



Fifth Program Year Action Plan

Narrative Responses

GENERAL

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary is required. Include the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan and an evaluation of past performance.

This report is the City of Cuyahoga Falls' Year 5 Action Plan of a 5-year Strategic Plan for 2009-2013 that identifies activities it will undertake as part of the Community Development Block Grant Program in 2013/2014 to address priority needs in the community. The 2013 Annual Action Plan outlines the resources available, the programs and projects to be funded and the proposed projects for the 2013/2014, program year.

As stated in the 2009-2013 Consolidated Plan and amendment, the City of Cuyahoga Falls will use CDBG Entitlement funds for the following priorities – rehabilitating housing for low to moderate households, replacing unsatisfactory infrastructure, creating jobs for low to moderate income persons, eliminating slum and blight, and brownfields within the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The overall goals of these activities are to provide safe and affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities.

The anticipated grant allocation for 2013/2014 year is projected to be approximately 5% below last year's allocation. Therefore, an estimate of \$558,720 together with available unexpended housing and economic development revolving loan funds (RLF) which amount to \$187,510, program income, both presently available and anticipated amount to \$68,027 and anticipated economic development and housing RLF funds amounting to \$106,529 provide total available funding of \$920,786. These funds are expected to leverage a significant amount of private resources.

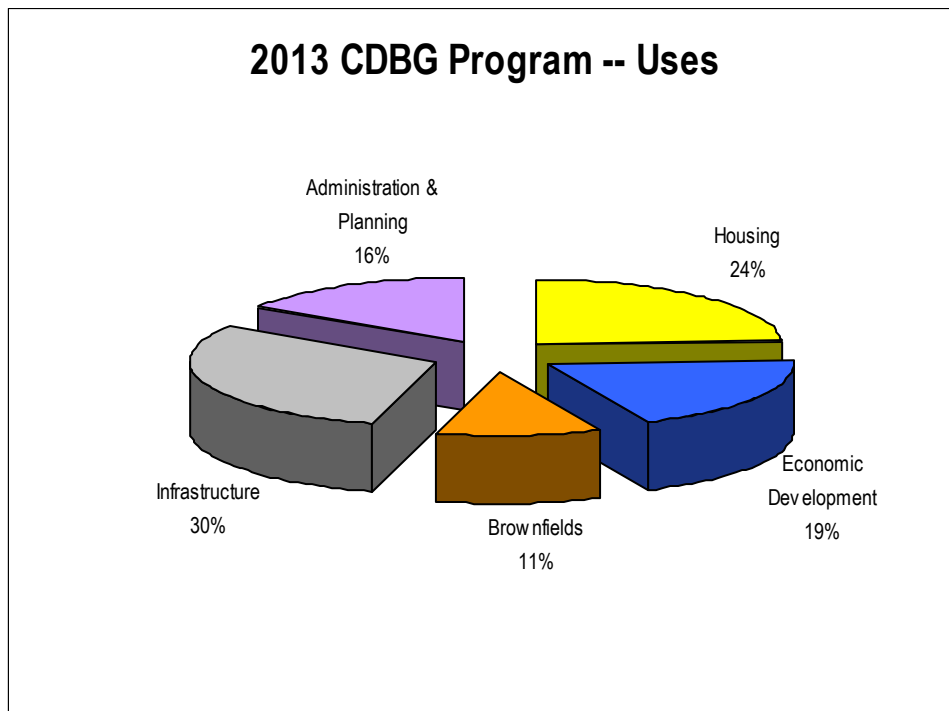
The Annual Action Plan identifies housing and community development activities in accordance with the Strategic Plan. These activities include the prevention of homelessness, the reduction of lead-based paint hazards, removal of barriers to affordable housing development, increased improvements to local tax base, and addressing underserved needs. The 2013 grant funds combined with the existing and anticipated revolving loan funds and program income have been allocated to the following activity categories: \$223,696 for Housing Activities, \$175,192 for Economic Development Activities, \$100,475 for Brownfields, \$275,423 for Infrastructure Improvements, and \$146,000 for administration and planning costs including Fair Housing Program, support for Infoline HMIS system and Summit County Lead Paint Abatement grant match.

**PROPOSED BUDGET
FY 2013 CDBG ALLOCATION AMOUNTS**

A total of \$920,786 (CDBG/Program Income/RLF) will be available for programming efforts to carry out the City of Cuyahoga Falls' Annual Action Plan in 2013. These resources include:

Sources	Amount	Percentage
FY 2013 Grant	\$558,720	61%
Housing RLF (Available)	\$59,065	6%
Housing RLF (Anticipated)	\$16,630	2%
Economic Development RLF (Available)	\$128,445	14%
Economic Development RLF (Anticipated)	\$89,899	10%
Program Income (Available)	\$39,455	4%
Program Income (Anticipated)	\$28,572	3%
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$920,786</u>	<u>100%</u>

Uses	Amount	Percentage
Housing	\$223,696	24%
Economic Development	\$175,192	19%
Brownfields	\$100,475	11%
Infrastructure	\$275,423	30%
Administration/Planning	\$146,000	16%
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$920,786</u>	<u>100%</u>



HOUSING ACTIVITIES

Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Activities \$223,696

Home Improvement Loan Program \$140,696

Utilized to assist owner-occupants in making necessary home improvements that correct issues identified as emergency in nature, safety code violations and conservation improvements. Owner-occupants whose income is categorized at or below 80% of the median household income are eligible to participate in this program. The maximum loan amount is \$15,000 from the Home Improvement Loan Fund.

Emergency Grant \$15,000

Available to owner-occupants whose income is categorized as having median income of 80% or less and currently experiencing an emergency condition. Conditions are determined to be an emergency if they pose an immediate, serious threat to the health, welfare and/or safety of the occupants. This condition must be recent in nature and cannot exceed \$5,000.

Independent Living Grant \$20,000

Available to owner-occupants whose income is categorized at or below 80% of the median household income and who have a doctor certified disability. The minimum amount for an Independent Living Grant is \$4,000. This grant may be used for improvements to make the dwelling safe and comfortable for the individual to remain in their home. Such improvement as strobe smoke detectors, strobe door chimes, lever door handles, grab bars, voice controlled thermostat and wheel chair ramps that assist and improve the safety of the home for low to moderate-income disabled persons in the community.

Exterior Repair Loan \$15,000

Available to homeowners but they must have an exterior inspection performed of the repairs they intend to complete. All code violations must be corrected first with the loan. This loan requires a 10% homeowner contribution with a maximum loan of \$5,000. Qualifying repairs include roof replacement, exterior painting and minor painting supplies, repair of porches, steps and decks, repair to exterior foundation walls, required storm water repairs, gutters and downspouts and repair and/or demolition of garage to bring the property up to code.

Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance \$33,000

This program is available to low to moderate income persons purchasing their first home, having completed eight hours of HUD certified pre-purchasing homebuyer counseling, and whose house payment can not exceed 30% of their gross monthly income. Maximum loan assistance of \$3,000 can be provided with a second mortgage taken on

the residence but can be forgiven if the buyer remains in the home for a period of five years.

A Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant is being applied for through HUD in partnership with the Summit County Development Department, the City of Barberton and the City of Akron with the Summit County Health Department as the lead agency. The City of Cuyahoga Falls has pledged a match of \$10,000 from the Housing Activities Program.

The national objective for Housing Activities is **Low Mod Housing**.

Performance Measurements

Objective – Providing Decent Affordable Housing

Outcome – Availability/Accessibility

INFRASTRUCTURE

French Mill Run (Mixed-Use Development) \$275,423

This mixed-use development is located in the French’s Mill Mixed Use Center (MU-3) at the northwest corner of State Road/Bath Road Intersection. The City is making a \$275,423 (or .015%) infrastructure investment to French Mill Run whose total costs are estimated at \$18,000,000. CDBG funds will help construct the 1,100 lineal foot public street that will connect State and Bath Roads. The mixed-use development will include 208 luxury loft apartments and 10,000 square feet of retail space.

National Objectives: The development will create at least 10 low/mod jobs

Performance Measurements

Objective – Creating Economic Opportunities

Performance Measurements

Objective – Suitable Living Environment

Outcome – Availability/Accessibility

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

CDBG Economic Development Loan Program \$175,192

The City will continue a job creation program by providing loans and economic development incentives. The goal of the Consolidated Plan is to create a minimum of four (4) jobs each program year, and we anticipate being able to meet that goal with the available funds in FY 2012-2013. Small local business expansions will be targeted. In addition, the City will target businesses desiring to use funds for new equipment and exterior building and site improvements. The national objective is **Low Mod Jobs**.

Performance Measurements

Objective – Creating Economic Opportunities

Outcome – Availability/Accessibility

Spot Slum & Blight/Brownfield Revitalization \$100,475

The City will target at least one property for demolition when designated as structurally unsound and unsafe. The national objective is **Slum & Blight Spot Basis**.

Performance Measurements

Objective – Suitable Living Environment

Outcome – Availability/Accessibility

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

CDBG Program Administration and Planning \$146,000

Administration and planning funds will be used for all activities related to Fair Housing, Homelessness and program administration (i.e. salaries, fringe benefits, studies, etc.) as well as Brownfield assessments related to redevelopment and reuse of existing Brownfields, appraisals, environmental testing, design and related professional services. The City is budgeting \$20,000 to create at least one Historic Preservation District within the Cuyahoga River Planning Area, to also form a Design and Historic Review Board and to apply to become a Certified Local Government (CLG) with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. The CLG will allow the city to receive grants from the State of Ohio and allow historic preservation projects to receive City tax credits. Funds will be used to hire a qualified consultant to help complete these tasks.

General Questions

1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed during the next year. Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is located in north central Summit County Ohio and is a community of approximately 27 square miles. Based on the 2010 Census, the population was 49,652 and accounts for approximately 9.2% of the County population. Cuyahoga Falls is the second largest community in Summit County.

The City is divided into four planning areas: Cuyahoga River Area, State-Portage Area, Bailey-Munroe Falls Area and Northampton Area consisting of 13 targeted low to moderate income census blocks. The statistics used for the four planning areas was based on the 2000 census data and will be updated after the 2010 data becomes available with the current information at this level.

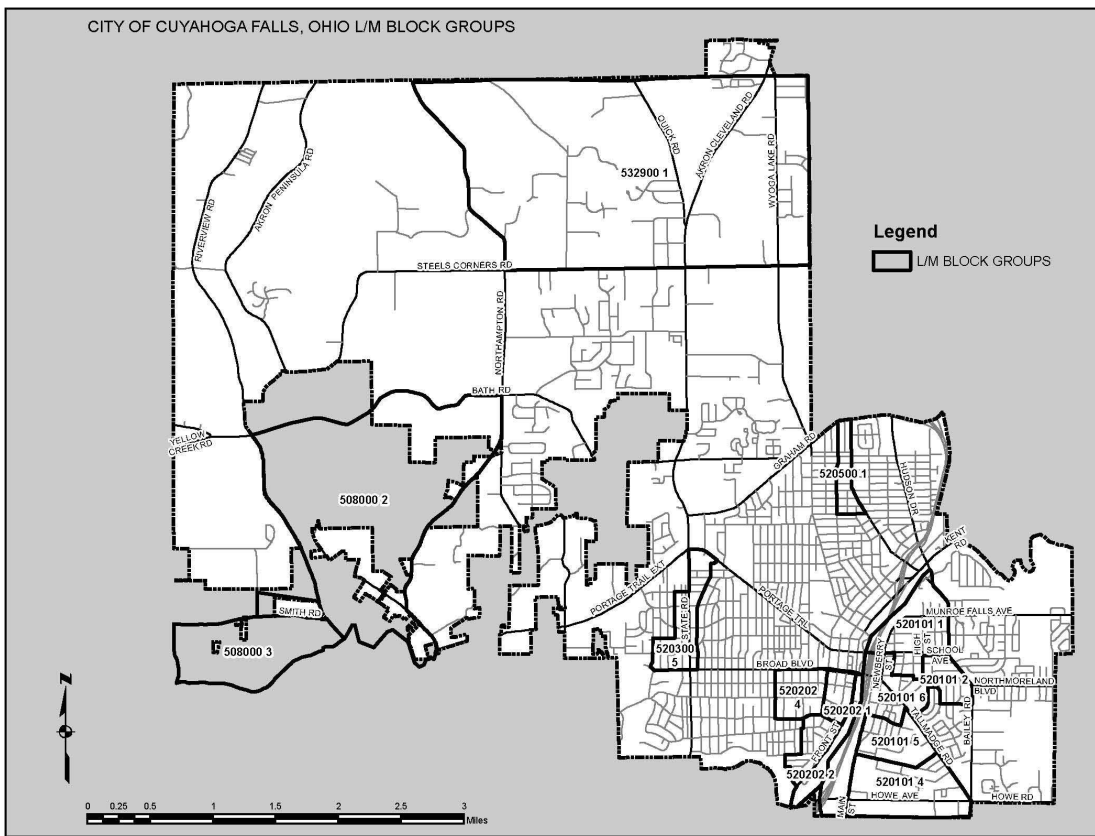
The **Cuyahoga River Area** contains seven (7) low moderate income block groups in census tracts 5201.01 (BG 1, 4, 5 and 6) and 5202.02 (BG 1, 2 and 4). The population in

this planning area is 8,664 with a median income of \$43,389 and 4,397 housing units with a median value of \$135,093. Approximately 49% of the housing units are renter-occupied and located in large apartment buildings and older converted homes. Additionally, the demographics indicate that 96% of the planning area is white, 2% is black or African American, and 1% is Asian with 53% of the population being female and 47% male. 45% of the population is married, 15% are divorced or separated and the balance is single. Population characteristics are not anticipated to change. In past funding years, we have targeted this Area and completed several projects: Chestnut Crossing, Main Street streetscape, High Bridge Glens Park and most recently the extension of Prospect Street. In our continuing efforts to improve the quality of life in our low to moderate income census block groups, we anticipate utilizing funds in this Planning Area for brownfield assessments related to redevelopment and reuse of existing brownfields, appraisals, environmental testing, design and related professional services, and Greenway Infrastructure Plan. The City is budgeting funds to complete or serve as Clean Ohio match for environmental assessments, remediation and building demolition of structures at 1745 and 1659 S. Front Street.

The **State-Portage Trail Area** contains three (3) low moderate income block groups in census tracts 5203 (BG5), 5202.02 (BG 4) and 5205 (BG 1). The population is 25,013 with a median income of \$60,734 and 11,076 housing units with a median value of \$156,669. Approximately 76% of the housing units are owner-occupied, 19% are renter-occupied with a 5% vacancy rate. The area demographics indicate that 97.5% of the planning area is white, 1.1% is black or African American, and the remaining is other races. This district contains the State Road Commercial Corridor, which was anchored by the former State Road Shopping center. The City of Cuyahoga Falls purchased the 70% vacant and deteriorating shopping center in 2009. After successfully obtaining two million in Clean Ohio Funds, the center was environmentally cleaned and demolished. Requests for proposals were created and subsequently a developer was selected to redevelop the twenty-five acre parcel to provide economic and employment opportunities for the low to moderate-income residents in the 5203.00-5-census block. CDGB funds account for 1.2% of the total 42 million dollar project, which are being utilized for public improvements anticipated for completion in June 2013.

The **Bailey-Munroe Falls Area** contains two (2) low moderate-income block groups in census tract 5201.01 (BG 2 and 4). The population is 9,387 with a median income of \$51,007 and 4,453 housing units with a median value of \$146,271. Approximately 48% of the housing units are owner-occupied, 47% are renter-occupied with a 5% vacancy rate. Additionally, the demographics indicate that 94% of the planning area is white, 2% is black or African American, and the remaining 4% is other races. Also, 52% of the population is female and 48% is male and only approximately 26% of the population is married. Seventy percent of all households in this Planning Area consist of 2 persons or less. The median age is 34.3 years, the youngest population of all four planning areas. This district contains a large number of post World War II homes.

The **Northampton Area** contains two (2) low to moderate-income block groups in census tracts 5080 (BG 2) and 5329 (BG 1). The population is 6,588 with a median income of \$67,864 and 2,576 housing units with a median value of \$229,088. Approximately 57% of the housing units are owner-occupied, 38% are renter-occupied with a 5% vacancy rate and 43% of the units have been built since 1980. The area demographics indicate that 90% of the planning area is white, 5% is black or African American, and the remaining 5% is other races. Also, 51% of the population is female and 49% is male, with approximately 29% of the population being married. Under the 2004-2008 Consolidated Plan, the City completed two projects in this planning area entitled the Wyoga Lake Multi-Purpose Trail and Wyoga Lake Employment Campus. Currently, FY2 and FY3 allocated approximately \$80,000 toward infrastructure costs for a residential project for seniors entitled Patrick’s Walk with a completed construction value estimated to be \$18.9M. Other private, state and city funds will be leveraged to complete this project. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2014 due to the developer applying for Ohio Housing Finance (OHFA) funds. The City is investing \$275,423 into French’s Mill, a mixed-use development that will include apartments and retail shops.



Inasmuch as Cuyahoga Falls is an “exception community”, listed below is a table of the low to moderate census blocks based on the 2000 census, 2010 data is not available at the block group level as of the writing of this document.

Districts	TRACT	BLKGRP	PMOD	PLOW	PVLOW	LOWMODPCT
Cuyahoga River	520101	1	960	580	340	47.7
Cuyahoga River	520101	5	413	136	45	48.2
Cuyahoga River & Bailey/Munroe Falls	520101	4	530	308	185	46.1
Cuyahoga River	520101	6	303	199	105	54.0
Cuyahoga River	520202	1	656	579	385	85.9
Cuyahoga River	520202	2	609	221	90	48.2
Cuyahoga River & State/Portage Trail	520202	4	460	217	69	41.2
Cuyahoga River District			3471	2023	1150	55
Bailey/Munroe Falls	520101	2	340	183	110	43.5
Bailey/Munroe Fall/Howe District			340	183	110	43.5
State/Portage Trail	520300	5	416	272	157	43.7
State/Portage Trail	520500	1	287	88	17	42.8
State/Portage Trail District			703	360	174	43.3
Northampton	508000	2	19	0	0	100.0
Northampton	508000	3	24	24	0	55.8
Northampton	532900	1	548	219	145	49.8
Northampton District			591	243	145	68.5

- Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) during the next year and the rationale for assigning the priorities.

Program activities are categorized as housing, economic development, infrastructure and planning related with specific projects selected during the yearly Annual Action Plan update process.

Funds will be allocated by census block groups and planning area with the exception of housing activities, which are city-wide. The Cuyahoga River Planning Area has been reviewed for the past several years as it contains the most low-income neighborhoods with the greatest need for assistance. Inasmuch as funding continues to decrease, Program Yr 5 of the 2009-2013 Consolidated Plan, housing activities and economic development/infrastructure activities will receive top priority. The revolving loan funds and generated program income have become important components of the City's allocations.

- Describe actions that will take place during the next year to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

The main obstacles to meeting underserved needs continue to be coordination and funding obstacles. The City of Cuyahoga Falls provides funding through the CDBG program for housing assistance for low to moderate income households, for infrastructure projects in low to moderate income neighborhoods and for job creation activities for low to moderate income persons.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls also provides program coordination and networking referral services to address the needs of low to moderate-income persons in the community. The

City seeks to assist new and expanding businesses located in the community in order to encourage the creation of new job opportunities for our residents.

4. *Identify the federal, state, and local resources expected to be made available to address the needs identified in the plan. Federal resources should include Section 8 funds made available to the jurisdiction, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds expected to be available to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the strategic plan.*

The City of Cuyahoga Falls works with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, who provides Section 8 funds to address the needs in our community, and the Continuum of Care, as well as human service providers and advocates to evaluate and address housing needs for the people in the community. The City provides monetary support and is a member of the HMIS Advisory Committee, which provides countywide information. Info Line Inc. is the project coordinator for HMIS in Summit County and will insure compliance with the HEARTH Act.

Even though the City of Cuyahoga is not a recipient of Section 8 funds, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, or McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds, residents of our city have benefited from these federal funds from the various funding sources. The decrease in federal funding will directly impact the availability of assistance for the residents in need.

The Down Payment Assistance program enhances the purchasing power of first time homebuyers in our community. A qualified buyer can receive a maximum of \$3,000 towards the down payment as a forgivable loan provided the buyer remains in the home for a period of five years.

Through the Economic Development Loan Program, a revolving loan fund was created for reuse of the funds to promote job creation for the low to moderate-income residents of our city. The RLF is becoming a major component of our annual allocation. The City's loan program provides "gap" financing to qualified businesses for job creation.

Managing the Process

1. *Identify the lead agency, entity, and agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.*

As in previous years, the City of Cuyahoga Falls' Development Department in coordination with the Planning Division and CDBG Entitlement Division has the responsibility for the administration and implementation of the CDBG program including the preparation of the Annual Action Plan. The Development Department also prepared the 2009-2013 Consolidated Plan.

2. *Identify the significant aspects of the process, by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.*

The planning staff in the Development Department prepared this plan. In addition, Continuum of Care, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, Battered Women's Shelter and Summit County Health Department were either consulted or their updated annual

reports were reviewed for the preparation and writing of this plan. The City held one public meeting prior to the Annual Action Plan's introduction to City Council. All City Council meetings are public, a second public meeting was held for public discussion during the City Council Committee meeting.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls continues to work with Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority and members of the Continuum of Care, as well as human service providers and advocates to evaluate and address housing needs for people in the community. The City participates in an advisory capacity with the HMIS system in addition to providing monetary support.

3. *Describe actions that will take place during the next year to enhance coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies.*

The Community Development Staff will continue to work with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ohio Multi-Community Development Corporation, Homebuilders Association and Summit County Continuum of Care to enhance housing assistance for all residents in Cuyahoga Falls.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is a participant in the Summit County Continuum of Care (CoC) and provides an annual grant to Info Line for the support of the HMIS system. The CoC of Summit County addresses issues of housing, health and social services for the homeless and other persons at risk of homelessness. As determined by the CoC, affordable housing, transitional housing and rental housing is a primary concern for the agencies serving the homeless and at risk. The CoC holds a one-day event for the homeless called Project Homeless Connect, to assist the homeless in our area. The City also provides a grant for this event. In 2011, 134 clients reported Cuyahoga Falls as their last permanent residence before entering a shelter. In 2012, that number decreased slightly to 131, (14% were Cuyahoga Falls residents) and many of these persons are expected to take advantage of the services offered during Project Homeless Connect. This year's event will be held in May at The Chapel Akron Campus. The program continues to provide on-site services that include vision care, legal aid, medical testing, food, wheelchair repair, and haircuts. In addition, the clients have access to over 50 human service agencies as a one-stop shop.

Citizen Participation

1. *Provide a summary of the Citizen Participation Process.*

Citizen Participation is a key element of the CDBG Consolidated Plan process. The law requires this Plan involve citizens, non-profit organizations, and other parties interested in the Consolidated Plan process and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This plan will especially involve low to moderate-income people and neighborhoods.

Citizens are provided the opportunity to be involved in all phases of the CDBG program through public hearings. They will be provided the opportunity to help formulate long-

range objectives, goals and strategies, shape yearly program budgets and amend programs that are not effective. The public meeting discusses HUD's goals, objectives, and requirements and discusses potential projects. Annual updates identify the specific projects the City plans to implement during the 2013 Program Year.

In addition, everyone will be provided with a 30-day opportunity to review and comment on not only the Consolidated Plan but on this Citizen Participation Plan, and on substantial amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan.

Copies of this Citizen Participation Plan, as well as summaries of basic information about CDBG and the Consolidated Planning process are available in the English language. This is the language of residents who comprise a significant portion of the low and moderate-income population. Residents needing materials in other languages are encouraged to contact City staff. The City does not receive funding for HOME, ESG, HOPWA but can provide basic information on these programs as well.

Specifically, this Plan identifies the methods and processes in which citizens will participate in the Consolidated Planning process. The Plan sets forth procedures for citizen participation activities/methods, access to information, anti-displacement, publishing the plan, public hearings & notices, access to meetings, citizen comments & complaints, amendments, performance reports, technical assistance, access to records, and availability to the public. Citizen comments will be accepted either verbally or in writing.

The following schedule outlines the availability for Citizen Participation:

February 22, 2013	Legal notice with a 30 day comment period (copy attached) and display ad for public hearing (copy attached)
March 6, 2013	First public hearing (attendance record attached)
March 25, 2013	Legislation authorizing the Annual Action Plan introduced to City Council
April 1, 2013	Public hearing before City Council (2 nd hearing)
April 8, 2013	Legislation approved by City Council Ordinance # (copy attached)
May 10, 2013	Submission of Annual Action Plan to HUD
July 1, 2013	Program Year begins

This Citizen Participation Plan was developed by:

**Community Development Department
City of Cuyahoga Falls
2310 Second Street
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221
330-971-8135/development@cityofcf.com**

2. *Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.*

The first public meeting was held on March 6, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. with the Development Director and CDBG Entitlement Administrator prepared to present the FY 2013 Annual Action Plan. Planned topics to be discussed were anticipated funding allocation for potential projects for FY 2013, eligible and ineligible uses, and general HUD guidelines. The meeting was advertised in the local newspaper and displayed in the lower left hand corner of page 47. There was no one in attendance at this first public meeting.

Legislation was introduced on March 25, 2013. The City Council Committee meeting was held on April 1, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. with approximately XX people in the audience. City Council does not have an attendance record. The following comments were received:

Responses were provided to all inquiries at the time they were asked.

3. *Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.*

All public hearings and other related meetings are held in rooms and facilities that are easily accessible to low to moderate-income persons/families, and handicapped persons.

Public hearing notices are published in the local newspaper at least 10 days prior to the public hearing. The notices contain relevant information about Cuyahoga Falls CDBG Program and a brief summary of the Consolidated Plan, with hearing location, time and other related information. The notices are published in large bold print so as to be easily noticed in the newspaper. The public hearing notices are also be posted on the City's Web page.

The City Council Chamber is handicapped accessible. The City does not have the daily capability to meet the needs of Non-English speaking residents on staff, but will make arrangements to do so if needed by contacting a local University's language department.

4. *Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.*

When received, all comments are accepted and reviewed to determine eligibility and national objective.

Institutional Structure

1. *Describe actions that will take place during the next year to develop institutional structure.*

As in previous years, the City of Cuyahoga Falls' housing and economic development programs, other than those offered by AMHA, are implemented by the Cuyahoga Falls Development Department. The following agencies and/or organizations involved in the delivery of housing services.

City of Cuyahoga Falls--The City of Cuyahoga Falls continues to assist in the provision of housing and neighborhood rehabilitation services by providing financial support using State and Federal grant funds and local general funds; by providing technical assistance in program development and grant preparation; and by performing administrative responsibilities required by granting organizations.

Summit County-- The City actively works with the County to encourage better housing and also partners with the Summit County Weatherization Program in an effort to supplement the needs of low to moderate income persons with home heating and other weatherization concerns. At times, the County refers clients to the City to assist with an electric upgrade or new roof in conjunction with the weatherization improvements completed by the County.

Ohio Department of Development--The Ohio Department of Development through the Office of Community Development, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, and the State Housing Trust Fund provide various types of public financing to assist in the provision of affordable housing. These funds are provided as grants, loans, and loan guarantees; and are available to local units of government and non-profit housing agencies throughout the State. They can be used for owner occupied housing, rental housing, new construction, housing rehabilitation, and supportive services.

Local Public Agencies--Several public agencies provide housing and housing related services in Cuyahoga Falls. They include but are not limited to the following:

- Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Akron-Summit Community Action Agency
- Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board
- Area Agency on Aging
- Summit County Children Services Board
- Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities (fka MRDD)

Many of these public agencies receive funding and coordinate services with counterparts at the State level. All of the County agencies, receiving levy funds, operate in conjunction with the Summit County Social Services Advisory Board.

Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation – OMCDC provides affordable housing opportunities and services in the community.

Private Lenders – Lending institutions in Cuyahoga Falls and the greater Akron area offer a variety of special mortgage and home improvement loans for lower income households.

Tax Incentives – The City offers Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) incentives for mixed-use development in the employment zones in the Northampton Planning Area, for residential, commercial and industrial development in the defined Cuyahoga River Planning Area, and for the State and Portage Planning Area for residential and commercial development in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio.

Monitoring

- 1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.*

The City of Cuyahoga Falls monitors CDBG funded activities throughout the year. The monitoring practices include a review of national objective compliance to insure HUD requirements are met as well as income eligibility criteria, timeliness, and quality of work. The City will continue to monitor program activities on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the City will attempt to close out all residential loans within six months of approval. Final payments are not issued until all requirements are met. Commercial loan recipients will be required to submit job creation reports every six months. At this time, the City does not have any sub-recipients. But in the event that should change, the City will follow all monitoring requirements of future sub-recipients every six months.

Frequent monitoring provides overall guidance and up-to-date progress reports. This is a very important component for this new CDBG program. This action will also provide the Department with the information to meet the timeliness of the program components.

Lead-based Paint

- 1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards in order to increase the inventory of lead-safe housing available to extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.*

The maximum housing improvement loan is \$15,000, therefore, under the requirement for full abatement. However, interim controls are implemented for any housing assistance project over \$5,000. The City currently offers written guidance on safe practices and guidelines regarding lead based paint. All residents interested in any of the Housing Activities are provided with the brochure entitled “*Renovate Right*” and sign the required receipt. We will continue to educate our residents on the hazards of lead based paint and utilize lead-safe practices in the provision of our Housing assistance Programs. Members of the City’s Development Department attended the certification class to gain knowledge of the requirements. Staff members have frequently been called upon to provide guidance to residents making improvements or painting their homes even when they are not participating in any CDBG based program. In addition, contractors used for the housing rehabilitation programs will be certified Lead Safe Renovators as required by the US EPA and HUD effective April 22, 2010.

As an important component of the housing assistance program, in the event, lead-based paint is found to be in the home, applicable lead abatement regulations will be followed as needed for any pre-1978 home as required by the EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting Final Rule (40 CFR745) and HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rule.

In partnership with the Summit County Development Department, the City of Barberton and the City of Akron along with the Summit County Health Department as the lead agency, a Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant is being applied for through HUD for which the City of Cuyahoga Falls has pledged a match of \$10,000 from the Housing Activities Program.

There are 15,925 housing units in Cuyahoga Falls built before 1970. It is estimated that at least 5,000 of these units house low to moderate-income families.

The Ohio Department of Health has implemented the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (OCLPPP), which funds comprehensive lead poisoning prevention programs around the State. Their plan is posted on the Ohio Department of Health's website.

Cuyahoga Falls has two (2) zip codes determined to be high risk out of the nineteen (19) in the county. The County Health Department administers the testing for children.

The 2011 ODH data revealed 6,533 Summit County children were tested for lead based paint poisoning and .54% were found to be at risk. Of the children tested, 35 were found to have elevated blood lead levels. There are no statistics available for 2012 at the time this report was prepared.

HOUSING

Specific Housing Objectives

1. *Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve during the next year.*

The City of Cuyahoga Falls continues to be committed to the goals of providing decent, safe, affordable housing and improving the quality of life for all low and moderate-income residents regardless of familial or marital status, race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The City identified the following housing priorities as stated in the Consolidated Plan:

- Increase quality of owner-occupied housing
- Increase affordability of owner-occupied housing
- Increase availability of affordable owner-occupied housing
- Increase quality of rental housing
- Increase availability of affordable rental housing
- Increase the range of housing options/related services for persons with special needs
- Increase the number of persons moving from homelessness or transitional housing to permanent housing

A major obstacle in achieving the listed objectives to assist the low to moderate-income population in the community is the decrease in funding. However, we will continue to utilize the following ongoing successful activities as funding permits:

- Emergency Loan Program
- Independent Living Grant Program
- Exterior Repair Loan Program
- Home Improvement Loan Program
- First Time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance

2. *Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.*

Federal Resources

Entitlement CDBG Funds – All housing activities, which include an emergency grant program, the independent living grant, the first time homebuyer down payment assistance program, exterior repair loan and the home improvement loan program will be available for low to moderate income owner-occupied households. The total budget for these activities is \$223,696. There may also be private homeowner investment, bank financing and possibly other federal and state funds involved with these programs. A complete description of the housing activities is listed on page 3 of this Plan.

Local Resources - In July 2004, the City of Cuyahoga Falls established the Cuyahoga River Community Reinvestment Area to encourage owner occupant investment in the Cuyahoga River Planning District. The minimum investment is \$10,000 and is approved by the County Fiscal Officer. Since the establishment, twenty-six residential abatements have been granted with a total private investment of over \$3,516,252.

Of the exemption agreements in place, 13 have reached maturity at the seven-year term and are expired. Further, eight agreements will expire on December 31, 2013, two in 2014 and one in 2015. While the CRA program does not utilize CDBG funds, it helps promote private investment. We anticipate newly approved CRA's, mentioned on page 14 under Tax Incentives could generate future interest in the program promoting more private investment.

A program funded solely by local public resources is the housing inspection program. This program assists CDBG dollars to insure the quality of rental and owner-occupied housing by enforcement of the City's Housing and Property Maintenance Codes.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls will continue to coordinate with the Summit County Weatherization Program to leverage their resources whenever possible to deliver the highest level of assistance to our residents with housing needs.

State Resources – In 2009, the City of Cuyahoga Falls received \$783,204 in Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds from the State of Ohio for use in the approved target areas to purchase foreclosed and abandoned homes. The funds have allowed the

City to purchase, rehabilitate, and sell the homes to individuals whose income is 120% or less of the median family income. A down-payment assistance forgivable loan in the amount of \$5,500 was provided for each home purchased. The City initially purchased 6 homes. All 6 homes were completely rehabilitated and sold. NSP Program income generated through these sales was used to purchase an additional 3 homes that were rehabbed and sold over the initial objective making a total of 9 homes rehabilitated under this program. This program has been finalized and closed.

It is not anticipated that the City of Cuyahoga Falls will meet the qualifications for HOME funding through the Ohio Department of Development or of its availability due to the decrease in funding from the federal government. HOME funds can be used for owner housing, rental housing, new construction, housing rehabilitation, home acquisition, and supportive services.

Needs of Public Housing

- 1. Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake during the next year to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.*

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) is the public housing authority for the City. AMHA annually coordinates with the City to make sure their goals and objectives meet the needs of the community. Cuyahoga Falls does not intend to use CDBG funds to directly address public housing needs other than to encourage AMHA with their mission to build stronger neighborhoods by providing quality housing options and professional services for eligible residents of Summit County in partnership with the greater community. The AMHA is striving to be a national pacesetter among housing providers.

AMHA's public housing goals for 2013 as stated in their Annual Plan are:

- Expand the Supply of Assisted Housing;
- Improve the Quality of Assisted Housing;
- Increase Assisted Housing Choices;
- Provide an Improved Living Environment;
- Promote Self-Sufficiency and Asset Development of Assisted Households;
and
- Ensure Equal Opportunity and Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.

During the past five years, the AMHA has applied for and received additional vouchers; reduced the public housing vacancy rate (98.6% occupied); created additional housing opportunities; improved Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) and Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) scores to high performer status; disposition application approved for obsolete housing; met requirements for the new asset management program and stop loss provision was approved; implemented both Public Housing (PH) and Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) homeownership programs; and implemented HOPE IV initiatives through income mixing at Edgewood Village. The

HOPE IV program combines rental assistance with case management and supportive services to help very low-income, frail, elderly persons remain in an independent living environment and to prevent their premature placement in nursing homes thereby enhancing the quality of life by avoiding unnecessary or premature institutionalization.

In the promotion of self-sufficiency, 24 persons in Summit County participated in the Getting Ahead Program, 116 persons enrolled in the Section 3 Registry, 42 seniors/disabled persons participated in basic computer classes and nearly 4,000 seniors attended programs or events coordinated by service coordinators. Statistics were not available to determine if any of the persons assisted were Cuyahoga Falls residents.

AMHA continues to maintain and their facilities in Cuyahoga Falls. Several older facilities have been upgraded in the past six years. AMHA has made capital improvements over the years, utilizing funds provided by HUD through the Comprehensive Grant Program. The improvements have made a significant difference in the appearance and structural viability of the properties operated by the housing authority. AMHA did not purchase any additional scattered sites in Cuyahoga Falls during the past year.

- 2. If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation during the next year.*

HUD has not designated Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority as a "troubled" public housing agency nor is it performing poorly. According to the PHA Annual Report on February 5, 2013, they are listed as "High Performing". The City issued a Certificate of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan.

Barriers to Affordable Housing

- 1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to remove barriers to affordable housing.*

According to the 2010 census, there are 23,859 households in the City of Cuyahoga Falls. Of these, 63.6% are owner-occupied and 36.4% are renter-occupied. There are 8,278 households at or below 80% of MFI. This is equal to 38% of all households in Cuyahoga Falls. Of these 8,278 households, 3,890 have some type of housing problems. This also represents 47% of all households at or below the 80% of MFI or 18% of all households in Cuyahoga Falls.

The most detrimental factor for the homeowners of Cuyahoga Falls is the County's second triennial devaluation of property values, which makes it a buyer's market with affordable housing. The first devaluation occurred in 2008 at the height of the housing crisis, with the second taking place in 2011. The down side of the devaluation is that it has caused many homeowners to be "upside down" with their mortgages, meaning they owe more on their home than it's worth. In 2012 there were 235 properties in some stage of foreclosure proceedings up 14% from 2011.

In 2011, the average price of a home in Cuyahoga Falls was \$127,338 and in 2012, the average price was \$124,634, which is a decrease of 2.1%. During the same time period, the average price of homes in other communities in Summit County increased by 2.4%. We are seeing an increased interest in the Down Payment Assistance Program and the Residential Home Improvement Loan Program.

While barriers to affordable housing exist, most housing units are affordable to the majority of people looking to purchase homes in Cuyahoga Falls. The cost of housing is not affected by tax policies, land use controls, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees or growth limits. During the year 2011, 18% of the homes sold in Cuyahoga Falls, had a sales price in excess of \$150,000 or 82% of the homes sold for less than \$150,000. In comparison, during the same period, 46% of the homes sold in Summit County had a sales price greater than \$150,000. 2012 data has not been released by the local fiscal office.

Based on the average price of a home in Cuyahoga Falls of \$124,634 with an interest rate of 4% and financing \$121,634 (assuming DPA assistance of \$3,000), the monthly payment would be approximately \$580.70 plus taxes and insurance, which is very affordable in most instances.

In a recent report issued by the National Low Income Housing Coalition entitled, *Out of Reach 2012*, Ohio ranks 34th in the nation for an hourly wage of \$13.43 needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent of \$698 per month. The average Ohioan earning a minimum wage of \$7.70 per hour would have to work 70 hours per week to afford the same apartment. So with fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment being \$698, a qualified renter would be able to purchase an average priced home in Cuyahoga Falls for the same amount and become a homeowner.

As stated previously in the 2009-2013 Consolidated Plan, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center determined for HUD in April 2007 the benchmark lot size of 6,573 SF to be affordable. This benchmark was developed to determine if communities were using their regulations to require excessive lot sizes thereby limiting development of new affordable housing. The City of Cuyahoga Falls' General Development Code allows a minimum lot size of 4,500 SF, which is well under the benchmark lot size and allows for rebuilding on existing infill lots. In addition, the General Development Code encourages a mix of housing types and costs within new developments to promote affordable housing in the community.

HOME/ American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI)

1. *Describe other forms of investment not described in § 92.205(b).*
2. *If the participating jurisdiction (PJ) will use HOME or ADDI funds for homebuyers, it must state the guidelines for resale or recapture, as required in § 92.254 of the HOME rule.*

The City of Cuyahoga Falls does not receive HOME/ADDI funds.

HOMELESS

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

1. *Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction's plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.*

The City of Cuyahoga Falls does not receive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds or Emergency Shelter Grant Funds to address the prevention of homelessness.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls participates in the Summit County Continuum of Care, which represents a broad collaborative effort of homeless service providers, supportive service providers, hospitals, The University of Akron, banks and foundations. Homeless providers are working together to further enhance a system providing emergency, transitional, and permanent shelter to homeless individuals, families, and special needs populations. The Continuum of Care system provides the homeless with not only shelter, but also supportive services to equip them with the tools necessary to assist them in overcoming this difficult period in their lives. The Continuum of Care Committee, of which the City of Cuyahoga Falls is a member, has been meeting on a regular basis to further evaluate the needs in the community and to identify existing gaps.

The CoC and HMIS Boards are working diligently to comply with all aspects of the HEARTH Act and will be in full compliance as required.

Funding for the Akron/Summit County Continuum of Care is in the form of SHP (Supportive Housing Program) and ESG (Emergency Shelter Grants) funds. The implementation of HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) is ongoing and will provide valuable information necessary to meet the needs of the homeless community and those at risk of experiencing homelessness. The City of Cuyahoga Falls has budgeted \$5,000 during the current program year to be used as matching funds for Continuum of Care and HMIS activities. The City of Cuyahoga Falls also provides a grant of \$500 for Project Homeless Connect, an innovative program that began in San Francisco in 2004. The annual event allows for immediate access to over 50 human service agencies rather than a referral. Over 908 people including accompanied children were served in May 2012, held at The Chapel in Akron, Ohio. Services provided, during this event, included 220 vision screenings with 60 vouchers for glasses, 209 hair cuts, dental extractions for 65 people, showers, vaccines and immunizations, 1,300 meals served, over 8,000 pounds of food distributed, 110 legal connections, 101 mental health/addictions connections and much more.

2. *Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.*

The City of Cuyahoga Falls will continue to assist low income families avoid becoming homeless by utilizing the CDBG emergency loan/grant housing rehabilitation program for low-income households. Based on the Housing & Homeless Needs Assessment, the City has 262 extremely low-income owner-occupied households and 172 very low-income owner-occupied households that have any housing problems. Program recipients are referred to the CDBG Program through the City Housing Inspection Division and other service agencies.

The City will continue to work with local social services agencies and AMHA to place extremely low-to-low income households into public housing units or into transitional housing units. The City will assist in referring these families to job training programs and other assistance programs when needed.

The City does not have a large homeless population. However, as described in the Housing & Homeless Needs Assessment, the City will work with local agencies to place any individuals into homeless shelters and transitional housing units. The City will also continue to work with the local Continuum of Care to tackle the regional homeless needs.

The number of persons giving Cuyahoga Falls as their last address decreased from 134 in 2011 to 131 in 2012. Also there is a population of homeless being children who have aged out of the foster care system; people who have been released from other social service, medical or criminal justice institutions; and lastly, the homeless are families where mom and dad work an hourly job and cannot find affordable housing based on their income. The economy is a potential obstacle that is not preventable.

3. *Chronic homelessness—The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.*

In a report issued by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, it appears the 2013 funding levels will be increased for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grant and the Emergency Solutions Grant whereas the Veterans Affairs Zero Homelessness Initiative and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act funding will remain level with 2012.

The lack of adequate funding, lack of employment and the current state of the economy in general makes it very difficult to eliminate homelessness.

However, homeless providers are working together to further enhance a system providing emergency, transitional, and permanent shelter to homeless individuals, families, and special needs populations. The Continuum of Care system provides the homeless with not only shelter, but also supportive services to equip them with the tools necessary to assist them in overcoming this difficult period in their lives. The Continuum of Care Committee meets on a regular basis to further evaluate the needs in the community and to identify existing gaps. Eliminating chronic homelessness is a challenge being undertaken by the Akron/Summit County Continuum of Care. They represent a broad collaborative

effort of homeless service providers, supportive service providers, hospitals, The University of Akron, banks and foundations.

4. *Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.*

The HMIS system has been implemented by the CoC network and is currently being managed by Info Line Inc, of Akron, Ohio. Through this network, the immediate needs of clients are addressed. This centralized source of information is available to be of assistance to providers and their programs. It is a valuable resource to provide the highest levels of assistance to those individuals at risk for homelessness. This is the first step in establishing the prevention safety net that ensures that all agencies have accurate knowledge of homeless/prevention resources. A top priority for the Continuum of Care is improving housing stability through education and financial assistance.

The Community Health Center (CHC) provides outreach services to schools in Akron, Barberton and Cuyahoga Falls. In addition, the CHC provides outreach and prevention services, including housing counseling and assistance to residents of four public housing developments. In many instances, youths are referred by area agencies but the local youth shelters do accept walk-ins.

All types of shelter; emergency, transitional, Safe Haven, permanent supportive, and HPRP, have beds/units available for households with and without children. There had been a 68% increase in need for emergency shelter for households with children from 2011 and a 73% increase for permanent supportive housing for households with children in Summit County. The figures for 2012 were down slightly from 2011. The average length of stay in permanent supportive housing is 2 – 5 years.

5. *Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.*

Inasmuch as the City of Cuyahoga Falls does not receive any form of emergency shelter assistance, the City will continue to work with the CoC to further evaluate this issue. The practice of discharging individuals to the streets or shelters is definitely a contributing factor to the problem of homelessness. The CoC will continue its efforts to work with the jails and hospitals in the area to evaluate their discharge policies.

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is not a recipient of ESG funding.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

1. *Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.*

The City's non-housing community development priorities are:

- Small business loans to local businesses creating new jobs for low to moderate-income persons.
- Brownfield redevelopment activities.
- Elimination of slum and blight.
- Infrastructure associated with economic and community development.

Infrastructure Activity – We will be funding public infrastructure improvements for a mixed-use development located in the French's Mill mixed use center (MU-3) along the State Road/Bath Road intersection which will include 208 luxury loft apartments and 10,000 square feet of retail space.

Fair Housing Activity - In our efforts to address Fair Housing Counseling and Tenant/Landlord Counseling, as high priority needs, Donald B. Eager and Associates is under contract with the City of Cuyahoga Falls to provide these services to the community. This plan continues to bring Fair Housing education, such as landlord training, tenant clinics, realtor training, and domestic violence seminars, to many sectors of the community. Impediments to Fair Housing will be re-evaluated annually and updated as necessary as part of the Fair Housing Program and the Annual Action Plan. The total budget for this program is \$15,000 and is an administrative activity. This activity is an annual program.

Other Public Service

- Accessibility has been identified as a high priority need per the Community Development Needs Table. However, at this time, there is no accessibility project identified for the current program year or future years.
- The City is budgeting to create at least one Historic Preservation District within the Cuyahoga River Planning Area, to also form a Design and Historic Review Board and to apply to become a Certified Local Government (CLG) with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.
- Improving Services for Low Income Persons is a high priority need. There are over 50 agencies offering support services to low-income persons in Summit County. Those services are listed in the Consolidated Plan and range from rental/mortgage assistance to legal services. Cuyahoga Falls has approximately 8,300 lower income (0-80% MFI) households. Due to the large number of agencies active in Summit County, it is assumed that these persons can access these local available services. The City will assist local residents who are unable to access these services. The City will also work with other local and county agencies to offer services to low-income persons. No CDBG funds are anticipated being used.

2. *Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.*

*Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

Job Creation (Economic Development)

Economic Development was determined to be a high priority need and will be funded annually as part of the Annual Action Plan. The City will continue job creation activities by providing funding for low interest business loans, demolition and acquisition. The goal is to create new jobs through these activities. The City has developed the Economic Development Loan Program and will use CDBG funds to improve commercial properties and to expand industrial buildings. These improvements will benefit the city by creating new jobs and improving important commercial areas.

As stated in the 2009-2013 Consolidated Plan, the goal is to create at least 20 new jobs during that five-year period. The goal for FY2012-2013 plan year is to create 4 new job opportunities in the community with at least 1 loan. The City exceeded both the five-year goal of creating 20 new jobs and created more than four jobs in 2012-2013. The total budget for this activity is \$175,192. The economy while not fully recovered in this area with an unemployment rate for Summit County of 7.8% and 5.8% in Cuyahoga Falls, job creation is slowly starting to turn around.

Infrastructure

As stated above, the public infrastructure for the new Acme Fresh Market project was budgeted for funding during FY 2012 in the amount of \$340,000. The Acme Fresh Market project is located in a low to moderate-income census block group. This grocery store, in its present location, has been an anchor for the neighborhood and will continue to provide the services needed. Infrastructure improvements will also provide needed walk ability.

The City is also looking forward to creating the master trail and greenway infrastructure plan for the Gorge Terrace Neighborhood that was funded during year four. The plan will provide the City with the tools needed to construct bike lanes, improve sidewalks, create additional open space along the River and create new trails and trailheads (starting locations) in Neighborhoods.

There are 13 census block groups, previously identified, that qualify as low to moderate-income neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are greater than 41 percent low moderate. Cuyahoga Falls is an exception grantee and low moderate neighborhoods must have a percentage of 41.2 percent.

Antipoverty Strategy

1. *Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.*

Based on the 2011 American Community Survey, Cuyahoga Falls has a poverty rate of approximately 6.1 percent or 2,991 people compared to Summit County's rate of 16.6%. The following activities will be continued to assist in the reduction of the number of poverty level households.

Housing Rehabilitation - The City provides program funding for the housing rehabilitation program each year targeting the residents qualified under the low to moderate-income guidelines based on household size. Programs include low interest loans, deferred loans, matching grants, first time homebuyer down payment assistance, emergency loans, and paint reimbursement program to assist low to moderate income persons in rehabilitation of their properties.

Infrastructure Projects - The City will spend infrastructure funds in low to moderate income census block groups in order to improve the economic opportunities available to persons below poverty levels.

Economic Development - The City of Cuyahoga Falls provides revolving loan funds under the Economic Development Loan Program. Each loan stipulates that a certain number of jobs are to be created for low to moderate-income persons.

Public Housing - The City of Cuyahoga Falls supports AMHA's Family Self-Sufficiency and Family Development programs that work with and encourage residents to become economically self-sufficient enabling them to purchase a home utilizing Section 8 vouchers.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

Non-homeless Special Needs (91.220 (c) and (e))

1. *Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve for the period covered by the Action Plan.*

Cuyahoga Falls has a large elderly population. In fact, 41% of all households, at or below 80% of MFI are elderly and presumed low to moderate income. While the majority of the elderly prefer to reside in their own homes, as this becomes increasingly difficult, they need smaller, low maintenance units. They need housing that is designed to serve their physical and social requirements. Through the housing rehabilitation program, the City will work with the elderly who own their homes to make them accessible and workable by providing emergency grants, exterior repair loans or home improvement loans. In addition, the City will continue to work with private developers to provide additional elderly housing units. Testa Companies received tax credits for the construction of the Watermark, a mixed-use center, in the S. Front Street Redevelopment Corridor. At the end of 2012 all senior units were occupied with the exception of one unit that will be occupied by the end of March 2013. In addition, Patrick's Walk will provide an additional 43 senior housing units in Phase 1. Plans are to begin construction approximately in late 2014 provided the State of Ohio EPA issues the Covenant Not to

Sue by that time for the completed brownfield remediation and the developer has applied for tax credits.

2. *Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.*

The City will work with local agencies such as the Ohio Multi-County Community Development Corporation and the Akron/Summit County Continuum of Care to provide local assistance to the special needs populations within the City. In addition, the City has worked with GDA Assisted Living Consultants, LLC on the Portage Trail Village Phases I and II for the assisted living conversion program. As of April 2012, both phases have been completed. Phase I comprised of floors 1, 2, and 3 being converted into 32 affordable assisted living units. They are fully licensed and occupied at this time. Floors 4, 5, 6, were converted under Phase II for an additional 39 units. The State of Ohio has completed the licensure of these units at this time and all 71 units are occupied.

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS

1. *Report on the actions taken during the year that addressed the special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, and assistance for persons who are homeless.*
2. *Evaluate the progress in meeting its specific objective of providing affordable housing, including a comparison of actual outputs and outcomes to proposed goals and progress made on the other planned actions indicated in the strategic and action plans. The evaluation can address any related program adjustments or future plans.*
3. *Report on annual HOPWA output goals for the number of households assisted during the year in: (1) short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to avoid homelessness; (2) rental assistance programs; and (3) in housing facilities, such as community residences and SRO dwellings, where funds are used to develop and/or operate these facilities. Include any assessment of client outcomes for achieving housing stability, reduced risks of homelessness and improved access to care.*
4. *Report on the use of committed leveraging from other public and private resources that helped to address needs identified in the plan.*
5. *Provide an analysis of the extent to which HOPWA funds were distributed among different categories of housing needs consistent with the geographic distribution plans identified in its approved Consolidated Plan.*
6. *Describe any barriers (including non-regulatory) encountered, actions in response to barriers, and recommendations for program improvement.*
7. *Please describe the expected trends facing the community in meeting the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and provide additional information regarding the administration of services to people with HIV/AIDS.*
8. *Please note any evaluations, studies or other assessments that will be conducted on the local HOPWA program during the next year.*

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is not a recipient of HOPWA funding; therefore this section is not applicable.

Specific HOPWA Objectives

1. *Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the Action Plan.*

The City of Cuyahoga Falls does not receive HOPWA funds and therefore, has no HOPWA goals or spending; therefore this section is not applicable.

Other Narrative

Include any Action Plan information that was not covered by a narrative in any other section.

All Action Plan information has been discussed in other sections.

ATTACHMENTS

PUBLISHED IN THE FALLS NEWS PRESS
FEBRUARY 24, 2013
PAGE 47

PUBLIC WELCOME

FY2013 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

Community Development Block Grant Program

Wednesday, March 6, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

- Review HUD Requirements
- Discuss potential projects for FY 2013

Cuyahoga Falls City Hall

Mayor's Court Room

2310 2nd Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

For more information, please call Community Development at 330 971-8135.

DATE: March 6, 2013

ATTENDANCE RECORD
PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG 2013-2014 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO
MAYOR’S COURT
2310 2ND ST., 5:30 P.M.

PLEASE SIGN THIS REGISTER

NAME & ADDRESS

1. Susan L. Truby, Development Director
2. Ronald Messner, CDBG Entitlement Administrator
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Legal Notice

CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS 2009 CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is preparing an Annual Action Plan for fiscal year 2013.

Priorities for allocating CDBG funds in Cuyahoga Falls are based on the City of Cuyahoga Falls Consolidated Plan – Strategic Plan for years 2009 through 2013. Actual projects within these areas will include: housing rehabilitation, new housing construction, commercial rehabilitation and construction, industrial rehabilitation/ development, infrastructure and open space improvements, historic preservation, brown field restoration and planning.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls anticipates committing approximately \$580,000 in CDBG funds in fiscal year 2013 for projects within program areas. Please note that Cuyahoga Falls has not received official notification of funding allocations from HUD, so the figures are being based on estimated FY2012 HUD allocations. Seventy percent (70%) of the funds must be used for activities that benefit low and moderate-income persons.

Citizens can comment on the Annual Action Plan in writing and/or through the citizen comment sheet on the City's web site. Written comments may also be submitted to Ronald Messner, CDBG Entitlement Administrator, Community Development – 1st Floor, 2310 Second Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. There will be a 30-day review period from the date of this notice. Beginning March 6, 2013, a draft of the FY2012 Annual Action Plan will be available between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the Community Development Department and may be viewed on the City of Cuyahoga Falls website at www.cityofcf.com. The approved 2009-2013 Consolidated Plan is also on the city's website.

The first public hearing will be held Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at City Hall, 2310 2nd Street in the Mayor's Court Room at 5:30 p.m. Legislation will be introduced on March 25, 2013 and discussed in a public forum on Monday, April 1, 2013 during the Community Development Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. At this public hearing, the City will discuss the proposed Cuyahoga Falls FY2012 Annual Action Plan.

Persons needing assistance or additional information may call the Cuyahoga Falls Community Development Department at 330-971-8135.

City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
Don L. Robart, Mayor

PUBLISHED IN THE FALLS NEWS PRESS
February 24, 2013
PAGE 47, columns 4 and 5

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A-44

Presented by the Administration

CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO
ORDINANCE NO. 45 - 2012

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012,
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Subpart C of Part 91, Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires that the City submit, as a part of the annual submission of its consolidated plan, an action plan that includes a certification that the consolidated plan is authorized under state and local law and that the City possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs for which it is seeking funding,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, County of Summit, and State of Ohio, that:

Section 1. The 2012 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan, and the programs contained in the City's consolidated plan, are hereby approved, and the Community Development Department is authorized to carry out the programs contained in these documents.

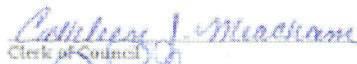
Section 2. Any other ordinances or resolutions or portions of ordinances and resolutions inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, but any ordinances and resolutions not inconsistent herewith and which have not previously been repealed are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Section 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, to the extent applicable, including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances.

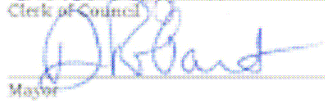
Section 4. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, convenience and welfare of the City of Cuyahoga Falls and the inhabitants thereof, for the reason that it is immediately necessary to permit timely and appropriate development of this property, and provided it receives the affirmative vote of two thirds of the members elected or appointed to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: 4-23-12


President of Council


Clerk of Council

Approved: 4/24/12


Mayor

4/9/12
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