

# 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, an Entitlement Community, is required to prepare a 3 to 5-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in August of each year. The Entitlement Community designation permits the City to receive formula-based grant assistance from HUD under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. On August 15, 2019, the City submitted a Four-Year Consolidated Plan, FY 2019 through FY 2023. The Four-Year Consolidated Plan is a comprehensive document of 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 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. The city has also requested approval to go from a Four-Year Consolidated Plan to a Five-Year. With this request and approval it will allow the city to better assess affordable housing, community development needs and market conditions, and to make better data-driven decisions.

This Action Plan covers the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, which will be the fifth year of the City's Five-year 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan (Con Plan). The Action Plan describes the activities that will be undertaken with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and the implementation of the objectives set forth in the City of Pharr's 2023 Action Plan. The total amount of CDBG Entitlement Communities grant funds allocated is approximately \$1,172,535.

### 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 City of Pharr's Action Plan 2023 will fund projects identified as high priorities in the five-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, 2022 through September 30, 2023 (Action Plan 2022) the City of Pharr noted in the PR26 for CAPER 2021 that the city expended its entitlement allocation well over the required 70% to low-moderate income beneficiaries. This translates to \$777,790.23 in expenditures towards projects including the repayment of the Section 108 loan, public transportation, and public services. For our public services efforts the city accomplished its goals and assisted a total of 284 unduplicated persons which includes the following services: abused and neglected children (124), senior services, meals on wheels, medical equipment, rent and or utility payments (67), Food pantry and health services (93).

### **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 two public hearings during the development of the action plan between January 2023 through July 2023. In order to obtain additional citizen participation we published in the Advance Newspaper (Spanish & English). Publication was posted in the public library and at the City Hall Kiosk, locations with easy access and known to the public. The city received comments during the 30 day public comment period. As required, the city did respond to the public comment with ample time. We received one comment during the hearing and another comment via phone call from a resident in which the city responded.

Citizen participation in the development of the One-Year Action Plan was encouraged to generate public on the jurisdiction's housing and community development needs and priorities. The CDBG Office did its due diligence in providing the Pharr residents with reasonable dates and times to participate in public hearings and comment periods. Facebook social media, City's website calendar, the CRC Pharr Building were utilized in efforts to enhance public participation.

### **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 did receive (2) comments during the July Public Hearing. One of the resident voiced his concern during the Community Development Council meeting as we open the floor for the public comment on the Notice of Funding Availability. Another person was in the room but refused to sign up or give their name for the record.

Also, during the 30 day comment period of the approval of 2023 Annual Action Plan the city received written comments on behalf of a concerned citizen. The resident also forwarded a copy to our HUD Representative. As per regulations, the city did respond and answered to citizens' (2) comments. A complete detail of the public meetings, hearings and comment periods can be found in the AP-12 Participation section of this document. All publications and agendas on the summary of public comments can be found as an attachment in Section AD-26 of this City of Pharr's 2023 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 during the public hearing process. The city recognizes the continued need to fund housing activities and public service organizations and therefore is open to any feedback from the public.

## **7. Summary**

In conclusion, the One Year Action Plan is a major component of the Consolidated Plan Strategy. In the Action Plan, the City describes the programs and services that it will undertake during the period beginning October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. The Action Plan details the populations that will be served, projects to be undertaken and resources that will be used during this 2023 program year which is the fifth year of the City of Pharr's five-year 2019-2023 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 of the 2023 Annual Action Plan with participation 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 telephone conference calls and via email. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic did subside in comparison to when it originated in 2020, many agencies remained under the CDC guidelines and continued to conduct business virtually with the exception of a few agencies.

The city followed its Citizen Participation Plan and held two (2) public hearings by solicited comments to identify needs and gaps in the local community. The public notices were published in the local Advance News Journal in English and Spanish-language, posted on the City's official website, postings at City Hall and Pharr Memorial Library. Along with the posting of notices, the city provided a copy of the draft Annual Action Plan for public inspection during the 30-day comment period at the Grants Management Community Development office. Also, at the request of a citizen a courtesy copy was provided at their request.

**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(I)**

### **1. Introduction**

The City of Pharr consulted with the Subrecipients that were recommended for 2023 funding throughout the planning and development process. Views and goals were shared between the city and the agencies, as well as, expectations in meeting the city's community development objectives . The city considers these Subrecipients "Stakeholder Agencies" as they play an important and integral role annually in the development of the city's action plan to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. The stakeholder agencies engaged in CDBG discussions via telephone sharing their experience and knowledge on what their clientele's needs are and how federal funds can best leverage services. PR-10, Table 2 recognizes some of agencies that were consulted with and what the city's expected outcomes are for each one during the one-year action plan. These agencies submitted applications requesting CDBG funds to provide public services that will meet the community development needs of the Pharr residents.

The City will continue to work with these agencies and other Non-profit organizations dedicated to furthering the opportunities of disadvantaged Pharr residents and sharing in the advocate goal for each of their cause. The City will continue to award CDBG funds to a core group of agencies it determines will meet the CDBG objectives for community development activities.

Included in its communication efforts for the action plan is the continuing communication with the Texas Homeless Network and other organizations that provide homeless and supportive services, to meet HUD's goal of making progress towards an end to homelessness. The city recognizes that there is a homeless population to attend in its decision-making process. Even though the city does not have a large population of homeless and CDBG funds are not directly obligated to this category, the population identified in the neighboring areas does tend to come across the city's boundaries.

The city's consultation during the development of the 2023 Annual Action Plan is mindful of the agencies representing the public service sector. Even though the city does not receive numerous requests for CDBG funding proposals as it would in years past, it is prudent that the city's consultation process effectively engages the interested stakeholders which may assist in identifying capable partners. In addition to consultation strategies the city will enhance communication between departments and review tracking systems available to provide readily information regarding housing, community and economic development initiatives being implemented to the low-to-moderate income residents.

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

The City of Pharr coordinates communications with the Pharr Housing Authority throughout the program year to be able to refer Pharr residents seeking housing to the right agency. In developing its annual action plan, the City evaluated its needs and those of the Pharr Public Housing Authority and service agencies. The city then supports housing assistance organizations and programs based on funds available in order to direct Pharr residents to affordable housing availability. It does this by referring residents that inquire to Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc., the Pharr Housing Authority, and the 211 Texas referral directory; a resource and information center that connects people with the community services.

The City has invested over half a million CDBG funds with Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) with the 2021 allocation and funding made available from substantial amendments. The City's Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Program (OORRP) has slowly met the goals set forth in the past action plans, but recent communication efforts should have AHSTI continue to rebuild the community's housing stock and encourage the resettlement of displaced homeowners unable to secure enough funds through private insurance or other government programs to repair, rehabilitate, or rebuild their home. AHSTI, a nonprofit organization that acts as land developer, general contractor, and as a full-service mortgage company, will assist individuals living in substandard living conditions improve their homes through the housing program.

CDBG funds will leverage support to a core group of public and social service agencies that provide mental health and other services to residents. The City's intent is that a core group of reliable organizations with varied services be available to residents and each other to make the most of limited resources.

**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.**

As per the Texas Homeless Network (THN) website, the Texas Balance of States Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) is made up of all service providers, advocates, local government officials, and citizens who work to eliminate homelessness in 215 of Texas 254 counties. The designated organization for the State of Texas is the Texas Homeless Network. Larger eligible communities receive ESG funds directly from HUD, but the City of Pharr does not. However, we participate in annual point in time count efforts and coordinated entry with PHAs and other HUD grantees in our community. To incorporate and assess information related to homeless issues, the City contacted the Hidalgo County Urban County Program to obtain data related to the homeless population to use with the One-Year Action Plan and the Five-year Consolidated Plan & Strategy (CPS). The City does not receive any homeless grants so therefore does not have access to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

**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**

Since the City Pharr is part of the Texas Balance of State, Continuum of Care, the city will continue to partner with THN in preventing and ending homelessness consultation. The City of Pharr consults annually with the Texas Balance of State (TxBoS), Continuum of Care (CoC) among other homeless service providers within Hidalgo County. Topics of discussion include Policies and Procedures for ESG program, Emergency Housing Voucher Programs, Coordinated Entry System and discussion of a Homeless Coalition. The City meets with the (CoC) on a quarterly basis at minimum. The city plans to continue efforts by working together with the (CoC) to identify needs, assess resources, plans that meet needs, and evaluate how effectiveness.

Although the City is not an ESG recipient, the city will continue to research what other communities are doing to address the needs of homeless persons. The city consistently continues its outreach efforts by participating in the Point-In-Time survey which collects homeless population data. Although homelessness is a high priority for us, our community and the County of Hidalgo as a whole is more of a Homeless Prevention community. Due to Fail Market rent values very low for our metropolitan area and rents gone sky high, our community has seen a higher volume of persons in need of rental assistance.

the City's CDBG funds awards to agencies such as the RGV Food Banks Food Assistance Program, Silver Ribbon Community Partners that support specific services which serve the homeless population, persons at risk of becoming homeless and other special population. The city and staff through these means, coordinates homeless priority agendas.

**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	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The city has been meeting monthly with AHSTI in an effort to reach the housing goals set forth with AHSTI. The city will continue to do its due diligence in assuring the rehabilitation and reconstruction outcomes are met.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Food Pantry
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted with the Food Bank of RGV via in-person via trainings, email webinars as well as over the phone. Food Bank of RGV has established itself as a satisfactory subrecipient of Pharr CDBG funds. The anticipated outcome is for the Food Bank to utilize the 2023 funds in a timely manner and provide a benefit to qualified City of Pharr residents.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	AMIGOS DEL VALLE, INC.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Anti-poverty Strategy

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted with Amigos Del Valle Inc. via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Agency has established itself as a satisfactory subrecipient of Pharr CDBG funds. The anticipated outcome is for Agency to utilize the 2023 funds in a timely manner and provide a benefit to qualified City of Pharr residents.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	LRGVDC RIO METRO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted with Agency/subrecipient via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Agency has established itself as a satisfactory subrecipient of Pharr CDBG funds. The anticipated outcome is for the agency to utilize the 2023 funds in a timely manner and provide a benefit to qualified City of Pharr residents.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted with Agency/subrecipient via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Agency has established itself as a satisfactory subrecipient of Pharr CDBG funds. The anticipated outcome is for the agency to utilize the 2023 funds in a timely manner and provide a benefit to qualified City of Pharr residents.

6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	CASA (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES)
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted with Agency/subrecipient via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Agency has established itself as a satisfactory subrecipient of Pharr CDBG funds. The anticipated outcome is for the agency to utilize the 2023 funds in a timely manner and provide a benefit to qualified City of Pharr residents.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	HIDALGO COUNTY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted with County government via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Housing and homelessness and public services were topics of discussion. We also discussed the Emergency Housing Voucher program with the County and the Pharr housing Authority.

8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	CHILDREN ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted with Agency/subrecipient via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Agency has established itself as a satisfactory subrecipient of Pharr CDBG funds. The anticipated outcome is for the agency to utilize the 2023 funds in a timely manner and provide a benefit to qualified City of Pharr residents.
9	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	PHARR HOUSING AUTHORITY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted with the Pharr Housing Authority via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Housing and homelessness and public services were topics of discussion including a broadband project. We also discussed the Emergency Housing Voucher program with the County of Hidalgo.
10	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	City of McAllen
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted & Collaborated with the City of McAllen via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Collaborating on Housing, homelessness and public services were topics of discussion. We also discussed the Emergency Housing Voucher program with the city's PHA.
11	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	City of Mission
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted & Collaborated with the City of Mission via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Collaborating on Housing, homelessness and public services were topics of discussion. We also discussed the Emergency Housing Voucher program with the city's PHA.
12	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	City of Edinburg
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted & Collaborated with the City of Edinburg via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Collaborating on Housing, homelessness and public services were topics of discussion. We also discussed the Emergency Housing Voucher program with the city's PHA.
13	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Silver Ribbon Community Partners
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Public Housing Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Pharr consulted with Agency/subrecipient via in-person trainings, emails, webinars as well as over the phone. Agency has established itself as a satisfactory subrecipient of Pharr CDBG funds. The anticipated outcome is for the agency to utilize the 2023 funds in a timely manner and provide a benefit to qualified City of Pharr residents.
14	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	City of Pharr - IT Department
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local Planning organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City of Pharr Grants Management & Community Development consulted with the City's IT department via workshops and coordination of the broadband services project. Outcome is to connect residents living in the Pharr Housing Authority. The City's IT Department for the past few years continues to improve the City of Pharr's solution to closing the digital divide. City of Pharr will now be offering blazing fast fiber internet and the next generation of Wi-Fi technology that better connects all of the devices in your home or business. Through consultation with several other broadband providers including Frontera Communications, Fiber Broadband Association, Calix Inc., a fast, reliable and affordable will be available to residents of Pharr.
15	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	City of Pharr
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local Civic Leaders The of strategic and planning city of Pharr
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Emergency Management
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The CDBG/Grants Management team consulted withal with the Greater Pharr Chamber of Commerce and with the Economic Development council to discuss projects and planning. Needs and available resources. The outcome is to be on the same mission so that a good quality of life is achieved for the community.
16	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Texas Workforce Commission
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Employment
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City of Pharr Grants Management & Community Development consulted via phone conference call with the Texas Workforce Commission office as part of the planning of affordable housing, economic development, homelessness, and public services initiatives throughout the year.
17	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Nuestra Clinica Del Valle
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Health Agency
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs uninsured/underinsured population
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Nuestra Clinica del Valle, Inc. (NCDV), a federally qualified health center, has served the low income and uninsured families in the City of Pharr community. The city consulted with NCDV on October 4, 2023 via phone conference call with Ms. Lucy Ramirez. The city plans to partner up with NCDV in the next funding cycle to address the city health needs for the uninsured/underinsured population.
18	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	El Milagro Clinic
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Health Agency
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs uninsured/underinsured population
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	El Milagro Clinic provides comprehensive primary, disease prevention and behavioral health care services to Rio Grande Valley residents who are medically indigent including the city of Pharr. The city consulted with NCDV on October 4, 2023, via phone conference call with Ms. Marisol Resendez. The city plans to partner up with El Milagro in the next funding cycle to address the city health needs for the uninsured/underinsured population.
19	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Pharr San Juan Alamo ISD
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Educational Agency



	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Families with children Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City of Pharr Grants Management & Community Development consulted via phone conference call with Pharr San Juan Alamo ISD school liaison Ms. Maria Garcia on October 4, 2023, via phone conference call. The city discussed available resources in our community as well as needs the schools have identified. Topics of at risk of homelessness, transportation, food, health, child welfare, housing and domestic abuse were discussed. The city established a relationship with the schools to better address needs and resources available to the city of Pharr community through the school.
20	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Child Welfare Agency Other government - State
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City of Pharr Grants Management & Community Development consulted via phone conference call with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Children on October 4, 2023, via phone conference call to discuss resources available and coordinate referral process as needed. Lead Base Paint requirements and standards through the city programs was discussed as well as need the agency sees through the population they serve.
21	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Mid Valley House
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Mid Valley House - GEO is classed as residential reentry center (RRCs), also known as halfway house, located in Edinburg, TX. This housing unit provides assistance to inmates who are nearing release in their final 3-12 months depending on the length of their original sentence. The city consulted via phone conference call to discuss resources and to practice referral system to address the needs of the transitional population this institution works with. Homelessness is a reality these persons are faced with, and the city wants to make sure they have resources that can assist them in this transition they face.
22	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	correctional Solutions Group LLC
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Correctional Solutions Group, LLC believes in the dignity of the person and the need for society to have alternatives for those who step outside of our lawful boundaries. Their mission as a Team has always been to provide governmental agencies with efficient, cost-effective methods of housing, rehabilitating and transitioning offenders while maintaining respect for the offender. The city consulted via phone conference call to discuss resources and to practice referral system to address the needs of the transitional population this institution works with. Homelessness is a reality these persons are faced with, and the city wants to make sure they have resources that can assist them in this transition they face.
23	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Texas Tropical Behavioral Health and Mental Services
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Health Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Mental Health Facility

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The city of Pharr Consulted with Texas Tropical Behavior via phone conference call. Discussion was about the services offered through their facility. Available resources and needs made available to our city. The outcome was to stay connected to better address city and community needs when the time comes for anyone that inquires our city offices. The city is planning how we can become partners, if possible, in the future. South Texas Behavioral Health Center is a mental health treatment center in Edinburg, TX, located at 2102 West Trenton Road, 78539 zip code area. South Texas Behavioral Health Center provides partial hospitalization/day treatment, hospital inpatient treatment and outpatient treatment. South Texas Behavioral Health Center offers couples/family therapy, psychotropic medication and individual psychotherapy to children / adolescents, young adults and adults. South Texas Behavioral Health Center also supports people requiring dual diagnosis treatment, transitional age young adults and people with serious mental illness. Additional services at South Texas Behavioral Health Center consist of mentoring/peer support/consumer-run services and case management.
24	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	THE SALVATION ARMY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The city consulted with the Salvation Army of Hidalgo County to discuss homelessness in our community. We discussed collaboration to carry efforts into the annual point-in-time homeless count. The city plans to partner up with the Salvation Army to address homeless needs in the community.
25	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Family Endeavors
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless Veteran Homelessness
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Veteran Homelessness
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The city consulted with Family Endeavors of the RGV to discuss homelessness in our community. We discussed collaboration to carry efforts into the annual point-in-time homeless count. The city plans to partner up with Endeavors to address veteran homeless needs in the community.
26	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Valley AIDS Council (VAC)
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs

<p><b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b></p>	<p>The city consulted with Valley AIDS Council of the RGV to discuss homelessness in our community. We discussed collaboration to carry efforts into the annual point-in-time homeless count and addressing this special population with homeless services as well as other available resources. The city wants to and plans to partner up with VAC to address the needs in the community through this collaboration/relationship.</p>
---	--

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

The city made every effort and due diligence to reach out to agencies that have applied before for CDBG funds and agencies that provide essential services to disadvantaged qualified residents.

**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 (TBoS)	The city is not recipient of homeless funds that target homelessness, the city continues to consult and collaborate with the Texas Balance of State to address at risk and literally homeless persons through our public services and to participate in the Annual Point in Time. The city met via virtual meeting conference with Ms. Mary Rylik to discuss resources and needs in our community.

**Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts**

**Narrative (optional)**

The City of Pharr works to enhance coordination through interdepartmental, interorganizational, and intergovernmental planning. The City of Pharr continues to promote awareness that household affordability and community development challenges are regional, and do not respect geopolitical boundaries. Household affordability and unaddressed community development needs can directly or indirectly affect access to

public services, education, health and human services, transportation, environmental sustainability, economic development, community vitality, arts, and culture.

The city's Emergency Management Basic Plan outlines the city's approach to emergency operations and is applicable to the City of Pharr. It provides general guidance for emergency management activities and an overview of our methods of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The plan describes our emergency response organization and assigns responsibilities for various emergencies. In consultation with the office of Emergency Management consisting of Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez, Interim City Manager Emergency Management Coordinator, Daniel Ramirez, EMS Chief-Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and Pilar Rodriguez, Fire Chief-Deputy Emergency Coordinator, the city has 4 readiness levels. These levels are as follows: Level IV: Normal Conditions, Level III: Increased Readiness, Level II: High Readiness, Level I: Maximum Readiness

Since Covid-19 the Emergency Management Department has done virtual activations of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

In consultation with the City Engineer, the Community Development Division received a copy of the city's master plan for drainage. The plan addresses the areas that have a high risk of flooding, flood prone areas, public land, and water resources. Additionally, it presents alternative solutions to reduce or eliminate the risk of flooding.

The City acknowledged the need to provide residents with broadband service to locations frequented by its residents. The addition of WIFI to bus stops will complement the WIFI service already provided to other locations for the benefit of its residents throughout the city such as the library, fourteen (14) city parks, all city buildings, and an additional five (5) other Public Facilities. The city is aware of the importance of broadband services to everyday life. It is well noted that broadband services have a positive economic and social impact on communities regarding educational capabilities, municipal operations, and workforce development.

## **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 adopted a Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that provides for and encourages citizen participation in planning, developing and reporting the use of HUD funds, specifically for low-moderate-income persons. The CPP mandates advance public notification prior to holding a public hearing.

The City conducted a citizen participation process that included two public hearings, one City Commission meeting, and a 30 day comment period.

The city published public notices on all citizen participation hearings/meetings and the comment periods. All publications were provided in English and Spanish and allowed the public reasonable time to participate.

**Citizen Participation Outreach**



<b>Sort Order</b>	<b>Mode of Outreach</b>	<b>Target of Outreach</b>	<b>Summary of response/attendance</b>	<b>Summary of comments received</b>	<b>Summary of comments not accepted and reasons</b>	<b>URL (if applicable)</b>
-------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---	----------------------------

1	Public Hearing	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p> <p>Social Media</p>	<p>The city held the first citizens participation public meeting of the 2023 Annual Action Plan, Notice of funding availability February 17, 2023. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Request for CDBG Proposals was published in the local Advance News Journal on February 8, 2023. All publications were posted on the City Website, City Hall Kiosk 118 S. Cage Blvd, Public Library on 121 E. Cherokee, Pharr Development Research Center on 850 W. Dicker Road As well as the Advance News Journal 217 W. Park ave.</p>	<p>There was no citizen participation at the Public Hearing and no comments were received.</p>	<p>There was no citizen participation at the Public Hearing and No comments were received.</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)
2	Public Hearing	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p> <p>Social Media</p>	<p>The city held the second citizens participation public meeting of the 2023 Annual Action Plan, Notice of funding availability July 7, 2023. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Request for CDBG Proposals was published in the local Advance News Journal on June 28, 2023. All publications were posted on the City Website, City Hall Kiosk 118 S. Cage Blvd, Public Library on 121 E. Cherokee, Pharr Development Research Center on 850 W. Dicker Road As well as the Advance News Journal 217 W. Park ave.</p>	<p>During the Public Hearing comments were received during the hearing by a citizen of the city of Pharr. In his statement his concerns were about board members not being present during the hearings, comments about the city using funds towards economic development and that funds should not be used towards public facilities, there being so many already.</p>	<p>All comments were accepted and taken into consideration. Most comments did not apply to any of the proposed projects being brought up for discussion.</p>	

3	Public Hearing	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p> <p>Social Media</p>	<p>The city held a citizens participation public meeting of the approval of 2023 Annual Action Plan, the notification of 30 day comment period on August 3, 2023. The notice was published in the local Advance News Journal on July 12, 2023 and again on July 26, 2023. The second publication was to correct the Public Hearing meeting date from July 27, 2023 to August 3, 2023. And an addition resolution approved on August 21, 2023 on All publications were posted on the City Website, City Hall Kiosk 118 S. Cage Blvd, Public Library on 121 E. Cherokee,</p>	<p>There was no citizen participation at the Public Hearing and no comments were received.</p>	<p>There was no citizen participation at the Public Hearing and no comments were received.</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)
			Pharr Development Research Center on 850 W. Dicker Road As well as the Advance News Journal 217 W. Park ave.			

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	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing Social Media	The city held citizens participation public meeting of the approval of a Substantial Amendment to extend the current 4 year Consolidated Plan to a 5 Year plan on September 27, 2023. The notice was published in the local Advance News Journal on August 16, 2023. All publications were posted on the City Website, City Hall Kiosk 118 S. Cage Blvd, Public Library on 121 E. Cherokee, Pharr Development Research Center on 850 W. Dicker Road As well as the Advance News Journal 217 W. Park ave.	There was citizen participation received during the 30-day comment period. The city of Pharr resident sent in an email addressing several concerns. During the hearing a comment was made by a concerned citizen and accepted by city.		

**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 \$1,172,535 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 2021.

#### 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	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,172,535	0	0	1,172,535	1,172,535	The City of Pharr received \$1,172,535 total allocation for program year 2023. The City will use CDBG funds to address needs primarily in housing, public facilities and infrastructure, and public services. Funds will also be used to service the Section 108 Loan debt and for administration and planning.



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: \$		
Other	public - federal	Economic Development Public Services Other	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**

Although there is no matching requirement for the use of CDBG funds, federal funds will be leveraged through the service organization's ability to raise program funds through outside sources, other loan sources when available for housing development activities and, where applicable, the City's General Fund.

**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 publicly 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 moderate income 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
1	G-AH1: Rehabilitation of existing units	2019	2022	Affordable Housing		PN-AH1: Rehabilitation of existing units	CDBG: \$138,028 CARES Act Allocation: \$0	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 2 Household Housing Unit
2	G-AD: Program Administration	2019	2022	Program Administration		PN-AD: Program Administration	CDBG: \$234,507 CARES Act Allocation: \$0	
3	G-CD2: Public Improvements and Infrastructure	2019	2022	Non-Housing Community Development		PN-CD2: Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$245,000 CARES Act Allocation: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	G-CD3: Public Services	2019	2022	Non-Housing Community Development		PN-CD3: Public Services	CDBG: \$155,000 CARES Act Allocation: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 290 Persons Assisted
5	G-CD4: Economic Development: Jobs	2019	2022	Non-Housing Community Development		PN-CD4: Economic Development	CDBG: \$400,000	Jobs created/retained: 1 Jobs

Table 6 – Goals Summary

### Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	G-AH1: Rehabilitation of existing units
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of dilapidated homes, the CDBG funds will be utilized on a proposed (2) rehabilitation or (1) and (1) reconstruction/Rehab housing unit for Pharr residents who meet the program's housing eligibility criteria.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	G-AD: Program Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	G-CD2: Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	<b>Goal Description</b>	CDBG funds will be used to install wiring, fiber optic cables, and permanently affixed equipment such as receivers for areas to receive broadband/internet access. Eligible activities include: The acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of public facilities and improvements in collaboration with the Pharr Housing Authority. (Which include infrastructure improvements) under 24 CFR 570.201(c)

<b>4</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	G-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Transportation Services- City Wide project Senior Services Abused & Neglected Children Other Public Services
<b>5</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	G-CD4: Economic Development: Jobs
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108) provides CDBG recipients with the ability to leverage the annual grant allocation to access low-cost, flexible financing for economic development, housing, public facility, and infrastructure projects. The city will utilize 2023 CDBG funds to repay the city's section 108 loan.

# Projects

## AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

### Introduction

The following Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded activities were approved by the Pharr City Commission in 2023. The city followed its Citizens Participation Process during the development of the 2023 Action Plan and staff consulted with all the Non-profit organizations.

### Projects

#	Project Name
1	Program Administration 2023
2	Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation & Reconstruction & Rehabilitation 2023
3	Repayment of Section 108 Loan 2023
4	Public Improvements and Infrastructure 2023
5	Children Advocacy Center 2023
6	Amigos del Valle Inc. 2023
7	LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging 2023
8	Silver Ribbon Community Partners 2023
9	Ave Frontera (PS) 2023
10	LRGVDC Valley Metro (PS) 2023

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The projects listed were selected from the Non-profit agencies project proposals received and in accordance with their consistency of the priorities established through the Action Plan public meetings, public hearings and citizens participation. These projects meet the needs enumerated in the Needs Assessment and prioritization process to the extent that funding was available. Organizational capacity and ability to manage CDBG funds were also considered when selecting each individual project. Organizations with long-standing profiles of successful project management were given additional consideration. Community input was strongly encouraged through comment periods and the city's participation process during the decision-making process. However, no comments were received at the public hearings or during the comment periods.

As always, the most obvious obstacles to meeting the underserved needs is the lack of sufficient funding and a general sense of apathy from the lack of public participation during public hearings. Overall the

2023 Action Plan activities will benefit Low-to-Moderate Income families based on the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data for Census Tracts and Block Groups of Hidalgo County and the city.

**AP-38 Project Summary**  
**Project Summary Information**



1	<b>Project Name</b>	Program Administration 2023
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	G-AD: Program Administration
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	PN-AD: Program Administration
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$234,507
	<b>Description</b>	CDBG funds will be utilized on expenses related to the administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, including but not limited to salaries, office supplies and materials, and the general operations of the program.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
	<b>Location Description</b>	CDBG Program Administration
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	CDBG funds will be utilized on expenses related to the administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, including but not limited to salaries, office supplies and materials, and any and all eligible general administration of the CDBG program.
2	<b>Project Name</b>	Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation & Reconstruction & Rehabilitation 2023
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	G-AH1: Rehabilitation of existing units
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	PN-AH1: Rehabilitation of existing units
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$138,028
	<b>Description</b>	Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of dilapidated homes, the CDBG funds will be utilized on a proposed (2) rehabilitation or (1) and (1) reconstruction/Rehab housing unit for Pharr residents who meet the program's housing eligibility criteria.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2024

	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The Homeowner Occupied Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program (OORRP) is designed to provide rehabilitation and/or Reconstruction assistance to eligible low and moderate income Homeowners residing in the city of Pharr. A total of 2 families is the estimated number of beneficiaries for this project.
	<b>Location Description</b>	This project will be undertaking for qualified applicants who reside within the city limits of the City of Pharr. Additionally, all applicants must meet the program qualifications set forth by HUD.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The Homeowner Occupied Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program (OORRP) is to provide rehabilitation and/or Reconstruction assistance to eligible low and moderate income Homeowners residing in the city of Pharr. The Program’s objective is to implement a rehabilitation/reconstruction program to address the deterioration of substandard homes by rehabilitating or reconstructing them.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Repayment of Section 108 Loan 2023
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	G-CD2: Public Improvements and Infrastructure G-CD4: Economic Development: Jobs
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	PN-CD4: Economic Development
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$400,000
	<b>Description</b>	The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108) provides CDBG recipients with the ability to leverage the annual grant allocation to access low-cost, flexible financing for economic development, housing, public facility, and infrastructure projects. The city will utilize 2023 CDBG funds to repay the city's section 108 loan.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The city's aquatic park is available to 80,179 residents and to the public who average a \$39,606 AMI income per household. This amount is under the low to moderate income CDBG standards.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Project location is in the south Pharr area on 1000 S Fir St, Pharr, TX 78577.

	<b>Planned Activities</b>	<p>The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108) provides CDBG recipients with the ability to leverage the annual grant allocation to access low-cost, flexible financing for economic development, housing, public facility, and infrastructure projects. The city will utilize 2023 CDBG funds to repay the city's section 108 loan.</p> <p>Section 108 funds have been utilized on the development/construction of an aquatic park facility with water recreational amenities since 2010.</p>
4	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Improvements and Infrastructure 2023
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	G-CD2: Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	PN-CD2: Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$245,000
	<b>Description</b>	CDBG funds will be used to install wiring, fiber optic cables, and permanently affixed equipment such as receivers for areas to receive broadband/internet access. Eligible activities include: The acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of public facilities and improvements in collaboration with the Pharr Housing Authority. (Which include infrastructure improvements) under 24 CFR 570.201(c)
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	CDBG funds will be used to provide accessibility services to low-moderate income qualified persons residing in the city of Pharr. Through the construction/infrastructure activity this project will assist approximately 50 persons.
	<b>Location Description</b>	CDBG project location is in the city of Pharr located on 118 S. Pharr Blvd. Pharr TX 78577.

	<b>Planned Activities</b>	CDBG funds will be used to install wiring, fiber optic cables, and permanently affixed equipment such as receivers for areas to receive broadband/internet access. Eligible activities include: The acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of public facilities and improvements in collaboration with the Pharr Housing Authority. (Which include infrastructure improvements) under 24 CFR 570.201(c) CDBG funds will be used to provide accessibility services to low-moderate income qualified persons residing in the city of Pharr. Through the construction/infrastructure activity this project will assist approximately 50 persons.
5	<b>Project Name</b>	Children Advocacy Center 2023
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	G-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	PN-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$15,000
	<b>Description</b>	Project expenditures include but are not limited to the reimbursement of expenses associated with the salaries of two (2) forensic interviewers. Projected beneficiaries for this project include 110 unduplicated persons.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	A proposed count of 110 unduplicated children will be served with with this project. Children served through this project are 100% low-moderate and who meet all HUD activity requirements.
	<b>Location Description</b>	This an abused and neglected children public service activity and location is at the Children's Advocacy Center located in 525 W Wisconsin Rd, Edinburg, TX 78539.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	CDBG Funds will be allocated to provide counseling services to abused and neglected children. A total projected of 110 unduplicated children will be assisted with this activity.
6	<b>Project Name</b>	Amigos del Valle Inc. 2023
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	G-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	PN-CD3: Public Services

	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$30,000
	<b>Description</b>	Project funds will be utilized for the Meals on Wheels program to qualified City of Pharr seniors. A total of 25 unduplicated seniors are expected to benefit from this project. Amigos Del Valle, Inc. (ADV) prides itself on product knowledge and makes every effort to provide the best available services on the daily nourishment meals for our Senior citizens throughout the Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy and Starr Counties. Amigos Mission is to positively impact the quality of life in the Rio Grande Valley through the provision of diversified and effective human services, community development activities and advocacy which are directed to low income families; and with special emphasis in assisting the elder population to maintain active, healthy and independent lives.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	A total of 25 unduplicated seniors who meet the low-moderate income limits will be assisted with the meals on wheels program. ADV Nutrition Centers – Amigos Del Valle (advrgv.org)
	<b>Location Description</b>	Location for this project activity is out of the Amigos Del Valle facility located in Edinburg Texas who then deliver the meals to qualified seniors residing in the city of Pharr.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	A total of 25 unduplicated seniors who meet the low-moderate income limits will be assisted with the meals on wheels program. ADV Nutrition Centers – Amigos Del Valle (advrgv.org)
<b>7</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging 2023
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	G-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	PN-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$30,000

	<b>Description</b>	Project funds will be utilized to assist elderly qualified city of Pharr seniors with Health maintenance medical supplies such as: underwear, wipes, reusable under pads, pull ups, wipe bags, compression stockings, sleeves. Program will assist them with up to \$500 of services. The Area Agency on Aging of the Lower Rio Grande Valley is designated by the Texas Health and Human Services to be the focal point for services to persons 60 or older within the region. The AAA of the Lower Rio Grande Valley administers services funded by the Older Americans Act (OAA) with emphasis placed on frail, rural, low income, minority and limited English individuals. The AAA purchases various short-term services for eligible clients.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	CDBG funds will be utilized to serve approximately 20 unduplicated elderly persons with senior services.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Location for this project activity is out of Weslaco Texas on 301 W. Railroad Blvd., Weslaco TX 78596.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Project funds will be utilized to assist elderly qualified city of Pharr seniors with expenses that they may not have planned to purchase. Program will assist them with up to \$500 of services. The Area Agency on Aging of the Lower Rio Grande Valley is designated by the Texas Health and Human Services to be the focal point for services to persons 60 or older within the AAA's region. The AAA of the Lower Rio Grande Valley administers services funded by the Older Americans Act (OAA) with emphasis placed on frail, rural, low income, minority and limited English individuals. The AAA purchases various short-term services for eligible clients.
<b>8</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Silver Ribbon Community Partners 2023
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	G-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	PN-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$15,000

	<b>Description</b>	CDBG funds will be utilized on providing utility (electricity) assistance to Pharr elderly under a presumed benefit status. The bills be paid directly to the electricity service provider and will include late bills. The maximum amount to be paid per client shall not exceed a one-time amount of \$500.00. Silver Ribbon provides the following to the elderly and disabled in our community (1) advocacy and community outreach (2) resources (incontinence supplies, bed liners, wheelchairs, shower chairs) through two Silver Ribbon Resource rooms (3) Financial assistance when facing a crisis. SRCP can assist with rent, rent deposit, utility, utility deposit, medical expense and small medical equipment.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	CDBG funds will be utilized on providing utility (electricity) assistance to Pharr elderly under a presumed benefit status. The bills be paid directly to the electricity service provider and will include late bills. The maximum amount to be paid per client shall not exceed a one-time amount of \$500.00. A projected total of 20 unduplicated persons will be assisted with this project.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Silver community outreach services are provided out of 1919 Austin Ave, McAllen facility to qualified residents of Pharr.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	CDBG funds will be utilized on providing utility (electricity) assistance to Pharr elderly under a presumed benefit status. The bills be paid directly to the electricity service provider and will include late bills. The maximum amount to be paid per client shall not exceed a one time total of \$500.00 per qualified participant. Silver Ribbon provides the following to the elderly and disabled in our community (1) advocacy and community outreach (2) resources (incontinence supplies, bed liners, wheel chairs, shower chairs) through two Silver Ribbon Resource rooms (3 ) Financial assistance when facing a crisis. SRCP can assist with rent, rent deposit, utility, utility deposit, medical expense and small medical equipment.
9	<b>Project Name</b>	Ave Frontera (PS) 2023
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	G-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	PN-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$5,000

	<b>Description</b>	Project funds will be utilized to cover salaries of teachers who deliver liberal arts/educational services to qualified city of Pharr residents. Ave Frontera will serve as a vehicle of engagement that is family-centered that instills cultural pride and awareness amongst its members and fulfills their physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual needs. 05Z Other Public Services Not Listed in 05A-05Y, 03T will be used as the CDBG matrix code for this project.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	CDBG funds will be utilized to carry out project activity to serve about 25 persons who are low-moderate income and are qualified residents of the City of Pharr. The beneficiaries will consist of qualified children and/or adults who are Pharr residents.
	<b>Location Description</b>	CDBG funds project location is in 4031 Camino Real Viejo, Weslaco Texas main facility. Services are for qualified residents of Pharr.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	CDBG Funds will be used to cover salaries of case workers/teachers who deliver the services to qualified persons. Ave Frontera will serve as a vehicle of engagement that is family-centered that instills cultural pride and awareness amongst its members and fulfills their physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual needs. Ave Frontera will develop into a national model for families to lead and advocate for the cultural and educational well-being of their community the 05Z Other Public Services Not Listed in 05A-05Y, 03T will be used as the CDBG matrix code for this project.
<b>10</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	LRGVDC Valley Metro (PS) 2023
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	G-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	PN-CD3: Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$60,000
	<b>Description</b>	Project funds will be utilized to cover salaries of LRGVDC Valley Metro drivers. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's (LRGVDC) transit system provides public transportation to the City of Pharr residents. This is a city wide project that will target a total of 77,460 persons who are low-moderate income persons.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2024



<p><b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b></p>	<p>Valley Metro Transportation services are made available city wide project. A total of 77,460 persons can access the service of which 55.74% (43,175) are low to moderate income.</p>
<p><b>Location Description</b></p>	<p>This is a city wide service offered throughout the city of Pharr. LRGVDC Valley Metro serves out of 301 W. Railroad Blvd. Weslaco TX 78596.</p>
<p><b>Planned Activities</b></p>	<p>Project funds will be utilized to cover salaries of LRGVDC Valley Metro drivers. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's (LRGVDC) transit system provides public transportation to the City of Pharr residents. This is a city wide project that will target a total of 77,460 persons who are low-moderate income persons.</p>

## **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 funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is available for use in any of the CDBG eligible census tracts, depending on the specifics of the designated activities. Also, some funding is available according to individual benefit rather than area benefit. It is, therefore, difficult to provide reasonable projections of the distribution of funds by target area.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

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

The initial commitments between the CDBG funded non-profit agencies and the City of Pharr is to share the entitlement funds that will benefit the low-to-moderate-income areas of the city. The proposed allocation of funds is based on federal funding requirements for each formula-based allocated grant. Areas of low to moderate-income concentration and certain areas of high minority concentration are targeted. Areas of low homeownership and deteriorating housing conditions were also considered in the targeting process.

### **Discussion**

The distribution of funds by target area is projected to be primarily citywide due to use of 100% funds for administrative, non-profit support, and individual benefit-oriented programmatic uses of the funds.

# Affordable Housing

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

### Introduction

The city will continue to be pro active and maintain a close communication with Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) the housing administrator of the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Program (OORRP). AHSTI has also committed to being more assertive with the applicants when it comes to them providing required documents and records to AHSTI. Applicants that do not provide requested records in a timely fashion delays the process.

City concerns have been expressed with AHSTI when assessing the OORRP's future funding, but the city also acknowledges that each application is subject to unforeseen obstacles. These challenges again delay the extensive process for the qualifying homeowner. The city also acknowledges overall systematic delays due to an overwhelming underserved demographic population and their socioeconomic status. The city met with AHSTI after the program year 2022 and has been meeting consistent and frequent to discuss the lack of meeting the city's goals therefore determining again low production of housing units is a systematic regional subject. It must be acknowledged that other regional housing entities and housing programs are faced with a similar issue and is apparent across the board. Last the city is in discussion and awaiting HUD monitoring report to continue to improve the (OORRP) program.

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported</b>	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	2
Special-Needs	0
Total	2

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

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through</b>	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	1
Rehab of Existing Units	1
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	2

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

### Discussion

These figures relate to production targets specified in the annual goals for 2022. CDBG funding for the Owner-occupied Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Program (OORRP) may target more households

because of the carry-over balances from the 2019- 2021 OORRP award.

During FY 2022-2023 the city did not allocate funding for rental assistance through the Community Development Block Grant Program. However, rental assistance and mortgage assistance funding was provided to Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc., (AHSTI) through the CDBG-CV Round 3 Grant. The total amount provided to AHSTI, Inc. was \$ 335,000.00. This amount was exhausted 100% on or before the deadline.

## **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 approximately 70 percent of an eligible tenants rent. Section 8 vouchers are the main type of public housing assistance issued 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 is the other major form of assistance.

As of July 1, 2023, the Pharr Housing Authority has (129) Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and (861) Low-rent Public Housing units occupied. Also they are 100% complete with the emergency Housing Voucher program (EHV).

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

The Pharr Housing Authority works with other public housing agencies, and local and county governments, to identify impediments to fair housing and address those impediments through the use of local resources. The Housing Authority recruits landlords to make housing units available to the Section 8 voucher families by offering competitive rents based on the rent reasonableness of the surrounding apartment rental community. The Housing Authority is applying for a RAD Blend conversion of public housing to Section 8 vouchers that will allow the Housing Authority to leverage its assets and obtain equity to rehabilitate and/or develop additional affordable housing. The Housing Authority continues to apply for NOFOs and grant opportunities and it looks to compete for Low-Income Housing Tax Credit subsidies to develop additional affordable housing.

The City of Pharr will continue to support the administration of the Pharr Housing Authority and provide technical assistance as necessary. CDBG funds will not be used to support the PHA.

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

The Pharr Housing Authority applied for and received a Family Self Sufficiency Program Grant which is an employment and savings incentive program offered to Section 8 and Public Housing families. The Housing Authority works with local partners to provide support services such as vocational education, GED registration, personal budgeting, home buyer education, credit counseling, English as a second language classes, youth programs, and many other support services. The Housing Authority through partnerships with the City of Pharr and the PSJA ISD, offers scholarships to Public Housing and Section 8 graduating seniors. The Housing Authority continues providing support services that promote personal development, self-sufficiency and homeownership. The housing authority has also partnered with the

city to begin a broadband internet project with CDBG 2023 funds.

Management of the public housing authority coordinates meetings with residents to discuss operations of the housing authority. The PHA Resident Advisory Board meets monthly to discuss resident initiatives and enact policies. Further, Pharr Housing Authority and Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) began a successful program utilizing Section 8 vouchers for homeownership. Information on acquiring/purchasing affordable homes from AHSTI is readily available at the housing authority. The City's CDBG housing projects funds are utilized to assist Section 8 Homeownership Recipients transition into homeownership.

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

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development does not designate the Pharr Housing Authority as a troubled Public Housing Authority.

**Discussion**

The Pharr Public Housing Authority will continue to provide programs that support self-sufficiency to help the public housing residents move from public housing to home-ownership.

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

### **Introduction**

The City of Pharr does not receive Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. ESG funds are the primary source to provide services for the homeless individuals and families as well as prevent persons from becoming homeless. The sole ESG recipients in the area are the City of McAllen and the County of Hidalgo - Urban County Program. However, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be used to assist homeless individuals and families through other public services available through subrecipients. Last, the city will provide services that benefit persons with special needs.

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

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

The City of Pharr does not have systems of care that provide housing and supportive services to those experiencing homelessness that can assist them in ending their homelessness. The City acknowledges and supports HUD's nationwide commitment to ending or reducing homelessness by providing funding opportunities to nonprofit organizations and State and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families, however the city does not have a large enough homeless population to obligate federal funds towards to. The city then relies on the Hidalgo County's partnership to link any referring homeless individuals to the proper channels of assistance.

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 began a collection of city and community wide data through the Urban County Program of Hidalgo County's Homeless Management Integrated system (HMIS) since January 2017 when a coordinated entry system was introduced. Since then, the city has participated in the Point in Time survey count annually in January with the exception of this past 2021 year due to the ongoing pandemic.

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 and Catholic Charities of the RGV to facilitate and assist with the 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 the needs of the homeless, thus allowing an opportunity to partner with housing and supportive services programs related to and for the homeless.

Currently, there are no projects in Pharr that utilize the HMIS system but our staff is trained and knowledgeable with the HMIS software.

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

To address the needs of a homeless community, the City will rely on the support, consultation and collaboration of the Texas Homeless Network, City departments, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program, community volunteers, donors, and homeless agenda advocates.

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 independently.

The Salvation Army is available to provide group homes, emergency shelters, and transitional living centers and to 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, families, and to youth where family care is undesirable or unavailable. For those families with temporary needs, family service programs help families and needy individuals with emergency food, housing, and utility assistance.

After consultation with the THN's Continuum of Care (CoC) Manager for the TX BoS CoC, the following information was shared with the city:

"A critical aspect of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, is a focus on viewing the local homeless response as a coordinated system of homeless assistance options as opposed to homeless assistance programs and funding sources that operate independently in a community. To facilitate this perspective the Act now requires communities to measure their performance as a coordinated system, in addition to analyzing performance by specific projects or project types. CoCs also play an integral role in Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) jurisdictions' planning process. They are required to provide the jurisdiction with the information necessary to complete the Con Plan(s) for homeless assistance provided to persons within the CoC's geographic area that falls within the Con Plan jurisdiction's geographic area, including data on performance measures. HUD will use the system-level



performance information as a competitive element in its annual CoC Program Competition and to gauge the state of the homeless response system nationally."

Ultimately, a system of community partnering with entitlements, service agencies and Continuum of Care's should be the goal to creating a unified team to end reduce and make brief and rare homelessness for all.

**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**

Victims of domestic violence who utilize the transitional housing complex through Women Together Foundation are the most likely group of formerly homeless individuals who can obtain or maintain permanent housing. Some of these transitional housing residents use the services provided by Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. to purchase their own homes or services. Also as to be expected, chronically homeless persons and/or unaccompanied youth have less success rate in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing in our community.

The City of Pharr will continue its collaboration with the Hidalgo County's Urban County Program and on their use of ESG funds to fund both the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing categories. The County expects that the Rapid Re-housing funds will help those individuals living in health care, mental health, foster care and other institutions or facilities. The non-profits will continue to work with those agencies to obtain referrals through the Coordinated Entry System to assist those clients with financial rental assistance and utility assistance.

Another group that assists families with rental assistance are the homeless education liaisons in the school district(s). Every school district must have a person who serves as the liaison, to assist students and their families who are experiencing homelessness and the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo district has two (2) liaisons in this category to assist students. The homeless education definition is broader than the HUD definition. For example, under the education definition, people living "doubled up" with other families could be considered "homeless" (depending on the circumstances of the living arrangement agreement), but people living doubled up with other families would not be considered "homeless" under the HUD definition.

For FY 2023, Family Endeavors & Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley specifically target veterans and their families with homeless prevention activities.

**Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely**

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

The city will rely on the support, consultation and collaboration of the Texas Homeless Network, City staff, volunteers, donors, and advocates for the homeless throughout the 2023 program year.

The City anticipates increasing 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

## **Discussion**

In Addressing the needs of the homeless or persons threatened with homelessness is a "High" priority.

The City has a stake in assuring that quality services are rendered by homeless service providers. The City will endeavor to expend some of the CDBG allocation in a manner to maximize the benefit for homeless persons or those precariously housed.

Service providers for persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families as well as the public housing authority did not request CDBG funds in order to provide services; even so, persons who may fall into these categories are not specifically prohibited from receiving CDBG-funded housing or social services.

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

### **Introduction:**

Affordable housing is among the industries being hit the hardest with the new barriers/hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Pharr does not believe that local building regulations, development fees, subdividing fees, and environmental assessments constituted barriers to fair and affordable housing. The majority of these regulations or policies are not considered excessive, exclusionary, discriminatory, or duplicitous.

COVID-19 and its economic downturn have felt more like a natural disaster than a typical recession. Affordable and workforce housing organizations immediately felt the virus' impact as they navigated city and statewide lockdowns, newly remote workplaces, eviction moratoriums and on-site outbreaks. During this coronavirus outbreak, the lack of enough affordable housing becomes even more urgent and visible to the Pharr community. This lack of an adequate supply of affordable housing adds exponentially to the challenge of responding to the virus outbreak.

### **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 proposes to overcome barriers to affordable housing during the 2023 action plan year by taking the following actions:

- Support the increased production of affordable housing through public and private partnerships with developers and capacity building for nonprofits.
- Continue to help facilitate access to below-market-rate priced units by leveraging federal funds with other funding (state low income tax credit, federal home loan bank, private sector).
- Maintain a list of private partner lenders providing affordable housing financing/subsidies and offer buyers access to down payment and closing costs.
- Identify and support local developers seeking additional federal, state, and private sources of funds for affordable housing.
- Encourage private sector support for market and mixed rate affordable housing.
- Support fair housing workshops or information sessions among non-English speaking populations and

low income persons.

- Partner with local industry to conduct ongoing outreach/education regarding fair housing. Provide information and multi-lingual fair housing flyers and pamphlets in a variety of public locations and continue to provide outreach to non English speaking people.

**Discussion:**

The full impact of this coronavirus pandemic is still unfolding, but to date the city has faced the following similar obstacles and will probably keep facing as new surges of variants of the virus emerge.

- Slowdown of construction projects caused by increasing labor and materials shortages creating risk of meeting placed-in-service deadlines and potential cost overruns;

- Staff challenges in traveling to and supporting construction sites while maintaining personal health safety;

- Unique challenges in maintaining safe space and “distancing” at occupied rehab sites;

The CDBG Division will continue to work closely with the Planning Department to provide technical assistance to implement the Analysis of Impediments (AI) as well as continue to work with non-profit organizations to promote affordable housing without barriers.

## **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction:**

The information below provides the City’s planned actions to address underserved needs, maintain affordable housing, reduce lead-based paint hazards, reduce the number of poverty-level families, develop institutional structure, and enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

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

Meeting underserved needs has always had its barriers; whether it being cultural, economic or language barriers, general and government funding is never enough to address the underserved. The City reviewed and evaluated the agency applications during the decision-making process to ensure that limited funds would be used in the most effective and prioritized manner. The City will review and determine if there are obstacles affecting the ability of organizations to apply for CDBG funding during the next internal application cycle.

If needed, CDBG staff will provide technical assistance and guidance in applying for next year’s funding. The following are basic actions the City can use to address this social need from the period of action October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024:

1. Seek out additional funding sources to support housing and public services activities;
2. Assist local non-profit organizations by leveraging CDBG dollars and provide technical assistance when needed to support their efforts;
3. 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;
4. Continue to support existing public (social) services programs through the allocation and administration of City of Pharr general fund dollars;
5. Work with the City’s Development Services Department and legislative partners to implement city codes and ordinances.

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

The City will undertake the following to foster and maintain affordable housing:

- Implement its housing assistance program through an experienced non-profit organization.
- Make the most of limited funds by reviewing and evaluating its policy to provide housing

reconstruction if housing rehabilitation is not feasible.

- Review its CDBG policy related to disposition of reconstructed housing units when the original recipient is no longer able to live in the home due to death or other unforeseen circumstances.
- To provide for updates in housing needs and develop appropriate strategies, the City will evaluate the need to update its Comprehensive Plan.
- Review opportunities to apply for HOME program funds.
- Expand communications with the Texas Homeless Network and contact the Hidalgo County Homeless Coalition.
- Conduct analysis of impacts if fees and rates are being considered for an increase.
- Provide CDBG funding for support services that assist residents maintain a stable environment. Such areas may include food/nutrition, child development, education, and transportation.
- Continue to make economic development and infrastructure/facilities investments to support and strengthen the City's economic structure and living environment.
- Communicate and work with private and public organizations that support affordable housing opportunities.

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

Each year, the City summarizes its role with lead-based paint in their action plan agenda. The use of CDBG funds requires the city to comply with lead-based paint standards on any single-family residential unit built prior to January 1, 1978. Rehabilitations, if done without regard to lead, can generate very high levels of lead in the home environment. To ensure that these home improvements are completed safely, the city will have Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) perform an X-ray laboratory testing of all painted surfaces by a certified personnel on units built prior to 1978, in accordance with the HUD rules and regulations. AHSTI will ensure the unit is officially certified to not contain lead based paint. If lead-based paint is confirmed, all repainting and remodeling will be done using specific lead-safe procedures. Rehabilitation activities that cost less than \$5,000 generally call for the use of safe work practices and work site clearance. Activities between \$5,000 and \$25,000 require risk assessment actions and interim controls. Rehabilitation activities costing more than \$25,000 require risk assessment and abatement activities.

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

The City will continue to fund public service activities in 2023 up to the maximum 15% of the allocation as allowed by the regulations. Through its Economic Development Corporation and the Pharr Bridge and other economic development initiatives, the City will provide opportunities that foster job creation/retention and investments in local businesses and industry. The Pharr Bridge is a major contributor to the City's economy and plays a key role in the economic well-being of the City and ultimately its residents. Further, the City will explore other opportunities for collaboration with the local school district and other educational institutions. The 2023 action plan activities will contribute to

reducing the number of poverty-level families.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

Through the citizen participation process, needs assessment and market analysis, the city has identified gaps in the institutional structure with regards to communication and coordination with other city departments.

The city will continue to work with the other city departments and various public service agencies, government departments, local municipalities, and special needs boards and commissions to find opportunities to better serve the citizens of Pharr. These relationships are integral in streamlining the implementation of CDBG projects in a timely fashion. The city collaborates with the surrounding entitlement communities in the provision of services as well as in the implementation of HUD program requirements. It is the intent of the city to continue working together on HUD related responsibilities.

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

Based on the past experience of the city implementing its' citizens participation and consultation process, the City will consider the following options to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies during the 2022 program year:

- Maintain a contact list of public and private housing and social service agencies.

Expand contact list to include organizations that traditionally have not participated in submitting applications

- for CDBG funding.
- Review the opportunity to create a databank to track requests for services, services available from different organizations, and referrals made.
- Conduct annual meetings between City staff and private housing and service agencies to determine if any city activities are impeding or could better serve agency missions and clients.
- Review the opportunity to formally offer and provide technical assistance with the CDBG grant applications process.
- Conduct roundtable discussions with representatives of various businesses, local industries, developers, and social service agencies.
- Conduct regular meetings with the PHA and social service support agencies.
- Work with agencies and organizations to implement fair housing laws and requirements

### **Discussion:**

The actions cited in this section of this action plan document are primarily the continuation of what the

city is currently doing in the various areas of community development. No major obstacles in the institutional structure have been identified that need to be addressed. The city is also satisfied with its efforts to coordinate with private housing and social service agencies.



## Program Specific Requirements

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

#### Introduction:

The City of Pharr budgets at least 80% out of the proposed \$1,172,535 of CDBG dollars to be used on activities that benefit low and moderate income persons and on high priority projects. Additionally, the city budgets 20% of its annual entitlement allocation on the program administration of the CDB G program and no more than 15% into public service activities.

#### 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
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### 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%

NA

