

City of Pharr, Hidalgo County, Texas
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
Annual Action Plan 2016

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

In accordance with federal regulations, the City of Pharr, Hidalgo County, Texas, an entitlement community, is required to prepare a Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in August of each year. The designation as an entitlement community permits the City to receive formula grant assistance from HUD for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. On August 15, 2013, the City submitted the Five-Year Consolidated Plan FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan is a comprehensive document that describes the City's housing market conditions, identifies the need for affordable housing and community development and provides strategies to address the needs over a five-year period. The plan coordinates the City's housing and economic development with other public, private and nonprofit service providers. The resulting Consolidated Plan provides a unified vision for community development and housing actions with the primary goals of providing affordable housing, public facilities, preservation of historic resources, and building and maintaining existing infrastructure. An Annual Action Plan is required to provide specific information on how the funds awarded will be utilized to meet the priority needs identified in the Consolidated Plan, and annual evaluation and performance reports are prepared to track progress and measure accomplishments. The City of Pharr has prepared the FY 2016-17 Annual Action Plan in compliance with federal Consolidated Plan regulations. This Action Plan serves as a detailed description of specific components of the fourth (4th) year of the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18, and documents the many services, activities and initiatives designed to improve Pharr's residents' quality of life by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. This report also highlights actions to be taken over the next twelve (12) months (October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017) to address priority needs in our community. The five major categories addressed are:

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.

The projects selected for the FY 2016-17 Annual Action Plan are a result of outreach, collaboration, community engagement and city planning goals. The projects are required by federal regulation to meet a national objective. The FY 2016-17 Annual Action Plan incorporates the objectives and outcomes derived out of the needs assessment, market analysis data and community interaction. Priority needs formed the basis for choosing specific overall goals and objectives for the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan. Based on the data analysis, the following objectives have been identified:

- Creating a suitable living environment
- Providing decent, affordable housing
- Creating economic opportunities

Creating a Suitable Living Environment - The City will provide funds for the following: health services, youth programs, social services, and programs designed to meet the needs of senior citizens.

Provide Decent, Affordable Housing - The City will administer programs to promote decent, affordable housing: rehabilitation, homeownership, housing development through reconstruction, rental assistance (Salvation Army)

Creating Economic Opportunities - The City will provide funding to promote economic opportunities: grant leveraging to downtown small businesses on storefront improvements and facade restoration; conditional program guidelines as a job creation activity, job retention activities and opportunities for low- to moderate-income individuals.

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's activities to meet the goals in the 2013-2017 Consolidated Plan are reported annually in the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report . Within these past three (3) years of the Five-year Consolidated Plan, the City of Pharr has focused on housing, public services, street improvements and public facility improvements.

Home Improvement/Minor Repair – Housing Reconstruction = (2). Housing Rehabilitation = (12).
Weatherization Services = (38).

Housing has become the primary focus of the CDBG program. The City's Housing Rehabilitation/Reconstruction program has been slow in expending the award from program year 2013 and 2014 due to problems within the agency. Staff has been attentive at closely monitoring the Proyecto Azteca agency and has been reluctant in allowing the agency to deobligate the awards. The City has awarded Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. a 2016 award to take over the housing program once Proyecto Azteca expends its current balance.

Public Improvements – People Units (3,000)

The City's Public Works Department completed 2,220 linear feet of street reconstruction in 2013 at the following locations: Fir Street from Business 83 to East Polk Avenue Street; to include curbs and gutter and included full depth reclamation, which consists of recycling existing materials (asphalt, caliche) and re-grading along with compaction of a new layer of asphalt. Work completed by force account using City street crews. In 2014, 2,125 linear feet of street improvements on East Anaya Street, to include curbs and gutter. and full depth reclamation.

Public Facilities – Dr. Long City Park

The City completed construction on the 5-acre Dr. Long City Park in April 2014. The one-of-a-kind Park consists of barbecue pits and shelters, basketball courts, walking trail, and a special needs all inclusive playground equipment for kids with handicapped disabilities; this is the first Park in the North side of Pharr. Program year 2015 funds have also been awarded to the Jones Box Park improvements in the south Pharr area. Jones Box Park was constructed in 2004 through a Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grant, general funds, and Community Development Block Grant award. Improvements include basketball courts, reconstruction of 3/4 mile walking trail, barbecue pits and all inclusive playground equipment.

Public Services – People Units (51,586)

The City invests 15% of its entitlement funds on public services annually.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

To ensure citizen participation in the 2016 Action Plan process, the City of Pharr followed its Citizen Participation Plan at all stages of the plan and amendment. Public hearings were held on February 18, April 7, and May 12. A public workshop was held March 10 allowing the agencies requesting CDBG funds to present their application. A 30-day Comment Period was published from April 14 through May 13 in order to allow any interested parties or individuals to submit written comments for or against the proposed 2016 action plan recommendations. Spanish translations were provided upon request at all

public hearings. The public hearings updated citizens on the status of the current programs and activities and asked the citizens how they felt the 2016 funds should be spent. The public participation was low, yet more active than in years past. Please refer to page with Minutes of all public hearings. Information on the public hearings was included in the local community Advance News publishing, City website, City Library and the bulletin kiosk at City Hall. The newsletter which is in Spanish and English is available for pickup or viewing at all recreation centers, library, and the City's Housing Authority.

During the working draft of the Action Plan, advertisements were placed in the Advance News local newspaper and the City's website, library and bulletin kiosk announcing to the public the proposed recommendations for the action plan 2016 awards, where the Action Plan would be available for review, and the process for submitting comments to the City of Pharr. The draft Action Plan was available at the 4th floor of the Grants Management & Community Development Department. The advertisements also included information on the upcoming public hearing(s). All comments received from the public were addressed before submitting the plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Comments received during the 30-day comment period will be included in the Action Plan.

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 City of Pharr followed its' Citizens Participation process with the development of the action plan 2016. The city held three (3) public hearings and one (1) public workshop.

The City solicited comments from the residents in relation to the agencies proposing to use CDBG funds on program specific activities. Comments received should also identify the demands and needs of the residents.

The first and third public hearings had residents voice comments on affiliations of CDBG items.

The public workshop allows the agencies submitting applications to introduce the agency to the Council and describe its proposed activity.

To review all comments received, please reference the attachment on administrative profile

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

<p align="LEFT">The City considers all comments received as part of its Action Plan process. The agencies that participated in the public hearings did receive CDBG awards. The City's CDBG Council and Commission did consider comments received from Dr. Kenneth Fletcher for More Trees Please application. CDBG Manager consulted with Pharr HUD representative David Rios on the application. The City had never received an application for CDBG funds other than a non-profit organization. Dr.

Fletcher submitted the application as a Pharr resident, which proposed some questions and concerns on the implementation and programmatic compliance components of the CDBG program. Rather than not accept his application, the City did invite Dr. Fletcher to approach the Parks & Recreation Department or Environmental Services Department to collaborate with him on his vision to enhance the City's green space and perhaps submit an application focusing on his proposition in upcoming action plan years.</p>

7. Summary

All comments received for or against the action plan are considered. The City conducts its' due diligence to have as much citizen participation on the action plan, to the greatest extent feasible by publishing all hearing and meeting notices in the local newspaper, City's website and public notice kiosk, City library and the Pharr Housing Authority.

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
CDBG Administrator	PHARR	Grants Management & Community Development	

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

<p align="LEFT">The Grants Management & Community Development Department is the lead agency responsible for overseeing the development of the 2016 Action Plan for the City of Pharr, Hidalgo County, Texas. The Grants Management & Community Development Department also administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA) HOME Investment Partnerships State Grant.</p>

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

The City of Pharr utilizes a variety of methods to encourage on-going participation from residents, social service providers, and community development organizations. The participation process for the Consolidated Plan included public hearings, public comment period; participating in committees and consultation sessions with various city departments, housing providers and non-profit agencies providing an array of services. The consultation session assessed the agency's capacity to administer the award and meet all programmatic compliance.

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))

Mental HealthThe City of Pharr, through the Police Department, has a **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** of trained officers that work as first responders to emergency distress calls needing to address a mental health situation. The program is a model for community policing that brings together law enforcement, mental health providers, hospital emergency departments and individuals with mental illness and their families to improve responses to people in crisis. Integral to the implementation of this program is an interlocal agreement with the Police Department and the South Texas Behavioral Center whereas, an individual displaying mental issues will be transported by the Police Department to a hospital facility for evaluation. Depending on the determination of the evaluation, the individual can then be transported to a behavioral center for further evaluation and admission.Service Agencies

The City has a great network of community partners it utilizes through City functions, festivals and events. The City hosts Pharr Night Out, Fire Fest and a monthly City Hall on Call event geared towards inviting the entire Pharr Community to participate in getting educated on the cities departments. At these functions, non-profit agencies participate as public outreach vendors that disseminate educational awareness material on the social and public services provided specifically by their agency. The agency is there to answer any questions the public may have on the services available, as well. This partnership is an excellent opportunity to increase the services offered by the network of agencies with the goal to meet the demands and needs of our Pharr residents. Assisted Housing

The City awards CDBG funds to Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to utilize the funds on elderly individuals who need assistance with medical and pharmaceutical products. Even though the funded activity does not include assisted housing services, AAA does offer and provide temporary institutional care for elderly and/or disabled individuals through a respite care program. Typically, the elderly is qualified by an AAA social worker to stay at a senior community, usually an assisted living or memory care community. The respite care program is a great living option for an elderly or disabled person who needs some day-to-day supportive services, but still desires social stimulation, engagement and activities. The City occasionally does receive inquiries on the availability of this service and CDBG staff

refers the inquiry to AAA to access critical information on the program.Public Housing:

The City has increased its' communications with the Pharr Housing Authority (PHA) in recent plans. The urgency to share housing data between both entities is necessary in the development of the annual action plan and the comprehensive 5-year plan. HUDs integrated database information system prompts the city to input public housing data and information; so the need for networking is evident. Just the same, the PHA needs to identify and be aware of the city's housing plan and how and if it correlates with that of the PHA. The City's goal is to increase the partnership and data network between the city and PHA in an effort to align its' business and housing plan together.

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 Continuum of Care (CoC) sets priorities for housing and supportive services to benefit persons experiencing homelessness. Regretfully, the City of Pharr is not an active participant in the (CoC). The City of Pharr understands that there are several obstacles to ending homelessness including quality data collection and sufficient resources for housing first initiatives as well as for the necessary supportive services for the homeless that include economic stability; physical and mental health care services; substance abuse services; and transportation.

This annual plan, consulting with the Texas Homeless Network (THN) was a must. After consulting with Victoria Lopez from the THN, it is determined that all homeless data collected and recorded for the City of Pharr falls within the jurisdiction and authority of the Urban County Program of Hidalgo County. This data is maintained and managed by the Homeless Management Integrated System (HMIS). Staff introduced the City of Pharr as being the first time the City approaches THN for homeless consulting and data. THN advised staff to further consult with the Urban County Program in efforts to collect homeless population data and participate in the Point in Time. After consulting with Napoleon Coca on this matter, City staff will be formulating survey's that model those of the Urban County Program to conduct random interviews of homeless.

The City's future coordination with the THN will be based on a systematic type of model: identifying the homeless through a person-to-person approach, sorting out their need for remedy, and allocating limited resources to maximize efforts in addressing the homeless and at-risk situations. This goal will be achievable by staff walking the community, approaching an individual that looks homeless, and gathering data; similar to a point in time agenda. Staff will further pursue efforts to address the homeless by communicating with the City's constituents and advising on the matter of the homeless.

Veterans constitute a percentage of the homeless population. These veterans suffer from mental illness or have a alcohol and substance abuse problems. The City is not currently active in its communications with any veterans agency or administration; however, it is the will of the City to approach and contact these veteran institutions to collect data on any Pharr resident veterans that may be at-risk of becoming

homeless. Utilizing this approach, the City can provide and assist identified at-risk veterans with critical social service information that they can benefit from in many aspects of service.

New Hope Childrens Shelter is a public facility specifically developed to assist unaccompanied youth with lifesaving support including food, clothing, medical care, case management, education and psychological and spiritual care. The City currently does not have any partnerships or communications with New Hope, but it is proposing to contact their operations and extend an invitation to the agency to contact the City in needed cases of social services.

Additionally, the City will propose to contact the school district and advise on the risks of unaccompanied youth within the schools. School district personnel must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth. The City and school district can research and apply for McKinney-Vento subgrants that can be used for services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain unaccompanied youth in public school programs and services.

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

<p align="LEFT">After consulting with the Texas Homeless Network (THN), it is determined that the Emergency Shelter Grant funds are administered by the Urban County Program of Hidalgo County and the City's CDBG funding agency, the Salvation Army.</p><p align="LEFT">The City may not have a direct part in the decision-making process for allocating ESG funds to eligible activities, but indirectly, the City can collaborate with the Urban County Program and Salvation Army in a general manner by offering suggestions to them of possible essential services related to emergency shelter, buildings to rehabilitate and converse into emergency shelters, and homelessness prevention services. Neighboring cities partnering up to utilize the best practices in homeless prevention.</p>

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	MUJERES UNIDAS/WOMEN TOGETHER
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	domestic violence
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Grants Management & Community Development Department scheduled a Mandatory Consultation Session to meet with all agencies requesting CDBG funds for action plan 2016. Staff assessed the agency's capacity to administer a federal funded program, meet all programmatic compliance measures and expend the federal award within the 12 months. The City anticipates all awarded agencies/organizations will meet program guidelines and proposed beneficiaries. The City further anticipates all awarded agencies will complete impact projects toward the shared goal of meeting the needs and demands of the Pharr residents.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Proyecto Azteca, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Grants Management & Community Development Department scheduled a Mandatory Consultation Session to meet with all agencies requesting CDBG funds for action plan 2016. Staff assessed the agency's capacity to administer a federal funded program, meet all programmatic compliance measures and expend the federal award within the 12 months. The City anticipates all awarded agencies/organizations will meet program guidelines and proposed beneficiaries. The City further anticipates all awarded agencies will complete impact projects toward the shared goal of meeting the needs and demands of the Pharr residents.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	AMIGOS DEL VALLE, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	elderly services
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Grants Management & Community Development Department scheduled a Mandatory Consultation Session to meet with all agencies requesting CDBG funds for action plan 2016. Staff assessed the agency's capacity to administer a federal funded program, meet all programmatic compliance measures and expend the federal award within the 12 months. The City anticipates all awarded agencies/organizations will meet program guidelines and proposed beneficiaries. The City further anticipates all awarded agencies will complete impact projects toward the shared goal of meeting the needs and demands of the Pharr residents.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Silver Ribbon Community Partners
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services - Victims

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	elderly abuse/neglect
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Grants Management & Community Development Department scheduled a Mandatory Consultation Session to meet with all agencies requesting CDBG funds for action plan 2016. Staff assessed the agency's capacity to administer a federal funded program, meet all programmatic compliance measures and expend the federal award within the 12 months. The City anticipates all awarded agencies/organizations will meet program guidelines and proposed beneficiaries. The City further anticipates all awarded agencies will complete impact projects toward the shared goal of meeting the needs and demands of the Pharr residents.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	AFFORDABLE HOMES OF SOUTH TEXAS, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Grants Management & Community Development Department scheduled a Mandatory Consultation Session to meet with all agencies requesting CDBG funds for action plan 2016. Staff assessed the agency's capacity to administer a federal funded program, meet all programmatic compliance measures and expend the federal award within the 12 months. The City anticipates all awarded agencies/organizations will meet program guidelines and proposed beneficiaries. The City further anticipates all awarded agencies will complete impact projects toward the shared goal of meeting the needs and demands of the Pharr residents.

6	Agency/Group/Organization	Area Agency on Aging
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	elderly services
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Grants Management & Community Development Department scheduled a Mandatory Consultation Session to meet with all agencies requesting CDBG funds for action plan 2016. Staff assessed the agency's capacity to administer a federal funded program, meet all programmatic compliance measures and expend the federal award within the 12 months. The City anticipates all awarded agencies/organizations will meet program guidelines and proposed beneficiaries. The City further anticipates all awarded agencies will complete impact projects toward the shared goal of meeting the needs and demands of the Pharr residents.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	CASA OF HIDALGO COUNTY, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	abuse/neglected children services

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Grants Management & Community Development Department scheduled a Mandatory Consultation Session to meet with all agencies requesting CDBG funds for action plan 2016. Staff assessed the agency's capacity to administer a federal funded program, meet all programmatic compliance measures and expend the federal award within the 12 months. The City anticipates all awarded agencies/organizations will meet program guidelines and proposed beneficiaries. The City further anticipates all awarded agencies will complete impact projects toward the shared goal of meeting the needs and demands of the Pharr residents.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	SALVATION ARMY-MCALLEN
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	rental assistance to prevent homelessness
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	rental assistance to prevent homelessness
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Grants Management & Community Development Department scheduled a Mandatory Consultation Session to meet with all agencies requesting CDBG funds for action plan 2016. Staff assessed the agency's capacity to administer a federal funded program, meet all programmatic compliance measures and expend the federal award within the 12 months. The City anticipates all awarded agencies/organizations will meet program guidelines and proposed beneficiaries. The City further anticipates all awarded agencies will complete impact projects toward the shared goal of meeting the needs and demands of the Pharr residents. Coincidentally, the Salvation army is a partnering agency with the Urban County Program of Hidalgo County and thus reports homeless data to them via the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
9	Agency/Group/Organization	FOOD BANK OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	food pantry services

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	feeding the needy/hungry
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Grants Management & Community Development Department scheduled a Mandatory Consultation Session to meet with all agencies requesting CDBG funds for action plan 2016. Staff assessed the agency's capacity to administer a federal funded program, meet all programmatic compliance measures and expend the federal award within the 12 months. The City anticipates all awarded agencies/organizations will meet program guidelines and proposed beneficiaries. The City further anticipates all awarded agencies will complete impact projects toward the shared goal of meeting the needs and demands of the Pharr residents.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Texas Homeless Network
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy
	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 Pharr consulted with the Texas Homeless Network by telephone. Victoria Lopez, Homeless Management Integrated System (HMIS) Analyst described the operations of the agency and the responsibilities as the lead agency for the Continuum of Care. The City anticipates a much closer communication with THN and looks forward to participating in the Point in Time and improve its' homeless strategies.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	PHARR HOUSING AUTHORITY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs

<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>The City consulted with the Pharr Housing Authorities Executive Director and Deputy Director on the public housing status. Discussions included status updates on the section 8 Voucher program and its public housing inventory. The City wants to maintain a network partnership with the PHA to be advised on the public housing needs on a year-round basis. This data is an integral component in the development of the annual action plan and consequently, the comprehensive 5-year plan. Currently, both the City and the PHA are involved in the regional development of a Fair Housing Law for HUD and are meeting monthly on the topic. The sharing of information and resources is further coordinated at these meetings and is advantageous to improving the networking goal.</p>
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

The City made every effort to consult all Agency types.

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	Texas Homeless Network	The strategic plan is conducted with a vision from the city on how it plans to accomplish its goals in one, two, and three years from now. The strategic plan looks at the big picture from a long-range perspective and then our action plan represents the specific tactics and strategies for carrying out the strategic plan.

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

The City of Pharr utilizes a variety of methods to encourage on-going participation from residents, social service providers, and community development organizations. The participation process for the Consolidated Plan included public hearings, public comment period; consultation with various city departments; and consultation with housing providers. In order to broaden the citizen participation process, residents were able to participate in public hearings regarding the use of CDBG funding targeted to assist low and moderate-income individuals. The opportunity for residents to provide comments and ideas gave staff additional information on existing programs and what can be done to improve services. This input will be used, if necessary, to improve existing programs and, if funding is available, develop new programs to meet needs described in the surveys and other citizen participation activities.

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)
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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 Hearing	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities low-to-moderate-income individuals	The Community Development Council held its first public hearing, in participation of the action plan 2016. Nine (9) attendees present; one attendee was dr. Kenneth Fletcher, Pharr resident, the other attendees were staff from the agencies applying for CDBG funds.	Victoria Medina, Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Center thanked the City and Council for its' continuous support of CDBG funding. Omar Rodriguez, Communications Manager for the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley solicited funding from the City and the Council and encouraged them to increase its 2015 funding for the 2016 program year. Edward Kuprel and Dr. Kenneth Fletcher represented their More Trees Please application and asked the council to highly consider using CDBG funds to purchase an urban forestry	The More Trees Please application was considered and the City's interest was inclined towards increasing its green space. The reason for not funding was that the application was submitted on behalf of Dr. Fletcher, as a Pharr individual, which is not customary; applications are submitted through non-profit or for-profit organizations. The City had a concern that the program implementation and programmatic measures would not be	

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 workshop	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>low-to-moderate-income individuals</p>	Seven (7) out of the twenty-one (21) agencies/applications attended the CDBG workshop to present their applications.	The agencies present are allowed three (3) minutes to describe their agency and detail what the CDBG funds will be expended on as it relates to a program specific goal.	The More Trees Please application was considered and the City's interest was inclined towards increasing its green space. The reason for not funding was that the application was submitted on behalf of Dr. Fletcher, as a Pharr individual, which is not customary; applications are submitted through non-profit or for-profit organizations. The City had a concern that the program implementation and programmatic measures would not be able to be fulfilled as a sole capacity.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Public Hearing	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: spanish Persons with disabilities low-to-moderate-income individuals	There was no citizens participation or attendance.	Consequently, there was no comments received.	Non-applicable	

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)
4	Public Hearing	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>low-to-moderate-income individuals</p>	<p>There were two (2) attendees from the general public representing the Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center.</p>	<p>Jenny Newcombe, Executive Director for the RGV Literacy Center introduced herself and expressed comments towards not being awarded CDBG funds for the upcoming 2016 program year. She asked that the city reconsider their recommendation and fund the agency. (please reference the AD-26 profile attachment to review the entire comments in more detail).</p>	<p>The city did consider the Literacy Center's approach and funded the agency. The agency has been funded in years past and does have a satisfactory track record.</p>	

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)
5	Public Hearing	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p>	<p>The City of Pharr presented a public hearing on October 18, 2016 in collaboration with a 30-day comment period on the revised action plan 2016. The revision was based on HUDs action items identified on the action plan submission and the citizens participation process was based on the city addressing and revising the identified action items. There was no public representation at the hearing other than the Community Development Council and CDBG staff.</p>	<p>There was no public representation at the hearing and no written comments received during the 30-day comment period</p>	<p>There were no comments received during the citizens participation process.</p>	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The following table shows the amount of federal, state and local funds expected to be available to the City of Pharr in year four of the 2013-2017 Consolidated Plan and the subsequent 2017 action plan year.

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	1,131,888	0	525,000	1,656,888	1,131,888	The City of Pharr expects HUDs allocation to remain the same for its 2017 allocation.

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 Pharr leverages funding from its general funds account on some City awarded activities. The City will not provide any leveraging on

2016 projects; all projects will be CDBG funded.

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

non-applicable

Discussion

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	Administration and Planning	2013	2017	Administration and Planning	City-wide	Community Development Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$225,125	Other: 4 Other
2	Section 108 Loan Repayment	2013	2017	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Section 108 Loan Repayment	CDBG: \$400,000	Other: 1 Other
3	Develop/Upgrade Public Facilities/Infrastructure	2013	2017	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements	CDBG: \$28,763	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2 Persons Assisted
4	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents	2013	2017	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services	CDBG: \$168,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5279 Persons Assisted
5	Provide Housing Assistance to LMI Residents	2013	2017	Affordable Housing	City-wide	Rehabilitation of Existing Housing Units	CDBG: \$250,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Expand Economic Opportunity	2013	2017	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Economic Development	CDBG: \$60,000	Businesses assisted: 4 Businesses Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Administration and Planning
	Goal Description	
2	Goal Name	Section 108 Loan Repayment
	Goal Description	
3	Goal Name	Develop/Upgrade Public Facilities/Infrastructure
	Goal Description	
4	Goal Name	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Goal Description	
5	Goal Name	Provide Housing Assistance to LMI Residents
	Goal Description	
6	Goal Name	Expand Economic Opportunity
	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 Pharr will provide affordable housing to the following estimated number of families through homeownership (Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs HOME grant), housing rehabilitation/reconstruction and minor repair.

Extremely Low Income -7 households

Low Income -10 households

Moderate Income - 5 households

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City of Pharr's estimated total federal entitlement funding for 2016 is \$1,131,888. Program funds have been allocated to an array of projects and activities to benefit low and moderate-income households. A total of 86% of all CDBG funds has been allocated to low and moderate income activities not including administration.

#	Project Name
1	Program Administration 2016
2	Section 108 Repayment Loan
3	Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc.
4	area agency on aging
5	The Salvation Army
6	Amigos del Valle
7	Childrens Advocacy Center
8	Su Casa de Esperanza
9	Mujeres Unidas
10	RGV Literacy Center
11	CASA of Hidalgo
12	RGV Food Bank
13	Silver Ribbon
14	Boys & Girls Club
15	Valley Metro Transit
16	Fire Prevention Material
17	Downtown Assistance Program
18	Rescue Equipment - Fire Dept

Table 8 – Project Information

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

Allocation priorities were determined through the Action Plan citizen participation process. The participation from Pharr residents is small and the majority of the comments received at the public hearings comes from the agencies soliciting CDBG funds. Still, these agencies providing critical social, health, and literacy services assists the city in assessing priorities based on the statistics they record and beneficiary data collected. Consultation with them further helps determine the demand, the need and the immediacy of CDBG leveraging. Obstacles to addressing underserved needs include:

1. Capacity of community partners to advocate for policies that help reduce poverty
2. Collaboration with public and private funders, as well as, corporations to help advance the goals of the CDBG program
3. Lack of developers willing to participate in a federal housing program to build or

rebuild affordable housing

Projects

AP-38 Projects Summary

Project Summary Information

Table 9 – Project Summary

1	Project Name	Program Administration 2016
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Community Development Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$225,125
	Description	funds will be used on the administration and planning of the cdbg staff
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	4
	Location Description	The Grants Management & Community Development Department 118 S. Cage Boulevard, 4th floor
	Planned Activities	The CDBG staff will be responsible for administering the programmatic guidelines involved with the CDBG program.
2	Project Name	Section 108 Repayment Loan
	Target Area	City-wide

	Goals Supported	Section 108 Loan Repayment
	Needs Addressed	Section 108 Loan Repayment
	Funding	CDBG: \$400,000
	Description	funds will be used to repay section 108 20-year loan
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	non-applicable
	Location Description	census tract 214.01
	Planned Activities	repayment of section 108 loan
3	Project Name	Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc.
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Housing Assistance to LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Rehabilitation of Existing Housing Units
	Funding	CDBG: \$253,200
	Description	funds will be used on the city's housing program
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	twelve (12) low-moderate-income families will be provide with housing rehabilitation assistance and two (2) will be assisted with reconstruction.
	Location Description	Units assisted will be based on the qualification of Pharr residents that meet the housing program's eligibility criteria.
	Planned Activities	funds will be used to rehabilitate (12) single-family residential units and two (2) reconstruction.

4	Project Name	area agency on aging
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$3,000
	Description	funds will be used to provide medical and pharmaceutical assistance to the elderly
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	four (4) elderly will benefit with assistance
	Location Description	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council 255 S. Kansas Weslaco, TX 78596
	Planned Activities	funds will be used on elderly services to provide medical or pharmaceutical equipment
5	Project Name	The Salvation Army
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$4,000
	Description	funds will be used on rental assistance to prevent homelessness
	Target Date	9/30/2017

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	four (4) households will be assisted with rental assistance
	Location Description	The Salvation Army 1600 S. 23rd Street - Mcallen, TX 78501
	Planned Activities	A family who is being evicted will approach the Salvation Army for rental assistance. The family must have a court ordered eviction. Salvation Army will assist with up to two months rent assistance to prevent the family from becoming homeless.
6	Project Name	Amigos del Valle
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$7,000
	Description	funds will be used on home meal delivery to elderly individuals
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	eight (8) elderly individuals will be delivered hot meals 235 days of the year
	Location Description	Amigos del Valle, Inc. 1116 N. Conway Avenue - Mission, Texas 78572
	Planned Activities	funds will be used on the purchase of raw food products that will be the hot meal for the elderly
7	Project Name	Childrens Advocacy Center

	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$8,000
	Description	funds will be used on the partial salaries of staff support of forensic interviews
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	fifteen abused or neglected children will benefit from the funding
	Location Description	Children's Advocacy Center 525 W. Wisconsin Avenue - Edinburg, TX 78589
	Planned Activities	Children that are victims of abuse are referred to the CAC through the Police Dept. The CAC conducts and video tapes the initial forensic interview through a team of professional staff. The video is then an admissible record in a court of law which prevents the victim from psychological stress by recounting the incident in future interview sessions. Funds provide the partial salaries of these team members.
8	Project Name	Su Casa de Esperanza
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$12,000
	Description	funds will be used on supportive services of home tutors implementing an early childhood development curriculum.

	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	(30) women will benefit from the program
	Location Description	Su Casa de Esperanza 8000 Cisne Street - Pharr, TX 78577
	Planned Activities	funds will be used on the prenatal and toddler,early childhood development program for home bound mothers due to lack of transportation means.
9	Project Name	Mujeres Unidas
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	funds will be used on a program coordinator to administer a battered spouse program
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	ten (10) battered victims will benefit from the program
	Location Description	Mujeres Unidas 511 N. Cynthia - McAllen, TX 78501
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used on the Men Against Violence program, that works to change abusive behaviors by providing intervention and prevention services in an effort to bring equality in relationships.
10	Project Name	RGV Literacy Center

	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	funds will be used on staffing costs associated with ESL/GED classes
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	fifty (50) low-moderate-income individuals will benefit from the free classes
	Location Description	Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center 1005 W. Gore - Pharr, TX 78577
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used on supportive services of the free Basic Adult Education Classes associated with ESL/GED to people who need help in achieving their career and education goals.
11	Project Name	CASA of Hidalgo
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$3,000
	Description	funds will be used on salaries and mileage of supportive staff advocating for children in foster care
	Target Date	9/30/2017

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	four (4) children will be provided advocate services in a court of law
	Location Description	CASA of Hidalgo County, Inc. 1005 S. 10th Avenue - Edinburg, TX 78589
	Planned Activities	funds will be used on advocate services for foster care children The goal of the Court Appointed Social Advocate (CASA) is to speak for the best interest of the children in the courts by promoting and supporting quality volunteer representation to provide each child a safe, permanent and nurturing home.
12	Project Name	RGV Food Bank
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$8,000
	Description	funds will be used on the purchase of shelf stable food for food pantry distribution
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	(100) low-to-moderate-income individuals will be assisted with food products to meet their hungry needs.
	Location Description	Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley 724 N. Cage Boulevard - Pharr, TX 78577
	Planned Activities	funds will be used on the purchase of raw food products and canned goods to be used in the program's food pantry distribution.

13	Project Name	Silver Ribbon
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$3,000
	Description	funds will be used on elderly services
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	four (4) elderly individuals will be assisted with adult protective services
	Location Description	Silver Ribbon 1919 Austin Avenue - McAllen, TX 78501
	Planned Activities	funds will be used on the supportive services of staff who work with the elderly in prevention of physical or emotional abuse, neglect or self-neglect and exploitation of the elderly and disabled.
14	Project Name	Boys & Girls Club
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	funds will be used on the partial salaries of youth program coordinators
	Target Date	9/30/2017

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	(100) low-to-moderate-income youth will benefit from programs
	Location Description	Pharr Boys & Girls Club 1026 S. Fir Street - Pharr, TX 78577
	Planned Activities	funds will be used on youth programs to motivate self esteem and education
15	Project Name	Valley Metro Transit
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents
	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	funds will be used on the public transportation services of Pharr
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	expected ridership for the 2016 year is 25,000 pharr residents
	Location Description	City-wide public transportation
	Planned Activities	funds will be used on the operations of the city's only public transportation, to include but not limited to, gas/oil/tires/partial salaries
16	Project Name	Fire Prevention Material
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support Service Assist. for LMI Residents

	Needs Addressed	Public Services-LMI Social Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	funds will be used on the public outreach educational material for the fire dept
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	5000
	Location Description	city wide outreach
	Planned Activities	funds will be used on educational awareness outreach material to disseminate at City functions, festivals, trainings and commercial businesses.
17	Project Name	Downtown Assistance Program
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Develop/Upgrade Public Facilities/Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$60,000
	Description	funds will be used on the downtown assistance program by assisting downtown businesses with storefront improvements or facade restoration.
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	five (5) downtown businesses will benefit from the program
	Location Description	The City of Pharr's downtown district

	Planned Activities	funds will be used on the facade restoration and storefront improvements assistance to downtown merchants
18	Project Name	Rescue Equipment - Fire Dept
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Develop/Upgrade Public Facilities/Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$25,563
	Description	funds will be used on a rescue hydraulic equipment for the fire dept
	Target Date	9/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	citywide benefit
	Location Description	The proposed funded equipment will be kept in the Central Station of the Fire Department, 121 W. Cherokee. From here, first responders will utilize it by taking it to the emergency location.
	Planned Activities	equipment will provide adequate upgraded safety protection

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

The City of Pharr's CDBG allocations have not been sufficient to allow for the funding of large or extensive housing, economic development or public works projects. Geographic standards do not apply to city-wide programs such as Minor Rehabilitation and Public Services programs. The small amount of funds available, and the 20-year Repayment of the Section 108 Loan for the past several years has limited the use of funds. Public facility and public improvement projects have been completed in residential areas meeting HUD's low to moderate-income standards, generally in both South and North Pharr.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City-wide	100
Eligible Project Area	100

Table 10 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City of Pharr does not currently direct its investments in specific geographic areas.

Discussion

Housing assistance investments such as the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance program are based on a first-come, first-serve basis from a waiting list and there are no specific geographic areas. The City supports the use of funds in older neighborhoods, such as the old-townsite areas.

All investments in public facilities and/or public improvements are based on requests received from residents of the low to moderate-income block groups and other areas of the city and are submitted through City departments during the action plan process. After a request for proposals has been made, CDBG staff will assess the need for the improvement and the project cost. The CDBG staff evaluation will determine which requests are in a "high" needs category, are an appropriate use of CDBG funds, and are projects with costs that qualify under the CDBG allocation.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City's housing priorities are encouraging homeownership opportunities, maintaining existing affordable housing units and encouraging and maintaining standard affordable rental units for low and moderate income persons. For the 2016/2017 program year, these priorities will be addressed through the following activities: rehabilitation of (10) single-family residential units, reconstruction of (2) single-family residential units and downpayment assistance to (10) first time homebuyers through the HOME State grant; all of which have to meet HUD's household income level guidelines.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	14
Special-Needs	0
Total	14

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	4
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	14
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	18

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

Discussion

The City of Pharr's long view of providing a viable and liveable community future must address the long-term issue of preserving and expanding the its affordable housing stock, so that neighborhoods will remain economically integrated.

This goal is supported by sound policy objectives. First, lower-income households should be able to benefit by living in stronger and healthier economically mixed communities. Second, the greater the number of lower-income housing units that are lost and not replaced in any given area, the more likely poverty concentrations will increase and the more likely lower-income households will face increasing cost burdens as well as overcrowding housing in the city.

The City is able to provide their residences enriched educational programs and services on a routine basis through the funding received by the United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency and continues to be invested in the community and therefore improving household conditions, infrastructure, and educational attainment for our youth.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

It was the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 that introduced the Section 8 voucher program. An amendment to a 1937 federal housing law, the 1974 act provided for vouchers that paid for about 70 percent of an eligible tenants rent. Section 8 vouchers are the main type of public housing assistance given by the federal government. The Housing Choice Voucher Program--which is the official name for federal Section 8 programs--is administered by HUD. In addition to Section 8 vouchers, public housing itself is the other major form of assistance.

As of July 2016, the Pharr Housing Authority has (828) Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and (235) Public Housing units occupied.

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

After consulting with Pharr Housing Authority's (PHA) staff, the PHA's strategy for addressing the public housing needs of families in the Pharr jurisdiction and on the waiting list is by reducing turnover time of vacant public housing units, reduce time to renovate public housing units, seek replacement of public housing units lost to the inventory through mixed financial development, employ effective maintenance and management policies to minimize the number of public housing units offline.

In addition, PHA plans to maintain section 8 lease up rates by establishing payment standards that will enable families to rent throughout the jurisdiction, and undertake measures to ensure access to affordable housing among families assisted by the PHA, regardless of unit size required.

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

The Pharr Housing Authority adminsters a Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program within its tenants. The (FSS) program encourages participating tenants to become homeowners, provides English-as-a-Second-Language courses, GED certification, financial literacy courses, first time homebuyers classes and credit counseling sessions. Additionally, the four (4) public housing communities: Las Canteras, Mesquite Terrace, Sunset Village, and Parkview Terrace abide by the Land Use Restriction Agreement (LURA) contract of the tax credit development. The agreement mandates that the Pharr Housing Authority provide homeownership sessions to residents of these four public housing communities.

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

The Pharr Housing Authority is not designated as a troubled housing authority.

Discussion

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

Introduction

This section describes the activities planned during the 2016-17 program year to address the needs of persons who are homeless and other non-homeless needs.

The City of Pharr does not award CDBG funds to activities specific to addressing the homeless population; however, the City does fund the Salvation Army and Mujeres Unidas agencies that provide homeless prevention assistance in an indirect manner.

The Salvation Army assist households that have been served with a court order eviction by paying the landlord up to two months rent assistance to prevent the household from becoming homeless. The Mujeres Unidas provides emergency shelter to battered spouses, men or women, involved in a domestic violence relationship.

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

Homelessness is experienced in a variety of settings, and includes multiple entry points. In Pharr, there are no systems of care that provide housing and supportive services to those experiencing homelessness to assist them in ending their homelessness. The City acknowledges and supports HUDs nationwide commitment to ending homelessness by providing funding opportunities to nonprofit organizations and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families. Regretfully, the city of Pharr has not addressed those needs in a more aggressive and tactful manner.

Through successful regional collaboration efforts with neighboring entitlement communities, the Texas Homeless Network and social service agencies, programs can take the form of collaborative case management and coordinate delivery of street outreach, supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and prevention of homelessness programs. The City will began a collection of community-wide data through the Urban County Program of Hidalgo County's Homeless Management Integrated system (HMIS) on a quarterly basis to ensure there is a measure of collective data that will assist staff and the City make informed decisions in future homeless situations.

The City proposes to reach out to the homeless and assess their individual needs, and support the following short-term strategies:

1. Collaborate with the Urban County Program of Hidalgo County and the Salvation Army to facilitate and assist any implementation of programs and services to Pharr homeless and eventually, a long-range goal to create a system-wide community solutions to reducing homelessness
2. Assist in any needed delivery of quality housing and supportive services programs for the homeless and those at-risk of homelessness, as referred by the Urban County Program of Hidalgo County and the Salvation Army.

3. Participate in a collaborative environment of county and city-wide data collection efforts of the homeless population that will inform and educate the City on their needs, thus allowing an

opportunity to partner with housing and supportive services programs related to and for the homeless.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Currently, the City of Pharr provides funding to the Salvation Army and to the Silver Ribbon organizations.

Both of these organizations provide temporary emergency shelter to the homeless or to family's dealing with an emergency need. Rental assistance/subsidization helps prevent these individuals from becoming homeless, thus addressing their emergency shelter 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

To address the needs of a homeless community, the City will need to rely on the support, consultation and collaboration of the Texas Homeless Network, City staff, volunteers, donors, and advocates for the homeless.

The City proposes to increase the availability of affordable permanent housing in standard condition to low-income and moderate-income families, particularly to members of disadvantaged minorities and at risk homeless individuals.

The City further proposes to increase the supply of supportive housing which includes structural features and services to enable persons with special needs, including persons with HIV/AIDS, to live in dignity and independence.

The Salvation Army is available to provide group homes, emergency shelters, and transitional living centers provide housing, food, and overnight lodging for varying amounts of time to those in need. In addition, they provide educational, counseling and vocational services to homeless, destitute individuals and families, and youth where family care is undesirable or unavailable. For those families with temporal needs, family service programs help families and needy individuals with emergency food, housing, and utility assistance.

Ultimately, a system of community partnering with entitlements, service agencies and Coc's as a goal to

creating a unified team to end homelessness.

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.

<p align="LEFT">One of the outcomes of local efforts will be to ensure there are resources to prevent individuals and families at risk, from becoming homeless in the first place. The most effective tool to assisting low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially those who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs, is through local collective impact initiatives. Collective impact provides a framework for a system of collaboration among all the systems of care in the community. By developing a common agenda, shared measures, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication and providing backbone support to these initiatives, the City of Pharr can ensure low-income families avoid becoming homeless, the homeless obtain housing, and the community will have adequate resources to provide the supportive services necessary to help those in need sustain permanent housing. Strategies will also identify areas to maximize community capacity by seeking to increase funding dedicated to homelessness prevention programs including housing stabilization resources; case management; and supportive services needed to help sustain housing.</p>

Discussion

As stated above, programs other than emergency and transitional housing are not targeted to homeless persons. No known services are available to unaccompanied youth. Chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, and veterans and their families have access to the above services

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

The City does not identify barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies, building codes, fees and charges or other actions that limit affordable housing.

The Questionnaire for HUD's Initiative on Removal of Regulatory Barriers (Form HUD-27300) was reviewed for the City of Pharr in assessing local effects of public policies on affordable housing and residential investment. While Pharr could adopt more policies to specifically address or encourage affordable housing and residential investment, the City is on the same plane as its neighboring cities when it comes to developmental regulations; the city follows the 2012 International Residential Codes. Building permits are capped at \$34.00 per square foot, again, competitive with neighboring cities. Overall, the City does not readily identify barriers that negatively affect affordable housing and residential investment.

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 Pharr does not believe that local building regulations, development fees, subdividing fees, and environmental assessments constitute barriers to fair and affordable housing. The majority of these regulations or policies cannot be considered excessive, exclusionary, discriminatory, or duplicative. It is not unreasonable for the City of Pharr to charge fees for development, especially pertaining to land preparation costs.

However, it does need to be acknowledged that for the development of affordable housing these costs can be potentially prohibitive. The City of Pharr developed a strategy whereby development fees could be waived or lowered for the development of affordable housing. In fact, the City could examine the possibility of reducing some of these costs to allow homes built by non-profit organizations to be more affordable to low- and moderate-income households. This could serve as an additional incentive to develop affordable housing- and ensure that such developments do not get left out.

Discussion

The City waives the permit fees for all its CDBG funded activities, as a demonstration to addressing

barriers to affordable housing. Basic tactics like these, helps in the affordability of the housing stock.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Seek out additional funding sources to support housing and public services activities;

Assist local non-profit organizations in obtaining grants or other funding to support their efforts;

If necessary, act as a “pass through” organization to continue use of State and other funding to support homeless prevention and services for the homeless;

Continue to support existing public (social) services programs through the allocation and administration of City of Pharr general fund dollars.

Work with the City’s Planning and Development Department and legislative partners to implement recommendations and visions

included in the City of Pharr's Consolidated Plan & Strategy 2017-2021.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

<p align="LEFT">Continue to provide down payment assistance to first time homebuyers with the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA) HOME grant, principally to low and</p><p align="LEFT">moderate-income homebuyers;</p><p align="LEFT">Fund new affordable housing development through affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc.;</p><p align="LEFT">Continue to fund the City’s Housing Rehabilitation/Reconstruction program to assist low andmoderate income homeowners with repairs to their homes to meet their needs for safe and decent housing;</p><p align="LEFT">Continue to partner with the school district in increasing the educational attainment and continue a parallel partnership with the legislative partners focused on education investments, financial literacy, and home ownership</p><p align="LEFT">Work with the City’s Planning and Development Department to implement recommendationsincluded in the City's Comprehensive Plan.</p>

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

<p align="LEFT">During the 2016-17 program year, the City of Pharr plans to reduce lead-based hazards in Pharr by ensuring that all lead-based regulations are met throughout any housing rehabilitation construction activity performed on homes built prior to 1978 with its housing rehabilitation/reconstruction program. The City consulted with the Hidalgo County Health Department on its' responsibility to reduce lead-based paint hazards, but the County Health Department does not take any actions on the lead-based paint topic. As per the Environmental Director, the county does not have the resources to implment any lead-based paint programs. Additionally, the County does not have any ordinances requiring them to implmenet such programs and would rquire a ordinance to seek such programs.</p><p align="LEFT">The City also attempted to make contact with the Regional Public Health Department, but numerous attempts to consult with the Lead Prevention Department were unanswered.</p><p align="LEFT">Furthermore, the City will also seek opportunities to educate the public, housing services customers, and contractors regarding the hazards of lead-based paint by purchasing public outreach materials/brochures and disseminate to the public.</p>

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

<p align="LEFT">The City of Pharr will continue to work with local non-profit organizations to administer programs designed to support lower income individuals and families. These programs will assist households in improving their financial status.</p><p align="LEFT">Programs include: 1) food pantry services; 2) advocacy to abused/neglected children; 3) academic literacy programs; 4) support for elderly households and others; 5) develop housing initiatives to increasing the housing stock; 6) support jobs programs through economic development opportunities.</p>

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

<p align="LEFT">The City will continue to strive and meet provisions to financial literacy, homebuyer education classes, educational attainment to empower and build a better quality of life for Pharr residents, and improve its current housing initiatives. </p>

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

The City of Pharr will increase its participation and discussions with the Pharr Housing Authority (PHA). These discussions will revolve around best serving the community and common interests in housing. In recent months, the City has met with the PHA in the development of a regional Fair Housing Law. The meetings offer the opportunity for sharing of perspectives and insight. The City will increase its' communication with the PHA in order to collect and maintain more accurate housing data and be able to use shared data to address the housing stock in a broader sense.

The City also has a fairly strong network of service providers including those providing housing, education, health care, elderly services and other needed services. The City is in continuous partnerships with these service providers, a number of them being subrecipients of the CDBG awards, in an attempt to maximize the benefits derived from available resources.

Staff members will continue to participate in committees during the 2016 program year, as this enhances the coordination and partnerships allowing the City to be part of a strong team of service providers who are working to improve services for the low income community.

Discussion

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction

This section will describe activities planned with respect to all CDBG funds expected to be available during the program year (including program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year).

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

