

2024

# City of Conway Annual Action Plan



Prepared By: Community Development Department

Director: Shawanna Rodgers

Annual Action Plan  
2024

1

2024



# City of Conway Annual Action Plan

## Government Officials

Mayor Bart Castleberry

Ward 1, Position 1

Alderman Andy Hawkins

Ward 2, Position 2

Alderman David Grimes

Ward 2, Position 1

Alderman Woodrow Cummins

Ward 2, Position 2

Alderwoman Shelley Mehl

Ward 3, Position 1

Alderman Mark Ledbetter

Ward 3, Position 2

Alderwoman Cindy Webb

Ward 4, Position 1

Alderman Theodore Jones, Jr.

Ward 4, Position 2

Alderwoman Shelia Isby

## **Executive Summary**

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

#### **1. Introduction**

The Action Plan is a requirement of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that cities must prepare to receive Federal monetary assistance from HUD Programs. Ultimately, the plan will be used to implement the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). This document is the Action Plan for Program Year 2024, year four of the five-year Consolidated Plan submitted for years 2021-2025. The City will receive approximately \$477,563 in the 2024 Program Year.

The Action Plan is a collaborative process whereby a community establishes a unified vision for community development actions. It allows local jurisdictions to shape the various housing and community development programs into effective, coordinated neighborhood, and community development strategies. It also creates the opportunity for planning and resident participation to take place in a comprehensive process and helps reduce duplication of efforts at the local level. The Action Plan is a specific course of action for revitalization. It builds on local assets and coordinates a response to the community's needs. Economic, physical, environmental, community, and human development are integrated into a comprehensive and coordinated fashion so that families and communities can work together and thrive. The Action plan also sets forth program goals, specific objectives, annual goals, and benchmarks for measuring progress. It helps local government and residents keep track of results and identify what components work well.

#### **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 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) will continue to partner with the City of Conway departments, local nonprofits, and other agencies to meet the objectives set by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"The primary goal of the 2024 Action Plan remains centered on advancing affordable housing initiatives, addressing homelessness concerns, and implementing a rehabilitation housing program for the City of

Conway. Our focus for the year ahead involves enhancing the supply of accessible, affordable housing and preserving the City's current housing stock. To begin this effort, we will initiate the Conway Revitalization Project (CRP).

In 2024, our focus is on initiating the Conway Revitalization Project (CRP). This comprehensive revitalization effort encompasses, but is not confined to, the following objectives:

- Collaborating with city departments, and community partners to create, rehab, repair, replace, and preserve the city's housing stock and provide ways to increase affordable housing.
- Undertaking a comprehensive housing analysis to develop a tailored housing strategy that addresses the community's needs, including affordable housing and homelessness, identified through the plan.
- Create incentives for affordable housing.
- Expanding green spaces by repairing existing park infrastructure and acquiring land for new parks.
- Conducting a detailed housing analysis, infrastructure, and drainage assessments for the City of Conway.
- Engaging engineering, architectural, and any additional professional services needed to maximize the fulfillment of the revitalization.
- Facilitating land acquisition, purchase, demolition, and infrastructure development, encompassing water, plumbing, sewage, electrical, drainage, and street enhancements.
- Improving streets, sidewalks, and drainage systems to enhance overall infrastructure.
- Prioritizing and expanding transportation services to support public services and accessibility.

The City of Conway is planning to implement the Conway Revitalization Project (CRP) in phases, with Phase I focusing on but not limited to, research, housing analysis, drainage analysis, and potential land purchases. The city will evaluate areas in conjunction with these analyses and proceed accordingly.

Conway remains committed to addressing its low to moderate income areas. Additionally, the city intends to create a housing rehab program as part of its revitalization efforts.

Furthermore, the city will continue to support public service agencies that cater to various categories of individuals with very low to low-moderate incomes. This support includes providing transportation funding assistance to agencies serving disabled adults, senior citizens, low to moderate-income children, disabled children, and homeless persons.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

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

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

The Community Development Department should meet or exceed the goals established within the Consolidated Plan. The five Priority Needs established in the Consolidated Plan are as follows: Repair and maintain streets and sidewalks, Enhance the capacity of the City's drainage and stormwater runoff systems, Increase the supply of affordable, suitable housing, Provision of additional community facilities and public services for low-to-moderate income persons/area, and Economic Development. Public input is essential for the City; therefore, meeting with Community Stakeholders, Non-profit agencies, and the community at large is a great way CDBG can gain input from the community. Under the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan, the City will focus on people experiencing homelessness, community facilities, and expanding public services.

A priority need that continues to exist currently within the City is transportation. This has been a major initiative for the City. The City of Conway has engaged Rock Region Metro to bring public transportation into Conway. Two 8-passenger vans are currently used for micro transit transportation for the City of Conway. It is a new system that stays busy and active. Non-profits have been engaged in this process; however, with the City's transportation system, there is still a great need for non-profits that remain for public transportation to assist our LMI population. By helping our local services with their transportation needs, we present opportunities their clients would otherwise not be afforded. In addition, the City of Conway completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing in 2021. We remain committed to fair housing within our City and actively look for ways to increase public housing within the City of Conway.

The City of Conway Hosted a public forum entitled "Conversation on Fair Housing" with the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission in April of 2023. The program was well received and opened up a great perspective for the community on What Fair Housing is and how it works. We look forward to partnering with the Fair Housing Commission again in the future.

The City will stay within its 15% cap for public services and 20% cap for administration. All financial reports were submitted on time.

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

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Summary from citizen participation section of the plan.

The City of Conway follows its Citizen Participation Plan when conducting the 2024 Action Plan process. We use many individuals and agencies to develop the Annual Action Plan. We look at all input we receive to help analyze, measure, and determine the following needs: transportation, housing, facility, and service needs, emphasizing low-mod, elderly, disabled, and homeless. We look at resources within the City to meet these needs and gaps that other resources might not meet.

Public input is vital in the Citizen Participation process; therefore, the City shall conduct two public hearings to obtain citizens' views and to respond to proposals and questions, information about the time, location, and subject of each hearing will be provided to citizens at least thirty (30) calendar days in advance through adopted public notice and outreach procedures. Every effort will be made to ensure the public hearings are inclusive. Hearings will be held at convenient times and locations and in places where people most affected by proposed activities can attend.

The Community Development Department has also been engaged with the Conway Housing Authority, a new interim Executive Director is currently appointed, and we will continue to work with them as they redevelop their current public housing site in the City. The Director of Community Development will publish the Draft Annual Action Plan for Public Review in a manner that affords citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine its contents and submit comments. A succinct summary of the Draft Plan will be published in a newspaper of general circulation at the beginning of the public comment period and on the City of Conway's website. The summary will describe the contents and purpose of the Annual Action Plan (including a summary of specific objectives) and include a list of the locations where copies of the entire proposed Annual Action Plan may be obtained or examined. The City of Conway's Community Development Department, as the lead agency, will receive comments from citizens on its Draft Plan for a period not less than thirty (30) days prior to submission of the Annual Action Plan to HUD. All comments or views of citizens received in writing during the thirty (30) day comment period will be considered in preparing the final Action Plan. To the extent allowed by law, interested citizens and organizations shall be afforded reasonable and timely access to records covering the preparation of the Annual Action Plan, project evaluation and selection, HUD's comments on the plan, and annual performance.

## **5. Summary of public comments**

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

No comments were received from the citizen participation section of the Annual Action Plan, or the citizen participation section of the final plan review, prior to submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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

There were no comments that weren't accepted for the 2024 Annual Action Plan; therefore, no comments for reasons for not accepting will be required for the Annual Action Plan.

## **7. Summary**

The City of Conway is a committed partner with HUD in improving the lives of our low to moderate-income citizens. We will continue to utilize calls received and input from supporting agencies to determine the best ways to assist in the livelihood of our citizens.

## 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 | CONWAY | Community Development Department |

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

### Narrative (optional)

The City of Conway, Arkansas, is governed by the Mayor and City Council. The CDBG Director is responsible for administering the programs covered in the Annual Action Plan. This includes the development, implementation, monitoring, and activities reporting.

The CDBG Director uses non-profits, city staff, Conway Housing Authority, and citizens for their insight and expertise on housing and service projects. The Planning & Development Department, Parks & Recreation Department, Code Enforcement & Public Works, Purchasing, and Transportation Department assist with infrastructure and construction projects.

The CDBG Director also conducts meetings and public hearings to encourage public comment and to receive citizen views to establish priorities. The City consulted with the following agencies in preparing for the 2024 Action Plan: Boys and Girls Club of Faulkner County, Independent Living Services, Salvation Army, Faulkner County Council on Aging, Bethlehem House, Community Action Program of Central Arkansas, Milestones, and the Conway Housing Authority.

The CDBG Director also participates in the Toad Suck Coalition Continuum of Care, comprised of numerous agencies within the Faulkner County area. Through the Continuum of Care, the City attends meetings, and training is provided by these agencies to meet the needs of our low-income residents. The CDBG Director attends bi-yearly meetings of the Arkansas Community Development Association for additional training



and participates in webinars and other training provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the National Community Development Association, including the Region VI Association.

### **Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

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Information can also be found on the City's website at [www.conwayarkansas.gov](http://www.conwayarkansas.gov)

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

### **1. Introduction**

The City of Conway is the lead agency that oversees the Annual Action Plan. The City's Action Plan was developed in accordance with its adopted Citizen Participation 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(I))**

The City of Conway encouraged all citizens, especially minorities, persons with disabilities, residents of public and assisted housing developments, residents living in slum and blight areas, and residents in predominately low-to-moderate income neighborhoods to participate in the development of the Action Plan. We worked with local organizations that provide services to share grant opportunities, training opportunities, and information. The City also holds an open application process for applying for funding; public Hearings were held on February 5th and February 6th; one meeting was scheduled for January but had to be moved to February due to closings from a snow storm. For planning and finalizing the 2024 Annual Action Plan, a Public Hearing was held on May 7, 2024, prior to submittal.

The City will continue to work with our local organizations, private developers, and the City of Conway's housing authority to continue the improvement of affordable housing.

#### **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.**

Conway is in Faulkner County, Arkansas. Conway is a part of the Toad Suck Coalition Continuum of Care. The members of the Faulkner, Perry, and Conway County non-profit entities meet to address various social needs, such as affordable housing, homelessness, and special needs populations; the Community Development Department regularly attends those meetings. The City of Conway's Community Development Department has made significant investments in our newly opened local homeless shelter, transportation for several homeless non-profits, children with disabilities, and facilities for the not-for-profits that provide housing and work for developmentally disabled adults. We continue to work with a local non-profit that assists our homeless neighbors by operating the City of Conway's Emergency Shelter.

#### **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 Conway's Community Development Department does not receive ESG funding.

**2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities**

**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | <b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>   | Bethlehem House   |
|   | <b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>  | Services - Housing<br>Services-homeless   |
|   | <b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>   | Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless<br>Homeless Needs - Families with children  |
|   | <b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b> | This organization helps conduct Point-In-Time Counts (PIT) as well as provide insight on the growing homeless needs. They provide transitional housing for homeless individuals and families in the City of Conway.   |
| 2 | <b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>   | CAPCA-COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CENTRAL ARKANSAS   |
|   | <b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>  | Services - Housing<br>Services-Children<br>Services-Elderly Persons<br>Services-Persons with Disabilities<br>Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS<br>Services-Victims of Domestic Violence<br>Services-homeless<br>Services-Health<br>Services-Education<br>Services-Employment<br>Services - Victims |
|   | <b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>   | Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless<br>Homeless Needs - Families with children<br>Homelessness Strategy   |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b> | CAPCA receives the ESG funds. They use these funds for Rapid Rehousing as well as emergency shelter and case management. The personnel at CAPCA bring a wealth of knowledge on low-income citizens in working the following and other programs that they administer -weatherization, Head Start, food bank, LIHEAP, etc. CAPCA currently oversees the operations of the City of Conway's Emergency Shelter. |
| 3 | <b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>   | City of Hope Outreach   |
|   | <b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>  | Services-Children<br>Services-homeless<br>Services-Education  |
|   | <b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>   | Housing Need Assessment<br>Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless<br>Homeless Needs - Families with children<br>Homelessness Needs - Veterans<br>Homelessness Strategy   |
|   | <b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b> | CoHo is an agency in the city that focuses on the homeless community by opening holistic centers in under-resourced areas in Central Arkansas. CoHo Academy is also a part of this organization. The academy focuses on outreach and community development in underserved areas.  |
| 4 | <b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>   | Independent Living Services   |
|   | <b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>  | Services-Persons with Disabilities<br>Services-Employment   |
|   | <b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>   | Non-Homeless Special Needs  |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b> | ILS focuses on providing services to those who are disabled from the age of 18 and over. The agency also provides a large amount of transportation to this clientele within the city which CDBG helps to fund. The agency brings knowledge about dealing with those with special needs and how to implement a strategy that will allow them to live independently and decrease our homeless population. |
| 5 | <b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>   | Ministry Center   |
|   | <b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>  | Services-homeless   |
|   | <b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>   | Housing Need Assessment<br>Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless<br>Homeless Needs - Families with children<br>Homelessness Needs - Veterans<br>Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth<br>Homelessness Strategy   |
|   | <b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b> | This agency provides resources, case management, and seeks to provide stabilization between emergency and transitional for our homeless population.   |
| 6 | <b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>   | United Way of Central Arkansas  |
|   | <b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>  | Services-Children<br>Services-Elderly Persons<br>Services-Persons with Disabilities<br>Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS<br>Services-Victims of Domestic Violence<br>Services-homeless<br>Services-Education   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>   | Homelessness Strategy<br>Non-Homeless Special Needs<br>Economic Development<br>Anti-poverty Strategy   |
| <b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b> | As the front line for many LMI emergency needs, United Way was able to provide call data to point to the needs most important to low to moderate income persons 1) transportation and 2) utility costs. United Way also has implemented a software program called Charity Tracker as a way for organizations to provide a call out to one another for needs of clients as well as a way to keep track of needs provided. |

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

The City of Conway did not exclude any agency from the consultation process that would have been able to provide input on the development of the City's 2024 Annual Action Plan.

### 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 | Conway Ministry Center | N/A  |

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

### Narrative (optional)

## **AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)**

### **1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting**

The City of Conway conducted the Action Plan process in accordance with the adopted Citizen Participation Plan to formulate the 2024 Annual Action Plan.

Proposals were accepted from January 1st through February 9th, with two public hearings held on February 5th and February 6th. The dates had to be adjusted due to a snowstorm that closed the City offices, schools, and other agencies. The City encouraged participation by low and moderate-income persons and in areas where CDBG funds are proposed to be used. The City of Conway took steps to encourage the participation of all its residents, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities, through the newspaper and email outreach. The City provided the opportunity for translation for our Spanish-speaking population with a bilingual community member if needed.

All meetings were conducted in buildings that were accessible to persons with disabilities. The City, on an annual basis, will make available to residents, public agencies, and other interested parties information that includes the amount of assistance the City expects to receive.

The City will also disclose the range of activities and the amount of funding for each activity. The City has posted the Citizen Participation Plan and the current Consolidated and Action Plans on the City's website in hopes of generating more participation.

All information received in this process is used to help develop all City plans associated with CDBG. A Public Hearing was held on May 7, 2024, for the purpose of obtaining the view of citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties that will or may be affected by the 2024 Program Year Action Plan.

The comment period for the Action Plan was held from April 24th through May 24th. The draft was also available on the City of Conway's website and at City Hall. A notice was published in the Log Cabin Democrat and on the City's website.



## 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          | 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> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p> | <p>Initial legal ad was put out to announce the opening of applications and funding availability. The comment period was for 30 days and stated that non-profits applying for CDBG funding were required to attend 1 of the 2 proposed meetings. The first meeting was held at 12 noon on February 5th and the 2nd meeting was held at 5:30 p.m. on February 6th These meetings were to inform and answer questions for those intending on applying for 2024 CDBG funding.</p> | No comments were received    | No comments were received, therefore there were no comments that were not 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) |
|------------|------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 2          | Public Meeting   | Non-targeted/broad community | This meeting was held on February 5 <sup>th</sup> as a public information meeting to inform and answer questions for those intending on applying for 2024 CDBG funding. | No comments were received.   | No comments were received, therefore there were no comments that were not accepted. |                     |
| 3          | Public Meeting   | Non-targeted/broad community | This meeting was held on February 6 <sup>th</sup> as a public information meeting to inform and answer questions for those intending on applying for 2024 CDBG funding. | No comments were received.   | No comments were received, therefore there were no comments that were not 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          | 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> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p> | This legal ad was placed in the local newspaper to inform the public on the publication of the 2024 Annual Action Plan Draft. The comment period ran from Tuesday, April 24 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday, May 24 <sup>th</sup> . | No comments were received.   | No comments were received, therefore there were no comments that were not accepted. |                     |
| 5          | Public Meeting   | Non-targeted/broad community   | This meeting was held on May 7th as a public information meeting to inform and answer questions for the 2024 Annual Action Plan.  | No comments were received.   | No comments were received, therefore there were no comments that were not accepted. |                     |

**Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach**

## Expected Resources

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

#### Introduction

The 2024 allocations and projects have been calculated for Year 4.

#### 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<br>Admin and Planning<br>Economic Development<br>Housing<br>Public Improvements<br>Public Services | 477,563                          | 0                  | 0                        | 477,563   | 0   | CDBG funds will be allocated to Staff Salaries for the administration of the program, Fair Housing activities, programs and services benefitting the public, economic development and other eligible activities. |

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**

Many non-profits applying for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding receive funding from other areas to make their programs work. The City and its partners leverage local, state, foundation, and private resources. The City will use its PY2024 Allocation for CDBG from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Program to address the needs listed in the Action Plan. The City will continue to partner with local organizations and non-profits on their service and facility projects. The City does not require funded projects to provide "matching" funds; however, if funding from sources other than CDBG will be used, we require our applicants to list those amounts and the source of that funding being used.

The City of Conway has greatly benefited from public-private partnerships that have allowed us to continue to provide public housing in Conway. Within the historically African American neighborhood of Pine Street, the City of Conway was able to bring online 44 housing units and was also able to partner with a developer to build a pocket neighborhood, Spruce Street Cottage Development, consist of twelve owner-occupied homes, seven that will be afforded a subsidy from the recapture amount for the land and five to be sold at market rate by the developer.

Public-private partnerships have allowed more affordable housing to come to the City of Conway and allowed the City to utilize CDBG funding to help a high volume of low to moderate-income persons. In addition, the city is able to assist low & very low-income persons with the opening of the Conway Emergency Shelter. The City was also able to provide public facilities with the completion of the City's Overnight Emergency Shelter which is the first of its kind in the City.

The City has also continued to work with internal city departments for CDBG-funded activities. This allows CDBG to invest, but also leverage with guaranteed match funding.

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

The City of Conway has no publicly owned land available for acquisition or use in the 2024 Annual Action Plan.

The City will continue to look at public property available for affordable housing and economic development opportunities.

### **Discussion**

The amount of CDBG funding is valuable to the City of Conway, however, it would not be enough to meet the housing and or public services needs in our community. We will use all resources available to address the need and continue to work with community stakeholders to leverage all available resources.

## 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          | Administration       | 2021       | 2025     | Administration   | City-wide       | Enhance the City's Drainage Systems<br>Increase the Supply of Affordable Suitable Housing<br>Repair and maintain streets and sidewalks<br>Provision of Community and Public Services | CDBG:<br>\$95,000  | Other: 2 Other         |
| 2          | Community Facilities | 2021       | 2025     | Homeless<br>Non-Homeless Special Needs<br>Non-Housing<br>Community Development | City-wide       | Enhance the City's Drainage Systems<br>Increase the Supply of Affordable Suitable Housing<br>Repair and maintain streets and sidewalks<br>Provision of Community and Public Services | CDBG:<br>\$311,563 |                        |

| Sort Order | Goal Name       | Start Year | End Year | Category   | Geographic Area                | Needs Addressed                            | Funding           | Goal Outcome Indicator |
|------------|-----------------|------------|----------|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|------------------------|
| 3          | Public Services | 2021       | 2025     | Homeless<br>Non-Homeless Special Needs<br>Non-Housing<br>Community Development | LMI Census tracts<br>City-wide | Provision of Community and Public Services | CDBG:<br>\$71,000 |                        |

**Table 6 – Goals Summary**

### Goal Descriptions

|   |                  |  |
|---|------------------|--|
| 1 | Goal Name        | Administration   |
|   | Goal Description | Costs for administering the CDBG grant. The costs will include but not be limited to; salaries, supplies, advertising expenses, travel, and training.                    |
| 2 | Goal Name        | Community Facilities   |
|   | Goal Description |  |
| 3 | Goal Name        | Public Services  |
|   | Goal Description | Provide transportation for developmentally and mentally disabled, homeless, elderly, abused women, school children for employment, preschool, and after-school programs. |



## Projects

### AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

#### Introduction

"The primary goal of the 2024 Action Plan remains centered on advancing affordable housing initiatives, addressing homelessness concerns, and implementing a rehabilitation housing program for the City of Conway. Our focus for the year ahead involves enhancing the supply of accessible, affordable housing and preserving the City's current housing stock. To begin this effort, we will initiate the Conway Revitalization Project (CRP).

In 2024, our focus is on initiating the Conway Revitalization Project (CRP). This comprehensive revitalization effort encompasses, but is not confined to, the following objectives:

- Collaborating with city departments, and community partners to create, rehab, repair, replace, and preserve the city's housing stock and provide ways to increase affordable housing.
- Undertaking a comprehensive housing analysis to develop a tailored housing strategy that addresses the community's needs, including affordable housing and homelessness, identified through the plan.
- Create incentives for affordable housing.
- Expanding green spaces by repairing existing park infrastructure and acquiring land for new parks.
- Conducting a detailed housing analysis, infrastructure, and drainage assessments for the City of Conway.
- Engaging engineering, architectural, and any additional professional services needed to maximize the fulfillment of the revitalization.
- Facilitating land acquisition, purchase, demolition, and infrastructure development, encompassing water, plumbing, sewage, electrical, drainage, and street enhancements.
- Improving streets, sidewalks, and drainage systems to enhance overall infrastructure.
- Prioritizing and expanding transportation services to support public services and accessibility.

Also, Transportation remains a priority for the City of Conway's use of CDBG funding as it is still a much-needed entity within the City.

#### Projects

| # | Project Name                     |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Administration                   |
| 2 | Boys and Girls Club              |
| 3 | Faulkner County Council on Aging |

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| # | Project Name   |
|---|--|
| 4 | Independent Living Services                          |
| 5 | CAPCA- Community Action Program for Central Arkansas |
| 6 | Milestones Services Inc.                             |
| 7 | Bethlehem House                                      |
| 8 | Conway Revitalization Project                        |
| 9 | Housing Rehabilitation Program                       |

**Table 7 - Project Information**

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

Because the primary national objective of the CDBG Program is to benefit low-income and moderate-income residents, the City of Conway's Block Grant Program funds will be targeted to low and moderate-income neighborhoods and activities to include special needs populations. By targeting these groups, we not only provide a benefit to these individuals and families, but we benefit the City as well.

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

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | <b>Project Name</b>  | Administration   |
|   | <b>Target Area</b>   | City-wide  |
|   | <b>Goals Supported</b>   | Administration   |
|   | <b>Needs Addressed</b>   | Repair and maintain streets and sidewalks<br>Provision of Community and Public Services<br>Enhance the City's Drainage Systems<br>Increase the Supply of Affordable Suitable Housing   |
|   | <b>Funding</b>   | CDBG: \$95,000   |
|   | <b>Description</b>   | Costs for administering the CDBG grant. The costs will include but not be limited to; salaries, supplies, advertising expenses, travel, and training.  |
|   | <b>Target Date</b>   | 6/30/2025  |
|   | <b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b> | Costs for administering the CDBG grant. The costs will include but not be limited to; salaries, supplies, advertising expenses, travel, and training.  |
|   | <b>Location Description</b>  | N/A  |
|   | <b>Planned Activities</b>  | Costs for administering the CDBG grant. The costs will include but not be limited to; salaries, supplies, advertising expenses, travel, and training.  |
| 2 | <b>Project Name</b>  | Boys and Girls Club  |
|   | <b>Target Area</b>   | City-wide  |
|   | <b>Goals Supported</b>   | Public Services  |
|   | <b>Needs Addressed</b>   | Provision of Community and Public Services   |
|   | <b>Funding</b>   | CDBG: \$15,000   |
|   | <b>Description</b>   | The services will consist of assisting the Boys and Girls Club of Faulkner County with transportation cost associated with transporting an average of 150 youth daily during the school year from 15 different schools in Faulkner County to serve over 150 unduplicated youth annually with the transportation program. |
|   | <b>Target Date</b>   | 6/30/2025  |

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
|          | <b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b> |   |
|          | <b>Location Description</b>  | 1404 Robins St. Conway, AR 72034  |
|          | <b>Planned Activities</b>  | Transportation assistance that will include vehicle maintenance, driver salary, insurance, and transportation rental.   |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Project Name</b>  | Faulkner County Council on Aging  |
|          | <b>Target Area</b>   | City-wide   |
|          | <b>Goals Supported</b>   | Public Services   |
|          | <b>Needs Addressed</b>   | Provision of Community and Public Services  |
|          | <b>Funding</b>   | CDBG: \$15,000  |
|          | <b>Description</b>   | Funding assists Faulkner County Council on Aging with transportation costs associated with providing over 2500 one-way trips to senior citizens in the Conway area. These trips provide access to food by transporting seniors to the Senior Wellness and Activity Center to receive hot nutritious meals and also to and from medical/dental appointments and grocery shopping. CDBG funding will be used to cover the direct maintenance/ repairs, and insurance in providing this service. |
|          | <b>Target Date</b>   | 6/30/2025   |
|          | <b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b> |   |
|          | <b>Location Description</b>  | 705 E. Siebenmorgen Rd. Conway, AR 72032  |
|          | <b>Planned Activities</b>  | Transportation assistance that will include vehicle maintenance, driver salary, insurance, and transportation rental.   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Project Name</b>  | Independent Living Services   |
|          | <b>Target Area</b>   | City-wide   |
|          | <b>Goals Supported</b>   | Public Services   |
|          | <b>Needs Addressed</b>   | Provision of Community and Public Services  |
|          | <b>Funding</b>   | CDBG: \$15,000  |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <b>Description</b>   | ILS provides transportation services to the citizens of Conway, Arkansas ages 18 and older, who have a disability or who are economically disadvantaged. ILS has transportation vehicles dedicated to these services. Approximately 165 unduplicated consumers benefit from these services. |
|   | <b>Target Date</b>   | 6/30/2025   |
|   | <b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b> |   |
|   | <b>Location Description</b>  | 615 E. Robins St. Conway, AR 72032  |
|   | <b>Planned Activities</b>  | Transportation assistance that will include vehicle maintenance, driver salary, insurance, and transportation rental  |
|   |  |   |
| 5 | <b>Project Name</b>  | CAPCA- Community Action Program for Central Arkansas  |
|   | <b>Target Area</b>   | City-wide   |
|   | <b>Goals Supported</b>   | Public Services   |
|   | <b>Needs Addressed</b>   | Provision of Community and Public Services  |
|   | <b>Funding</b>   | CDBG: \$15,000  |
|   | <b>Description</b>   | Transportation services that will assist homeless clients. Clients will be transported to and from the Homeless Shelter, job interviews, health and wellness appointments, and additional service appointments as needed.   |
|   | <b>Target Date</b>   | 6/30/2025   |
|   | <b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b> |   |
|   | <b>Location Description</b>  | 707 Robins St. Conway, AR 72034   |
|   | <b>Planned Activities</b>  | Transportation assistance that will include vehicle maintenance, driver salary, insurance, and transportation rental.   |
| 6 | <b>Project Name</b>  | Milestones Services Inc.  |
|   | <b>Target Area</b>   | City-wide   |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | <b>Goals Supported</b>   | Public Services  |
|   | <b>Needs Addressed</b>   | Provision of Community and Public Services   |
|   | <b>Funding</b>   | CDBG: \$5,000  |
|   | <b>Description</b>   | Transportation services provided for children with developmental delays. Children are transported to and from the facility to receive physical, speech, and occupational therapy services. |
|   | <b>Target Date</b>   | 6/30/2025  |
|   | <b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b> |  |
|   | <b>Location Description</b>  | 1700 South Blvd. Conway, AR  |
|   | <b>Planned Activities</b>  | Transportation assistance that will include vehicle maintenance, driver salary, insurance, and transportation rental.  |
|   |  |  |
| 7 | <b>Project Name</b>  | Bethlehem House  |
|   | <b>Target Area</b>   |  |
|   | <b>Goals Supported</b>   | Public Services  |
|   | <b>Needs Addressed</b>   | Provision of Community and Public Services   |
|   | <b>Funding</b>   | CDBG: \$6,000  |
|   | <b>Description</b>   | Services provide transportation services for Low-Moderate income clients in transitional homelessness.   |
|   | <b>Target Date</b>   | 6/30/2025  |
|   | <b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b> |  |
|   | <b>Location Description</b>  | 1115 Parkway St  |
| 8 | <b>Planned Activities</b>  | Transportation assistance that will include vehicle maintenance, driver salary, insurance, and transportation rental.  |
|   | <b>Project Name</b>  | Conway Revitalization Project  |
|   | <b>Target Area</b>   | City-wide  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Goals Supported</b>   | Community Facilities  |
| <b>Needs Addressed</b>   | Repair and maintain streets and sidewalks<br>Provision of Community and Public Services<br>Enhance the City's Drainage Systems<br>Increase the Supply of Affordable Suitable Housing<br>Economic Development  |
| <b>Funding</b>   | CDBG: \$211,563   |
| <b>Description</b>   | This project will be a new project for the City of Conway starting with Program Year 2024. The project will consist of several layers listed throughout the Action Plan to help create affordable housing, preserve current housing stock, rehabilitation, drainage, sewage, electrical, green space, parks, and much more. |
| <b>Target Date</b>   |   |
| <b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b> |   |
| <b>Location Description</b>  | Conway Community & Neighborhoods  |



|   |                           |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| 9 | <b>Planned Activities</b> | <p>The Conway Revitalization Program (CRP). This revitalization project will focus to include but is not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with city departments, and community partners to create, preserve, repair, replace, and rehab housing within the city and whole seeking to provide ways to increase affordable housing.</li> <li>• Conduct a complete housing analysis by creating a housing strategy that focuses on the homeless, leaving public housing.</li> <li>• Create incentives for infill housing.</li> <li>• Create a program for clearing vacant and boarded housing.</li> <li>• Provision of additional community facilities and public services.</li> <li>• Provided a detailed Housing analysis in the 3 opportunity zones, low, extremely low, low-moderate income housing areas, and areas of slum &amp; blight within the City of Conway.</li> <li>• Engineering, architect, and any additional professional services needed to maximize the fulfillment of the revitalization.</li> <li>• Complete drainage analysis in the following areas: 3 opportunity zones, very low to low-moderate-income persons' income housing areas, and areas of slum &amp; blight within the City of Conway.</li> <li>• Land acquisition, Land purchase, Demo, and Infrastructure (including but not limited to plumbing, sewage, electrical, drainage, and streets).</li> <li>• Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements. Repair and maintain streets and sidewalks</li> <li>• Additional Green Spaces. (Parks)</li> </ul> <p>The CRP will serve COUNTLESS families in low-moderate income areas</p> |
|   | <b>Project Name</b>       | Housing Rehabilitation Program   |
|   | <b>Target Area</b>        | City-wide  |
|   | <b>Goals Supported</b>    | Community Facilities   |
|   | <b>Needs Addressed</b>    | Repair and maintain streets and sidewalks<br>Enhance the City's Drainage Systems<br>Increase the Supply of Affordable Suitable Housing   |
|   | <b>Funding</b>            | CDBG: \$100,000  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Description</b>   | The Housing Rehabilitation Program is a new program looking to be established in 2024. With Rehabilitations beginning in Program Year 2025. CDBG funds benefit LMI individuals throughout the City of Conway. It is a priority for the City to provide these services, the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance will benefit individuals at 80% percent and below of HUD income guidelines. |
| <b>Target Date</b>   | 6/30/2030  |
| <b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b> |  |
| <b>Location Description</b>  | Various locations within the city to be determined   |
| <b>Planned Activities</b>  | Housing Rehabilitation   |

## **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 assistance will be directed in the low to moderate areas in the City of Conway as well as agencies that serve city-wide persons that are LMI or presumed LMI.

### **Geographic Distribution**

| <b>Target Area</b> | <b>Percentage of Funds</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| LMI Census tracts  | 80                         |
| City-wide          |                            |

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

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

The Conway Revitalization Project will focus on low-moderate income areas, areas of slum & blight, and low-moderate income families. We are using 65 percent of our funding in this area because it serves a large population of LMI persons. 15 percent of the funding is associated with city-wide public services that service LMI persons or presumed LMI persons. The additional 20 percent is funding associated with administration.

### **Discussion**

The City is dedicated to enhancing low-income residential neighborhoods, particularly those with high concentrations of minorities and other protected classes. These efforts aim to elevate these areas to standards equal to other parts of the city, fostering safer and more desirable living environments. Additionally, in the Annual Action Plan 2024, the City is committed to ensuring that low-income residents experiencing homelessness have access to the necessary services and facilities.

## Affordable Housing

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

#### Introduction

Affordable housing has been an initiative in the city of Conway for the past 10+ years. We have used CDBG funding over the years to complete infrastructure improvements that would later support affordable housing in a historic neighborhood in our city. The townhomes are now complete which has assisted income-eligible households with affordable housing.

Spruce Street Cottage project consists of 12 cottage homes and 7 of the 12 cottage homes were eligible for a subsidy that went towards closing costs, fees, and down payment. The buyers will determine income eligibility based on the HUD income limits for the current year. These homes support our initiative and goals for suitable and affordable housing in our city. Our city is committed to making affordable housing in Conway a priority!

| One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported |   |
|---|---|
| Homeless  | 0 |
| Non-Homeless  | 0 |
| Special-Needs   | 0 |
| Total   | 0 |

Table 9 - 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                                   | 0 |
| Rehab of Existing Units                                       | 0 |
| Acquisition of Existing Units                                 | 0 |
| Total   | 0 |

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

#### Discussion

While the City of Conway does not receive funds that can be used for new construction, it has found ways to partner with private developers to provide some affordable housing within Conway. The City has also continued to work on infrastructure projects in low to moderate areas to assist with that partnership that includes drainage and stormwater projects. The City will continue to look for ways to provide affordable housing.

## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

### **Introduction**

The City of Conway CDBG program has a great working relationship with Conway Housing Authority. Conway PHA submits plans to HUD for management of that program. We plan to continue to meet with the director and Conway Housing Authority members to continue to work together to bridge the gap for affordable housing in the City of Conway.

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

At this time, Conway Housing Authority meets the requirements for accessible units in all properties managed and owned. The Conway Housing Authority has reached out to several nonprofits and congressional leaders to assist them with receiving more housing vouchers to meet the needs of the clients they serve. The city will continue to work with our local community, non-profits, and housing authority to address the growing need for public and affordable housing. Beginning the process of the Central Conway Revitalization program will also aide in the efforts to address the growing need for affordable housing.

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

Conway Housing Authority has not been funded for an FSS Coordinator for the past few years for vouchers or public housing programs. The administration lacks limited ability to promote ownership without a coordinator.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator meets regularly with the Conway Housing Authority to discuss ways that we can get residents involved in management and participate in homeownership.

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

The Conway Housing Authority is not designated as troubled.

### **Discussion**

The City of Conway is continuing to develop a long-term housing strategy. Conway Housing Authority is a vital partner in this undertaking. Ongoing communication has been key in order to identify the needs and opportunities to further address affordable housing in Conway.

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

### **Introduction**

The City of Conway is fortunate to have homeless service providers within our city, the Bethlehem House is a transitional shelter that offers programming to efficiently and effectively help individuals transition from homelessness. There is also an emergency battered women's shelter in the city, Rise House Arkansas, and a transition/permanent shelter for girls who have been taken away from their homes due to abuse or neglect, HAVEN. We also have the Conway Ministry Center who recently purchased property to open a shelter called "The Refuge" that will focus on housing families with children and homeless individuals with special needs, and respite care. City of Hope Outreach helps homeless veterans and is in the process of building tiny homes for veterans. The Community Action Program of Central Arkansas operates the City of Conway's newly opened Emergency Shelter that has beds for 36+ single adults with spaces for males and females. All of these agencies work directly with our city's homeless population.

The Community Development Department works closely with a subset of the Toad Suck Coalition Balance of State Continuum of Care. To prevent homelessness the CoC tries to increase awareness about outreach, support services, and housing available in the subset's geographic area, which is Faulkner and Conway Counties. They also provide support and training to faith-based initiatives in prevention, outreach, support services, and housing available in the communities they benefit. Each CoC is required to submit an annual CoC plan and application for funding. The application includes a Housing Gap Analysis Chart, which identifies housing and supportive service needs for the continuum's homeless and homeless special needs population.

### **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 Conway purchased the property and has opened the first Overnight Emergency Shelter in the City. We are continuing to work with the Community Action Program for Central who run the day-to-day operations of the shelter, to strategize and aid in reducing homelessness.

In addition to the agencies listed above, the Community Development Department partners with the Community Action Program of Central Arkansas, which houses one of the few ESG grants for the county. CAPCA provides case management for emergency homelessness and currently operates the City's shelter. CAPCA hosts an event each year called Project Homeless Connect. CAPCA created this event to connect individuals and families to services that they may have difficulty connecting to if homeless.

Local businesses and volunteers show up to support and assist with the event.

The Conway Ministry Center also provides case management. They also recently purchased property to open a Shelter called “The Refuge” that will focus on housing families with children and homeless individuals with special needs, and respite care. The Conway Ministry Center (CMC) recently purchased a 22 unit motel facility to repurpose and provide emergency and crisis housing exclusively to families with children and extremely vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness.

After five years of running a Winter Warming Station for the city, the Conway Ministry Center discovered that 19% of the clients sheltered had a disability with medical needs and/or were being directly discharged from an inpatient hospital stay. Many were chronically or terminally ill. Their medical needs required assisted toileting, special meals, wound care, transfer assistance, medication management, etc. There are extremely few shelters in the South equipped to provide emergency shelter for these individuals. The Conway Ministry Center will reserve space to provide temporary housing for these individuals who are at great risk of serious harm when left unsheltered.

Bethlehem House is the only transitional shelter the city of Conway has and both agencies mentioned above refer to the Bethlehem House and other agencies for transitional homelessness. During planning for the Point in Time count, it was clear to the Community Development Director that these agencies are aware of chronic unsheltered homeless (homeless by choice) and maintain contact with those individuals. The city continues to work with local agencies for work-related programs.

The Toad Suck Coalition joined together to provide housing during the winter and summer months and for emergencies for our homeless neighbors by providing hotel stays.

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

The City purchased an old office building with CDBG funding and renovated it into the city's first Overnight Emergency Shelter. The opening of the shelter has been instrumental in emergency shelter and a sense of stability for many low-income persons to enter into transitional housing.

**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**

The City of Conway is not an agency that has the resources or staff to take on this project. However, the City does assist our local nonprofits and community stakeholders in developing a strategic plan to address these issues associated with homelessness in our area. Currently, Conway Housing Authority,

Community Action Program of Central Arkansas, Conway Ministry Center, Bethlehem House transitional homeless shelter, City of Hope Outreach, and the Rise House all provide resources and case management for the homeless through transition.

There are agencies within the City that have programs for adolescents. Deliver Hope, a nonprofit in Conway, is seeking a housing option for those young adults leaving foster care. This agency currently focuses on incarcerated juveniles. HAVEN House also provides shelter for adolescent girls in DHS custody. Also, we hope to see a decrease in the City's homeless population with the Overnight Emergency Shelter coming online.

**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 Conway is very diligent in trying to provide a solution to increase the amount of affordable housing in our community. Our Continuum of Care has made it a priority to provide case management for our LMI individuals and families to avoid the trend of those persons becoming homeless. They also work on prevention methods for those discharged from healthcare institutions to keep them from being discharged and becoming homeless. The city is committed to continuing to work with local non-profits and other agencies to work together to increase the number of affordable housing units in Conway and improve living conditions in LMI neighborhoods.

## **Discussion**

The City will continue to work with local agencies and seek additional resources to help meet the needs of homeless and other special needs within our city.



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

### **Introduction:**

Conway maintains its commitment to preserve, maintain, and increase the stock of affordable housing. Housing affordability is a key component to the quality of life of Conway's residents. Barriers to affordable housing can be found in several things-- lack of public investment in specific neighborhoods (including services and amenities), deteriorated vacant structures and land, location and type of affordable housing, inability to access existing housing, lack of income, availability of affordable units in a range of sizes, and lack of fair housing outreach and enforcement.

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

The City of Conway would like to see the increase of affordable housing throughout our community. The Community Development is looking at ways to challenge our local developers to provide housing that will fit our LMI neighborhoods. In the next 5 to 10 years, our office hopes to establish a housing rehabilitation program and continue to work with developers to provide additional units of affordable housing.

### **Discussion:**

The City of Conway will continue its ongoing efforts to address any issues that arise with policies adversely effecting housing choice, to seek options for public transportation, to increase the number of affordable housing units in Conway and improve living conditions in LMI neighborhoods.

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

### **Introduction:**

A major obstacle for the City of Conway is the limited CDBG funding received overall to assist with projects, transportation, affordable housing, and other services. Each year agencies ask for an increased amount, however, due to the 15 percent cap and the limited amount received, we are usually unable to increase an agency's funding, especially if applications have increased. Another obstacle is the restriction for new construction that is tied to CDBG funding. The limited amount of funding and the inability to build new construction creates additional obstacles in the effort to increase the supply of affordable housing. The City of Conway does a great job leveraging CDBG funds with the city for transportation and various projects to help overcome the obstacles that have been identified above.

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

The City will continue to work with internal departments, local non-profits, agencies, and other resources to help address obstacles, to continue to meet the underserved needs.

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

While the City of Conway does not currently have a housing rehabilitation program, the City does follow all federal and state regulations on CDBG-funded projects. It relies on the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to enforce regulations and provide assistance when needed. The City plans to strategically address rehabilitation, and affordable housing, with the implementation of the Conway Revitalization Program we plan to start Phase I of in PY2024.

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

All federal and state regulations will be followed on CDBG-funded projects. The City of Conway does not currently have a housing rehabilitation program. It relies on the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to enforce regulations and provide assistance when needed.

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

The Community Development Department will reduce poverty by fostering and promoting self-sufficiency and independence. To better empower individuals and families toward this goal, the following strategies will be put to work:

- Promote sustainable economic development through affordable housing and other community development activities; Assist households in purchasing homes, developing stability and net worth and reducing the likelihood for poverty; Evaluate projects, in part, on the basis of their ability to foster self-sufficiency when awarding funding for projects; Maintain a strong

relationship with the Toad Suck Continuum of Care to enhance and promote stabilization of our homeless neighbors and homeless families while encouraging the transition to stability, permanent housing situations;

- Create an on-going mechanism for participation by residents and businesses in the revitalization of the areas;
- Enhance efforts to educate the public and interested persons about available supportive services that foster self-sufficiency and independent living arrangements;
- Encourage job training and placement referral service to low and moderate-income residents in the area.

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

The City of Conway will meet its responsibility to provide decent and affordable housing and will aid in the development of viable communities with suitable living environments and expanded economic and community development opportunities. This will be done with the help and support of a network of public institutions, nonprofit organizations, and private industries. The CDD takes additional initiative in instilling capacity and strong housing and community development through funding initiatives, outreach and training, and other capability-building endeavors. By meeting with non-profit service providers, faith-based organizations, the Conway Housing Authority, other government entities, and various organizations the City of Conway strives to ensure that the needs of the community are addressed.

A collection of non-profit entities work with the City to address a variety of social needs such as affordable housing, homelessness, and special needs populations. The Bethlehem House, Women's Shelter of Central Arkansas, Community Action Program of Central Arkansas, Ministry Center, City of Hope Outreach, and Independent Living Services are all examples of solicited agencies that address special needs populations and homelessness in Conway. City involvement with many of these agencies includes attendance at meetings and funding of projects that are eligible for CDBG funds. Recently programs such as Faulkner County Council on Aging, Bethlehem House, Community Action Program of Central Arkansas, Independent Living Services, and the Boys and Girls Club have received or may receive grant allocations from the City of Conway for transportation purposes.

Additionally, Conway works closely with many state and county agencies, such as the Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Human Services, and the Women's Shelter of Central Arkansas to provide citizens with programs that address various needs. The Department of Human Services provides many important services to residents such as programs to aid the elderly population and for individuals with disabilities. CDBG funds recently were used and may continue to provide transportation to developmentally disabled and disadvantaged citizens through Independent Living Services. Faulkner County also has a council on Aging and Day School in which Conway actively participates.

Private industry participation in housing and community development activities include the construction of new multi-family developments, lenders that services loans for first time home buyers, home repair

contractors, and other companies with a stake in the future of the city. These companies work with non-profit organizations working in community development efforts, providing construction and financing expertise needed for completion of the projects. Local companies have also worked with non-profit agencies through donations of time and money, all of which the CDD communicates with periodically.

The City serves as a conduit to enable for-profit and faith-based organizations to stay a brisk of the training and conferences being offered that will enhance the delivery of their services. The City will continue to strengthen existing relationships and build new relationships with private and public organizations, social service agencies, neighborhood associations, and the faith-based community, as well as attend meetings of other organizations promoting community development.

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

The City of Conway will lead homeless and public housing providers in a new homelessness and housing strategy. The City has limited resources to address the priorities identified. As such, the City has created and will continue to seek partnerships to leverage the City's 2024 allocation. These partnerships will be cooperative working relationships.

### **Discussion:**

The City is committed to continuing its participation with Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as profit and non-profit sector, to reach the needs of target income individuals and families in the City of Conway. The City will continue to work on improvements and services for our low-income residents.

## Program Specific Requirements

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

#### Introduction:

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

##### Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

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

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

#### Other CDBG Requirements

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. The amount of urgent need activities   | 0       |
| 2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan. | 100.00% |