

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The 2016 Action Plan was developed by the Community Development Division in collaboration with the Planning Department’s development of their Comprehensive Plan. It was informed through an extensive citizen participation process that was used to also the five year comprehensive plan.

Projects

RI Family Services	CDBG	Public Services	\$5,000		\$0			Trauma intervention and follow-up for domestic violence victims
	CDBG	Public Services	\$17,000		\$0			350 High School students in facilitated discussions to raise awareness of significant life issues
Day One	CDBG	Public Services	\$10,000		\$0			Evaluation, evidence gathering and treatment to 40-50 child victims of sexual violence
EBCAP - Health Center	CDBG	Public Services	\$25,000		\$0			Integrated medical care including substance abuse and depression
EBCAP - Foster Grandparents	CDBG	Public Services	\$10,000		\$0			Seniors receive stipends for providing in school support for students
Economic Development								

Development Loans (Section 108/UDAG)*	CDBG	Economic Development	\$45,000		\$0		Provide Development Financing for Creating 2 Full Time Job Opportunities
Business Loans (Section 108/UDAG)*	CDBG	Economic Development	\$45,000		\$0		Provide Expansion or Startup Financing for Creating 2 Full Time Job Opportunities
Section 108 payment 8/15	CDBG	Economic Development	\$181,621		\$0		Stay Current on Existing Federal Principal and Interest Debt Service
Section 108 payment 2/16	CDBG	Economic Development	\$18,377		\$0		Stay Current on Existing Federal Interest Only Debt Service
Housing							
Home Improvement Program	CDBG	Housing	\$58,779	\$20,000	\$78,779		Financing to address health, safety, code, energy, and deferred maintenance for 2 -3 Households
Rental Improvement Program	CDBG	Housing	\$110,000	\$28,000	\$138,000		Financing to address health, safety, code, energy, and deferred maintenance for 4-5 Apartments
Public Facilities							
EBCAP Transitional Housing	CDBG	Public Facilities	\$14,000		\$0		Repairs to transitional housing for 3 families at risk of becoming homeless

RI Family Services	CDBG	Public Facilities	\$6,000		\$0			Emergency Generator for Temporary Home for 8 Girls ages 12-17
Administration								
Community Development Admin	CDBG	Administration	\$132,444					

#	Project Name
1	Mental health counseling & treatment services
2	Reduction of high-risk activity by teens
3	Trauma intervention and follow-up for domestic violence victims
4	Social awareness behavior for High School students
5	Treatment for and prosecution of sexual violence to children
6	Integrated medical care including substance abuse and depression
7	Stipends for seniors to provide in school support for students
8	Development financing
9	Startup and expansion financing
10	Section 108 debt service payments
11	Home Improvement Program for single family homes
12	Home Improvement Program for buildings with 4 or less units
13	Repairs for transitional housing for families
14	Repairs for transitional housing for youth
15	CDBG compliance and administration

Table 54 – Project Information

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

The CD Division develops a proposed program budget based on the public input it has received. It has funding and descriptive details of each activity being proposed for funding. A second public hearing was then held to get input on this proposed. Recommendations for specific activity funding were made at the hearing and to the City Government by the CD Coordinator. This second public hearing launched a comment period for input on the proposed budget. Once the public comment period was over (a minimum of 30 calendar days), and because no significant comments were received that would substantially change the proposed programming and budget, the proposed budget was approved by City Council. Funding for affordable housing, family health care, and after school care, reflect the highest priorities as presented below. In an effort to boarder public participation, the social media Twitter & Face Book were used this year.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

2015 - 2016

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

AGENCY: Day One

ADDRESS: 100 Medway St, Providence, RI 02906

CONTACT: Karyn Mikkelsen-Tillet, Director of Development

ktillet@dayoneri.org, 401-421-4100 X108

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$10,000

PROGRAM TITLE: Rhode Island Children's Advocacy Center and Day One

Clinical Program

OBJECTIVES/NEEDS:

The RI Children's Advocacy Center provides evaluation, evidence gathering, advocacy, and follow-up services to child victims of sexual and/or physical abuse and their non-offending family members. Day One's clinical program provides counseling services to child and adult victims suffering from the effects of sexual abuse.

WHO IS SERVED/PROPOSED # OF BENEFICIARIES?

The RI Children's Advocacy Center will provide services to 10-15 child victims of sexual and/or physical abuse and their families from the City of East Providence. Day One's clinical program will provide individual and group therapy to 40-50 child and adult victims of sexual abuse from the City of East Providence.

2015 - 2016

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

AGENCY: EAST BAY CENTER INC.

ADDRESS: 610 WAMPANOAG TRAIL, EAST PROVIDENCE, RI 02915

CONTACT: FELICIA DESMARAIS-TOUPIN, LMHC/LCDP, CLINICAL SUPERVISOR

KARIN M. DONOVAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$14,000

PROGRAM TITLE: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICARE/UNINSURED CLIENTS TO ACCESS MEDICALLY NECESSARY SERVICES

OBJECTIVES/NEEDS: Through its Community Support Program and Acute Care Services Program, East Bay Center will deliver a full range of mental health and/or addictions prevention, assessment, treatment, and supportive services. EBC operates as a medical health home for many of its clients, ensuring that comprehensive health services are coordinated with, and for, clients as necessary – maximizing “total wellness”.

Support quality, accessible and affordable medical services for all eligible residents

Quality of life will not be significantly disrupted by unattended health issues

WHO IS SERVED/PROPOSED # OF BENEFICIARIES? With CDBG funding of \$14,000, EBC will provide as many eligible East Providence residents as possible with high quality services to enhance access to mental health and addictions assessment and treatment services in their time of need. Through the integration of these services, East Providence residents will be able to participate as high-functioning members of society, and minimize the impact of unattended health issues.

For example: Eight-eight (88) East Providence clients have been identified to be Medicare and/or Self Pay. With an allocation of \$14,000, EBC would be able to provide subsidies for up to four (4) co-payments per client per year, or almost 2.00 hours of case management services per client per year, or a combination between the two services. As the allocation reduces, the number of subsidized co-payments and/or hours of case management reduces as well.

2015 - 2016

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

AGENCY: Family Service of Rhode Island

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 6688, Providence, RI 02940-6688

CONTACT: Susan Erstling, PhD, Senior Vice President

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$5,000

PROGRAM TITLE: Family Violence Intervention Program

OBJECTIVES/NEEDS:

Family Service of Rhode Island's Family Violence Intervention Program has worked in partnership with the City of East Providence since 2007, assisting domestic violence victims and their children, and other victims as requested by the East Providence police.

According to the 2015 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook, in East Providence in 2013 there were 238 arrests for domestic violence with children present in 40% of the cases. Unfortunately, those affected by domestic violence do not always seek and/or receive the follow up services they need. The Family Violence Intervention Program provides an array of services in the community and in participants' homes to support victims and child witnesses to violence and to help reduce escalating program.

WHO IS SERVED/PROPOSED # OF BENEFICIARIES?

Through funding from the East Providence CDBG, and other sources, 200 adults (primarily women) and children who are victims of or witnesses to domestic violence or other types of violence (e.g. sexual assault, elder abuse) will receive the service, as directed by the East Providence police.

2015 - 2016

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

AGENCY: Family Service of Rhode Island, Inc.

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 6688, Providence, RI 02940-6688

CONTACT: Anthony H. Bliss, Senior VP and Chief Administrative Officer

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$7,000 (Matched by \$9,300 in private grant funds)

PROGRAM TITLE: Improvement to Wilson Group Home for Girls

OBJECTIVES/NEEDS:

Family Service of Rhode Island is requesting support for a facility improvement project to a group home for girls suffering from trauma, sexual abuse and other issues. The facility is located in East Providence at 141 Wilson Avenue. The specific improvement is the purchase and installation of a generator to provide emergency, whole house electricity during power outages due to inclement weather and other causes. The girls cannot remain in the home during an extended outage, and must be relocated to a shelter or other facility—a relocation that could put added strain on city public safety officials as they deal with many residents fleeing their homes because of low temperatures and lack of power. In addition, the generator will help protect facility damage, particularly during the winter that may take place during a power outage.

Please note: this request is for less than 50% of the project's cost. The remainder is from a grant awarded by the Roddy-Holden Foundation.

WHO IS SERVED/PROPOSED # OF BENEFICIARIES?

The home serves approximately 20 young women annually who have been referred by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families as unable to live at home due to physical or sexual abuse, severe neglect, or serious mental health problems.

2015 - 2016

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

AGENCY: East Bay Community Action Program

ADDRESS: 610 Waterman Avenue

CONTACT: Debbie O'Connell

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$10,000

PROGRAM TITLE: Foster Grandparent Program

OBJECTIVES/NEEDS:

The Foster Grandparent Program will provide an immediate benefit to low income seniors in East Providence by paying a stipend for volunteer service. The stipend will assist seniors in meeting their near term expenses for housing and living expenses. The Foster Grandparents will work with children one-on-one and in small groups in schools to provide academic and social support. This will provide East Providence children served by the Foster Grandparent program the academic and social confidence to reach their full potential.

WHO IS SERVED/PROPOSED # OF BENEFICIARIES?

Because Foster Grandparents are low-income these stipends significantly impact their quality of life providing needed money for daily costs of living in an independent setting. Thirty-three Foster Grandparents in East Providence will receive up to \$ 75,000. The services of the Foster Grandparents provide approximately 950 children with the additional assistance needed to gain skills and confidence that are essential to their success in school and in their lives.

2015 - 2016

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

AGENCY: East Bay Community Action Program

ADDRESS: 100 Bullocks Point Avenue, Riverside, RI 02915

CONTACT: Stephanie McCaffrey

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$30,000.00

PROGRAM TITLE: Primary Care Behavioral Health Integration

OBJECTIVES/NEEDS:

In the last two years, more than 50% of the medical patients over the age of 12 years of age seen at EBCAP were diagnosed with at least one behavioral health disorder and/or substance use disorder. Additionally, patients diagnosed with behavioral health and/or substance abuse disorders were seen an average of twice as many times as the general patient population at EBCAP, in fact 62% of the overall medical visits occurring at EBCAP involved those patients diagnosed with a mental health and/or substance abuse disorder.

According to Dr. Francisco Trilla, Chief Medical Officer of Neighborhood Health Plan of RI (RI's largest Medicaid MCO) up to 80% of EBCAP's 100 highest cost utilizers had a behavioral health and/or substance use disorder as a primary or secondary diagnosis.

East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP) is requesting \$30,000 in funding support to provide a fully integrated model of primary health care (medical, behavioral health, and enabling services) within an NCQA Level 3(2011 standards) Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) setting. Funding will support EBCAP's transition to a model which embeds behavioral health consultants as a standard feature/component of the PCMH primary care offered at its East Providence facility. The target population is all new and established patients receiving care at EBCAP, with particular emphasis being placed on those individuals identified as being at highest risk for developing and engaging in unhealthy alcohol and substance use and those who are in need of effective intervention for depression.

Goal 1. To enhance the quality, access, efficiency and reliability of integrated care

Goal 2: To improve quality of life, life span and satisfaction with integrated and holistic system of care based on true parity

WHO IS SERVED/PROPOSED # OF BENEFICIARIES?

A minimum of 1,787 residents of East Providence will receive services (including dental). Of these, at least 50% will have an evidenced-based screening completed.

2 015 – 2 016

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

AGENCY: East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP),

Dennis Roy CEO

ADDRESS: 100 Bullocks Point Avenue, East Providence, Rhode Island 02915

CONTACT: Diane Smith, Director

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$25,000

PROGRAM TITLE: East Bay Coalition for the Homeless (housing for homeless families)

OBJECTIVES/NEEDS:

Public Facilities improvement/ Property used for low income, homeless families for Transitional Housing
– Rehabilitation /repairs necessary.

WHO IS SERVED/PROPOSED # OF BENEFICIARIES?

3 Very Low Income homeless households in East Providence (unduplicated – point in time count at this one property)

2015 - 2016

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

AGENCY: The Boys & Girls Club of East Providence

ADDRESS: 115 Williams Avenue, East Providence RI 02914

CONTACT: Erin Gilliatt, Executive Director

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$24,650

PROGRAM TITLE: Passport to Manhood, SMART Girls & Date SMART: A Comprehensive Approach to Teen Pregnancy Prevention

OBJECTIVES/NEEDS:

This program will address reducing teen engagement high-risk activity, particularly premature sexual activity. Although overall teen pregnancy rates have dropped over the last twenty years, Rhode Island's teen birth rate is the highest in New England. Furthermore, recent studies by Harvard economist Raj Chetty have shown that single parenthood is "the most powerful factor holding back economic mobility, more than any other variables such as education and race."

Given that a primary goal of CDBG funding is to stabilize low-income households, interventions geared at preventing teen pregnancies will be effective at the long-term goal of breaking the cycle of poverty.

WHO IS SERVED/PROPOSED # OF BENEFICIARIES?

If fully funded, we will enroll:

- 26 participants in Passport to Manhood
- 26 participants in SMART Girls
- 18 participants in Date SMART
- 175 teens in general supportive, prosocial activities

We anticipate that 92% of participants will be from low or moderate income families (with 56% from households classified as extremely low); more than half of those served will be minorities (43% African American; 10% mixed race; 5% Hispanic) and that more than 60% will be from single family households. This program will target teens ages 13 – 18.

2015 - 2016

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

AGENCY: East Providence Prevention Coalition

ADDRESS: 145 Taunton Avenue East Providence, RI 02914

CONTACT: Jennifer Wall, Executive Director

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$17,500

PROGRAM TITLE: The Townie Leadership Academy, A Partnership Between School & Community

OBJECTIVES/NEEDS:

The Townie Leadership Academy, TLA for short, is a partnership between school and community. More specifically, it's a partnership between: East Providence High School (EPHS) administration, the athletic director, club and organization advisors and coaches; the East Providence Prevention Coalition (EPPC); the East Providence Recreation Department; 212 Health & Performance; and Johnson & Whales University. The academy addresses teen interpersonal dating violence, substance abuse, leadership, nutrition and includes all components of the evidence-based Mentors In Violence Prevention (MVP) Program. But due to the additional topic areas, it cannot be called MVP.

The MVP program is a gender violence, bullying, and school violence prevention approach that encourages young men and women from all socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds to take on leadership roles in their schools and communities. The training is focused on an innovative "bystander" model that empowers each student to take an active role in promoting a positive school climate.

TLA was piloted in 2012, with curriculum refinement and further implementation from 2013-spring of 2015. Excluding all incoming freshmen athletes or new athletes, 98% of the student athlete population has been served to date, so during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, besides freshmen and/or new athletes, TLA will focus on students involved in non-graded school based clubs and organizations. Additionally, since there has been full buy in from both the band and chorus directors, TLA will expand this year to

include these graded clubs and organizations. For all remaining spots, selected sophomores and juniors from the general population will also be serviced. TLA will continue to consist of 8 sessions, however the teaching time will increase from 45 to 78 minutes and will predominately take place during school time with occasional after school sessions. The following topics will be addressed: types of abuse, battering, rape, alcohol and consent, sexual harassment, gender violence, bullying, school violence, leadership styles, stereotyping, substance use & abuse (including info on vapor pens, an increasing problem expressed by EPHS administration) and nutrition.

WHO IS SERVED/PROPOSED # OF BENEFICIARIES?

Given the active bystander approach, the entire East Providence community would be served. However, the total number of East Providence High School students that will be served/trained are 360. One hundred and twenty students per season (fall, winter and spring). Once students are trained and the culture/attitudes around interpersonal violence begin to change, all residents of East Providence will ultimately be affected.

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

In 2014 there was a transition for the low moderate income summary data from Decennial Census to the American Community Survey. American community survey data used this plan was collected over the period of 2007 to 2011. The previous five year plan used the 10 year 2000 Census data. The difference in this data collection and tabulation has caused the shift and the percentages in areas of the city that were considered high concentrations of low to moderate income persons in the 2010 to 2015 Consolidated Plan. The city went from over 51.1% city wide low to moderate income households to 38.6 % city wide low to moderate income. Virtually all block groups' percentage of low to moderate income households in the city decreased. HUD's Notice CPD – 14 – 11 issued on June 10, 2004, provided what is called the exception that allows the city to use 49.21% as its overall city wide low to moderate income percentage. This exception threshold could be used by the city in order to meet its national objective of area benefit. During this first year of CDBG activity, the city does not anticipate needing to use this exception threshold.

Using the new American Community Survey 2006 to 2010 Census Data, the downtown census tracts of 102 through 105 in the Down Town area in track 106 in the Riverside area will be the only targeted tracks in the city. Otherwise CDBG funds will be invested on a citywide basis based on its priority needs.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Census Tracts 2 through 6	60%
City wide	40%

Table 55 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The geographic priorities follow indicators of potential community needs. At times data was difficult to layer over each other to develop a more detailed picture of the community. Such demographics as income and education levels, single headed households, unemployment, housing problems and age of housing stock all informed geographic priorities. With the exception of properties that have been vacant and abandoned and show obvious signs of decay from the exterior, most of East Providence residential neighborhoods maintain somewhat of a well-kept look. Whether this is due to the significant Portuguese population that live here and their pride in their homes or for other reasons, East Providence does not have neighborhood wide deteriorated housing conditions or concentrated types of needs. While the Downtown and Riverside areas of the city show need based on statistical data which is verified by those service providers for these areas, the need for housing, public services, economic development, and public facilities can be found throughout the city

Discussion

The city of East Providence does not have a neighborhood that has or demonstrates significant needs that manifest themselves in an overpowering all significantly influential way as with some larger and higher density urban areas such as the neighboring city of Providence. East Providence's needs are not geographically determined. While some areas do show higher concentrations of poverty, lower educational levels, and housing costs burdens, most of the CDBG programming will be available citywide. When the opportunity arises to layer in a comprehensive way CDBG resources that target in a focused way a particular section of the city, the Community Development Division will take it. If the situation changes and a neighborhood starts a more significant decline during this period, the city may proceed to organize a neighborhood revitalization area to purchase this decline. The timeframe for this however would be after his first was plan due to the time needed to organize and implement such an initiative.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	4
Non-Homeless	1,575
Special-Needs	350
Total	1,929

Table 56 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	8
Rehab of Existing Units	10
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	18

Table 57 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

These goals are based on the available funds expected during this program period. Affordable housing issues are pervasive through most of East Providence's neighborhoods. There is a disproportionate amount of need versus resources available to address them. The Home Improvement Program run through the Community Development Division has a waiting list well over 50 households with at least one third needing significant resources to address their need. The estimated cost to address just the renovation needs of those on the waiting list exceeds well over 1.5 million dollars.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The East Providence Public Housing Authority manages and operates all public housing for the city of East Providence. They have just completed their five year plan which outlines the needs and strategies to address the over the next five years.

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

The East Providence Housing Authority will lease up to the maximum numbers of vouchers allowable utilizing all available HAP funds for their housing choice voucher program. They also watch and taking the opportunity to apply for additional vouchers. There also actively recruit new landlords with new housing stock it continue to maintain payment standards at a percent that will allow applicants a greater housing choice at an affordable way. They will also actively recruit residents for the family self-sufficiency program which is proving to be successful at taking public assistance households off of the public assistance it into sustainable independent living. For the public housing units that they manage, these Providence Housing Authority will continue to try to reduce turnover time for vacated units, improve the length of time it takes to lease up and applicant in a complete unit, and research opportunities to create additional affordable housing the city.

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

The East Providence Housing Authority in 2002 started at homeownership program to sell their 25 homes. These were duplexes that the housing authority was selling to qualified buyers providing them with a subsidized low interest mortgage and the additional stable income of the section 8 subsidized rental unit next to their homeowners unit. Of the original duplexes, 17 have been sold to date. They are currently working with the residence in the remaining units to get the more involved and educated in hopes that they will be able to become homeowners of one of the remaining eight homes for sale.

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

N/A

Discussion

The city will continue to support the East Bay Coalition for the Homeless which is currently the most prominent service organization in the jurisdiction. The parent organization, East Bay Community Action Program along with Family Services of Rhode Island, are two organizations that have transitional housing located within the city. Other support services that may help shorten the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness are the East Bay Center which provides substance abuse and mental health services. The Community Development Division for the city will continue to play an active role and help coordinating various other aspects of the service delivery system as appropriate.

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

Most of the Community Development Block Grant funding addresses in one way or another low-income individuals and families to avoid becoming homeless. Special attention will be given to those families and households that are extremely low income, especially if they are being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care. The CD Division is well networked with various community service providers that informs how they can best support their activities. CDBG funds will be used to support some of these services.

Discussion

Homelessness in this city of East Providence is not readily apparent to a passerby. Rather, it manifests itself in fringe living dwellings or outside in discrete areas of the city where they will not be observed often. Often they are individuals alone. Unfortunately when they are seen walking through the commercial sections of the city or a residential neighborhood, the reaction is one of distaste. Their situations are not understood or empathized with and sometimes they are blamed for being unwilling or unable to have any potential social or community value. The CD Division will continue to use every opportunity to displace this perception with one that will enable more tolerance and constructive dialog so that those working to solve homelessness do not have such a difficult time advocating for resources to address their needs.

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

Introduction:

The most significant barrier to affordable housing is economic conditions preventing access to income and a lack of value attached to those who need affordable housing. Language is also a significant barrier to affordable housing. By referring to these initiatives either as housing for low to moderate income families, or affordable housing, or workforce housing all carries connotations that mainstream society interprets as lacking social and community value. Those that need this type of housing should be seen as

contributing equally to our community fabric as more costly housing which is pursued as a choice versus the only option. Until our language and internalized feeling around the socio-economic issues of those that do not have those that do not changes, these perceptions and attitudes will persist.

Regulatory barriers to affordable housing may be seen in East Providence as a lack of inclusionary zoning citywide. The only section of the city that does have inclusionary zoning for affordable housing is the waterfront development district. This district requires a minimum of 10% of all units developed to meet affordability standards. However, this requirement is already potentially being eroded through the state legislation which is strongly lobbied for by developers and building contractors.

The political leadership is also a factor in this issue. The majority of those in the leadership role see affordable housing as a detriment to the overall health and well-being of the city. Instead, higher income and well-off, established households are desired in order to improve the overall economic health of the city. If the city does not value and support ALL of its residents, the present trend of a decreasing population especially among the younger households, the unstable incomes, the migration from home ownership to renting, is likely to continue.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

The city's Planning Department is currently drafting new zoning policies that may help remove and ameliorate these negative effects. More uses and higher densities are being allowed along the commercial corridors and tax stabilization incentives for developing multifamily housing will help with this issue. The Community Development Division will continue to advocate for affordable housing by trying to articulate its value to the community with language that holds less negative connotations. Words such as "units or housing" will be converted to "homes" whenever possible, incomes and other regulatory language will be excluded when appropriate, and using the word "investing" versus "funding" are examples of language changes that will be looked at and tried to gage its effectiveness over time. The context in which much of the community development dialog takes place in will also be examined. The future wellbeing of the city needs to have a vision that describes a progress for a better quality of life which is dependence on all of its neighborhood's to prosper.

Discussion:

Affordable housing remains one of the issues for the city of East Providence along with economic development opportunities. Shelter, support services, and opportunity for sustainable income are all interlinked. Until it is valued as the foundation for our community's health, affordable housing will continue to be a challenge for the city. In addition, the alarming decrease in federal and the state funding to support affordable housing is indicative of this issues lack of understanding and support by our political leaders. Ultimately, until the value of affordable housing is addressed, progress on this issue will remain difficult and an uphill battle.

Introduction:

Community development issues are rarely simple or one dimensional. As is with the people who populate its neighborhoods, the city of East Providence’s challenges and opportunities are just as diverse. Thus, having access to this powerful tool of CDBG funds to be used in a number of different ways provides us with the flexibility to follow through with community informed initiatives to meet its needs. To have a meaningful impact, these funds will be focused, and used only as appropriate to foster and enhance the existing community fabric. Regardless of regulations, or restrictions on their investments, the use of these funds’ impacts the entire community.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The city will continue to have an active role in participating in the community’s human services delivery system both as a funder and as a facilitator. The Community Development Division will hold a public service networking luncheon whose program allows for brief general summaries to be given by each agency participant with the balance of the program completely informal and open to general discussions among the providers during and after lunch.

The city will also participate in the numerous neighborhood groups and organizations whose missions are to better the community. These groups include the Arts Council, Riverside Renaissance Movement, Watchemoket Square, Economic Development Commission, Carousel Commission, Beautification Commission, and others. By doing so, the city keeps informed of those needs that are not easily apparent. It also gives insight into how to meet and understand the needs of the underserved populations.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The city will pursue an initiative started in 2015 to leverage additional state resources for its local renovation needs for both single family home owners and landlords of four units and less. It hopes to leverage housing trust funds just recently funded by the federal government. In addition to these funds it also hopes to compete for HOME state funds. The Community Development Division will continue to run its Home Improvement Program using CDBG funding for both single-family homeowners and landlords of four units and less. They will also attempt to introduce new language in the discussion of fostering and maintaining affordable housing in order to affect the current negative connotations that the current language has. The city will use its CDBG funds to support other areas of affordable housing such as the difficult maintenance burden placed on nonprofit transitional housing providers. These funds will be targeted to specific populations such as very low income families, seniors, single person households, single head of households, veterans, disabled, and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The city runs the Home Improvement Program (HIP) which incorporates lead paint abatement. The Community Development Division will also participate in a collaboration with the Childhood Lead Action

Project. Through this collaboration East Providence hopes to become the third city in Rhode Island that implements comprehensive permitting, training for building department staff, and training for the building inspectors so that the city is aggressively enforcing lead paint compliance. Safe work practices education for landlords and the public are also being provided through the Childhood Lead Action Project funded by EPA and the RI Department of Health. In cases of a household with a child that is under the age of six, the city leverages Rhode Island Housing lead abatement funds and healthy homes funds. It is anticipated that a minimum of 50% of all the housing units the city addresses through its home improvement program will include aspects of lead paint abatement. Regardless of the presence of children under six, all housing units that the Home Improvement Program addresses must be completed with a lead safe certificate being issued.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The anti-poverty strategy goals for East Providence focus primarily on continued support of and networking with the existing service providers and programs that best address the issues of poverty level families. A variety of anti-poverty state and federally funded programs service very low income East Providence residents. These include Pathways to Independence, which provides education, training and employment services to individuals on AFDC and Employment Training, and Education Services, which offers testing, employment counseling and job referral as well as special assistance for veterans, youth, older workers and persons with disabilities. CDBG funds will be used to provide financial support to a variety of programs serving the poor and which address some of the roots of poverty. These programs will continue over the next five years:

- East Bay Family Health Care Center, which provides medical services on a sliding fee scale
- East Providence Community Center, Inc. which provides a Food and Clothing Bank, Child and Adult Literacy and Educational Tutoring
- East Bay Center, Inc., which provides community mental health services and children's intensive services on a sliding fee
- Job Training Programs administered by East Bay Community Action Program and Technical Training Institute, serving unemployed and unskilled residents
- East Bay Coalition for the Homeless, which provides emergency housing and transitional housing for homeless or near-homeless persons
- East Providence Senior Center, which provides social service and case management referrals to seniors
- Boys and Girls Club of East Providence, which provides affordable childcare and after-school care, with transportation services
- East Bay Community Action Program which administers federal and state-funded programs for seniors and lower income families, such as fuel assistance, food and clothing banks, senior case management services, teen pregnancy services, family development case management services and Head Start.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The city will continue its current process it has undertaken to create a platform for its upper management and middle-management to meet as a body to discuss ways to improve both city services

and the city in general. This has led to various initiatives some of which has enhanced the institutional structure that the block grant funds use. One such initiative is a youth committee that is charged with looking at ways in which the city can retain its decreasing population of 18 to 34 year-olds.

Another action the city will take will be to facilitate citizen participation through various mediums including web based platforms such as My Sidewalk, public service networking luncheons, and continued attendance in numerous community groups, commissions, initiatives, and organizations.

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

The city will continue to have an active role in participating in the community's human services delivery system both as a funding source and also as a facilitator. The Community Development Division will hold a public service networking luncheon whose program allows for brief general summaries to be given by each agency participant with the balance of the program open to discussions among the providers during and after their lunch.

The city will continue to participate on the East Providence Housing Authority's advisory board for their Family Self Sufficiency Program. The Community Development Coordinator will meet regularly with the director of the East Providence Housing Authority to discuss ways to collaborate on service and affordable housing provision. In addition, the Coordinator will reach out to the state legislation along with continuing to work with the state housing agency in a collaborative manner towards achieving mutual affordable housing goals.

Discussion:

The city will continue to pursue diverse and comprehensive approaches to solving the community and economic development issues it faces. It has both challenges and opportunities that the CDBG funds can help influence and impact. Because these funds can be used in such a diverse way to meet the complicated multifaceted aspects of community issues, the Community Development Block Grant funds remains a significant tool of the city's to use towards achieving a vibrant, stable, diverse, quality of life for its citizens.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction: The city anticipates generating program income from the investment of CDBG funds through both housing renovation and economic development activities. Other sources of potential program income are not anticipated during this program year.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed **\$48,000**
 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 **\$48,000**

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities **\$0**

Discussion:

Appendix - Alternate/Local Data Sources