there a summary of the annual objectives relating to affirmatively furthering fair housing or civil rights that the recipient expects to achieve during the forthcoming year (see 24 CFR 91.220(c)(3))

and the activities it will undertake during the next year to address priority needs and objectives (See 24 CFR 91.220(d), and 320(d)). State page/s where information was found in AAP:

See section AP-75 of the 2015 Annual Action Plan

Reference: 2013 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, pages 68-72 where the impediments and recommendations are listed.

3. Did the jurisdiction provide outcome measures for activities; in particular civil rights activities? (See 24 CFR 91.220(e), 320(e)). State page/s where information was found in the AAP:

Yes, AP-20 and AP-05.

4. Is there a description of the geographical areas of the recipient (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) in which it will direct assistance during the ensuing program year, providing rationale for priorities for allocating investment geographically? (See 24 CFR 91.220(f), 320(f)). (If appropriate, the recipient should estimate the percentage of funds it plans to dedicate to target areas). State page/s where information was found in the AAP:

Yes, the City will rehabilitated or replace sidewalks within the low income census tracts of Rome (census tract map attached to 2015 Action Plan). The City will continue with the Minor Repair Housing Rehabilitation Program for low income elderly homeowners and targeted code enforcement efforts in the low income census tracts.

See AP-50 of the 2014 Annual Action Plan.

5. Is there discussion of the recipient's strategy to remove or ameliorate negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing? (See 24 CFR 91.220(j), 30(i)). Such policies, procedures, and processes include, but are not limited to, land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, administrative fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment). State page/s where information was found in the AAP:

The City of Rome had one AI impediment that related to zoning that could be considered a barrier to affordable housing. The impediment is identified as follows:

Rome's zoning code defines a personal care home as "a place of residence for adults where lodging, meals, and personal care are provided 24 hours per day, seven days per week and where federal and/or state licensing or permitting is required". When the Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital in Rome closed, it created a large need for this type of development and care in the community. Despite a growing need, personal care homes are not permitted as of right in any residential zoning districts. Further, their classification by number of residents, when the zoning code's "family" definition is not qualified similarly is problematic.

The City of Rome plans to follow the recommendation made during the AI process to convene a discussion among interested and affected community stakeholders of the effects of its ordinance on

the location of personal care homes. The City will further facilitate a meeting between this stakeholder group and local planning staff and officials to determine whether changes to the City's ordinance may be appropriate. This action will begin in 2015.

See AP-75 of the 2015 Annual Action Plan and Impediment #3 in the 2013 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

6. If the recipient indicates that lack of affordable housing is an impediment to fair housing choice in its AI, are the actions the recipient is taking to address that impediment through creation of additional units of affordable housing consistent with the strategies and goals identified in its five year Consolidated Plan strategy?

YES NO **The City will partner with the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority and the South Rome Redevelopment Corporation to submit tax credit applications to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the creation of affordable rental housing. Also, the City of Rome will construct single family housing in partnership with SRRRC through a HOME grant provided through the DCA small cities competitive program. These issues are being addressed but not with CDBG Entitlement Funds.*

7. Do the activities proposed in this AAP address the local objectives and priority needs, with respect to protected class populations, identified in the Strategic Plan?

YES NO State page/s where information was found in the AAP:

See Sections AP-35 and AP-38 of the 2015 Annual Action Plan.

8. Do proposed activities or objectives offer demonstrable ways to measure progress in addressing identified needs of minorities, people with disabilities, and other protected class populations?

YES NO N/A

9. Give examples of activities identified in the AAP which appear to meet the needs of protected class – or- explain how the AAP has failed to explain the benefit of funded activities to protected class populations. Note for each the page/s in the AAP and/or IDIS where activity is summarized.

The goal of the sidewalk improvement program will improve pedestrian access to commercial and retail services, City parks, public transit, and other services in low income census tracts of Rome. Damaged walkways will be replaced and areas lacking sidewalks may have new sidewalks installed. All sidewalk improvements will meet ADA design standards. The targeted code enforcement program within the same tracts will also assist these residents on an area benefit. The Minor Repair Program will assist elderly homeowners with a direct benefit

See Sections AP-35 and AP-38 of the 2015 Annual Action Plan.

10. Are the proposed activities likely to be effective for addressing identified impediments?

YES NO N/A

11. Is the money budgeted for each activity sufficient for that activity to be effective?

YES NO N/A

12. Does the jurisdiction plan to use HOME money to fund any new construction housing?

YES NO N/A

a. If yes, does the AAP indicate that the developer of such housing is aware of the new construction accessibility requirements of both the Federal Fair Housing Act (24 CFR 100.205) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (24 CFR 8.20, et seq.)?

YES NO N/A

NOTE: If there is no acknowledgement of accessibility requirements in the AAP for new construction covered housing, then the jurisdiction should be reminded of the requirements by means of a new construction accessibility memo. Is such an attachment provided?

YES NO N/A

b. Has the site been reviewed and approved under the requirements for site and neighborhood standards and environmental concerns?

YES NO N/A

13. Do proposed community development programs and activities (e.g., economic development, neighborhood revitalization strategy) include areas of minority concentration and persons with disabilities?

YES NO N/A

a. Do these proposed programs help redress any identified imbalances in benefits and services or increase the level of, and opportunities for, participation in the jurisdiction's community development?

YES NO N/A

b. If the funding was granted in conjunction with a NOFA application, were the actions taken and outcomes achieved in accordance with the NOFA announcement, application, grant agreement and approved timetable? N/A

Consider the activities the AAP specifies the receipt will carry out during the next year to address impediments to identified in the AI.

Identified Impediments Show specific FHAct	Activities to address the impediment Specify	Milestones and Timetables Included? Y/N	Anticipated Results	\$ Available for Activity	Source of \$

protected class(es) or other groups and geographic area(s), if applicable	protected class(es), other special needs groups, and geographic area(s), if applicable				

In column I, add (P) if a priority; (MC) if deals with minority concentrations; (D) if deals with disability issues; (H) if deals with homelessness; (SN) if deals with other special needs; and (NH) if deals with non-housing needs.

Comments/Explanations/Recommendation

1. In its last review of this recipient’s AAP, did FHEO raise findings or concerns? If so, what were those and how has the recipient addressed those in this AAP?
2. Other comments/explanations/recommendations/best practices commendations:
3. Should FHEO accept the AFFH and non-discrimination certifications:
 YES NO N/A

EOS Reviewer: _____

Date:

EOS Phone number: _____

Date:

Name

Chief Program Operations Branch

Phone: