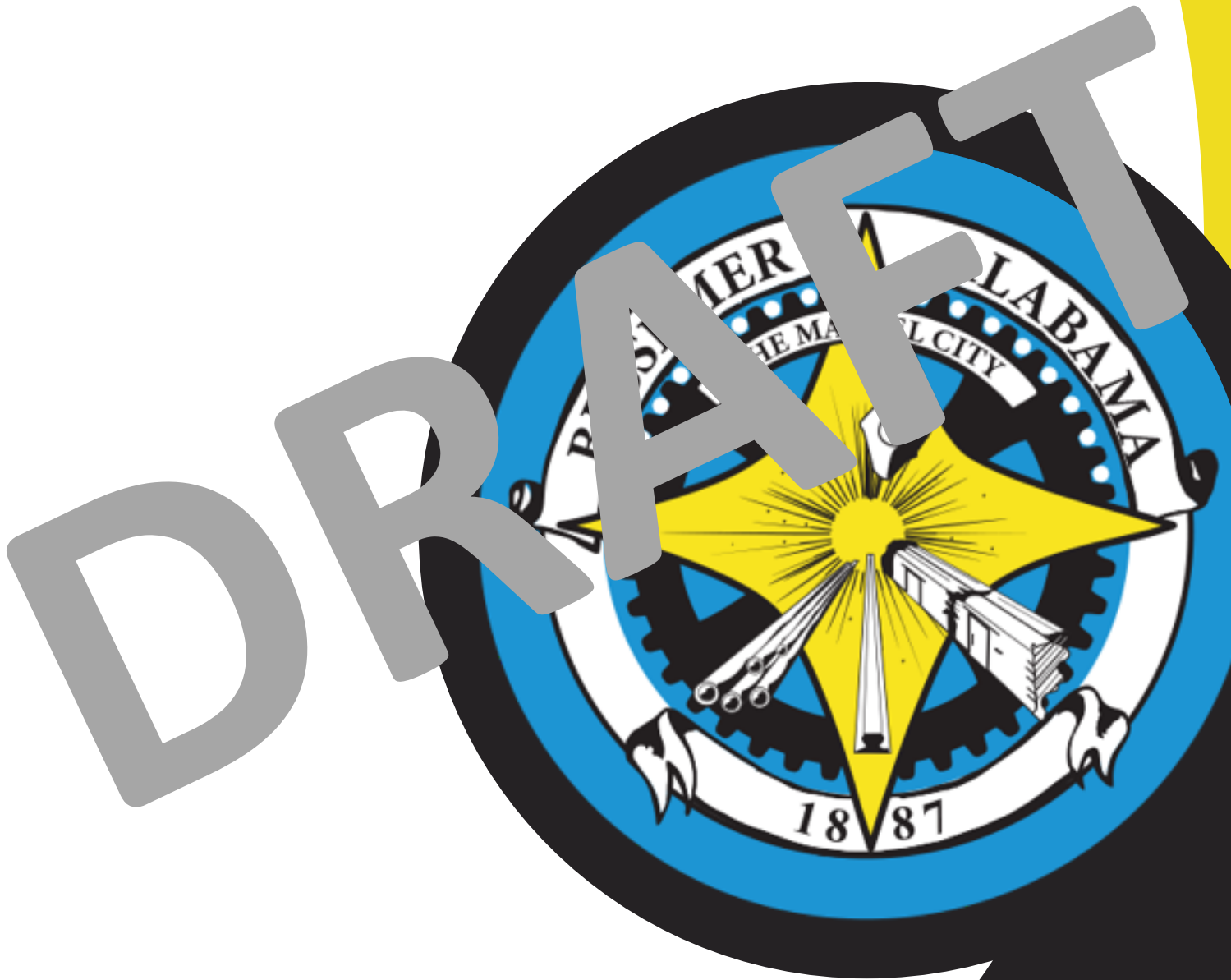


CITY OF BESSEMER CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)

2022



Submitted to the
U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development

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 as an entitlement community under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program made progress towards achieving objectives identified in its 2020-24 strategic plan and its FY22 Annual Action Plan.

The City used CDBG and CDBG-CV funds in PY22 to invest in the following:

- public improvements/facilities
- housing improvements/stability for the elderly
- public service programs to *prevent, prepare and respond* to CV-19
- Administration.

All programs met HUD's criteria of benefit to low-and-moderate income persons. A total of 14 seniors in Bessemer - described as those 62 and older - were assisted with emergency housing grants in PY22. Through this portion of the Strategic Plan period, the City has assisted some 38 seniors with repairs through year 3 of the Consolidated Plan period. The repair program 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. Typical repairs to senior homes in FY22 included repairs and replacements of roofs, improvement in ADA accessibility, and improvements to electrical and plumbing systems which allowed the homeowner to meet local codes and enjoy and safe and clean living environment. A portion of the City's CDBG funding was used for lead testing on some assisted properties and delivery of the program by City staff.

The City completed a \$1 million public improvement resurfacing project with CDBG funds in the third and fourth quarters of PY22. The public improvement project was an amendment to the Consolidated Plan and resulted in neighborhood improvements in at least five different areas, encompassing one circular neighborhood drive, four avenues, and three streets located throughout the City. All resurfaced streets were in LMI neighborhoods. An estimated 4600 persons received direct or indirect benefits from the project. Through the Strategic Plan period, some 19,455 persons have benefitted from CDBG-related public improvement/facility projects.

In addition, the City used its allotment of CDBG-CV funds to provide meals to seniors through a partnership with the United Way of Central Alabama's Meals on Wheels program. A total of 116 seniors received daily and weekend meals between June 1, 2022, and the close of the program in February 2023 as an additional safeguard to seniors to *prevent, prepare and respond* to the impacts of COVID-19 in Bessemer. An additional CDBG-CV program designed to assist microenterprises was completed in Quarter 1 of FY22. Though not identified in the Strategic Plan, the numbers are positive.

Finally, the City used a portion of its FY22 funding to provide for program administration, including oversight of public improvement projects and coordination with other state and local agencies and partners to identify future activities which could help it achieve its Strategic Plan goals.

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	Perc ent Com plete	Expe cte d – Program Year	Actual – Progr am Year	Perce nt Comp lete
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0				
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	38	110.00 %	15	14	45.00 %

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	38	83.33%	15	14	6.67%
Emergency Repair Grants (EN)	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	0	0				
Emergency Repair Grants (EN)	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	0	38				
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%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure	Persons Assisted	26530	19455	73.33%	10000	5000	0.00%

			Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit							
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0		25	116	0.00%
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0				
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	38	80.00%	15	14	0.00%
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	2	0	0.00%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	2	14	500.0			

tion							0%			
Public Facilities (EN)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	26530	19455	73.33 %			
Public Improvement	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0				
Public Improvement	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	26530	0	0.00 %			
Public Improvement (EN)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	26530	4615	17.40 %	10000	4615	46.15 %

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.

Priority areas outlined in the Strategic Plan acted upon in the FY22 year included Housing Grants and Public Facilities/Improvements.

The City expended \$205,765.80 towards the senior grants, with \$124,815 (or \$8,900 per grant) in direct assistance and another \$80,950.80 in housing delivery costs for the operation of the program. This accounted for 16.5% of FY22 funding expenditures other than planning/administration costs. The CDBG Resurfacing activity met the high priority need of public facility/improvement in the Plan and accounted for 84.4% of non-planning/admin costs in FY22. Approximately \$78,749.32 was expended for planning/administration in FY22, another priority area outlined in the Plan. Two other high-priority areas (Housing Rehabilitation Loans and Economic Development Loans) have been suspended indefinitely.

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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	23
Black or African American	107
Asian	0
American Indian or American Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	130
Hispanic	0
Not Hispanic	130

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

Narrative

The majority of families assisted under this category were families assisted through the City’s CDBG-CV partnership with the United Way of Central Alabama/Meals on Wheels. The City used its CDBG-CV allocation to assist homebound seniors with meal delivery to mitigate exposure to COVID. Distribution of assistance conformed closely to the City’s overall demographic breakdown as 80 percent of the beneficiaries were black, while 73 percent of the City’s overall population is black. The remaining 20 percent were white, which conforms to the overall population representation for White residents of 22 percent. A total of 13 blacks and 1 white were assisted under the emergency housing repair grant program.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	1,788,291.29	\$1,494,618.17

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The City relied upon a combination of FY22 and prior year CDBG and CDBG-CV funds to fund activities in PY22. A substantial amendment to the FY21 plan provided additional funds of \$500,000 through the conversion of Revolving Loan Funds to program income for activities carried out in PY22. The annual allocation of funds and program income accounted for \$1.24 million in funding for activities. Approximately \$152,524 in undisbursed CDBG-CV funds were available at the start of the program year. The City disbursed approximately \$147,888.59 in CDBG-CV funds for activities meant to prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19. All funding disbursed in FY22 totaled approximately \$1.49 million.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

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

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The majority of the programs authorized by the City in PY22 were available city-wide. Costs for program administration, emergency repair grants, housing delivery, and lead-paint testing were available across the City, so long as activities qualified as benefitting low-to-moderate income households and individuals. The CDBG-CV activities were available across the City as the program was aimed at seniors, a clientele viewed by HUD as LMI. The City used approximately 59% of its total available funding in FY22 for public improvements targeted at LMI neighborhoods located near the City's core. This had been a target area for resources identified in the City's Strategic Plan.

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 was 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.

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CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	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	15	14
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	15	14

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	15	14
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	15	14

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

The City aimed in PY22 to assist 15 households with emergency repair. The City managed to assist 14 seniors, many of which were female heads of households, through the emergency repair grant program.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The number of families assisted through the emergency housing grant program is consistent with prior years of the program and therefore no changes in annual allocations are expected.

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.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	8	0
Low-income	6	0
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	14	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative

The City assisted 8 extremely low-income households through its emergency repair grant program in PY22. Of the extremely low-income households, half were female heads of households. Another 6 households qualified as low-income, of which 3 were listed as being headed by female heads of households. None of the clients assisted in PY22 were from moderate-income households.

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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 undertook a Point in Time count in PY22 in partnership with the One Roof organization. A small number of homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) were identified, but it was difficult to assess their needs as the homeless population appeared migratory. In addition, staff met with local agencies and interests that support homeless and unsheltered persons in the Bessemer area, but was unable to secure cooperation. Funding was set aside for Public Services in the FY22 AAP but was not initialized due to limited staffing, lack of assistance from local agencies, and a need for the City to update its subrecipient policies and procedures. Efforts will continue in this area in PY23.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Currently, there are no emergency shelters or transitional housing units available in Bessemer to meet the needs of homeless persons. The only emergency shelters and transitional housing units are available through agencies based in neighboring Birmingham, although Bessemer residents in need of transitional housing or emergency shelter are often taken to those locations. The City has sought to work with agencies to better serve residents of Bessemer in need of such services. The City was a signator on the Continuum of Care's funding application to HUD in the 2nd/3rd quarter of PY22 for an *Unsheltered Planning Project* which will serve residents of Bessemer in addition to other members of the CoC.

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

Due to limited funding, the City sought to expand its partnerships and plan for improved progress in this area for FY23. The Bessemer City Council set aside \$1 million in federal American Rescue Plan funding in the 4th quarter of FY22 which will be used to provide emergency assistance to low-income individuals and families and to assist other qualified candidates in avoiding homelessness. Although not CDBG funds, the City will begin leveraging the additional federal funds in the 3rd quarter of FY23 to assist at-risk families.

In addition, the City began discussions in the 4th quarter of FY22 with a potential social services subrecipient on a temporary office in Bessemer which could be used to provide further assistance to families and individuals at-risk of becoming homeless. The subrecipient and City have discussed using a portion of the City's FY23 Public Service dollars to assist qualified individuals and families.

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 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 FY22 due to limited data. No data was available on chronically homeless individuals and families. The City coordinated with One Roof for a PIT count in January 2023. 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 the true homeless population in Bessemer to accurately identify programs and activities to help families which fall into these categories make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the 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 works cooperatively with the BESHHA when developing plans to address the needs of extremely low-income and low-income persons. The city and BESHHA began working on the development of new housing at Southside Homes and the City used federal EPA Brownfield funds in PY22 to assist with the identification of any potential environmental hazards at the development. In addition, the City and PHA communicated on another potential site redevelopment at Kate Waller Homes. Finally, the City and Housing Authority communicated on two other notable projects: a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) application to HUD and the YouthBuild grant received by the BESHHA.

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

The Bessemer Housing Authority has an active Resident Advisory Board. The Board meets monthly and provides input to BESHHA officials on matters of concern to residents and provides comments on BESHHA's annual and five-year plans. The BESHHA 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 BESHHA can build new housing units or acquire units for rehabilitation for residents who have successfully become homeowners.

Actions taken to assist troubled PHAs

The Bessemer Housing Authority is not a troubled agency.

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, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

The city of Bessemer's 2020 Analysis of Impediments did not identify any land use controls, tax policies, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees, 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, transportation challenges, and the ability to work with financial institutions. The city has worked to expand the supply of affordable housing through partnerships in PY22 and through on-going rehabilitation of senior-owned housing. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham began the development of a new subdivision in the southern part of the City which will increase the number of affordable homes in the Bessemer area. The City has assisted in this effort through expedited zoning and building permit requests. In addition, the City's Planning and Zoning board and City Council approved a rezoning of up to 200 new affordable housing units in PY22. The City also began working with the Bessemer Housing Authority in FY22 on revitalization efforts for new housing at Southside Homes and Kate Waller Homes.

Actions were 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 City has focused on directing funding into these areas to provide lifts to residents. A good example was the public improvement project of PY22. The city has not identified any obstacles to meeting underserved needs but is constantly reviewing policies, procedures, operations, and partnerships which could improve its ability to communicate and meet the needs of the underserved. For example, the City began working with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs in FY22 on broadband expansion in an attempt to improve accessibility for its underserved communities. Efforts will continue into FY23.

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

The city tests for lead-paint hazards in homes under the Emergency Repair Housing Grant program when needed. 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 were taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The city of Bessemer has experienced tremendous job growth in recent years and has sought economic development and job creation as a means of reducing the number of poverty-level families. The job market in the city is flourishing. However, the poverty rate remains stubbornly high in some areas. Some of these challenges 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 Bessemer Housing Authority recently was awarded a Youthbuild grant and has agreed to work with the City to find participants in the program.

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

In PY22, City departments actively engaged to identify needs and gaps in services which can be filled by CDBG funds. Integration with the city's Finance Department improved in PY22, resulting in better collaboration on the financial management of the city's CDBG grant. In addition, policies and procedures were reviewed in PY22 to identify weaknesses and areas for improvement.

Actions were taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

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 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 planned redevelopment of the Southside Homes community and assisted with environmental assistance in the proposed redevelopment at Kate Waller Homes. The city also began collaborating with the Bessemer Redevelopment Corporation on planned new housing in the Northside community. The City has worked with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham on the development of a new subdivision that will include affordable housing, as well as homes within LMI neighborhoods.

In addition, the Community Development Department works with the Community Action Agency of Northeast Alabama. The agency's mission is service to low-income and impoverished families. The City worked with the United Way of Central Alabama as part of its CDBG-CV funding to identify and assist elderly residents with repairs that fell outside the scope of city services.

The City anticipates continuing and strengthening such partnerships in PY23.

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

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

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

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 this date to these efforts.

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

Several projects have either started or proposed to increase the supply of affordable housing in Bessemer. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham completed the first set of new homes which will be part of a new subdivision in the City in PY22. The city of Bessemer sold its former City Hall Building to a development partnership of Milwaukee-based Scott Crawford Inc. and Cardinal Capital is in the final

quarter of 2020 and the developer has outlined plans for 40 new market-rate units within the city's downtown.

The Bessemer Redevelopment Corporation worked with the City in PY22 to identify sites for new housing construction in lower-income neighborhoods. The non-profit began work on two new houses in Bessemer's Southside community in PY22 and continues to plan for new housing within the City's Northside community. The city began working with the Bessemer Housing Authority on the redevelopment of the Southside Homes Public Housing Community and proposed the redevelopment of Kate Waller Homes. Finally, the city submitted an NRSA application to HUD in PY22 in hopes of creating more affordable housing opportunities within the proposed designation area.

- Pursue programs aimed at providing Bessemer residents with education relative to Fair Housing, financial management, and creditworthiness, as a means to expand opportunity and impact housing stability.

Mayor Kenneth Gulley proclaimed April 2023 as Fair Housing Month in the city of Bessemer in coordination with the Birmingham Association of Realtors. 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 continued working with the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority on improving transit options, including the possibility of using CDBG funds to install new bus shelters in lower-income neighborhoods. Planned redeployment of bus stops and improvements at bus stop locations in the City will be revisited in PY23.

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 quarterly, with additional reviews as required. The department provides periodic updates to the Mayor and City Council on progress toward goals and objectives. The Department uses an eligibility sheet to ensure compliance with 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 and was reviewed based on 2020 Census information. The city is also reviewing its strategy for Section 3 participation to ensure compliance with HUD regulations. The city reviews its expenditure rate quarterly 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.

Finally, the City maintains a list of eligible minority firms it uses in the delivery of Public Improvement activities.

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 notice for all residents. The updated Citizen Participation Plan was formally adopted by the Bessemer City Council on October 20, 2020. The Citizen Participation Plan outlines a 15-day comment period, which will be advertised, starting on August 9, 2023, and ending on August 24, 2023.

Notice of the comment period was posted to the City's website, at City Hall and shared with local newspapers such as The Western Star.

A Public hearing and comment opportunity was afforded to residents on August 22. 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.

In addition, the City is developing an email list of parties interested in receiving information on the Performance reports and other federally-sponsored activities.

The City's Economic and Community Development Department has been tasked with monitoring the progress related to engaging residents in the planning and evaluation process and will suggest edits and modifications as needed to ensure the residents of Bessemer across all classes and interests 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 objectives in PY22.

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

The city does not have a Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grant. The city has a grant to assess brownfields through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The grant is expected to conclude in fall 2023.

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

N/A

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CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

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					

Table 8 – Total Labor Hours

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, and 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, and 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.					
Other.					

Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

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