

City of Bessemer, FY21
Consolidated Annual
Performance and Evaluation
Report (CAPER)



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Prepared by the City of Bessemer Economic and Community Development Department for submittal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under Code of Federal Regulations 24 CFR 570.902. August 2022. For questions regarding this document, contact Community Development at 205-424-4060.



A deck completed for a senior resident under the Emergency Housing Grant program using CDBG funds. The grant provided funding of up to \$7,500 to seniors in need of emergency assistance in FY21.

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

The city of Bessemer administered two sources of CDBG funding during FY21 - its annual CDBG allocation and a CDBG CARES Act, or CDBG-CV, grant awarded in FY20.

Entitlement funds address goals and objectives outlined in the FY20-24 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. CDBG-CV funds are used to “prepare, prevent, and respond” to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic in Bessemer.

The city designated 38% of its FY21 funds to housing, specifically its Senior Emergency Housing Grant. A total of 7 households were assisted, less than in previous years. This was due to a lack of contractors. A substantial amendment was authorized in PY21 for a Public Facilities activity to purchase a new Aerial Fire Truck for the city. The new fire truck replaces a current city unit which was at the end of its useful life. The activity allows for the maintenance of fire protection for an estimated 20,000 residents, not including businesses, within its service area, including 14,200 residents who qualify as low-to-moderate income based on Census data.

Public Improvements funds set aside in FY21 were reallocated towards the aforementioned fire truck purchase. The remaining funds in were directed towards Program Administration, Housing Delivery Costs and lead-paint testing. The city hired a new Community Development Director in FY21. A portion of program administration was used to pay the rental fees for a Fair Housing Summit conducted by the city in partnership with the United Way of Central Alabama in April 2022. The city allocated \$35,000 towards Planning for a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area, or NRSA, application. The NRSA will include Census tracts 101 and 103.02, LMI neighborhoods with an estimated 4,800 persons, or about 20 percent of the city’s entire population. The LMI population within the proposed NRSA is at least 85%.

In addition, the city was allocated \$521,118 in CDBG-CV funds in 2020. The city allocated 100 percent of its CDBG-CV funds to public service projects and activities, based on HUD waivers. The largest share of CDBG-CV funds were directed to emergency assistance with other priority areas being meal delivery for seniors and assistance to microenterprises. Partnerships with local subrecipients enabled the city to provide assistance to 85 households through the emergency assistance program and at least 14 microenterprises in PY21. About 36 seniors benefitted

from meal delivery with CDBG-CV funds in PY21.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)
 Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected - Strategic Plan	Actual - Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected - Program Year	Actual - Program Year	Percent Complete
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0		30	0	0.00%
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	10	0	0.00%			
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	5	0	0.00%			

Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	30	17	56.67%	30	7	23.33%
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	8	0	0.00%			
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	8	10	125.00%			
Emergency Repair Grants (EN)	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	30	21	70.00%	25	7	28.00%
Emergency Repair Grants (EN)	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	0	0		18	0	0.00%
Emergency Repair Grants (EN)	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	0	0		25	0	0.00%
Historic Facade Grants (EN)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	10	0	0.00%			
Historic Facade Grants (EN)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	10	0	0.00%			

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Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	26530	26530	100.00%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0		27000	0	0.00%
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0		30	0	0.00%
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	10	0	0.00%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	5	0	0.00%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	30	17	56.67%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	2	0	0.00%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	2	10	500.00%			

Public Facilities (EN)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	26530	26530	100.00%	19455	19455	100.00%
Public Improvement	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0				
Public Improvement (EN)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	26530	0	0.00%			

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

The city uses CDBG funds in a variety of areas to address priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan. The highest priority area is the emergency repair grant, which provides emergency home repair and improvement assistance to elderly, low-to-moderate income, homeowners or disabled low-to-moderate income homeowners, regardless of age, and dependent resident family members who are disabled. Participants must be 62 years of age or older or permanently disabled. Priority is given to repairs directly related to a certified disability or to direct threats to

safety. Typical repairs and improvements include construction of wheel chair ramps, and ADA related improvements and repairs. Other repairs may be made to address health and safety. House painting within lead based paint guidelines may be undertaken as may roofing and other structural issues.

About 8 households benefitted from this program in PY21, meaning a total of 25 households have been assisted in the last two years through the use of CDBG funds. The average grant amount is \$7500, not including lead-based paint testing on the homes. Combined with the average costs of lead-based paint testing and homeowners receive a grant award of approximately \$8300. The city is proposing increasing the amount of grant awards to \$12,500 for PY22 and beyond due to the rise in the costs of building materials.

Public Facilities is the second goal of CDBG funds. In the past this has included repairs to the Bessemer Recreation Center and installation of a new Welcome Sign. Projects usually have a city-wide benefit goal. The city has proposed improving access to transportation for residents by installing bus shelters and improving access at bus stops. However, supply chain issues delayed those efforts. The city reallocated funding from other to purchase a new aerial fire truck in PY21 at a cost of \$1.284 million, using a combination of CDBG funds, program income, and through the conversion of loan funds from its revolving loan accounts. Approximately 62% of the funding of the fire truck came from this combination of funds, in addition to a repayment of \$208,465 the city made in November 2021 for past year's monitoring findings. About \$150,000, or 12%, came from funds allocated for public facility projects and another \$118,000, or 9%, came from PY20 CDBG administrative funds which were unexpended in the fiscal year due to the lack of a director. Approximately 41% of the funding for the public facility/Fire truck came from the conversion of unexpended funds from revolving loan accounts and a repayment for previous ineligible projects.

The purchase of a new aerial fire truck allowed the city to maintain adequate fire protection for its neighborhoods, as the fire truck will service neighborhoods primarily located near the city's urban core which tend to be lower income and where commercial revitalization is needed most. It also allowed the city to reduce its timeliness exposure. The activity will benefit approximately 20,000 Bessemer residents, including an estimated 14,000 low-to-moderate income households residing within the service area.

Housing Delivery costs were used to fund a progress towards related to the emergency housing grant program, including site visits, new contractor interviews and recruitment and discussions with prospective clients. However, a lack of contractors used for the emergency housing grant program affected delivery in PY22.

All of the funds drawn in FY21 had a benefit primarily to low-to-moderate income households.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted
 Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).
 91.520(a)

CDBG	
White	9
Black or African American	104
Asian	0
American Indian or American Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	113
Hispanic	0
Not Hispanic	113

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative



Figure 2 – The city partnered with the United Way of Central Alabama to provide meal services to seniors under the CDBG-CV program to “prevent, prepare and respond” to the coronavirus pandemic.

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In addition, the city used CDBG-CV funds in PY21 which benefitted residents across Bessemer. The majority of the emergency assistance went to households within the city core areas with high LMI population percentages. The meal delivery program done in conjunction with Meals on Wheels was more diverse in terms of neighborhoods served, but generally all seniors are presumed LMI under HUD's LMI Limited Clientele.

The city's purchase of the fire truck will provide fire protection to a large service area with an average LMI population of greater than 65 percent. The city's planning activity for an NRSA application will benefit an area with an LMI population of 89.5%.

All programs were available city-wide. As a whole, Bessemer is 65% LMI, based on HUD data. However, some communities have a higher LMI percentage, based on Census tract data. Applications for the Emergency Housing Grants have customarily come from Census tracts with a higher percentage of LMI households. These neighborhoods are in Census tracts 101, 102, 103.01, 103.02 and 104.01. Allocations this year to the Emergency Housing Grant program were consistent with these areas with one exception.

Narrative

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Bessemer, Alabama	100	100	

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

The city used a combination of CDBG entitlement funds from FY21 and previous fiscal years, conversion of revolving loan funds to entitlement funds and a HUD-required monitoring repayment to fund activities carried out in PY21. An estimated 78 percent of resources made available were expended in FY21.

Narrative

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	2,066,203	1,602,406

Identify the resources made available

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

All projects and activities were fully funded through the CDBG program. There was no leveraging of private, state or local funds and no publicly-owned land or property was used for activities.

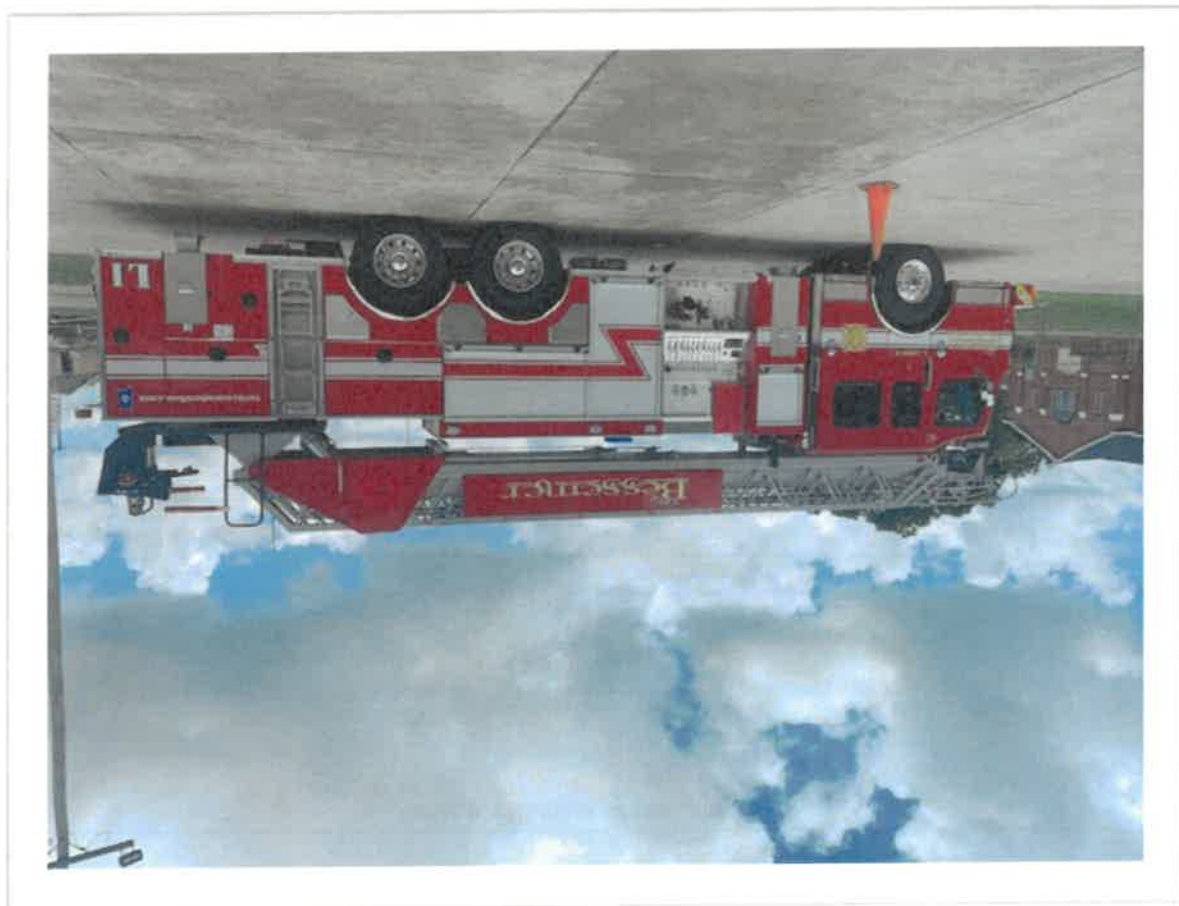


Figure. The city of Bessemer approved the use of CDBG funds to purchase a new Aerial Fire Truck in FY21.

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

The city goals and outcomes were too high for PY21. This is likely due to an error in its Action Plan. The primary problems with meeting goals and outcomes in PY21 stemmed from this fact. In addition, the emergency housing grant program was hampered by lack of contractors and disruptions in the nation's supply chain. Although not specified in the 2020 AAP, the city was able to provide emergency rental assistance through the emergency assistance program under the CDBG-CV allocation.

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	50	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	25	5
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	75	5

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	50	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	50	0

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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Narrative Information

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	4	0
Low-income	0	0
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	4	0

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.
 It is not expected that the outcomes will impact future action plans.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

The city of Bessemer does not receive ESG funds. The city outlined in its Consolidated Plan a desire to identify the homeless and at-risk for homeless population within the city. The Economic and Community Development Department contacted the One Roof organization and a Point-in-Time (POT) Count was conducted in Bessemer in February 2022. Discussions with One Roof are expected to continue in FY22, as the city has set aside a portion of its FY22 allocation for public service activities.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The One Roof organization conducted a Point in Time count in Bessemer in February 2022 in order to help the city obtain better data on its homeless population. Community Development staff also consulted with local business owners and others to determine the whereabouts and numbers of the homeless population within the city.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are likely to become homeless after 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); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

The city has no funding for emergency shelters and transitional housing needs. One proposal for FY22 is to partner with an agency in the city to provide this level of support.

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 did not report any progress in this area in FY21 due to a lack of data. No data was available on chronically homeless individuals and families, hence the city coordinated with One Roof for a count in February 2022. Some data existed on families with children who were homeless based on reports

submitted to the state Board of Education by the Bessemer City Schools system under the McKinley-Vento Act. The city is reviewing this data, but notes some differences in definitions of homelessness for families with children between HUD and other federal agencies. In addition, there exists limited data on veterans and their families and unaccompanied youth in Bessemer. Therefore the city will continue to pursue acquiring data on homeless in Bessemer in order to accurately identify programs and activities to help families which fall into this category 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.

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CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The city has worked cooperatively with the Bessemer Housing Authority to address the needs of residents and management. The city of Bessemer, through the Office of the Mayor, appoints members to the Bessemer Housing Authority's Board of Directors. In addition, the city contacts the BESHA when developing plans to address the needs of extremely low-income and low-income persons. In PY21, BESHA representatives took part in forums and public hearings sponsored by the Economic and Community Development Department aimed at helping the city identify programs under the city of Bessemer's CARES Act allocation. The city consulted with the BESHA on the location of bus shelters under the Bus Shelters/Public Facilities activity, however the activity was delayed in FY21 due to supply issues with the BJCTA. The city and BESHA communicated on the development of new housing at Southside Homes and an NRSa application was prepared in FY21 in order to assist the housing authority with development of a potential Juanita Hill Place development to expand the availability of affordable housing within the city.

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

The Bessemer Housing Authority has an active Resident Advisory Board. The board meets monthly and provides input to BESHA officials on matters of concern to residents and provide comments on the BESHA's annual and five-year plans. The BESHA has an established Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program aimed at assisting housing residents in transitioning from public housing to self-sustainability, including homeownership. The city of Bessemer has agreed to partner in this effort by identifying properties for which the BESHA can build new housing units or acquire units for residents who have successfully become homeowners.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The Bessemer Public Housing Authority is not a troubled PHA.

The city of Bessemer has experienced tremendous job growth in the last 10 years and has sought

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The city tests for lead-paint hazards in homes under the Emergency Repair Housing Grant program. A total of \$4,250 was expended in FY21 towards this goal. As part of its emergency housing grant program, the city notifies all participants of the dangers of lead-based paint. Contractors working under the city's CDBG program are required to have all required certifications for the proper abatement of lead-based paint hazards.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

About 25% of Bessemer's population has some type of disability according to the most recent Census figures. Several projects related to the underserved were delayed in FY21, such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements at Enoch Brown Park and improvements at the Bessemer Public Library. These projects remain in the city's plans once funding has been identified.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The city of Bessemer has several Census tracts which would qualify as areas of the underserved. The primary efforts of the city have focused on directing funding into these areas in order to provide lift to residents. The city has not identified any obstacles to meeting underserved needs, but is constantly reviewing policies, procedures and operations which could impact the underserved. The city's Emergency Housing Grant program provides grants for not only seniors, but disabled and seniors with disabled family members.

The city of Bessemer's 2020 Analysis of Impediments did not identify any land use controls, tax policies, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations and policies affecting the return on residential investments which were barriers to affordable housing. The AI identified other areas of concern which could be deemed as barriers to affordable housing. These were primarily related to affordable housing stock, knowledge of credit and the ability to work with financial institutions. The city partnered with the United Way Housing Alliance in April 2022 to host a summit for landlords and property managers to inform them of their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act. The city has also been in contact with developers about expanding the affordable housing stock in Bessemer. The NRSA application included coordination with affordable housing providers.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken 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. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

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In addition, the Community Development director has served on agencies such as the now defunct Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity or JCCEO and has now been appointed to serve on the Community Action Agency of Northeast Alabama. Both agencies have as their mission statements

The city of Bessemer's non-profit sector is limited in terms of agencies able to work within the city to address private housing and social services. The city has maintained a policy of working with agencies based in the city and those who operate regionally in order to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. The city was involved in planning by the Bessemer Housing Authority for its proposed redevelopment of the Southside Homes community. The city also began collaborations with the Bessemer Redevelopment Corporation and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham on the construction of new homes in the city's Northside community. This collaboration has been included in the city's NRSA application to HUD.

agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service

The city is committed to continual improvement in institutional structure. In PY21, the city hired a new Director to oversee its Community Development department, including the CDBG grant. The department also began in PY21 to actively engage with other city departments to identify needs and gaps in services which can be filled by CDBG funds. Integration with the city's Finance Department improved in PY21, resulting in better collaboration on financial management of the city's CDBG grant. In addition, policies and procedures were reviewed in PY21 to identify weaknesses and areas for improvements.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The job market in the city is flourishing. However, the poverty rate remains stubbornly high in some areas. Some of this challenge can be tied to educational attainment in the city. Census data shows the total percentage of persons over age 25 in Bessemer with a high school diploma/equivalent or higher is just 83.1 percent, compared to a state average of 86.1 percent and a national average of 88 percent for this same age group. The percentage of persons in the city with a bachelor's degree or higher is just 14.4 percent, compared to 25.5 percent for the state of Alabama and 32.1 percent for the United States. These figures will continue to put Bessemer at a disadvantage. The city outlined prospects for improving job access for residents living within its proposed NRSA.

Lowes Home Improvement opened a new distribution center in the city in PY21 and will employ upwards of 250 people when fully staffed. In addition, TSF Sportswear is constructing a new facility on Lakeshore Drive in Bessemer which will employ some 175 when fully staffed. Community Survey. In PY21, Carvana opened a new facility in the city with plans to employ 450 persons. percent according to the most recent Census estimates from the American This is expected to lead to a reduction in the poverty rate, which stands at 26 economic development and job creation as a means of reducing the number of poverty-level families.

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The Economic and Community Development Department teamed with the United Way Housing Alliance

as a means to expand opportunity and impact housing stability.

- Pursue programs aimed at providing Bessemer residents education relative to Fair Housing, financial management and credit worthiness, 103.02 in conjunction with private and public partners.

developed an NRSA application in PY21. The NRSA will seek to address housing in Census Tracts 101 and Authority on redevelopment of the Southside Homes Public Housing Community. Finally, the city same neighborhood over the next two years. The city began working with the Bessemer Housing form of disability. The partnership plans to work with the city to bring at least 25 new houses to the within the city's Northside community in PY21, including two constructed for homeowners with some Redevelopment Corporation, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity constructed three new houses rate units within the city's downtown. The Bessemer Cardinal Capital in the final quarter of 2020 and the developer has outlined plans for 40 new market- a development partnership of Milwaukee-based Scott Crawford Inc. and Building to

least 100 new houses of various price ranges to the city. The city of Bessemer sold its former City Hall Bessemer. Construction began on the aforementioned Habitat for Humanity project in PY21 to bring at Several projects have either started or proposed to increase the supply of affordable housing in

- Pursue efforts to improve the supply of affordable, quality housing in Bessemer.

The city has continued working with agencies both private and public to expand the supply of affordable housing in Bessemer. This includes work with social service programs aimed at weatherization, CDBG funding has not been allocated as of yet to these efforts.

- Renew efforts to address housing affordability and reduce housing costs among lower income residents.

The city has made some progress in addressing issues identified in its analysis of impediments to fair housing choice.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

Finally, Habitat began work in on a new mixed-income subdivision in of up to 100 housing units in Bessemer in PY21. The city expects to continue these partnerships in the upcoming years.

The city has worked with the United Way of Central Alabama and the Birmingham Urban League on CDBG-CV activities such as emergency assistance and services aimed at seniors. United Way was able to work through its partners to assist an elderly resident with repairs which fell outside the scope of city services.

to co-sponsor a Landlord Summit in April 2022, aimed at providing landlords information on fair housing and their rights and responsibilities. Mayor Kenneth Gullley proclaimed April 2022 as Fair Housing Month in the city of Bessemer. The proclamation was made to draw attention to Fair Housing issues and inform residents of their rights under the Fair Housing Act.

- Seek to connect public transportation, housing, and employment opportunities being produced in the city.

The city was not able to make progress in this area due to supply chain issues that affected the installation of bus shelters in low-income areas. However, the city and the local transit authority continued discussions in FY21 on expanding service to meet the employment needs of residents and industry.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

The City of Bessemer's Department of Economic and Community Development has committed to reviews of annual plan goals and projects on a quarterly basis, with additional reviews as required. The department provides periodic updates to the Mayor and City Council on progress towards goals and objectives. The department has operated using an eligibility sheet to ensure compliance of programs, with the Director signing off on the eligibility of projects. A review of the Language Access Plan was conducted in PY20 to ensure access to programs for those not native born, but will be amended based on new Census information. The city is also reviewing its strategy for Section 3 participation to ensure compliance with HUD regulations. The city also reviews on a quarterly basis its expenditure rate and proposes amendments to help it reach its statutory timeliness requirements. HUD requires no more than 1.5 years of grant funds available in the city's Treasury letter of credit on the annual test date in April.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)
Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

The Citizens Participation Plan and the Language Access Plan were both updated in the first quarter of PY20 to ensure better delivery of services for all residents.
The updated Citizen Participation Plan was formally adopted by the Bessemer City Council on October 20, 2020. The city completed its performance report in July and then notified residents on July 18, 2022 of a public meeting to comment on the CAPER on August 2, 2022. Residents were then afforded an additional 15-day period to provide comments on the report, with the report being made available on the city's website and at City Hall. The city has adopted three ways of reaching residents and notifying them of public hearings and opportunities to comment on performance reports:
• Notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the city of Bessemer.
• Notice on the city's Community Development webpage.
• Posting at Bessemer City Hall.

Notice is given at least 15 days prior to the public hearings, notifying residents of the completion of the annual performance report and the mechanisms by which comments will be accepted. The department will continue to monitor the progress related to engaging Citizens in the planning and evaluation process and will suggest edits and modifications as needed to ensure the residents of Bessemer across all classes and interest have access to comment and guide decision-making relative to programs goals and activities.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

There were no notable changes in the city's program objectives in FY21.

Does this jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

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CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)
Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.
There were no notable changes in the city's program objectives in PY21.

Does this jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?
No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

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Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guarantees, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					

Table 8 – Total Labor Hours

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours					
Total Section 3 Worker Hours					
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours					

CR-58 – Section 3
 Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

DRAFT

The city had no projects in PY21 which would classify under Section 3. However, the city did provide for technical assistance and grant funds to at least four public housing residents taking part in the city's microenterprise assistance program in PY21.

Narrative

Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Other.					
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