

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The Annual Action Plan proposes activities for use of the City of La Porte's allocation of Community Block Grant funds for Program Year 2023. The Annual Action Plan is submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as the application for funding for one program year. This Annual Action Plan represents the fifth year of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

The purpose of the Annual Action Plan is to identify the city's housing and community development needs, goals, strategies, and priorities for the upcoming program year; and, to propose how funds will be allocated to housing and community development throughout the next year.

Using the data formulated in the 2019-2023 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, the City of La Porte has identified five (5) projects to accomplish over the next twelve months.

These five (5) projects are:

1. Expand homeownership opportunities and education.
2. Maintain the older housing stock and the availability of affordable housing units.
3. Expand economic opportunities for low and moderate-income residents.
4. Support opportunities to improve the quality of life and self-sufficiency of low and moderate-income residents while ensuring the availability of housing choice for all residents.
5. Reduce the risk of homelessness and improve the availability of a local shelter program or facility.

The Consolidated Plan is a five-year collaborative process, established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), whereby participating jurisdictions provide a vision for community development and housing improvements. La Porte participates in the CDBG program.

Each year the City of La Porte is required to submit an Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In La Porte, the Annual Action Plan begins October 1 and ends September 30 of each year. The Annual Action Plan reports on planned expenditures of entitlement funds and progress made each year toward the goals listed in the Consolidated Plan.

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 Consolidated Plan allows the public to measure the impact of funded activities. The following goals and objectives address areas that will improve living conditions for La Porte's low-and moderate-income residents:

- Support opportunities for housing development that expand diversity of housing choice including those for low and moderate-income households.
- Remove influences of blight and promote neighborhood livability.
- Create economic opportunities for residents that ensure sustainability and revitalization within the city.
- Support strategies to maintain adequate levels of public services that promote self-reliance, assist people with special needs, and ensure housing choice within the community.
- Support services and rapid rehousing at the local level that decrease the level of homelessness in the community.

Once these priorities and goals are addressed, the following outcomes are anticipated:

- Improved livability within low and moderate-income neighborhoods.
- Additional affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate-income households.
- Reduction in code enforcement violations.
- Increased services to homeless and persons living in poverty.

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 previous Annual Action Plan, the City utilized \$18,629.26 in CDBG funds for a variety of housing and community development activities including housing, demolition, homeless, and public services. One large activity, sidewalk replacement, is currently underway. The contracted amount is \$378,389. Public service grants were delayed in being awarded. Agencies are now submitting payment requests for reimbursement.

The City was unsuccessful in meeting the timeliness test for Program Year 2021 and Program Year 2022. Staff shortages and difficulties in securing qualified contractors for the owner-occupied rehab program and sidewalk replacement program were the reasons for not meeting timeliness. Contracts are underway with concrete contractors and construction contractors to facilitate sidewalk repairs and

home repairs during the next four months. The City expects to meet the timeliness requirement during Program Year 2023. Staff are in the office full-time and able to work on CDBG-funded activities.

Grant expenditures with the Public Services activities and the Home Owner Repair Program can be improved. The sub grantees with the Public Services activities are not providing the services as quickly as contracted, therefore, grants are not being expended according to the original period. Staff continue to monitor progress with public service activities and home repairs.

The City continues to improve the grant management and reporting efforts. Improvements in the areas including activity documentation, citizen participation, needs analysis, and activity implementation are examples of such improvements.

Specific policies have been developed to further support the activities of the Owner-Occupied Rehab Program. The number of households participating in the Owner-Occupied Rehab Program since its inception in 2005 increased to 128.

The CDBG Public Service programs assist eligible low and moderate-income persons with the provision of parenting classes, a youth mentoring program, homeless prevention, and homeless prevention outreach.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

A Subrecipient meeting was held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, May 4, 2023, for agencies interested in applying for CDBG funding. Not-for-profit agencies were notified through an email distributed to the CDBG list. During the meeting, the facilitators discussed the CDBG program including goals and eligible uses of funds. The application was posted on the City's website for those agencies interested in downloading it. Applications were also emailed to agencies requesting them during the meeting. The meeting format allowed participants to ask questions regarding potential program and project eligibility, and to seek any technical assistance they needed to complete the funding application. Three individuals representing three agencies participated in the meeting.

A public hearing was held on May 11, 2023, at 1:15 PM in the council chambers at City Hall, 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, Indiana. The purpose of this public hearing was to solicit public input on proposed activities to be funded using PY 2023 CDBG funds. Additionally, citizens were invited to provide views on local community development needs to benefit from the use of CDBG funds. Public comments were accepted through June 9, 2023. The Office of Community Development and Planning received no comments from citizens on community development needs. Also, there were no attendees for the public hearing on May 11, 2023.

In conformance with the Consolidated Plan regulations, a public hearing was held on July 12, 2023, 1:15 PM to solicit comment on the proposed Annual Action Plan for PY 2023.

The following steps were taken for the public hearings to broaden public participation: • The public notice was published in the Herald Dispatch on July 1, 2023, prior to the public hearing. • The City's website includes a copy of the public notice as well as a downloadable copy of the Draft 2023 Action Plan. • A media release announcing the public meetings was distributed to the La Porte County Herald Dispatch, and WCOE-FM/WLOI-AM. A draft copy of the PY 2023 Annual Action was also available for review at the Office of Community Development and Planning, City Hall, 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, Indiana, and at the La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, Indiana. A hearing notice was posted on two bulletin boards at City Hall, and in the offices of the CDBG program.

The Office of Community Development and Planning received no comments from the public hearings and public comment period that ended August 11, 2023. The 30-day public comment period began July 11, 2023, and closed at 4 PM on August 11, 2023.

5. Summary of public comments

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

The City of La Porte initially held two public hearings to obtain citizen's views about the proposed use of CDBG funds during Program Year 2022. The dates were Thursday, May 11, 2023, and Wednesday, July 12, 2023. A legal ad was published April 27, 2023, and June 30, 2023, in the La Porte County Herald Dispatch notifying citizens of the opportunity to attend the public hearings. Notices were also posted on the city's website page under Community Development Block Grant-legal notices and on the main bulletin board at City Hall.

The purpose of the public hearing held May 11, 2023, was to solicit comments from citizens on how the CDBG funding should be spent.

The purpose of the second public hearing held July 12, 2023, was to solicit public comments on the proposed PY 2023 Annual Action Plan.

The draft PY 2023 CDBG Annual Action Plan was made available for public review in the Office of Community Development and Planning, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, Indiana, and in the reference department of the La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, Indiana. It was also posted on the City's website at www.cityoflaporte.com.

The draft Annual Action Plan was available until August 11, 2023.

No comments were received electronically, or in writing, or verbally. There were no attendees at either public hearing held.

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

There were no comments or views presented to CDBG staff. As a result, none were rejected or not accepted.

7. Summary

The City of La Porte is receiving an entitlement allocation in PY 2023 of \$447,295 that is a decrease of \$5,417 from the PY 2022 allocation. The amount of \$447,295 represents a 1.8% decrease in funding from the previous year.

Combining the City's entitlement amount of \$447,295 with \$316,892 of reprogrammed funds per the IDIS PR01 report for a total of \$764,187 the City of LaPorte is proposing to use CDBG funds in this manner:

Program Administration: \$ 89,459

Fair Housing Activities: to be included in program administration.

Sidewalk Replacement: \$624,728

Public Services: \$ 47,500

The City's allocation is estimated to be \$447,295.00. Reprogrammed funds in the amount of \$316,892 per the PR01 IDIS report will be spread over general administration, public services, and sidewalk replacement. The City has \$8,949.07 remaining in program income that will be used for sidewalk replacement.

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		LA PORTE	Office of Planning and Community Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

The City of La Porte's Office of Community Development and Planning (CDP) adheres to its Citizen Participation Plan which was approved during the development of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Planning process.

During development of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, the City of La Porte undertook an extensive outreach effort consulting with social service agencies, affordable housing providers and governmental agencies. A needs Survey was completed by agencies and the community-at-large. Results from the needs survey were used to develop goals, needs, and priorities for the Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan.

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

The coordination activities include:

Encouraging and accepting grant applications from housing providers, health care systems, and general service providers through the Annual Action Plan process.

Participating in local and regional committees such as the Rental Assistance Team, COVID-19 Community Partners, HOME Team, and the Area 2 Agency on Aging Advisory Council to ensure coordination in housing and supportive services.

Providing technical assistance and support to social service agencies seeking funding from other resources than the City's CDBG funds for services that complement the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan goals.

Encouraging social service agencies to work together to leverage resources and prevent duplication of services.

Coordinating planning efforts and project implementation among housing providers and social service agencies.

In conformance with the Annual Action Plan regulations, two public hearings were held. The first one took place on May 11, 2023. The purpose of this public hearing was to solicit comments on what activities to allocate funding to in Program Year 2023. A second public hearing occurred on July 12, 2023. Its purpose was to solicit comments on the proposed Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan. There were no attendees at either hearing and no comments were received.

The following steps were taken for the public hearings to broaden public participation: legal notices were published in the La Porte Herald Dispatch at least one week prior to the public hearings; notices of the public hearings were posted on the City's website at least two weeks prior to the public hearings; the City's website also includes a draft Annual Action Plan that can be downloaded or read on-line; a written copy of the draft Annual Action Plan was placed in the local public library for review; a written copy of the draft Annual Action Plan was available for review in the Office of Community Development and Planning; media releases were distributed to local media resources two weeks prior to the public hearings taking place; and flyers advertising the public hearings were posted on bulletins throughout City Hall.

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.

Coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons include the following activities:

Staff from the Office of Community Development and Planning actively attend and participate in HOME Team meetings and projects. The HOME Team serves as a local Continuum of Care (CoC) entity for La Porte County. Its mission addresses the needs of homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness. The HOME Team meets monthly. Other members of the HOME Team are social service agencies, governmental agencies, elected officials, health care providers, educational corporations, colleges and universities, businesses, and community members at large.

- The HOME Team coordinates efforts with the Indiana Balance of State Regional Planning Council to ensure the Point-in-time Count is completed and results publicized. La Porte County is a member of Region 1 of the Balance of State Continuum of Care. Housing Opportunities, Valparaiso, Indiana, is the lead agency for the regional Continuum of Care. Staff from Housing Opportunities regularly attend HOME Team meetings.
- The Office of Community Development and Planning also maintains contact with the Center Township Trustee Office, Catholic Charities, and the Salvation Army of La Porte. These agencies provide direct financial assistance to residents of La Porte who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness as well as financial literacy education.

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

The City of La Porte does not receive ESG funding. Three agencies in Michigan City receive ESG funding through the Indiana Balance of State competitive funding process. These agencies are Interfaith PADS

Emergency Shelter, Stepping Stone Shelter for Women, and Sand Castle. Stepping Stone is a domestic violence shelter and accepts residents of LaPorte. Sand Castle is an emergency homeless shelter for families. They provide residential and case management services primarily to residents of Michigan City, Indiana.

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

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Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated.

1	Agency/Group/Organization	CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF GARY, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted in a face-to-face interview. Anticipated outcomes include expansion of services for the homeless or those at risk of homelessness.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Swanson Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted through a face-to-face interview. The anticipated outcomes of the consultation are continuation of the homeless case management program and expansion of mental health services for homeless individuals.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted through a telephone conversation. The anticipated outcome is to expand the availability of permanent supportive housing and affordable housing in the City of La Porte, Indiana.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Surf Internet
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This internet service provider was contacted during a telephone call. Surf Air is completing the installation of fiber optic internet throughout the City of La Porte to make reliable internet access available to residents. Discounted rates are available for low-income residents.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	LA PORTE PARKS AND RECREATION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This local governmental department was contacted through a telephone call. The projected outcome is development of a plan to enhance youth services to affect an improved quality of life. The Parks and Recreation Department are completing Phase II of a trail program that enables residents to walk or ride bikes throughout several low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. It currently crosses through Census Tracts 420, 423, and 425.

6	Agency/Group/Organization	City of LaPorte-Code Enforcement
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This local governmental department was contacted via a telephone interview. The projected outcomes are better use funds for neighborhood preservation, and outreach for owner-occupied rehab.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Youth Service Bureau of La Porte County, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted via telephone. The anticipated outcome is expanded services for low and moderate-income youth within the City of La Porte.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	LA PORTE SALVATION ARMY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The consultation took place over the telephone. The project outcome is development of expanded food services and better coordinated provision of financial assistance for housing.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Center Township Trustee
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The interview with the Center Township Trustee took place as a telephone call. Discussion focused on the needs of financial assistance for low-income residents, housing needs, and nutritional assistance through their food pantry.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Office of Community Development and Planning
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	A face-to-face meeting took place with the City Planner and Assistant Planner. The Planning Department is focusing on eliminating truck traffic through the downtown corridor with the development of a "bypass" along the far east side of the city. A section of La Porte, "the Numbers and Letters Project" is receiving storm sewer upgrades to prevent combined sewer overflow. This activity addresses flood prone areas created by surface water. According to the City Planner, flooding around the lakes in La Porte has not been an issue. The City Planner is participating in a Housing Study committee focusing on affordable housing in a low-income neighborhood near downtown. In one study, 306 units were found to be in poor condition. The committee is deciding if demolition or rehab is warranted for these units. There is a county-wide committee studying the need for county-wide internet services especially in the poverty-stricken areas of the county. Surf Wireless is leading an effort to develop La Porte into a City-wide Gig City. Surf Wireless has brought broadband to all parts of the city. Another task force working on broadband is La Porte County Rural Broadband Task Force. Also, a goal of the Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission is narrowing the digital divide in La Porte County.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	La Porte Community School Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development

	<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>A phone interview took place with the manager of the F.A.C.E.S. program (Family and Community Engagement Services). Barriers identified are lack of affordable housing for low and moderate-income families. Many rental units surrounding the Lincoln School are in poor condition. Also, many parents work 12-hour shifts, six days a week preventing families from accessing community services such as ESL classes. Many community services are competing for the same funding due to shortage of funding. The manager identified three priorities: development of affordable housing, job development, and access to educational programs. This service is collaborating with the La Porte County Rural Broadband Task Force to expand broadband services to areas outside of the city of La Porte. Using funds from multiple sources including the Next Level Connect Grant provided by the State of Indiana, fiber optic wires are being installed throughout the county. All the schools within La Porte Community School Corporation have broadband and internet access including "hot spots".</p>
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting.

Attempts to consult private and public agencies were made. Criteria mostly consisted of those agencies that provide services to low and moderate-income individuals, all age groups from youth through elderly, and for service recipients residing in the City of LaPorte. If an agency is not listed, it is because they chose not to respond to a survey, participate in a meeting or return a phone call.

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	Unity Foundation of La Porte County, Inc.	Continuum of Care Unity Foundation of La Porte County, Inc. The City of La Porte consulted this plan to research the needs of the homeless and special populations. This plan compliments the goals, strategies, and needs in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

The City of La Porte continues to support the goals and objectives outlined in the LaPorte County Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Seventeen goals of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness are:

Prevention

1. Increase access to and funding for financial assistance.
2. Prepare clients to meet with township trustees to apply for township assistance.
3. Enhance the importance of personal financial literacy.
4. Prevent those being discharged from health care settings from becoming homeless; and
5. Prevent those being discharged from jails/prisons from becoming homeless.

Housing

1. Shelter people during unforeseen emergencies and rapidly re-house them.
2. Immediately house people who are being discharged from facilities and stabilize them in the community.
3. Have an adequate supply of permanent supportive housing for disabled populations.
4. Increase the amount of adequate, affordable, and safe housing available; and

5. Organize and increase funding streams to better support plan housing goals.

Income/Services

1. Make services more accessible.
2. Increase employment opportunities.
3. Increase access to income supports.
4. Increase quality of client data through HMIS.
5. Increase access to transportation.
6. Continue to monitor and update services based on population needs; and
7. Increase access to health services.

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.

Originally, the City of La Porte held two public hearings to obtain citizen's views about the proposed use of CDBG funds during Program Year 2023. The dates were May 11, 2023, and July 12, 2023.

The first public hearing held in May was held to solicit citizen views on the local community development needs to be met with these funds. This public hearing was held to comply with 24 CFR 91.105. A legal notice was published on April 27, 2023, in the La Porte County Herald-Dispatch notifying citizens of the opportunity to attend the public hearing or to provide written comments to CDBG staff. The notice was also posted on the City's website on April 27, 2023, and at two locations within City Hall. News releases were sent electronically to local media on April 24, 2023.

The public hearing was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, Indiana, at 1:15 PM. No comments were received, or attendees present at this public hearing.

A second public hearing was held July 12, 2023, to comply with 24 CFR 91.105. This second hearing's purpose was to solicit comments and obtain views on the proposed PY 2023 CDBG Annual Action Plan beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. Comments were accepted through August 11, 2023.

The draft PY 2023 Annual Action Plan was made available for public comment on July 11, 2023, by making it available for review in person in the Office of Community Development and Planning, and at the La Porte County Public Library, in downtown La Porte, and on the City of La Porte Official Website. The draft plan remained available for review and public comment until August 11, 2023.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public 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>A public hearing was held May 11, 2023, to solicit input on the CDBG annual entitlement and preferences for allocating funds in activities. No attendees or responses were received.</p>	<p>No comments were received.</p>	<p>There were no comments made or received therefore none were accepted.</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	Newspaper Ad	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p>	A newspaper ad was published by the Herald-Dispatch on April 27, 2023 advertising the public hearing held May 11, 2023. No attendees or responses were received.	No comments were received.	There were no comments made or received therefore none were accepted.	
3	Newspaper Ad	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p>	A newspaper was published by the Herald-Dispatch on June 30, 2023 advertising the public hearing held July 12, 2023. No attendees or responses were received.	No comments were received.	There were no comments made or received therefore none were accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Public Hearing	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p>	A public hearing was held July 12, 2023 to solicit input on the proposed CDBG PY 2023 Annual Action Plan. No attendees or responses were received.	No comments were received.	There were no comments made or received therefore none were accepted.	
5	Internet Outreach	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p>	The PY 2023 Annual Action Plan, and legal notices advertising were inserted on the City of La Porte's website. No citizens attended any public hearings or provided comments on the contents of the PY 23 AAP.	No comments received.	There were no comments made therefore none were accepted.	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Annual Action Plan
2023

21

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The PY 2023 Action Plan is the annual plan that the City prepares using the goals outlined in the 2019-2023 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The Action Plan details the activities the City will undertake to address the housing and community development needs and local objectives using CDBG funds received during Program Year 2023 as well as anticipated unused funding left at the end of September 30, 2022.

PY 2023 is the fifth year in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. La Porte estimates receiving an allocation of \$447,295 for housing, homeless services, public services, and community development costs.

The City will also re-allocate the prior year's funds in the amount of \$316,892. Of the annual entitlement allocation, the City will use a portion of the funds for administration of the CDBG grant.

The City currently has outstanding contracts totaling \$118,534 in owner-occupied rehab activities and \$378,389 sidewalk replacement. Outstanding public services under contract still to be drawn is \$44,354. A total of \$541,277 is under contract and remains to be

drawn during PY 2022.

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	447,295	8,949	316,892	773,136	773,136	Estimated amount available to City of La Porte based upon PY 2023 allocation and amounts available to draw as of August 4, 2023.
Other	public - federal	Admin and Planning Housing Public Services	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.

The CDBG program does not require a match from other sources. The City of La Porte often makes attempts to bundle federal funds with local, private, and other sources. In PY 2023, the city will partner with four outside organizations to provide public services to residents of LaPorte. The total investment in these organizations is \$47,500 or approximately 11% of its annual entitlement allocation. These organizations will be

supporting the funded program/activities.

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

As mentioned in the PY 2022 AAP, the City of La Porte transferred ownership of a parcel of land to La Porte County Habitat for Humanity in March 2022 where Tibma Bakery once stood on. The building and parking lot were demolished in August 2020 using CDBG funds. The parcel is located at 404 McCollum, La Porte, Indiana.

Habitat subdivided the parcel into five separate lots and will construct five owner-occupied residences on them for low-mod households as affordable housing. La Porte County Habitat for Humanity received an IHDA HOME grant that will be used to start construction on the first of five houses. The organization projects all five of the houses to be completed in 2025.

Discussion

The City of La Porte proposes using the following resources for these activities:

CDBG Program Administration \$ 89,459

CDBG Sidewalk Replacement \$ 624,228

CDBG Public Services \$ 47,500

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	Maintain availability of decent & afford housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$0 CDBG-CV 2020 Cares Act Funding: \$0	Homeowner Housing Added: 1 Household Housing Unit
2	Reduce the risk of homelessness	2019	2023	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Homeless	CDBG: \$22,500	Homelessness Prevention: 50 Persons Assisted
3	Foster neighborhood stability and enrichment	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development		Non-homeless Special Needs Housing	CDBG: \$649,728	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1983 Persons Assisted
4	Expand Homeownership Opportunities and Education	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$0	Homeowner Housing Added: 0 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Administration, Planning and Management	2019	2023	Administration	Citywide	Administration, Planning and Management	CDBG: \$89,459 CDBG-CV 2020 Cares Act Funding: \$0	

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Maintain availability of decent & afford housing
	Goal Description	The City will monitor new construction of affordable owner-occupied housing by La Porte County Habitat for Humanity on the Tibma property.
2	Goal Name	Reduce the risk of homelessness
	Goal Description	The City is proposes to provide two grants to Catholic Charities and Swanson Center to provide rental assistance and homeless outreach with assistance in placement in secure and stable housing for Swanson Center's homeless clients.
3	Goal Name	Foster neighborhood stability and enrichment
	Goal Description	The City will provide a grant to the Youth Service Bureau in the amount of \$5,000 for youth mentoring as an enrichment activity to youth in La Porte. A sidewalk replacement activity is proposed to occur in Census Tract 423, a qualified census tract, using \$624,728 in CDBG funding.
4	Goal Name	Expand Homeownership Opportunities and Education
	Goal Description	Currently, funding constraints and a lack of a service provider prevent the City from providing homeowner education to residents in La Porte.

5	Goal Name	Administration, Planning and Management
	Goal Description	The City proposes to use \$89,459 in CDBG funding for CDBG program administration during PY 2023.

DRAFT

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

In the 2019-2023 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, the City of La Porte identified seven priority areas. These seven areas are: Housing, Affordable Housing, Revitalization, Economic Development, Public Services, Homeless, and Administration and Planning. Objectives of these priority areas are to expand homeownership opportunities and education; maintain availability of decent and affordable housing units; foster neighborhood stability and enrichment; expand economic opportunities particularly for those residents with low and moderate income; support opportunities to improve quality of life and self-sufficiency; ensure availability of housing choice for all residents; reduce the risk of homelessness; and continue the administration and coordination of the CDBG program. Due to funding constraints, the City is proposing projects for five of the goals.

The following projects will assist the City in accomplishing the goals over the next program year:

- Program Administration
- Housing Programs
- Sidewalk Replacement
- Funding of Public Services

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Program Administration
2	Sidewalk Replacement Program
3	CDBG Homeless Prevention-Catholic Charities
4	CDBG Healthy Families-Dunebrook
5	CDBG Homeless Outreach-Swanson Center
6	CDBG Youth Mentoring-YSB

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan was used to identify allocation priorities. Obstacles to addressing underserved needs include a reduction in CDBG funding, and a reduction in grants to agencies/organizations providing public services in La Porte. The COVID-19 pandemic has also affected the collection and distribution of general tax revenue funding to the City. For the upcoming program

year, the City of La Porte is proposing to allocate general funds in the amount of \$47,500 towards the completion of projects in the CDBG program.

DRAFT

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

DRAFT

1	Project Name	CDBG Program Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	Administration, Planning and Management
	Funding	CDBG: \$89,459
	Description	Overall coordination, monitoring, and management of the Community Development Block Grant; preparation of the Program Year 2022 CAPER, and the 2024-2028 Consolidation Plan. The national objective to be met is the benefit to low and moderate-income persons. The matrix code is 21A.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Not applicable.
	Location Description	City-wide. City residents may contact the CDBG program in City Hall, Lower Level (basement), 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, Indiana, may call the phone number, or send an email to the CDBG program to comment or discuss CDBG activities.
2	Planned Activities	Overall coordination, monitoring, and management of the Community Development Block Grant; and preparation of the Program Year 2022 CAPER and 2024-2028 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The national objective to be met is the benefit to low and moderate-income persons. The matrix code is 21A, General Program Administration. CDBG Program Administration also handles fair housing activities in partnership with the Diversity and Inclusion Commission for the City of La Porte.
	Project Name	Sidewalk Replacement Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Foster neighborhood stability and enrichment
	Needs Addressed	Non-housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$724,728
	Description	Replace inaccessible sidewalks and install handicapped curb ramps in low and moderate-income neighborhoods. The national objective is to benefit low and moderate-income persons. The matrix code is 03L, LMA.

	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The estimated number of families to benefit from this program is 1,943. The type of family includes single-family homeowners as well as renters who are low and moderate-income levels.
	Location Description	Census Tract 423 is the targeted for sidewalk replacement.
	Planned Activities	Planned activities include removing and replacing deteriorated sidewalks, the conversion of curbs and gutters at intersections to handicapped ramps meeting American with Disabilities Act requirements; planting trees to replace the trees removed during the sidewalk rehab work; and paving deteriorated streets in the area where sidewalks are being improved.
3	Project Name	CDBG Homeless Prevention-Catholic Charities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Reduce the risk of homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Homeless
	Funding	CDBG: \$7,500
	Description	The grant for this service is to Catholic Charities in the amount of \$7,500. The national objective is benefit to low and moderate-income people. Financial assistance for mortgage and rental payments will be made to eligible residents in LaPorte. Catholic Charities proposes to service seventeen households. The matrix code is 05Q (LMC).
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Catholic Charities estimates seventeen households will benefit from this service.
	Location Description	City-wide. Catholic Charities is headquartered in Gary, Indiana, however, La Porte is located within the Diocese of Gary. As a result, Catholic Charities provides services to residents of La Porte. A family support worker takes applications in the office of the Center Township Trustee's Office on a weekly basis.
	Planned Activities	Planned activities include rental/mortgage payment assistance, and financial literacy educational classes. Financial literacy classes are provided by Catholic Charities on the premises of the Center Township Trustee.

4	Project Name	CDBG Healthy Families-Dunebrook
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Foster neighborhood stability and enrichment
	Needs Addressed	Non-homeless Special Needs
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	A public service grant to Dunebrook in the amount of \$20,000 proposing to serve seventy-five individuals. This program, Healthy Families, will complete assessments of income-eligible children and parents enrolled in the program and residing in LaPorte; complete developmental screenings of the enrolled children; and provide intense parenting support fostering healthy emotional, physical, and mental development for the children. The national objective is a benefit to low and moderate-income persons; the matrix code is 5 (LMC).
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Dunebrook proposes to provide services to seventy-five individuals during a twelve-month period.
5	Location Description	City-wide. Even though Dunebrook is headquartered in Michigan City, the organization has clients residing in La Porte that have been qualified for this program. A family support specialist makes home visits to conduct developmental assessments and provide education to parents. The clients live throughout the City of La Porte. Most of the clients reside in low-income neighborhoods or Section 8 housing units.
	Planned Activities	Dunebrook will assess new low and moderate-income parents to identify their strengths and needs; enhance family positive functioning by building trust, establishing support, and teaching positive problem-solving skills. Dunebrook identifies families at risk of neglecting or abusing new parents and intervenes through home visits, education programs, and therapeutic activities that benefit the parents as well as the children. Supportive services are provided until the child reaches three years of age. Home visits are made as often as once a week with a lessening frequency as the child ages and goals are met. A Family Depot incentive program is used as well rewarding parents for positive steps in child development areas.
5	Project Name	CDBG Homeless Outreach-Swanson Center
	Target Area	

Goals Supported	Reduce the risk of homelessness
Needs Addressed	Homeless
Funding	CDBG: \$15,000
Description	<p>PATH is a public service that provides outreach services for homeless people in LaPorte County. The CDBG funding provided by the City of LaPorte includes only homeless people in the City of LaPorte, Indiana. Swanson Center provides interviews and assesses homeless individuals for housing resources. Once housing and supportive services are secured, the participant transfers to therapeutic case management services provided by Swanson Center, the local mental health center. Participants in the PATH case management program must be homeless and diagnosed with a mental illness or have a substance abuse problem. The national objective is to benefit low and moderate-income persons; the matrix code is 5 (LMC). Swanson Center proposes to provide services to fifty individuals in LaPorte. The CDBG funding is used as a match by Swanson Center for a grant from the State of Indiana Division of Mental Health Services.</p>
Target Date	9/30/2024
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that fifty individuals will benefit from the proposed activities.
Location Description	City-wide. Swanson Center has its offices in Michigan City. However, most of the clients for this program meet with the outreach worker at the offices of the Center Township Trustee. The outreach worker also meets with prospective clients in areas frequented by the homeless such as tent camps, public parks, stores, and restaurants in La Porte.
Planned Activities	The subrecipient proposes to provide outreach services to fifty homeless or at risk of homelessness individuals and who have a mental illness or addiction to drugs and/or alcohol. Outreach workers visit areas frequented by homeless individuals such as grocery stores, restaurants, homeless shelters, food pantries, township trustee offices, and other poor relief agencies to talk to homeless individuals about enrolling in the program. Once a trusting relationship is established, housing is located as well as a source of stable income. Recipients of services are then transferred to Swanson Center's therapeutic case management programs.
Project Name	CDBG Youth Mentoring-YSB

6	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Foster neighborhood stability and enrichment
	Needs Addressed	Non-homeless Special Needs
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	The Youth Service Bureau will provide mentoring services to twenty-five low and moderate-income children residing within the City of LaPorte. The national objective is to benefit low and moderate-income individuals; the matrix code is 05D (LMC).
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Forty low to moderate-income school-age people will benefit from the activities. (0-80%)
	Location Description	Riley, Handley, and Hailmann Schools. These schools are located within the City of La Porte and are part of the La Porte Community School Corporation.
	Planned Activities	The Youth Service Bureau will recruit mentors and students; pair up both parties; and monitor weekly visits between mentors and students. Two of the areas that are monitored are improved grades and attendance of each student assigned a mentor. Staff of the Youth Service Bureau also provide information about community resources to parents and students including therapeutic counseling.

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 CDBG funds awarded to the City of La Porte are available for use on a city-wide basis. No priority is assigned to any geographic section of the city. However, several low-mod census tract block groups have been identified. These areas are Census Tract 421, Blocks 1, 3 and 4; Census Tract 423, all Blocks; Census Tract 424, Block 4; and Census Tract 425, Blocks 1 and 3.

Sidewalk replacement will occur in Census Tract 423 which is a qualified census tract.

The City will continue to prioritize the use of its CDBG funding for development of affordable housing, including preservation and conservation, which serve low-income households and to addressing the needs of the homeless.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Citywide	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The area for public services is city-wide. Low and moderate-income individuals live in all the census tracts located within the City. Sidewalk replacement will occur in Census Tract 423, a qualified census tract. Eighty-eight percent of the residents in this census tract are low- and moderate-income citizens.

Over 60% of the residential areas of La Porte fall within the low-mod income range. As a result, the City decided to make available CDBG projects and activities on a city-wide basis.

Discussion

The City of La Porte receives \$447,295 and the City does not have a large population. The population from the 2020 Census is 22,471 residents. Because of the size of the City, investments using CDBG funds are made City-wide.

The City of La Porte, Indiana strives for geographic diversity in funding while keeping in mind the most leverage the City can gain with the limited amount of CDBG funds received.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City of La Porte's need for affordable housing was determined during the planning process for the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan. Even though the City does not receive HOME funding, the City uses the HOME definition of affordable housing which is housing on which the occupant pays no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs and utilities. The City will fund several projects all of which directly or indirectly impact the provision of affordable housing. In PY 2023, the City proposes the following affordable housing activity:

- Participation in the Affordable Housing Task Force.

The City Planner sits on a task force charged with developing affordable housing within the city and county.

The City is collaborating with La Porte County Habitat for Humanity in developing the former Tibma Bakery site into owner-occupied affordable housing. In 2022, the vacant parcel of land was donated to La Porte County Habitat for Humanity. Habitat successfully petitioned the La Porte Plan Commission for a subdivision permit. The objective is to create five individual lots to build new affordable owner-occupied housing on these lots. Habitat is proposing to begin construction in August 2023 with the final house built in 2025. Groundbreaking was delayed nine months due to funding constrictions. A major grant from IHDA was recently made available. Now the project can proceed.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	67
Non-Homeless	2,053
Special-Needs	0
Total	2,120

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	17
The Production of New Units	1
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	18

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

Discussion

The owner-occupied rehab program will be finishing rehab activities on three structures. Two were enrolled in the PY 2020 funding year and one was enrolled in the PY 2021 funding year. The work to be completed will correct housing code violations, create safe and sustainable living arrangements, and provide handicapped-accessible modifications for one of the structures.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

There is no public housing authority or agency within the City of La Porte.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

Discussion

None.

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

Introduction

The City of La Porte is a member of the HOME Team and the LaPorte County Continuum of Care (CoC). The HOME Team is an informal group of social service agencies, religious congregations, and governmental entities that meet once a month to develop and coordinate county-wide affordable housing development and homeless prevention activities. The HOME Team acts as the Continuum of Care for the county. A Continuum of Care Plan reflects the demographics, needs and available shelter, housing, and supportive services in the two entitlement jurisdictions of La Porte and Michigan City, Indiana. The Continuum of Care Plan outlines goals and strategies that support homeless prevention strategies covering the entire county and not just the two entitlement communities.

The City of La Porte proposes to continue its participation in the HOME Team and the residential housing assistance committee during Program Year 2023.

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 La Porte will fund three activities that support the homeless or reduce the risk of homelessness in the City:

- Participation in the La Porte County HOME Team. The HOME Team indirectly affects the homeless population in La Porte. In 2009, The HOME Team collaborated on the development of a Plan to End Homelessness. The City of LaPorte uses the plan along with the Con Plan to address homelessness issues.
- Swanson Center (PATH-case management for homeless persons who are mentally ill, disabled, or are substance abusers in LaPorte)
- Financial assistance in the form of a grant to Catholic Charities of Gary. Catholic Charities proposes to use the funds to assist residents of La Porte with rent/mortgage payments and delinquent utilities payments to prevent eviction.

Since development of the Plan to End Homelessness in 2009, case management services for persons with a mental illness/substance abuse have been funded and implement by Swanson Center. The PATH grant increases coordination of services through identifying a contracted PATH program coordinator, increases outreach efforts to the homeless population, increases intensive case management through a structured approach in identifying homeless individuals with a serious mental illness and/or substance abuse, and enhances training for Swanson Center staff and the HOME Team participants on outreach efforts for homeless individuals in LaPorte County. PATH's goals are to increase access to behavioral

health services as well as access to primary health care for the homeless.

Homeless individuals and families are referred to the Interfaith Pads Shelter and Sand Castle Shelter for Families in Michigan City for emergency housing.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

During Program Year 2020, the homeless shelter in La Porte ceased to operate for two reasons: Coronavirus-19 and not having interior fire sprinklers in the building. As a result, homeless individuals are referred to emergency shelters in Michigan City.

The Center Township Trustee, First Steps, Salvation Army of LaPorte and Catholic Charities provide vouchers for the temporary housing of homeless individuals in motels. Also, referrals are made to Sand Castle Homeless Shelter and the Interfaith PADS Shelter, both located in Michigan City.

The Center Township Trustee Office moved to a new location in May 2021. The new location allows the office to provide “drop-in” day space for persons experiencing homelessness. Shower facilities, laundry facilities, and job prep services are available for these homeless clients. The Trustee’s office also provides shared office space for Swanson Center’s PATH case managers, and Catholic Charities case workers. A food pantry is also on site.

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

Currently, the Center Township Trustee and Salvation Army of La Porte provide homeless individuals financial assistance and vouchers for temporary housing in motels in La Porte. There is no longer an emergency shelter available to homeless persons in La Porte. When the emergency shelter is closed in 2020, homeless individuals in La Porte found shelter with a friend/family member or travel to Michigan City to use the Interfaith PADS Shelter or Sand Castle Shelter for Families.

Permanent supportive housing is provided to disabled individuals who are clients of Paladin (formerly Parents and Friends, Inc. PAF) in one of their apartments in Butterfly Gardens in LaPorte, Indiana or in one of their group homes. Housing Opportunities, out of Valparaiso, Indiana, also owns and operates four apartments in La Porte in their permanent supportive housing program. The Center Township Trustee and Swanson Center have placed clients in these apartments. Case managers work with these

residents on maintaining housing stability and accessing community services.

The assistance Swanson Center provides to homeless individuals through their homeless outreach services shortens the time that a person experiences homelessness. Outreach services assist the homeless individual with a disability diagnosis, a source of income through disability payments, and eventually a place to live. Once a source of income is secured and a place to live is found, the individual transitions to a regular case management and treatment program provided through Swanson Center. This regular case management is not funded using CDBG dollars.

Catholic Charities provides financial assistance to individuals at risk of homelessness using FEMA dollars and private funding. Rental/mortgage assistance is provided for one month. In addition to the financial assistance, participants must complete a self-sufficiency program taught by Catholic Charities staff. The City of La Porte is proposing to provide a grant to Catholic Charities to assist with the provision of rent/mortgage payments to qualified applicants.

Catholic Charities, and Swanson Center are all active members of the HOME Team. The City of La Porte will continue to advocate on behalf of these agencies for providing services to homeless individuals and families. The City of La Porte budgeted \$25,000 for activities provided by Swanson Center and Catholic Charities in Program Year 2023.

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

The City of La Porte will not fund rehab for owner-occupied homes in La Porte using Program Year 2023 funds. The focus has been changed to sidewalk replacement and resolving accessibility issues due to a consent decree from a lawsuit filed in 2008 by two disabled residents who had difficulty accessing city amenities and services due to the poor condition of sidewalks and the intersections not being wheelchair accessible.

The La Porte Urban Enterprise Association is establishing a new grant program focusing on residential repairs or rehab for homeowners and tenants living with the state-approved enterprise zone in La Porte.

In 2000, the City of La Porte joined 24 other cities with a state-designated urban enterprise zone. The Zone is guided by a 10-person board of directors made up of local residents and representatives from the business community. The La Porte Urban Enterprise Association (LPUEA) works to improve the Zone (and the city as a whole) by encouraging redevelopment, development, and private investment in the

Zone. Support programs are offered to residents and businesses alike. There are substantial tax saving benefits for businesses located in the Zone and the program calls for priority hiring of people living within the area. Over 50 local businesses utilize incentives offered through the Zone and in turn provide funding which is directly reinvested into the area through LPUEA programming.

The City of La Porte does not have an independent discharge policy. However, there are many not-for-profit agencies throughout La Porte County that have discharge plans for the LaPorte area. Swanson Center, the comprehensive mental health center for La Porte County, has thirteen beds allocated in state hospitals for La Porte County residents. Case managers from Swanson Center collaborate with the discharge planner of the state hospital to ensure that services and housing are in place at the time of discharge. The City of La Porte maintains an extensive referral list of assorted services to assist those locating in the area following the discharge from a publicly funded institution or system of care.

Staff will provide supportive services/information to any group attempting to open an emergency shelter. Furthermore, the City will continue to support the efforts of the HOME Team during PY 2023.

The City of La Porte does not receive HOPWA funding. There is no activity proposed for HOPWA funds during PY 2023.

Discussion

Discussion is covered in the preceding sections.

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

Introduction:

The City's vision for its growth is based on a strong interest in maintaining a more diverse community with a fair distribution of affordable housing throughout its different neighborhoods. The City also views home ownership as a catalyst to further expand its economic base and create a viable and thriving community. Conditions that have the potential to becoming a barrier to affordable housing are the high cost of housing including a mortgage payment and taxes, and the lack of affordable credit. Within the City of La Porte, 69% of the housing was constructed prior to 1950 resulting in excessive costs of maintenance and a presence of lead-based paint hazards; 80% of the residential structures were built before 1980.

Housing prices soared during 2022 and 2023 making home ownership beyond the reach of low and moderate-income residents in La Porte. Nationwide, house prices have increased by a minimum of 35%. Mortgage interest rates have increased creating another burden for homeownership. Property taxes and insurance continue to rise nationwide, not just in La Porte.

Additionally, the Coronavirus continues to affect residents' ability to afford rental and mortgage payments. Many residents have come to depend on financial assistance from governmental, not-for-profit, and familial resources to stay housed. The loss of a job and a reduction in work hours has resulted in an increase in families moving out of apartments and houses and joining families and friends in their apartment/houses. The May 2023 unemployment rate in La Porte County is 4.1% which is an increase of 1.6% from rate of 2.5% in May 2022.

Inflation continues to affect housing affordability in La Porte causing tenants and homeowners to risk eviction or foreclosure.

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 Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan contains initiatives that seek to enhance home ownership and preserve the character of the City's neighborhoods.

Using CDBG funding for PY 2023, the City will support barriers that are reported previously in the AAP.

Specifically, they are: Improve housing quality within the City; and

- Improve neighborhood conditions.

These activities will be funded using the Community Development Block Grant:

- Sidewalk Replacement \$624,728

The City of La Porte is currently under a consent decree to repair/replace sidewalks. This consent decree is the result of a lawsuit filed against the City in 2008 alleging a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act due to the inaccessibility of sidewalks in La Porte. The funded activities include \$316,892 in reprogrammed funds allocated to sidewalks replacement.

In partnership with the Diversity and Inclusion Commission, the CDBG program plans to develop a Fair Housing strategy to be implemented within the City of La Porte during PY 2023.

The City of La Porte is also updating its City Comprehensive Plan. This plan includes zoning requirements and regulations. It is expected to be completed in 2024.

Discussion:

Discussion is included in the above-mentioned sections.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

This section of the Annual Action Plan describes La Porte's planned activities to implement the following strategies as outlined in the Consolidated Plan 2019-2023:

- Obstacles to meeting underserved needs.
- Foster and maintain affordable housing.
- Evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards.
- Reduce the number of poverty-level families.
- Develop institutional structure; and
- Enhance coordination.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

The primary obstacle to addressing obstacles to meeting underserved needs is a shortage of funding. Agencies serving the underserved continue to experience reductions in funding from both governmental and private sources. Since 2004 when La Porte received entitlement community status, the City of La Porte's CDBG funding levels have declined by 25% representing a 1% decrease from PY 2022. Mirroring this trend is the increasing difficulty in leveraging funds through state and private resources that have also been decreasing in recent times. The entitlement allocation for Program Year 2023 is reduced \$5,417 from Program Year 2022.

Despite these challenges, the City of La Porte, beginning October 1, 2023, will continue to support the HOME Team, non-profit agencies, homeless providers, and special needs groups to meet the needs of the underserved community. The city will also continue to seek additional private and public partners to create a larger pool of resources. In Program Year 2023, this pool consists of four not-for-profit agencies. These agencies will provide services to residents ranging from children to older adults and are listed in the project tables.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing.

In the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, it was shown that affordable housing is a priority for the City of La Porte. The city is participating in a community-wide affordable housing task force whose purpose is the development of new affordable housing, rental and owner-occupied, within La Porte.

Initial plans include the development of affordable housing within the "Triangle." The "Triangle" is located within Census Tract 423 that is in the central part of the municipality. The downtown district, hospital, traditional downtown commercial district, county government campus are located within this area. This census tract is also a qualified census tract having the lowest income of the city residing within it. The affordable housing task force is exploring a strategy to purchase residential buildings, rehab

them, sell them, or rent them qualified tenants/homeowners. Development of a community housing development organization is another action goal being explored to accomplish this strategy.

The "Triangle" is bordered by Jefferson Avenue on the north, Harrison Street on the south, Rose Street on the east, and Tyler Street on the west.

A survey conducted in the 2021 of the properties in the "Triangle" showed that 54% of properties are rental units, 25% are owner-occupied, and 21% are commercial.

An additional effort to foster affordable housing in the city is the development of the former Tibma Bakery property. A ground breaking will be taking place this summer to begin the construction by La Porte County Habitat for Humanity of one new house for a low-to-moderate income family. Plans include two houses to be constructed in 2024 and two more in 2025. Habitat recently was awarded a grant from IHCD to assist with construction costs.

Habitat subdivided the parcel into five individual lots and obtained new individual addresses from the City of La Porte and Post Office.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards.

The City of La Porte will address the problem of lead-based paint hazards by:

- Providing written materials to homeowners participating in the owner-occupied rehab program.
- Completing a lead-based paint risk assessment on all houses enrolled in the owner-occupied rehab program.
- Incorporating lead-based paint remediation in all the work scopes for the houses enrolled in the owner-occupied rehab program.
- Assist other housing development organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Housing Opportunities, and Homeward Bound in the development and construction of new affordable housing free from lead-based paint hazards.

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

The City of La Porte will focus on enhancing conditions that reduce the number of poverty-level individuals and families that can be realized. The City will target CDBG and other local resources to activities that support family services and affordable housing. The goals of these efforts are to:

- Foster self-sufficiency; and
- Assist with employment opportunities.

The City will fund four agencies that work with impoverished families/individuals or create opportunities

for economic well-being.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure.

The Office of Community Development and Planning currently has three employees. One person is employed full-time in the CDBG program. The other full-time employees are the city planner and assistant city planner. These two persons allocate all their time to planning activities.

Procedures are in place to meet a variety of requirements and conditions to operate the CDBG program. The Office of Community Development and Planning follows a Standard Operating Procedures Manual for the CDBG program. Additionally, the CDBG Program Manager uses a time sheet to track time allocated to specific CDBG activities.

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

The City relies on private not-for-profit organizations as well as for-profit entities to acquire, develop, build, and rehabilitate resident units. The City will continue to work with local builders and developers, financial institutions, and other entities to ensure the new affordable units are produced on a regular basis.

Through the efforts of the HOME Team, the City is an active participant in the coordination and development of homeless activities on a county-wide basis.

There is no public housing authority in the City of LaPorte. All coordination takes place among private housing and social service agencies.

Discussion:

A Fair Housing Action Plan for PY 2023 follows below:

Meet with the director of human resources to plan a path to strengthen the activities of the Inclusion and Diversity Commission as it relates to fair housing. Develop an action plan that promotes fair housing within the City of La Porte. Complete a plan for outreach promoting fair housing activities and education. Distribute fair housing written publications and post information on the City's website. Partner with social service agencies to target the neighborhoods where discriminatory practices are identified. Develop a listing of resources to assist homeowners with rehab activities. Expand public and private financial resources for housing improvements. Partner with code enforcement to assist tenants with improved rental units. Conduct one fair housing training for landlords. Written materials will be developed and distributed focusing on fair housing regulations. Partner with financial institutions to make loans available for financing and home improvements in the Census Tract 423 which is a qualified census tract. Develop a policy to allow

residents to request a reasonable accommodation to modify dwellings or parking spaces as necessary in multifamily housing developments. Continue to replace sidewalks and intersection curbs in neighborhoods to increase accessibility for residents who have mobility restrictions.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The City of La Porte does not have activities that regularly generate program income. When program income is received, it is because a homeowner that participated in the owner-occupied rehab program, is still within the recapture clause, and sold their house. According to the mortgage agreement and promissory note executed at the time the repairs were completed, the homeowner returns a prorated amount to the City.

La Porte does not have any Section 108 loan guarantees or urban renewal settlements. No grants funds are projected to be returned to the line of credit.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	264,219
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.	95.00%

The amount of urgent need activities is \$264,219.01.

Two agencies have outstanding CDBG-CV grants to be used for their food pantries.

The Salvation Army of La Porte was awarded \$20,000 in 2022. They have a balance of \$7,691.01.

State Street Community Church was awarded \$15,000 in 2022 for their food pantry at the Pax Center. Their balance is \$15,000.

