# 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 3-5-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, 2019, the City submitted a Four-Year Consolidated Plan, FY 2019 through FY 2022. The Four-Year Consolidated Plan is a comprehensive document that attempts to best describe the City’s housing market conditions, identifies the need for affordable housing and community development and provides strategies to address the needs over a four-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.

This Action Plan covers the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, which will be the second year of the City's Four-year 2019-2022 Consolidated Plan (Con Plan). The Action Plan describes the activities that will be undertaken with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and the furtherance of the objectives set forth in the City of Pharr's Plan. The total amount of CDBG Entitlement Communities grant funds expected to be received is $1,131,388.

The City of Pharr also undertook the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) award in the amount of $665,558 in response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

**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 program year, the City of Pharr, Hidalgo County, Texas intends to continue funding projects identified as high priorities in the four-year consolidated plan and strategy. The primary objectives include the improvement of quantity and/or quality of public improvements for low- and moderate-income persons; improve the quality and quantity of neighborhood facilities for low- and moderate-income persons; improve the quality of owner-occupied housing and increase the availability of affordable owner housing. General outcomes associated with these objectives will vary from the number of persons who derive a direct benefit of the improvements made (i.e. the number of people living in a targeted census tract where improvements were made) to the actual number of persons receiving direct services under a public service project or housing activity

**3. Evaluation of past performance**

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

During the last reporting period from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 (Action Plan 2019) the City of Pharr noted that 100% of eligible expenditures were spent on high priority needs. This translates to $1,150,930 in expenditures towards projects involving repayment of the Section 108 loan, public transportation, public services and housing. The Downtown Assistnce Program funds were not used and the Firehouse Boxing Gym funds were deobligated and reallocated to a public service activity.  CDBG funds from previous action plan balances were used on park improvements and the city's demolition program.  This figure translates to an expenditure ratio of 1.71, below the 1.5 minimum standard required by HUD. This achievement is an affirmation of the City's diligent effort to put these federal funds to work in an expeditious manner.

**4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

In accordance with the city's Citizen Participation Plan, the City of Pharr held a series of public hearings duirng the development of the action plan from January 2020 through July 2020. Citizen participation in the development of the One-Year Action Plan was highly encouraged to generate public input on the jurisdiction's housing and community development needs and priorities. The extent of the City, however, dictates that more than the required number of public hearings is held in order to broaden public participation. Three (3) public hearings were held including a hearing for the CARES Act funding.

**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.

No public comments were received at any of the city's three (3) hearings and no written comments were submitted to the city during the 30-day comment period.

A complete summary can be found as an attachment in Section AD-26 of this City of Pharr's 2020 One Year Action Plan.

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

The City of Pharr did not reject any comments.

**7. Summary**

In conclusion, the One Year Action Plan is a major component of the CPS. In the Action Plan, the City describes the programs and services that it will undertake during the period beginning October 1, 2020 until September 30, 2021. The Action Plan details the populations that will be served, projects to be undertaken and resources that will be used during this 2020 program year which is the second year of the City of Pharr's four-year 2019-2022 Consolidated Plan (Con 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** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CDBG Administrator | PHARR | Grants Management & Community Development |

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

**Narrative (optional)**

The City of Pharr's Grants Management & Community Development Department administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program covered by the Consolidated Plan and Strategy. Staff coordinated the development and implementation of the Consolidated Plan and Strategy with input from a broad range of stakeholders. In order to obtain input from public agencies and community organizations, the city conducted public hearings throughout the development of the plan, consulted with non-profit organizations via phone conference calls and email in accordance to the current COVID-19 pandemic and within the CDC guidelines for social distancing.

The city followed its Citizen Participation Plan anbd held three (3) public hearings by solicited comments in an attempt to identify needs and gaps in the local community. The public notices were published in the local Advance News Journal of general circulation (in English and Spanish-language), posted on the jurisdiction’s official website, postings at City Halls, Pharr Memorial Library, and the Pharr Housing  Authority. Along with the posting of notices, the city provided the aforementioned location with a draft copy of the Annual Action Plan for public inspection during the 30-day comment period.

**Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

The City of Pharr, Hidalgo County, Texas

Community Development Block Grant Office

118 S. Cage Boulevard - Pharr, Texas 78577

(956) 402-4190

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

**1. Introduction**

The City of Pharr pursued input from a broad range of stakeholders in order to assess the housing and community development needs and priorities of the city. The consultations and assessments were an integral part of the action plan process and  contributed to the  development of the Plan.  This document was composed in accordance with the activities to be funded during the 2019-2022 Four-Year Consolidated Plan. The city is aware of the importance of next generation broadband services to support the community's future. Evidence suggests that broadband services have a net positive economic and social impact on communities by enhancing economic competitiveness, workforce development, educational capabilities, municipal operations and smart-city deployment. In its effort to expand broadband services, the city is expanding its efforts to provide internet services to residents in low-to-moderate income census tract areas by proposing to use 2020 CDBG funds on building a broadband network equipped with wireless internet services that residents in South Pharr can connect to. By collaborating with local community groups and businesses the city is able to reach out to residents and provide them access to critical social services and non-public services.

**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(l))**

In order to obtain input from public agencies and community organizations, staff consulted with numerous non-profit organizations, health and mental health providers and various public agencies to collect vital information about housing and community development demands and needs. These consultation tools addressed: • Housing Needs • Housing Market Analysis/Substandard Housing Needs • Public Housing Needs and Strategy • Continuum of Care Homeless Needs • Non-Homeless Special Needs Annual Action Plan 2020 8 OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 06/30/2018) • Lead-Based Paint Hazards • Community Development Needs • Mental Health Needs • Child Welfare Health.

Utilizing the appropriate consultation instrument(s), staff contacted public agencies, including local planning, engineering, public works, health, police, and fire departments as well as state and regional agencies. Further community organizations were consulted to develop housing and community development needs and priorities. The listing of organizations is included in this Section under Question 2 - Agency/Group/Organization. The development of the Affirmitevely Furthering Housing is the basis for the Analysis of Impediments and the cooperative discussion with the Public Housing Authorities helped to form this Annual Action Plan. Further, health and mental health providers were contacted to determine gaps in services as well as during the consultation for the development of this Annual Action Plan. Such providers include HOPE Family Health and Resource Center, Lower Rio Grande Health Management Corp., Inc. (El Milagro Clinic), and Tropical Texas MHMR (state-funded institution). In addition, much of the information utilized was downloaded from state and local governmental websites. Where applicable, citations have been noted to link the source documentation. Due to the recent development of the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) which is now the Analysis of Impediments (AI), data provided by the organizations was utilized in the development of this document.

**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 Pharr coordinates and collaborates with the Continuum of Care (CoC) in efforts to address the needs of the homeless persons (particularly chronic homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth). The city also serves persons who are at risk of becoming homeless as recommended by the (CoC). CDBG staff will participate with the (CoC) in live online webinars or events when made available to discuss the best approach/practice to serve the needs of the homeless population in our community.  The city and its homeless grant partners also participate every year in the annual Point in Time homeless count held every January of each year. Multiple organizations meet to discuss and assess the needs of the homeless population in our community. There are currently several efforts in place through the Hidalgo County Urban Couty Program to address the needs of homeless individuals and families. These include: Annual Action Plan 2020 9 OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 06/30/2018) Case management and emergency shelter provided by ESG funding.

Even though the city is not a recipient of ESG funding, ESG services are available to individuals, families with children, veterans and unaccompanied youth through the Hidalgo County - Urban County Program and the Salvation Army on tenant based rental assistance. These services are available to anyone who meets the ESG program requirements. Referrals are issued to all participants requiring additional services, especially our military veterans who need additional resources. The County of Hidalgo is anticipating to assist more individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless as a result of our coordination and collaboration with the (CoC). The Homeless Management Information System's client data system is an important tool which better assess the ESG participants of the Hidalgo County area.

**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 Pharr consulted with the Continuum of Care (CoC), the Hidalgo County - Urban County Program (UCP), and the Salvation Army on the allocation of ESG funding for their 2020 year. The Continuum of Care stated that they reviewed and evaluated the performance standards, evaluated the outcomes of the projects and activities assisted with the ESG funding. Approved by the CoC, UCP Policies and Procedures are utilized as standards in the allocation of ESG program funds. These procedures are also used for the operation and administration of HMIS and comparable database systemd used by domestic violence providers such as Mujeres Unidas. The Texas Homeless Network (THN) has developed and implemented guidance for all users of HMIS ClientTrack data system. ESG non-profits and the County have executed user agreements with THN that outline rules and regulations for client data. Hidalgo County continues to meet with the CoC on a monthly basis minimum through online webinars, email or conference calls. This practice provides discussions regarding homelessness, program changes or updates, HMIS implementation of accurate data, comparable software systems, SAGE data reporting systems, performance measures, Coordinated Entry, and any new grant discussions pertaining to the ESG program and service delivery to the most needed.

**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**

The city is currently in the process of consulting with Non-profit organizations and public service agencies to accumulate information that can be used on the development of the plan.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | **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?** |   |

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

No agencies were intentionally omitted. To compile the contact list, staff utilized listings of organizations that had previously been funded or had submitted a request for proposal application.

**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 Balance of State | Even though the city does not directly fund homeless activities the city continues its collaboration and consultation with the Texas Homeless Network to addresses the at-risk and homeless population in Hidalgo County. |

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**

In accordance with the adopted Citizen Participation Plan, the City of Pharr held a series of public hearings and a public notice for a 30-day comment period to solicit input on the area's housing and community development needs and priorities. CDBG staff conducted these activities to broaden public participation in the Annual Action Planning process particularly among minorities, Non-English speakers, and persons with disabilities who required special accommodations. Additionally, interested parties, for or against the funding agencies, had the opportunity to make their views known at any of the three (3) public hearings held within the city. The cumulative effects of these public hearings formed the basis of the goals and priorities set forth in this Consolidated Plan and Strategy.

**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)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

# Expected Resources

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

**Introduction**

The City of Pharr's entitlement grant is $1,131,388 to address obstacles that will meet underserved needs, foster decent housing, and enhance communication between housing and social service agencies. The results of these activities will be reported in the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report 2020.

**Anticipated Resources**

| **Program** | **Source of Funds** | **Uses of Funds** | **Expected Amount Available Year 1** | **Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan** **$** | **Narrative Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Annual Allocation: $** | **Program Income: $** | **Prior Year Resources: $** | **Total:****$** |
| CDBG | public - federal | AcquisitionAdmin and PlanningEconomic DevelopmentHousingPublic ImprovementsPublic Services | 1,131,388 | 0 | 0 | 1,131,388 | 0 |   |
| Other | public - federal | Economic DevelopmentPublic ServicesOther | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |   |

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**

**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 City of Pharr does not intend to utilize publically owned land or property to address the needs identified in this plan.

**Discussion**

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. The primary objective of CDBG is the development of viable communities by: Providing decent housing; Providing a suitable living environment; expanding economic opportunities. Any activity funded with CDBG monies must meet one of three national objectives: Benefit low- and moderateincome persons; Aid in the prevention of slums or blight; Meet a particular urgent need.

# Annual Goals and Objectives

**AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives**

**Goals Summary Information**

| **Sort Order** | **Goal Name** | **Start Year** | **End Year** | **Category** | **Geographic Area** | **Needs Addressed** | **Funding** | **Goal Outcome Indicator** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 6 – Goals Summary

**Goal Descriptions**

## Projects

## AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

**Introduction**

**Projects**

| **#** | **Project Name** |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

Table 7 - Project Information

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

## AP-38 Project Summary

**Project Summary Information**

## 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**

**Geographic Distribution**

| **Target Area** | **Percentage of Funds** |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

**Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

**Discussion**

# Affordable Housing

## AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

**Introduction**

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

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

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

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

**Discussion**

## AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

**Introduction**

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

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

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

**Discussion**

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

**Introduction**

**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**

**Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

**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**

**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.**

**Discussion**

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

**Introduction:**

**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**

**Discussion:**

## AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

**Introduction:**

**Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

**Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

**Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

**Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

**Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

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

**Discussion:**

# Program Specific Requirements

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

**Introduction:**

**Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**

**Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(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 |  |
| 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 |  |
| 3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements |  |
| 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. |  |
| 5. The amount of income from float-funded activities |  |
| Total Program Income |  |

**Other CDBG Requirements**

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| 1. The amount of urgent need activities |  |