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2025-209 Five Year Consolidated Plan

&

2025 Annual Action Plan



Community Development Block Grant,
Emergency Solutions Grant, and
HOME Investment Partnership Grant

City of Niagara Falls

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

Purpose of the Consolidated Plan

The purpose of the CP is to guide federal funding investments over the next five years. The CP is guided by three overarching goals that are applied according to a community's needs. The goals are:

- To provide decent housing by preserving the affordable housing stock, increasing the availability of affordable housing, reducing discriminatory barriers, increasing the supply of supportive housing for those with special needs, and transitioning homeless persons and families into housing.
- To provide a suitable living environment through safer, more livable neighborhoods, greater integration of low- and moderate- income residents throughout the City, increased housing opportunities, and reinvestment in deteriorating neighborhoods.
- To expand economic opportunities through more jobs paying self-sufficient wages, homeownership opportunities, development activities that promote long-term community viability, and the empowerment of low- and moderate- income persons to achieve self-sufficiency.

Focus of the Plan

As required by HUD, the identification of needs and the adoption of strategies to address those needs must focus primarily on low- and moderate-income individuals and households. The CP must also address the needs of special needs populations, e.g., the elderly, persons with disabilities, large families, single parents, homeless individuals and families, and public housing residents.

Structure of the Plan

The Consolidated Plan consists of three major sections: a housing and community development needs assessment, a housing market analysis, and a strategic plan that identifies those priority housing and community development needs and strategies that the City will use with available resources over the next five years. The CP was formulated using HUD's eCon Plan tool, which dictates the plan's structure and provides a series of pre-populated tables. In some cases, the HUD-provided tables have been updated with more accurate or relevant data.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

The City is committed to allocating funds that serve the needs of low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents. Households with incomes less than 50% of the area median income (AMI), particularly those with extremely low incomes (less than 30% of AMI), are priorities. Niagara Falls has also identified special needs individuals as among those who face the greatest challenges and who should receive high priority in the expenditure of federal funds, including low-income families, the homeless, persons threatened with homelessness, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

In order to achieve the greatest impact possible from the limited federal funds available, the City intends to allocate non-housing community development resources primarily to projects that will have a focused neighborhood impact, as opposed to infrastructure projects of more dispersed expected benefit. The priorities identified in the CP were developed by:

- Weighing the severity of the need among all groups and sub-groups
- Analyzing current social, housing, and economic conditions
- Analyzing the relative needs of low- and moderate-income families
- Assessing the resources likely to be available over the next five years, and
- Evaluating input from stakeholder meetings, interviews, community development need survey, local staff, and participants in public hearings.

Community and Economic Development Goals

To further Community and Economic Development Goals, the City will:

- Repair and replace substandard roads servicing low-low income neighborhoods and commercial areas;
- Improve infrastructure and vehicular access to areas of employment, recreation, and commercial activity located in low-income neighborhoods;
- Provide funding to service providers assisting all ages and at-risk populations within the City;
- Provide grants for the purpose of exterior repairs to improve the physical appearance of older commercial centers in order to improve the quality of life for low- and moderate-income people residing in the surrounding neighborhoods by enhancing the appearance of frequently visited retail structures;
- Develop and implement Microenterprise fund to assist microenterprise businesses and to complement the Small Business Support Program;
- Develop, expand, and rehabilitate park, recreation, and open space facilities that serve low/moderate income residents;
- Improve Public Facilities;

- Support community policing events in target neighborhoods; and
- Undertake targeted demolition and clearance of buildings and land features which contribute to spot blight conditions.

Housing Goals

To further Housing Goals, the City will:

- Provide funding to eligible property owners for the purposes of rehabilitating their home;
- Provide financial resources to non-profit groups that seek to develop rental housing for the low-income population; and
- Promote homeownership for low-moderate income households by providing purchasing assistance to first-time low to moderate income homebuyers who purchase an existing house.

Homeless and Special Needs Goals

To further Homeless and Special Needs Goals, the City will:

- Provide Rapid Re-housing Relocation and Stabilization services to homeless individuals through housing search, counseling and legal aid assistance; and

Provide housing assistance to individuals and families who are homeless or in jeopardy of becoming homeless.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The City's past performance in the administration and implementation of the CDBG and HOME programs has fulfilled the spirit and intent of the federal legislation creating these programs. The City projects and programs have facilitated affordability for decent housing, availability and accessibility of suitable living environments, sustainability of suitable living environments, and the accessibility of economic opportunities.

The City continued its main focus to improve the housing stock and the elimination of slum and blight through rehabilitation of existing low-moderate income owner-occupied housing or demolition of severely deteriorated structures. The City also focused on milling and paving roads in low to moderate income neighborhoods.

While, the City of Niagara Falls continued to still operate in a COVID environment we have made substantial progress toward the several of goals. In 2021 the city prioritized eliminating slum and blight and continued to provide affordable and quality housing. Some goals have not been achieved as that the activities associated with these goals have not been initiated as of yet, but will take place in the near

future over the course of the 5 year Consolidated Strategic Plan. The City has exceeded its goal in the areas of homeless assistance and prevention and owner occupied residential rehabilitation.

The City of Niagara Falls has continued to benefit from the extra resources provided by the Federal Government to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. This funding has been used to support activities carried forward from the 2019 Annual Action Plan that contained the amendment for Cares Act Funding.

The City has made improvements in terms of the timeliness of fund expenditure and project implementation. The City is focusing on increasing partnerships with CHDOs and other service providers to strengthen the service delivery system, while focusing on available technical assistance to ensure that the forms and systems in any contractual relationship reflect both the needs of the City and federal requirements, and hold all parties accountable.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

First Public Hearing

As part of the Consolidated Planning process, the Community Development staff held a public hearing on Thursday, September 19, commencing at 6:00 p.m. to provide information and allow citizen comment regarding the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and Program Year 2025 Annual Action Plan. The meeting was held in City Council Chambers at 745 Main Street, NF, NY 14302. Comments are attached.

Stakeholder Meetings

As part of the Consolidated Planning process, the Community Development Department convened three (3) meetings with Community Stakeholders, as follows:

Tues., Oct. 8th @ 10:00 a.m.	Housing Services
Tues., Oct. 8th@ 2:00 p.m.	Youth/Neighborhood Services
Thurs., Oct. 10th @10:00 a.m.	Homeless Prevention Services

All Stakeholder meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 745 Main Street, NF, NY, 14302

Substantial comment was received during the Stakeholder meetings and incorporated into the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan, and meetings minutes are included in the Consolidated Plan as Appendices. Follow up comments were encouraged in writing and were additionally incorporated into the Consolidated Plan.

Neighborhood Meetings

The City of Niagara Falls help 6 Neighborhood Meetings at various locations throughout the community seeking public comments and recommendations to identify and prioritize community needs in the development of the 2025 Plan and Budget. The meetings were scheduled as followed:

Wed., Nov. 6th @ 5:00 p.m.:	Niagara Falls Public Library, 1425 Main Street
Thurs., Nov. 7th @ 5:00 p.m.:	Bloneva Bond Primary School, 2513 Niagara Street
Tues., Nov. 12th @ 5:00 p.m.:	LaSalle Public Library, 8728 Buffalo Avenue
Tues., Nov. 19th @ 5:00 p.m.:	Doris Jones Family Resource Bldg., 3001 – 9th St.
Wed., Nov. 20th @ 5:00 p.m.:	Cataract Elementary School, 6431 Girard Avenue
Thurs, Nov. 21st @ 12:00 p.m.:	John Duke Center, 1201 Hyde Park Blvd.

Summary of comments received are attached.

Public Comment Period and Final Public Hearings

Once draft materials were completed, a public comment period for the Annual Action Plan and Consolidated Plan opened Friday January 24, 2025 and concluded Thursday February 27, 2025. Written comments were invited to be submitted in writing or in person throughout the Public Comment Period, or at any one of the Public Hearings that was held **o**n Thursday, February 27, commencing at 6:00 p.m. to provide information and allow citizen comment regarding the draft 2025 Annual Action Plan and 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan prior to submittal of the Plans to the Common Council and to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

5. Summary of public comments

See the attached documents in the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan summarizing the comments received during the planning process.

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

All comments or views were accepted.

7. Summary

In summary, the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan have been developed with community input and reflect the needs of the City of Niagara Falls.

The Process

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)

1. Describe agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source

The following are the agencies/entities 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	NIAGARA FALLS	Department of Community Development
HOME Administrator	NIAGARA FALLS	Department of Community Development
ESG Administrator	NIAGARA FALLS	Department of Community Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The City of Niagara Falls Community Development Department is the Lead Agency responsible for development of the Consolidated Plan. The CD Department administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, and Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) on behalf of the City of Niagara Falls.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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PR-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.110, 91.200(b), 91.300(b), 91.215(l) and 91.315(l)

1. Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls reached out and consulted with public and private entities to develop the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan. In accordance with 24 CFR 91.100, these organizations provided a wide range of input and value to the planning process through coordinated meetings and public hearings. Outreach initiatives primarily focused on stakeholder meetings, one-on-one and group interviews with city residents, government officials, non-profit organizations and business owners within the City.

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

The City developed an outreach effort to maximize input from a large cross-section of stakeholders. This outreach effort included public meetings, published meeting notices, stakeholder meetings, in-person interviews, telephone interviews, and 6 neighborhood meetings at various locations throughout the City. In addition, the CD Department implements a range of affordable housing and community development activities, including administration of the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs; preparation of the Consolidated Plan (CP), the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), and the Annual Plan; technical assistance for and collaboration with non-profit and for-profit housing developers and social service agencies; and rehabilitation and other affordable housing projects.

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

The City works closely with the Homeless Alliance of WNY, the CoC and HMIS Lead Agency to use a best practice model on serving homeless on a regional basis. The County actively participates in the CoC's monthly meetings and other roundtable discussions which cover topics like the Coordinated Entry system, prioritizing clients based on need assessments, ending youth homelessness, system outcomes, community priorities, Rapid Rehousing, improving employment outcomes etc. The City of Niagara Falls and HAWNY are focused on refining Coordinated Entry in Niagara Falls in order to improve services to homeless and at risk of homelessness persons.

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

The City of Niagara Falls coordinates with the CoC lead agency, HAWNY, closely in its decisions to fund Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. HAWNY staff will assist and manage the administration of HMIS, which includes training users, enforcing security policies and data quality standards, and providing reports to HUD. Ongoing communication among City and HAWNY staff have continued to improve the policy, procedures, and performance standards for ESG as well as CDBG programs and sub recipients.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	**Agency/Group/Organization**	City of Niagara Falls
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City was consulted via in-person interview to obtain information on the housing and community development needs of city residents.
2	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Niagara Falls Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city.
3	**Agency/Group/Organization**	COMMUNITY MISSIONS OF NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Market Analysis

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city. The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with health and human services agencies to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency. The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with youth, education, and workforce development service providers to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
4	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Pinnacle Community Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Families with children
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city. The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with health and human services agencies to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency. The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with youth, education, and workforce development service providers to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.

5	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Literacy Buffalo Niagara
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Youth and Adult Services
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city.
6	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Niagara Area Habitat for Humanity
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city.
7	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Western New York Independent Living
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Health Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with health and human services agencies to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
8	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Niagara County Department of Health
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
9	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Neighborworks Community Partners Niagara Falls
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city.
10	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city.

11	**Agency/Group/Organization**	YWCA Carolyn's House
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Families with children
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with health and human services agencies to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
12	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Packard Court Community Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Youth Services
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with youth, education, and workforce development service providers to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
13	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Heart, Love, & Soul
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with health and human services agencies to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
14	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Niagara University
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services-Children Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with youth, education, and workforce development service providers to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency. The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city.
15	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Center City NDC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city.
16	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Cazenovia Recovery Systems Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Victims of Domestic Violence
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with health and human services agencies to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
17	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Girl Scouts of WNY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Youth Services
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with youth, education, and workforce development service providers to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
18	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Youth Services

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with youth, education, and workforce development service providers to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
19	**Agency/Group/Organization**	HOMELESS ALLIANCE OF WESTERN NEW YORK
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via phone interview to obtain information about the nature and extent of homelessness in Niagara Falls. The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city.
20	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Niagara County Industrial Development Agency
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.

21	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Niagara Orleans Regional Land Improvement Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
22	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Niagara Falls City School District
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Youth services
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with youth, education, and workforce development service providers to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
23	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Parachute Credit Counseling, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homebuyer education services
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.

24	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Gods Woman Outreach Ministries
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with housing providers and stakeholders to obtain information regarding quality, affordability, and availability of housing units within the city.
25	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Youth services
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted via stakeholder meeting with youth, education, and workforce development service providers to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.
26	**Agency/Group/Organization**	NIAGARA FALLS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Health Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	health Agency
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.

27	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Niagara Organizing Alliance for Hope
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted to obtain information about the needs of the clients served by the agency.

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

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	Homeless Alliance of Western New York	The 2025-2029 ESG funds are allocated in an effort to end homelessness in Niagara Falls through providing emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, essential services, and homelessness prevention projects to the homeless and at-risk of homelessness populations in Niagara Falls. There is also a renewed focus on street outreach.
2024 Niagara Falls Annual Action Plan	City of Niagara Falls	Goals of the Strategic Plan relate to previous years efforts, adjusting based on previous outcomes to maximize benefit of CDBG, HOME, and ESG investments

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(l))

As part of the Consolidated Planning process, the City of Niagara Falls coordinated with Niagara County, the Niagara Orleans Regional Land Improvement Corporation, and the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency. Coordination will continue throughout the Plan's implementation.

Narrative (optional):

N/A

PR-15 Citizen Participation – 91.105, 91.115, 91.200(c) and 91.300(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 Niagara Falls is committed to increasing citizen awareness and involvement in the preparation and implementation of the CDBG, HOME and ESG Programs. Through the citizen participation process, the grantee will become more aware and sensitive to low-and moderate-income citizen's needs and the needs of people with disabilities and the organizations representing persons with disabilities. It will also afford the City an opportunity to better inform the public of the purpose of the CDBG, ESG and HOME grants and the funding allocation process, and ensure that selected projects are meeting the needs of City residents.

Prior to the solicitation and selection of the 2025 Community Development projects, a series of meetings were held. The Community Development Department met with a broad group of stakeholders, including public and assisted housing providers and health and services agencies. Three stakeholder forums were held to discuss needs and goals of the community. The forums were used both to solicit information on needs and to provide information about the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs, the type of projects eligible for funding, and the project selection process. In addition, the City hosted 6 neighborhood meetings open to the public at various locations throughout the City to further encourage citizen participation.

The formal public comment period on the Draft 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan extended from January 24 to February 27, 2025. A public hearing was held on February 27, 2025 to accept comments on the draft. All hearings were advertised in the Niagara Gazette and posted on the City of Niagara Fall's website.

A summary table of all the meetings held during the citizen participation process is included on the following page. The Citizen Participation Plan provides for and encourages public participation and consultation, emphasizing involvement by citizens and the organizations and agencies that serve low/moderate-income person through the use of HUD federal grants and other public and private sector funds. See the Citizen Participation Appendix for all sign-in sheets, meeting summaries, comment sheets, and summary of the affordable housing needs survey.

As documented in the City's Citizen Participation Plan a substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan will be required if there is a change in allocation priorities, a decision to carry out an activity not previously described in the action plan that amounts to more than

10% of the aggregate budget, or a substantial change in the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity. If any of these criteria are met, the City shall hold a public hearing to inform the public and receive comment.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	The City held a public hearing on September 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to inform the public that the City is preparing its Consolidated Plan Submission for 2025-2029.	See the Citizen Participation Appendix	N/A	

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 Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Community Stakeholder meetings called by the Community Development Department All Stakeholder meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 745 Main Street, NF, NY, 14302October 8 @ 10 AM	See the Citizen Participation Appendix	N/A	
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing Youth and Neighborhood Services	Community Stakeholder meetings called by the Community Development Department All Stakeholder meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 745 Main Street, NF, NY, 14302October 8 @ 2 PM	See the Citizen Participation Appendix	N/A	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Public Meeting	Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing Homelessness Providers	Community Stakeholder meetings called by the Community Development Department All Stakeholder meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 745 Main Street, NF, NY, 14302October 10 @ 10 AM	See the Citizen Participation Appendix	N/A	
5	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Neighborhood meeting called by Community Development department held at Niagara Falls Public Library, 1425 Main Street, NF NY 14301November 6 @ 5 PM	See the Citizen Participation Appendix	N/A	

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)
6	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Neighborhood meeting called by Community Development department held at Bloneva Bond Primary School, 2513 Niagara Street, NF NY 14303November 7 @ 5 PM	See the Citizen Participation Appendix	N/A	
7	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Neighborhood meeting called by Community Development department held at LaSalle Public Library, 8728 Buffalo Avenue, NF NY 14304November 12 @ 5 PM	See the Citizen Participation Appendix		

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)
8	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Neighborhood meeting called by Community Development department held at Doris Jones Family Resource Bldg., 3001 - 9th Street, NF NY 14305November 19 @ 5 PM	See the Citizen Participation Appendix		
9	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Neighborhood meeting called by Community Development department held at Cataract Elementary School, 6431 Girard Avenue, NF NY 14304November 20 @ 5 PM	See the Citizen Participation Appendix	N/A	

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)
10	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Neighborhood meeting called by Community Development department held at John Duke Center, 1201 Hyde Park Blvd., NF NY 14301November 21 @ 12 PM	See the Citizen Participation Appendix	N/A	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

The needs assessment is based on an analysis of housing problems within the City of Niagara Falls by income level among renters and owners, as well as households with special needs. Additionally, needs were identified through a comprehensive public outreach process that included stakeholder consultation, public hearings, and a review process designed to meaningfully engage citizens.

Data in this section was drawn primarily from HUD's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data set, which is a special tabulation of American Community Survey (ACS) data from the Census Bureau. The CHAS data describes housing problems, such as overcrowding or incomplete kitchen and/or plumbing facilities, as well as cost burden, which occurs when a household pays more than 30% of its gross income on housing costs. Extreme cost burden occurs when a household pays more than 50% of its gross income on housing costs.

Supplemental data were drawn from the 2016-2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates and other sources to provide additional context when needed.

The overall statistical highlights of housing needs are summarized in NA-10 - Housing Needs Assessments.

NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment - 24 CFR 91.205 (a,b,c)

Summary of Housing Needs

Data in the tables in this section provided by HUD apply to the jurisdiction of the City of Niagara Falls. AMI in the following text refers to Area Median Income, which includes the Buffalo Metropolitan Area – Erie and Niagara Counties

The 2020 estimate of population for the City is 47,980, a three percent decline since 2009. Over the same period of time, the number of households is up by five percent and median income have increased with an estimated thirty percent increase. As of 2020, the City of Niagara Falls had a total of 22,330 households, including 13,090 homeowners and 9,240 renters. Homeowners occupied 58.6% of the units and renters occupied 41.4% of the units.

Housing problems are identified by renter and owner households and include the following categories:

- Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities;
- Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing);
- Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room;
- Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income; and
- Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income.

Data from the Housing Needs Summary Table shows that for 95 percent of low-moderate income renters (less than 80% AMI) and 97 percent of low-moderate income owners, the primary housing problem was having a housing cost burden which was in excess of 50% of income.

Overall low- and moderate-income households:

Occupied households with incomes under 80% of the AMI totaled 13,490 units. Overall renter households have a lower average income than homeowners. This is reflected in the percent of all renters, 82%, who are low-moderate income, compared to 45% of homeowners are low-moderate income.

Overall cost burden for all low- and moderate-income households:

The number of low-and-moderate income renters who are also cost burdened is higher than the number of similarly situated owners, both in absolute numbers and proportionately. Renter occupied units under 80% of the AMI and experiencing a cost burden above 30% of income totaled 4,158 units and 45% of all renters. The number of owners in this category was less than half the number of similarly situated the renters, at 1,934 units, constituting just 15% of all owner-occupied units.

Cost burden for elderly low- and moderate-income households:

Almost one-third of the households, 8,355, in the City contain at least one person who is age 62 or over. Of that number, 62% qualify as low and moderate income. Renter units occupied by elderly with income below 80% AMI and a housing cost burden of above 30% of income equaled 18% of all renter households experiencing this cost burden. However, the owner-occupied units in this same category represented 45% of all owners experiencing a burden in excess of 30% of income for housing cost. The foregoing cost burden experienced by elderly homeowners is likely due to some degree to a significant number of elderly residents electing to age place (either by choice or due to a lack of other options) while also experiencing limited or fixed incomes.

Cost burden for small and large family low- and moderate-income households:

Forty-five percent of City households, 9,005, are comprised of small and large families. Of that number, 49% qualify as low and moderate income. A total of 1,730 renter households and 665 owner occupied households are experiencing a burden in excess of 30% of income for housing cost.

Demographics	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2020	% Change
Population	49,435	47,980	-3%
Households	21,290	22,330	5%
Median Income	$31,560.00	$41,137.00	30%

Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2016-2020 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	5,450	3,620	4,420	2,040	6,800
Small Family Households	1,650	920	1,385	670	3,530
Large Family Households	185	120	160	110	275
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	1,220	760	1,125	485	1,845
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	615	620	800	300	585
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	880	499	505	395	424

Table 6 - Total Households Table

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Housing Needs Summary Tables

1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	270	150	30	0	450	0	0	4	0	4
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	4	4	0	10	18	15	0	0	10	25
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	130	0	35	4	169	4	20	10	0	34
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	1,945	120	4	0	2,069	720	175	70	0	965

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	585	1,005	120	20	1,730	405	240	310	10	965
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	350	0	0	0	350	115	0	0	0	115

Table 7 – Housing Problems Table

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	2,350	275	70	10	2,705	745	190	90	10	1,035
Having none of four housing problems	1,615	1,835	1,450	585	5,485	740	1,325	2,810	1,435	6,310
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 8 – Housing Problems 2

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Housing Problems 2 Text

The housing problem tables identify only a very small percentage of households as having substandard conditions or overcrowding. It can be assumed that severe housing costs burden that are in excess of 50% of AMI is the predominant housing problem.

Households having an income that is 0-30% of AMI are the most impacted by severe housing cost burden. For renter households that had an income under 30% of AMI, 60% of the households had one or more of the four housing problems, which most likely included a housing expense greater than 50% of income. For owner households, the proportion was comparable, with 55% of the households within this income range having one or more of the four housing problems.

For households within 30-50% of AMI, 13% of both renter and owner households most likely were paying more than 50% of their income for housing. And for households within the 50-80% of AMI, the percentage likely experiencing severe housing cost burdens declines to 5% for renters and 3% for homeowners.

If data were available and presented for households paying in excess of 30% of their income for rent, the percentage of affected households would go up within all income categories.

	0-30% AMI		30-50% AMI		50-80% AMI		Total	
Renter Households	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Having 1 or More of four housing problems	2,350	60%	275	13%	70	5%	2,685	35%
Having none of four housing problems	1,615	40%	1,835	87%	1,450	95%	4,900	65%
Total	3,965	100%	2,110	100%	1,520	100%	7,585	100%
Owner Households	0-30% AMI		30-50% AMI		50-80% AMI		Total	
Having 1 or More of four housing problems	745	50%	190	13%	90	3%	1,025	17%
Having none of four housing problems	740	50%	1,325	87%	2810	97%	4,875	83%
Total	1,485	100%	1,515	100%	2900	100%	5,900	100%

Table 8 - Housing Problems: One ore more sever housing problems, including cost burden>50%
Source: 2016-2020 ACS

NF Housing Cost Burden

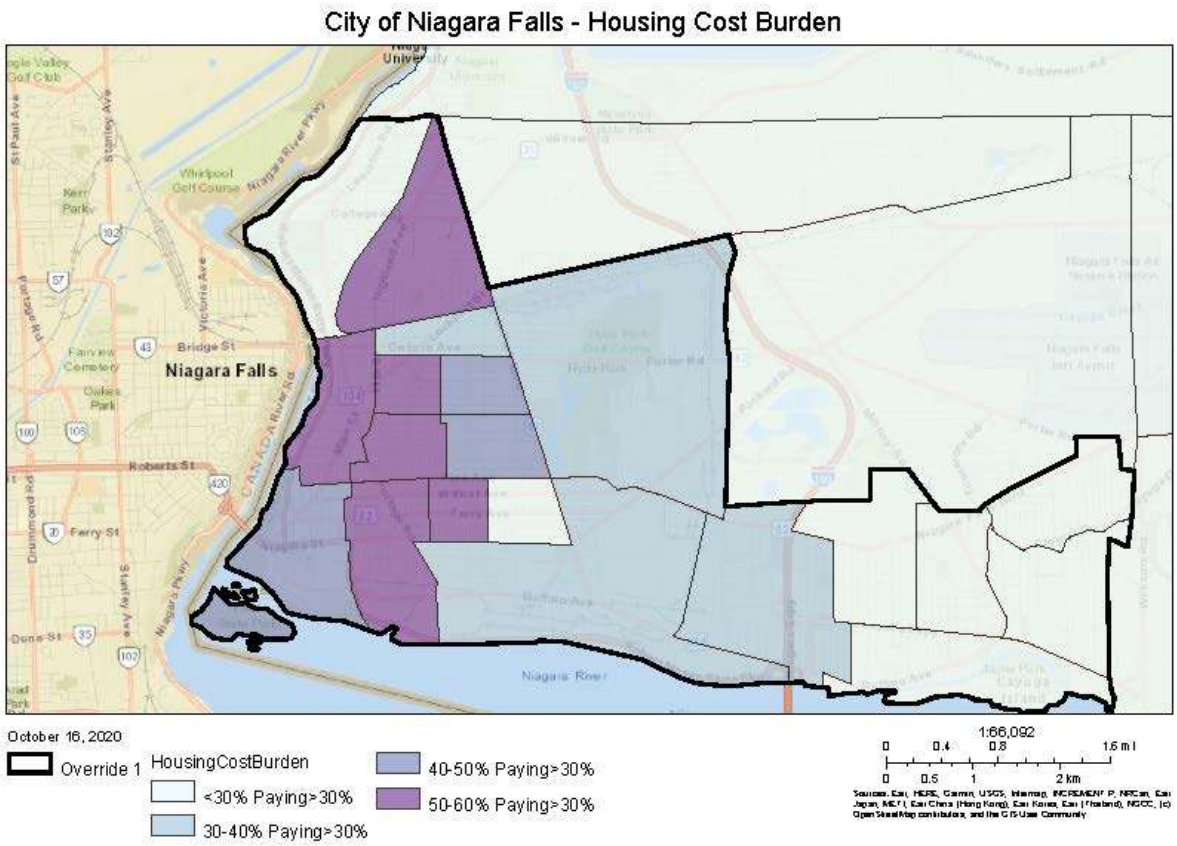
3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	1,170	320	45	1,535	280	105	90	475
Large Related	80	35	4	119	70	0	4	74

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Elderly	555	185	4	744	575	180	110	865
Other	1,105	590	65	1,760	220	130	170	520
Total need by income	2,910	1,130	118	4,158	1,145	415	374	1,934

Table 9 – Cost Burden > 30%

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS



NF Housing Cost Burden

4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	0	0	20	20	170	15	0	185

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Large Related	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	15
Elderly	395	10	4	409	410	115	25	550
Other	0	855	90	945	135	0	0	135
Total need by income	395	865	114	1,374	730	130	25	885

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	79	4	4	14	101	8	4	10	0	22
Multiple, unrelated family households	20	0	35	0	55	4	15	0	10	29
Other, non-family households	40	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	139	4	39	14	196	12	19	10	10	51

Table 11 – Crowding Information – 1/2

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Households with Children Present	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 12 – Crowding Information – 2/2

Data Source Comments:

Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.

According to ACS data, a total of 9,021 householders within the City of Niagara Falls were living alone in 2020. That number accounted for 40% of all households within the City. Of all householders living alone in the City, 15% are 65 or older. Many of these elderly households would be among the 744 low-moderate income elderly renter-occupied households and 865 owner-occupied households who are paying 30% or more of their income on housing cost. It can be assumed that most of these households have aged in place and continue to live in their owner residential units. For such units that need repair, the City operates a housing rehabilitation program for eligible homeowners.

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

In 2020 there were 7,995 persons living with a disability, comprising 17% of the total City of Niagara Falls noninstitutionalized population. Of this population, 36% were 65 years and older. The most common disability status was ambulatory difficulty, which was experienced by 58% of the disabled population. 40%, 3,230 persons, expressed an independent living difficulty. An additional 36%, 2,868 persons, expressed cognitive difficulty. Thirty-six percent of the population 65 and over report that they have some type of disability status.

The supply of housing that is affordable and accessible to persons with physical disabilities is extremely limited. In addition to ensuring that the growing number of elderly households that include a person with a disability can be accommodated by appropriate housing stock, stakeholders expressed a need to provide assistance and supportive services that will allow seniors to age in place. This would include accessibility retrofitting, transportation improvements, and other actions needed to address a variety of other needs.

Within the City of Niagara Falls, 33% of persons with a disability also live in poverty as compared with 21% of the population as a whole. Data for the City shows median earnings for the population with a disability at $29,052, which is below that of the population without a disability. These figures underscore the struggle that many City households that include a person with a disability experience in finding and maintaining suitable affordable housing.

According to data published by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, an average of 393 violent crimes were reported annually from 2020-2023 to the City of Niagara Falls Police Department. On average, 20 people per minute are victims of physical violence by an intimate partner in the United States.[1] Confidential emergency re-housing is generally a common need among this population.

What are the most common housing problems?

The most likely problem experienced by renter households would be cost burden in excess of 30% of income. The map below illustrates census tracts within the City of Niagara Falls and the percentage of households paying greater than 30% of AMI on housing costs. Nine of the City's census tracts report greater than 40% of households experiencing cost burden in excess of 30%.

For low-moderate income renter households within the City of Niagara Falls, 5,532 were cost burdened, including 1,153 who were elderly. For homeowners, 2,819 low-moderate income households were cost burdened with housing costs, including 1,415 elderly households.

Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?

The cost burden is heaviest for very low-income renters. Of the low- and moderate-income small families with a cost burden of 30% or more of household income, 70% had incomes under 30% of the median income. Of the low- and moderate-income elderly households with a cost burden of 30% or more of household income, 75% had incomes under 30% of the median income.

Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance

The lack of affordable housing makes it difficult for low-income individuals and families with children to maintain a stable household. No data exists that would specifically enumerate or describe the at-risk or formerly homeless population or rapid-rehousing recipients nearing termination within the City of Niagara Falls.

If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:

No estimate of at-risk populations is available.

Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness

As previously noted, the lack of affordable housing makes it difficult for low-income individuals and families with children to maintain a stable household. High housing costs, physical deficiencies, unstable neighborhoods and overcrowding all contribute to local homelessness problems.

The Mid-Term Review for “Opening Doors”: A Community Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness update for Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming Counties (2016) identifies trends affecting homelessness including high levels of poverty, the distance between low-cost housing and employment opportunities, transportation, lack of affordable housing, and fewer homeless shelters in rural areas compared to their urban counterparts.

The Homeless Alliance for Western New York identified affordable housing as a critical need throughout Western New York and pointed to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition who estimates a deficit of 30,000 affordable and available rental units at or below extremely low income, and 17,000 units at or below 50% of area median income for the Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls area. Without affordable housing, it is difficult for low-income individuals and families with children to maintain a stable household.

Discussion

N/A

NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

HUD defines a disproportionately greater housing need as when a racial or ethnic group experiences housing problems at a rate over 10 percentage points more than that of corresponding income level as a whole. The data tables below summarizes the percentage of each racial/ethnic group experiencing housing problems by HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) levels. Where the HUD table below reports AMI, they refer to HAMFI. Housing problems include the following: lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room, and cost burden greater than 30%.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	4,080	1,370	0
White	2,205	915	0
Black / African American	1,445	294	0
Asian	105	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	50	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	4	0
Hispanic	180	75	0

Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4.Cost Burden greater than 30%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,710	1,915	0

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
White	1,030	1,235	0
Black / African American	405	515	0
Asian	15	10	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	10	10	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	125	105	0

Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4.Cost Burden greater than 30%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	585	3,835	0
White	450	3,030	0
Black / African American	95	475	0
Asian	0	40	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	50	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	40	95	0

Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4.Cost Burden greater than 30%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	55	1,990	0
White	10	1,515	0
Black / African American	35	390	0
Asian	10	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	69	0

Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4.Cost Burden greater than 30%

Racial/Ethnic Group	0-30% AMI	30-50% AMI	50-80% AMI	80-100% AMI
White	70.6%	45.5%	16.8%	0.7%
Black/African American	83.1%	44.0%	16.7%	8.2%
Asian	100.0%	60.0%	0.0%	100.0%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	76.9%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic	70.6%	54.3%	29.6%	0.0%
Jurisdiction as a Whole	74.9%	47.2%	13.2%	2.7%
*Cost Burden over 30%				

Table 16 - % Households With One or More Housing Problems, Cost Burden over 30%
Source: CHAS 2016-2020

Table 16

Discussion

Under HUD's definition, a disproportionately greater housing need exists when a racial or ethnic group experiences housing problems at a rate over 10 percentage points higher than that of a corresponding income level as a whole. In general, the percentage of households with a housing problem is high for the lowest income bracket (0-30% AMI) and decreases as income increases. According to the above definitions, the racial/ethnic groups in the City experiencing one or more housing problems at a disproportionate rate were:

- Asian households earning 30-50% AMI

- Hispanic households earning 30-50% AMI
- Hispanic households earning 50-80% AMI
- Black African American households earning 0 -30% AMI
- Asian households earning 0 -30% AMI

NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

The tables below indicate, by income level and race or ethnicity, the number of households experiencing one or more of the following four severe housing problems: 1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 50%. The subsequent table reflects, by percentage, the number of households within income and racial and ethnic groups which experience one or more housing problems as compared to the population as a whole, indicating where a disproportionately greater need exists.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	3,095	2,355	0
White	1,570	1,550	0
Black / African American	1,145	595	0
Asian	74	29	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	50	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	4	0
Hispanic	180	75	0

Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4.Cost Burden over 50%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	465	3,160	0

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
White	220	2,045	0
Black / African American	70	850	0
Asian	0	25	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	20	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	70	160	0

Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4.Cost Burden over 50%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	160	4,260	0
White	150	3,325	0
Black / African American	8	555	0
Asian	0	40	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	50	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	135	0

Table 19 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4.Cost Burden over 50%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	20	2,020	0
White	0	1,525	0
Black / African American	10	410	0
Asian	10	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	69	0

Table 20 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4.Cost Burden over 50%

Racial/Ethnic Group	0-30% AMI	30-50% AMI	50-80% AMI	80-100% AMI
White	50.3%	9.7%	4.3%	0.0%
Black/African American	65.8%	7.6%	1.4%	2.4%
Asian	71.8%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	76.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic	70.6%	30.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Jurisdiction as a Whole	56.8%	12.8%	1.0%	1.0%

Table 21 - % Households With One or More Severe Housing Problems, Cost Burden over 50%
Source: CHAS 2016-2020

Table 21

Discussion

HUD defines a disproportionately greater housing need as when a racial for ethnic group experiences housing problems at a rate over 10 percentage points more than that of corresponding income level as a whole. The data table below summarizes the percentage of each racial/ethnic group experiencing severe housing problems by HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) levels. Where the HUD table below report AMI, they refer to HAMFI. Housing problems include: lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than 1.5 persons per room, and cost burden greater than 50%.

In general, the percentage of households with a housing problem is high for the lowest income bracket (0-30% AMI) and decreases as income increases. According to the above definitions, the racial/ethnic groups in the City experiencing severe housing problems at a disproportionate level were:

- American Indian/Alaska Native households earning 0-30% AMI
- Hispanic Households earning 30-50% AMI
- White households earning 50-80% AMI
- Asian Households earning 80-100% AMI

NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction:

Under HUD's definition, a disproportionately greater housing need exists when a racial or ethnic group experiences housing problems at a rate over 10 percentage points higher than that of a corresponding income level as a whole. Cost burdened is defined as paying 30-50% of the household income for housing, and severely cost burdened is defined as paying greater than 50% of household income for housing. The table below summarizes the percentage of each racial/ethnic group experiencing cost burden by HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) levels. Where the HUD tables below report AMI, they refer to HAMFI.

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	15,625	2,830	3,409	465
White	12,335	1,810	1,820	365
Black / African American	2,175	790	1,195	45
Asian	105	55	69	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	95	10	50	15
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	4
Hispanic	480	115	190	30

Table 21 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Racial/Ethnic Group	Less Than 30% (No Cost Burden)	Cost Burden 30-50% AMI	Severe Cost Burden 50% or More	No/Negative Income (Not Computed)
White	75.5%	11.7%	22.0%	3.0%
Black/African American	51.7%	18.8%	1.4%	2.4%
Asian	45.9%	24.0%	30.0%	0.0%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	55.9%	5.9%	29.4%	8.8%
Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic	58.9%	14.1%	23.3%	3.7%
Jurisdiction as a Whole	70.0%	12.7%	15.2%	2.1%

Table 23 - % Households experiencing Cost Burden
Source: CHAS 2016-2020

Table 23

Discussion:

HUD defines a disproportionately greater housing need as when a racial for ethnic group experiences housing problems at a rate over 10 percentage points more than that of corresponding income level as a whole. Cost burdened is defined as paying 30-50% of the household income for housing, and severely cost burdened is defined as paying greater than 50% of household income for housing. The table above summarizes the percentage of each racial/ethnic group experiencing cost burden by HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) levels. Where the HUD tables below report AMI, they refer to HAMFI.

According to the above definitions, the following racial/ethnic groups in the City experience cost burden at a disproportionate level:

- Black African/American households paying 30- 50% or more of household income
- Asian households paying 30-50% of household income and 50% or more.
- Hispanic Households paying 50% or more of household income

For the City as whole, slightly less than one-third, 28.7%, have a cost burden of a housing expense which is 30% or more of income. However, the cost burden is significantly higher for African American household, 47.7% and Asian households, 54.1, who have housing costs which are 30% or more of income.

NA-30 Disproportionately Greater Need: Discussion – 91.205(b)(2)

Are there any Income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?

The impact of housing problems within the City varies primarily by income level and also by tenure. As shown on the previous tables on disproportionality, the following groups within an income tier and race/ethnicity category experienced problems at a rate, which was at least 10 percentage points higher than the City as a whole.

Housing need:

- Asian households earning 30-50% AMI
- Hispanic households earning 30-50% AMI
- Hispanic households earning 50-80% AMI
- Black African American households earning 0 -30% AMI

Severe Housing Needs:

- American Indian/Alaska Native households earning 0-30% AMI
- Hispanic Households earning 30-50% AMI
- White Households earning 50-80% AMI
- Asian Households earning 80-100% AMI

Cost Burden:

- Black African/American households paying 30- 50% or more of household income
- Asian households paying 30-50% of household income and 50% or more.
- Hispanic Households paying 50% or more of household income

If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?

The number of households on which the above percentages are based is relatively small and their needs are considered as part of the general needs evaluation. However, the greatest need and concern is cost burden. The City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan seek to reduce the cost burden for all residents by providing housing renovation grants to lower the costs of maintaining and residing in units that meet Housing Quality Standards, and by incentivizing the creation of new, affordable units

throughout the City, thereby providing broader opportunity and lower cost burden for a wide range of races and ethnicities.

Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?

The following maps from HUD's CPD Maps system illustrate concentrations of racial and ethnic minorities in Niagara Falls. The census tracts that make up the City of Niagara Falls are surrounded by a bold border on the maps. Census tracts that contain a percentage of Black or African American residents higher than 30% are predominantly the more densely populated areas of the City. These include Census Tracts 202, 204, 205, 206, 207, 209, 210, 212, 213, 214, 217 and 220. Deteriorating housing stock, blight, high poverty levels and relatively high vacancy rates generally characterize these areas and continue to demonstrate the need for revitalization efforts.

The waiting list for the City's housing rehabilitation program for owners also demonstrates overall ongoing need for this type of investment. Most households on the list requested major projects, such as roof replacement, electric and/or plumbing system improvement, window replacement, etc. Households on the list represent only a small fraction of the lower-income households living in units that need such work.

NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

Introduction

The Niagara Falls Community Development Department administers the HUD sponsored leased housing program (Section 8). Community Development's Section 8 Program is designed to achieve four major goals: provide improved living conditions for very low-income families while maintaining their rent payments at an affordable level; promote freedom of housing choice and a spatial de-concentration of lower income and minority families; provide decent, safe and sanitary housing for eligible participants; and provide an incentive to private owners to rent to lower income families by offering timely assistance payments. Community Development administers the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program for the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara County. Separate waiting lists are maintained for each program and applicants may apply to both waiting lists using one application.

Also, The Niagara Falls Housing Authority (NFHA) operates the affordable housing in the City of Niagara Falls. In existence for more than 75 years, the NFHA serves the low to very-low income population. The NFHA is responsible for over 900 affordable housing opportunities found in: Packard Court, Beloved Community, Harry S. Jordan Gardens, Anthony Spallino Towers and Henry E. Wrobel Towers. The NFHA also operates two community facilities – the Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building (3001 Ninth Street, Niagara Falls) and the Packard Court Community Center (4200 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls).

Totals in Use

Program Type									
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	0	8	726	685	0	676	0	0	0

Table 22 - Public Housing by Program Type

***includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Characteristics of Residents

	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers				
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher	
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
# Homeless at admission	0	0	33	1	0	1	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	0	278	107	0	106	0	0
# of Disabled Families	0	1	202	281	0	278	0	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	8	726	685	0	676	0	0
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Race of Residents

Program Type									
Race	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	7	354	244	0	241	0	0	0
Black/African American	0	1	353	425	0	420	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	7	16	0	15	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
***includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**									

Table 24 – Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Ethnicity of Residents

Program Type									
Ethnicity	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	0	60	31	0	31	0	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	8	666	654	0	645	0	0	0
***includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**									

Table 25 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Section 504 Needs Assessment: Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units:

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states that no qualified individual shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, service or activity receiving federal financial assistance; this applies to housing administered by a public housing authority.

The NFHA is committed to policies that provide access to all individuals, regardless of disability. The City of Niagara Falls is committed to the same policies in administration and supervision of the leased housing program.

Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice voucher holders

The Niagara Falls Housing Authority operates 922 units. Two senior housing development contain 431 units and four family housing developments contain 491 units. The current waiting list for seniors is 341 and for families is 522. Estimated annual turnover rate is five percent for senior housing developments as well as for family housing developments. The NFHA maintains a near 100% occupancy with minimal vacancies due only to turnover.

As shown in Table 29, the City of Niagara Falls administers a Section 8 vouchers program for 685 current voucher holders. The Section 8 voucher wait list is currently closed with anticipated processing times of 24 to 36 months. Turnover is approximately four vouchers per month. In conjunction with the Homeless Alliance of WNY, preference is given to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Since the HUD voucher funds that the City receives has remained somewhat static, with rising rents in available units, it is anticipated that the number of vouchers that can be funded will gradually diminish over the next five years. However, Section 8 admin funds and CARES Act funding are available for landlord recruitment as well as upgrades to IT, equipment, PPE and outreach for recertifications.

How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large

The population at large includes many households that share the needs of public housing residents and voucher holders. Resources available to housing authorities and voucher administrators are insufficient to meet local needs. The size of the wait list illustrates the greater financial distress of the area. Even more than the population, the size of the wait list speaks to the quality of the City's housing stock. There is a serious lack of housing units that are affordable, easily reachable and that meet basic housing quality standards. This creates an over-dependence on housing programs.

Discussion

N/A

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)

Introduction:

The Homeless Alliance of Western New York (HAWNY) is the lead agency for both the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls and Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Wyoming, and Orleans Counties. The HAWNY publishes reports of homelessness in the five-county region served. The information contained in the reports is obtained from HMIS, departments of social services, and providers. HMIS serves as the primary data source and nearly all agencies in the five-county area who are not on HMIS provide aggregate counts. Increased coverage of HMIS has led to an improved understanding of homelessness. According to the 2023 Homelessness Summary Brief for Niagara County, 1,241 people experienced homelessness in 2023, a 33.8% increase from 2022. The concentration of that number was found in Niagara Falls. Where available, zip code data specific to Niagara Falls is used; however, the Niagara County numbers remain instructive due to the large percentage of the County's homelessness occurring in Niagara Falls. Stakeholder meetings, data, and feedback from HAWNY make it clear that there is a street homelessness issue in Niagara Falls that is not reflected in the data. However, there are people that can be either classified as sheltered or un-sheltered homeless without sustainable housing.

HUD requires that every CoC conduct an annual Point in Time (PIT) count of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless in the CoC geographic area during the last ten days of January. Counts are further broken down into subpopulation categories including counts of persons who are chronically homeless, persons with severe mental illness, chronic substance abusers, Veterans, persons with HIV/AIDS, and victims of domestic violence. In Niagara County, the January 2024 count located 155 households containing 261 persons predominantly located in emergency shelter and transitional housing.

Homeless Needs Assessment

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in Households with Only Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons in Households with Only Adults	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Individuals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unaccompanied Child	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons with HIV	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 26 - Homeless Needs Assessment

Data Source Comments:

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	115	37	0	3	155
Total Number of Persons	200	58	0	3	261
Number of Children (under age 18)	30	21	0	0	51
Number of Persons (18 to 24)	9	10	0	0	19
Number of Persons (over age of 24)	78	29	0	3	110

Table 28 - Households and Persons Homeless

Source: Homeless Alliance of Western New York - Point in Time Count 2024 - Niagara County

Table 28

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	191	31	0	9	231
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	89	11	0	7	107
Adults with HIV/AIDS	8	0	0	2	10
Adult Survivors of Dpmestic Violence	90	53	0	0	143

Table 29 - Additional Homeless Populations
Source: Homeless Alliance of Western New York - Point in Time Count - Niagara County

Table 29

Indicate if the homeless population is: Has No Rural Homeless

If data is not available for the categories "number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year," and "number of days that persons experience homelessness," describe these categories for each homeless population type (including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth):

The Homeless Alliance of WNY operates the local Homeless Management Information System, which collects information on all HUD- funded and voluntarily participating non-HUD-funded homelessness alleviation providers, including outreach, emergency shelters, permanent supportive housing (including all housing first programs), rapid re-housing, and transitional housing providers. That information, other aggregate data shared by non-participating providers, and community demographic data from the American Community Survey are used to inform this Summary Brief for Niagara County, which covers federal fiscal year 2023 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023).

Data specific to Niagara Falls describing persons entering and exiting homelessness and length of homelessness is unavailable. The following information is for the entire Continuum of Care.

According to the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (PIT), there were 92 chronically homeless individuals, 2 of which were children. 82 of the chronically homeless individuals were in emergency shelters, 0 were in a Safe Haven arrangement, and 10 were unsheltered.

There were 108 unaccompanied youth according to the PIT, 81 of whom were in emergency shelters, with 25 in transitional shelters, and 2 being unsheltered.

There also appears to be a range of situations that may be contributing to homelessness, including physical disabilities, mental health challenges, substance abuse, chronic health conditions, and/or domestic violence. According to the PIT, 231 adults had a serious mental illness, 107 adults had a substance use disorder, 10 adults had HIV/AIDS, and 143 adults were survivors of domestic violence.

Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

Race:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
White	0	0
Black or African American	0	0
Asian	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0
Ethnicity:	**Sheltered:**	**Unsheltered (optional)**
Hispanic	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	0

Data Source Comments:

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
White	489	175	0	19	683
Black/African American	557	185	0	9	751
Asian	2	6	0	0	8
American Indian or Alaska Native	17	4	0	1	22
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4	2	0	1	7
Multiple Races	78	10	0	1	89

Table 31– Race of Homeless Populations
Source: Homeless Alliance of Western New York – Point in Time Count 1/25/2023
Buffalo, Niagara Falls/Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming Counties CoC

Table 30

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	982	312	0	29	1323
Hispanic/Latino	165	70	0	2	237

Table 32– Ethnicity of Homeless Populations
Source: Homeless Alliance of Western New York – Point in Time Count 1/25/2023
Buffalo, Niagara Falls/Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming Counties CoC

Table 31

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.

The 2024 PIT count identified 155 individuals in 49 homeless families with children. Of the individuals in families with children, 97 were under 18, 8 were between the ages of 18 and 24, and 53 were over the

age of 24. No families with children were unsheltered. 1 children only households were counted within emergency shelters and transitional housing. No data was available regarding families of veterans within Niagara County.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.

The homeless population within the CoC five-county service area is predominantly Black or African-American (48 percent) and White (44 percent). Multiracial individuals accounted for 89 (6 percent) of all homeless persons during the 2023 PIT. In addition to race, 15 percent of the homeless population counted identified their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino. Few respondents identified as other racial ethnic groups.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

According to the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, there were 258 sheltered homeless individuals (152 households) and 3 unsheltered homeless individuals (3 households), none of which were children, in Niagara County. Of the sheltered homeless reported, 200 individuals (115 households) were counted in emergency shelters and 58 individuals (37 households) resided in transitional housing facilities. Households living in emergency shelters included 78 without children, 36 households with at least one adult and one child, and 1 household with only children. Households living in transitional housing included 24 households without children, 13 households with at least one adult and one child, and 0 households with only children.

Discussion:

Homelessness continues to be a persistent social problem, despite the slight decrease in the number of people who experienced it in the CoC service area. The HAWNY made the following conclusions in their 2023 Homelessness Summary Brief for Niagara County:

- Build more Affordable Homes and Expand Support for people who need it most
- Prioritize Mental Health and Substance Use Services
- Support our Aging Population
- Increase Support for unaccompanied youth (18-24)
- Ensure safety for Domestic Violence Survivors
- Focus on long term chronically homeless individuals and veterans
- Focus in Equity for all

NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment - 91.205 (b,d)

Introduction:

In the City of Niagara Falls, persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing include: elderly; persons with mental, physical, and/or developmental disabilities; and residents within the refugee community; and youth and young adults. With potential overlap between each special population and the homeless populations, it is essential to address the special needs characteristics in the City.

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

Elderly

Comprising an estimated 25% of the total population, addressing the needs of those ages 62 and over is a critical consideration in developing a suitable living environment within the City of Niagara Falls. In addition, Census data from the American Community Survey (ACS) shows the City is aging, with an increase of 3% in the population ages 62 and over between 2019 and 2023. Therefore, the City is likely to face growing needs such as accessibility, affordable housing and healthcare as more community members reach this senior status.

Housing for the elderly population within the City is characterized by primarily owner-occupied housing units, with 69% of the total housing units for the population 65 and older being owner-occupied. In addition, 58% of the householders 65 and older in the City live alone, compared to 41% of the total householders in the City. Another important consideration for housing and accessibility is that 37% of the civilian noninstitutionalized population 65 and older have a disability status. This status may include hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, or independent living difficulties. The most common disability status of those 65 years and over is ambulatory difficulty.

Economic data for the elderly population shows that, although there is a smaller percentage of the 65 and older population living below the 100 percent poverty level than the total population, there is a higher percent of the population living at 100 to 149 percent of the poverty level. According to the 2023 ACS data, income in the past 12 months for the population 65 and older included social security for 89% of the population, retirement income for 56% of the population and earnings for 33% of the population. Data further shows that the mean of earnings at $52,138 is substantially larger than that of the mean of social security income at $21,333 or the mean of retirement income at $24,097. Based on this poverty level data and income data, there is a need for affordability considerations for the elderly population.

Persons with mental, physical, and/or developmental disabilities

According to 2014-2018 ACS 5-year estimates, 16.1% of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the City of Niagara Falls reported a disability. The likelihood of having a disability varied by age - from 4.8% of people under 18 years old, to 15.6% people 18 to 64 years old, and to 35.6% of those 65 and over. The most common disability status was an ambulatory difficulty. Over half the population with hearing difficulty is 65 years and older (60%). For those with cognitive difficulty 15% are under 18 years, 66% are 18 to 64 years and 19% are 65 years and older. For those with independent living difficulty 59% are 18 to 64 years and 41% are 65 years and older.

Economic characteristics of the population with a disability include a larger percentage of the population that is either below 100 percent of the poverty level or between 100 to 149 percent of the poverty level than that of the population with no disability. In addition, data shows the median earnings for the population with a disability at $29,052, which is below that of the population without a disability at $35,852.

Additional Special Population Needs

In addition to the special populations identified as part of the Consolidated Plan, several populations were discussed during the Stakeholder meetings including Limited English-Speaking Households, the Refugee Community, and the youth community. Providing preventative services and ensuring access to services to these populations is an important consideration in determining supportive housing needs.

What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?

Housing and supportive services needs for each of the populations described within this section were discussed during stakeholder meetings of the Consolidated Plan. In the meeting regarding Health and Human Services, needs and issues highlighted included limited housing, coordination of services, staffing difficulties, language and cultural sensitivity, transportation, housing quality and affordability, prevention services, removal of barriers to helping people, education for youth and childcare, senior housing and services, and the connection between employment, housing and transportation. This information combined with the characteristics outlined for each population provides insight into the needs of these complex groupings of individuals.

Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:

New York State Department of Health data from the NYS Community Health Indicators Reports documents cases of HIV/AIDS across the state. In Niagara County, for the period of 2019-2021, the rate

of newly diagnosed HIV cases is 25 per 100,000, or 4%. These rates are below the average across counties in the Western New York Region.

If the PJ will establish a preference for a HOME TBRA activity for persons with a specific category of disabilities (e.g., persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness), describe their unmet need for housing and services needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2) (ii))

N/A

Discussion:

The following provides an overview of the needs discussed.

- There is a need for additional housing opportunities for elderly and persons with developmental disabilities. Issues with existing housing such as affordability, safety, accessibility and quality were also raised. Specifically, for people with disabilities, issues of access and affordability are primary challenges to finding housing and there are waiting lists for places that meet the needs of many. In addition, any previous history may cause further difficulty, e.g. prison history, child support payments, etc.
- Transportation and access issues were identified for several different populations as a barrier to providing or accessing needed services. Specific needs identified included individuals out of work looking for employment or receiving job training, individuals in need of childcare services, access to food, and youth and young adult workers accessing employment opportunities.
- After school programs for youth were identified as limited and focused on behavioral issues and disabilities. For students without behavioral issues or disabilities, programs are even more limited. Also identified is the need for life skill training for youth to teach skills like money management, credit scores, public transportation, paying tickets, etc.
- Language and cultural sensitivity training for agencies and organizations is needed to provide support to limited-English speaking populations and refugee populations. Also discussed was the need for support and advocacy for refugee populations.

NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs – 91.215 (f)

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Facilities:

CDBG funds can be used for the construction, rehabilitation, or installation of public facilities. Eligible public facilities include neighborhood facilities (such as educational centers, parks, recreation centers, and libraries) and facilities for special needs populations (such as homeless shelters, elderly facilities, or centers for disabled persons). The City of Niagara Falls plans to use CDBG funds to renovate and construct public facilities, with a focus on park and public space improvements consistent with the Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.

How were these needs determined?

The City of Niagara Falls facilitated a series of stakeholder interviews and focus groups in which it requested feedback on needs across the community. The City also conducted Neighborhood Meetings that were made available to residents, government officials, non-profit organizations, and business owners. In addition, meetings were held with local officials to discuss specific needs in the community.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:

Historically, the City has not used CDBG funds for public improvements. However, there is a direct correlation between public improvements and the housing market. Addressing the following public improvement needs would motivate housing renovation and the construction of new housing units throughout the City:

- deteriorating residential areas with housing code violations and scattered blight
- streets and sidewalks in poor surface condition
- aging and inadequate infrastructure including sanitary sewer and storm drainage collection systems
- inadequate community facilities in need of repair
- lacking parks and recreation facilities or parks in need of rehabilitation

The City recognizes that it is difficult to encourage the scale of housing renovation that is needed. Public realm improvements can be of assistance.

How were these needs determined?

The City of Niagara Falls facilitated a series of stakeholder interviews and focus groups in which it requested feedback on needs across the community. The City also conducted Neighborhood Meetings that were made available to residents, government officials, non-profit organizations, and business owners. In addition, meetings were held with local officials to discuss specific needs in the community.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:

Much of the discussion at the stakeholder meetings focused on the need for additional youth programming in the City of Niagara Falls. The City has traditionally used CDBG public services funds for youth programming. Any funds expended for public services, under CDBG regulations, are capped at 15% of the total CDBG annual allotment. There is a great need for youth services in the City.

In addition, public transportation needs are great in the City of Niagara Falls. The bus routes and frequency of service are not sufficient to meet the needs of the population in the City. Stakeholders indicated the needs have significant impact on workforce training and access to childcare.

How were these needs determined?

The City of Niagara Falls facilitated a series of stakeholder interviews and focus groups in which it requested feedback on needs across the community. The City also conducted Neighborhood Meetings that were made available to residents, government officials, non-profit organizations, and business owners. In addition, meetings were held with local officials to discuss specific needs in the community. The public services need for CDBG funded youth services is demand driven. Programs apply for CDBG funds via the nonprofit application. Requests typically exceed the amount allowed by the 15% cap.

Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

There are several observations and highlights cited in this overview that can be gleaned from the subsequent housing sections. According to the 2023 ACS 5 years estimates the housing stock within the City of Niagara Falls was predominantly constructed before 1940 and is comprised of more than 63% single family units. 21% consist of 2-4-unit structures and only 13% consist of structures with five or more units. Of the 22,627 occupied units, 57.5% are owner occupied and 42.5% are renter occupied.

The estimated median home value in the City of Niagara Falls increased from $83,200 to from 2019 to 2023 $120,100. During the same period, median contract rent increased from $665 per month to $784 per month. In the City of Niagara Falls, 17.9% of renters pay less than $500 per month and 55.3% of renters pay between $500 and $999. Approximately 25% of renters within the City pay more than $1,000 per month in rent.

Only 1,627 rental units are identified as affordable to household below 30% of the HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) and represent only 18% of the total rental inventory in the City. The supply of units does not come close to accommodating households earning less than 30% of the HAMFI, most of whom are likely to be renters. All presented data shows that there is not sufficient housing available for the extremely low- and low-income households within the City of Niagara Falls.

Renter occupied units have a significantly higher prevalence of housing units with at least one selected substandard condition. Over one-half of the renter-occupied units in the City experienced at least one selected condition, while only 20% of owner-occupied housing units experience one housing condition.

MA-10 Number of Housing Units – 91.210(a)&(b)(2)

Introduction

ACS estimates for 2016-2020 indicate that single family units, detached or attached, represent 65% of the residential units within the City. Two to four unit structures, often doubles, represent 21% of the residential housing inventory. Only 14% of the inventory represent multi-family unit structures consisting of 5 or more units.

Of the 22,330 occupied units, 58.6% are owner occupied and 41.3% are renter occupied. In terms of size, 77% of the owner-occupied units, and 31% of renter-occupied units contain three or more bedrooms. 21% of owner-occupied units and 41% of rental-occupied units have two bedrooms. In total, the City of Niagara Falls has 2,405 one-bedroom units.

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	16,880	63%
1-unit, attached structure	575	2%
2-4 units	5,540	21%
5-19 units	1,765	7%
20 or more units	1,790	7%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	145	1%
Total	***26,695***	***100%***

Table 27 – Residential Properties by Unit Number

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	30	0%	375	4%
1 bedroom	260	2%	2,145	23%
2 bedrooms	2,740	21%	3,805	41%
3 or more bedrooms	10,055	77%	2,910	31%
Total	***13,085***	***100%***	***9,235***	***99%***

Table 28 – Unit Size by Tenure

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs.

The Niagara Falls Housing Authority owns and operates 922 public housing units. The City of Niagara Falls administers a Section 8 vouchers program for 685 current voucher holders. The City of Niagara Falls has worked with Belmont Housing for an adaptive re-use project that will convert an unused private school into mixed income housing that will also provide rental units for the purpose of Project Based Vouchers. The project has created 42 new 1 and 2-bedroom rental units.

Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.

There are no anticipated contract expirations that would change any residential access to Section 8 opportunities.

Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?

No. There is a persistent lack of not just affordable, but quality rental housing reported consistently. Both the NFHA and the city's leased housing program have significant waiting lists. There is also a barrier between other units and the renting public. At stakeholder meetings, there were several comments citing rising rents in the private sector, which has had a negative effect on affordability of rental housing.

Describe the need for specific types of housing:

The needs for specific types of housing reflect the objectives outlined in the most recent Annual Action Plan and CAPER. Affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents of the City of Niagara Falls is a major need in the community. There is a need for both ownership opportunities and better rental properties. This need covers both extremely low and low to moderate income residents. For both rentals and home ownership, multi-room units are needed to better accommodate families. All new units need to be serviceable by public transit. There are high rates of cost burden among low-income households, and lower-income households may also experience other housing problems such as overcrowding and substandard conditions. Among extremely low-income renter households, the elderly and small family households are most affected by cost burden. A large portion of owner household's face cost burden as well.

More accessible housing is also needed to suit the growing needs of the elderly. Practical options are needed to ensure that the growing number of elderly households can either age in place or be accommodated in smaller, accessible and low-maintenance units.

Discussion

N/A

MA-15 Housing Market Analysis: Cost of Housing - 91.210(a)

Introduction

The following data provides an overview on the cost of housing in the City of Niagara Falls.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2020	% Change
Median Home Value	67,400	78,500	16%
Median Contract Rent	477	533	12%

Table 29 – Cost of Housing

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2016-2020 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than $500	4,225	45.7%
$500-999	4,625	50.1%
$1,000-1,499	245	2.7%
$1,500-1,999	95	1.0%
$2,000 or more	50	0.5%
Total	***9,240***	***100.0%***

Table 30 - Rent Paid

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Cost of Housing

The estimated median home value in the City of Niagara Falls increased from $77,400 to from 2019 to 2023 $104,140. During the same period, median contract rent increased from $665 per month to $784 per month. In the City of Niagara Falls, 17.9% of renters pay less than $500 per month and 55.3% of renters pay between $500 and $999. Approximately 25% of renters within the City pay more than $1,000 per month in rent.

Housing Affordability

Number of Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	2,495	No Data
50% HAMFI	6,410	2,855
80% HAMFI	8,390	5,855
100% HAMFI	No Data	7,339
Total	***17,295***	***16,049***

Table 31 – Housing Affordability

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Housing Cost

Of the 22,330 occupied units, 58.6% are owner occupied and 41.3% are renter occupied. In terms of size, 77% of the owner-occupied units, and 31% of renter-occupied units contain three or more bedrooms. 21% of owner-occupied units and 41% of rental-occupied units have two bedrooms. In total, the City of Niagara Falls has 2,405 one-bedroom units.

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent ($)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	869	908	1,069	1,309	1,470
High HOME Rent	671	695	838	1,050	1,204
Low HOME Rent	671	695	838	1,000	1,116

Table 32 – Monthly Rent

Data Source: HUD FMR and HOME Rents

	Number	Percent
Less than $10,000	2,242	9.9%
$10,000 -$14,999	1,523	6.7%
$15,000 - $19,999	1,054	4.7%
$20,000 - $24,999	1,456	6.4%
$25,000 - $34,999	2,217	9.8%
$35,000 - $49,999	3,111	13.7%
$50,000 - $74,999	3,955	17.5%
$75,000 -$99,999	2,977	13.2%
$100,000 - $149,999	2,398	10.6%
$150,000 or more	1,694	7.5%
	22,627	100.0%
Median Income	$48,535	

Table 40 - Income Households in Niagara Falls
Source: 2023 ACS

Table 40

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

No. There is not sufficient housing at all income levels. All presented data shows that there is not sufficient housing available for the extremely low- and low-income households within the City of Niagara Falls.

The median household income in the City of Niagara Falls was $48,535 in according to 2023 ACS data. Extremely low-income residents (30% or less of the median family income) earn less than $19,500. Although there are estimated 3,747 renter households within the City of Niagara Falls earning between 0 and 30% of the median family income, there are only 1,627 renter housing units that are affordable to households earning 30% of the median income. Data on owner housing is not available, but the number of affordable units priced for households making 30% of median family income would likely not be sufficient to adequately address this housing gap.

A total of 6,090 households within the City of Niagara Falls are earning under 80% of the median income and are cost burdened (>30% of income). As a subset of that category, there is a total of 4,050 households, both renters, 2,910, and owners, 1,140, who have an income under 30% of the Area Median Family Income who are paying more than 30% of their income for housing costs.3

How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?

Based on 2023 ACS data, median contract rent increased from $665 per month to $784 per month. In the City of Niagara Falls, 17.9% of renters pay less than $500 per month and 55.3% of renters pay between $500 and $999. Approximately 25% of renters within the City pay more than $1,000 per month in rent. Affordability has been negatively affected since median contract rents have increased at a faster rate than the increase in median income.

Housing is anticipated to be less affordable because the continued cost burden for extremely and low-income residents is expected to persist, and any new market rate units being renovated or constructed will not be affordable to low income residents.

How do HOME rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?

As noted above, median gross rent within Niagara Falls is $533. This rent is significantly below the Fair Market Rent and HOME Rents for all size bedroom units. Given these rental rates and the significant concentration of low- and moderate-income households within the City, there would be a significant challenge in providing additional new rental housing which would be affordable.

Discussion

Market conditions make it clear that the City's strategy needs to include a focus on lowering the housing cost burden for City residents and increasing the availability of quality, affordable housing units. As such the City of Niagara Falls is re-working the housing rehabilitation program to increase the amount of

incentive available per unit in order to bring units up to appropriate Housing Quality Standards without increasing the rental or overhead burden on renters or homeowners.

The City is also working with non-profits developers such as Habitat for Humanity to construct new affordable housing units. Specifically, the City is (i) investigating sites for infill development, (ii) making City-owned properties available for rehabilitation or redevelopment, and (iii) making CDBG and HOME funds available to leverage investment in the development of new units.

The City is partnering with the Niagara Orleans Regional Land Improvement Corporation (NORLIC) to provide housing rehabilitation to create or improve affordable units throughout the City and is exploring the possibility of gifting vacant City-owned properties to NORLIC and Habitat for Humanity for redevelopment.

MA-20 Housing Market Analysis: Condition of Housing – 91.210(a)

Introduction

The following data provides an overview on the condition of housing in the City of Niagara Falls.

Describe the jurisdiction's definition of "standard condition" and "substandard condition but suitable for rehabilitation":

Standard Condition: No major structural defects, adequate plumbing and kitchen facilities, appearance which does not create a blighting influence, and the house meets additional, more stringent, local standards, and building codes, including lead-based paint clearance.

Substandard housing: A unit is substandard if it: is dilapidated, does not have operable indoor plumbing, does not have a usable flush toilet inside the unit for the exclusive use of a family, does not have a usable bathtub or shower inside the unit for the exclusive use of a family, does not have electricity, or has inadequate or unsafe electrical service, does not have a safe or adequate source of heat, should, but does not, have a kitchen; or has been declared unfit for habitation by an agency or unit of government.

Substandard Condition but Suitable for Rehabilitation: The nature of the substandard condition makes rehabilitation both financially and structurally feasible.

Housing Conditions: Condition of units is assessed using the same criteria as in the Needs Assessment. This includes: 1) lacks complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacks complete kitchen facilities, 3) more than one person per room, 4) cost burden (amount of income allocated to housing) is greater than 30%, and 5) complies with applicable building code standards

Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	2,130	16%	3,985	43%
With two selected Conditions	25	0%	355	4%
With three selected Conditions	0	0%	120	1%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	10,935	84%	4,780	52%
Total	***13,090***	***100%***	***9,240***	***100%***

Table 33 - Condition of Units

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Conditions of Units

The U.S. Census Bureau outlines “selected” housing conditions, which are generally considered identifiers of substandard housing. These include: lacks complete plumbing facilities, lacks complete

kitchen facilities, more than one person per room, cost burden (amount of income allocated to housing) is greater than 30%, and does not comply with applicable building code standards.

Renter occupied units have a significantly higher prevalence of housing units with at least one selected condition. 43% of the renter-occupied units in the City experienced at least one selected condition, while only 16% of owner-occupied housing units experience one housing condition. Very few owner-occupied units or renter-occupied units experience more than one housing condition. The one selected condition most likely experienced by most households is housing affordability which is a housing cost which exceeds 30% of their income.

Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	45	0%	505	5%
1980-1999	375	3%	735	8%
1950-1979	5,345	41%	3,415	37%
Before 1950	7,325	56%	4,585	50%
Total	***13,090***	***100%***	***9,240***	***100%***

Table 34 – Year Unit Built

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Year Unit Built

The housing supply within the City of Niagara Falls is relatively old with 97% of owner units built prior to 1980 and 87% of renter units built prior to 1980. A total of 45 owner-occupied units and 505 renter-occupied units have been built in the City since 2000. The age of the housing stock within the City of Niagara Falls necessitates investment in housing rehabilitation as well as the construction of new housing units to replace an aging housing stock.

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	12,670	97%	8,000	87%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	308	2%	59	1%

Table 35 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS (Total Units) 2016-2020 CHAS (Units with Children present)

Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units	0	0	0
Abandoned Vacant Units	0	0	0
REO Properties	0	0	0
Abandoned REO Properties	0	0	0

Table 36 - Vacant Units

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

Vacant Units

Within the City of Niagara Falls, the American Community Survey estimates that there were 3,534 vacant housing units in 2023. Homeowner vacancy rate is estimated to be 1.2% and rental vacancy rate 5.0%. No ACS data is available on Real Estate Owned (REO) properties, the condition of vacancies, whether they are abandoned and whether they might be suitable for rehabilitation.

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

Most of the housing units in the City of Niagara Falls were built before 1950. Given the age of the housing stock in the City, and that 20% of owner-occupied units and 56% of renter-occupied units are known to have one substandard housing condition, there is a great need for both owner-occupied and rental rehabilitation.

In the last few years, the City of Niagara Falls provided assistance to rehabilitate more than 50 properties, most of which were owner occupied. Virtually all the housing was built prior to 1980 and required mitigation of lead-based paint hazards. Overall, 47% of the properties rehabilitated were with incomes 50-80% of Area Median Income (AMI), 35% of the properties rehabilitated were with incomes 30-50% of AMI, and the remaining 18% of properties rehabilitated were with incomes 0-30% of AMI. The housing rehabilitation wait list is over 300 applicants dating back to 2019, with an even larger list of people on a call back list started when the waiting list was closed.

The City of Niagara Falls has identified housing rehabilitation as one of its high priority activities to preserve and maintain its affordable housing stock. The City has made it a priority to use CDBG funds and HOME funds to rehabilitate properties throughout the City.

Estimated Number of Housing Units Occupied by Low or Moderate Income Families with LBP Hazards

Ninety five percent of the occupied units within the City were built prior to 1980 and those built prior to 1978 are considered at risk for containing lead-based paint. Without a sample of all homes built prior to 1978, it is difficult to estimate the number of units having lead-based paint hazards present. If

properties are sufficiently maintained and paint is not disturbed, the presence of lead-based paint is not likely to be a risk hazard. What can be measured to some degree is the incidence of finding of the presence of lead-based paint hazards that have been reported. Below is a table showing an estimate of the presence of lead-based paint hazards.

Homeowners tend to have an interest and incentive to maintain their properties, which is likely to result in a smaller percentage of such households having the potential presence of lead-based paint hazards. It is estimated that 12% of low/moderate-income owner-occupied units could have the presence of lead-based paint hazards. It is further estimated that approximately 20% of renter units occupied by low- and moderate-income household could have the presence of lead-based paint hazards present.

The Community Development Department's housing rehabilitation program tests all housing units that were built prior to 1980 for the presence of lead-based paint hazards, and if necessary, remediation of these hazards is required.

Discussion

Niagara Falls Community Development is focused on the city's aging housing stock and aging population. Housing that is affordable and well maintained is a top priority. Each year both CDBG and HOME programs incorporate closing cost payment assistance and home maintenance assistance into the annual plan. The City will continue to utilize these federal funds to better the housing stock via strategic investment.

MA-25 Public and Assisted Housing – 91.210(b)

Introduction

The Niagara Falls Housing Authority operates the affordable housing in the City of Niagara Falls. In existence for more than 70 years, the Niagara Falls Housing Authority serves the low to very-low income population. The Niagara Falls Housing Authority is responsible for over 900 affordable housing opportunities.

Totals Number of Units

Program Type									
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project -based	Tenant -based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available	0	8	887	795	0	795	0	0	0
# of accessible units									
***includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**									

Table 37 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Name of Housing Development	No. of Units	year Built	Type
Spallino Towers	181	1,971	Senior
Wrobel Towers	250	1,974	Senior
Packard Court	166	1,943	Family
Jordan Gardens	100	1,961	Family
Beloved Community - Phase 1	115	2,010	Family
Beloved Community - Phase 2	110	2,012	Family
Total number of units	922		

Table 47 - Public Housing Units

Public Housing Units

Describe the supply of public housing developments:

Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:

The NFHA owns and manages six housing developments, including two for senior citizens and three for families. In total, NFHA owns and operates 922 public housing units in Niagara Falls. As shown in the Public Housing Condition Table below, the average inspection score ranges from a high of 96 to a low of 69. The maximum score is 100. The NFHA is considered a Standard Public Housing Authority given that they own/manage more than 250 public housing units and any number of vouchers where the total combined units exceed 500 and was designated as a standard performer in the most recent assessment.

Public Housing Condition

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score

Table 38 - Public Housing Condition

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score
Spallino Towers	93
Wrobel Towers	96
Packard Court	74
Jordan Gardens	69
Beloved Community - Phase 1	83
Beloved Community - Phase 2	82

Table 48 - Public Housing Conditions

Public Housing Conditions

Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:

The NFHA receives an annual grant from HUD for repairs and renovations. Over the past several years, the annual amount has ranged between $613,000 and $1.2 million. The most recent grant 0f $2,283,131 in 2022 was spent on new concrete work at both Wrobel and Spallino Towers, a new roof was put on at Wrobel towers and new security system was upgraded throughout the entire housing authority. Based on the assumption that amount may continue in the future, the NFHA has prepared an annual capital budget for the years 2024-2028. Proposed projects listed include: exterior masonry repairs, kitchen renovations, door replacements, floor renovations, upgrade and enhanced security features, enhanced Emergency Pull Cords/Strobe Smoke/Exterior Audio Soundings, and a new roof at Spallino Towers. The capital budget is reassessed each year based on the actual HUD funding received for the year.

Describe the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:

The NFHA currently operates and will continue to operate a variety of programs and services for improving the living environment of low and moderate-income families residing in public housing.

Summer Programs. The NFHA's Doris W. Jones Summer Enrichment program is a comprehensive summer program that provides individualized educational, social, cultural, and recreational components geared to each individual child's level of learning. Activities include: storytelling, music, etiquette classes, arts and crafts, African-American dance and nature hikes/walks. Educational field trips enable children from low-income families to have exposure to the arts, museums, nature, and a host of cultural enrichment activities, such as the Underground Railroad. An average of 200 children are enrolled each year.

Educational Support. Currently 140 children are enrolled in the "Living Large" and "I Can Read" after-school tutorial programs. These are designed to increase the reading and comprehension skills of children and youth in grades K –12, as well as improve scores on standardized tests. Classes are held Monday – Friday from 2:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building and Packard Court Community Center. Students are instructed by NYS certified teachers, Niagara University and Niagara County Community College students, NFHA staff and community volunteers. In addition to tutoring, the program provides violence prevention and self-esteem building seminars, arts and crafts, math BINGO, college prep activities, educational movies, incentive awards and prizes.

Nutrition Programs. Held in conjunction with the NFHA tutorial programs, the Kid's Café program provides a nutritionally adequate meal to children (primarily under the age of 17) who are at risk of hunger. The Kid's Café program operated by the NFHA since 1999 has provided a nutritionally adequate meal to children at risk, educated children and their parents about nutrition, educated the public about childhood hunger, and offered solutions. The program is staffed by community volunteers, parents of children enrolled in the program, NFHA staff and chefs from local food service chains. Funding for the Kid's Café program is provided by the New York State Department of Health's Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Packard Court Community Center (PCCC). The 14,313 square foot community center was built in 2001, in a location void of public recreation space, grocery stores and community gathering space. The building has hosted a variety of community events, after school and summer camp programs for youth as well as providing a safe space and resource for all City residents. The center offers a focus dedicated to positive youth development, which is strongly associated with three outcomes of public significance: improved school achievement and graduation rates, decrease incidence of risk behaviors and, increased sense of efficacy and empathy. The PCCC also serves as a resource for families by staying up to date on and disseminating community information, activities, and resources.

Partnerships and Grants

In carrying out the foregoing initiatives, the NFHA seeks to partner with a variety of existing organizations. Examples include Niagara County Youth Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Office of Children and Family Services/Niagara Community Action Program. In addition, grants are sought from various programs and organizations.

Discussion:

There has been significant investment in new and renovated public housing units over the past ten years. There is a need to maintain these properties. The City also has a need for more infill housing within existing neighborhoods. The NFHA is always interested in pursuing new single and multi-family housing opportunities. As highlighted in other sections of this plan, the greater need is renovation of housing units outside of public housing footprints.

MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services – 91.210(c)

Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls is committed to investing in proper and effective environments for homeless individuals and others who have special needs and require rapid, permanent and/or supportive housing options. Homeless and supportive housing adds stability to communities by bringing safe, stable permanent housing that offers a continuum of supportive services to victims of domestic violence, youth aging out of foster care, formerly homeless and homeless veterans, and others with special challenges.

The City of Niagara Falls does not directly operate homeless shelters or supportive housing. However, the city does show an annual commitment to investing in the community's care facility. Through the CoC, the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program funds are dedicated to both rapid rehousing and emergency services at facilities like YWCA Carolyn's House, the Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, Inc., Niagara Community Action Plan, Fellowship House, and Family and Children's Services.

The 2024 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) that follows displays data for the entirety of Niagara County, including the City of Niagara Falls. However, it is the most up-to-date and accurate data available.

Permanent supportive housing is permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability. The 2024 Housing Inventory List identified 11 beds within permanent supportive housing directly servicing the City.

Rapid re-housing (RRH) emphasizes housing search and relocation services and short- and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless persons and families (with or without a disability) as rapidly as possible into permanent housing. The 2024 Housing Inventory List identified 70 beds within rapid re-housing.

Transitional housing is designed to provide homeless individuals and families with the interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. Transitional housing may be used to cover the costs of up to 24 months of housing with accompanying supportive services. Program participants must have a lease (or sublease) or occupancy agreement in place when residing in transitional housing. The 2024 Housing Inventory List identified 61 beds within transitional housing.

Emergency shelter is any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements. The 2024 Housing Inventory List identified 142 beds within emergency shelters.

Safe Haven, as defined in the Supportive Housing Program, is a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. The 2024 Housing Inventory List identified 0 beds within Safe Haven facilities.

Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	0	0	0	0	0
Households with Only Adults	0	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	0	0	0	0	0
Unaccompanied Youth	0	0	0	0	0

Table 39 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Data Source Comments:

	Permanent Supportive Housing	Rapid Re-Housing	Transitional Housing Beds	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	1	21	14	37	0
Households with Only Adults	10	49	47	105	0
Total year Round Beds	11	70	61	142	0

Table 49 - Bed Count in Homeless Facilities

Source: Homeless Alliance of WNY 2024 Housing Inventory List

Table 49

Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are use to complement services targeted to homeless persons

There are many social service agencies working in Niagara Falls and throughout Western New York that provide benefits to very low and low-income individuals and families in order to address the needs of homeless persons. These organizations provide many services to homeless or at-risk residents, including, but not limited to, life skills, alcohol and drug abuse treatment, mental health treatment, AIDS related treatment, education, employment assistance, childcare, transportation, counseling, parenting classes, and housing placement/assistance. The HAWNY identifies more than 10 partner agencies providing various services to the homeless populations within Niagara County.

In addition to special needs services, the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, the Orleans Niagara BOCES, the City of Niagara Falls John Duke Senior Center and the Niagara Community Action Program and Child and Family services offer mainstream services that can be accessed by the homeless or those in danger of homelessness. The CoC meets on a monthly basis to coordinate the services of both homeless and non-homeless care providers. Additionally, the CoC has created a home ownership/ landlord subcommittee to specifically focus on quality housing to both improve quality of life and act as an economic driver.

A veteran experiencing homelessness in Western New York has access to additional shelter and permanent housing resources. Emergency shelter designated for veterans is available through the Veteran Affairs Medical Center, accessed by referral through the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans program. Access to some types of housing are dependent on being on active duty and/or discharge status; the VA Healthcare for Homeless Veterans program will verify eligibility. If a homeless Veteran is not eligible for services through the VA they will be referred to the mainstream homeless service system for assessment and services.

List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.

Facilities provide specialized assistance to chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth, but many service providers work with multiple homeless subpopulations rather than one specific population. In the City of Niagara Falls there are a number of facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons.

The following is a list of emergency shelters as identified in the HAWNY Guide to Niagara Falls and Niagara County: Pinnacle Community Services (Casey House Teen Shelter and PASSAGE House Domestic Violence and Homeless Shelter), Community Missions (Respite, Hiawatha, CMI Code Blue, and Re-Entry), Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission, and Niagara YWCA Alternative to Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter. The Niagara County Department of Social Services also provides emergency hotel and motel placements.

MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services – 91.210(d)

Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls is committed to investing in proper and effective environments for individuals and others who have special needs and require rapid, permanent and/or supportive housing options. Homeless and supportive housing adds stability to communities by bringing safe, stable permanent housing that offers a continuum of supportive services to victims of domestic violence, youth aging out of foster care, formerly homeless and homeless veterans, and others with special challenges. A central characteristic of supportive housing is that the needs are broad, and the care providers are varied. Ensuring that each population can access information and services needed is critical to meeting the needs of the population.

Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs

For elderly and frail elderly, the needs continue to grow as the population ages. Almost one-third of the households in the City contain at least one person who is age 62 or over. Of that number, 68% qualify as low and moderate income. This presents additional service needs as well as staffing needs as the overall population is growing at a lower rate than that of the population of 65 and over. One of the primary concerns is the need for access to services and transportation. For some seniors, their license has been taken away, limiting their ability to access basic needs and placing them at risk for isolation. Healthcare costs and waitlists for care are also a central issue with additional challenges for seniors with special needs. An increase in the number of older adults with addiction and health issues will have a major impact on health service utilization and costs, highlighting the need to integrate mental health into an affordable and accessible continuum of community-based health and long term care. These needs are compounded by a lack of public transit to get these individuals to effective and affordable supportive services.

For children and youth, needs identified include access to and affordability of childcare, before and after school programming for all youth, and adult living skills training. Comments provided at stakeholder meetings indicated a lack of services and programming for children and youth throughout the City. Specific emphasis was given to the need for childcare facilities in proximity to workforce training opportunities including the Orleans/Niagara BOCES.

Stakeholder comments also indicated that there are more language barriers in Niagara County, than in Erie County where most of the services are located. More than 50 languages have been identified in Niagara Falls. There are literacy programs, but access to these programs are limited due to the poor

transportation options. For agencies and organizations who work with refugees and limited-English speaking populations, there is a need for training for cultural differences and language barriers.

For persons with developmental disabilities, there are limited options available and what does exist is limited as well. For those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), more people are living within the community, creating an increased need for support services. Coordination of services is a need for this and other disabilities, focusing on supporting the person rather than the disorder.

Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing

NY Connects Niagara County offers information and assistance, education and screening to individuals, their families and/or caregivers, as well as people employed in helping service professions. They assist Niagara County residents in making informed choices regarding their long-term care needs by letting residents know who provides those services nearest to them and how to get in touch with service providers. Long term care includes medical and non-medical services that are provided in a variety of settings. This may include home health services, assisted living, personal care services, therapy services, such as physical, occupational or speech, nursing homes, transportation services, adult day care programs, and home delivered meals programs. The goal of NY Connects Niagara County is to assist Niagara County residents in identifying available long-term care options for them or their loved ones by providing accessible, coordinated, unbiased and person-centered information and assistance services. By providing these services, it the goal of NY Connects Niagara County to enable a person to remain in their home as long as possible.

Additionally, Independent Living of Niagara County provides transition from a nursing home or hospital and assists in providing information to individuals about “transitioning” or diversion from costly institutions, such as hospitals, nursing homes and/or psychiatric hospitals, through community based and independent living programs and skills. Specific services provided by Independent Living Niagara County include: transition services, developmental disability programs, independent living services, benefits advisement, and mental health and wellness coaching.

Beyond traditional rapid rehousing and emergency services, the City is investing in more effective permanent housing solutions, within walkable neighborhoods. While the expectation is that transit services will remain poor, the alternative is clustering housing, supportive services, and employment opportunities together through strategic planning and investment.

Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)

As stated above, the City is committed to investing in clustered housing, supportive housing, and healthcare and employment investment. The City has seen decades of failed, scattered investment. Over

the next five years the City of Niagara Falls will continue to request use of HUD funds for complete neighborhood investments, in consideration of special needs and transit dependent residents. The City will not rely only on HUD funds alone, leveraging investment from New York State through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and Main Street Programs, and partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, the Niagara Orleans Region Land Improvement Corporation, the YWCA, and Belmont Housing Resources for WNY.

For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. (91.220(2))

Linking to year one goals, the City of Niagara Falls will invest in a combination of rapid rehousing services via the YWCA of Niagara and Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. In addition, the City will invest in emergency shelter and outreach via Heart Love and Soul, and Family and Children's Services.

MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.210(e)

Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment

There are a number of existing barriers to the availability of affordable housing in Niagara Falls. Issues of market misalignment and economics may play the largest role, but there are certainly public policy barriers as well. Major barriers to access to affordable housing identified in the Stakeholder meetings conducted as part of the Consolidated Planning Process include (i) lack of supply, (ii) unaffordable housing costs (new units and rehab), and (iii) lack of available funding (new units and rehab).

Niagara Falls has a very old housing stock with 90% of the homes in the City having been built prior to 1969. The aging housing stock produces health hazards such as exposure to asbestos and lead paint, while increasing the overall costs to maintain a residential unit. High maintenance combined with insufficient supply to meet the increasing demand have led to a disproportionate market for affordable housing.

The City of Niagara Falls provides housing rehabilitation funds to assist with the cost burdens associated with an older housing stock suffering from decades of disinvestment. However, the Community Development Staff is finding that the incentives are too low to have the needed impact in many cases. The City is considering increasing the cap on rehabilitation grants but is somewhat restricted by the lead paint requirements associated with the use of federal funds over certain thresholds.

Additionally, much of the public incentive that exists in Western New York is encouraging developers to create market rate residential units. The City is exploring means to subsidize development of affordable units in order to combat the market-rate shift in the development community. Projects with Habitat for Humanity and Housing Visions are being discussed to bring new affordable units on-line.

Strategies to address existing barriers to affordable housing and fair housing choice are summarized in the Strategic Plan (SP-55).

MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets – 91.215 (f)

Introduction

Niagara County is the Buffalo-Niagara Falls Region's second most populous county with over 213,000 people, nearly 73,000 jobs, and 4,800 firms. Niagara County's unemployment rate dropped 3.1% since 2009, one of the largest declines reported region wide.

In determining priorities for the allocation of federal funds, the City of Niagara Falls recognizes the need to foster a competitive local economy that expands economic opportunities for present and future residents, addressing such pressing issues as high poverty and unemployment rates. More job training is needed in the City of Niagara Falls. There is a disconnect between emerging employment markets in the region and applicable job skills. The trades and manufacturing sector is a prime example. City residents need to be better prepared for living wage opportunities within those sectors. This section describes the local workforce, the nature of current employment, and activities that coordinate economic development efforts among local and regional agencies.

Economic Development Market Analysis

As of 2024, economic indicators suggest that the City of Niagara Falls continues to lag behind Niagara County as a whole, New York State, and the nation. The unemployment rate in the City in 2024 was 9.7 %, compared to Niagara County's rate of 4.4% and the State unemployment rate of 5.0%, and was twice the national unemployment rate of 4.3%. Niagara Falls has experienced nominal growth in the total number of jobs. The number of jobs reflected in the table below (13,352) represents an increase of only 1.7% over the number of jobs in the City reflected in the 2011-2016 ACS. Job growth was seen in the Education and Health Care Services, Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate, and Manufacturing sectors, as compared to the number of sector jobs in the prior five-year period. However, declines from the prior five-year period were seen in Retail (all of which would offer opportunities for younger, unskilled workers), and Professional, Scientific, Management Services, a sector which would attract better educated workers. The number of jobs in the other business sectors remained stable. Education and Health Care Services remains the top business sector employer, followed by Retail Trade and Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations. This is evidenced by the fact that the top three employers in the City are Seneca Gaming Corp., Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, and the Niagara Falls City School District.

Economic Development Market Analysis

Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	28	0	0	0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	3,015	2,704	17	20	3
Construction	700	328	4	2	-2
Education and Health Care Services	4,150	3,565	24	27	3
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	1,066	622	6	5	-1
Information	261	152	1	1	0
Manufacturing	2,171	1,972	12	15	3
Other Services	774	661	4	5	1
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	1,271	395	7	3	-4
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	2,673	2,371	15	18	3
Transportation and Warehousing	768	340	4	3	-1
Wholesale Trade	617	242	4	2	-2
Total	17,494	13,352	--	--	--

Table 40 - Business Activity

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS (Workers), 2020 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	22,465
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	21,010
Unemployment Rate	6.52
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	19.95
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	4.15

Table 41 - Labor Force

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	3,925
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	910
Service	2,845
Sales and office	5,065
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	1,655
Production, transportation and material moving	1,275

Table 42 – Occupations by Sector

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	14,748	75%
30-59 Minutes	4,397	22%
60 or More Minutes	417	2%
Total	***19,562***	***100%***

Table 43 - Travel Time

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Education:

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Less than high school graduate	1,405	200	1,015

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	5,455	285	2,900
Some college or Associate's degree	6,045	415	2,540
Bachelor's degree or higher	4,240	160	810

Table 44 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	50	235	110	410	415
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	590	410	360	1,100	915
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	1,480	1,875	1,525	5,245	3,235
Some college, no degree	1,260	1,640	1,390	2,510	1,525
Associate's degree	150	805	920	1,745	830
Bachelor's degree	410	870	620	1,550	820
Graduate or professional degree	55	490	660	1,030	690

Table 45 - Educational Attainment by Age

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	26,384
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	29,394
Some college or Associate's degree	31,847
Bachelor's degree	44,054
Graduate or professional degree	55,639

Table 46 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

The Education and Health Care Services sector employs the largest number of workers, which represents 27% of individuals employed in the City, followed by Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations and the

Retail Trade sector which each employ 21% of workers, and Manufacturing which employs 15% of individuals employed in the City of Niagara Falls. The city's top three employers are: the Niagara Falls Air Base, the Seneca Niagara Casino, and the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

The educational attainment of the labor force in the City of Niagara Falls has seen some improvement, with the most growth seen among employed individuals with a Bachelor's degree or higher, which now constitute just under one-quarter of the employed population. However, there has also been a decline in the percentage of employed persons with Some College or an Associate's Degree, with those with a High School diploma or equivalent now constituting the largest percentage of the employed population at 35.9%. In light of this, the need for skills development, particularly for workers without any College education, is critical. The lack of educational attainment directly impacts earning potential.

A comparison of median earnings by education level as reflected in the 2023 ACS indicates that median earnings for those with less than a high school diploma and high school graduates or equivalent have declined, while those with some college or an Associate's degree, a Bachelor's degree, or a graduate or professional degree have seen their median earnings increase. Nearly half (49%) of City residents live in or near poverty, with incomes below Federal poverty levels or between 100% and 200% of poverty levels. Many residents lack the education or skills training needed to obtain good paying jobs and employers in such industries as manufacturing and clean energy report hard-to-fill higher paying jobs in the trades, many of which require skills and training beyond high school but not a four-year college degree. In addition, a lack of transportation creates a barrier to job training and employment, with about one in five residents not having a car. While commute time is not an issue for workers in the City of Niagara Falls, with 81% commuting less than 30 minutes, transportation for low-income residents who do not have cars is an obstacle to obtaining and keeping jobs, and to access job training and employment related services.

Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.

The City of Niagara Falls has seen substantial investment of State and Federal funding to support projects which have the potential to revitalize the City and set the stage for significant private investment. The City, working in concert with the Niagara Falls Urban Renewal Agency, the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency, and the Niagara Orleans Regional Land Improvement Corp. - a bi-county land bank, is in the process of acquiring 39 vacant Main Street properties ranging from the Rapids Theater to the former Jenss Department Store headquarters and offering them to private developers.

The City will also benefit from some state park improvements as a new welcome center was unveiled in 2023 at Western New York's largest tourist destination - officially dubbed the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Welcome Center at Niagara Falls State Park.

Ongoing Buffalo Billion projects that are specific to the City of Niagara Falls include: restoration of the iconic Niagara Hotel; strategic acquisition of properties in downtown Niagara Falls by USA Niagara Development Corporation (a subsidiary of Empire State Development) to prepare them for redevelopment; restoration of the ecological health of the Niagara Gore and Rim; improved access to the waterfront in Niagara Falls State Park; and redevelopment of a portion of the Rainbow Centre Mall into a mixed-use development. These projects and other investments will create employment opportunities in the construction trades that will be inaccessible to many local residents due to the skills gap of many potential workers. This highlights the need for jobs training, particularly in the trades, which would create an immediate pathway to employment for extremely low and low to moderate income residents.

How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?

There exists a disconnect between the skills possessed by job seekers and those required for many of the available employment opportunities. Investment in redevelopment of the City's infrastructure and many derelict properties is creating job opportunities in the construction trades which are not available to many City residents because of a lack of training in the building trades. In addition, new and ongoing public and private investments in advanced manufacturing, energy-related fields, and the technology sector are anticipated to only widen the existing skills gap. To address the skills gap, the City of Niagara Falls works with Orleans-Niagara BOCES and local trade unions to provide free training in the building trades, including an OSHA 10 certification. Orleans Niagara BOCES continues to provide a Workforce Training Center in Niagara Falls for City residents to study and work toward future employment.

Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

Labor's Division of Workforce Services and other community partners, operates Niagara's WorkSourceOne One Stop Career Center, which includes a location at 1001 Eleventh Street in the City of Niagara Falls. WorkSourceOne is the largest employment and training initiative in Niagara County and provides vocational/skills training and job placement assistance. Training is provided for on demand occupations (as determined by the Workforce Development Board) through approved training providers located in Niagara, Erie, Orleans, and Genesee Counties. Training providers located in Niagara County are:

1.) Niagara County Community College, located in Sanborn, New York, offers accelerated training and in-demand skills certifications through its workforce development and continuing education program. Its

stated mission is to “provide innovative, customer-responsive training opportunities to lead the economic development of our community.” NCCC also partners with ProTrain, a virtual educational company, to provide on-line and physical classes in such fields as medical, information technology, business, human resources, project management, paralegal, customer service, and trades (Automotive Service Excellence and HVAC).

2.) Orleans Niagara Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), which has main campuses in the Town of Sanborn in Niagara County and in Medina in Orleans County, offers training in fields such as the building trades, electricity/electronics, computer technology, health sciences, culinary arts, welding, advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, and auto body repair. In 2018, Orleans Niagara BOCES opened a workforce training center in a once-vacant Niagara Falls City School District maintenance building located at 606 6th Street in the City of Niagara Falls, with the goal of providing City residents with an easily accessible place to study and work toward future employment. Training is provided to post-high school graduates. Vocational classes are offered in fields such as home health aide, nursing assistant, licensed practical nurse, construction trades, welding and auto repair. The Niagara Falls Literacy Zone, a network of community services, uses the training center to provide classes in math, science, computers, and social literacy skills, and to prepare students to take high school equivalency exams. Training in the building trades is also provided through apprenticeship programs run by local building trade unions.

Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

Yes

If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.

Niagara County recently updated its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has severely impacted the local economy and resulted in an increase in the County-wide unemployment rate from 5.9% to a high rate of 21.9%, a regional loss of up to 23.3% of private sector jobs, and a drastic decline in sales tax revenues made worse by the devastating effect of the pandemic and resulting shutdown on the tourism and hospitality industries, which are critical to the County as a whole and Niagara Falls in particular. The Niagara County CEDS dated June 2020 identifies goals and objectives intended to build on the strengths, address the weaknesses, capitalize on opportunities and mitigate threats to the local and regional economy. Specifically, the CEDS has among its goals and objectives the following objectives which coordinate with the Consolidated Plan: (i) improve educational opportunities to ensure a highly skilled workforce; (ii) diversify Niagara County’s economic base to ensure resiliency; (iii) retain existing businesses and attract new businesses; and (iv) provide the infrastructure necessary for growth and development. The CEDS also includes goals and objectives directed toward increasing the County’s economic resilience which

will coordinate with the objectives of the Consolidated Plan, including: investment in infrastructure; identify and fill skills gaps/educate and train the workforce; improve employment access (transportation); and encourage startups and microenterprises. Strategies to improve educational opportunities and advance workforce training include: continue collaboration between educational institutions, the Workforce Development Board and its resource partners and the private sector to identify skills gaps in key industry sectors; increase the variety and number of youth programs to provide soft-skills and other educational training to assist with filling entry-level and middle-skill job gaps; expand awareness of existing workforce development resources; seek state and federal funding opportunities to support the development of curriculum to meet the workforce needs of local business and growing industry sectors; increase the variety of short-term training opportunities to better match employee skills with employer needs; and develop and improve existing transportation services to better connect people with available jobs and job training centers.

In addition, the City of Niagara Falls would be included in recent regional planning and economic development efforts such as the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council (WNYREDC) Strategy for Prosperity in Western New York and One Region Forward – A New Way to Plan for Buffalo Niagara. These planning efforts include among their primary strategic principles the preparation of a stronger workforce through, among other actions, expanding training and apprenticeship programs (and making them more inclusive), aligning skills training with the current and future job market, and promoting better connections between schools and job readiness.

The One Region Forward sustainable economic development plan, which was adopted in 2015, sets forth a comprehensive economic development strategy for Erie County and Niagara County. One Region Forward incorporates recommended strategies and actions that support economic development, manage infrastructure costs, provide accessibility to jobs, education, and healthcare, and improve neighborhoods by offering more housing choices.

Discussion

N/A

MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

To look at housing problems, HUD CPD data was used to display the percentage of low-income households experiencing one or more housing problems. Housing problems include: housing units lacking complete kitchen facilities and/or complete plumbing facilities, overcrowding (more than 1.5 persons per room), and housing costs greater than 50% of household income.

In this case, “concentration” is defined as having a value within the top two quintiles of the distribution, which in this case is a value over 76.32%. The map below shows the proportion of extremely low-income households facing severe housing problems (severe overcrowding, lack of plumbing, lack of heating, lack of kitchen, or severe cost burden). A total of six census tracts have concentrations of multiple housing problems within extremely low-income households. These include Census Tracts 202, 203, 204, 206, 207, 209, 210, 212, 213, 214, 217 and 220. The housing in these neighborhoods are often in need of extensive rehabilitation or removal. These neighborhoods are also where the lowest income households in the City live, in housing stock that is in poor condition.

Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

Of the Census Tracts with concentrations of ELI residents experiencing severe housing problems, just one, Census Tract 202, is comprised of more than 72% Black or African American residents and nearly 10% of residents that are Hispanic or Latino. Each of the other Census Tracts are predominantly comprised of White residents.

The Community Snapshot City of Niagara Falls report prepared by the University at Buffalo Regional Institute and the John R. Oishei Foundation Mobile Safety-Net Team indicates that residents most likely to experience poverty live along commercial corridors, near industrial areas, and in neighborhoods east of downtown. Some of the highest rates are in the Highland and Hyde Park neighborhoods and in the area between Pine Ave and Buffalo Ave just east of Portage Road. Trends over time show poverty growing in these areas over the past several years.

What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?

The housing market in the City of Niagara Falls has a deteriorating housing stock, largely due to the age of housing units. Where commercial markets exist, they often include many vacant former commercial storefronts, some of which have been converted into residential units. Commercial areas need physical and economic revitalization.

As a sample for analysis, Census Tract 204 is made up of a total of 698 households with an average size of 2.1 persons per household. In total, 59% of the units are owner-occupied and 41% of the units are renter occupied. The vacancy rate is 14.5%. Median value is estimated at $74,600. A majority of the homes were constructed prior to 1949.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

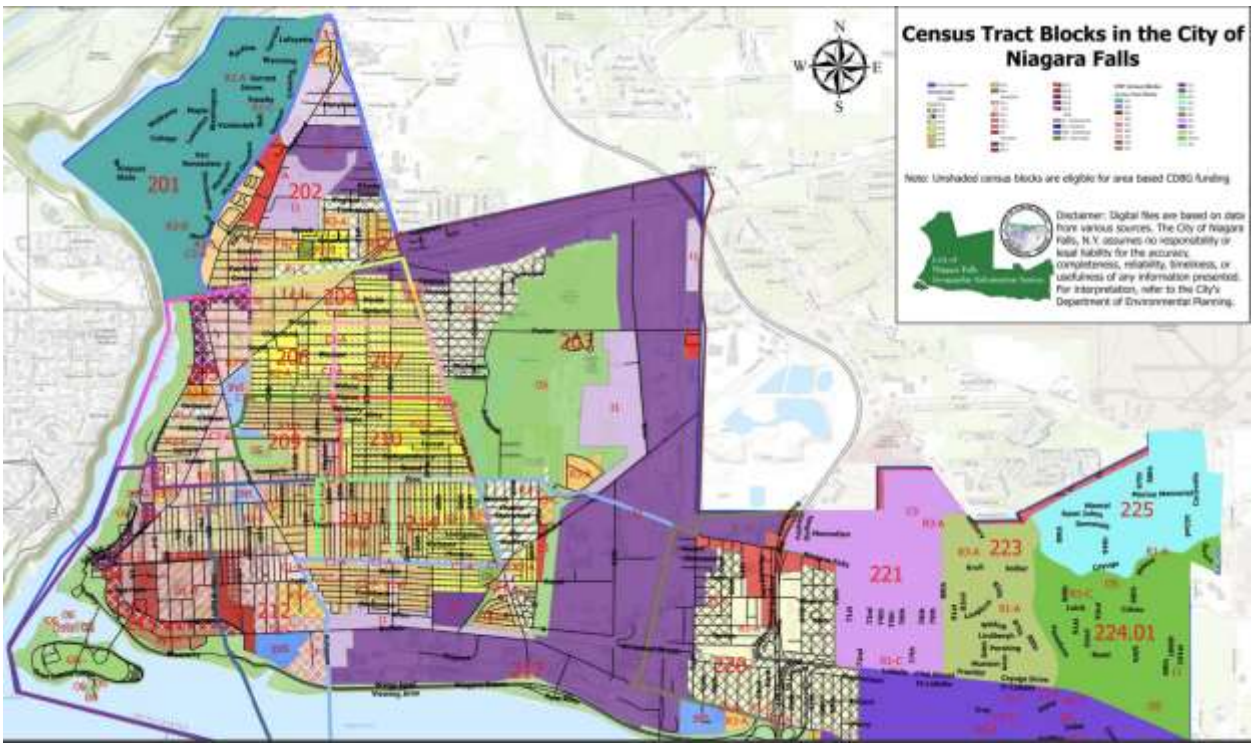
Many of these neighborhoods are home to public and social service assets that are located there due to high rates of poverty. The strategy of directing social services, social programming and traditional public housing to these neighborhoods has not increased the number of homeowner occupied units, market rate rental units, employment opportunities, or food access. All neighborhoods in the City of Niagara Falls are near the tourism district with access to extensive recreational resources. However, commerce and homeownership are not assets in these neighborhoods.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

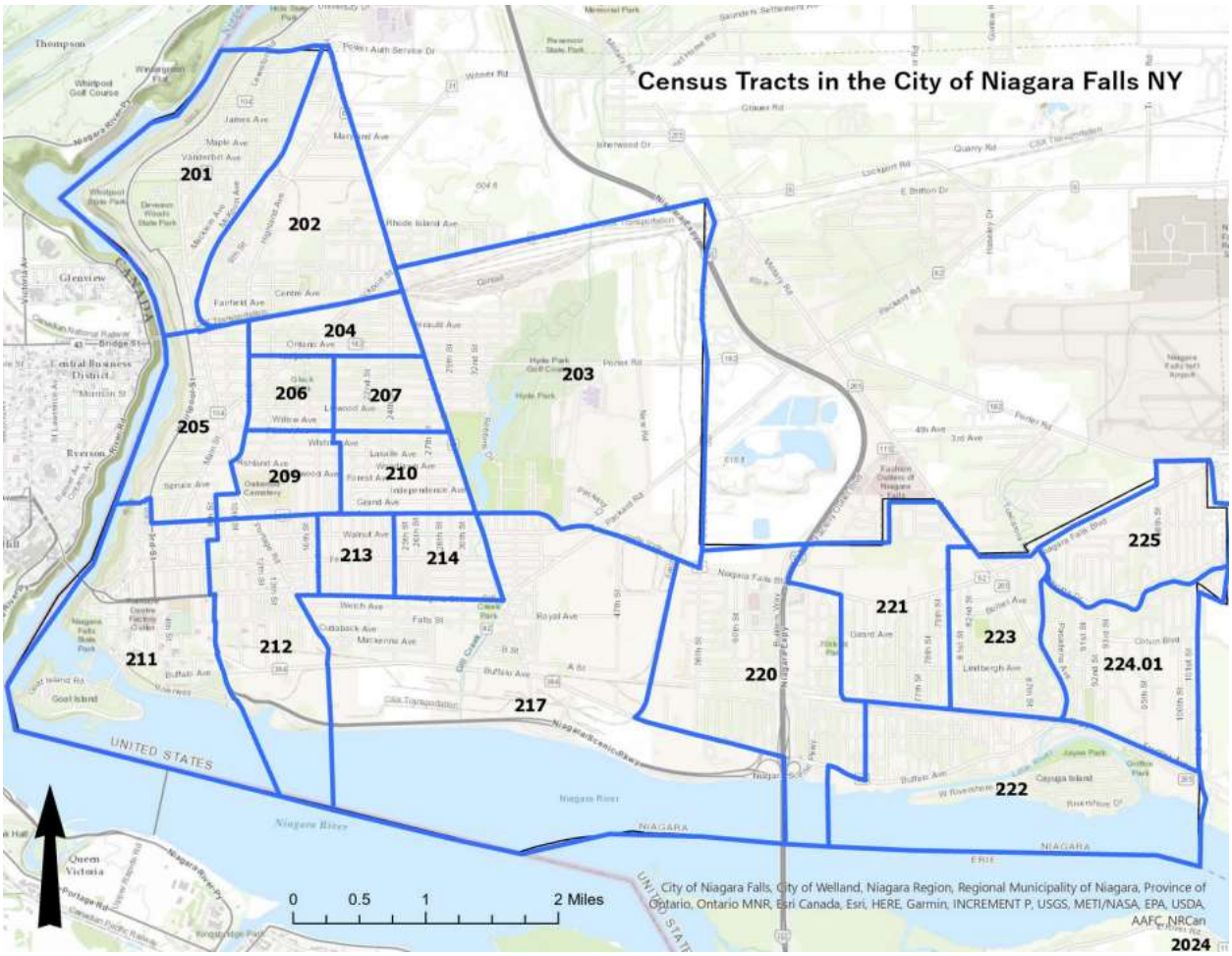
Many strategic opportunities exist within the City of Niagara Falls.

The North End has an opportunity to transform into a vibrant mixed-use hub due to a new private developer buying properties within The Bridge District; a focus on revitalizing the 11th Street Corridor; Census Tract 205's inclusion in the Opportunity Zone Program; and significant investments in the development of the Intermodal Train Station, the removal of the Robert Moses Parkway that cut the North End off from the Niagara Gorge, and the Public Safety Campus centrally located on North Main Street. These factors create tremendous opportunity to increase the quality of life, create job opportunities, and construct quality housing units.

Additionally, Niagara University is partnering with the City and the Niagara Orleans Regional Land Improvement Corporation on the South End Housing Initiative, an effort to eliminate blighting influence, rehabilitate the large older structures, and see new infill investment to create residential units.



Census Tracts



Census Tracts #2

MA-60 Broadband Needs of Housing occupied by Low- and Moderate-Income Households - 91.210(a)(4), 91.310(a)(2)

Describe the need for broadband wiring and connections for households, including low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods.

In 2015 The Niagara Falls International Airport Stakeholders Group commissioned Magellan Advisors to provide a Niagara County Broadband Assessment and Fiber-Optic Network Development Plan for the "Niagara Falls International Airport Focus Area". While the footprint of the Niagara Falls International Airport is not within the City's boundaries, the assessment included an overall assessment of Niagara County and sampled residential and commercial areas within the City.

Time Warner and Verizon are the main service providers in the City of Niagara Falls and broadband infrastructure provides service to most residential areas within the City, yet it is older, copper-based infrastructure that limits bandwidth. Time Warner offers equipment and infrastructure upgrades to increase bandwidth and service reliability, however upgrade costs are passed on to the user over a 36-60-month period that is generally prohibitive to low-and moderate-income households.

Niagara University has received $9.2 million in federal funding to address barriers to digital equity faced by low-income individuals, aging populations, individuals with disabilities, and historically marginalized populations throughout the City of Niagara Falls. The funding will support internet access in underserved sections of the city and training opportunities in basic digital literacy, internet safety, accessing healthcare resources online, and accessibility features that bridge long-standing digital divides. As part of the project, Niagara University students will work with local organizations through paid opportunities in research, teaching, and coaching, thereby advancing their career exploration and workforce development, and faculty will play a key role in shaping innovative curricula and microcredential programs to address a priority area of concern for residents by providing technology-related education and resources.

The initiative is a collaboration between Niagara University and its community partners, including the City of Niagara Falls, the Niagara Falls Public Library, Independent Living Center, Jewish Family Services, Niagara Falls City School District, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, Community Health Center of Niagara, and M&T Bank.

Describe the need for increased competition by having more than one broadband Internet service provider serve the jurisdiction.

There are multiple broadband internet service providers that service the area but there is limited investment occurring in the equipment or infrastructure servicing the area. Increased competition to

leverage new investment is essential for the residents of Niagara Falls to receive affordable service to meet today's growing bandwidth needs. The 2015 Broadband Assessment noted that the cost for broadband service in Niagara Falls is not competitive with comparable urban areas throughout the Country.

Time Warner and Verizon are the main service providers in the City of Niagara Falls and broadband infrastructure provides service to most residential areas within the City, yet it is older, copper-based infrastructure that limits bandwidth. Time Warner offers equipment and infrastructure upgrades to increase bandwidth and service reliability, however upgrade costs are passed on to the user over a 36-60-month period that is generally prohibitive to low-and moderate-income households.

Greenlight Networks ("Greenlight"), the leading fiber-to-the-home provider in New York State, is advancing its expansion efforts across Western New York with a major construction project to install its high-speed fiber internet infrastructure in the City of Niagara Falls. This highly anticipated expansion is slated to bring Greenlight's ultra-fast internet to more than 6,000 local residents and businesses by the spring.

MA-65 Hazard Mitigation - 91.210(a)(5), 91.310(a)(3)

Describe the jurisdiction's increased natural hazard risks associated with climate change.

The City is committed to anticipating and mitigating to whatever extent possible, the vulnerability of housing occupied by low- and moderate-income households to increased natural hazards associated with climate change.

In 2016 Niagara County Emergency Services undertook a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify vulnerabilities and mitigation measures for hazards. Niagara Falls was one of the featured jurisdictions and the Plan identified the following natural hazard risks associated with climate change as having a high probability of occurrence: flood, hailstorm, high wind, severe storm/thunderstorm, severe winter weather, and wildfire (grass).

Describe the vulnerability to these risks of housing occupied by low- and moderate-income households based on an analysis of data, findings, and methods.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan examined the City's exposure to these risks in a global manner however it is clear that low-and-moderate income households have a greater vulnerability than the population as a whole. Specifically, the Plan analyzed the financial burden of increased flood insurance rates within the City. The same increased vulnerability applies to the financial risks associated with property damage related to each of the natural hazard risks identified above.

With limited resources, the City has focused much of their hazard mitigation effort on public facilities, especially those that provide valuable services to residents of all income levels. Additionally, the City of Niagara Falls is the only Niagara County jurisdiction that participates in the State of New York Community Rating System. The City's Class 8 rating provides a 10% premium discount on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies. The City also plans to develop a new website with multiple pages dedicated to floodplain management and mitigation in order to reduce both the risk of, and financial burden associated with, frequent flooding.

Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

The City of Niagara Falls, New York prepares a five-year strategic plan in order to efficiently implement federal programs that fund housing, community development, and neighborhood- based services within the City. Public participation is essential to this process.

The end result of the process is a consolidated plan and annual applications for the use of federal entitlement funds available through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. The City of Niagara Falls submits this five-year strategic plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval.

The plan serves the following functions:

1. A management tool that focuses HUD investment on a comprehensive strategy rather than a series of isolated annual applications and projects.
2. An application for CDBG, HOME and ESG funds under HUD's formula grants.
3. An assessment tool to track annual spending and project-based performance.

Based on the FY 2024 allocation, the 2025 – 2029 Consolidated Plan will direct the following resources:

CDBG Annual: $2,198,802 CDBG 5 Year Estimate: $10,994,010

HOME Annual: $407,849 HOME 5 Year Estimate: $2,039,245

ESG Annual: $198,195 ESG 5 Year Estimate: $990,975

Annual Total: $2,804,846 5 Year Total: $14,024,230

Based on the Needs Assessment and Market Analysis for the City of Niagara Falls, the City's Strategic Plan focuses on furthering, either directly or through partner organizations, the following goals:

- Supporting businesses either owned by low- and moderate-income individuals or creating employment opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals through microenterprise grants and technical support
- Capitalizing physical investments in commercial properties and small business development projects.
- Supporting functional job training programs within the City of Niagara Falls with a focus on entry level trades and medical arts employment opportunities

- Funding needed infrastructure improvements in traditional commercial corridors
- Eliminating blighting influences throughout the City through targeted demolitions
- Funding residential rehabilitation of owner occupied and rental properties to increase the number of affordable, quality residential units
- Supporting the development of affordable housing units throughout the City
- Funding public infrastructure improvements in low- and moderate-income residential areas
- Supporting youth programming that focuses on the 12-17 age range
- Furthering public park improvements, consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan
- Supporting community policing strategies that both increase police visibility and make the police department accessible to residents
- A commitment to the sale and renovation of city owned vacant houses whenever financially feasible for the betterment of the surrounding area
- Investing in safety net stakeholders dedicated to rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention
- Creating more beds for homeless individuals

The City will attempt to utilize federal resources to leverage additional funds to support the aforementioned goals.

SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.215 (a)(1)

Geographic Area

Table 47 - Geographic Priority Areas

1	**Area Name:**	City-Wide Target Area
	Area Type:	Local Target area
	Other Target Area Description:	
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	Housing
	Other Revital Description:	
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	City Wide
	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	Housing stock was primarily built between the 1880 and 1930. There is a mix of signal family house, two family, multi-unit residential buildings and mixed-use buildings. A majority of commercial districts are in mixed use buildings.
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	Target areas and community priorities were examined, and feedback was solicited, throughout the citizen participation process including stakeholder meetings, the housing needs survey, and the public meetings/hearings.

	Identify the needs in this target area.	Renovation of owner-occupied housing units. Construction of owner-occupied housing units. Renovation of rental housing units. Construction of rental housing units. Improvement of aging infrastructure (roads, water, sewer). Increased police presence and foot patrols. Demolition of blighted structures. Youth services programming. Small business growth. Improvement in commercial districts. Creation of job training opportunities.
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Neighborhood revitalization through improved road conditions and infrastructure, the removal of blighting influences, improved safety and social service delivery, housing stock renovation and renovation of mixed-use buildings. The City's high vacancy rate provides an opportunity to renovate both residential and commercial units that are currently underutilized.
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	Affordability of renovations of old and dilapidated privately-owned residential and commercial structures will create a barrier, albeit not an insurmountable one
2	**Area Name:**	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area
	Area Type:	Local Target area
	Other Target Area Description:	
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	Comprehensive
	Other Revital Description:	
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	Census tracts: 202, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 209, 210, 212, 213, 214, 217, 220.

	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	Housing stock was primarily built between the 1880 and 1930. There is a mix of signal family house, two family, multi-unit residential buildings and mixed-use buildings. A majority of commercial districts are in mixed use buildings.
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	Target areas and community priorities were examined, and feedback was solicited, throughout the citizen participation process including stakeholder meetings, the housing needs survey, and the public meetings/hearings.
	Identify the needs in this target area.	Renovation of owner-occupied housing units. Construction of owner-occupied housing units. Renovation of rental housing units. Construction of rental housing units. Improvement of aging infrastructure (roads, water, sewer). Increased police presence and foot patrols. Demolition of blighted structures. Youth services programming. Small business growth. Improvement in commercial districts. Creation of job training opportunities.
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Neighborhood revitalization through improved road conditions and infrastructure, the removal of blighting influences, improved safety and social service delivery, housing stock renovation and renovation of mixed-use buildings. The City's high vacancy rate provides an opportunity to renovate both residential and commercial units that are currently underutilized.
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	Affordability of renovations of old and dilapidated privately-owned residential and commercial structures will create a barrier, albeit not an insurmountable one.

General Allocation Priorities

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA

for HOPWA)

Heavily trafficked areas within the City will be a high priority for comprehensive investment. Additionally, the City will focus on the built environment in the South End, the North End, Third Street, Pine Avenue, Buffalo Avenue and Highland Avenue Corridors.

SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)

Priority Needs

Table 48 – Priority Needs Summary

1	**Priority Need Name**	Infrastructure (Community Development)
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate
	Geographic Areas Affected	City-Wide Target Area
	Associated Goals	Milling and Road Paving Public Facility Improvements
	Description	Improvements to sewer and water service, deteriorated roads – reconstruction and repair, sidewalks, bicycle and vehicular access, and storm drainage and flood protection facilities in targeted low-income neighborhoods.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Outdated and deteriorating infrastructure needs improvement, repair, or replacing.
2	**Priority Need Name**	Public Facilities
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	City-Wide Target Area
	Associated Goals	Public Facility Improvements Park/Public Space Improvements Small Business Capital Improvements
	Description	The City will provide resources for Public and private non-profit facility improvements. Public facility improvements to supporting the quality of life by providing adequate space for the provision of services, holding of events that bring the community together, and addressing public safety concerns. In addition, ensuring the City's public facilities are free of architectural barriers continues to be a priority for ensuring access to the City's services and facilities by all residents. The City will continue to support its various community development needs through public facilities improvements through upgrades to existing recreation amenities and creation of new opportunities.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Based on physical inspection and interviews conducted during consultation process, existing public facilities are in need of upgrading and expansion.
3	**Priority Need Name**	Public Services

	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children veterans Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	City-Wide Target Area
	Associated Goals	Social and Community Programming Community Policing Youth Services Programs Public Services
	Description	Provide senior service program enhancements such as adult day care and senior citizen services, recreation programs for all ages, transportation services for health, income and personal needs and nutrition, employment, supportive housing and transportation. Fill gaps in services, which support community revitalization and enhance the quality of life for low/moderate income residents. Provide fair housing assistance to those who are discriminated against in search of affordable housing.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There continues to be a need for services to increase the effectiveness of physical investments that improve conditions for the elderly and low-income persons.

4	**Priority Need Name**	Planning/Administration
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	City-Wide Target Area
	Associated Goals	Administration
	Description	Provide technical assistance and funding for the preparation of plans that direct the area's growth in housing, community development and economic development. Also, costs associated with the management of federal grants.

	Basis for Relative Priority	Urgent need to plan for the orderly growth and revitalization of the City.
5	**Priority Need Name**	Business and Workforce Development
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	City-Wide Target Area
	Associated Goals	Social and Community Programming Public Services
	Description	Provide technical assistance and investment capital through business loan funds to assist businesses in preserving and creating new economic opportunities. Provide capital improvement grants for commercial structures. Provide technical assistance and counseling through business assistance directories and company site visits. Provide economic opportunity for low- and moderate-income people by sustaining appropriate workplace facilities and by providing access to workforce development programming.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Business Development through direct technical and business assistance are the catalyst for the retention and creation of new jobs and commercial properties are falling into disrepair, creating a more difficult retail/commercial environment, while making commercial areas less appealing for new investment. Additionally, job-seekers need additional skills and training to be more marketable.
6	**Priority Need Name**	Affordable Housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate
	Geographic Areas Affected	City-Wide Target Area

	Associated Goals	Affordable Housing - CHDO Projects Single Family Homeownership Initiatives
	Description	Provide healthy and affordable residential opportunities for low- and moderate-income households. Provide financial resources to Community Housing Development Organizations and non-profit groups that seek to develop housing for the low-income population.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There is insufficient housing for extremely low- and low-income households in the City. Despite historically low mortgage interest rates, many households who would normally be seeking to buy homes are unable to do so due to tighter lending standards and a high percentage of substandard housing units within the City. Increasing affordable housing units will address this need.
7	**Priority Need Name**	Slum/Blight Elimination
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area
	Associated Goals	Remove Slum/Blight Clean Neighborhood Programming Code Enforcement
	Description	Improve appearance, safety, and quality of life aspects of geographic areas suffering from slum and blight conditions. Undertake targeted demolition and clearance of buildings and land features which contribute to spot blight conditions and health and safety threats.
	Basis for Relative Priority	The large number of blighted properties detracts from the quality of life for neighboring properties and precludes achieving a suitable living environment.
8	**Priority Need Name**	Housing Rehabilitation
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate

	Geographic Areas Affected	City-Wide Target Area
	Associated Goals	Owner Occupied Residential Rehabilitation Owner Occupied Emergency Repair Program
	Description	Housing renovations are needed on a City-wide basis. The City has an older housing stock and a glut of substandard structures in most neighborhoods.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Older housing stock in the City leads to a heavy cost burden on homeowners
9	**Priority Need Name**	Homeless Assistance
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence

	Geographic Areas Affected	City-Wide Target Area
	Associated Goals	Homeless Needs - Rapid Re-Housing Program Homeless Needs - Emergency Shelter Programs Homeless Needs - Street Outreach Program Homeless Needs - Homeless Prevention Program
	Description	Provide homeless assistance through rapid re-housing and prevention services. Projects will provide financial assistance to homeless individuals through payments of rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, counseling and legal aid services. Emergency shelters for the homeless population will receive financial assistance for operational expenses. The service population is consortium wide for any homeless individual or an individual at risk of becoming homeless.
	Basis for Relative Priority	The homeless population in the city continues to rise. There is a high need for homeless assistance services.
10	**Priority Need Name**	Rapid Rehousing/Street Outreach
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	City-Wide Target Area
	Associated Goals	Homeless Needs - Rapid Re-Housing Program Homeless Needs - Street Outreach Program
	Description	Investment in safety net stakeholders dedicated to rapid re-housing and street outreach programs.

	Basis for Relative Priority	There is an underreported need for assistance to the unsheltered homeless population.
11	**Priority Need Name**	Public Space Improvements
	Priority Level	Low
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Public Housing Residents
	Geographic Areas Affected	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area
	Associated Goals	Park/Public Space Improvements
	Description	Execute the Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan, to provide productive, free public spaces for the City's young people, focusing on the 12-17 year old age range.
	Basis for Relative Priority	City parks need to be improved to offer accessibility and productive use.
12	**Priority Need Name**	Community Policing
	Priority Level	Low
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly
	Geographic Areas Affected	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area

	Associated Goals	Community Policing
	Description	Support community policing strategies that both increase police visibility and make the police department accessible to residents.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There is a need to build police visibility outside of enforcement, making the police department more accessible to residents.

Narrative (Optional)

N/A

SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions – 91.215 (b)

Influence of Market Conditions

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	The City does not anticipate HOME or CDBG funded tenant-based rental assistance. Rental assistance is provided through section 8 leased housing vouchers.
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	The City has no plan to utilize regularly allocated HOME or CDBG for permanent based rental assistance for non-homeless special needs.
New Unit Production	There are a high percentage of vacant sites in the City for new infill construction on both a spot basis and as part of larger projects.
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of housing, both rental and owner-occupied, is the key to the City's consolidated plan. CDBG and HOME funds will be dedicated to rehabilitation.
Acquisition, including preservation	There are no plans to use any HUD funds on acquisition at this time. Building preservation is a top priority, leveraging HUD investment with application for state and federal historic tax credits.

Table 49 – Influence of Market Conditions

SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The following table shows the amount of funds expected to be available in Year One of this Consolidated Plan.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan $	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: $	Program Income: $	Prior Year Resources: $	Total: $		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	2,300,000	100,000	0	2,400,000	8,700,000	Allocations based on final FFY 2024 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City

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: $		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	407,849	0	0	407,849	1,631,396	Allocations based on final FFY 2024 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	198,195	0	0	198,195	792,780	Allocations based on final FFY 2024 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City

Table 50 - Anticipated Resources

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The City is working with the Niagara Orleans Land Improvement Corporation (NORLIC) to partner on the rehabilitation of residential units in the City. Additionally, The City of NF will seek Request for Proposals for competitive bids to utilize and leverage HOME funds from qualified CHDO's to construct 20-25 new affordable single family and multi-family housing units City owned parcels that were previously demolished and are contiguously located within the Community Development Target Area.

Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funds require a minimum one-to-one match on the part of the City award to Sub recipients. Each year, the matching funds secured by Sub recipients generally comes from other federal, state, county, and private sources. Upon initial submission and review of all ESG applications, the matching source and amounts are acknowledged.

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

The City is planning on using city owned vacant land as part of an RFP process for qualified CHDO's to provide bids to purchase the land and construct new affordable single family and multi-family housing located within the Community Development Target Area.

The City owns a number of blighted properties and vacant parcels that will be utilized in Consolidated Plan implementation. Specifically, publicly owned properties (i) will be demolished where they create a blighting influence, (ii) will be made available to private or non-profit developers for rehabilitation and the creation of affordable housing units, and (iii) will be available to private or non-profit developers for the purpose of land assembly and new construction to create affordable housing units and/or mixed-use developments.

Discussion

N/A

SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
Niagara Falls Housing Authority	PHA	Ownership Public Housing Rental	Jurisdiction
Homeless Alliance of WNY	Continuum of care	Homelessness Public Housing	Region
Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc.	Non-profit organizations	Ownership Public Housing Rental	Region
YWCA of WNY	Non-profit organizations	public services	Region
Community Missions of Niagara Frontier	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness	Region
Pinnacle Community Services	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness Public Housing	Region
Neighborworks Community Partners Niagara Falls	Non-profit organizations	Ownership Public Housing Rental	Region
Heart, Love, and Soul	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness public services	Jurisdiction
Niagara Area Habitat for Humanity	CHDO	Ownership Rental	Region
Niagara Falls City School District	Subrecipient	public services	Jurisdiction
Parachute Credit Counseling, Inc.	Non-profit organizations	public services	Region
Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club	Non-profit organizations	public services	Region
Literacy Buffalo Niagara	Non-profit organizations	public services	Region

Table 51 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

The City of Niagara Falls Community Development Dept. has extensive experience managing federally funded projects and has a variety of partner agencies that are accustomed to working with federal funds and coordinating their efforts with the City.

The City is limited in terms of active CHDOs and, due to the shortage of affordable housing, would benefit from experienced CHDOs servicing the area.

Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	X
Legal Assistance	X	X	X
Mortgage Assistance	X	X	X
Rental Assistance	X	X	X
Utilities Assistance	X	X	X
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement	X	X	X
Mobile Clinics	X	X	X
Other Street Outreach Services	X	X	X
Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	X
Child Care	X	X	
Education	X	X	X
Employment and Employment Training	X	X	
Healthcare	X	X	X
HIV/AIDS		X	X
Life Skills	X	X	
Mental Health Counseling	X	X	X
Transportation		X	
Other			

Table 52 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary

Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)

The City and its partners provide counseling and advocacy services that seek to identify the needs of the homeless and link with appropriate treatment and other supports, and assist in finding safe, affordable, permanent housing.

Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above

For Special Needs Populations there is a Single Port of Entry process. The Single Port of Entry process is widespread in Niagara County and the City of Niagara Falls and is used by several county departments. The purpose of the Single Point of Entry process is to have one shared record of each individual seeking some form of assistance through City and County programs. The tracking system utilizes a single data input process to obtain basic information on each person that can be used across program or departmental lines. Information is available to indicate what services have been or are being provided and tells service providers what other programs or departments are working with a particular individual. The system is also useful for services provided by organizations that are not part of Municipal government.

Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs

The Homeless Alliance of WNY has developed a 10-year plan for improving services to the homeless population. The plan is made up of fourteen goals, and is divided into four sections, Education and Empowerment, Continuum of Care Coordination, Community Supports, and System Change.

The plan highlights the need for wider awareness and use of mainstream resources and existing community services. It advocates educating consumers, service providers, and the local community to empower people to better access the benefits and services for which they or their clients are eligible.

As noted, there are a limited number of CHDOs serving the City. Taking into account the identified demand for additional multi-family affordable units within the City and the limited existing CHDO capacity, there is a need to establish and/or certify new CHDOs and to partner, as needed, to initiate multi-family affordable housing projects.

SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.215(a)(4)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Milling and Road Paving	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	Infrastructure (Community Development)	CDBG: $3,000,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1250 Persons Assisted
2	Public Facility Improvements	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	Infrastructure (Community Development) Public Facilities	CDBG: $250,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 500 Persons Assisted
3	Park/Public Space Improvements	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	Public Facilities Public Space Improvements	CDBG: $200,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1250 Persons Assisted
4	Social and Community Programming	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide Target Area	Public Services Business and Workforce Development	CDBG: $100,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Households Assisted
5	Small Business Capital Improvements	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	Public Facilities	CDBG: $500,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1250 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Administration	2025	2029	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide Target Area	Planning/Administration	CDBG: $2,300,000 HOME: $203,920 ESG: $74,325	Other: 2800 Other
7	Affordable Housing - CHDO Projects	2025	2029	Affordable Housing Public Housing	City-Wide Target Area	Affordable Housing	HOME: $1,000,000	Homeowner Housing Added: 5 Household Housing Unit
8	Single Family Homeownership Initiatives	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	City-Wide Target Area	Affordable Housing	CDBG: $500,000	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 50 Households Assisted
9	Remove Slum/Blight	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	Slum/Blight Elimination	CDBG: $1,500,000	Buildings Demolished: 75 Buildings
10	Owner Occupied Residential Rehabilitation	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	City-Wide Target Area	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: $400,000 HOME: $835,325	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 25 Household Housing Unit
11	Owner Occupied Emergency Repair Program	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	City-Wide Target Area	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: $250,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 25 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
12	Homeless Needs - Rapid Re-Housing Program	2025	2029	Homeless	City-Wide Target Area	Homeless Assistance Rapid Rehousing/Street Outreach	ESG: $187,500	Homelessness Prevention: 40 Persons Assisted
13	Homeless Needs - Emergency Shelter Programs	2025	2029	Homeless	City-Wide Target Area	Homeless Assistance	ESG: $300,000	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 3200 Beds
14	Homeless Needs - Street Outreach Program	2025	2029	Homeless	City-Wide Target Area	Homeless Assistance Rapid Rehousing/Street Outreach	ESG: $300,000	Homelessness Prevention: 4000 Persons Assisted
15	Homeless Needs - Homeless Prevention Program	2025	2029	Homeless	City-Wide Target Area	Homeless Assistance	ESG: $129,150	Homelessness Prevention: 15 Persons Assisted
16	Community Policing	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	Public Services Community Policing	CDBG: $100,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1250 Persons Assisted
17	Youth Services Programs	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide Target Area	Public Services	CDBG: $750,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Households Assisted
18	Clean Neighborhood Programming	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	Slum/Blight Elimination	CDBG: $125,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1250 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
19	Public Services	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide Target Area	Public Services Business and Workforce Development	CDBG: $1,000,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1250 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 400 Households Assisted
20	Code Enforcement	2025	2029	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Housing Community Development	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	Slum/Blight Elimination	CDBG: $125,000	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 250 Household Housing Unit

Table 53 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	**Goal Name**	Milling and Road Paving
	Goal Description	Milling, Repairing and replacing substandard roads servicing low-income neighborhoods.

2	**Goal Name**	Public Facility Improvements
	Goal Description	Improve infrastructure and vehicular access to areas of employment, recreation, and commercial activity located in low-income neighborhoods. The City will provide resources for Public and private non-profit facility improvements. Public facility improvements to supporting the quality of life by providing adequate space for the provision of services, holding of events that bring the community together, and addressing public safety concerns. In addition, ensuring the City's public facilities are free of architectural barriers continues to be a priority for ensuring access to the City's services and facilities by all residents. The City will continue to support its various community development needs through public facilities improvements through upgrades to existing recreation amenities and creation of new opportunities. Improving Public facilities is in support of other goals within this plan.
3	**Goal Name**	Park/Public Space Improvements
	Goal Description	Develop, expand, and rehabilitate park, recreation, and open space facilities that serve low/moderate income residents.
4	**Goal Name**	Social and Community Programming
	Goal Description	Provide funding for technical assistance, adult and vocational education, and employment placement services.
5	**Goal Name**	Small Business Capital Improvements
	Goal Description	Provide grants for the purpose of exterior repairs to improve the physical appearance of older commercial centers in order to improve the quality of life for low- and moderate-income people residing in the surrounding neighborhoods by enhancing the appearance of frequently visited retail structures.
6	**Goal Name**	Administration
	Goal Description	Administration
7	**Goal Name**	Affordable Housing - CHDO Projects
	Goal Description	Provide financial resources to Community Housing Development Organizations that seek to develop rental and owner occupied housing for the low-income population.

8	**Goal Name**	Single Family Homeownership Initiatives
	Goal Description	Promote Home Ownership for Low-Moderate Income Households by providing purchase assistance to first-time low-to-moderate income home buyers who purchase an existing house.
9	**Goal Name**	Remove Slum/Blight
	Goal Description	Undertake targeted demolition and clearance of buildings and land features which contribute to spot blight conditions. Funding may be used to provide interim assistance where immediate action is necessary to stop physical deterioration until something permanent can be done; or Emergency conditions threaten the public health and safety.
10	**Goal Name**	Owner Occupied Residential Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Provide funding to eligible property owners for the purposes of rehabilitation.
11	**Goal Name**	Owner Occupied Emergency Repair Program
	Goal Description	Establish a quick response repair program that is targeted to low-income households experiencing immediate housing problems.
12	**Goal Name**	Homeless Needs - Rapid Re-Housing Program
	Goal Description	Rapid Re-housing provides services to homeless individuals through housing search, counseling and legal aid assistance.
13	**Goal Name**	Homeless Needs - Emergency Shelter Programs
	Goal Description	Shelter Operations, including maintenance, rent, repair, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, food, furnishings, and supplies necessary for the operation of the emergency shelter.
14	**Goal Name**	Homeless Needs - Street Outreach Program
	Goal Description	Essential Services related to reaching out to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and providing them with urgent, non-facility-based care. Eligible costs include engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services, transportation, and services for special populations.

15	**Goal Name**	Homeless Needs - Homeless Prevention Program
	Goal Description	Housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to prevent the individual or family from moving to an emergency shelter, a place not meant for human habitation, or another place.
16	**Goal Name**	Community Policing
	Goal Description	Community Policing events will be supported by CDBG funding in target neighborhoods.
17	**Goal Name**	Youth Services Programs
	Goal Description	Provide after school and summer programming for youth, as well as counseling to provide a proactive approach to address crime prevention.
18	**Goal Name**	Clean Neighborhood Programming
	Goal Description	Department of Public Works - Special Operations Project. Targeted clean-up task force that includes activities from both the Departments of Public Works and Code Enforcement.
19	**Goal Name**	Public Services
	Goal Description	The City will provide resources to support public services that improve social determinates of health in order to promote health and wellness. The total amount of CDBG funds expended statewide for public services activities must not exceed 15 percent of the state's yearly allocation of funds plus 15 percent of program income received distributed by the state under its method of distribution.
20	**Goal Name**	Code Enforcement
	Goal Description	CDBG funds may be used for code enforcement only in deteriorating or deteriorated areas where such enforcement, together with public or private improvements, rehabilitation, or services to be provided, may be expected to arrest the decline of the area.

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)

We anticipate that at least 30 renovated units would be made available for extremely low income individuals. The estimated number of low to moderate income families assisted is dependent on participation. The plan's rapid-rehousing and emergency solutions programming will also provide temporary housing opportunities to extremely low income and homeless individuals.

SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement – 91.215(c)

Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)

Overall, 87 or 9.4 percent of the Authority's 922 units meet Section 504 standards. At least 5 percent of the units in all projects meet Section 504 standards, including 15.5 percent in senior project Spallino Towers and 10.4 percent in senior project Wrobel Towers. There is no further requirement to increase that number.

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

As described under MA-30, the Authority has a variety of programs and activities involving youth as well the broader residential community of the Authority. These are ongoing programs and activities which will continue going forward, including

- Continue job training efforts in partnership with the NFHA's ATTAIN LAB
- Seek partnerships with public/private entities for social and economic services to residents
- Conduct quarterly public meetings with residents
- Seek additional funding for current youth services program

Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?

No

Plan to remove the 'troubled' designation

N/A

SP-55 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.215(h)

Barriers to Affordable Housing

There are a number of existing barriers to the availability of affordable housing in Niagara Falls. Issues of market misalignment and economics may play the largest role, but there are certainly public policy barriers as well. Major barriers to access to affordable housing identified in the Stakeholder meetings conducted as part of the Consolidated Planning Process include (i) lack of supply, (ii) unaffordable housing costs (new units and rehab), and (iii) lack of available funding (new units and rehab).

Niagara Falls has a very old housing stock with 90% of the homes in the City having been built prior to 1969. The aging housing stock produces health hazards such as exposure to asbestos and lead paint, while increasing the overall costs to maintain a residential unit. High maintenance combined with insufficient supply to meet the increasing demand have led to a disproportionate market for affordable housing.

The City of Niagara Falls provides housing rehabilitation funds to assist with the cost burdens associated with an older housing stock suffering from decades of disinvestment. However, the Community Development Staff is finding that the incentives are too low to have the needed impact in many cases. The City is considering increasing the cap on rehabilitation grants but is somewhat restricted by the lead paint requirements associated with the use of federal funds over certain thresholds.

Additionally, much of the public incentive that exists in Western New York is encouraging developers to create market rate residential units. The City is exploring means to subsidize development of affordable units in order to combat the market-rate shift in the development community. Projects with Habitat for Humanity and Housing Visions are being discussed to bring new affordable units on-line.

Strategies to address existing barriers to affordable housing and fair housing choice are summarized in the Strategic Plan (SP-55).

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

The City of Niagara Falls provides housing rehabilitation funds to assist with the cost burdens associated with an older housing stock suffering from decades of disinvestment and is re-working the program to increase the amount of incentive available per unit in order to bring units up to appropriate Housing Quality Standards without increasing the rental or overhead burden on renters or homeowners.

The City is also working with non-profits developers such as Habitat for Humanity and Housing Visions to construct new affordable housing units. Specifically, the City is (i) investigating sites for infill development, (ii) making city-owned properties available for rehabilitation or redevelopment, and (iii) making CDBG and HOME funds available to leverage investment in the development of new units.

The City is partnering with the Niagara Orleans Regional Land Improvement Corporation (NORLIC) to provide housing rehabilitation to create or improve affordable units throughout the City and is exploring the possibility of gifting vacant City-owned properties to NORLIC and Habitat for Humanity for redevelopment.

SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)

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

The Niagara County Coalition for Services to the Homeless is a significant step in the right direction in terms of outreach and needs assessment for homeless individuals and families. Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, as well as Heart and Soul Food Pantry, YWCA Carolyn's House, The Niagara Action Program and Family and Children Services all actively interact with homeless persons. Heart Love and Soul is opened their Daybreak Program in 2020-2021 to centralize access to the services provided to over 30 different agencies.

The Homelessness Alliance of Western New York has identified the concern that there is a greater issue of unsheltered or street homelessness than the data shows. The Continuum of Care cannot fund street outreach, so the City and CoC will be looking at utilizing ESG funding to help identify the true scope of the problem. Additionally, the City and CoC work with the hospital system and Community Missions to identify repeat or chronic homelessness and to identify the needs of unsheltered individuals.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

HAWNY is seeking funding to create additional shelters and beds in Niagara Falls. Currently Pinnacle Community Services, Community Missions Inc, the YWCA, and Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission provide emergency shelter and/or transitional housing for homeless individuals. Additionally, the Niagara County Department of Social Services provides hotel and motel placement to meet emergency shelter and transitional housing needs. The homeless service providers have identified individuals and families fleeing domestic abuse as a significant issue in Niagara County. The YWCA and Pinnacle have shelters specifically designed to create a safe haven for victims of domestic abuse and to match individuals with services needed to gain independence and independent living.

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.

Community Missions, Inc. and Pinnacle Community Services will receive funds to combat homelessness in youth or other at-risk populations. Pinnacle will provide intake services and will assign a caseworker to individuals and families to help meet specific needs including rapid re-housing, securing permanent housing, and being connected with social service providers as appropriate. Pinnacle currently provides homelessness prevention programming that provides skills to individuals in small groups, to help maintain housing. Heart Love and Soul recently opened their Daybreak Program to centralize access to

the services provided to over 30 different agencies. The City works with publicly funded institutions of care such as healthcare facilities, mental health care facilities, and youth care facilities and services to insure that low income and extremely low income families are being served.

Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs

Niagara County is implementing HUD's Housing First approach and seeing positive results. Housing First is intended to eliminate barriers to permanent housing without preconditions such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements. The broader intake is providing meaningful housing solutions without pushing the 'higher-risk' homeless individuals away. Once secure in housing, the focus turns to services and other support within the Continuum of Care. Relatedly, the CoC uses the Single Point of Access mental health referral systems to submit medical, hospitalization, treatment, and housing information to the relevant service providers.

SP-65 Lead based paint Hazards – 91.215(i)

Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards

The City is actively a part of the Lead Coalition coordinated with the Niagara County Department of Health to address homes that are found to have children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLL) and lead-based paint hazards through both City and County-led programs.

The City has a Lead Risk Assessor on staff and requires that all of its rehabilitated units undergo proper lead risk assessment and achieve required lead clearance. Also, the City provides funding to CHDOs for lead hazard remediation and toxic soil removal.

Additionally the City, through targeted demolitions, safely removes lead-based hazards.

How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?

Funds are used from the City's CDBG program to provide rehabilitation assistance to home owners. Housing occupied by applicants are checked to see if lead-based paint hazards are present and, if so, remediation is required as part of the financial assistance to the property.

How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?

The Niagara County Health Department undertakes various outreach efforts to both publicize potential presence of lead-based paints hazards and offer services to mitigate the hazard problem. The Department has prepared flyers which are well illustrated and easy to read. In terms of more direct outreach, flyers may be left door to door in high risk neighborhoods and mailings where appropriate are sent out by the County Office of Vital Statistics along with birth certificates.

All rehabilitation housing applications submitted to the City of Niagara Falls County Assistance are reviewed for the lead-based paint risk assessment. Compliance includes visual assessments, verbal questioning during the intake and written questions on the application form. All housing cases include a visual assessment for lead-based paint hazards, including peeling, cracking, chipping or flaking paint.

If the unit meets the LBP hazard threshold, the unit is then inspected by an outside contractor specialist to assess the condition in detail and specify remediation action required. Upon completion of remediation, the same contractor performs a clearance inspection.

SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy – 91.215(j)

Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families

The City of Niagara Falls is utilizing a holistic approach to combat poverty and reduce the number of Poverty-Level Families. Working with partners and service providers, the goal is to improve the economic conditions in the City; remove transportation barriers; improve public safety; reduce housing cost burdens; improve the market value and quality of life in City neighborhoods; provide youth education, childcare, and recreation opportunities; increase access to workforce training and adult education; and revitalize traditional commercial corridors.

How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan

Specific programming coordinated with the plan include:

- A funding commitment to businesses either owned by low- and moderate-income individuals or creating employment opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals;
- A funding commitment to provide capital to small business development projects;
- Creation of a small business advocate program to better connect local small businesses with internet based advertising and promotional opportunities;
- A funding commitment to functional job training programs within the City of Niagara Falls with a focus on entry level trades and medical arts employment opportunities;
- A funding commitment to infrastructure improvements in traditional commercial corridors.
- A commitment to the housing renovation consortium between historic (HUD) funding subrecipients;
- A funding commitment to public infrastructure improvements in residential areas;
- A funding commitment to youth programming that focuses on the 12-17 age range;
- A funding commitment to public park improvements, consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan;
- A funding commitment to community policing strategies that both increase police visibility and make the police department accessible to residents;
- A commitment to the sale and renovation of City owned vacant houses whenever financially feasible. Sale and renovation of these structures prevent costly demolition and support tax base growth. Current tax foreclosure auctions perpetuate the cycle of disinvestment and unsuitable housing for low-income residents. In addition, these transformations increase the quality of life for surrounding residents; and
- Investment in safety net stakeholders dedicated to rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention.

SP-80 Monitoring – 91.230

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

The following describes the standards and procedures Niagara Falls uses to monitor its housing and community development activities. This ensures long term compliance with program and consolidated plan requirements. All monitoring activities are conducted with oversight from the Mayor's Office.

The Community Development Department is commencing detailed reviews of all subrecipient agreements with the assistance of a technical service consultant for year one. Community Development staff will measure outcomes against the scope and performance measures included within the agreements.

The Community Development Department will support the Continuum of Care efforts to monitor all service providers related to homelessness prevention and mitigation are supporting coordinated entry. The City is in a position to make funding decisions and to support CoC findings with any appropriate enforcement measures.

Additionally, the City will rely on existing monitoring resources such as (i) internal controls including individual draw reviews, annual audit review, and CAPER audit review, and (ii) maintaining Ex-Officio Board membership for participating sub-recipients.

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The following table shows the amount of funds expected to be available in Year One of this Consolidated Plan.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan $	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: $	Program Income: $	Prior Year Resources: $	Total: $		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	2,300,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	2,400,000.00	8,700,000.00	Allocations based on final FFY 2024 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City

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: $		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	407,849.00	0.00	0.00	407,849.00	1,631,396.00	Allocations based on final FFY 2024 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	198,195.00	0.00	0.00	198,195.00	792,780.00	Allocations based on final FFY 2024 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City

Table 54 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The City is working with the Niagara Orleans Land Improvement Corporation (NORLIC) to partner on the rehabilitation of residential units in the City. Additionally, The City of NF will seek Request for Proposals for competitive bids to utilize and leverage HOME funds from qualified CHDO's to construct 20-25 new affordable single family and multi-family housing units City owned parcels that were previously demolished and are contiguously located within the Community Development Target Area.

Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funds require a minimum one-to-one match on the part of the City award to Sub recipients. Each year, the matching funds secured by Sub recipients generally comes from other federal, state, county, and private sources. Upon initial submission and review of all ESG applications, the matching source and amounts are acknowledged.

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

The City is planning on using city owned vacant land as part of an RFP process for qualified CHDO's to provide bids to purchase the land and construct new affordable single family and multi-family housing located within the Community Development Target Area.

The City owns a number of blighted properties and vacant parcels that will be utilized in Consolidated Plan implementation. Specifically, publicly owned properties (i) will be demolished where they create a blighting influence, (ii) will be made available to private or non-profit developers for rehabilitation and the creation of affordable housing units, and (iii) will be available to private or non-profit developers for the purpose of land assembly and new construction to create affordable housing units and/or mixed-use developments.

Discussion

N/A

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	Milling and Road Paving	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	Infrastructure (Community Development)	CDBG: $900,000.00	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 28000 Persons Assisted
2	Remove Slum/Blight	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	Slum/Blight Elimination	CDBG: $400,000.00	Buildings Demolished: 15 Buildings
3	Owner Occupied Residential Rehabilitation	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	City-Wide Target Area	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: $126,000.00 HOME: $165,000.00	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 8 Household Housing Unit
4	Youth Services Programs	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide Target Area	Public Services	CDBG: $185,000.00	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Households Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Public Services	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide Target Area	Public Services	CDBG: $179,000.00	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Households Assisted
6	Affordable Housing - CHDO Projects	2025	2029	Affordable Housing Public Housing	City-Wide Target Area	Affordable Housing	HOME: $197,800.00	Homeowner Housing Added: 1 Household Housing Unit
7	Single Family Homeownership Initiatives	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	City-Wide Target Area	Affordable Housing	CDBG: $125,000.00	Homeowner Housing Added: 10 Household Housing Unit
8	Homeless Needs - Rapid Re-Housing Program	2025	2029	Homeless	City-Wide Target Area	Homeless Assistance Rapid Rehousing/Street Outreach	ESG: $25,000.00	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 20 Households Assisted
9	Homeless Needs - Homeless Prevention Program	2025	2029	Homeless	City-Wide Target Area	Homeless Assistance	ESG: $50,000.00	Homelessness Prevention: 50 Persons Assisted
10	Homeless Needs - Emergency Shelter Programs	2025	2029	Homeless	City-Wide Target Area	Homeless Assistance	ESG: $35,330.00	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 200 Beds
11	Homeless Needs - Street Outreach Program	2025	2029	Homeless	City-Wide Target Area	Homeless Assistance	ESG: $73,000.00	Homelessness Prevention: 200 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
12	Administration	2025	2029	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide Target Area	Planning/Administration	CDBG: $480,000.00 HOME: $40,784.00 ESG: $14,865.00	Other: 28000 Other

Table 55 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	**Goal Name**	Milling and Road Paving
	Goal Description	Milling, Repairing and repaving substandard roads servicing low-income neighborhoods.
2	**Goal Name**	Remove Slum/Blight
	Goal Description	Undertake targeted demolition and clearance of buildings and land features which contribute to spot blight conditions. Funding may be used to provide interim assistance where immediate action is necessary to stop physical deterioration until something permanent can be done; or Emergency conditions threaten the public health and safety.
3	**Goal Name**	Owner Occupied Residential Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Provide funding in the form of deferred loans to eligible property owners for the purposes of owner occupied residential rehabilitation.

4	**Goal Name**	Youth Services Programs
	Goal Description	Provide after school and summer programming for youth, as well as counseling to provide a proactive approach to address crime prevention.
5	**Goal Name**	Public Services
	Goal Description	The City will provide resources to support public services that improve social determinates of health in order to promote health and wellness. The total amount of CDBG funds expended statewide for public services activities must not exceed 15 percent of the state's yearly allocation of funds plus 15 percent of program income received distributed by the state under its method of distribution.
6	**Goal Name**	Affordable Housing - CHDO Projects
	Goal Description	Provide financial resources to Community Housing Development Organizations that seek to develop rental and owner occupied housing for the low-income population.
7	**Goal Name**	Single Family Homeownership Initiatives
	Goal Description	Promote Home Ownership for Low-Moderate Income Households by providing purchase assistance and homebuyer education to first-time low-to-moderate income home buyers who purchase an existing house.
8	**Goal Name**	Homeless Needs - Rapid Re-Housing Program
	Goal Description	Rapid Re-housing provides services to homeless individuals through housing search, counseling and legal aid assistance.
9	**Goal Name**	Homeless Needs - Homeless Prevention Program
	Goal Description	Housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to prevent the individual or family from moving to an emergency shelter, a place not meant for human habitation, or another place.
10	**Goal Name**	Homeless Needs - Emergency Shelter Programs
	Goal Description	Shelter Operations, including maintenance, rent, repair, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, food, furnishings, and supplies necessary for the operation of the emergency shelter.

11	**Goal Name**	Homeless Needs - Street Outreach Program
	Goal Description	Essential Services related to reaching out to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and providing them with urgent, non-facility-based care. Eligible costs include engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services, transportation, and services for special populations.
12	**Goal Name**	Administration
	Goal Description	Administration

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The projects being funded through the 2025 Annual Action Plan focus on activities and programming that will (i) improve the quality of life in, and strengthen the built environment within low income neighborhoods, (ii) increasing opportunities for quality and stable affordable housing, and (iii) continuing to work in a coordinated manner to provides badly needed social services, especially to prevent homelessness where possible and mitigate the negative effects of homelessness.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	2025 Road Milling and Paving
2	CD - Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
3	Housing Demolition & Clearance of Vacant Structures
4	First Time Home Buyer Closing Cost Assistance - NF NHS Neighborworks
5	First Time Home Buyer Workshop - NF NHS Neighborworks
6	Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club
7	Heart, Love & Soul - Daybreak Services
8	Niagara Falls Housing Authority
9	Niagara Falls School District
10	YWCA Carolyn's House
11	Girl Scouts of WNY
12	Parachute Credit Counseling
13	NOAH
14	Niagara Beautification Commission
15	Literacy Buffalo Niagara
16	HOME CHDO
17	2025 CDBG Administration
18	2025 HOME Administration
19	2025 ESG Programming

Table 56 – Project Information

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

Allocation priorities were developed over a five month period with multiple public hearings throughout the community trying to ascertain the best use of federal CDBG funds. In addition, consultation with local department heads to prioritize 2025 CDBG projects. Addressing underserved needs will be initiated with CDBG funds but also added to by City funding as well.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	**Project Name**	2025 Road Milling and Paving
	Target Area	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area
	Goals Supported	Milling and Road Paving
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure (Community Development)
	Funding	CDBG: $900,000.00
	Description	Milling and paving of streets to improve transportation safety in low and moderate income areas. The City will utilize an additional $346,242 of non-federal funds (CHIPS) to complete milling and paving activities in low-moderate income areas.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The project will focus on low and moderate income areas within the City
	Location Description	Low income areas where the streets are in unsafe levels of disrepair, as identified by the Department of Public Works, Department of Engineering and Community Development Department.
	Planned Activities	Individual activities will be set up for each street milling and paving project.
2	**Project Name**	CD - Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Owner Occupied Residential Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation
	Funding	CDBG: $126,000.00 HOME: $169,265.00
	Description	The City will administer deferred home rehab loans for income eligible households.
	Target Date	6/30/2026

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 8-10 low/mod households will be assisted.
	Location Description	Separate activities will be created for each address. Program Delivery Funds will be divided between several activities (soft costs, personnel costs, and services)
	Planned Activities	As estimated 8-10 housing units will be rehabilitated to benefit low/moderate income individuals. The City will provide deferred loans to homeowners for the purposes of addressing health and safety concerns and, in connection with Department of Code Enforcement, to ensure that the housing unit meets building code standards.
3	**Project Name**	Housing Demolition & Clearance of Vacant Structures
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Remove Slum/Blight
	Needs Addressed	Slum/Blight Elimination
	Funding	CDBG: $400,000.00
	Description	Targeted clearance and demolition activities to remove blight and allow for green space and development activities. Funding includes $320,000 of CDBG entitlement funds and $80,000 of anticipated Program Income.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Project will fund approximately twenty (20) demolitions.
	Location Description	Vacant housing within city limits
	Planned Activities	Contracting for demolition and clearance. Separate Activities will be created for each address.
4	**Project Name**	First Time Home Buyer Closing Cost Assistance - NF NHS Neighborworks
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Single Family Homeownership Initiatives
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: $100,000.00

	Description	NF NHS Neighborworks will provide direct closing cost assistance up to $10,000 to income eligible first time home buyers who are purchasing in the city.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 10 low/mod households will be assisted.
	Location Description	Separate activities will be created for each address.
	Planned Activities	Approximately 10 low/mod first time home buyers will receive direct closing cost assistance up to $10,000.
5	**Project Name**	First Time Home Buyer Workshop - NF NHS Neighborworks
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Single Family Homeownership Initiatives
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: $25,000.00
	Description	NF NHS Neighborworks will provide homebuyer education and counseling to eligible participants seeking to become home owners.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 100 low/mod households will be assisted.
	Location Description	Niagara Falls Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. 479 16th Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303
	Planned Activities	NF NHS Neighborworks will provide homebuyer education and counseling to eligible participants seeking to become home owners.
6	**Project Name**	Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Youth Services Programs Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services

	Funding	CDBG: $50,000.00
	Description	The Boys and Girls Club will be running their 716 United Through Sports program to mentor children through sports.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	150 at-risk youth are expected to participate in the program
	Location Description	Programming will be run out of the Boys and Girls Club located at 725 17th Street
	Planned Activities	Boys and Girls Club will operate a basketball league for all ages of youth that will include a focus on mentorship, education, and avoidance of trouble. The children will sign a contract to adhere to program values on and off the court and to actively participate in practices, games, and off court activities
7	**Project Name**	Heart, Love & Soul - Daybreak Services
	Target Area	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: $50,000.00
	Description	CDBG funding will support Heart Love & Souls' safety net food programs, and the anticipated increased demand for the Daybreak program.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The new programming is estimated to serve 180 low-income individuals on an annual basis
	Location Description	The facility is located at 939 Ontario Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

	Planned Activities	CDBG funding will support heart, love & Soul's safety net food program, and the anticipated increased demand for the new Daybreak program. In addition to housing assistance, outreach, case management, and health care coordination provided by HLS staff, Daybreak provides a range of services through partner agencies that will locate onsite creating a single point of access for the community.
8	**Project Name**	Niagara Falls Housing Authority
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Youth Services Programs Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: $50,000.00
	Description	The Niagara Falls Housing Authority will provide youth summer and after school programming.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	100 at-risk youth are expected to benefit from the programming
	Location Description	Afterschool and summer programming are held at the Packard Court Community Center and the Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building
	Planned Activities	The Niagara Falls Housing Authority will provide youth summer and after school programming
9	**Project Name**	Niagara Falls School District
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Youth Services Programs Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: $35,000.00

	Description	The City School District of the City of Niagara Falls (The District) project/program includes maintaining the number of tutoring staff and tutoring hours available to struggling students at each of the 6 elementary schools in the District as well as the Primary School in the District. The District intends to maintain interventionist strategies, mainly tutoring, at current levels. District Staff will be integral in maintaining tutoring. The District will continue to offer after-school tutoring opportunities to struggling students.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 100 children will be assisted.
	Location Description	The City School District of the City of Niagara Falls (The District) project/program includes maintaining the number of tutoring staff and tutoring hours available to struggling students at each of the 6 elementary schools in the District as well as the Primary School in the District.
	Planned Activities	Before and After school tutoring will be offered to children at each of the elementary schools as well as the primary school in the district.
10	**Project Name**	YWCA Carolyn's House
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Homeless Needs - Homeless Prevention Program Youth Services Programs Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services Homeless Assistance
	Funding	CDBG: $50,000.00
	Description	Funding will be used to pay the salary and associated costs for a Counselor for Homeless Children that will assist in providing client center trauma-informed counseling for up to 50 at risk, formerly homeless, low income children residing in Carolyn's House and Walnut Avenue homes.
	Target Date	6/30/2026

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is anticipated that upwards of 65 individuals (25 women and 40 children)
	Location Description	Carolyn's House, Niagara Falls, NY 14301
	Planned Activities	Operations at the YWCA Carolyn's House.
11	**Project Name**	Girl Scouts of WNY
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Youth Services Programs Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: $10,000.00
	Description	The Girl Scouts After-School Program in Niagara Falls will provide on-site, after school programming to 30 very low/low/moderate income middle school girls offering equitable access to year-round Girl Scout leadership development opportunities with an emphasis on STEM and Entrepreneurship/Financial Literacy which serves as a foundation for success in school and life.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated the 30 children will benefit.
	Location Description	Programming will be held at one of the schools located in the city school district
	Planned Activities	The Girl Scouts After-School Program in Niagara Falls will provide on-site, after school programming to 30 very low/low/moderate income middle school girls offering equitable access to year-round Girl Scout leadership development opportunities with an emphasis on STEM and Entrepreneurship/Financial Literacy which serves as a foundation for success in school and life.
12	**Project Name**	Parachute Credit Counseling
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area

	Goals Supported	Youth Services Programs Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: $24,000.00
	Description	A Financial Literacy Initiative, Parachute will partner with youth organizations in Niagara Falls to work with low income youth in our newly launched Bank On Niagara Youth Program. Specifically, our target population is Niagara Falls youth who are not receiving financial education in the schools or at home or who are receiving little information.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	To equip at least 75 young people in Niagara Falls with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed financial decisions.
	Location Description	Will operate out of Pinnacle Community Services office space on Main Street.
	Planned Activities	
13	**Project Name**	NOAH
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: $40,000.00
	Description	NOAH plans to provide community engagement through our Empowerment & Enrichment Programs to both youth and adults. We will be offering College and Career Readiness and Advancement Programming to Include: Resume and CV Writing and Updates, Enrichment, Interview, and Networking Workshops and Events.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 230 individuals will benefit

	Location Description	625 Tronolone Place, Niagara Falls, NY 14301
	Planned Activities	NOAH plans to provide community engagement through our Empowerment & Enrichment Programs to both youth and adults. We will be offering College and Career Readiness and Advancement Programming to Include: Resume and CV Writing and Updates, Enrichment, Interview, and Networking Workshops and Events.
14	**Project Name**	Niagara Beautification Commission
	Target Area	Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area
	Goals Supported	Remove Slum/Blight Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services Slum/Blight Elimination
	Funding	CDBG: $30,000.00
	Description	NBC will organize and perform beautification cleanup activities in income eligible neighborhoods.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 5,000 people will benefit
	Location Description	Various locations within a designated low income neighborhood.
	Planned Activities	NBC will organize and perform beautification cleanup activities in income eligible neighborhoods.
15	**Project Name**	Literacy Buffalo Niagara
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: $30,000.00
	Description	Literacy Buffalo Niagara (LBN) will improve both digital literacy skills and health outcomes for 100 low income seniors, in Niagara Falls by providing the digital health literacy educational services that are directly tied to better health.
	Target Date	6/30/2026

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Literacy Buffalo Niagara (LBN) will improve both digital literacy skills and health outcomes for 100 low income seniors, in Niagara Falls by providing the digital health literacy educational services that are directly tied to better health.
	Location Description	LBN will operate out of office space locate in Heart, Love and Soul Niagara Falls facility.
	Planned Activities	Literacy Buffalo Niagara (LBN) will improve both digital literacy skills and health outcomes for 100 low income seniors, in Niagara Falls by providing the digital health literacy educational services that are directly tied to better health.
16	**Project Name**	HOME CHDO
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing - CHDO Projects
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: $197,800.00
	Description	Funding will be put towards viable CHDO projects.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	it is estimated that 1 household will benefit from the funding.
	Location Description	Separate activities will be created for each address.
	Planned Activities	Funding will be put towards viable CHDO projects.
17	**Project Name**	2025 CDBG Administration
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Administration
	Needs Addressed	Planning/Administration
	Funding	CDBG: $480,000.00
	Description	Administration - Cannot exceed 20% of total 2025 CDBG amount. Includes 20% from anticipated Program Income.
	Target Date	6/30/2026

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	28000
	Location Description	City Hall, Niagara Falls
	Planned Activities	Administration - Cannot exceed 20% of total 2025 CDBG amount. Includes 20% from anticipated Program Income.
18	**Project Name**	2025 HOME Administration
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Administration
	Needs Addressed	Planning/Administration
	Funding	HOME: $40,784.00
	Description	Administration - cannot exceed 10% of total 2025 HOME Amount allocated.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	28000
	Location Description	City Hall, Niagara Falls Community Development
	Planned Activities	Administration - cannot exceed 10% of total 2023 HOME Amount allocated.
19	**Project Name**	2025 ESG Programming
	Target Area	City-Wide Target Area
	Goals Supported	Homeless Needs - Rapid Re-Housing Program Homeless Needs - Emergency Shelter Programs Homeless Needs - Street Outreach Program Homeless Needs - Homeless Prevention Program
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Assistance Rapid Rehousing/Street Outreach
	Funding	ESG: $198,195.00

	Description	The City of Niagara Falls plans to utilize 2024 ESG funds to support street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid-rehousing and homelessness prevention in partnership with; Community Missions of Niagara Frontier; Heart, Love & Soul. The City will also utilize approximately 7% of the total 2024 ESG award to cover administration costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 600 individuals will benefit from services funded in the proposed activities.
	Location Description	Services will be supported at the following locations in the City: Community Missions - 1570 Buffalo Avenue Heart, Love & Soul - 939 Ontario Avenue
	Planned Activities	Separate activities will be created for each service provider led project and program as follows: $75,000 will go to Community Missions for Homeless Prevention services. $35,330.00 will go to Community Missions for emergency shelter services. $73,000 will go to Heart, Love & Soul to support their efforts for outreach, engagement, and linkage to and for sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness to housing and supportive services $14,865 will be used for administrative costs

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

City-Wide Target Area: 30% of CDBG funds - Housing Rehab, Construction of new affordable units, and public services following low-moderate housing regulation standards.

Niagara Falls Community Development Area: 70% of CDBG funds - Area is comprised of South End, Center City, portions of Downtown, and LaSalle. The Niagara Falls Community Development Area was designated by Niagara Falls City Council as meeting the conditions set forth in 24 CFR 570.208(b). Specific Census Tract Block Groups are as follows:

Census Tract 202
Census Tract 204
Census Tract 205
Census Tract 206
Census Tract 207
Census Tract 209
Census Tract 210
Census Tract 211
Census Tract 212
Census Tract 213
Census Tract 214
Census Tract 217
Census Tract 220

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City-Wide Target Area	30
Niagara Falls Community Development Target Area	70

Table 57 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

City-Wide Target Area: Since this program is to benefit low-moderate income persons, geography is not a factor in this target area.

Niagara Falls Community Development Area: Funds will go towards addressing deteriorated properties

to alleviate conditions set forth in 24 CFR 570.208(b) through residential rehabilitation programs.

Discussion

N/A

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls will advance affordable housing by providing assistance for construction of, and the acquisition of land for, new single-family homes for low to moderate income households. The City of Niagara Falls will also provide housing to homeless or at-risk of homelessness families through rapid re-housing, housing relocation and stabilization, and homeless prevention grants to homeless service agencies.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	10
Non-Homeless	20
Special-Needs	0
Total	30

Table 58 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	20
The Production of New Units	2
Rehab of Existing Units	15
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	37

Table 59 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

The City anticipates rehabbing 15 low income housing units and creation of 2 new units through partnerships with Habitat for Humanity and selected CHDOs. Additionally, the City is supporting first time home ownership by providing closing cost assistance to income eligible first time home buyers.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls collaborates with the Niagara Falls Housing Authority (NFHA) to encourage public housing improvements and public housing resident involvement.

The City of Niagara Falls also manages a Section 8 program that supports Housing Choice Vouchers, Project Based Vouchers, and Homeownership programs.

The City of Niagara Falls 2025-2029 Strategic Plan supports the NFHA and City of Niagara Falls PHA Plans through expanding the supply of decent, affordable housing in Niagara Falls through use of CDBG and HOME funds. The Housing Choice Voucher program provides residents with housing choice, which is a way to deconcentrate areas of poverty. The City of Niagara Falls also funds youth services directed primarily towards NFHA residents.

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

The City of Niagara Falls will work with the Niagara Falls Habitat for Humanity and HOME funds to renovate rental units for the purpose of Project Based Vouchers.

The City of Niagara Falls will also work with Habitat for Humanity to construct new housing using CHDO funding.

The City is also planning to partner with Housing Visions and Pinnacle Community services to create more new decent affordable housing.

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

The City work with our non-profit developers to ensure that homeownership programs are advertised to and available to public housing residents. Such programs include First-time Homebuyer classes, First-time Homebuyer Closing Cost Assistance, and Financial Counseling.

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

Neither PHAs in Niagara Falls are designated as troubled at this time.

Discussion

N/A

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

Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls is committed to serving the needs of the homeless and at-risk of homelessness populations in Niagara Falls. The 2025 Annual Action Plan program year will serve as a means to increase understanding of the needs, create baseline data to measure against future years, and to develop strategies and best practices in serving homeless and at-risk of homelessness populations in a more pro-active fashion.

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 Niagara County Coalition for Services to the Homeless is a significant step in the right direction in terms of outreach and needs assessment for homeless individuals and families. Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, as well as Heart and Soul Food Pantry, YWCA Carolyn's House, The Niagara Community Action Program and Family and Children Services all actively interact with homeless persons.

The Homelessness Alliance of Western New York has identified the concern that there is a greater issue of unsheltered or street homelessness than the data shows. The Continuum of Care cannot fund street outreach, so the City and CoC will be looking at utilizing ESG funding to help identify the true scope of the problem. Additionally, the City and CoC work with the hospital system and Community Missions to identify repeat or chronic homelessness and to identify the needs of unsheltered individuals.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Currently Pinnacle Community Services, Community Missions Inc., the YWCA, and Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission provide emergency shelter and/or transitional housing for homeless individuals. Additionally, the Niagara County Department of Social Services provides hotel and motel placement to meet emergency shelter and transitional housing needs. The homeless service providers have identified individuals and families fleeing domestic abuse as a significant issue in Niagara County. The YWCA and Pinnacle have shelters specifically designed to create a safe haven for victims of domestic abuse and to match individuals with services needed to gain independence and independent living.

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

Community Missions, Inc. and Pinnacle Community Services will receive funds to combat homelessness in youth or other at-risk populations. Pinnacle will provide intake services and will assign a caseworker to individuals and families to help meet specific needs including rapid re-housing, securing permanent housing, and being connected with social service providers as appropriate. Pinnacle currently provides homelessness prevention programming that provides skills to individuals in small groups, to help maintain housing. Heart Love and Soul recently opened their Daybreak Program to centralize access to the services provided to over 30 different agencies. The City works with publicly funded institutions of care such as healthcare facilities, mental health care facilities, and youth care facilities and services to insure that low income and extremely low income families are being served.

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

Niagara County is implementing HUD's Housing First approach and seeing positive results. Housing First is intended to eliminate barriers to permanent housing without preconditions such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements. The broader intake is providing meaningful housing solutions without pushing the 'higher-risk' homeless individuals away. Once secure in housing, the focus turns to services and other support within the Continuum of Care. Relatedly, the CoC uses the Single Point of Access mental health referral systems to submit medical, hospitalization, treatment, and housing information to the relevant service providers.

Discussion

Additional Goals

Goal: Improve Coordinated Entry Implementation in Niagara Falls

Actions: The City of Niagara Falls is working develop a more pro-active Coordinated Entry approach that puts more resources towards street outreach and assessment. The City of Niagara Falls, the CoC, and other service agencies will work together to secure additional sources of funding for street outreach and assessment.

Goal: Create Performance Metrics and Standards Based on Need and Capacity

Actions: The City of Niagara Falls is working develop goals, metrics, and strategies to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs in Niagara Falls. The City of Niagara Falls routinely checks HMIS data to determine the need of emergency shelter and transitional housing needs in Niagara

Falls. The work on improving Coordinated Entry will also address the needs of homeless or at-risk of homelessness persons that would typically use emergency shelter or transitional housing but may be better served through other programs or services.

Goal: Reduce Shelter Stays at ESG-funded Shelters

Actions: The City of Niagara Falls will work closely with ESG-funded Shelter subrecipients to develop a strategy to reduce shelter stays in Niagara Falls. The Rolling 12-Month Performance Report for the CoC 1/1/2024-12/31/2024 will be used as the benchmark metric for shelter stay reductions. The City of Niagara Falls will work with ESG-funded Shelter subrecipients to increase efficiencies and creating partnerships with other service organizations that may help alleviate or reduce the need to stay in shelters. The City of Niagara Falls will work with HAWNY to track performance and seek additional technical assistance in increasing efficiencies and partnerships with other service organizations.

Goal: Develop an empirical risk model and a strategy to guide service providers in providing pro-active aid to families at-risk of homelessness.

Actions: The City of Niagara Falls will research and develop an empirical risk model for families at-risk of homelessness and a strategy to reach families at-risk of homelessness before need of homeless services such as shelter or rapid-rehousing. Once developed, the City of Niagara Falls will work with service providers and other partner organizations to implement the strategy and create baseline data to inform performance tracking going forward.

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

Introduction:

The City of Niagara Falls provides housing rehabilitation funds to assist with the cost burdens associated with an older housing stock suffering from decades of disinvestment and is re-working the program to increase the amount of incentive available per unit in order to bring units up to appropriate Housing Quality Standards without increasing the rental or overhead burden on renters or homeowners.

The City is also working with non-profit developers to construct new affordable housing units. Specifically, the City is (i) investigating sites for infill development, (ii) making city-owned properties available for rehabilitation or redevelopment, and (iii) making CDBG and HOME funds available to leverage investment in the development of new units.

The City is partnering with the Niagara Orleans Regional Land Improvement Corporation (NORLIC) to provide housing rehabilitation to create or improve affordable units throughout the City and is exploring the possibility of gifting vacant City-owned properties to NORLIC and Habitat for Humanity for redevelopment.

The City is also planning to partner with Housing Visions and Pinnacle Community services to create more new decent affordable housing.

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 Niagara Falls provides housing rehabilitation funds to assist with the cost burdens associated with an older housing stock suffering from decades of disinvestment and is re-working the program to increase the amount of incentive available per unit in order to bring units up to appropriate Housing Quality Standards without increasing the rental or overhead burden on renters or homeowners.

The City is partnering with the Niagara Orleans Regional Land Improvement Corporation (NORLIC) to provide housing rehabilitation to create or improve affordable units throughout the City and is exploring the possibility of gifting vacant City-owned properties to NORLIC and Habitat for Humanity for redevelopment.

With 2025 HOME funding the City will aggressively support rehabilitation of existing owner occupied

housing units.

The City is also planning to partner with Housing Visions and Pinnacle Community services to create more new decent affordable housing.

Discussion:

N/A

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Niagara Falls plans to increase its role in strategic planning and fostering collaboration among various service agencies in Niagara Falls and the region to better serve the residents of Niagara Falls and to reduce duplicative programs that give rise to inefficiency in service to residents.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Despite an increase in some areas of Entitlement funding, the greatest obstacle that the city faces remains the limited community development dollars available from federal, state, local, and private sources. The overwhelming needs in Niagara Falls make it impossible to address everything that city leaders would like to improve.

The City of Niagara Falls partners with and financially supports the strong network of social service agencies that serve at-risk populations in order to identify existing needs and utilize and financially support existing support mechanisms. Additionally, the City will be aggressively utilizing HOME funds to partner with eligible CHDOs to leverage additional funding and create new affordable housing units.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Niagara Falls will look create more Project Based Voucher rental units to match the need of current and new Section 8 clients. The City is also planning to partner with Housing Visions and Pinnacle Community services to create more new decent affordable housing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City is actively a part of the Lead Coalition coordinated with the Niagara County Department of Health to address homes that are found to have children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLL) and lead-based paint hazards through both City and County-led programs.

The City has a Lead Risk Assessor on staff and requires that all of its rehabilitated units undergo proper lead risk assessment and achieve required lead clearance. Also, the City provides funding to CHDOs for lead hazard remediation and toxic soil removal.

Additionally the City, through targeted demolitions, safely removes lead-based hazards.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Niagara Falls will work with partner organizations to reduce the number of poverty-level families by addressing root causes of poverty and developing strategies and initiatives to sustain poverty reduction programs and collaboration and support organizations and programs that provide literacy and

credit counseling to strengthen opportunities for both employment and financial security.

The City puts a significant focus on developing safe and affordable housing units through rehabilitation programs and leveraging the creation of new affordable units.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Niagara Falls will continue to develop institutional structure by creating standard operating procedures, re-evaluating current plans and policies, and attending appropriate trainings for staff to gain a mastery over administering HUD CPD programs.

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

The City of Niagara Falls will study the best use of social service agencies' programs for public and private housing agencies and create the discussion to link these programs more closely to serve the housing needs of residents.

Discussion:

N/A

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	100,000
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	**100,000**

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
<TYPE=[text] REPORT_GUID=[A698417B4C924AE0218B42865313DACF] DELETE_TABLE_IF_EMPTY=[YES]>	
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.	70.00%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

The City of Niagara Falls will dedicate 2025 HOME funds support CHDO activities in the construction

of new affordable housing units. The City will issue an RFP and then select the appropriate CHDOs and projects to support in the form of direct grants. The City will also use a portion of 2025 HOME fund for owner occupied housing rehabilitation. HOME funding will also be utilized to complete up to 10 owner occupied housing rehabilitation projects.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

The City incorporates the Resale Provisions in all HOME agreements:

1. RESALE PROVISIONS REQUIREMENTS.

a. The Property shall be occupied by the Homeowners as their principal residence during the Affordability Period set forth herein. If the Property does not continue to be occupied by Homeowners as the principal residence of Homeowners for the duration of the Affordability Period, or if the Property is subject to foreclosure, or if the Homeowners notify GRANTEE of their intent to sell the Property, all within the Affordability Period, the Property shall be made available for resale to an eligible low- income homebuyer who will use the property as the homebuyer's principal residence.

b. On a resale, the Property must remain affordable to a reasonable range of low-income homebuyers. To achieve affordability, the sale price of the Property shall not exceed 95% of the median purchase price for single family homes in Niagara Falls, NY.

c. The price at resale shall provide the original Homeowner a fair return on investment, including recovery of the Homeowner's down payment and any eligible capital improvement investment made since purchase (collectively, "Homeowner Investment"). Eligible capital improvements shall include actual, documented costs of permanent structural improvements or restoration of the property that enhances or increases the useful life of the property such as a kitchen renovation or bathroom upgrades. The actual costs of the capital improvements must be documented with receipts, cancelled checks, or other documents acceptable the CITY and GRANTEE. A fair return on investment shall be achieved when the original Homeowner receives from the sale a percentage return on the Homeowner Investment equal to the average change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) over the period of ownership. It is acknowledged that, where, due to market conditions, the price at resale is equal to or less than the original purchase price, it may not be possible to provide a fair return on investment.

d. The net proceeds of sale, which is defined as the sales price minus the cost of repaying any

purchase money mortgage, minus seller paid closing costs, and minus the Homebuyer Investment and the fair return on investment, shall be CHDO proceeds, and GRANTEE may use the net sale proceeds for HOME-eligible housing activities to benefit low-income families, with approval of CITY. In the event that the Property no longer meets the affordability requirements during the Affordability Period and use of the net sale proceeds is not approved by CITY, GRANTEE shall repay to CITY the amount of net sale proceeds.

e. The resale requirement shall be documented in the restrictive covenants executed by the Homebuyer, which shall grant the GRANTEE a right of repurchase.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

The City incorporates the Resale Provisions in all HOME agreements:

1. RESALE PROVISIONS REQUIREMENTS.

a. The Property shall be occupied by the Homeowners as their principal residence during the Affordability Period set forth herein. If the Property does not continue to be occupied by Homeowners as the principal residence of Homeowners for the duration of the Affordability Period, or if the Property is subject to foreclosure, or if the Homeowners notify GRANTEE of their intent to sell the Property, all within the Affordability Period, the Property shall be made available for resale to an eligible low- income homebuyer who will use the property as the homebuyer's principal residence.

b. On a resale, the Property must remain affordable to a reasonable range of low-income homebuyers. To achieve affordability, the sale price of the Property shall not exceed 95% of the median purchase price for single family homes in Niagara Falls, NY.

c. The price at resale shall provide the original Homeowner a fair return on investment, including recovery of the Homeowner's down payment and any eligible capital improvement investment made since purchase (collectively, "Homeowner Investment"). Eligible capital improvements shall include actual, documented costs of permanent structural improvements or restoration of the property that enhances or increases the useful life of the property such as a kitchen renovation or bathroom upgrades. The actual costs of the capital improvements must be documented with receipts, cancelled checks, or other documents acceptable the CITY and GRANTEE. A fair return on investment shall be achieved when the original Homeowner receives from the sale a percentage return on the Homeowner Investment equal to the average change in the Consumer Price Index

(CPI) (as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) over the period of ownership. It is acknowledged that, where, due to market conditions, the price at resale is equal to or less than the original purchase price, it may not be possible to provide a fair return on investment.

d. The net proceeds of sale, which is defined as the sales price minus the cost of repaying any purchase money mortgage, minus seller paid closing costs, and minus the Homebuyer Investment and the fair return on investment, shall be CHDO proceeds, and GRANTEE may use the net sale proceeds for HOME-eligible housing activities to benefit low-income families, with approval of CITY. In the event that the Property no longer meets the affordability requirements during the Affordability Period and use of the net sale proceeds is not approved by CITY, GRANTEE shall repay to CITY the amount of net sale proceeds.

e. The resale requirement shall be documented in the restrictive covenants executed by the Homebuyer, which shall grant the GRANTEE a right of repurchase.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

   Neither the City of Niagara Falls nor its subrecipients use HOME funds for refinancing.

5. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). *<TYPE=[text] REPORT_GUID=[A0BBB986408D8C25582AC4BE59FA99C5]>*

   N/A

6. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

   N/A

7. If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that

limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

N/A

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Reference 91.220(l)(4)

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

   The annual competitive ESG application references HUD ESG guidelines for providing ESG assistance and applicable federal language. ESG subrecipients are required to follow the CoC Coordinated assessment tools, policies, and procedures for clients to access services more efficiently. The written standards are attached in the unique appendix.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

   The CoC has established Coordinated Entry for Niagara County service providers and Heart, Love & Soul acts as the Coordinated Entry lead organization. The coordinated entry process evaluates and connects those most in need in the community with the most appropriate available resources for their situation as swiftly as possible, in a low barrier, housing first oriented, person-centered, and inclusive process. In the coordinated entry process clients all receive the same assessment (depending on their household type) at the shelter point of entry and are prioritized by highest acuity. The assessment tools used for coordinated entry are intended to help guide case management and improve long term housing stability outcomes. The Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures are attached in the Unique Appendices.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

   Organizations may competitively apply for ESG funds during our annual application process. The application requires documentation of certificate of incorporation, most recent audited financial statements, IRS 501(c)3 tax exempt determination letter, board of directors membership list, board minutes from previous 3 meetings, verification of matching funds, and an authorization to submit application form. Applicants also provide narrative and budgets for their proposed projects. Applications are reviewed by City of Niagara Falls staff that works on the ESG program to determine the best use of annual ESG funds. A final determination is made and is presented in the Draft Annual Action Plan for public review. Once the Draft Annual Action Plan is approved, final

funding is allocated based on final funding allocation determined by HUD.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

   All ESG subrecipient applications must provide narrative describing homeless participation in board governance, other equivalent policy-making entity, or some other participation plan. The City of Niagara Falls reviews these homeless participation plans of all applicants as well as consulting HAWNY regarding policy and funding decisions.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

   Through SAGE, HAWNY provides annual and/or quarterly performance reports for ESG and CoC funded agencies. The City of Niagara Falls uses these reports to evaluate performance standards of ESG subrecipients.

N/A

Attachments

Citizen Participation Comments

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY
CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
2025 – 2029
Neighborhood Meeting
November 21, 2024, 12:00 p.m.
Dept. of Community Development
745 Main St., Niagara Falls, NY

Location: John Duke Center – 1201 Hyde Park Boulevard

Present: See attached attendance sheet

Staff Present: Cliff Scott, Director
Paul Martell, Compliance Officer

Sign in Sheet Attached to Minutes

The meeting began at 12:00 p.m. All participants received handouts including a meeting agenda, Consolidated Plan timeline and program funding/guidelines.

Mr. Scott welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to receive input for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan which will prioritize the needs of the community. CD will prioritize need based on input received from various groups, organizations and citizens throughout the community. He noted that it was critical that we sit down and talk to the actual people who are administering the programs meeting the needs of the community. We need to see what we can do better or differently and where our resources need to be concentrated. He stressed that CD wants to correctly address the needs of the community.

Mr. Scott opened the meeting for discussion. The following are highlights of the opinions and need priorities expressed by participants

- The city needs to take care of blighted properties and properties in neighborhoods that are like junk yards.
- Need more community events for children
- Need more opportunities for teenagers
- City should build a community center in the north end
- City should build another Skate Park in the North End
- More single family homes in the north end
- City should focus on street paving

- Better care for homelessness population
- City needs more decent affordable housing
- More advocacy for tenants' rights
- Focus on more disability services in the community
- City should focus on cleaning up the neighborhoods
- Need more funding allocated to providing children with more opportunities – the children are our future.

The overall expression of the group was that a high priority needs to be placed on resources being concentrated to help the City cleaning up the garbage and blighted properties in neighborhoods.

Mr. Scott stated that additional meetings were going to be held to receive input for the five year plan. He also talked about upcoming neighborhood meetings that would be held this summer to receive input for next year's funding plan. He noted that CD funding application was now available as of November 12th. Deadline for applications due is December 31, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 1:10 p.m.

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: 2025 Con Plan & 2025 Annual Action Plan

Meeting Date: November 21, 2024 @ 5:00pm

Facilitator: Paul Martell

Place/Room: John Duke Center

Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
Irene Wilson	NAACP	716 308-0655	mamawilson44@yahoo.com
Clifford Scott	City	716 804 3073	
Sandy Greco	—	716 745.7129	
Gloria J. Dolson	MSST		
Helen Dolson	MSST	7162856482	
Laurence Blauber	NCIG	716 601 5933	
Deb Deborah Stompio	Clerks office	716 201-5285	Biggins777@gmail

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY
CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
2025 – 2029
Neighborhood Meeting
November 20, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Dept. of Community Development
745 Main St., Niagara Falls, NY

Location: Cataract Elementary School – 6431 Girard Avenue

Present: See attached attendance sheet

Staff Present: Cliff Scott, Director
Paul Martell, Compliance Officer

Sign in Sheet Attached to Minutes

The meeting began at 5:05 p.m. All participants received handouts including a meeting agenda, Consolidated Plan timeline and program funding/guidelines.

Mr. Scott welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to receive input for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan which will prioritize the needs of the community. CD will prioritize need based on input received from various groups, organizations and citizens throughout the community. He noted that it was critical that we sit down and talk to the actual people who are administering the programs meeting the needs of the community. We need to see what we can do better or differently and where our resources need to be concentrated. He stressed that CD wants to correctly address the needs of the community.

Mr. Scott opened the meeting for discussion. The following are highlights of the opinions and need priorities expressed by participants

- The city needs to take care of blighted properties and properties in neighborhoods that are like junk yards.
- Need more community events for children
- Need more opportunities for teenagers
- City should focus on cleaning up the neighborhoods
- There is a rodent issue in LaSalle and city should send out information to make residents aware.

- Need more funding allocated to providing children with more opportunities – the children are our future.
- More opportunities for work/jobs
- More adult education, vocational and life skill programs
- An indoor facility for youth activities
- More security at parks

The overall expression of the group was that a high priority needs to be placed on resources being concentrated to help the City is providing more educational, vocational and like skills programs for youth and adults.

Mr. Scott stated that additional meetings were going to be held to receive input for the five year plan. He also talked about upcoming neighborhood meetings that would be held this summer to receive input for next year's funding plan. He noted that CD funding application was now available as of November 12th. Deadline for applications due is December 31, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: 2025 Con Plan & 2025 Annual Action Plan

Meeting Date: November 20, 2024 @ 5:00pm

Facilitator: Paul Martell

Place/Room: Cataract Elementary School

Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
Clifford Scott	City	716.804.3073	
Deanna Wilson	city	(716)390-2867	nydlynn@gmail.com
Angela Morella	city	7169490954	
Philip Mohr			Philip2004@aol.com

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY
CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
2025 – 2029
Neighborhood Meeting
November 19, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Dept. of Community Development
745 Main St., Niagara Falls, NY

Location: Doris Jones Family Resource Building – 3001 – 9th Street

Present: See attached attendance sheet

Staff Present: Paul Martell, Compliance Officer

Sign in Sheet Attached to Minutes

The meeting began at 5:05 p.m. All participants received handouts including a meeting agenda, Consolidated Plan timeline and program funding/guidelines.

Mr. Martell welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to receive input for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan which will prioritize the needs of the community. CD will prioritize need based on input received from various groups, organizations and citizens throughout the community. He noted that it was critical that we sit down and talk to the actual people who are administering the programs meeting the needs of the community. We need to see what we can do better or differently and where our resources need to be concentrated. He stressed that CD wants to correctly address the needs of the community.

Mr. Martell opened the meeting for discussion. The following are highlights of the opinions and need priorities expressed by participants

- There are too many empty vacant lots that have overgrown and not maintained
- Why are properties just sitting and not being maintained or foreclosed? Why does it take so long
- More funding should be allocated for first time home buyers – the city should provide (tax) incentives to first time home owners to buy in the City
- The city needs more home owners
- The city needs more homeless shelters and services for those at risk of being homeless
- More funding for youth educational programs

- More funding for adult vocational and life skill programs
- Fix and secure current parks around city
- City should build another skate park and more variety of activities in the north end
- Find more ways to keep children off of the streets
- Build more homes and less projects
- Find ways to attract more business to provide more jobs in the community

The overall expression of the group was that a high priority needs to be placed on resources being concentrated to help the City is create more opportunities and activities for the youth, generate more home ownership and fixing up the blighted structures throughout the community.

Mr. Martell stated that additional meetings were going to be held to receive input for the five year plan. He also talked about upcoming neighborhood meetings that would be held this summer to receive input for next year's funding plan. He noted that CD funding applications are now available as of November 12th. Deadline for applications due is December 31, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 6:10 p.m.

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: 2025 Con Plan & 2025 Annual Action Plan

Meeting Date: November 19, 2024 @ 5:00pm

Facilitator: Paul Martell

Place/Room: Doris Jones Family Resource Building

Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
Jim Perry	City Council		James Perry @ Niagarafalls.gov
Felix Gibbs	NSST	716 992-7767	C.felix1234 Mike@yahoo.com
Gloria J. Dolson	NSST	716 285-2965	
Rev. Greg Walker	CHCBC	716 404-5758	ghcblockclub@gmail.com
Kimberly Carter		716-478-9405	

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY
CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
2025 – 2029
Neighborhood Meeting
November 12, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Dept. of Community Development
745 Main St., Niagara Falls, NY

Location: LaSalle Public Library -- 8728 buffalo Avenue

Present: See attached attendance sheet

Staff Present: Cliff Scott, Director
Paul Martell, Compliance Officer

Sign In Sheet Attached to Minutes

The meeting began at 5:05 p.m. All participants received handouts including a meeting agenda, Consolidated Plan timeline and program funding/guidelines.

Mr. Scott welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to receive input for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan which will prioritize the needs of the community. CD will prioritize need based on input received from various groups, organizations and citizens throughout the community. He noted that it was critical that we sit down and talk to the actual people who are administering the programs meeting the needs of the community. We need to see what we can do better or differently and where our resources need to be concentrated. He stressed that CD wants to correctly address the needs of the community.

Mr. Scott opened the meeting for discussion. The following are highlights of the opinions and need priorities expressed by participants

- The city needs to take care of blighted properties and properties in neighborhoods that are like junk yards.
- Need more community events for children
- Need more opportunities for teenagers
- City should focus on cleaning up the neighborhoods
- Residents need to become more involved with local politics and pay more attention

- There is a rodent issue in LaSalle and city should send out information to make residents aware.
- Need more funding allocated to providing children with more opportunities – the children are our future.
- City should focus on Air Monitoring studies and provide funding to ensure better air quality.

The overall expression of the group was that a high priority needs to be placed on resources being concentrated to help the City cleaning up the garbage and blighted properties in neighborhoods.

Mr. Scott stated that additional meetings were going to be held to receive input for the five year plan. He also talked about upcoming neighborhood meetings that would be held this summer to receive input for next year's funding plan. He noted that CD funding application was now available as of November 12th. Deadline for applications due is December 31, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: 2025 Con Plan & 2025 Annual Action Plan

Meeting Date: November 12, 2024 @ 5:00pm

Facilitator: Paul Martell

Place/Room: LaSalle Public Library

Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
PAT WALSH			PATTI.WALSH40@yahoo.com
Jim Perry	City Council	716-870-7873	James.Perrye Niagarafalls.Gov
Lynn Perry		7163312012	dynnterry915@yahoo.com
Rashaan carson mooney	student		
Josh Randall	CCE Niagara	7164338839x230	jmr486@cornell.edu
Shytereca Jones	KTI	716-316-5138	Shytereajones@kingdomtreasfreedomtheatre.com

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY
CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
2025 – 2029
Neighborhood Meeting
November 7, 2024, 5:00 p.m. .
Dept. of Community Development
745 Main St., Niagara Falls, NY

Location: Bloneva Bond Primary School – 2513 Niagara Street

Present: See attached attendance sheet

Staff Present: Paul Martell, Compliance Officer

Sign in Sheet Attached to Minutes

The meeting began at 5:05 p.m. All participants received handouts including a meeting agenda, Consolidated Plan timeline and program funding/guidelines.

Mr. Martell welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to receive input for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan which will prioritize the needs of the community. CD will prioritize need based on input received from various groups, organizations and citizens throughout the community. He noted that it was critical that we sit down and talk to the actual people who are administering the programs meeting the needs of the community. We need to see what we can do better or differently and where our resources need to be concentrated. He stressed that CD wants to correctly address the needs of the community.

Mr. Martell opened the meeting for discussion. The following are highlights of the opinions and need priorities expressed by participants

- The city needs to invest in revitalizing downtown attractions and businesses.
- Residents have seen no change over the years and want to see removal of blighted structures – Too many board ups
- Need more community events for children
- Need more opportunities for teenagers
- City should focus on building up downtown around the falls
- Need more funding allocated to providing children with more opportunities – the children are our future.
- The community needs to come together

- The city needs to build more housing and less projects. And provide more opportunities to buy affordable housing.

The overall expression of the group was that a high priority needs to be placed on resources being concentrated to help the City revitalize downtown and provide more opportunities and activities for the youth in the community.

Mr. Martell stated that additional meetings were going to be held to receive input for the five year plan. He also talked about upcoming neighborhood meetings that would be held this summer to receive input for next year's funding plan. He noted that CD funding application would be available November 12th.

The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: 2025 Con Plan & 2025 Annual Action Plan

Meeting Date: November 7, 2024 @ 5:00pm

Facilitator: Paul Martell

Place/Room: Bloneva Bond Primary School

Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
Patricia Cerqui	360 Linguistics	716-251-8209	Patgail6194@gmail.com
Brenda Drayton		716-880-4682	bdrayton55@gmail.com
Angela Henderson			jillhenderson123@gmail.com

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY
CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
2025 – 2029
Neighborhood Meeting
November 6, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Dept. of Community Development
745 Main St., Niagara Falls, NY

Location: Niagara Falls Public Library -- 1425 Main Street

Present: See attached attendance sheet

Staff Present: Paul Martell, Compliance Officer

Sign In Sheet Attached to Minutes

The meeting began at 5:05 p.m. All participants received handouts including a meeting agenda, Consolidated Plan timeline and program funding/guidelines.

Mr. Martell welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to receive input for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan which will prioritize the needs of the community. CD will prioritize need based on input received from various groups, organizations and citizens throughout the community. He noted that it was critical that we sit down and talk to the actual people who are administering the programs meeting the needs of the community. We need to see what we can do better or differently and where our resources need to be concentrated. He stressed that CD wants to correctly address the needs of the community.

Mr. Martell opened the meeting for discussion. The following are highlights of the opinions and need priorities expressed by participants

- The city needs to address the dilapidated houses that have become overgrown grass and rat infested
- There are too many empty vacant lots that have overgrown and not maintained
- The streets have too many potholes
- LaSalle neighborhoods has become have become infested with rats -- What is the city going to do to help the homeowners?
- Why are properties just sitting and not being maintained or foreclosed? -- Why is it difficult for public to purchase city owned property?

- More Funding should be allocated for first time home buyers – the city should provide (tax) incentives to first time home owners to buy in the City
- The city needs more home owners
- The city needs more homeless shelters and services for those at risk of being homeless

The overall expression of the group was that a high priority needs to be placed on resources being concentrated to help the City generate more home ownership and fixing up the blighted structures throughout the community.

Mr. Martell stated that additional meetings were going to be held to receive input for the five year plan. He also talked about upcoming neighborhood meetings that would be held this summer to receive input for next year's funding plan. He noted that CD funding application would be available November 12th.

The meeting concluded at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: 2025 Con Plan & 2026 Annual Action Plan

Meeting Date: November 6, 2024 @ 5:00pm

Facilitator: Paul Martell

Place/Room: Niagara falls Public Library

Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
Dardell Dalson	Homeowner	7162853086	Dalsona@aol.com
Annie HAmilton	RENTER	7162821565	ALHAmilton53@AOL.COM
Amanda West	RepYourCity	716990-4485	Ayourcity@unitypointcommunity.org
Sandra Brown	Lead Cleaner	716-602-7862	brdcsi1732@gmail.com
Karen Mack	Home Owner	716-818-3200	karen@KarenMack.com
Noah Munoz	Home Owner	716-404-5470	Noah @ HeritageTeam.com
Jayson Parker	Home Owner	716-266-5605	Jayparker1205@gmail.com
ARTHUR B RAY, JR	HOMEOWNER	716-481-7701	arteray58@gmail.com
C Romano		716 804 1978	JDQ14301@AOL.COM

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Community Development To Host Neighborhood Meetings

Community Development to Host Neighborhood Meetings

The City of Niagara Falls Department of Community Development will host Neighborhood Meetings for the purpose of receiving comments and recommendations from the public to enable the City to identify and prioritize community needs. Based on input from these meetings, the City will develop a plan and budget for the use of federal funds in 2025.
THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUNDING PROCESS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES.

YOUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL HELP FORMULATE THE CITY'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 2025

You are encouraged to attend one of the meetings listed below:

Wed., Nov. 6th @ 5:30 p.m.:	Niagara Falls Public Library, 1425 Main Street
Thurs., Nov. 7th @ 5:00 p.m.:	Blanche Bond Primary School, 2513 Niagara Street
Tues., Nov. 12th @ 5:00 p.m.:	LaSalle Public Library, 8728 Buffalo Avenue
Tues., Nov. 19th @ 5:00 p.m.:	Doris Jones Family Resource Bldg., 3001 - 9th St.
Wed., Nov. 20th @ 5:00 p.m.:	Cataract Elementary School, 6451 Girard Avenue
Thurs., Nov. 21st @ 2:00 p.m.:	John Duke Center, 1201 Hyde Park Blvd.

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City of Niagara Falls

Community Development Department

2025-29 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan

Community Stakeholder Meeting @ City Council Chambers

Homeless Prevention Service Providers

October 10, 2024 @ 10:00am-12:00pm

- Welcome – Homeless Prevention Service Providers
- Timeline for 2025-29 Con Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan Submission
- What Challenges and Barriers are you facing?
- New Plans or Projects?
- Open Discussion on Community Needs

niagarafallsusa.org

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY
CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
2025 – 2029
Homeless Prevention (ESG) Services Agencies Meeting
October 10, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Dept. of Community Development
745 Main St., Niagara Falls, NY

Present: See attached attendance sheet

Staff Present: Cliff Scott, Director
Paul Martell, Compliance Officer

Sign in Sheet Attached to Minutes

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. All participants received handouts including a meeting agenda, Consolidated Plan timeline and program funding/guidelines.

Mr. Scott welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to receive input for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan which will prioritize the needs of the community. CD will prioritize need based on input received from various groups, organizations and citizens throughout the community. He noted that it was critical that we sit down and talk to the actual people who are administering the programs meeting the needs of the community. We need to see what we can do better or differently and where our resources need to be concentrated. He stressed that CD wants to correctly address the needs of the community.

Mr. Scott reviewed the handouts and talked about the priority needs that were expressed in current 5-year plan.

Mr. Scott opened the meeting for discussion. The following are highlights of the opinions and need priorities expressed by participants:

- More Healthcare and Drop In Services.
- More Transportation services
- The city needs more decent affordable housing. Both rental and ownership. The cost of rents and purchase price has continued to grow while the conditions of the properties have not improved.
- More permanent supportive Housing
- The city needs more mental & health abuse providers

- Marketing resources to let citizens know what current programs are available to help people.
- More legal advocacy and case management
- More street outreach presence
- There needs to be programs dedicated to upkeep and housekeeping – individual who are housed or finally get housed do not know how to care for themselves.
- Additional community police resources.
- The City and community needs to look at models of what has worked in other communities concerning job training programs and have more dialogue with those cities.
- Coordination of organizations. A collective organizational effort to move forward to initiate youth related services.

Mr. Scott stated that additional meetings were going to be held to receive input for the five year plan. He also talked about upcoming neighborhood meetings that would be held this summer to receive input for next year's funding plan. He noted that CD funding application would be available November 12th.

The meeting concluded at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: 2025 Con Plan & 2025 Annual Action Plan

Meeting Date: October 10, 2024 @ 10:00am

Facilitator: Cliff Scott

Place/Room: City Hall Council Chambers

Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
LEONARD PETERSON	PINNACLE		lpeterson@pinnacles.org
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Sister Nora Sweeney	NHC	7165450914	sisternora.sweeney@buffalo.org
Marthe Limage	WLS	716-282-5687	Ex:121 mlimage@heartlakeministries.org
Sister Louise Gallagher	DOC	314-917-7[illegible]	louise.gallagher@doc.org
Vanessa Scott	WINGS	716 990-6344	goldsweetness@gmail.com
Rhonda Evans-Talley	NCC	(716) 903-8519	rtalley@niagara.edu

City of Niagara Falls

Community Development Department



2025-29 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan

Community Stakeholder Meeting @ City Council Chambers

Youth/Neighborhood Service Providers

October 8, 2024 @ 2:00pm-4:00pm

- Welcome – Youth/Neighborhood Service Providers
- Timeline for 2025-29 Con Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan Submission
- HUD 15% Public Services Cap Handout for CDBG
- What Challenges and Barriers are you facing?
- What is the community's biggest need?
- New Plans or Projects?
- Open Discussion on Community Needs

niagarafallsusa.org

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY
CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
2025 – 2029
Youth and Neighborhood Services Agencies Meeting
October 8, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Dept. of Community Development
745 Main St., Niagara Falls, NY

Present: See attached attendance sheet

Staff Present: Cliff Scott, Director
Paul Martell, Compliance Officer

Sign in Sheet Attached to Minutes

The meeting began at 2:00 p.m. All participants received handouts including a meeting agenda, Consolidated Plan timeline and program funding/guidelines.

Mr. Scott welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to receive input for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan which will prioritize the needs of the community. CD will prioritize need based on input received from various groups, organizations and citizens throughout the community. He noted that it was critical that we sit down and talk to the actual people who are administering the programs meeting the needs of the community. We need to see what we can do better or differently and where our resources need to be concentrated. He stressed that CD wants to correctly address the needs of the community.

Mr. Scott reviewed the handouts and talked about the priority needs that were expressed in current 5-year plan.

Mr. Scott opened the meeting for discussion. The following are highlights of the opinions and need priorities expressed by participants:

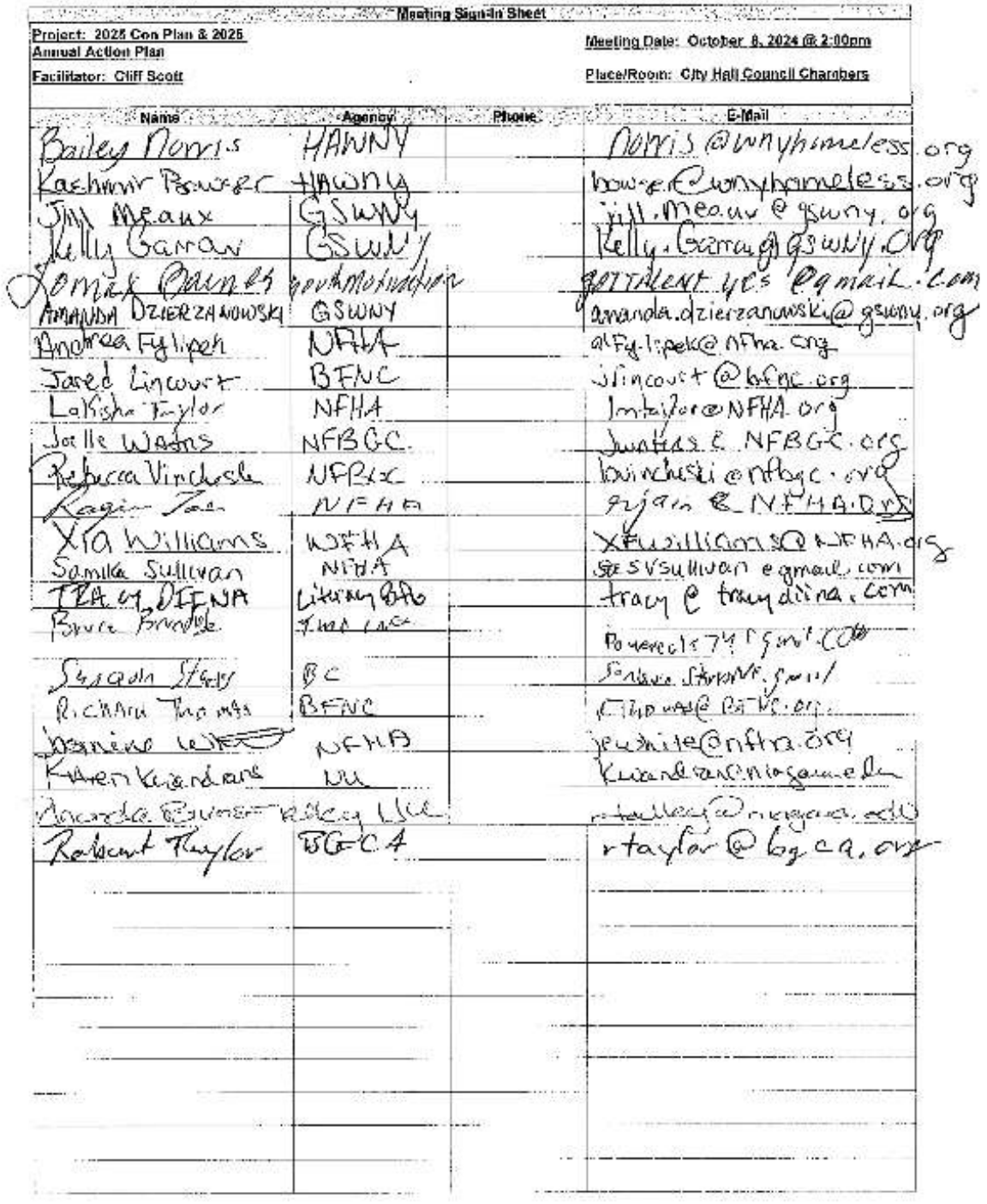
- More activities for kids to keep them busy
- More Transportation services
- It was noted that there are many activities and events for children but transportation and advertisement are barriers.
- More financial commitment from the city for youth programs. Also be more consistent with funding certain programs for the youth. There should not be a waitlist for youth programs.
- Capacity barriers are challenging for organizations

- Need to create more safe spaces for kids
- Youth mentoring services were thought to be a very critical need.
- Lack of funding programs from teenagers
- Playgrounds and youth services that are supervised. There was discussion that in the past playgrounds were supervised.
- Vocational job training programs for youth, in particular trade or computer skills programs to develop marketable skills in the youth and the young adult population (20-35).
- Coordination of organizations. A collective organizational effort to move forward to initiate youth related services. Create a youth Task force.
- Community and community stakeholders need to come together and work in unity as oppose to individual entities.

The overall expression of the group was that a high priority needs to be placed on resources being concentrated to help the City's youth and young adult population especially transportation and capacity.

Mr. Scott stated that additional meetings were going to be held to receive input for the five year plan. He also talked about upcoming neighborhood meetings that would be held this summer to receive input for next year's funding plan. He noted that CD funding application would be available November 12th.

The meeting concluded at 3:15 p.m.



Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: 2025 Con Plan & 2025 Annual Action Plan

Meeting Date: October 8, 2024 @ 2:00pm

Facilitator: Cliff Scott

Place/Room: City Hall Council Chambers

Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
Bailey Norris	HANNY		Norris@hannyhomeless.org
Kashmir Power	HANNY		kpower@hannyhomeless.org
Jill Meaux	GSWNY		jill.meaux@gswny.org
Kelly Garani	GSWNY		Kelly.Garani@gswny.org
Xomax Owens	Youth Advocate		[illegible]
Amanda Dzierzanowski	GSWNY		amanda.dzierzanowski@gswny.org
Andrea Fylypek	NFHA		afylypek@nfha.org
Jared Lincourt	BFNC		jlincourt@bfnc.org
LaKisha Taylor	NFHA		lmtaylor@NFHA.org
Joelle Wadas	NFBGC		jwadas@NFBGC.org
Rebecca Vinchesi	NFBGC		bvinchesi@nfbgc.org
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Xia Williams	NFHA		XWilliams@NFHA.org
Samika Sullivan	NFHA		SESVSullivan@gmail.com
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Bruce Brindle	Niagara Falls		[illegible]
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Richard Thomas	BFNC		[illegible]
Janine Lewis	NFHA		jlewis@nfha.org
Karen Kinard-Ross	UU		[illegible]
Amanda Bennett-Kelley	UU		[illegible]
Robert Taylor	BGCA		rtaylor@bgca.org

City of Niagara Falls

Community Development Department



2025-29 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan

Community Stakeholder Meeting @ City Council Chambers

Housing Service Providers

October 8, 2024 @ 10:00am-12:00pm

- Welcome – Housing Service Providers
- Timeline for 2025-29 Con Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan Submission
- What Challenges and Barriers are you facing?
- What is the community's biggest need?
- New Plans or Projects?
- Open Discussion on Community Needs

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MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY
CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
2025 – 2029
Housing Services Agencies Meeting
October 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Dept. of Community Development
745 Main St., Niagara Falls, NY

Present: See attached attendance sheet

Staff Present: Cliff Scott, Director
Paul Martell, Compliance Officer

Sign in Sheet Attached to Minutes

The meeting began at 10:05 a.m. All participants received handouts including a meeting agenda, Consolidated Plan timeline and program funding/guidelines.

Mr. Scott welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to receive input for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan which will prioritize the needs of the community. CD will prioritize need based on input received from various groups, organizations and citizens throughout the community. He noted that it was critical that we sit down and talk to the actual people who are administering the programs meeting the needs of the community. We need to see what we can do better or differently and where our resources need to be concentrated. He stressed that CD wants to correctly address the needs of the community.

Mr. Scott reviewed the handouts and talked about the priority needs that were expressed in current 5-year plan.

Mr. Scott opened the meeting for discussion. The following are highlights of the opinions and need priorities expressed by participants:

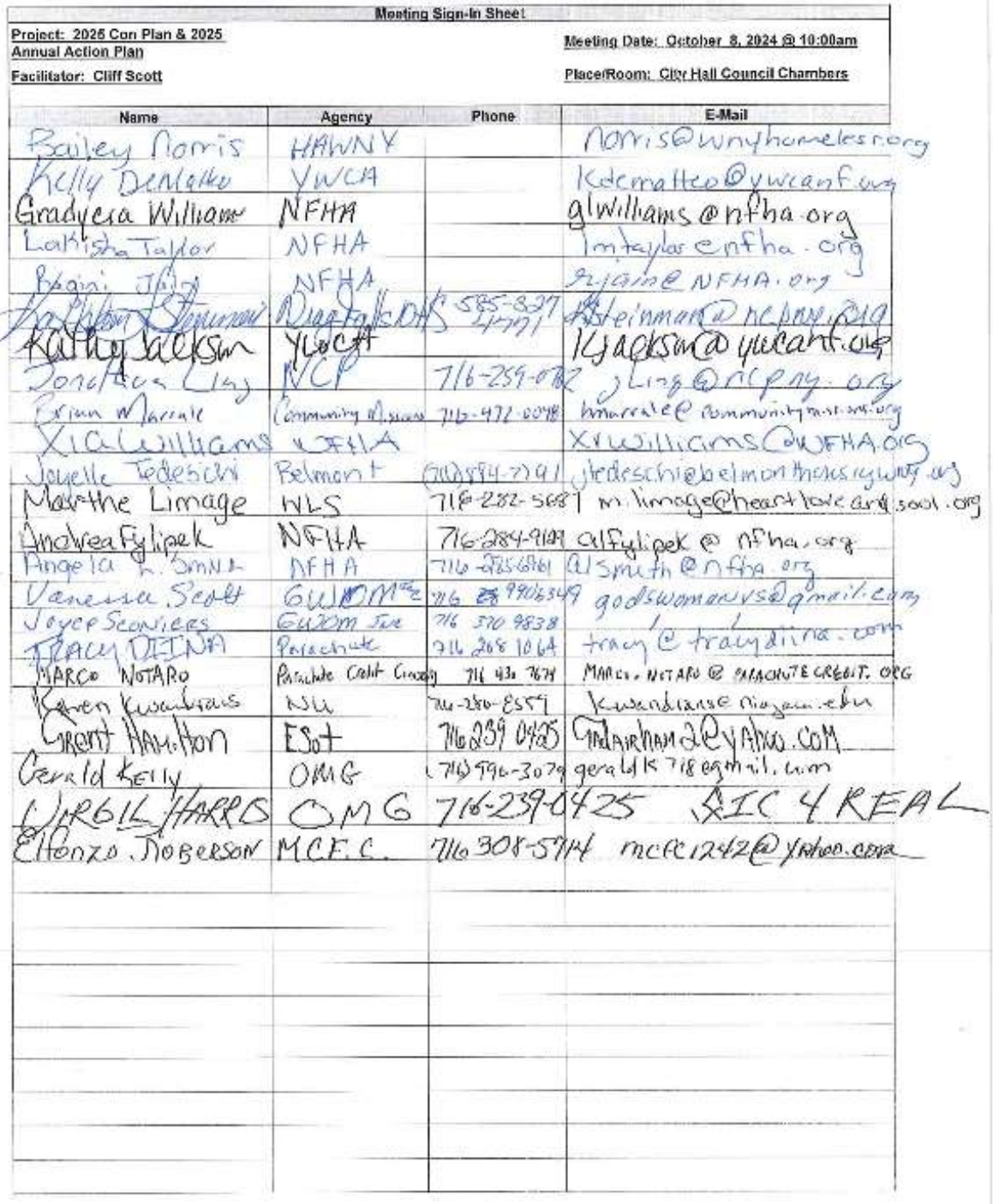
- More Healthcare and Drop In Services.
- More Transportation services
- The city needs more decent affordable housing. Both rental and ownership. The cost of rents and purchase price has continued to grow while the conditions of the properties have not improved.
- More permanent supportive Housing
- The city needs more economic development and attract more businesses.
- Youth mentoring services were thought to be a very critical need.

- Playgrounds and youth services that are supervised. There was discussion that in the past playgrounds were supervised.
- Vocational job training programs for youth, in particular trade or computer skills programs to develop marketable skills in the youth and the young adult population (20-35).
- Marketing resources to let citizens know what current programs are available to help people.
- Additional community police resources.
- Resources to focus on a parolee/re-entry program. Many parolees are re-entering the area only to return to criminal activity.
- The City and community needs to look at models of what has worked in other communities concerning job training programs and have more dialogue with those cities.
- City needs to focus on "small steps" clean streets and sidewalks. Doing the small things that promote a positive City image and boost citizen pride and morale.
- Creative programs – such as youth farms.
- Coordination of organizations. A collective organizational effort to move forward to initiate youth related services.

The overall expression of the group was that a high priority needs to be placed on resources being concentrated to help the City's youth and young adult population.

Mr. Scott stated that additional meetings were going to be held to receive input for the five year plan. He also talked about upcoming neighborhood meetings that would be held this summer to receive input for next year's funding plan. He noted that CD funding application would be available November 1th.

The meeting concluded at 11:30 a.m.



Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: 2025 Con Plan & 2025 Annual Action Plan

Meeting Date: October 8, 2024 @ 10:00am

Facilitator: Cliff Scott

Place/Room: City Hall Council Chambers

Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
Bailey Norris	HAWNY		Norris@wnyhomeless.org
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Kathy Jackson	YWCA		kjackson@ywcanf.org
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Andrea Fylipek	NFHA	716-284-9189	afylipek@nfha.org
Angela M. Smith	NFHA	716-285-6861	AJSmith@nfha.org
Vanessa Scott	GUWOM Inc	716 [illegible] 9906349	godswomanvs@gmail.com
Joyce Scanlers	GUWOM Inc	716 570 9838	
TRACY DEINA	Parachute	716 208 1064	tracy@traydeina.com
MARCO NOTARO	Parachute Credit Counseling	716 430 7674	MARCO.NOTARO@PARACHUTECREDIT.ORG
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Grant Hamilton	ESot	716 239 0425	GHAIRHAM2@yahoo.com
Gerald Kelly	OMG	(716) 796-3079	gerald1k718@gmail.com
VIRGIL HARRIS	OMG	716-239-0425	VIC4REAL
Elfonzo Roberson	MCFC	716 308-5914	mcfc1242@yahoo.com

Outlook

Community Development Stakeholder Meetings

From Paul Martell <Paul.Martell@niagarafallsny.gov>
Date Thu 9/26/2024 8:00 AM
To Paul Martell <Paul.Martell@niagarafallsny.gov>
Bcc Clifford Scott <clifford.scott@niagarafallsny.gov>; David Tothill <david.tothill@niagarafallsny.gov>; Jessika Bass <jessica.bass@niagarafallsny.gov>; Laurrie, Mark <MLaurrie@nrschools.net>; Gina Beam <gbeam@niagarahabitat.org>; Kelly DeMatteo <kdematteo@ywcanf.org>; Kathleen L. Steinman <ksteinman@ncpny.org>; Dean Bailor Jr <dean.bailorjr@niagarafallsny.gov>; Mark Baetzhold <m.baetzhold@heartlweandsoul.org>; Samika V Sullivan <svsullivan@nfha.org>; Angela Smith <alsmith@nflls.org>; Edward Cichon <acichon@cazenoviarecovery.org>; Michelle Scheib <mscheib@wnyl.org>; Rebecca Vincheski <bvincheski@nfbgc.org>; Robyn Krueger <rkrueger@communitymissions.org>; Gail Bimont <gail.bimont@niagarafallsny.gov>; Grant Babcock <gbabcock@communitymissions.org>; Jill Meaux <Jill.Meaux@gswny.org>; Laura Chenault <laura@laurachenault.com>; Shatila Sago-Hart <ssago-hart@cazenoviarecovery.org>; Noelle Carter <noelle.carter@parachuteoverdit.org>; Biddlecom, Cara <Cara.Biddlecom@gswny.org>; Jaquinda Smith <jsmith@niagaracap.org>; Suzanne Shears <sshears@niagaracap.org>; Laura Pennington, M.A. <lpennington@pinnacles.org>; lbachman@pinnacles.org <lbachman@pinnacles.org>; Richard Thomas <rthomas@bfnc.org>; Tara Schafer <tara.schafer@literacybuffalo.org>; Kevin Forma <kevin.forma@niagarafallsny.gov>; Michael Pesarchick <michael.pesarchick@niagarafallsny.gov>; Dave Solas <dsolas@centercity-nf.org>; Ashley Matrassi <matrassi@wnyhomeless.org>; Matthew Chavez <Matthew.Chavez@niagaracounty.com>; Kevin Ma <kevinma@wnyhomeless.org>; Bailey Norris <norris@wnyhomeless.org>; erin.hooks@niagaracounty.com <erin.hooks@niagaracounty.com>; mdominqo@vocwny.org <mdominqo@vocwny.org>; deason@homeny.org <deason@homeny.org>; Cassandra Conniff <CConniff@nls.org>; Katherine Johnson <kate@thenacc.org>; Krueger, Paulette <Paulette.Krueger@nfmnc.org>; Khurshid A.Guru <cashir@yahoo.com>; Kee, Sheila K. <Sheila.Kee@nfmnc.org>; csimmons@ncpny.org <csimmons@ncpny.org>; jtedeschi@belmonthousingwny.org <jtedeschi@belmonthousingwny.org>

Dear Service Provider:

Every five years, the Niagara Falls Community Development Department assembles a Five Year Consolidated Plan and Strategy for the City of Niagara Falls. This plan is mandated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and serves as a guide for the expenditure of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funding. The last plan was completed in 2020 and it is now time to embark on our 2025-2029 strategic plan.

As with all Niagara Falls Community Development initiatives, our planning begins with community input. We are hosting four meetings with community stakeholders, divided into the following categories: (1) Housing, (2) Youth/ Neighborhood Public Service Programs, (3) Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing.

We invite and encourage you as a leading member of our community to participate in our scheduled meetings at Niagara Falls City Hall, 745 Main Street listed below.

Each meeting will have its own focus group and you are encouraged to attend any that apply.

The meetings are as scheduled:

Tues., Oct. 8th @ 10:00 a.m.	*Housing Services*
Tues., Oct. 8th@ 2:00 p.m.	*Youth/Neighborhood Services*
Thurs., Oct. 10th @10:00 a.m.	*Homeless Prevention Services*

Your valuable input will help us establish the right goals and priorities for the use of federal funding.

Thank you.

Paul Martell
Compliance Officer
Community Development
716-286-8836
paul.martell@niagarafallsny.gov

Outlook

City of Niagara Falls Community Stakeholder Meetings Schedule for the Consolidated Plan

From Clifford Scott <clifford.scott@niagarafallsny.gov>
Date Thu 9/26/2024 8:44 AM
To Clifford Scott <clifford.scott@niagarafallsny.gov>

Dear Service Provider:

Every five years, the Niagara Falls Community Development Department assembles a Five Year Consolidated Plan and Strategy for the City of Niagara Falls. This plan is mandated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and serves as a guide for the expenditure of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funding. The last plan was completed in 2020 and it is now time to embark on our 2025-2029 strategic plan.

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Thurs., Oct. 10th @10:00 a.m.	*Homeless Prevention Services*

Your valuable input will help us establish the right goals and priorities for the use of federal funding.

Thank you,

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: 2025 Con Plan & 2025 Annual Action Plan

Meeting Date: September 19, 2024 @ 6:00pm

Facilitator: Paul Martell Paul Markell Community Development Place/Room: City Hall Council Chambers

Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
Dr. Khurshid Guru	LSNY		lsnyholdings@gmail.com
Ali Muzammil	HOLDINGS		"
Kelly DeMatteo	YWCA		kdematteo@ywcanf.org
Rebecca Vinchesti	UFBGC		bvinchestie nfbgc.org
Michelle Scheib	WNYIL		mscheib@wnyil.org
Bailey Norris	HPNWNY		Norris@nynhomeless.org
Grant Babcock	CNL		gbabcock@cnedevelopment.org
Cara Biddlecam	Girl Scouts WNY		Cara.biddlecame@gswny.org
Lisa Pennington	Pinnacle		lpennington@pinnacles.org
Gina Beams	Habitat		gbeams@niagarahabitat.org
Karen Mock	Heritage Team		Karen@KarenMock.com

NIAGARA GAZETTE
LOCKPORT UNION-SUN & JOURNAL
473 THIRD STREET
NIAGARA FALLS NY 14301
(716)282-2311ext

ORDER CONFIRMATION

Salesperson: LEANN BELFIELD — Printed at 01/21/25 11:32 by lbelf

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Acct #: 21309 — Ad #: 343883 — Status: New CHOLD

CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS LEGALS
ATTN: LEEANN HUEY
745 MAIN ST.
NIAGARA FALLS NY 14302-0069

Start: 01/24/2025 — Stop: 01/28/2025
Times Ord: 3 — Times Run: ***
LEG 2.00 X 45.00 — Words: 187
Total LEG 90.00
Class: 105 PUBLIC NOTICES
Rate: LEGL — Cost: 132.20
Affidavits: 1
Bill Desc: PUBLIC HEARING 2/27/25
Ad Descrpt: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Given by: *
P.O. #:
Created: lbelf 01/21/25 11:28
Last Changed: lbelf 01/21/25 11:31

Contact: LEEANN 286-4372
Phone: (716)286-4393
Fax#:
Email: lindaroulley@niagarafalls.go
Agency:

URL: _____

Source: _____ Section: _____ Page: __
Camera Ready: N — Group: LEGAL AdType: _____
Misc: _____
Proof: __ _____ — Pickup Date: _____ Ad#: _____
Delivery Instr: _____ — Pickup Src: _____
Changes: None __ Copy __ _____ Art __ Size __ Copy Chg Every Run __
Coupon: __ Color: _____ — Gang Ad #: _____
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Special Instr: _____

PUB	ZONE	EDT	TP	RUN DATES
NIAG	A	95	S	01/24,25,28

AUTHORIZATION

Under this agreement rates are subject to change with 30 days notice. In the event of a cancellation before schedule completion, I understand that the rate charged will be based upon the rate for the number of insertions used.

Please review upon receipt. Please notify us of any changes prior to the daily deadline of 3:00 pm today.

_____ — _____
Name (print or type) — Name (signature)

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

NIAGARA GAZETTE
LOCKPORT UNION-SUN & JOURNAL
473 THIRD STREET
NIAGARA FALLS NY 14301
(716)282-2311ext

ORDER CONFIRMATION (CONTINUED)

Salesperson: LEANN BELFIELD Printed at 01/21/25 11:32 by lbelf

Acct #: 21309 Ad #: 343883 Status: New CHOLD CHOl

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK?DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2025 - 2029
5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY (CPS)

Pursuant to the regulations at 24 CFR Parts 91, the City of Niagara Falls, NY, has prepared its 2025-2029 5-Year Consolidated Plan & Strategy that includes the 2025 proposed budget for the Community Development, HOME and Emergency Solutions Grant programs. A public hearing will be held to receive comments regarding the plan on:

Thursday, February 27, 2025
6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
City Hall - 745 Main Street
Niagara Falls, New York

The 5-Year Consolidated Plan will be available for public review on **January 24, 2025**, at the following locations:

Department of Community Development
745 Main Street - City Hall Building, Niagara Falls, New York

www.niagarafallsusa.org

All City residents are encouraged to attend this hearing. Accommodations for disabled and non-English speaking residents will be made available upon request. Residents who cannot attend the hearing or for further information regarding the 5-year Plan and Consolidated Annual Plan and Strategy please contact:

NIAGARA FALLS DEPT. OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(716) 286-8800, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

N#343883 1/24,25,28/2025

Grantee Unique Appendices

Continuum of Care Written Standards for NY- 508 Buffalo, Niagara Falls/Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming Counties CoC

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Introduction

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is responsible for coordinating and implementing a system to meet the needs of the population and subpopulations experiencing homelessness within a given geographic area, which for the NY-508 CoC includes the following geographic areas: Buffalo/ Erie, Niagara Falls/Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming Counties. Both the Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) Rules and Regulations and the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Continuum of Care Program Interim Rules state that the CoC, in consultation with recipients of Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program funds within the geographic area, are responsible to (1) establish and consistently follow written standards for providing Continuum of Care assistance, (2) establish performance targets appropriate for population and program type, and (3) monitor recipient and subrecipient performance.

These written standards have been established to ensure that persons experiencing homelessness who enter programs throughout the CoC will be given similar information and support to access and maintain permanent housing. All programs that receive ESG or CoC funding are required to abide by these written standards. Agency program procedure should reflect the policy and procedures described in this document. The CoC strongly encourages programs that do not receive either of these funding sources to accept and utilize these written standards.

The majority of these standards are based on the ESG and/or the HEARTH Interim Rules. There are additional standards that have been established by the CoC to assist programs in meeting and exceeding performance outcomes that will help to reach the goal of ending homelessness.

The Continuum of Care Written Standards will include policies and procedures for

- **evaluating individuals' and families' eligibility for assistance**
- **determining and prioritizing which eligible households will receive Transitional Housing, Safe Haven and Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid rehousing funded by the CoC and ESG**
- **standards for determining what percentage and amount of rent each household must pay while receiving RRH assistance**
- **common performance measurements and benchmarks.**

These standards are in place in order to

- establish community-wide expectations on the operations of projects within the community
- ensure that the system is transparent to users and operators
- establish a minimum set of standards and expectations in terms of the quality expected of projects

- ensure the local priorities are transparent to recipients and subrecipients of funds
- create consistency and coordination between recipients' and subrecipients' projects

These written standards have been developed in conjunction with ESG recipients and with service providers. Thus the implementation reflects the perspectives of those organizations that are directly providing homeless housing and services, including Emergency Shelter (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Supportive Service Only (SSO).

The CoC Written Standards have been approved by the CoC, the County, and City ESG recipients and providers. The Written Standards will be reviewed and revised as needed at a minimum of once per year. Agreement to abide by the Written Standards will be required to participate in the process for acquiring CoC or ESG funding.

Program Requirements for All Programs

1. Housing First & Low Barriers

The Housing First approach has several key features: few programmatic prerequisites, admission policies that support low barriers to access, rapid and streamlined entry into permanent housing, voluntary and engaging supportive services, and a focus on housing stability. As such, CoC funded projects should allow entry to program participants regardless of their income, current or past substance use, criminal records, or history of domestic violence. Projects also should not terminate clients regardless of whether or not they participate in supportive services, make progress on a service plan, lose their income or based on other activities not covered in a lease agreement typically found for an unassisted person in the project's geographic area. All CoC funded programs must adopt the Housing First and Low Barriers approach. The CoC will authorize limited exceptions for projects in the adoption of a housing first model where it conflicts with funder requirements or local/state law (e.g., restrictions on serving people who are listed on sex offender registries).

2. Equal Access & Non-discrimination

Providers must have non-discrimination policies in place and assertively outreach to people least likely to engage in the homeless system. Providers must comply with all federal statutes and rules including the Fair Housing Act[1] and Equal Access to Housing Final Rule[2]. A determination of eligibility for housing that is assisted by HUD or subject to a mortgage insured by HUD shall be made in accordance with the eligibility requirements provided for such program by HUD, and such housing shall be made available without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. The people who present together for assistance,

---

[1] United States Department of Justice. The Fair Housing Act. Accessed May 2015. http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/hce/title8.php
[2] https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1991/equal-access-to-housing-final-rule/

regardless of age or relationship, are considered a household and are eligible for assistance as a household. Projects that serve families with children must serve all types of families with children; if a project targets a specific population (e.g., women with children), these projects must serve all families with children that are otherwise eligible for assistance, including families with children that are headed by a single adult or consist of multiple adults that reside together. The age and gender of a child under 18 must not be used as a basis for denying any family's admission to a project.

3. Coordinated Entry Participation

All CoC-funded and ESG-funded projects are required to participate in the CoC's Coordinated Entry (CE) System, except for victim services providers, who may decide whether or not they will participate in the CoC CE system. A victim service provider may choose not to use the CoC's Coordinated entry process, if victim service providers in the area use a coordinated entry process that meets HUD's requirements and the victim service provider uses that system instead. CoC and ESG funded housing projects must only take referral from the CE lead. Participation requires following all established procedures and the use of the Coordinated Entry Assessment Tool and Vulnerability Index (VI). Projects should refer to the CoC's *Coordinated Entry Policy and Procedure Operational Manual* for additional information.

4. HMIS Participation

All CoC-funded and ESG-funded projects are required to participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) with the exception of victim services provider projects (defined by Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013). Instead, victim services provider must use a comparable database to collect client level data. The CoC actively encourages non-CoC/ESG providers to participate in HMIS. All HMIS participating agencies should meet the minimum data quality standards and follow the HMIS Policies and Procedures Manual.

5. Access to Mainstream Resources

The CoC expects that every agency that is funded through the CoC or ESG programs will coordinate with and access mainstream and other targeted homeless resources. Providers should assess and assist participants with obtaining any mainstream resource for which they may be eligible for including: TANF, Public Assistance, Veterans Health Care, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Medicare, SSI/SSDI, or Access-VR. Where possible, providers should streamline processes that include applying for mainstream benefits such as the use of a singular form to apply for benefits or collecting all necessary information in one step. The SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR) process is encouraged to speed up the SSI/SSDI process.

6. Educational Liaison & early childhood services

For projects that serve households with children, a staff person must be designated as the educational liaison that will ensure children are: 1.Enrolled in school 2.Connected to appropriate services in the community, including early childhood projects such as Head Start.

7. Termination & Grievance Procedures

Providers must have a written termination policy outlining program rules and termination processes including a formal grievance process. This process, at minimum, must consist of: (1) Providing the program participant with a written copy of the program rules and the termination process before the participant begins to receive assistance; (2) Written notice to the program participant containing a clear statement of the reasons for termination; (3) A review of the decision, in which the program participant is given the opportunity to present written or oral objections before a person other than the person (or a subordinate of that person) who made or approved the termination decision; and (4) Prompt written notice of the final decision to the program participant.

8. Emergency Transfer Plan

All CoC recipient and subrecipient and ESG subrecipient must adopt the Emergency Transfer Plan for tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Providers should provide tenants the Emergency Transfer Request From (Appendix D) along with local resources for domestic violence and steps they could take when they are threatened. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. All CoC and ESG recipients and subrecipients must follow this plan and include the Emergency Transfer Plan in your program policy and procedures. A new certification form of documenting incidents of Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking(Appendix E) must be used by housing providers.

Record Keeping Requirements for All Projects

Participant Recordkeeping Requirements include:

- All records containing personally identifying information must be kept secure and confidential
- Programs must have a written confidentiality/privacy notice, provided to the participant if requested
- Documentation of homelessness (following HUD guidelines)
- A record of services and assistance provided to each participant
- Documentation of any applicable requirements for providing services/assistance
- Documentation of use of the coordinated assessment system
- Documentation of use of HMIS
- Records must be retained for the appropriate amount of time as prescribed by HUD

Financial Recordkeeping Requirements include:

- Documentation for all costs charged to the grant
- Documentation that funds were spent on allowable costs
- Documentation of the receipt and use of program income
- Documentation of compliance with expenditure limits and deadlines
- Retain copies of all procurement contracts as applicable
- Documentation of amount, source and use of resources for each match contribution

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Safe Haven

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for persons with disabilities is permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist persons experiencing homelessness with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability.

Eligibility Criteria

- Households must meet the HUD definition of homelessness
- One adult or child member of the household must have a disability
- CoC funded programs must follow any additional eligibility criteria set forth in the NOFA through which a project was funded and the grant agreement.
- Programs may not establish additional eligibility requirements beyond those specified here and those required by funders.

Prioritization

All CoC funded PSH program are required to commit to be either Dedicated or DedicatedPlus for housing Chronically homeless. Regardless a PSH program is classified as Dedicated or DedicatedPlus, order of priority will follow the HUD Notice on Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing. All CoC funded PSH program are required to take clients from a single prioritized list based on the CoC *Coordinated Entry Policy and Procedure Manual*.

1. First priority will be given to individuals or families who meet the chronically homeless definition.

When there is no individual or family identified on the priority list to meet the chronically homeless definition, the order of priority will follow:

2. Homeless individuals and families with a disability with at least 12 months homeless time but do not meet the chronically homeless definition AND has been identified as having severe service needs.
3. Homeless individuals and families with a disability with severe service needs.

4. Homeless individuals and families with a disability coming from places not mean for human habitation, safe haven, or emergency shelter without severe service needs.
5. Homeless individuals and families with a disability coming from Transitional Housing.

Minimum Standards of Assistance

- There can be no predetermined length of stay for a PSH project
- Supportive services designed to meet the needs of the project participants must be made available to the project participants throughout the duration of stay in PSH
- Project participants in PSH must enter into a lease (or sublease) agreement for an initial term of at least one year that is renewable and is terminable only for cause. Leases (or subleases) must be renewable for a minimum term of one month.
- PSH programs must utilize housing first approaches

HUD performance benchmark

- 80% of Participants remained or exited to permanent housing in non-CH dedicated programs

Performance Goals

- 95% annual occupancy/utilization rate
- 90% of Participants remained or exited to permanent housing in non-CH dedicated programs, 85% for CH dedicated programs
- 20% adult participants that maintained, gained or increased earned income at the end of the report year
- 80% adult participants have income other than employment at the end of the report year
- House client within 45 days from referral
- At least 85 % of households that exit a rapid rehousing program to permanent housing should not become homeless again within a year.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

Rapid ReHousing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families exit homelessness quickly by returning to permanent housing without preconditions (including, but not limited to, sobriety, employment, absence of a criminal record, or income). Additionally, the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household receiving assistance.

There are three core components that constitute a rapid rehousing program, all of which must be available in order to qualify as a rapid rehousing program. Although RRH programs must have each of the three components available, it is not required that a single entity provides all three services. Similarly, it is also not required that any one household utilize all three in order to be considered a recipient of rapid rehousing.

Rapid Rehousing core components include the following: Housing Identification, Rent/Move-In Assistance (Financial) and Rapid Rehousing Case Management and Services. Actions constituting these components are presented on the following page:

Housing Identification	Rent/Move-In Assistance	Rapid Re-housing Case Management and Services
-Recruit landlords to provide housing opportunities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. -Address potential barriers to landlord participation such as concern about short term nature of rental assistance and tenant qualifications. -Assist households to find and secure appropriate rental housing.	Provide assistance to cover move-in costs, deposits, and the rental and/or utility assistance (typically six months or less) necessary to allow individuals and families to move immediately out of homelessnes s and to stabilize in permanent housing.	-Help individuals and families experiencing homelessness identify and select among various permanent housing options based on their unique needs, preferences, and financial resources. -Help individuals and families experiencing homelessness address issues that may impede access to housing (such as credit history, arrears, and legal issues). -Help individuals and families negotiate manageable and appropriate lease agreements with landlords. -Make appropriate and time-limited services and supports available to families and individuals to allow them to stabilize quickly in permanent housing. -Monitor participants' housing stability and be available to resolve crises, at a minimum during the time rapid re-housing assistance is provided. -Provide or assist the household with connections to resources that help them improve their safety and well-being and achieve their long-term goals. This includes providing or ensuring that the household has access to resources related to benefits, employment and community-based services (if needed/appropriate) so that they can sustain rent payments independently when rental assistance ends. -Ensure that services provided are client-directed, respectful of individuals' right to self-determination, and voluntary. Unless basic, program-related case management is required by statute or regulation, participation in services should not be required to receive rapid re-housing assistance.

Eligibility Criteria

- Households must meet the HUD definition of homelessness Category 1. Only programs approved by the CoC can serve Category 4.
- CoC funded programs must follow any additional eligibility criteria set forth in the NOFA through which a project was funded and the grant agreement.
- Programs may not establish additional eligibility requirements beyond those specified here and those required by funders

- For ESG funded programs, program participant household's annual income should be at or below 30% Area Median Income (AMI) and at annual re-evaluation. For CoC funded programs, program a participant household's annual income should be at or below 50% AMI.
- Maintain less than 5% unspent fund at the end of the report year

Prioritization

Eligible participants are referred to the rapid rehousing program based on the following priorities:

- Households with the longest history of homelessness
- Households with the most severe service needs
- Households who are currently living in a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter

All Rapid rehousing programs will strictly take referrals from a single priority list communicated by the Coordinated Entry Lead administer, and follow the Coordinated Entry Policy and Procedure.

Note: *For ESG funded projects, the project has to prioritize participants who are residents of the ESG consortium.

Rent Limits for Rapid Rehousing Program

- Financial assistance is available for maximum 24 months. It is recommended to evaluate each individual case monthly to determine the length and percentage of financial assistance.
- Typically at the beginning of assistance, RRH program will be paying 100% of the rent or utility. Participants responsibility of rent/utility should be reviewed, determined, and explained to the participants by the RRH program and will gradually be increased to 100% within the determined timeframe.
- A household may only be eligible for RRH programs within the CoC geographic area no more than 2 times in the past 3 years and total rental assistance must not exceed 24 months. Total amount of assistance may not exceed $10,000. Exceptions should be discussed in the Rapid Rehousing Committee and be approved by supervisor.

Minimum Standards of Assistance

- Maximum participation in a rapid rehousing program cannot exceed 24 months.
- Support services must be provided throughout the duration of stay in housing. Program participants are required to meet with a case manager not less than once per month to assist the program participant in ensuring long-term housing stability.
- CoC funded program participants must enter into a lease agreement for a term of at least one year, which is terminable for cause. The lease must be automatically

renewable upon expiration for terms that are a minimum of one month long, except on prior notice by either party.

- For CoC funded RRH programs, supportive services may be provided until 6 months after rental assistance stops. For ESG funded RRH programs, housing stability case management assistance may not exceed 30 days during the period in which the program participant is seeking permanent housing and may not exceed 24 months during the period in which the program participant is living in permanent housing.
- To continue to receive ESG and CoC RRH assistance, a program participant's reevaluation must demonstrate eligibility based on: 1) Lack of sufficient resources and support networks to retain housing without the program assistance. 2) The ESG or CoC funded program must determine the amount and type of assistance that the individual or family will need to (re)gain stability in permanent housing at minimum every 3 month, preferably monthly.
- RRH programs must utilize housing first approaches

HUD Benchmarks

- Households served by a rapid rehousing programs move into permanent housing in an average of 30 days or fewer from program entry
- At least 80 % of households that exit a rapid rehousing program exit to permanent housing
- At least 85 % of households that exit a rapid rehousing program to permanent housing should not become homeless again within a year.

Performance goals

- 95% annual occupancy/utilization rate
- 30% adult participants that maintained, gained, or increased earned income at the end of the report year
- 80% adult participants have income other than employment at the end of the report year

Transitional Housing

Transitional Housing (TH) is designed to provide homeless individuals and families with interim stability and support to successfully move into and maintain permanent housing.

Eligibility Criteria

- Households must meet the HUD definition of homelessness
- CoC funded programs must follow any additional eligibility criteria set forth in the NOFA through which a project was funded and the grant agreement
- Programs may not establish additional eligibility requirements beyond those specified here and those required by funders

Prioritization

Eligible participants are referred to the rapid rehousing program based on the following priorities:

- Households with the longest history of homelessness
- Households with the most severe service needs
- Households who are currently living in place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter

All CoC funded Transitional Housing program will strictly take referral from a single priority list that the Coordinated Entry Lead administer, and follow the *Coordinated Entry Policy and Procedure*.

Minimum Standards of Assistance

- Maximum length of stay cannot exceed 24 months.
- Assistance in transitioning to permanent housing must be made available/provided.
- Support services must be provided throughout the duration of stay in transitional housing. Program participants in transitional housing must enter into a lease, sublease or occupancy agreement for a term of at least one month and that ends in 24 months and cannot be extended.

Performance goals

- 90% annual occupancy/utilization rate
- 90% of Participants remained or exited to permanent housing. For youth only program, 90% participants exited to safe housing.
- 20% adult participants that gained or increased earned income at the end of the report year
- At least 85 % of households that exit a TH program to permanent housing should not become homeless again within a year.

Emergency Shelter and Outreach Performance goals

For ESG funded Emergency shelter and outreach programs, performance goals are set as follows:

Emergency Shelters

- Average length of stay is less than 35 days
- 50% of participants exit with a successful housing outcome[3]

[3] Successful housing outcome for Emergency Shelter participants could be permanent housing or transitional housing for formerly homeless persons; living with family or friend as permanent tenure; owned or rental by client with or without subsidy; psychiatric facility; substance abuse or detox facility.

and/or

- 30% of participants exit to permanent housing
- Less than 30% of participants exit to an unknown location
- 60% of participants exit with/linked to cash income
- 60% of participants exit with/linked to non-cash resources

Outreach

- 50% or more of all participants exit to a permanent housing situation
- 60% or more of adult participants have income from sources other than employment
- 60% or more of all participants have mainstream (non-cash) benefits at exit from program

System Wide Performance

A critical aspect of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (the "Act") as amended, is a focus on viewing the local homeless response as a coordinated system of homeless assistance options as opposed to homeless assistance programs and funding sources that operate independently from one another. To facilitate this perspective, the Act now requires communities to measure their performance as a coordinated system in addition to analyzing performance by specific projects or project types.

To this end, the Act established a set of criteria for HUD to use that require all CoCs to report their system-level performance to HUD. The intent of selected system performance measures is to encourage CoCs , in coordination with ESG program recipients, as well as all other homeless assistance stakeholders in the CoC, to regularly measure their progress in meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness in their community and to report this progress to HUD.

The goals below should be reviewed and adjusted annually based on the previous year's performance.

System Performance Measures		
Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless	Persons in ES and SH	<35 days
	Persons in ES, Safe Haven, TH	<68 days
Measure 1b: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless Using "approximate date homelessness started"	Persons in ES and SH	<74 days
	Persons in ES, Safe Haven, and TH	<107 days

Measure 2a: Extent to which Persons who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness within 6 to 12 Months	2a.1 Returns to SO, ES, SH, and TH	<6%
	2a.2 Returns to SO, ES, SH, TH, and PH	<7%
Measure 2b: Extent to which Persons who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness within 2 Years	2b.1 Returns to SO, ES, SH, and TH	<22%
	2b.2 Returns to SO, ES, SH, TH, and PH	<22%
Measure 3: Number of Homeless Persons	3.1 Change in PIT counts of sheltered and unsheltered persons	<962
	3.2 Change in counts of sheltered persons in HMIS	<4637
Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in CoC Program-funded Projects	4.1 Increase in employment income for stayers	>6%
	4.2 Increase in non-employment cash income for stayers	>28%
	4.3 Increase in total cash income for stayers	>31%
	4.4 Increase in employment income for leavers	>11%
	4.5 Increase in non-employment cash income for leavers	>40%
	4.6 Increase in total cash income for leavers	>47%
Measure 5: Number of Persons who Become Homeless for the First Time	5.1 Persons First Time Homeless in ES, SH, TH	<3346
	5.2 Persons First Time Homeless in ES, SH, TH, PH	<3622
Measure 7a: Successful Placement from Street Outreach	Persons who exited Street Outreach Exited to temporary & some institutional destinations Exited to permanent housing destinations 7a1. Percentage successful exits	>44%
Measure 7b: Successful Placement in or Retention of Permanent Housing	Persons in ES, SH, TH, and RRH who exited Exited to permanent housing destinations 7b1. Percentage successful exits	>36%
	Persons in PH-H, PSH, and PH-S who exited Remained in applicable PH projects and/or exit to permanent destination 7b2. Percentage successful exits and retention	> 95%

Monitoring Performance

CoC is responsible to monitor project level and system level performance annually or biennially. CoC Lead will consult with recipients and subrecipients annually to establish performance targets appropriate for population and program type, monitor recipient and subrecipient performance, evaluate outcomes, and take action to improve performance.

Appendix A: Homeless and chronically homeless definition[4]

Category 1	Literally Homeless	(1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	(2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that: (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who: (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	(4) Any individual or family who: (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (ii) Has no other residence; and (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

**All Permanent Supportive Housing Program and most Rapid Rehousing programs will only accept clients who meet the category 1, literally homeless definition. Certain Rapid Rehousing program will accept clients who meet the category 4, fleeing/attempting to flee DV definition. Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funded Prevention program can only assist clients who meet category 2 or 4.*

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[4]https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf

Chronically Homeless Definition

The definition of "chronically homeless[5]", as stated in Definition of Chronically Homeless final rule is:

(a) A "homeless individual with a disability," as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:

i. lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and

ii. Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (a)(i) continuously for at least 12 months or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (a)(i). Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering an institutional care facility;

(b) An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (a) of this definition, before entering the facility;

(c) A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (a) or (b) of this definition (as described in Section I.D.2.(a) of this Notice), including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

[5] https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Defining-Chronically-Homeless-Final-Rule.pdf

Appendix B Homelessness Verification requirements

Homeless documentation recording requirements:

Category 1	Literally Homeless	• Written observation by the outreach worker; or • Written referral by another housing or service provider; or • Certification by the individual or head of household seeking assistance stating that they were living on the streets or in shelter; • For individuals exiting an institution - one of the forms of evidence above and: ○ Discharge paperwork or writter/oral referral; or ○ Written record of intake worker´s due diligence to obtain above evidence and certification by individual that they exited institution
Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	• A court order resulting from an eviction action notifying the individual or family that they must leave; or • For individuals and families leaving a hotel/motel - evidence that they lack the financial resources to stay; or • A documented and verified oral statement; and • Certification that no subsequent residence has been identified; and • Self-certification or other written documentation that the individual lack the financial resources and support necessary to obtain permanent housing
Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	• Certification by the nonprofit or state or local government that the individual or head of household seeking assistance met the criteria of homelessness under another federal statute; and • Certification of no PH in the last 60 days; and • Certification by the individual or head of household, and any available supporting documentation, that they have moved two or more times in the past 60 days; and • Documentation of special needs or 2 or more barriers
Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	• For victim service providers: ○ An oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance which states: they are fleeing and have no subsequent residence, and they lack resources. Statement must be documented by a self-certification by the intake worker. • For non-victim service providers: ○ Oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance that they are fleeing. This statement is documented by a self-certification or by the caseworker. WHere the safety of the individual or family is not jeopardized, the oral statement must be verified; and ○ Self-certification, or other written documentation, that they individual or family lacks the financial resources and support networks to obtain other permanent housing

Appendix C. Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking

Emergency Transfers

In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), all CoC recipients and subrecipients and ESG subrecipients must allow tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the tenant's current unit to another unit. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities must also be made.

This plan identifies tenants who are eligible for an emergency transfer, the documentation needed to request an emergency transfer, confidentiality protections, how an emergency transfer may occur, and guidance to tenants on safety and security. This plan is based on a model emergency transfer plan published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), All CoC recipients and subrecipients and ESG subrecipients need to be in compliance with VAWA. Providers should provide participants information on local victim services providers and information on what they should do when they are threatened to protect their safety. When providers are made aware of this situation, they should encourage clients to contact local victim service providers and explain their option for an emergency transfer. The emergency transfer plan is intended to ensure they continue to receive their housing related services

Eligibility for Emergency Transfers

A tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as provided in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 5, subpart L is eligible for an emergency transfer if the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant remains within the same unit. If the tenant is a victim of sexual assault, the tenant may also be eligible to transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises within the 90-calendar-day period preceding a request for an emergency transfer.

A tenant requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan. Tenants who are not in good standing may still request an emergency transfer if they meet the eligibility requirements in this section.

Emergency Transfer Request Documentation

Upon notification that a client might be threaten or experiencing domestic violence, or sexual assault, the housing provider must provide the survivor with the opportunity to request a transfer. To request an emergency transfer, the tenant shall notify the CoC recipient and subrecipient and ESG subrecipients and submit a written request or similar document as shown in Appendix D. Once the written request is received and evaluated by the CoC & ESG recipient/subrecipient, the Housing Provider will make request based on the type of transfer. If a different program/providers has to be offered, the housing providers will contact Department of Social Service /the Coordinated entry Lead/ Referral and Transfer committee accordingly to transfer the tenant out of the unit and move to next available unit. The request should follow Coordinated Entry Policy and Procedures to ensure the confidentiality of the victims. CoC & ESG recipients or subrecipients will provide reasonable accommodations to this policy for individuals with disabilities. The tenant's written request for an emergency transfer should include either:

1. A statement or other documentation expressing that the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under the CoC & ESG project; OR

2. A statement or other documentation that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the tenant's request for an emergency transfer.

If a victim service provider assists the victim and documents the need. No additional information will be needed. If it is self-certified and documented by housing provider, a lack of income statement will also be needed in order to qualify for any Rapid rehousing or Permanent Supportive Services. When conflicting documentations present, housing provider or victim service providers may request additional information and applicant should provide additional documentation within 14 business days. Applicant can request an extension.

Confidentiality

CoC recipient and subrecipient and ESG subrecipients will keep confidential any information that the tenant submits in requesting an emergency transfer, and information about the emergency transfer, unless the tenant gives CoC & ESG recipients and subrecipients written permission to release the information on a time limited basis, or disclosure of the information is required by law or required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance from the covered program. This includes keeping confidential the new location of the dwelling unit of the tenant, if one is provided, from the person(s) that committed an act(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the tenant. See the Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act For All Tenants for more information about HP's responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of information related to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Emergency Transfer Timing and Availability

CoC recipient and subrecipient and ESG subrecipients cannot guarantee that a transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process a transfer request. CoC recipient and subrecipient and ESG subrecipients will notify the Department of Social Services/Coordinate Entry Lead and/or Referral and Transfer Committee following coordinated entry procedure to protect victims' confidentiality. CoC recipient and subrecipient and ESG subrecipients will also connect the survivor to victim service providers and legal service providers to seek assistance.

The survivor must be prioritized for the next available and safe unit/voucher that they are eligible for. Situations might vary based on who is the person originally eligible for the program.

1. If the abuser is not the program participant, who moved in with the program participant, the housing provider must offer to transfer the survivor to the next available unit. The housing provider will not continue payment for the apartment that the abuser lives in. If the survivor believes they will be safe in the same unit, the provider could also work with victim service providers to obtain an order of protection. If the survivor would like to relocate but reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the survivor may request a transfer to a different unit.
2. If the abuser is the original eligible person for the project and the survivor living in the unit are not a project participant, then the housing provider will refer the survivor to victim service providers

and the survivor will be referred and prioritized for the next available unit that they are eligible for. Survivor will be offered options to maintain in housing up to the end of the lease or 90 days, whichever is greater, before they move to another dwelling. When abused happen in a scattered site rental assistance apartment, housing provider could choose to relocate the abuser instead of the survivor if that's preferable for the survivor. The abuser, who is the original eligible person may be transferred to a bridger housing or emergency housing during the period of searching for a different apartment.

3. If the eligibility criteria were met based on a household with more than one person, all members within the household will be considered as participants of the project. In this case, the survivor will offer choice to stay in the housing or being transferred. If the survivor would like to be transfer, the abuser may remain in the unit when it is allowed, and he/she will be reassessed for eligible of the program. If deemed eligible, assistance will be continue. The housing provider will locate a new unit for the survivor. The survivor's eligibility will be determined according to CoC written Standard Program Eligibility. Whichever assistance they are deemed to be eligible for, priority will be given to the survivor to continue housing and service assistance. The abuser and the survivor will not be assigned to the same housing provider to avoid conflict of interest. If there is no availability at the moment, housing provider may connect when permitted by the survivor to a victim service provider who has a residential program to see if emergency shelter or transitional housing could be offered for the safety of the client or provide other safe temporary housings if possible. Coordinated Entry may be unable to transfer a tenant to a particular unit if the tenant has not or cannot establish eligibility for that unit. For example, if a household receives Permanent Supportive Housing and the survivor who needs to be transferred out does not have a disability, then he/she will not eligible for Permanent Supportive Housing. CoC recipient and subrecipient and ESG subrecipients and coordinated entry staff will work with the survivor to ensure they will be linked to services they will be eligible for.

Safety and Security of Tenants

Pending processing of the transfer and the actual transfer, if it is approved and occurs, the tenant is urged to take all reasonable precautions to be safe.

Tenants who are or have been victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact the local victim service providers:

Erie County	Niagara County	Genesee, Orleans & Wyoming Counties
Haven House Individuals and families experiencing domestic violence may receive transportation to shelter. Phone: 716-884-6000 (24-hour Emergency Hotline) Address: Buffalo, NY. Location is confidential to the public	Family and Children's service of Niagara, Inc. PASSAGE 24-hr Phone Hotline: (716) 299-0909, 24-hour Emergency Hotline) Address: 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305	The YWCA of Batavia Phone: 585-343-5808 (585-343-7513, 24-hour emergency hotline) Address: 301 North St, Batavia, NY 14020
Family Justice Center 558-SAFE (7233): Orders of protection, forensic medical unit, safety plans, attorneys, domestic violence advocates, law enforcement	YWCA of Niagara Phone: 716-433-6716 (24-hour emergency hotline)	Pathstone Domestic Violence at Albion, NY DV services hotline. Phone: (585) 589-8733 Address: Albion, NY. Confidential to the public
Response for Erie County! 24-hr Phone Hotline: 716-862-HELP (4357)		RESTORE Sexual Assault Services (Wyoming County Department of Social Services) at Warsaw NY Phone: (800) 527-1757 (24-hour emergency hotline) Address: 4 West Buffalo Street, Warsaw, NY 14569 (May transport clients to shelters)
LGBT Domestic Violence Committee of WNY c/o the Pride Center of WNY 200 South Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, NY 14201 (716) 852-7743		Wyoming County Crisis Services Phone: 1-800-724-8583

Human Trafficking Victim Services:

International Institute of Buffalo 716-883-1900*304 Address: 864 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY

Victims of domestic violence could also contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. For persons with hearing impairments, that hotline can be accessed by calling 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Tenants who have been victims of sexual assault may call the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE, or visit the online hotline at https://ohl.rainn.org/online/.

Tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center.

Appendix D: HUD 5383-EMERGENCY TRANSFER REQUEST FOR CERTAIN VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE,SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING

Purpose of Form: If you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and you are seeking an emergency transfer, you may use this form to request an emergency transfer and certify that you meet the requirements of eligibility for an emergency transfer under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Although the statutory name references women, VAWA rights and protections apply to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. Using this form does not necessarily mean that you will receive an emergency transfer. See your housing provider's emergency transfer plan for more information about the availability of emergency transfers.

The requirements you must meet are:

(1) You are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. If your housing provider does not already have documentation that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, your housing provider may ask you for such documentation. In response, you may submit Form HUD-5382, or any one of the other types of documentation listed on that Form.

(2) You expressly request the emergency transfer. Submission of this form confirms that you have expressly requested a transfer. Your housing provider may choose to require that you submit this form, or may accept another written or oral request. Please see your housing provider's emergency transfer plan for more details.

(3) You reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your current unit. This means you have a reason to fear that if you do not receive a transfer you would suffer violence in the very near future.

OR

You are a victim of sexual assault and the assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period before you request a transfer. If you are a victim of sexual assault, then in addition to qualifying for an emergency transfer because you reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your unit, you may qualify for an emergency transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises of the property from which you are seeking your transfer, and that assault happened within the 90-calendar-day period before you submit this form or otherwise expressly request the transfer.

Submission of Documentation: If you have third-party documentation that demonstrates why you are eligible for an emergency transfer, you should submit that documentation to your housing provider if it is safe for you to do so. Examples of third party documentation include, but are not limited to: a letter or other documentation from a victim service provider, social worker, legal assistance provider, pastoral counselor, mental health provider, or other professional from whom you have sought assistance; a current restraining order; a recent court order or other court records; a law enforcement report or records; communication records from the perpetrator of the violence or family members or friends of the perpetrator of the violence, including emails, voicemails, text messages, and social media posts.

Confidentiality: All information provided to your housing provider concerning the incident(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and concerning your request for an emergency transfer shall be kept confidential. Such details shall not be entered into any shared database. Employees of your housing provider are not to have access to these details unless to grant or deny VAWA protections or an emergency transfer to you. Such employees may not disclose this information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that disclosure is: (i) consented to by you in writing in a time-limited release; (ii) required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance; or (iii) otherwise required by applicable law.

TO BE COMPLETED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE PERSON REQUESTING A TRANSFER

1. **Name of victim requesting an emergency transfer:** _____
2. **Your name (if different from victim's)**_____
3. **Name(s) of other family member(s) listed on the lease:**_____

_____

4. **Name(s) of other family member(s) who would transfer with the victim:**_____

_____

5. **Address of location from which the victim seeks to transfer:** _____
6. **Address or phone number for contacting the victim:**_____
7. **Name of the accused perpetrator (if known and can be safely disclosed):**_____
8. **Relationship of the accused perpetrator to the victim:**_____
9. **Date(s), Time(s) and location(s) of incident(s):**_____

_____

10. **Is the person requesting the transfer a victim of a sexual assault that occurred in the past 90 days on the premises of the property from which the victim is seeking a transfer? If yes, skip question 11. If no, fill out question 11.** _____

11. **Describe why the victim believes they are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if they remain in their current unit.**

_____

_____

12. **If voluntarily provided, list any third-party documentation you are providing along with this notice:** _____

This is to certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that the individual named above in Item 1 meets the requirement laid out on this form for an emergency transfer. I acknowledge that submission of false information could jeopardize program eligibility and could be the basis for denial of admission, termination of assistance, or eviction.

Signature _____ Signed on (Date) _____

Appendix E: CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING AND ALTERNATE DOCUMENTATION

Purpose of Form: The Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA") protects applicants, tenants, and program participants in certain HUD programs from being evicted, denied housing assistance, or terminated from housing assistance based on acts of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against them. Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Use of This Optional Form: If you are seeking VAWA protections from your housing provider, your housing provider may give you a written request that asks you to submit documentation about the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

In response to this request, you or someone on your behalf may complete this optional form and submit it to your housing provider, or you may submit one of the following types of third-party documentation:

(1) A document signed by you and an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or medical professional, or a mental health professional (collectively, "professional") from whom you have sought assistance relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or the effects of abuse. The document must specify, under penalty of perjury, that the professional believes the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurred and meet the definition of "domestic violence," "dating violence," "sexual assault," or "stalking" in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 5.2003.

(2) A record of a Federal, State, tribal, territorial or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency; or

(3) At the discretion of the housing provider, a statement or other evidence provided by the applicant or tenant.

Submission of Documentation: The time period to submit documentation is 14 business days from the date that you receive a written request from your housing provider asking that you provide documentation of the occurrence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Your housing provider may, but is not required to, extend the time period to submit the documentation, if you request an extension of the time period. If the requested information is not received within 14 business days of when you received the request for the documentation, or any extension of the date provided by your housing provider, your housing provider does not need to grant you any of the VAWA protections. Distribution or issuance of this form does not serve as a written request for certification.

Confidentiality: All information provided to your housing provider concerning the incident(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking shall be kept confidential and such details shall not be entered into any shared database. Employees of your housing provider are not to have access to these details unless to grant or deny VAWA protections to you, and such employees may not disclose this information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that disclosure is: (i) consented to by you in writing in a time-limited release; (ii) required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance; or (iii) otherwise required by applicable law.

TO BE COMPLETED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING

1. **Date the written request is received by victim:** _____
2. **Name of victim:** _____
3. **Your name (if different from victim's):** _____
4. **Name(s) of other family member(s) listed on the lease:** _____

_____

5. **Residence of victim:** _____
6. **Name of the accused perpetrator (if known and can be safely disclosed):** _____
7. **Relationship of the accused perpetrator to the victim:** _____
8. **Date(s) and times(s) of incident(s) (if known):** _____

_____

9. **Location of incident(s):** _____

In your own words, briefly describe the incident(s):

_____

_____

_____

_____

This is to certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection, and that the individual named above in Item 2 is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. I acknowledge that submission of false information could jeopardize program eligibility and could be the basis for denial of admission, termination of assistance, or eviction.

Signature _____ Signed on (Date) _____

Public Reporting Burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and reporting the data. The information provided is to be used by the housing provider to request certification that the applicant or tenant is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The information is subject to the confidentiality requirements of VAWA. This agency may not collect this information, and you are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

Coordinated Entry Policy and Procedure

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Introduction

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) primary goals for coordinated entry (CE) processes are that assistance be allocated as effectively as possible and that it be easily accessible no matter where or how persons experiencing homelessness present. Coordinated entry processes help communities prioritize assistance, especially Federally funded homeless housing programs and prevention, based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most can receive it in a timely manner. Coordinated entry processes also provide information about service needs and gaps to help communities plan their assistance and identify needed resources.

The HUD Coordinated Entry Policy Brief describes all key qualities of effective coordinated entry and it is our community's goal to achieve a high functioning and effective

coordinated entry process that embraces a Housing First, low barrier, person-centered, and fair and equal access to all people approach. Goals of the CE process:

This manual is designed to be used for the operation of Coordinated Entry in Erie, Niagara, Genesee,Orleans, and Wyoming Counties. All ESG or CoC funded projects must participate in Coordinated Entry system and only take referral from Coordinated Entry. All CE participants should follow this manual and provide the same person centered, trauma -informed and non-discriminatory services.

Non Discrimination and Equal Access

CoC Program and ESG Program funded projects must comply with non-discrimination and equal opportunity policies of Federal civil rights laws. Although there may be certain eligibility requirements for participation in certain programs (i.e. have a long term disability for permanent supportive housing), providers may not prohibit access or refuse assessment or referral to any person seeking services. In addition, individuals may not be screened out of the CE process or refused assistance due to lack of income, history of substance use or criminal activity, domestic violence history, resistance to services, disability, poor credit, lease violations, or lack of employment history.

The CE process must comply with applicable civil rights and fair housing laws and requirements, including but not limited to the following:

- *Fair Housing Act* prohibits discriminatory housing practices based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status.
- *Section 054 of the Rehabilitation Act* prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
- *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act* prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Title VI, Prohibition against National Origin Discrimination affecting Limited English Proficient Persons contains strategies for ensuring appropriate access to those whose first language is not English.
- *Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act* prohibits public entities, which includes state and local governments, and special purpose districts, from discriminating against individuals with disabilities in all their services, programs, and activities, which include housing, and housing-related services such as housing search and referral assistance. Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits private entities that own, lease, and operate places of public accommodation, which include shelters, social service establishments, and other public accommodations providing housing, from discriminating on the basis of disability.

In addition, HUD's Equal Access rule at 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2) prohibits discriminatory eligibility determinations in HUD-assisted or HUD-insured housing programs based on actual or

perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, including ay projects funded by the CoC program, ESG program, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) program. CoC and ESG projects should take special consideration to protect the rights of all individuals regardless of gender identity, which includes allowing individuals to file a complaint if they feel they have been discriminated against. Individuals must be made aware of their rights when accessing services, preferably in a written format.

Data Collection and Client Consent

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is used to manage Coordinated Entry and produce a priority list, with the exception of persons residing in a victim service facility. Victim services provider (defined by VAWA) is prohibited to enter client level data into HMIS. All HMIS participating programs will follow the privacy protocol under CoC's HMIS Policy and Procedure Manual. For a quick guide on what information should be entered in HMIS to complete a referral in HMIS, please refer to Coordinated Entry HMIS Guide.

All data collected from persons experiencing homelessness will be put into Homeless Management Information System that only trained staff have access to. Consent from the client is needed to share any information collected or documented. The assessment process does not require disclosure of disability or diagnosis, and an individual may refuse to disclose any information, however based on program criteria, e.g. a long term disability is required for permanent supportive housing, refusing disclosure of certain information may limit the clients' options for services that they are eligible for. A consent form to share HMIS data with Homeless Alliance of Western New York or other partner agencies can be found under Homeless Alliance website under HMIS tab. All client and provider consent forms should be uploaded to HMIS.

Overview of the Coordinated Entry Process

The CE process has several components that flow into one another in order to make the process smoother, simpler, and standardized. The process is as follows:

1) Prevention, diversion and accessing shelter
2) Engaging with an Access Point
3) Coordinated Entry Assessments
4) Prioritization - Documenting priority on the By-Name List
5) Referral - Based on eligibility, referring a client to the appropriate housing project

Homelessness Prevention Services

Persons at-risk of experiencing homelessness may be eligible for temporary financial assistance to prevent becoming homeless. These individuals should report to Department of

Social Services (DSS) to be screened for eligibility and seen by an eligibility worker. After completing an application, the individual will be advised where to report based on the type of assistance they are applying for. It is not guaranteed the person will be seen the same day by an eligibility worker. The individual may be required to provide verification of identity, citizenship status, age, address, household composition, expenses, income, resources and employability. They may be required to have their photograph and/or fingerprints taken. An individual may also be eligible for temporary assistance if they have received a notice of eviction, reside in a home deemed uninhabitable, or have received a utility shut-off notice. More details and eligibility requirements can be found on each county's local Department of Social Services website.

There are several projects operating in Western New York that assist those most at risk of homelessness. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funded prevention programs include:

City of Buffalo: Catholic Charities at Washington ave. office. The agencies determine eligibility based on whether exhaust mainstream benefits and prioritizing people who score higher in the prevention VI-SPDAT.

Erie County: Restoration Society offers prevention assistance to household who meet the at risk of homeless definition and currently reside in Erie County ESG Consortium area.

City of Niagara Falls: Community Mission and YWCA of Niagara Frontier offers a one time rental arrear payment for individuals who are facing eviction The agency determines eligibility based on funding availability, client income, habitability of housing, and VI-SPDAT score. Follow up case management will be provided to avoid future eviction.

All Counties: Neighborhood legal services (http://www.nls.org/): Neighborhood Legal Services is a non-profit based in Western New York that assists tenants retain their housing and apply for housing assistance. Neighborhood Legal Services is available in all NY-508 counties and has offices in Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Batavia.

Neighborhood Legal Services Locations:

Buffalo Office	**Niagara Falls Office**	**Batavia Office**
237 Main Street, 4th floor	225 Old Falls Street, 3rd Floor	45 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14203	Niagara Falls, New York 14303	Batavia, New York 14020
Phone: (716) 847-0650	Phone: (716) 284-8831	Phone: (585) 343-5450
Fax: (716) 847-0227	Fax: (716) 284-8040	Fax: (585) 343-5503

Veteran specific housing prevention resources

Homeless prevention funds are available to veterans who served active duty with other than dishonorable status through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program. These services can be accessed through the Veteran One-Stop of Western New York, located at 1280 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209 or by calling 716-898-0110.

Accessing Emergency Shelter

New York state is a Right-to-Shelter state, meaning the local Social Services agency will grant temporary shelter pending the completion of investigation of a person's eligibility in an immediate need situation. Lack of shelter as well as threat of eviction, pending eviction, and homelessness are considered to be an emergency situation. Lack of shelter is an immediate need. There is no prioritization for shelter. Everyone who needs shelter and is determined to be eligible will be placed immediately.

A person experiencing homelessness has several options to access shelter. First, they may access an emergency shelter that accepts walk-ins. When a person accesses emergency shelter through a CE participating walk-in shelter, they will be assessed and referred appropriately. If a person utilizes DSS or 211, diversion or prevention assistance may be offered where possible. If homelessness cannot be avoided using diversion or prevention method, the client will be placed in a shelter or motel. Street outreach teams also regularly search on the street to engage with clients who are least likely to seek assistance.

There are several shelters where homeless persons must be approved for placement in Erie County by DSS before entering the program. These include: Back to Basic, My Place Home, Salvation Army Family Shelter,Faith Based Fellowship, Family Promise, Haven House, a portion of beds at Buffalo City Mission
Men's Center (25 beds), and Matt Urban Hope House. In rural areas without any shelter, DSS has to place eligible persons experiencing homelessness in a hotel/motel. If shelters are full, DSS has an obligation to place clients requiring shelter into a hotel/motel.

1.Accessing Emergency Shelter through Department of Social Services

If applying for emergency housing, the person will be seen by an eligibility worker the same day (during normal business hours) and will usually be given a decision the same day. If the person has no place to stay, DSS must place them in an emergency shelter or in a hotel/motel if all local shelters are full. Individuals may be required to provide verification of identity, citizenship status, age, address, household composition, expenses, income, resources, or employability verification. Additional documentation may be needed depending on the person's status. They may also be required to have their photograph or fingerprints taken. Each DSS is wheelchair accessible and individuals speaking a language other than English are entitled to language assistance. A DSS caseworker will link each individual to the appropriate public assistance and other benefits to which they are entitled.

Erie County Department of Social Service address: Rath Building 158 Pearl St., Buffalo, NY 14202

Person(s) experiencing homelessness must go to the Rath Building, located at 158 Pearl Street between 8AM and 4PM and be screened for eligibility by the Emergency Housing unit. For additional information you may call the DSS Call Center at (716) 858-2714.

- After hours, weekend and Holiday placements can be made by calling 211.

Niagara County Department of Social Services: 20 East Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094 or 301-10th Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303 Regular business hour:8AM -4PM.

- After hours, weekend and holiday placements can be made by Community Mission of Niagara Frontier, Inc. (716) 285-3403

Genesee County Department of Social Services: 5130 East Main Street in Batavia, NY 14020. Regular business hours (8:30AM-5PM) at (585) 344-2580.

- Person(s) experiencing homelessness must go to the Salvation Army of Genesee County, located at 529 E. Main Street, Batavia, NY between 8AM and 4PM. After normal business hours, a person experiencing homelessness should contact the Salvation Army by calling a 24/7 Emergency number (585) 775-5488 or County Sheriff's Department to be assisted with finding shelter.

Orleans County Department of Social Services : 14016 Route 31 West, Albion, NY 14411 regular daytime hours (8:30AM to 5PM) by calling (585) 589-7000.

- After normal business hours, a person experiencing homelessness should contact the County Sheriff's Department to be assisted with finding shelter.

Wyoming County Department of Social Service: 466 North Main Street, Warsaw, NY 14569. Regular business hours: (8:30AM to 4:30PM) (585) 786-8900.

- After normal business hours, a person experiencing homelessness should contact the Wyoming County Community Hospital to be assisted with finding emergency shelter. The hospital can be reached at (585) 786-2233 or the County Sheriff's Department.

2. Shelters that accept walk-ins

Persons experiencing homelessness may visit any of the following providers and expect to receive assistance. Although they may not be eligible to stay temporarily or long-term at the provider they choose to contact or visit initially, they will be referred to a provider that can deliver the appropriate services for their situation.

Erie County Shelters (Adults)	Niagara County Shelters (Adults)
Buffalo City Mission Serves men ages 18 and older. Phone: 716-854-8181 Address: 100 E Tupper St, Buffalo, NY 14203	*Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier* Serves individuals 18 and older. Phone: 716-285-3403 Address: 1590 Buffalo Ave, Niagara Falls, NY 14303

St. Luke's Mission of Mercy Serves individuals 18 and older Phone: 716-894-4476 Address: 325 Walden Avenue Buffalo, NY, 14211	*Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission* Serves men ages 18 and older Phone: 716-282-0432 Address: 1317 Portage Rd, Niagara Falls, NY 14301
Little Portion Friary (Closed in August) Serves individuals 18 and older Phone: 716-882-5705 Address: 1305 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14209	*Lockport Cares* Serves men and women ages 18 and older and their children.Phone: 716-438-2273 Address: 192 Genesee St Lockport, NY 14094
Cornerstone Manor (A part of Buffalo City Mission) Serves women ages 18 and older and their children. Phone: (716) 854-8181 Address: 150 E North St, Buffalo, NY 14203	
Erie County Youth Shelter	**Niagara County Youth Shelter**
Compass House Runaway Homeless Youth Hotline (in Erie County) Phone: 716-886-0935	*Casey House Runaway Youth Hotline* (in Niagara County) Phone: 716-285-6984
Genesee and Orleans County	**Wyoming County**
Genesee Department of Mental Health 5130 East Main Street Road, Suite 2 Batavia, New York 14020-349 Phone: (585) 589-3260 *Orleans Department of Mental Health* 14014 Route 31 West Albion, New York 14411 Phone: (585) 589-3260 extension 3292	*Community Action for Wyoming County* Open 830am-5pm 6470 State Route 20A Perry, NY 14530 Phone: (585) 237-2600
Community Action of Orleans and Genesee (Those not eligible for DSS motel/hotel placement) 409 East State Street Albion, NY 14411 Phone: (585) 589-5605	

3. Services for victims fleeing domestic violence and human trafficking

An individual or family who is fleeing or is attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, may contact the following

24-hour hotlines or shelters for assistance. This list may not be exhaustive. Not all listed are CE participating programs.

Erie County	Niagara County	GOW Counties
Haven House Individuals and families experiencing domestic violence may receive transportation to shelter. Phone: 716-884-6000 (24-hour Emergency Hotline) Address: Buffalo, NY. Location is confidential to the public	*Family and Children's service of Niagara, Inc.* PASSAGE 24-hr Phone Hotline: (716) 299-0909, 24-hour Emergency Hotline) Address: 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305	*The YWCA of Batavia* Phone: 585-343-5808 (585-343-7513, 24-hour emergency hotline) Address: 301 North St, Batavia, NY 14020
Crisis Services 100 River Rock Drive – Suite 300 Buffalo, New York 14207 24-hr Phone Hotline: 716-834-3131	*YWCA of Niagara* Phone: 716-433-6716 (24-hour emergency hotline) Address: Buffalo, NY. Location is confidential to the public	*Pathstone Domestic Violence* at Albion,NY DV services hotline. Phone: (585) 589-8733 Address: Albion, NY. Confidential to the public
Response for Erie County! 24-hr Phone Hotline: 716-862-HELP (4357)	*Niagara County Department of Mental Health* 24-hr Crisis Phone Hotline: (716) 285-3515	*RESTORE Sexual Assault Services* (Wyoming County Department of Social Services) at Warsaw NY Phone: (800) 527-1757 (24-hour emergency hotline) Address: 4 West Buffalo Street, Warsaw, NY 14569 (May transport clients to shelters)
LGBT Domestic Violence Committee of WNY c/o the Pride Center of WNY 200 South Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, NY 14201 (716) 852-7743		*Wyoming County Crisis Services* Phone: 1-800-724-8583

Human Trafficking Victim Services:

International Institute of Buffalo 716-883-1900*304 Address: 864 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY

The Human Trafficking Survivor Support Services assists individuals who have been trafficked by means of labor and/or sex. Through appropriate interpretation and translation services,

clients receive assistance from an advocate. Depending on the specific needs, services can provide safety planning, emotional support, access to basic necessities, access to English classes, linkages to legal support, linkages to medical and mental health services, and general victim advocacy with law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

4. Veterans experiencing homelessness: Access services/shelter

A veteran experiencing homelessness in Western New York, in addition to the mainstream services for those experiencing homelessness, also has access to additional shelter and permanent housing resources. Emergency shelter designated for veterans is available through the Veteran Affairs Medical Center, accessed by referral through the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans program at 1325 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14209 or calling 716-862-8885. The sites of the contract housing are Eagle Star (2620 Main Road – Route 5, East Pembroke, New York 14056) and Cornerstone Manor (150 East North Street, Buffalo, NY 14203). Access to some types of housing are dependent on being on active duty and/or discharge status; the VA Healthcare for Homeless Veterans program will verify eligibility. If a homeless Veteran is not eligible for services through the VA they will be referred to the mainstream homeless service system for assessment and services.

5. Code Blue & services during winter months

Buffalo/Erie County: Through the Code Blue Collaborative, a partnership of multiple agencies, shelter and warming center assistance is coordinated throughout the city of Buffalo and rural Erie County for individuals experiencing homelessness. The NFTA Bus Station at 181 Ellicott acts as a main Code Blue hub where those seeking shelter each night are triaged to various forms of transportation (van, bus, etc.) in order to access Code Blue shelters throughout the city. Outreach is also conducted across Buffalo in order to locate and/or engage other individuals who are unaware of Code Blue services or are refusing to seek shelter.

Overnight shelters:Code Blue runs primarily from Nov 15-March 15, from 8pm-8am and occurs when the temperature (with windchill) drops to 15 Degrees or below. During a Code Blue, Harbor House, Rural Outreach Center and St Luke's is open to accommodate individuals and provide safe, warm, emergency shelter for that night. People can also seek shelter through those shelters who take walk ins listed in page 7-8.

Code Blue 32 runs from Nov 15 through April 30th, from 8pm-8am and occurs when the temperature (with windchill) drops to 32 degrees or below. During a Code Blue 32, Rural outreach center and Harbor House are open to accommodate individuals and provide safe, warm, emergency shelter.

Day warming centers:From Nov 15th through April 30th, from 8am-8pm when the temperature (with windchill) drops to 32 degrees or below. Harbor House in Erie County allows

those seeking shelter to access a safe, warm location where individuals can seek basic needs and housing related services at 241 Genesee St, Buffalo, NY 14204.

Regardless of temperature, during winter months, individual who doesn't have a safe place to go could contact location below in Niagara, Orleans, Genesee or Wyoming County.

Orleans County: Individuals should contact the local Sheriff's Department at 3 South Main Street, Suite 2 Courthouse Square Albion, NY 14411 or Orleans County Department of Social Services at 14016 Route 31 West, Albion, NY 14411

Genesee County: Individuals should contact the Salvation Army of Genesee County at 529 E. Main Street, Batavia NY 14020 or the local Sheriff's Department at 165 Park Rd, Batavia, NY 14020.

Wyoming County: Individuals seeking temporary shelter from the cold may contact the county Sheriff's department. The Sheriff's department located at 151 N Main St, Warsaw, NY 14569 provides a space for those seeking shelter to stay for the night or Wyoming County Department of Social Service at 466 North Main Street, Warsaw, NY 14569.

Niagara Falls/Niagara County:
Warming Centers (Daytime)

- Community Missions – 1570 Buffalo Ave. – 285-3403 – 24 hours/7 days Daily
- Heart, Love & Soul – 939 Ontario Ave. – 282-5687 – 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; Open Last two Saturdays each month; Closed Sundays
- John Duke Center – 1201 Hyde Park Blvd. – 297-9324 – M-F 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Th – 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Closed Weekends
- Niagara Falls Public Library – Main St. Branch – 1425 Main St. – 286-4894 – M-W 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Th-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Closed Sunday
- Niagara Falls Public Library – LaSalle Branch – 8728 Buffalo Ave. - 283-8309 - M-W 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Th-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Closed Sunday
- Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission – 1317 Portage Ave. – 205-8805 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Daily

Niagara Falls Overnight Shelters

- Community Missions – 1570 Buffalo Ave. – 285-3403 (Men, Women & Children)
- Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission – 1317 Portage Ave. – 205-8805 (Men only overnight)

Eastern Niagara County: The Salvation Army at 50 Cottage Street, Lockport NY (phone number is 716-434-1276) is open when temperature is below 15 degree.

Access Points for Coordinated Entry

Access points are places-either virtual or physical-where an individual or family in need of assistance accesses the coordinated entry process. Access points may only serve to provide information regarding available resources and assist in executing the referral process for persons experiencing homelessness. Access points may not be able to make final decisions or determinations on housing placement.

All Access Points will be consistent with the Coordinated Entry (CE) process, so that persons experiencing homelessness receive the same care regardless of which access point they use to enter the system. People who are homeless and in need of housing services can access information and eligibility criteria through one of the Access points listed below. Persons experiencing homelessness who are looking to be part of the CE process must be assessed at one of the Access Points or through an Outreach Team. Access points could provide reasonable accommodation for Individuals with disabilities, for example, provide multiple languages interpreters. See Appendix F for resources.

At each Access Points, persons experiencing homelessness can expect:

- To Be treated with respect and dignity
- Equal access to information and advice about housing assistance for which they are eligible in order to assist them in making informed choices.
- To receive integrated services through all of the participating agencies and programs.
- A referral based on their priority status to an opening in a program. For Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) qualified programs, assistance will be provided to obtain any additional needed documentation for program eligibility.

Persons experiencing homelessness can access services:

By Phone

Harbor House Coordinated Entry Line: 716-842-4184 ext 131.

In Person- Hubs and participating partners

A person experiencing homelessness or fleeing domestic violence should expect to receive the same basic assistance and initial brief or comprehensive assessment at each provider location, with the exception of DSS. If a person reports to DSS they will be screened using a DSS assessment and will not necessarily be documented in HMIS. DSS may refer a person to a CE provider if deemed appropriate. (For a list of local CE providers, see Appendix.)

Buffalo/Erie County:

Hubs

- All populations: Harbor House Resource Center at 241 Genesee St in the City of Buffalo. This location can be contacted at 842-4184.Monday through Friday 9:00PM to 3:00PM, Saturday and Sunday 9:00PM – 7:00AM.
- Youth and young adults (under 25 years old): Compass house Resource Center 1451 Main st. Buffalo 716-884-3066
- Veteran: VA office and Veterans one-stop 1280 Main st. Buffalo NY 14209

Service Providers/Shelters participate in CE system as access points include:

Partner Shelters

- Back to Basics
- Buffalo City Mission
- Buffalo Cornerstone Manor
- Compass House Shelter
- Haven House*
- Hope House
- Little Portions Friary
- Salvation Army
- St.Lukes
- Temple of Christ

Community Partners

- Friends of the Night People
- Matt Urban Hope Center
- Catholic Charities on Washington St.
- NFTA Downtown Bus station, 181 Ellicott St. - Nicole Arlain (Matt Urban Outreach) is typically available Mondays 1pm-2pm (Code Blue 3pm-4pm), Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1pm-2pm, and Fridays 6am-7am and 1pm-2pm. Call 716-536-7906.

Niagara Falls/Lockport/Niagara County:

Hub

- Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc. 716-285-3403

Other CE Participating Providers

- YWCA of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. *
- Family & Children's Services*

*For clients who reside in a victim services program, there are two options, as follows:

1. Victim services program staff may conduct the CE assessment and the following information will be provided to the Coordinated Entry lead in order to complete the referral process: A case file code (this should not include any personally identifiable information), CE assessment score (score only), household composition (or bedroom request), number of months homeless, Veteran status, and long term disability status (Yes/No). This is information will not be entered into HMIS. Victim services program staff will be responsible to update the client information (for

example, left shelter or found housing) and to play a role as linkage between CE lead and client, and for the future between the referred agency and the client to ensure the client's privacy is being protected. Referred agency staff should be notified if a victim services facility may not release information about the client because of revocation of releases.

2. Clients of victim services providers can access the Coordinated Entry system through any of the access points or contact the CE lead directly. The CE access points will follow the privacy procedures afforded clients experiencing domestic violence and informed client consent will be obtained if any personal identifying information is collected. No client will be refused assistance if they decline to participate in HMIS. This section will be updated once further guidance is provided by HUD.

Genesee,Orleans, and Wyoming County

Hub

- Independent Living-Genesee regional office. 319 E. Main st. Batavia NY 14020. This location can be contacted at (585) 815-8501 Ext 400. (Open Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm)
    - Wyoming regional office 2407 Main Street, Warsaw, NY 14569. Hours Monday from 1 pm to 5 pm - Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Other CE Participating Providers

- Community Action for Wyoming County
- Community Action of Orleans and Genesee

Street Outreach

Street Outreach teams conduct face to face outreach in the street, bus stations, public libraries, parks, and other locations and regularly assess persons experiencing homelessness where they are, during nontraditional hours. All street outreach teams are trained to utilize the Coordinated Entry Assessments and follow the Coordinated Entry procedure the same as any site based access point. (See Appendix B for contact information)

Web

Visit Homeless Alliance of Western New York's web page on Coordinated Entry.

Assessment and Triage

The CoC has adopted the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) that was developed by OrgCode Consulting, to triage persons experiencing homelessness based on assessed vulnerability. Other considerable factors include: Chronically homeless status, homeless history, victim status, veteran status, and family composition. The

intention of the prioritization is to achieve fair, equitable, and equal access to services within the community. It should not screen people out due to perceived barriers, such as income, substance use, criminal history, poor credit, sexual orientation, or disability.

Households without children experiencing homelessness

- Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool(VI-SPDAT)

Households with children experiencing homelessness

- Vulnerability Index and Family Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-F-SPDAT)

Unaccompanied Youth under 25 experiencing homelessness

- Transition Age Youth(TAY-VI-SPDAT)

At Risk clients(Homeless definition category 2,3,4):

- **Household with children:** Prevention-VI-SPDAT-v1-Family
- **Household without children:** Prevention-VI-SPDAT-for-Singles_v1

If a person experiencing homelessness presents to a service provider or institution and it is confirmed they are experiencing homelessness, a trained staff member from that facility shall conduct a VI-SPDAT assessment. If no staff is trained to conduct the assessment, they can contact a local outreach team or Coordinated Entry lead to complete the assessment. (See Appendix B for contact information).

The local Assessment Team consisting of a CE Lead staff, outreach team, shelter staff or other trained service providers use the above assessment tools to assess persons experiencing homelessness who are living on the street or in shelters. The assessment tools are located and documented in HMIS. The exception is clients residing in a VAWA funded facility. These clients are not to be entered into HMIS. See Confidentiality: VAWA and FVPSA for more information.

Assessor Training

Coordinated Entry Assessor Training will be provided at least annually by CE Lead Agencies. The purpose of the training is to provide all staff administering assessments with access to official materials that clearly describe the methods by which assessments are to be conducted with fidelity to the CoC's coordinated entry process. All staff who administer the Coordinated Entry Assessment (outreach teams, shelters, or community partners, e.g. hospital discharge planner or food pantry staff) should complete the training. Training materials can be found on the HAWNY website as well as OrgCode.com.

The training must include:

1. A review of CoC's written CE policies and procedures, including any adopted variations for specific subpopulations
2. Requirements for use of the assessment information to determine prioritization
3. The criteria for uniform decision-making and referrals
4. Client consent and privacy protections.

Training materials are posted on HAWNY website. Materials included for assessor training

- Assessment script
- Acknowledgement page
- Release of Information/Client Consent
- RRH Referral Guide
- PSH Referral Guide
- CE Consumer Brochure

Prioritization

Permanent Supportive Housing

1. First priority is given to individuals or families experiencing chronic homelessness. The order of referral is based on their VI-SPDAT/VI-F-SPDAT score.

When there are no individuals or families experiencing **chronic homelessness on the priority list, the order of priority will continue as follows:*

2. First Priority–Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with Long Periods of Episodic Homelessness and Severe Service Needs

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who has experienced fewer than four occasions where they have been living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter but where the cumulative time homeless is at least 12 months and has been identified as having severe service needs.

3. Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with Severe Service Needs.

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter and has been identified as having severe service needs. The length of time in which households have been homeless should also be considered when prioritizing households that meet this order of priority.

4. Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability Coming from Places Not Meant for Human Habitation, Safe Haven, or Emergency Shelter Without Severe Service Needs.

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter where the individual or family has not been identified as having severe service needs. The length of time in

which households have been homeless should be considered when prioritizing households that meet this order of priority.

5. Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability Coming from Transitional Housing.

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is currently residing in a transitional housing project, where prior to residing in the transitional housing had lived in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or safe haven. This priority also includes individuals and families residing in transitional housing who were fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and prior to residing in that transitional housing project even if they did not live in a place not meant for human habitation, an emergency shelter, or a safe haven prior to entry in the transitional housing.

All referrals must be based upon the Order of Priority and no waiver will be given to any individuals who do not meet the criteria outlined above. Based on the order of priority, people who are eligible for PSH but who cannot receive PSH due to overcapacity will be given a choice to be placed in Rapid Rehousing. Rapid rehousing agencies will conduct a re-evaluation using the VI-SPDAT every 3 months and determine if RRH meets the client's needs. If not, the client will remain on the PSH list until the next available bed is open.

A person who has a high VI score may be referred to Rapid Rehousing/CTI if appropriate. Situations include but are not limited to: experiencing homelessness for the first time; having a disability that is not severe or having only minor physical or medical disabling conditions; having other resources/supports; not having any history of experiencing unsheltered homelessness. However, Rapid Rehousing/CTI should reassess the person experiencing homelessness and determine if PSH would be more appropriate for the person.

**All PSH clients must have an eligible disability. (This chart has not yet approved by the membership)*

Rank	Priority	Tie breakers	Tie breakers
1	Chronic (homeless continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years)	1. VI Score 2. Length Time Homeless	1. Household with children /unaccompanied youth under 25 2. unsheltered

2	Non-Chronic; homeless MORE than 12 mo. in 3 years w/DISABILITY	1. VI Score 2. Length Time Homeless	1. Household with children /unaccompanied youth under 25 2. unsheltered
3	Non-Chronic; homeless between 9-12 mo. w/DISABILITY & VI Score MORE than 10	1. VI Score 2. Length Time Homeless	1. Household with children /unaccompanied youth under 25 2. unsheltered
4	Non-Chronic; VI score 10 or MORE w/DISABILITY	1. VI Score 2. Length Time Homeless	1. Household with children /unaccompanied youth under 25 2. unsheltered
5	VI score 10 or more and currently resides at TH	1. VI Score 2. Length Time Homeless	1. Household with children /unaccompanied youth under 25 2. unsheltered

Rapid Rehousing Priority

ESG client: Below 30% AMI at annual reevaluation. CoC clients: Below 50% AMI.

Rank	Subpopulation	Secondary Prioritization	Tie Breaker
1	Homeless 6+ months (within 12 months) & VI Score 4-9	1. Length Time Homeless 2. VI score	1. Household with children /unaccompanied youth under 25 2. unsheltered
2	Homeless 3-6 months (within 12 months) & VI Score 4-9	1. Length Time Homeless 2. VI score	1. Household with children /unaccompanied youth under 25 2. unsheltered
3	Less than 3 months (within 12 months) & VI Score 4-9	1. VI score 2. Length Time Homeless	1. Household with children /unaccompanied youth under 25 2. unsheltered

Special Accommodations	VI score over 10, or homeless households who are about to lose Section 8 or requested Emergency Transfer Plan** **CASE BY CASE BASIS Depends on funding availability**	1. VI score 2. Length Time Homeless	1. Household with children /unaccompanied youth under 25 2. unsheltered

**Each region may, based on their region's need, determine additional priority in addition to those listed above. For example, people who with a disability, experiencing domestic violence, high utilization of crisis services, etc.*

***Per CoC Written Standards, clients in CoC-funded housing programs can request to be emergency transferred when they experience domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assaults, or stalking. All clients who request to be emergency transferred shall be prioritized to receive Rapid Rehousing assistance as soon as a voucher becomes available. A Permanent Supportive Housing voucher may be granted when a client meets the original program requirements of Permanent Supportive Housing.*

Referral Process

Once a person experiencing homelessness is assessed and prioritized, they will be referred to an appropriate agency based on several determining factors including their priority status, housing needs, and proof of eligibility. Persons experiencing homelessness who are not eligible or who may not rank high in the vulnerable index should continually be served through shelter or outreach programs, in order to find housing through mainstream resources. All CoC programs need to follow the Referral Process and the Order of Priority discussed in this chapter. All participants of PSH must have a documented disability. Participants need to also meet any project specific requirements, for example, having a Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) for Erie County Department of Mental Health funded beds.

Eligibility and Process Key Terms

PSH Eligibility Determination: Based on the CoC written standards, the Coordinated Entry Lead will ensure the documentation is in place before a person experiencing homelessness is referred to PSH providers. Documentation that is necessary in this stage includes:

Proof of disability **when possible***.

And

A completed CE Assessment

And

1. If a person is prioritized based on the 1st, 2nd or 3rd order, history of homelessness, SPOA consent if the individual has mental illness, client consent and a PSH referral sheet are required, or
2. If a person is prioritized based on score, current homelessness verification and SPOA consent if the individual has mental illness/client consent are required.

*All outreach teams, shelter case managers, referred housing providers are responsible to obtain the proof of disability.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH)Eligibility determination: Based on the CoC written standards, the Coordinated Entry Lead will ensure the documentation is in place before a person experiencing homelessness is referred to RRH.

Proof of Income
AND
A completed CE Assessment
AND
Homelessness Verification

Elements of the Referral Process

Priority List

A list of client's HMIS ID who are currently homeless along with other program eligibility criteria, e.g. VI score, length of time homeless, disability(Yes/No), veteran status, DV status, household composition. The list also includes their referral status and linked case manager. Although the list includes all the eligible clients, please note, it is a priority list, not a waitlist. Not all people on this list will be served. Persons experiencing homelessness are freely allowed to decide what information they provide during the assessment process, or to refuse to answer assessment questions. Refusing to provide certain priority information may result in ranking lower in priority. Assessor will be informing persons experiencing homelessness and allowing them to make the decision. However, refusing to provide certain information will not result in rejection of services based on the information are given. Priority list is active and all partners involved in the Coordinated Entry process try their best to update information in HMIS. Case conferencing is conducted twice a month through the Homeless Coalition Outreach Committee.

Housing declined by Client

A person is able to decline services they are offered. For example, if a client is eligible for Permanent Supported Housing (PSH) but declines housing, the outreach team will continue to engage with them. They will not be assigned to the PSH providers, however they will remain on a "Decline for Housing" list and an outreach/shelter worker will be assigned to continually engage with them. Evidence of outreach efforts and continued engagement should be recorded on each occasion in HMIS.

Completed Referral

Persons are referred when they have been assigned to a PSH agency by the Assessment Team Lead/SPOA in writing or through SPOA. Referral date and referred agency should be recorded in HMIS. Upon referral, the CE Team Lead will provide CE referral letters/email detailing clients homeless status, priority, and **disability information where possible** if it is a PSH referral to housing agency. One client could be referred to more than one agency, especially those who are deemed hardest to serve. All assigned agencies should be aware that such client is working with multiple agencies.

Engagement period

PSH providers have 45 days to engage with the client. Engagement is defined as: when a provider has met with a referred client and is consistently staying in contact with the client and/or working towards an agreed upon housing goal. If no progress is made (no contact with client when a client is still actively experiencing homelessness) and the agency is not able to place a person in bridge housing or not able to arrange an apartment, the PSH provider will receive a Negative Disengagement Notice and the client will be referred to another agency. If an agency is unable to locate or engage with a person experiencing homelessness within 45 days they must immediately notify the CE Lead upon disengagement.

*Please note that during the engagement period, a unit/voucher will be held for the person experiencing homelessness and they will not be disqualified if they are temporarily housed with a subsidy in the interim wait period.

*72-hour rule: If there is more than one person on a PSH agency's referral list and there is only one apartment available, the PSH provider will present the apartment to the highest ranked client. If the client cannot be found or is not willing to take the apartment within 72 hours, then the agency will move on to the next client while still working with the original client.

When PSH providers supply evidence of adequate efforts to engage with a person experiencing homelessness (e.g. showing the client more than 3 apartments, or have looked for the client with outreach teams) but are unable to house the person, the Assessment Team Lead can make a decision on re-referring such client to another agency, or placing the client back on the referral list for further engagement attempts, or placed on the refusing list. It will not be counted as "Negative Disengagement".

Housed

A person is housed when they are physically moved into an apartment or other permanent form of housing. The agency will also open this case in HMIS at this point in time. Once a person experiencing homelessness has been housed in the program, they will retain their apartment unless it has been vacated without notice for more than thirty (30) days. After a person is housed, the housing providers have up to 180 days to obtain third-party documentation of homelessness. PSH Housing providers also have 45 days to obtain proof of diagnosis. Details refer to Appendix D.

**For persons experiencing homelessness who are housed but have passed away, have become incarcerated, or institutionalized temporarily, the housing provider may pay for the apartment for up to 90 days.*

Disenrollment (Positive and Negative)

Positive disenrollment is often also called Graduation from programs, which means a person is able to live independently, e.g. getting housing choice voucher or other subsidy and no longer need PSH. Other reasonable disenrollment includes circumstances in which client is violent against staff or other participants, incarcerated over 90 days, in need of higher level of care, or a client abandoned the apartment; Agencies should not evict a client due to the following reasons: failure to participate in supportive services; failure to make progress on a service plan; loss of income or failure to improve income; domestic violence; or any other activities not cover in a lease agreement typically found in the project's geographic area. These instances are referred to as Negative Disenrollment.

**Any disenrollment or discharge that is not to a permanent housing destination must be discussed in a case conference with CoC, PSH providers, and the outreach committee before the client is exited from the program.*

Transfer

A transfer describes a process where a client enrolled in one housing program is moved or transferred to another housing program. Transfers take place when there is a presentation of strong evidence indicating that a particular type of housing is unfit based on a client's needs, safety, and overall well-being.

CoC and ESG funded Housing providers, including Rapid Rehousing, Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing will need to submit Appendix G Discharge Form when referrals or individuals are discharged from their respective programs (under certain circumstances), and Appendix F Transfer Request Form when a provider wishes to facilitate and complete a program to program transfer between COC programs. Discharging a client without submitting a Transfer/Discharge Request Form, when necessary, will be viewed as a negative discharge. Exceptions/waivers are listed in each form.

The Coordinated Entry Referral Committee, a subcommittee of the CE Oversight Committee, will review all the transfer requests and discharge forms on a monthly basis. Decisions (transfers) and recommendations will be made in monthly meeting. A letter from the Chair of the Committee will be sent to the requested agency within a week of the meeting. Client transfer from a program with different program requirements (for example from a non-Chronically homeless dedicated bed to a dedicated bed) should be reviewed by HUD local CPD representative to ensure eligibility and documentation is meeting the program requirements.

Housing providers are recommended to follow these steps before they request to transfer or discharge a person and start documenting the actions. Housing providers should discuss the client

in monthly Outreach or Rapid Rehousing Committee case conferences and not wait until the last minute to submit this request.

1. Engagement with initial referral source e.g. shelter or outreach provider: Case workers from shelter or outreach who make the initial referral should be treated as a valuable resource and tool and should be reached out to for support.

2. Providing Housing options and choices: Some clients may not be thriving in a particular building, area, or neighborhood due to environmental circumstances. Altering this environment through moving or arranging other accommodations is a possible solution.

3. Linkages to Resources/Supports: Steps must be taken by the housing provider to attempt to link the client with needed resources in the community including Care Coordination, Health Home services, ACT, APS, and other behavioral health treatment.

4. Crisis Services/Emergency Services: In the event that a client is a threat to themselves or others and may be in need of hospitalization, the housing provider should contact Crisis Services (or other emergency services such as 911) in order to push for an emergency intervention that would lead to stabilization.

Missing (MIA)

If a client has no contact with any agency staff (not only the PSH provider who homeless individual is assigned to, but any shelter, outreach team, or other clients) for at least 30 days (For CH individuals, the MIA standard is 90 days), then a client will be marked as missing and become inactive on any list they are on. However, their name will not be taken off the list until we know they are housed. If the person experiences homelessness again, their status will change from MIA back to active and the Assessment Team will reassess them if necessary.

Referral process for Veterans

Veteran who are eligible for VA services should access Coordinated entry through VA. Veterans who are experiencing homelessness are identified at intake by street outreach programs, the Dept. of Social Services, or at shelter entry. If a person identifies as a Veteran, they are referred to the VA for confirmation of their status. This referral is either directly to the VA, or through HMIS. The VA will assess a client for eligibility and will then be referred to the appropriate provider for housing assistance through VASH, GPD, SSVF, or into the CoC's coordinated entry assessment process for RRH or PSH. There is a bi-weekly Veteran by name meeting with a list generated by HMIS and attended by all Veteran housing providers and members of the CE staff to ensure all Veterans are properly referred and receive appropriate services. For CoC and ESG funded programs, only veterans will only be given priority/preference if the following situations occur: 1. funding shortage of VA funding, no voucher is available. 2. What's available through VA is not appropriate or adequate to meet client's need. 3. The Veteran is eligible for VA services.

Community Education and Marketing

The CE leads identifies and collaborates with homeless services agencies within the CoC geographic area as well as other partners (for example the hospital and criminal justice system) to provide education about the coordinated entry process. Formal community training is held at least annually to ensure partners understand the coordinated entry process and program availability and eligibility requirements. Educational opportunities are communicated through Homeless Coalition and Homeless Alliance email lists.

Evaluation

Ongoing planning and consultation concerning the implementation of Coordinated Entry are facilitated during Outreach, PSH, and RRH monthly meetings. A Provider survey is conducted annually, and an anonymous Client Survey (two separate Client Surveys are created: CE client survey for shelter, outreach and drop in center participants; CE client survey for RRH, PSH, TH and SH participants) is conducted quarterly and are administered by the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee. The participants selected to participate in the evaluation must include individuals and families currently engaged in the CE process or who have been referred to housing through the CE process in the last year. The surveys are provided in both electronic and paper format. To ensure client confidentiality, surveys do not ask participants to provide any personally identifiable information. All feedback will be reviewed by the CoC committee and an action plan will be created accordingly.

CE monitor reports are produced at least quarterly using HMIS data and administered by the C E lead to ensure referrals are made fairly and to address any service gaps.

Appeal

Coordinated Entry Appeal Process

Coordinated Entry Appeal Engagement Process			
	1. Client appeals to the denial of placement	2. Provider Appeals to placement	3. Client Appeals to score/placement
Example Situation	Client is matched to RRH Matt Urban through CE. After intake, client is denied placement by RRH Matt Urban.		Client is denied for CE placement to Matt Urban, prefers placement into Catholic Charities.

1st step	Housing Provider (Program Director) manages appeal internally between client and Case Manager.	CEL program director manages appeal internally.
2nd step	If decision is not satisfied, appeal will be forwarded to CoC lead. CoC lead will mediate among the parties.	
3rd step	If mediation failed, appeal will be forwarded to CE Oversight Committee. Oversight committee will make the final decision.	

1. Client Appeal Score or Placement

a. A Client must make a request in writing and deliver it to the Coordinated Entry Lead in person, via mail, or via email if:

i. The client disagrees with Coordinated Entry's placement

ii. The client has reason to believe the score is misconducted

iii. The client is denied assessment or services for refusing to provide certain pieces of information, unless the information is necessary to establish or document program eligibility per the applicable program regulation or the client is denied services.

iv. The client is denied services for refusing to allow their data to be shared unless Federal statute requires collection, use, storage, and reporting of a participant's personally identifiable information (PII) as a condition of program participation.

v. The client is denied access to the coordinated entry process coordinated entry process on the basis that the participant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. Further, section 578.103(b) of the CoC program rule requires that records containing PII are kept secure and confidential and the address of any family violence project not be made public.

b. Coordinated Entry lead will respond within 3 days, either by scheduling a hearing or review the placement/score to accommodate the client's request.

c. The Program Director of the Coordinated Entry Lead must schedule a hearing within 7 days and send the written notice to the client and the assigned case manager. The notice for the assigned case manager must include a copy of the client's request.

d. The Program Director of the Coordinated Entry Lead will conduct the hearing in-person or over the phone. The client and assigned case manager must be given the opportunity to provide written and oral objections or justifications for the score or placement decision.

e. The Program Director of the Coordinated Entry Lead will be responsible for making the final decision within 3 days. The Program Director will provide a written notice of the final decision to the client and the assigned case manager.

2. Provider Appeal Placement

a. When housing provider disagrees with Coordinated Entry's placement, a formal letter/email must be submitted to the Coordinated Entry Lead with reasons of denying placement.

b. The Program Director of the Coordinated Entry Lead must respond within 3 days and schedule a hearing and send the written notice to Housing Provider and the Coordinated Entry Lead case manager within 7 days.

c. The Program Director of the Coordinated Entry Lead will conduct the hearing in-person or over the phone. The Housing Provider and the Coordinated Entry Lead case manager must be given the opportunity to provide written and oral objections or justifications for the placement decision.

d. The Program Director of the Coordinated Entry Lead will be responsible for making the final decision within 3 days. The Program Director will provide a written notice of the final decision to the Housing Provider and the Coordinated Entry Lead case manager.

3. Client Appeal Denial of Placement

a. The Housing Provider must notify the client and the Coordinated Entry Lead verbally and with a written notice of the client's application and program denial notice with reasons of denial

b. Client/CE Lead must submit a formal letter for an appeal.

c. The client/CE Lead is required to follow the Housing Provider's appeals process.

d. The Housing Provider is required to notify the client and the Coordinated Entry Lead with a written notice of the final decision within 2 weeks.

4. Additional Step

If the Client or Housing Provider has exhausted the above options, and they still disagree with the decision that the Program Director made, the client will then notify the CoC Lead Agency on the first appeal.

a. The CoC Lead Agency will then mediate between the Client, Housing Providers and the Coordinated Entry Lead within 7 days.

b. If mediation fails, the CoC Lead Agency will then submit an appeal to the Oversight Committee.

c. The Oversight Committee must schedule a hearing and send the written notice to the affected parties within 7 days.

d. A minimum of three members of the Oversight Committee will conduct the hearing in-person or over the phone with the affected parties. All affected parties must be given the opportunity to provide written and oral objections or justifications for the appeal decision.

e. A minimum of three members of the Oversight Committee will be responsible for making the final decision within 3 days. The Oversight Committee will provide a written notice of the final decision to all affected parties.

Oversight and Management

Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee:

Members of the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee are recruited to represent all homeless services providers, especially those who are involved in Coordinated Entry, including at least one representative from each program type: permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, outreach, shelter, youth services, Veteran services, DV service providers, a consumer, community partner,Niagara County, the GOW service area and the CE lead. This committee meets at least quarterly. The purposes of the committee are:

- Providing general oversight and support to the coordinated entry system in accordance with the CoC approved Written Standards.
- Responsible for developing and maintaining a process to receive and respond to grievances of participants and housing providers. Grievances that cannot be resolved by the coordinated entry lead agency and all provider appealed referrals will be forwarded to the oversight committee for resolution.

- Review and make final decision on Coordinated Entry related appeal.
- Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the coordinated entry process by reviewing performance data and solicit feedback from participating projects and from households that participated in coordinated entry at least annually.
- Create an action plan to address issues identified through the oversight or evaluation of Coordinated Entry.
- Conducting an annual review of the Coordinated Entry Protocol.
- Establishing detailed client prioritization for receiving CoC or ESG funded program assistance based upon the approved CoC Written Standards.
- Review and approve policy changes or protocol improvements submitted by the coordinated entry lead agencies and subpopulation committees before the Board of the Homeless Alliance for final approval.

Members

The Oversight committee is comprised of a specific number of representatives. The designations are as follows:

Representative	Number of Seats
CoC Lead / HMIS Lead	1
Veteran CE	1
Domestic Violence Provider	1
Coordinated Entry Lead	4
Shelter	2
Permanent Supportive Housing	2
Rapid Rehousing	2
Outreach	1
Youth Provider	1
Community Partner	1
GOW	1
Niagara County	1
Consumer	1

**Representatives must participate at least ¾ of the meeting within a year. When absent, more than 2 times consecutively, CoC lead will contact the representative. If there is no response, membership will be terminated. Members meet at least bi-monthly and may meet more frequent when needed.*

CE Transfer Committee:

Purpose: Review and approve transfer requests to ensure requests are appropriate and to facilitate possible transfer once it is approved.

To ensure quality service and due diligence is being delivered within the CoC; Housing providers should only request to transfer a client after the provider has exhausted all other possible solutions for the issue(s) at hand and if they believe that transferring the client to another program can improve the client's situation. Prior to submitting a transfer request, all clients should be brought up at the Outreach Committee's twice monthly meetings. These meetings are held at The Matt Urban Hope Center, located at 385 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo, on the First and Third Wednesday of every month at 9AM. Niagara County's case conference meet on a weekly basis.

During these case conferences, providers are encouraged to bring up clients who may be struggling as well as identify barriers that the client may be facing. The case conference will facilitate possible solutions to help resolve whatever issues have arisen in housing. The goal of case conferencing prior to requesting a transfer is to find possible solutions for the client that can help them remain at their current housing provider.

This means that an individual or family may transfer from one housing program to another under the CoC Program.

This could occur under the following circumstances:

- If there were another housing program that better meet the preferences and service needs of the program participant;
- The current housing program in which the individual or family is enrolled in has lost their funding.

* Transfers requested solely due to lack of income will not be reviewed

The CE Transfer Subcommittee will have a chair; this chair will be one of two CE Leads.

Representative	Number of Seats
CE Lead(s)	2
Shelter	1
Outreach (Outreach Committee Chair)	1
Permanent Supportive Housing	1
Rapid Rehousing	1
Erie County Dept. Mental Health	1

Process:

The provider must contact the CE lead and request a transfer using the Transfer Request Form on the CE Policy and Procedure, detailing the reasons why the program participant needs to be transferred. The CoC Referral committee will review the request and determine within one week on whether to transfer, and will communicate this decision with the housing provider.

Program transfers may be made from rapid re-housing to permanent supportive housing so long as the household meets the Permanent Supporting Housing project's specific eligibility criteria and program requirements.

*Members of the Oversight Committee will have power in voting and determining nominated representatives to the positions.

* Representatives must participate at least 75% of the meetings within a year. When absent, more than 2 times consecutively, CE Transfer Chair will contact the representative. If there is no response, membership will be terminated & Oversight committee will take the lead on locating a new representative.

* Members will meet monthly (Every last Monday of the month, from 2pm-3pm) and may meet more frequently or via email when needed.

* Identifying information on the Transfer Request Forms will be redacted, in order to limit concerns of a conflict of interest with clients enrolled in programs whose staff are representatives on the committee.

Appendix A: Common Acronyms

CE: Coordinated Entry
CH: Persons experiencing chronic homelessness
CoC: Continuum of Care
CTI: Critical Time Intervention. A housing program similar to Rapid Rehousing but funded by the Department of Mental Health.
ECDMH: Erie County Department of Mental Health
ES: Emergency Shelter
ESG: Emergency Solution Grant
GOW: Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming Counties
HAWNY: Homeless Alliance of Western New York, which is the CoC collaborative applicant and HMIS administrator
HMIS: Homeless Management Information System, it is an online database
MIA: Missing in action
SPOA: Single Point of Access and Accountability that Erie County Department of Mental Health administers
PH: Permanent Housing
PSH: Permanent Supportive Housing
RRH: Rapid Rehousing
TH: Transitional Housing
VA: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VI-S-PDAT: Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
VI-F-SPDAT: Vulnerability Index and Family Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
TAY-VI-SPDAT: Transition Age Youth - Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

Appendix B: Coordinated Entry Lead and Outreach contact

Coordinated Entry Leads

Currently due to funding & program limitation, each region may have its own priority list. Coordinated entry leads are people or agencies who are responsible on administering the priority list and making referrals.

Permanent Supportive Housing (All Counties)

Skylar Diamond sdiamond@urbanctr.org 716-893-7222*305

Rapid Rehousing (Erie County)

Thanh Nguyen tnguyen@rsiwny.org 716-208-3748

Youth (Erie County)

Compass House Resource Center 716-884-3066

Rapid Rehousing (Niagara County)
Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc. (716) 285-3403

Rapid Rehousing (Genesee, Orleans, Wyoming Counties)

Independent Living-Genesee regional office. 113 Main st. Batavia NY 14020. (585) 815-8501.

Outreach teams

Persons with mental illness (Erie County)

Best-self Marek Parker MParker@bestselfwny.org

Persons experiencing homelessness (Erie County)

Matt Urban Dan Auflick dauflick@urbanctr.org

Appendix C: Homeless and chronically homeless definition[1]

Category 1	Literally Homeless	(1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	(2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that: (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who: (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	(4) Any individual or family who: (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (ii) Has no other residence; and (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other

1 https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf

		permanent housing

**All Permanent Supportive Housing Program and most Rapid Rehousing programs will only accept clients who meet the category 1, literally homeless definition. Certain Rapid Rehousing program will accept clients who meet the category 4, fleeing/attempting to flee DV definition. Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funded Prevention program can only assist clients who meet category 2 or 4.*

Chronically Homeless Definition

The definition of "chronically homeless[2]", as stated in Definition of Chronically Homeless final rule is:

(a) A "homeless individual with a disability," as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:

i. lives in a place not meant for human habitation (ex. on the street), or is staying in a safe haven or emergency shelter; and

ii. Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (a)(i) continuously for at least 12 months or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (a)(i). Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering an institutional care facility;

(b) An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (a) of this definition, before entering the facility;

(c) A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (a) or (b) of this definition (as described in Section I.D.2.(a) of this Notice), including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

[2] https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Defining-Chronically-Homeless-Final-Rule.pdf

Appendix D Homelessness Verification requirements

Homeless documentation recording requirements:

Category 1	Literally Homeless	• Written observation by the outreach worker; or
		• Written referral by another housing or service provider; or
		• Certification by the individual or head of household seeking assistance stating that they were living on the streets or in shelter;
		• For individuals exiting an institution - one of the forms of evidence above and:
		  ○ Discharge paperwork or writter/oral referral; or
		  ○ Written record of intake worker's due diligence to obtain above evidence and certification by individual that they exited institution

Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	• A court order resulting from an eviction action notifying the individual or family that they must leave; or • FOr individuals and families leaving a hotel/motel - evidence that they lack the financial resources to stay; or • A documented and verified oral statement; and • Certification that no subsequent residence has been identified; and • Self-certification or other written documentation that the individual lack the financial resources and support necessary to obtain permanent housing
Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	• Certification by the nonprofit or state or local government that the individual or head of household seeking assistance met the criteria of homelessness under another federal statute; and • Certification of no PH in the last 60 days; and • Certification by the individual or head of household, and any available supporting documentation, that they have moved two or more times in the past 60 days; and • Documentation of special needs or 2 or more barriers

Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	• For victim service providers:
		  ○ An oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance which states: they are fleeing and have no subsequent residence, and they lack resources. Statement must be documented by a self-certification by the intake worker.
		• For non-victim service providers:
		  ○ Oral statement by the individual or head of household

		seeking assistance that they are fleeing. This statement is documented by a self-certification or by the caseworker. WHere the safety of the individual or family is not jeopardized, the oral statement must be verified; and ○ Self-certification, or other written documentation, that they individual or family lacks the financial resources and support networks to obtain other permanent housing

Chronically Homeless Recordkeeping Requirement

- At least 9 months of time experiencing homelessness should be documented by third party; up to 3 months can be documented by self-certification alone
- Where third party absolutely cannot be obtained, up to the full time can be documented by self-certification
    - Provider must document attempts at collecting third party and the conditions the individual or family is living in. AND
    - No more than 25% of individuals and families assisted in a project can have more than 3 months documented by self-certification
- One documented encounter in a month, assume the client experienced homelessness for entire month unless there is evidence of a break (e.g., a stay in TH)

Acceptable Third-Party Documentation:

- Individual record of a stay in emergency shelter, street outreach from HMIS or comparable database
- Written observation from outreach worker of encounters with household and description of where household was residing
- Written observation of community member: Community members include police officers, owners of businesses, etc. NOT friends/family
- Written referral by another housing or service provider

Documenting Disability:

Qualifying disability must be documented by one of the following:

- Written verification of disability from licensed professional
- Written verification from SSA
- Receipt of disability check
- Intake staff-recorded observation (must be supported by evidence above within 45 days of entry
- Appendix G listed credentials for diagnosing addictions and mental health disability

Appendix E: Service Map

By clicking this Service Map, you can browse on Google Map to find Department of Social Services,and shelters or code blue warming centers that accepts walk-ins that are close to you. You can also find Coordinated Entry hubs that are referred in this documents.

Appendix F: Resources

CE Checklist

Notice Establishing Additional Requirements for a Continuum of Care Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System

Notice on Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing

Olmsted Center for Sight

1170 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14209
716-882-1025

http://olmstedcenter.org/

Language Interpretation:

AT&T Language Assistance Program

1-800-528-5888

International Institute

864 Delaware Ave

Buffalo, NY 14209

(716) 883-1900

https://iibuffalo.org/

Journey's End (Health Homes)

(716) 882-4963 x207 or 201

Legal Assistance and Advocacy:

Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.

Appendix G: Discharge Form

Check one that applies:

Client Discharge (post-Program Entry) __

Close an Open Referral__

Participant Name:

Participant HMIS ID: _____

Discharge Location (where was client exited to):

Program Name:

Program Contact/Case Manager:

Phone Number of Above Contact:

Please **CIRCLE** all Discharge Categories that apply to this participant & circumstance

Physical Violence	**Inability to maintain ADL's independently**
Arson related behaviors	**MIA/Disappeared**
Self-Harm	**Refusing Housing Opportunities**
Multiple Lease Violations	**Program Specific Violations**

Please describe in detail the reason for program discharge:

Please share any additional information about this client that would be helpful to Outreach or CE providers in future service coordination efforts.

Appendix H: Transfer Request Form:

This form is intended to be used when a client is being referred to or housed by a housing provider and the housing provider needs to transfer such clients. Request form should be submitted to the appropriate coordinated entry lead based on program type:

Thanh Nguyen tnguyen@rsiwny.org for RRH/TH

Skylar Diamond sdiamond@urbanctr.org for PSH.

The Coordinated Entry (CE) Referral Committee, a subcommittee of the CE Oversight Committee, will review all the transfer requests on a monthly basis (as needed) to make appropriate and fair transfer determinations for the COC. A letter from the Chair of the Committee will be sent to the agency requesting a transfer within a week of the meeting. In the event of an emergency transfer situation (that cannot wait until a monthly meeting) CE Leads will make such determinations based on criteria agreed upon within the CE Referral Committee.

Client transfer from a program with different program requirements (for example from a non-Chronically homeless dedicated bed to a dedicated bed) should be reviewed by HUD local CPD representative to ensure eligibility and documentation is meeting the program requirements. This can be done by the housing provider and/or CE Lead.

*If you have any additional documentation (that is not covered in this form) that would help the CE Referral Committee understand the situation, please feel free to attach them along with your request.

Appendix H: Transfer Request Form

Please do NOT use Participant Name on this form

Date:

Participant HMIS ID: _____

Program Name:_____

Program Contact/Case Manager submitting Request:_____

Phone Number of Contact submitting Request:_____

Desired Transfer Destination (if applicable):_____

Months Homeless (upon program entry):_____

Most current VI score:_____

Please CIRCLE answer that best describes participant current living situation

Homeless **Shelter** **Bridger** **Permanent Housing**

For how long has participant been in current living situation (while enrolled in your program)?

_____Years ____ Months

Please briefly summarize major reasons why this participant is in need of a program transfer:

Please answer the following questions; if they do not apply, simply put N/A

1. If the cause of this request is due to the participant causing repeated harm to themselves or others, or hands-on violence, please describe the incidences.

2. In the event that a client is a threat to themselves or others and may be in need of hospitalization, have you contacted and advocated for the client with Crisis Services (or other emergency services such as 911) in order to push for an emergency intervention that would lead to stabilization? If so, please describe.

3. Have you contacted the participants' initial referral source e.g. shelter or outreach provider? If yes, what actions were taken?

4. Many times a participant can fail to thrive due to environmental circumstances (i.e. a particular building, area, or neighborhood, neighbors, etc.). Please describe how you have provided alternative accommodations (for scattered site projects)? If so, what has been the result?

5. Have you attempted to/referred the client to needed resources in the community (i.e. Care Coordination, Health Home services, ACT, APS, NLS and other behavioral health treatment)?

If yes, please describe current community based services that this participant has been referred to or is presently connected to .

6. If a client is refusing to engage in services, please explain the efforts you have made toward engagement and/or trust building.

7. Please explain how this transfer will better meet the needs of the participant.

8. How has the agency communicated with the participant about the potential transfer opportunities?

9. Is the client willing to engage in the transfer process and those opportunities? ___YES ___NO