

CITY OF WORCESTER, MA



CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (2020 – 2025)

And

FIRST YEAR ACTION PLAN (JULY 1ST, 2020 – JUNE 30TH, 2021)



*Prepared by:
City Manager's Executive Office of Economic
Development*

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that entitlement cities prepare a Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) to receive federal housing and community development funding. The City of Worcester, MA Five-Year Consolidated Submission for Community Planning and Development (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2025) combines into one document the requirements of four federal programs administered by HUD - the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). The Consolidated Plan allows the City of Worcester to shape its housing and community development programs into coordinated strategies and helps inform progress toward community development. The City of Worcester must submit a full Consolidated Plan every five years; yearly action plans are required as presented herein in this City of Worcester, MA First Year Action Plan (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021).

While the City continues to make progress addressing community needs, it continues to face numerous existing and emerging needs and challenges. Updated analysis and research indicates the need for continued investment and effort around addressing affordable housing production and barriers to accessing affordable housing and trends related to aging housing stock and deferred maintenance. Particularly, supportive housing providers report a shortage of single room occupancy units that are below Fair Market Rent (FMR) and thus accessible to individuals below 30% AMI transitioning from shelter or transitional housing to permanent housing through ESG Rapid Rehousing or a Continuum of Care (CoC)-supported project. Consultation with citizens and service providers stressed a continued need for social and human services and housing supportive services for low- to moderate-income and special needs populations including youth, recent immigrants, resettled refugees, the elderly and homeless, individuals with substance abuse and mental health challenges, and those living with HIV/AIDS.

In anticipation of declining federal entitlement grant allocations and uncertainty of federal fiscal resources moving forward, continued strategic leveraging of private investments and community-based resources are needed. As needs and issues often overlap and concentrate in neighborhoods, there is a need for more strategic, concentrated, neighborhood-based collaborations with private and community resources and cross-departmental collaborations. This is the model that the City has been implementing with an emphasis on placed-based, neighborhood focused revitalization strategies as is being carried out during the last few years in the Union Hill neighborhood and will be implemented in the Green Island neighborhood. A focused, block by block approach to addressing infrastructure, housing and community development needs is being implemented in these areas and proposed for other communities as part of this and any future plans that use federal entitlement grant funds.

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

3. Evaluation of past performance

Regarding public service activities, a total of 17 CDBG funded programs worth \$639,784 were contracted during the current/fifth year action plan to provide services to 5,019 low- and moderate-income persons to address identified needs for health services, case management, youth programming, food and housing security, employment and job assistance, after school programming, recreational activities, financial assistance, elder transportation and community gardens. Through the five action plan years since 7/1/15, 24,174 LMI persons have benefited from 50 public services programs which were contracted with \$3,091,111 in CDBG funds (which in turn leveraged \$7,939,564 in other public and private resources).

CDBG funds help City of Worcester provide much needed public facility improvements. Over the past five years \$14.1 million in CDBG funds were utilized on public facilities ranging from 10 streets reconstructed, 2 major park improvements, 6 firefighting trucks and 27 sets of firefighting equipment purchased, 3 major senior center improvements, 2 public school renovations, and 23 non-profit service delivery facility improvements ranging from energy efficiency improvements to safety and structural improvements, as well as 4 fire stations rehabilitated, and the rehabilitation of 1 major historical structure.

CDBG funds help to incentivize business creation, expansion, and enhancement through loans, grants, and technical assistance. In the past five years, the City has expended \$847,434 in CDBG to assist 35 businesses/properties that have generated 67 jobs for low- and moderate-income persons. This CDBG funded business assistance activity has generated \$1,684,098 in other investments.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

Beginning in the summer of 2019, the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) engaged in a citizen participation process to identify community needs and provide community input on activities and programs to fund. Ten community needs assessment public meetings were held in different parts of the City, with at least one in each of the City Council districts. The meetings were attended by 141 total participants from neighborhoods with underserved, low-income, diverse, and minority residents. All meetings were intentionally held at locations accessible for potential and actual beneficiaries. The public meetings were advertised broadly through the City's media office as well as through door-to-door neighborhood outreach with at least one bilingual staff member. At each of the meetings, two bilingual staff persons were present that were able to provide translation and/or facilitation in Spanish and Vietnamese. In addition, a special public hearing was also held in the Green Island neighborhood in July 2019 to focus attention on the needs of that, very low- income, inner-city neighborhood (65 persons participated).

The Five (5) Year Consolidated Plan informed the proposed first year (2020-2021) annual action plan outreach/funding recommendation process. In addition, after the announcement of the availability of Request for Proposals (RFP) for first year action plan funding through CDBG, HOPWA, and ESG, a Technical Assistance Workshop/Funding Overview meeting was held at City Hall in January 2020 (19

participants).

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) traditionally serves as the formal citizen body that provides input on funding applications submitted as part of the city's CDBG RFP process. The CDAC is a citizen advisory committee comprised of ten members, with two from each of Worcester's five council districts. This year, the CDAC met six times in February and March 2020 to review and evaluate the CDBG proposals and listen to presentations and ask questions of all of the Public Services, Public Facilities and Improvements, and City Interdepartmental applicants that submitted proposals in response to the RFP.

While the CDAC issues initial advisory recommendations on funding allocations, it is the city administration, through the city manager, that ultimately recommends which CDBG projects and activities to fund which form the basis of the annual action plan.

5. Summary of public comments

In conformity HUD directives, the City of Worcester Draft Consolidated Submission for Community Planning and Development (2020-2025) and First Year Action Plan (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) is being made available for a 5-day public review and comment period from October 5, 2020 to October 13, 2020. A hardcopy of said Draft Consolidated Submission and First Year Annual Action Plan is available at the City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED), City Hall, 455 Main Street, 4th Floor, Room 404, Worcester, MA 01608 (open 8:30 AM - 5 PM, normal working days).

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

7. Summary

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	WORCESTER	Office of Economic Development
HOPWA Administrator	WORCESTER	Office of Economic Development
HOME Administrator	WORCESTER	Office of Economic Development
ESG Administrator	WORCESTER	Office of Economic Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The City Manager's Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) is the lead administering agency for the City of Worcester, MA, Five-Year Consolidated Submission for Community Planning and Development (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2025) and the First Year (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021) Annual Action Plan. EOED administers CDBG, HOPWA, HOME and ESG formula grants for the City of Worcester, MA.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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PR-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

The City of Worcester's Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) embarked on the development of a 5-Year Consolidated Plan in the summer of 2019. As the lead agency of the planning process, EOED hosted a series of neighborhood meetings; consulted with non-profit organizations, City staff, and housing providers; posted public notices; held public hearings; and will implement a 30-day public comment period. Organizations and community stakeholders representing the following segments of the community were involved in the process:

- Housing Services and Assisted Housing – Group and individual consultations with for-profit and non-profit developers and the Worcester Housing Authority.
- Children and Youth Services – Focus group with service providers.
- Elderly Services – Consultation with City of Worcester Office of Elder Affairs and the Worcester Senior Center.
- Health Services – Worcester Public Health Division's Community Health Improvement Plan Update Public Process and ongoing collaboration through the Worcester County Continuum of Care.
- Persons with Disabilities – Consultation with City of Worcester Office of Human Rights and Disabilities.
- Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families – Consultations with service providers.
- Low-Income Persons – Focus group with providers and funders of basic needs and safety net services.
- Homeless Persons including Veterans and Persons with Special Needs – Coordination with agencies and other governmental entities involved in the Worcester County Continuum of Care, including coordination with the following City of Worcester municipal departments/divisions: Public Health Division, Office of Emergency Operations, Health and Inspectional Services Division, Workforce Development, and the City Manager's Office on Human Rights and Disabilities.
- Publicly Funded Institutions and Systems of Care – Coordination with corrections facilities, medical providers and mental health institutions including the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, UMass Memorial Medical Center, Community Healthlink, local detox centers and the Department of Mental Health through the Worcester County Continuum of Care.
- State and Local Health and Child Welfare Agencies – Consultation to identify the addresses of housing units with lead-poisoned children. Ongoing collaboration with the MA Department of Public Health and the Worcester Public Health Division.
- Regional and Planning Efforts – Consultation with the Central MA Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and the Central MA Workforce Investment Board.

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

The EOED works to foster strong relationships and enhance cooperation and coordination between public and private service and housing providers. Development of the Consolidated Plan benefitted from input from a broad range of stakeholders who contributed through interviews and focus groups, in addition to those represented at public meetings and hearings. Entities participating in the process included agencies and groups with expertise in areas such as housing, youth services, case management, mental health, education, employment assistance, basic needs, and health services. As a means of gaining input, individual and group consultations were with providers of public and affordable housing, and services for homeless, special needs, and low-income populations.

The EOED conducted group-based technical assistance workshop on January 23, 2020 with a total of 19 participants from public and private agencies.

A number of plans and reports were consulted in preparation of this Consolidated Plan, reflecting policies, needs or significant research. These are contained in Section PR-10, Table 3.

The City of Worcester actively participates in ongoing efforts to enhance coordination with private industry, businesses, developers, and social service agencies in order to foster economic development. EOED, through the Business Assistance Division, plays a leadership role in the Worcester Business Resource Alliance (WBRA), a centralized network of business professionals, technical assistance providers, lenders, and community development organizations that collectively provide services to entrepreneurs and small business owners and managers. EOED also meets regularly with neighborhood business associations, and coordinates with the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Worcester Business Development Corporation. At the state level, EOED has strong partnerships with the Mass Office of Business Development and MassDevelopment, as well as relationships with the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP).

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

Substantial consultation with Worcester area homeless service providers and clients has been a cornerstone of ongoing planning and efforts to address the unique needs of multiple priority subpopulations experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. As part of the Consolidated Planning process referenced above, the City hosted a consultation workshop for homeless service providers to consider the evolution of Worcester's system in recent years, discuss current service access, and envision improvements to assist target populations. The workshop groups focused on three areas: 1) Access to Housing 2) Supportive Services 3) System Coordination. As a result of consultation efforts, coordination is ongoing related to these target populations: chronically and episodically homeless households with or without children, veterans, unaccompanied youth, and people living with HIV/AIDS, survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Worcester is increasingly focusing on the Unaccompanied Youth population as a result of the Point-in-Time Survey on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth that has been conducted annually since 2009. The survey has helped the community gauge the extent of the problem, and garners resources to serve the often invisible population of homeless youth. The Survey on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth has been spearheaded by Worcester's Teen Housing Task Force, now formally known as the Compass Network with 13 partner agencies, and has raised significant community awareness. Beginning in 2014, the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness (ICHH) now implements a state-wide survey on homeless youth via the local Continuum of Care Programs in the state. The MA ICHH Youth Point-in-Time survey was modeled after best practices in the Compass Network's efforts to understand the extent of risk factors associated with young adult housing instability in Worcester.

The City of Worcester's role through the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) is to coordinate and monitor the system of housing and services for the homeless in Worcester, working closely with community and governmental stakeholders through the following efforts:

- The City coordinates housing and service policies in conjunction with the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance (CMHA) via its advisory role on the CoC Board and planning process, and chairing the Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee for the local CoC.
- The City partially funds and monitors the performance of Triage and Assessment, along with Diversion services, for Homeless Individuals. This provides valuable information regarding housing and service system performance and enables consistent cooperation in quality improvement for service operations.
- The City continues to match funds for the Worcester County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that provides valuable data on the number and demographics of the homeless, and service outcomes in partnership with the CoC Lead Agency: CMHA.
- The City continues to compile, analyze, and act on program monitoring reports obtained from funding agencies for all homeless housing and service programs.
- The EOED works collaboratively with various municipal departments to enhance resources to address the multi-faceted issue of homelessness. These municipal players include the Division of Public Health, Office of Emergency Operations, Health and Inspectional Services Division, Workforce Development, Neighborhood Development, and the City Manager's Office on Human Rights and Disabilities.

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

Area-wide planning and coordination efforts of the Worcester County Continuum of Care continues to bear fruit. The CoC facilitates on-going consultation and coordination with organizations that provide housing and supportive services for special needs populations including elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and homeless persons. The Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance (CMHA) has been designated to lead the annual CoC planning Process and is supported by the rest of Worcester County by chief executives of the county's three entitlement cities (Worcester, Fitchburg, and Leominster). A Continuum of Care board includes wide constituency based on HUD Guidance on Establishing and Operating a Continuum of Care. Sub-committees within the Continuum operate accordingly related to Veterans services, HMIS and data management, and monitoring and outcome evaluation. A working group is focused on improving the region's coordinated entry system for homeless individuals, while the closed-referral system for family housing operates in its own coordinated entry system. Corrections facilities, medical providers and mental health institutions (Worcester County Sherriff's Office, UMass Memorial Medical Center, Community HealthLink, local detox centers and the Dept. of Mental Health) incorporate their discharge planning into the coordinated entry system with CoC partners as well. Evaluation of these working groups and subcommittees inform future funding, policies and outcome standards in serving homeless populations.

The CoC planning process is guided by two principals: an open & inclusive process with broad-based participation by citizens and stakeholders throughout the county; and, a comprehensive approach which develops, coordinates and integrates a system of care for homeless individuals and families, including major sub-populations such as the chronically homeless, mentally-ill, substance abusers, persons with HIV/AIDS, veterans, victims of domestic violence, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly. Key features of the planning process include: active year-round planning, facilitating completion of planned activities; a committee structure that divides tasks among specialized groups, organized around participants' interests and expertise; work plans for the committees to ensure timely completion of necessary tasks; one vote per agency, encouraging broad participation and preventing dominance by any particular agency; a sub-regional process that helps ensure equitable treatment among geographic service areas; monitoring & evaluation of programs to ensure accountability and optimal service quality; and, widespread dissemination of information about the planning process which facilitates maximum participation.

The CoC planning grant awarded to the CMHA has enabled the CoC Advisory Board and the City to consult with one another in determining how to allocate Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. Members of the CoC board and diverse funding partners such as the United Way contribute to recommendations for ESG funds, with knowledge of existing needs and resources in the community. In the past 5 years, ESG funds have been used for prevention, rapid-rehousing, street outreach and emergency shelter operations to serve major sub-populations represented in our community. The decision to allocate funds to these activities is greatly informed by the gaps and resources currently available through the federal HEARTH act.

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	CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING ALLIANCE, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	CMHA is the lead agency for the annual Continuum of Care (CoC) planning process. This collaborative process involves ongoing consultations with the City and organizations that provide housing and support services for special needs populations including elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and homeless persons. These consultations inform the needs assessment, strategic plan, and annual action plan updates.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	SMOC-GREATER WORCESTER HOUSING CONNECTION-AURORA PROGRAM
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consulted on the extent of chronic homelessness and homelessness for people with disabilities. Outcomes include improved coordination of services for homeless households without children, chronically homeless, and improvement on Coordinated Assessment, Entry, and Housing Placement.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	L.U.K. Crisis Center, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-homeless Services-Health Services - Victims Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consulted on the needs of unaccompanied youth for the Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plan updates. Anticipated outcomes include improved coordination with the Compass Network, a low-barrier access to service network for unaccompanied youth, and the incorporation of homeless youth needs in the scope of CoC work.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	COMMUNITY HEALTHLINK, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-homeless Services-Health Health Agency Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency is a HOPWA subrecipient and major recipient of Continuum of Care grants. Consulted at workshop with service providers. Anticipated outcomes include increased coordination with the CoC for monitoring and evaluation, services for people with disabilities, basic homeless needs, and coordinated entry.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Friendly House, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Housing Services-Children Services-homeless Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy HOPWA Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency is a subrecipient of CDBG and HUD Continuum of Care funds. Consulted at workshop with service providers and during community input meetings. Anticipated outcomes include increased coordination for youth services and services for homeless families with children.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Catholic Charities
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Ongoing coordination through the Continuum of Care and consulted at workshop with homeless service providers.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	AIDS Project Worcester
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Health Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	HOPWA subrecipient consulted at workshop with homeless service providers. Increased coordination for non-homeless special needs and the homeless strategy.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	AFRICAN COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	CDBG subrecipient consulted at Children and Youth Service Provider workshop and at the community needs assessment public hearings to provide input. The consultations support continued coordination and the inclusion of the organization's input in the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans.

9	Agency/Group/Organization	Boys and Girls Club
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Participation in the workshop for service providers and the community needs public hearing helped inform the priority needs and goals of the Consolidated plan and the Annual Action Plans.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Central MA Regional Planning Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	In-person consultation improves the coordination between the City of Worcester and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Central MA Workforce Investment Board
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Face-to-face meetings improve coordination for employment and job training opportunities in addition to economic development efforts.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	Centro Las Americas
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Subrecipient participation in the workshop for service providers and the community needs public hearing helped inform the priority needs and goals of the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	Children's Friend
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Participation in the focus group for service providers helped inform the priority needs and the goals of the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Worcester Office of Elder Affairs
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Face-to-face consultation informed the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans by providing information related to the needs of elderly persons and fostering improved coordination.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Worcester Office of Human Rights and Disabilities
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Face-to-face meeting to discuss needs related to persons with disabilities. The discussion informed the priority needs and goals of the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.

16	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Worcester Youth Opportunities Office
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Participation in the workshop for service providers anticipated to provide improved coordination around youth services including educational, recreational opportunities, and youth employment, and informs the priority needs and goals of the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
	Agency/Group/Organization	Family Health Center of Worcester, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Participation in the workshop for service providers and the community needs public hearings helped to inform the priority needs and goals of the Consolidated Plans and the Annual Action Plans.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	Family Services of Central MA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The organization's participation in the community needs assessment public hearing helped inform the Needs Assessment portion of the Consolidated Plan.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	Girls Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Participation in the workshop for service providers helped inform the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan sections of the Consolidated Plan.
20	Agency/Group/Organization	MAIN SOUTH COMMUNITY DEV CORP
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Education Services-Employment Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	In-person consultation facilitated continued coordination and helped to inform the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
21	Agency/Group/Organization	Massachusetts Department of Public Health
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - State
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This collaboration ensures that statewide reporting for all children with Elevated Blood levels (EBLs) is managed collectively to catch each EBL prior to poisoned level occurring.
22	Agency/Group/Organization	OAK HILL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The in-person consultation is anticipated to continue coordination and helped inform the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans.

23	Agency/Group/Organization	Pernet Family Health Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Health Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The organization's participation in a workshop for service providers helped inform the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan sections of the Consolidated Plan.
24	Agency/Group/Organization	Regional Environmental Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Nutrition, Urban Gardening, Youth Development
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The organization's participation in a workshop for service providers helped inform the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan sections of the Consolidated Plan.
25	Agency/Group/Organization	SOUTHEAST ASIAN COALITION OF CENTRAL MA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Participation in the workshop for service providers and the community needs public hearing helped inform the priority needs and the goals of the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.

26	Agency/Group/Organization	South Worcester Neighborhood Improvement Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Food Pantry
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The organization's participation helped inform the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan sections of the Consolidated Plan.
27	Agency/Group/Organization	WORCESTER COMMON GROUND, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The in-person consultation is anticipated to continue coordination and helped to inform the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans.
28	Agency/Group/Organization	Worcester Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consulted recently completed 5-Year Agency Plan to establish Authority mission, priorities and planned investments in coming years. Face-to-face meeting to gather input concerning public housing needs, planned programs, and activities.
29	Agency/Group/Organization	Worcester Senior Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The face-to-face meeting and ongoing collaboration provides critical input for meeting the needs of elderly persons.
30	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Worcester Public Health Division
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Ongoing collaboration through the Worcester Lead Abatement Program guides the lead-based paint strategy. Additionally, EOED staff attended the Greater Worcester Regional Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Update public meeting. The CHIP informs the priority needs and goals of the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
31	Agency/Group/Organization	WORCESTER COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Regional organization Anti-Poverty Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The organization's participation in a workshop for service providers helped inform the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan sections of the Consolidated Plan.
32	Agency/Group/Organization	WORCESTER EAST SIDE CDC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Community Development Corporation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The in-person consultation is anticipated to continue coordination and inform the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
33	Agency/Group/Organization	Y.O.U. Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Health Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Participation in the community needs public hearing helped inform the priority needs and goals of the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.

Table 3 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting**

The City of Worcester developed its Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans as a result of extensive consultation with housing, social and health service providers, local and regional agencies, and the Worcester Housing Authority. The City has consulted with all of agencies known to be relevant to the Consolidated Plan.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Central MA Housing Alliance	The Continuum of Care Action Plan is an integral part of the City's efforts to address homelessness, including expanding resources for homeless prevention, resolving barriers to housing for homeless persons, and participating in a coordinated entry system.
Worcester Housing Authority 5-Year and Annual Plan	Worcester Housing Authority	The Worcester Housing Authority is responsible for providing decent, safe, and sanitary housing for very low- to moderate-income households, which overlaps with the Strategic Plan goals related to affordable housing and providing access to public housing.
Draft ADA Self-Evaluation (2014)	City of Worcester	The goals of the Strategic Plan include public facility improvements that address the large number of aging buildings and other facilities that pose barriers to residents with disabilities.
CMWIB Strategic Plan FY 2015 to 2017	Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board	The goals of the Strategic Plan in the Consolidated Plan overlap with the CMWIB goals related to building the skills of the workforce and fostering economic development
Greater Worcester Region CHIP	Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance	The goals of the Strategic Plan align with the Greater Worcester Region Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in order to improve upon the services provided to residents and to strengthen the public health system.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Housing Market Study (2012)	City of Worcester	This report helps guide the Strategic Plan goals related to affordable housing development and preservation as well as healthy and sustainable housing.
Analysis of Impediments to Affordable Housing (2012)	City of Worcester	This report helps guide the Strategic Plan goals related to affordable housing development and preservation.
HOPWA Needs Analysis (2011)	City of Worcester	This report informed the HOPWA Annual Action Plans.
Union Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Action Plan	City of Worcester and Worcester Business Development Corporation	The Union Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Action Plan (2014) guides revitalization efforts in the Union Hill neighborhood, a geographic priority area identified in the Strategic Plan.

Table 4 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional):

The City of Worcester consulted and will continue to coordinate with the Central MA Workforce Investment Board and the Central MA Regional Planning Commission with regard to needs that go beyond the local jurisdiction, such as workforce development, transportation, and regional housing planning issues. Additionally, the City has a history of participation in state-wide efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning and has taken a lead role in the local coordination among critical agencies. The EOED collaborates with the MA Department of Public Health and the Worcester Department of Public Health, and is also actively involved with the Worcester Green and Healthy Homes Coalition (WGHHC), a joint effort of public and private agencies, grassroots organizations, and concerned citizens committed to eliminating home health hazards, promoting energy efficiency, and improving health and quality of life in Worcester. Additionally, the EOED is enhancing collaboration with Worcester's Department of Public Health and Worcester Public Schools to provide in-home interventions for school age children that have direct health issues related to housing.

In conformity HUD directives, the City of Worcester Draft Consolidated Submission for Community Planning and Development (2020-2025) and First Year Action Plan (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) is being made available for a 30-day public review and comment period from October 5, 2020 to October 16, 2020. A hardcopy of said Draft Consolidated Submission and First Year Annual Action Plan is available at the City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED), City Hall, 455 Main Street, 4th Floor, Room 404, Worcester, MA 01608 (open 8:30 AM - 5 PM, normal working days). An electronic copy will also be available at: <http://www.worcesterma.gov/housing-neighborhood-development/community-development-block-grants/policies-procedures>. Persons wishing to submit comments regarding the City of Worcester Fifth Year Action Plan funding recommendations can submit

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them in writing by 5 P.M., October 13, 2020 to the City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development, City Hall, 455 Main Street, 4th Floor, Room 404, Worcester, MA 01608 or by email to development@worchesterma.gov.

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

Beginning in the summer of 2019, the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) engaged in a citizen participation process to identify community needs and provide community input on activities and programs to fund. The EOED hosted a series of community meetings using a facilitated process to encourage and seek input. Both "open ended" questions were asked and "voting and ranking" exercises were used with participants. The process addressed both housing and community development needs including public services and public improvements.

Ten community needs assessment public meetings were held in different parts of the City, with at least one in each of the City Council districts. The meetings were attended by 141 total participants from neighborhoods with underserved, low-income, diverse, and minority residents. All meetings were intentionally held at locations accessible for potential and actual beneficiaries. The public meetings were advertised broadly through the City's media office as well as through door-to-door neighborhood outreach with at least one bilingual staff member. At each of the meetings, two bilingual staff persons were present that were able to provide translation and/or facilitation in Spanish and Vietnamese. In addition, a special public hearing was also held in the Green Island neighborhood in July 2019 to focus attention on the needs of that, very low-income, inner-city neighborhood (65 persons participated).

The Five (5) Year Consolidated Plan informed the proposed first year (2020-2021) annual action plan outreach/funding recommendation process. In addition, after the announcement of the availability of Request for Proposals (RFP) for first year action plan funding through CDBG, HOPWA, and ESG, a Technical Assistance Workshop/Funding Overview meeting was held at City Hall in January 2020 (19 participants).

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) traditionally serves as the formal citizen body that provides input on funding applications submitted as part of the city's CDBG RFP process. The CDAC is a citizen advisory committee comprised of ten members, with two from each of Worcester's five council districts. This year, the CDAC met six times in February and March 2020 to review and evaluate the CDBG proposals and listen to presentations and ask questions of all of the Public Services, Public Facilities and Improvements, and City Interdepartmental applicants that submitted proposals in response to the RFP.

While the CDAC issues initial advisory recommendations on funding allocations, it is the city administration, through the city manager, that ultimately recommends which CDBG projects and activities to fund which form the basis of the annual action plan.

HOPWA proposals were vetted by the city administration together with the HOPWA Advisory Committee. This committee is composed of experts in community health and the HIV/AIDS field in Worcester County and Connecticut. The process was similar to CDAC in its review,

including holding a public meeting to introduce the HOPWA process and guidelines, a technical assistance meeting for interested applicants, and a review and ranking session held in public at City Hall.

ESG proposals were vetted by an ESG RFP Review Committee that was comprised of members of the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care (CoC), and local funders of such social services such as the United Way. The ESG RFP Review Committee also followed a similar process to the CDAC in its review, including holding a public meeting to introduce the ESG process and guidelines, a technical assistance meeting for interested applicants, and an RFP review and ranking session at City Hall.

In conformity HUD directives, the City of Worcester Draft Consolidated Submission for Community Planning and Development (2020-2025) and First Year Action Plan (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) is being made available for a 30-day public review and comment period from October 5, 2020 to October 13, 2020. A hardcopy of said Draft Consolidated Submission and First Year Annual Action Plan is available at the City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED), City Hall, 455 Main Street, 4th Floor, Room 404, Worcester, MA 01608 (open 8:30 AM - 5 PM, normal working days).

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	Community Input Public Meeting, 6/30/19 Frances Perkins Library, 470 W. Boylston St., 01606	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements.	Attendance: 7	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	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	Community Input Public Meeting, 7/10/19 Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence St., 01604	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements; Non-English Speaking – Specify other language: Spanish	Attendance: 22	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	N/A
3	Community Input Public Meeting, 7/24/19 Grace Christian Center, 126 Elm St., 01609	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements.	Attendance: 27	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	N/A
4	Public Hearing on Green Island Needs, 7/31/19, PNI Club, 290 Millbury St., 01610	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements; Non-English Speaking – Specify other language: Spanish	Attendance: 65	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	<u>N/A</u>

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)
5	Community Input Public Meeting, 8/6/19 Lincoln Park Towers, 11 Lake Ave., 01604	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements.	Attendance: 19	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	N/A
6	Community Input Public Meeting, 8/20/19 The Journey Church, 25 Belmont St., 01605	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements.	Attendance: 7	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	N/A
7	Community Input Public Meeting, 9/3/19 Great Brook Valley Community Center, 180 Constitution Ave., 01605	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements.	Attendance: 15	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	N/A
8	Community Input Public Meeting, 9/16/19 Mill Swan Head Start, 337 Mill St., 01602	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements.	Attendance: 16	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	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)
9	Community Input Public Meeting, 9/24/19 Gates Lane Elementary School, 1238 Main St., 01603	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements.	Attendance: 8	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	N/A
10	Community Input Public Meeting, 10/9/19 Holy Cross College Hogan Center, 1 College St., 01610	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements; Non-English Speaking – Specify other language: Spanish	Attendance: 11	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	N/A
11	Community Input Public Meeting, 10/10/19 National Grid Sustainability Hub, 912 Main St., 01610	Housing and community development needs addressed including public services and public improvements; Non-English Speaking – Specify other language: Spanish	Attendance: 9	Facilitated process used to encourage and seek input using "open ended" questions and "voting and ranking" participant exercises.	All comments were received.	<u>N/A</u>

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Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

The Needs Assessment section of this City of Worcester Consolidated Plan contains Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data generated for HUD by the U.S. Census 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) and imbedded in most of the Econ Planning Suite templates in this document. In order to build on this baseline data and provide the most up to date analysis of recent demographic trends, the City of Worcester's Consolidated Plan also benefits from research and analysis of more recent U.S. Census releases including the latest available from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS).

The following needs have been identified for the City of Worcester, MA through the Housing Needs Assessment provided in this section:

Following several years of stagnation, the City's population, number of households, and median income have grown since 2015. The latest ACS data from 2014-2018 shows since 2011-2015, the city's population has increased +1%, the number of households increased by +4%, and the median income increased by +2%.

The number of families has declined (-5%), while the number of non-family households has increased (+13%) in Worcester since 2015. Non-family households now constitute 47% of all city households (up from 42% in 2011-15). There was however a significant growth (+28%) in very large families (7 or more members), which constitute 1% of all city households.

There was significant growth in single person households (+20%). Single person households now constitute 37% of all households (up from 33% in 2011-2015). Elder persons of age 65 or more constitute 33% of all single-person households.

High housing costs burdens are the most significant problems for both renters and home owners in Worcester. For households below 80% of median income, 34% of renters and 37% of owners experienced severe housing cost burdens of more than 50% of income, while 61% of renters and 65% of owners experienced cost burdens of more than 30% of income. For comparison, less than 2% of renters and 1% of owners at the same income levels experienced substandard housing conditions and less than 3% of renters and 2% of owners experienced crowded housing conditions in Worcester.

High housing cost burdens effect all types of households in Worcester. For example for households below 80% of median income, 36% of small families (2-4 members), 32% of large families (5 or more members), and 28% of elderly households (age 62 or more) experienced housing cost burdens of more than 50% of income, while 70% of small families, 66% of large families, and 81% of elderly households experienced housing cost burdens of more than 30% of income.

The following needs have been identified for the City of Worcester, MA through the Homeless Needs Assessment provided in this section:

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

Summary of Housing Needs

Following several years of stagnation, the City's population, number of households, and median incomes have grown since 2015. While CHAS data shows that the City's population, number of households, and median income remained static from 2009-2015, the latest ACS data from 2014-2018 shows since 2011-2015, the city's population has increased to 185,195 (+1%), the number of households increased to 71,145 (+4%), and the median income increased to \$46,407 (+2%).

While the number of persons per household declined from 2.50 to 2.41 (-4%) from 2011-2015 compared to 2014-2018, there was significant growth in single person households and very large households (with 7 or more persons). During this period, single person households increased to 26,545 (+20%) and very large households (7 or more members) grew to 934 (+28%). Other changes by number of persons per household during this period were: 2-persons (+1%), 3-persons (+2%), 4-persons (-10%), 5 persons (-21%), 6-persons (-11%). Single person households now constitute 37% of all households (up from 33% in 2011-2015).

The number of families has declined while the number non-family households has increased in Worcester since 2015. CHAS/ACS data defines family households as a subset of all households which contain two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The latest ACS data from 2014-2018 shows that since 2011-2015, the total number of family households decreased to 37,943 (-5%), while the number of non-family households increased to 33,202 (+17%). Non-family households now constitute 47% of all city households (up from 42% in 2011-15). The latest ACS data on family size shows from that since 2011-2015, the number of small families (2-4 members) decreased to 32,585 (-3%), while the number of large families (5 or more members) decreased to 5,358 (-13%). There was however a significant growth (+28%) in very large families (7 or more members), which constitute 1% of all households.

High housing costs burdens are the most significant problems for both renters and home owners in Worcester. For households between 0-80% of median income, 34% of renters and 37% of owners experienced severe housing cost burdens of more than 50% of income, while 61% of renters and 65% of owners experienced cost burdens of more than 30% of income. For comparison, less than 2% of renters and 1% of owners at the same income levels experienced substandard housing conditions (defined as lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities) and less than 3% of renters and 2% of owners experienced crowded housing conditions (defined as having more than 1 person per room).

High housing cost burdens effect all types of households in Worcester. For example for households below 80% of median income, 36% of small families (2-4 members), 32% of large families (5 or more members), and 28% of elderly households (age 62 or more) experienced housing cost burdens of more than 50% of income, while 70% of small families, 66% of large families, and 81% of elderly households experienced housing cost burdens of more than 30% of income.

Demographics	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2015	% Change
Population	181,045	183,380	1%
Households	68,249	68,575	0%

Demographics	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2015	% Change
Median Income	\$45,944.00	\$45,472.00	-1%

Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Data Source: 2005-2009 ACS (Base Year), 2011-2015 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	17,110	9,760	12,285	7,045	22,375
Small Family Households	4,935	3,660	4,905	3,090	11,080
Large Family Households	1,130	610	985	540	1,870
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	3,100	1,675	2,350	1,110	3,970
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	2,185	2,015	1,325	530	1,395
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	2,875	1,640	2,135	1,070	2,485

Table 6 - Total Households Table

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

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	470	90	130	15	705	70	15	25	10	120
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	160	170	125	50	505	10	0	10	40	60
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	380	225	245	10	860	25	40	125	50	240
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	7,615	1,935	185	0	9,735	1,660	1,230	880	145	3,915

	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)	2,100	2,915	2,695	320	8,030	315	725	1,800	1,075	3,915
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	1,260	0	0	0	1,260	165	0	0	0	165

Table 7 – Housing Problems Table

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

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	8,630	2,415	685	75	11,805	1,765	1,285	1,035	250	4,335
Having none of four housing problems	4,845	4,430	6,765	3,415	19,455	445	1,630	3,800	3,305	9,180
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	1,260	0	0	0	1,260	165	0	0	0	165

Table 8 – Housing Problems 2

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

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	3,555	2,325	1,220	7,100	460	565	1,330	2,355
Large Related	835	245	165	1,245	105	195	265	565
Elderly	2,355	1,140	400	3,895	1,160	980	660	2,800
Other	3,690	1,545	1,185	6,420	335	280	555	1,170
Total need by income	10,435	5,255	2,970	18,660	2,060	2,020	2,810	6,890

Table 9 – Cost Burden > 30%

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

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	2,925	735	65	3,725	440	410	300	1,150
Large Related	570	20	0	590	90	160	25	275
Elderly	1,525	340	100	1,965	915	460	260	1,635
Other	3,085	875	40	4,000	305	225	325	855
Total need by income	8,105	1,970	205	10,280	1,750	1,255	910	3,915

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

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	440	375	270	55	1,140	14	40	85	75	214
Multiple, unrelated family households	90	25	80	0	195	20	0	50	20	90

	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
Other, non-family households	25	0	45	4	74	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	555	400	395	59	1,409	34	40	135	95	304

Table 11 – Crowding Information – 1/2

Data Source: 2011-2015 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.

There has been a significant growth in single person households in Worcester which increased to 26,545 (+20%) from 2014-2018 compared to 2011-2015. For comparison all other households (with 2 or more persons) declined to 44,600 (-3%) during the same period. Single person households now constitute 37% of all households (up from 33% in 2011-2015).

Elder persons (age 65 or more) constituted 33% of all single-person households in Worcester according to 2014-2018 ACS data. The number of such elder, single-person households grew to 8,781 (+14% from 2011-2015). Among elder households below 80% median Income, 28% experienced housing severe cost burdens of more than 50% of income, while 81% of elderly households experienced housing cost burdens of more than 30% of income.

Non-elders (less than age 65) constituted 67% of all single-person households in Worcester according to 2014-2018 ACS data. The number of non-elder singles grew to 17,764 (+23% from 2011-2015). Among non-elder households below 80% median income, 31% experienced severe housing cost burdens of more than 50% of income, while 79% experienced housing severe cost burdens of more than of more than 30% of income.

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.

What are the most common housing problems?

High housing costs burdens are the most significant problems for both renters and home owners in Worcester. For households below 80% of median income, 34% of renters and 37% of owners experienced severe housing cost burdens of more than 50% of income, while 61% of renters and 65% of owners experienced cost burdens of more than 30% of income. For comparison, less than 2% of renters and 1% of owners at the same income levels experienced substandard housing conditions (defined as lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities) and less than 3% of renters and 2% of owners experienced crowded housing conditions (defined as having more than 1 person per room).

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

High housing cost burdens effect all types of households in Worcester. For example for households below 80% of median income, 36% of small families (2-4 members), 32% of large families (5 or more members), and 28% of elderly households (age 62 or more) experienced housing cost burdens of more than 50% of income, while 70% of small families, 66% of large families, and 81% of elderly households experienced housing cost burdens of more than 30% of 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

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:

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

Discussion

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

For Consolidated Planning purposes, HUD defines DISPROPORTIONATE NEED as when the proportion of persons within a category of need who are members of a particular racial or ethnic group are at least 10% higher than the percentage of all persons in said category of need. The next four tables provide CHAS data for housing that has HOUSING PROBLEMS by City of Worcester racial and ethnic groups as per Housing Area Median Family Income (HAFMI) levels. The CHAS data identifies the following four types of HOUSING PROBLEMS: 1.) unit lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2.) unit lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3.) unit has more than one person per room, 4.) cost burden is greater than 30% of income.

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	12,810	2,880	1,425
White	6,545	1,460	725
Black / African American	1,360	175	254
Asian	600	65	245
American Indian, Alaska Native	100	20	0
Pacific Islander	4	0	0
Hispanic	3,970	1,030	155

Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

*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	7,340	2,425	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	4,180	1,520	0
Black / African American	1,080	185	0
Asian	310	85	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	14	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	1,635	630	0

Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

*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	6,215	6,070	0
White	3,675	3,730	0
Black / African American	920	550	0
Asian	645	440	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	25	0
Hispanic	935	1,080	0

Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

*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	1,720	5,325	0
White	1,195	3,790	0
Black / African American	230	450	0
Asian	155	340	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	20	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	95	680	0

Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

*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%

Discussion

Analysis of the CHAS data presented in the last four tables determines which racial/ethnic groups have a disproportionately greater need with regard to housing problems. The below listed groups have a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED when the percentage of persons with said HOUSING PROBLEMS within these groups is more than 10% GREATER THAN THE CITYWIDE POPULATION as a whole.

Within 0-30% Housing Area Median Family Income (HAMFI), 75% (12,810) citywide households have one or more of the four above listed HOUSING PROBLEMS. The percentage (and number) of households with one or more housing problems by racial/ethnic group: 100% (4) PACIFIC ISLANDER, 83% (100) American Indian, Alaskan Native, 77% (3,970) Hispanic, 76% (1,360) Black / African American, 75% (6,545) White, 66% (600) Asian. Thus within this HAFMI, PACIFIC ISLANDERS HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE NEED relative to HOUSING PROBLEMS (although they account for only 4 households).

Within 0-30% Housing Area Median Family Income (HAMFI), 8% (1,245) citywide households had NO/NEGATIVE INCOME. The percentage (and number) of households with no/negative income by racial/ethnic group: 27% (245) ASIAN, 14% (254) Black / African American, 8% (725) White, 3% (155) Hispanic and 0% (0) American Indian, Alaska Native and Pacific Islander. Thus within this HAFMI, ASIANS HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE NEED relative to NO/NEGATIVE INCOME.

Within 31-50% HAMFI, 75% (7,340) citywide households have one or more of the four above listed HOUSING PROBLEMS while none had zero/negative income. Within this same income range, the percentage (and number) of households with one or more HOUSING PROBLEMS by racial/ethnic group: 100% (4) AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, 93% (410) ASIAN, 89% (760) BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN,

67% (4,000) White, 63% (940) Hispanic, 0% (0) Pacific Islander. Thus within this HAFMI, AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKAN NATIVES, ASIANS and BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICANS HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE NEED relative to HOUSING PROBLEMS.

Within 51-80% HAMFI, 48% (6,205) citywide households have one or more of the four above listed HOUSING PROBLEMS while none had zero/negative income. Within this same income range, the percentage (and number) of households with one or more HOUSING PROBLEMS by racial/ethnic group were: 56% (860) Black / African American, 46% (4,030) White, 44% (290) Asian, 43% (825) Hispanic, 0% (0) American Indian, Alaska Native and Pacific Islander. Within 51-80% HAMFI, no racial / ethnic groups had a disproportionate need given that the percentage of households that have one of more problems did not exceed 10% of the citywide percentage for any particular population group.

Within 81-100% HAMFI, 34% (2,455) citywide households have one or more of the four above listed HOUSING PROBLEMS while none had zero/negative income. Within this same income range, the percentage (and number) of households with one or more HOUSING PROBLEMS by racial/ethnic group were: 37% (255) Black / African American, 37% (75) Asian, 34% (1,885) White, 27% (190) Hispanic, 0% (0) American Indian, Alaska Native and Pacific Islander. Within 81-100% HAMFI, no racial / ethnic groups had a disproportionate need given that the percentage of households that have one of more problems did not exceed 10% of the citywide percentage for any particular population group.

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

For Consolidated Planning purposes, HUD defines DISPRPORTIONATE NEED as when the proportion of persons within a category of need who are members of a particular racial or ethnic group are at least 10% higher than the percentage of all persons within said category of need. The next four tables provide CHAS data for housing that has SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS by City of Worcester racial and ethnic groups as per Housing Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) levels. The four SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS are: 1.) unit lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2.) unit lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3.) unit has more than 1.5 persons per room, 4.) cost burden is greater than 50% of income.

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	10,395	5,290	1,425
White	5,400	2,605	725
Black / African American	1,150	385	254
Asian	555	110	245
American Indian, Alaska Native	85	30	0
Pacific Islander	4	0	0
Hispanic	3,010	1,985	155

Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

*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	3,700	6,060	0
White	2,030	3,675	0
Black / African American	700	565	0
Asian	205	180	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	8	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	695	1,570	0

Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

*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	1,720	10,565	0
White	1,085	6,320	0
Black / African American	195	1,275	0
Asian	165	930	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	25	0
Hispanic	250	1,760	0

Table 19 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

*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	325	6,720	0
White	125	4,860	0
Black / African American	90	585	0
Asian	60	440	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	20	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	10	765	0

Table 20 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

*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%

Discussion

Analysis of the CHAS data presented in the last four tables determines which racial/ethnic groups have a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED with regard to SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS. The below listed groups have a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED when the percentage of persons with said SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS within these groups is more than 10% GREATER THAN THE CITYWIDE POPULATION as a whole.

Within 0-30% Housing Area Median Family Income (HAMFI), 55% (8,590) citywide households have one or more above listed SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS. Within this same income range, the percentage (and number) of households with one or more SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS by racial/ethnic group: 100% (25) PACIFIC ISLANDER, 66% (65) BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN, 54% (5,190) White, 53% (2,305) Hispanic, 45% (330) Asian and 0% (0) American Indian, Alaska Native. Thus within this HAFMI, PACIFIC ISLANDERS and BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICANS have a disproportionately greater need with regard to SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS.

Within 0-30% Housing Area Median Family Income (HAMFI), 8% (1,245) citywide households had NO/NEGATIVE INCOME. The percentage (and number) of households with no/negative income by racial/ethnic group: 27% (245) ASIAN, 14% (254) Black / African American, 8% (725) White, 3% (155) Hispanic and 0% (0) American Indian, Alaska Native and Pacific Islander. Thus within this HAFMI, ASIANS HAVE A DISPROPRTIONATE NEED relative to NO/NEGATIVE INCOME.

Within 31-50% HAMFI, 32% (2,800) citywide households have one or more of the above listed SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS, while none had no/negative income. Within this same income range, the

percentage (and number) of households with one or more SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS by racial/ethnic group: 53% (450) BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN, 30% (1,785) White, 29% (400) Hispanic, 28% (120) Asian, 0% (0) American Indian, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander. Thus within this HAFMI, BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICANS had a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED with regard to SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS.

Within 51-80% HAMFI, 18% (2,320) citywide households have one or more of the above listed SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS, while none had no/negative income. Within this same income range, the percentage (and number) of households with one or more SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS by racial/ethnic group: 33% (215) ASIAN, 28% (430) BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN, 19% (365) Hispanic, 14% (1,235) White, 0% (0) American Indian, Alaska Native and Pacific Islander. Thus within this HAFMI, ASIANS and BLACKS / AFRICAN AMERICANS had a DISPROPORTIONATE need with regard to SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS.

Within 81-100% HAMFI, 6% (410) citywide households have one or more of the four above listed SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS, while none had no/negative income. Within this same income range, the percentage (and number) of households with one or more SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS by racial/ethnic group: 10% (70) Hispanic, 6% (305) White, 5% (10) Asian, 4% (25) Black / African American (25), 0% (0) American Indian, Native Alaska and Pacific Island. Within 81-100% HAMFI, no racial/ethnic group had a disproportionate need given that the percentage of households that have one or more severe housing problems did not exceed 10% of that citywide percentage for any particular population group.

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:

For Consolidated Planning purposes, HUD defines DISPRPORTIONATE NEED as when the proportion of persons within a category of need who are members of a particular racial or ethnic group are at least 10% higher than the percentage of all persons within said category of need. The next table provides CHAS data for housing cost burdens (defined as the percentage of income spent for housing) as per different racial / ethnic groups.

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	38,445	14,245	14,420	1,480
White	27,010	8,145	8,180	735
Black / African American	2,940	1,960	1,675	254
Asian	2,075	930	720	250
American Indian, Alaska Native	75	24	115	0
Pacific Islander	40	20	4	0
Hispanic	5,590	2,985	3,475	195

Table 21 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

Discussion:

Households with Acceptable Housing Cost Burdens of 30% or less of income: Citywide, 56% (38,445 households). By race / ethnic group: 63% (40) Pacific Islander, 61% (27,010) White, 52% (2,075) Asian, 46% (5,590) Hispanic, 43% (2,940) Black / African American, 35% (75) American Indian, Alaskan Native. Households with HIGH HOUSING COST BURDENS of over 30% of income: Citywide, 44% (30,145). By race / ethnic group: 65% (139) AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKAN NATIVE, 57% (3,889) BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN, 54% (6,685) HISPANIC, 48% (1,900) Asian, 39% (17,060) White, 38% (24) Pacific Islander. Thus AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKAN NATIVES, BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANICS have a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED with regard to experiencing HIGH HOUSING COST BURDENS of over 30% of income.

Households with SEVERELY HIGH HOUSING COST BURDENS of over 50% of income: Citywide 21% (14,420). By race / ethnic group: 54% (115) AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKAN NATIVE, 28% (3,475) Hispanic,

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25% (1,675) Black / African American, 19% (8,180) White, 18% (720) Asian, 6% (4) Pacific Islander. Thus AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKAN NATIVES have a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED with regard to experiencing SEVERLY HIGH HOUSING COST BURDENS of more than 50% 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?

As per analysis presented over the last few pages, certain City of Worcester racial/ethnic groups were identified as having disproportionately greater needs as per Housing Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) levels with regard to the CHAS categories of HOUSING PROBLEMS, SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS, NO/NEGATIVE INCOME, HIGH HOUSING COST BURDENS, and SEVERE HOUSING COST BURDENS.

HOUSING PROBLEMS - Housing that has at least one of four types of housing problems: 1.) unit lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2.) unit lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3.) unit has more than one person per room, 4.) cost burden is greater than 30% of income. As per income levels the following racial/ethnic groups have a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED with HOUSING PROBLEMS (number of households in parenthesis): 0-30% HAMFI - PACIFIC ISLANDERS (4) 31-50% HAMFI - AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKAN NATIVE (4), ASIAN (410), BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN (760).

SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS – Housing that has at least one of four types of severe housing problems: 1.) unit lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2.) unit lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3.) unit has more than 1.5 persons per room, 4.) cost burden is greater than 50% of income. As per income levels the following racial/ethnic groups have a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED with SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS (number of households in parenthesis): 0-30% HAMFI – PACIFIC ISLANDERS (25), BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN (65), 31-50% HAMFI – BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN (450), 51-80% HAMFI – ASIAN (255), BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN (430).

NO/NEGATIVE INCOME – Households that have No/Negative Income are only found within 0-30% HAMFI. At this income level, the following racial/ethnic group has a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED with NO/NEGATIVE INCOME (number of households in parenthesis): ASIAN (245).

HIGH HOUSING COST BURDENS – Households that expend more than 30% of income on housing. The following racial/ethnic groups have a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED with HIGH HOUSING COST BURDENS OF OVER 30% (number of households in parenthesis): 0-30% HAMFI – AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE (139), HISPANIC (1,900), BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN (3,889).

SEVERE HOUSING COST BURDENS – Households that expend more than 50% of income on housing. The following racial/ethnic group has a DISPROPORTIONATE NEED with SEVERE HOUSING COST BURDENS OF OVER 50% (number of households in parenthesis): AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE (115).

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

The expansion of home ownership continues to be an important cornerstone to the City of Worcester's neighborhood stabilization and revitalization efforts. An examination of home ownership rates among racial/ethnic groups shows that most minority households have disproportionately lower levels of home ownership when compared to citywide rates among the whole population. The U.S. Census 2014-2018 American Community Survey reported that the citywide home ownership rate was 42%. The following home ownership rates (with numbers of households in parenthesis) were reported among the city's

racial/ethnic groups: 60% (21) Pacific Islander, 51% (21,621) White, non-Hispanic, 45% Asian (1,907), 26% BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN (2,158), 26% AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE (76), 18% HISPANIC(2,362). Thus BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICANS, AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVES, and HISPANICS have DISPROPORTIONATELY LOWER HOME OWNERSHIP levels when compared to the citywide rate. Expansion of minority home ownership opportunities in Worcester can both help the city achieve its neighborhood stabilization and revitalization goals as well as address issues of DISPROPORTIONATE NEED for MINORITY HOME OWNERSHIP.

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

The City of Worcester is comprised of 44 U.S. Census tracts, of which 26 tracts had 51% or more of their populations being persons of Low-Moderate Income (LMI) - defined by HUD as households whose incomes were 80% or less of the metropolitan area median income as adjusted for family size. These 26 LMI tracts were: 7304.01, 7304.02; 7305.00; 7310.02; 7311.01, 7311.02, 7312.03, 7312.04, 7313.00, 7314.00, 7315.00, 7316.00, 7317.00, 7318.00, 7319.00, 7320.01, 7322.01, 7322.02; 7322.03, 7323.02, 7324.00, 7325.00, 7326.00, 7327.00, 7329.02, and 7330.00. (see attached Low Income Population City of Worcester Map for locations). An examination of the attached Demographic Analysis of Target Areas Tables show that these 26 LMI tracts has a greater proportion of the city's racial and ethnic minority populations. According to the latest U.S. Census 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates the citywide percentages by racial and ethnic populations were: 57% White, non-Hispanic, 21% Hispanic, 12% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 7% Asian, non-Hispanic, 3% Other/Multi-Race, non-Hispanic. In the 26 tracts with majority Low-Moderate Income populations, the following percentages were reported for racial and ethnic populations: 46% White, non-Hispanic, 29% Hispanic, 13% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 9% Asian, non-Hispanic, 3% Other/Multi-Race, non-Hispanic. One of these tracts, 7325.00, (the Green Island neighborhood) is one of the most distressed with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. CDBG investments in the Green Island Revitalization Initiative (a new City driven initiative modeled after the recent Union Hill Initiative) benefit a distressed neighborhood in which 71% of residents are low- to moderate-income and suffers from dilapidated roads/sidewalks, aging and maintenance deferred housing, chronic issues with flooding and drainage, as well possibly pollution and contamination. Informed by neighborhood needs analysis, the initiative will address housing, roads, sidewalks, parks, sewer and drainage systems, lighting, intersection signalization, and help to frame, complement, and offset development impacts associated with the construction of the new minor league baseball stadium. Another tract, 7324.00 (Union Hill), was ranked as the city's most distressed and the sixth most distressed in the State with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, foreclosed properties, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. This tract has been the focus of the Union Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative which continues to work across multiple City departments in concert with key community institutions and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in that area.

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NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

Introduction

Totals in Use

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	35	39	2,282	2,062	257	1,755	42	1	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			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	
Average Annual Income	15,156	15,321	12,228	13,029	10,571	13,282	14,613	7,800	
Average length of stay	5	5	6	6	7	7	0	8	
Average Household size	4	2	1	2	1	2	1	4	
# Homeless at admission	1	0	7	1	0	1	0	0	

	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher	
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	6	950	278	47	226	5	0
# of Disabled Families	8	10	689	904	206	677	20	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	35	39	2,282	2,062	257	1,755	42	1
# 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

Race	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	30	30	2,078	1,813	241	1,529	36	1	0
Black/African American	5	9	194	245	16	222	6	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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 *
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	10	4	0	4	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	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	23	17	1,187	1,009	113	890	2	0	0
Not Hispanic	12	22	1,095	1,053	144	865	40	1	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)

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

The current demand for the need of accessible units for public housing applicants continues to overshadow the supply of accessible units in the WHA housing inventory. The turnover rate for units with accessible features is low, especially for multiple bedroom applicants. Budget constraints and lack of available funding for the renovation and production of units with accessible features continues to be the main barrier that handicapped families face.

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

The need for employment readiness is one of the immediate needs of families in both our public and leased housing program. Programs such as “A Better Life” and the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Programs provide families in both programs with educational and job training opportunities. The need for affordable childcare is necessary for families trying to achieve economic success. The lack of affordable childcare continues to be a major obstacle. Additional educational opportunities for WHA youth have also become a glaring need. Forced into distance learning arrangements, housing authority youth are at risk for learning loss as they deal with a lack of broadband connectivity and social distancing guidelines.

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

For those families living within the same socio-economic group, the needs are quite similar. There are a number of factors that may contribute in making life a bit more difficult. The first being that market rate rents continue to climb at a much higher rate than wages for unsubsidized families and the self-sufficiency programming and opportunities available public and leased housing families don't exist.

4) Discussion

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

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

The WHA is currently not under a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement.

6) Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

The WHA encourages all residents to become active members of their communities and has formally recognized 13 tenant associations that are encouraged participate and engage other residents to take an active role at their sites. Representatives from each resident council meet with the WHA CEO on a regular monthly basis to discuss issues that may have a direct impact on tenant's well-being and quality of life. Additionally, the WHA has regularly scheduled Monthly Resident Meetings with members of the WHA Public Safety, Maintenance and Property Management staffs to discuss issues with tenants that are germane to that specific location.

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

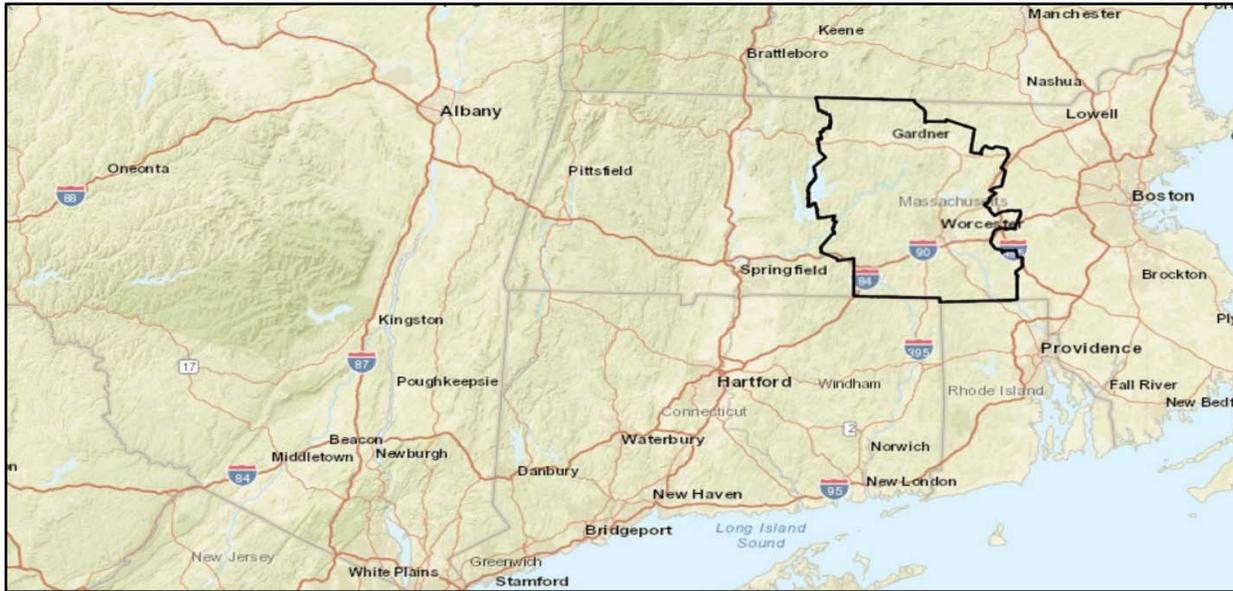
No. The WHA is designated as a high performing agency.

8) Plan to remove the 'troubled' designation

N/A

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)

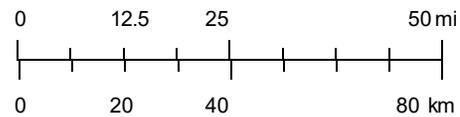
NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – Service Area Worcester City and County CoC (MA-506)



August 12, 2020

1:1,942,017

 Override 1



NA-40 MAP # 1 CoC Geography

Indicate if the homeless population is located in a rural areas: None of the homeless are in rural areas

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):

Data that was available for the number of persons exiting homelessness each year and the number of days that persons experiencing homelessness is an estimate based on inferences of the length of stay in shelters.

The estimate of households with children does not include those moving from one temporary location to another or living doubled-up because they lack a home of their own. It is difficult to count this population accurately as they are living in unstable conditions.

The number of day's homeless, for household without children and the chronically homeless individuals according to the Triage and Assessment Center for Homeless Individuals reports an average shelter stay to be between 15 & 5 days, depending on the month. About half of those individuals exit homelessness successfully while another 10 to 20% are assumed to leave successfully without reporting the housing outcomes to the shelter. The other 30% of homeless individuals may have multiple episodes between multiple locations, or live outside in the summer. The durations for this population in the winter is likely to be longer, sometimes far longer. If 70% of individuals are no longer homeless in approximately 14 days, and the other 30% take approximately 120 days to resolve their homeless episode on average, the number of days of homelessness experienced by individuals staying in shelter could be on average of 45 days per person.

With regard to Veterans and their families, Worcester continues to see great success in the number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year. The reduction in Veterans homelessness is mainly due to the resource-rich service providers that utilize supportive housing and rapid re-housing methods, which provide Veteran-specific services across the county.

The data reported for unaccompanied youth may provide an incomplete picture of homeless youth in Worcester as homeless youth often avoid identification, are doubled up with other homeless youth, or are not engaged with homeless service providers within the CoC, as a result, many homeless youth are not successfully captured in the annual PIT count. While the exact scope of youth homelessness remains unclear, the risk associated with it are well documented. According to the Worcester County 2019 Youth Count (Commonwealth total of 1957 surveys taken) Worcester had 340 surveys, 46 met the "HUD Definition" of youth homelessness. 84 of those polled were housed but had been homeless in the past. Of those 77 met the "Commission Definition" 3 were under 18, 22 were LGBTQ, 24 were in foster care, 9 were in the juvenile/criminal justice system, 35 were parenting with custody/pregnant and 8 did not have High School diplomas. Youth often leave home due to some form of significant family conflict, such as abuse, neglect, substance abuse, lack of acceptance of gender identity or sexual orientation among others. Aging out of the foster care system and declining to accept DCF voluntary services or because they have been separated from family due to their own housing instabilities. Each of these factors are associated with trauma, compounding the challenges faced during homelessness. Depression and other mental health disorders are common, as well as chronic physical health issues, including asthma, diabetes and hepatitis. Substance abuse is also common among homeless youth, as they often engage in risky behaviors associated with survival, such as stealing, selling drugs or sex work. These risks increase as the time spent experiencing homelessness increases. Worcester continues to be known as a

leader in the effort to address Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness in the community. The Compass Network (LUK, Inc.) continues to lead the efforts in Worcester.

Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

RACE:	SHELTERED:	UNSHELTERED (optional)
White	1033	154
Black or African American	359	14
Asian	22	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	6	0
Pacific Islander	4	0
Ethnicity:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
Hispanic	583	40
Not Hispanic	841	129

Alternate Data Source Name: Worcester City and County CoC Data

Data Source Comments: Unsheltered data unavailable

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

Families with children continue to count for a larger percentage of the homeless population in Worcester County, although there was a decrease from 2018-2019 Point in Time count of 13%, the trend of increased family size continued. It is difficult to count this population accurately as they are living in unstable situations. On average, a family will move about five times before entering shelter, resulting in frequent school changes and hardships for children. The numbers of persons in homeless family households changed from 1088 to 936 from 2018 to 2019 a decrease of 14%.

The type of families in need of housing assistance tend to be families with single-parent female head of households, as discussed in the NA-10 housing needs assessment.

Other characteristics among Veteran and non-Veteran families in need of housing assistance are disabilities that inhibit the ability to work , and increasing family size coupled with the lack of resources for affordable and quality housing.

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

Data collected from HMIS does not report race and ethnicity for sheltered persons experiencing homelessness. The table above indicates the following racial breakdown by percentage of sheltered homeless person: 72.5% White; 25.2% Black or African American; 1.54% Asian, .4% American Indian or Alaska Native .2% Pacific Islander. The ethnicity of sheltered homeless persons in 2019 was found to be 40.9% Hispanic and 58.0% Not Hispanic. Street Outreach workers conducting the Point in Time Count on January 30, 2019 did not record racial or ethnic characteristics for unsheltered homeless persons.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness:

From 2018 to 2019, the total number of homeless persons in Worcester County decreased by 14% from 1852 to 1593. The number of unsheltered or street homeless individuals decreased slightly from 156 in 2018 to 151 in 2019, or .2%.

The total number of homeless individuals decreased from 764 to 659 in 2019 a 14% decrease. The decrease in Unaccompanied Homeless Adult Individuals and Chronically Homeless individuals (both Veterans and non-Veterans) can be attributed to street outreach efforts, the continued implementation of Federal, State and Local rapid rehousing programs (RRH), and Continuum of Care Permanent Supportive Housing programs for individuals with disabilities.

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

HOPWA

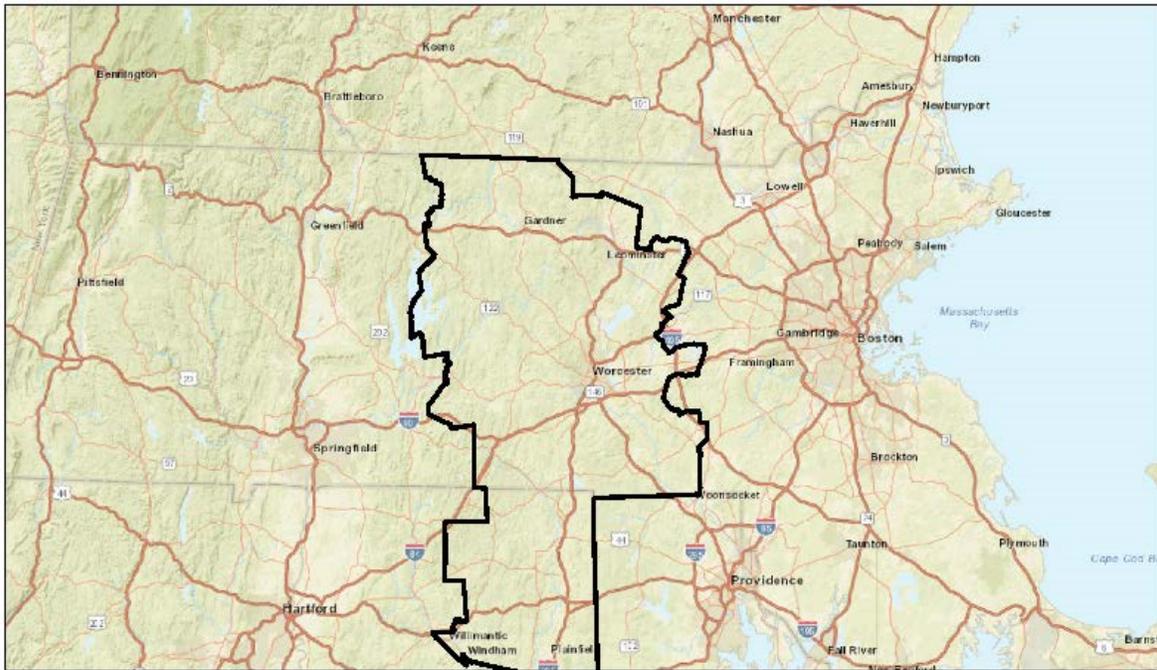
Current HOPWA Formula Use:	
Cumulative Cases of AIDS Reported	1,790
Area Incidence of AIDS	32
Rate per population	10
Number of new cases prior year (3 years data)	96
Current HIV surveillance:	
Number of Persons living with HIV (PLWH)	1,091
Area Prevalence (PLWH per population)	128
Number of new HIV cases reported last year	0

Table 4 – HOPWA Data

Data Source: CDC HIV Surveillance

NA-45 Map #1 Worcester HOPWA EMSA

CPD Maps - Worcester HOPWA Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (EMSA)



October 2, 2020
 [Black Outline] Override 1

1:1,311,886
 0 5 10 20 mi
 0 12.5 25 50 km
Sources: Esri, DeLorme, Garmin, USGS, Imagery, NCES/NAV P, NRCAN, Esri, Japan, Microsoft, Earthstar (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, Esri (Hebrew), NCCO, Jo OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Consolidated Plan WORCESTER 73

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

NA-45 HIV Housing Need (HOPWA Grantees Only)

Type of HOPWA Assistance	Estimates in Unmet Need
Tenant Based rental assistance	12
Short-term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility	0
Facility Bases Housing (Permanent, short-term or transitional)	0

Table 28 – HIV Housing Need

Data Source: HOPWA CAPER and HOPWA Beneficiary Verification Worksheet

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

<i>Persons with Disabilities Among Civilian Non-Institutionalized in Worcester, MA</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>With a Disability</i>	<i>Percent With a Disability</i>
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	185,421		
Population under 5 years	10,228		
With a hearing difficulty			
With a vision difficulty			
Population 5 to 17 years	27,272		4.5
With a hearing difficulty			
With a vision difficulty			
With a cognitive difficulty			
With an ambulatory difficulty			
With a self-care difficulty			
Population 18 to 64 years	122,409		10.1
With a hearing difficulty			
With a vision difficulty			
With a cognitive difficulty			
With an ambulatory difficulty			
With a self-care difficulty			
With an independent living difficulty			

Population 65 years and over	24,512		32.7
With a hearing difficulty			
With a vision difficulty			
With a cognitive difficulty			
With an ambulatory difficulty			
With a self-care difficulty			
With an independent living difficulty			

Source American Community Survey (2014-2018)

Special Needs Populations in Worcester, MA

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

The vast majority of clients rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as their main source of income. SSI provides income benefits to persons who have been determined to be disabled, but do not have a substantial work history (Social Security Disability Insurance or SSDI is paid to those who become disabled and have 'paid in' sufficient amounts through previous employment).

Considering the prevailing rents in Worcester County, a single person receiving SSI payments would either be substantially rent burdened or completely unable to afford housing in their communities. HUD recommends that households pay no more than 30% of their income towards rent.

Rent for a 0 Bedroom, Efficiency or Single-Room Occupancy unit in the City of Worcester is 90% of earned monthly income for an individual receiving SSI. Rent for a 1 Bedroom unit City of Worcester exceeds monthly SSI payments to a single individual, at 120% of total SSI income

Alcohol and other Drug Addictions With the guidance and support of local partners, Worcester Division of Public Health established the Regional Response to Addiction Partnership (RRAP). This new coalition was formed to coordinate regional activities around substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery. It combines membership and activities from several other groups that had been meeting independently with a focus on a single substance or population. Many participating in the partnership also provide services to households with supportive housing needs and help determine strategies to comprehensively address those needs.

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

Discussion:

Table 1. Total number of individuals reported with HIV infection or AIDS¹ by mortality status on January 1, 2018: Worcester, Massachusetts

	N	%
Individuals Living with HIV infection ²	1,091	61%
Individuals Reported with HIV or AIDS Who Are Deceased ³	699	39%
Total Number of Individuals Reported with HIV Infection or AIDS	1,790	100%

¹ Does not include individuals diagnosed with HIV infection (non-AIDS) who died prior to January 1, 1999 or who were not in care on January 1, 1999.

² HIV prevalence data include all individuals who were residing in Massachusetts as of 1/1/18, regardless of where they were first diagnosed.

³ All-cause HIV/AIDS death data include only individuals who were first diagnosed in Massachusetts.

Data Source: MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, data are current as of 1/1/18 and may be subject to change

Table 2. Average annual rate of HIV infection diagnosis¹ from 2014 to 2016 and HIV prevalence² rate on 1/1/18: Worcester, Massachusetts

Average annual HIV diagnosis rate from 2014–2016	Average rate per 100,000	Average annual number of HIV diagnoses
Worcester, MA	17.7	32
Massachusetts Total	9.7	633

HIV prevalence rate on 1/1/18	Rate per 100,000	Number of individuals living with HIV infection
Worcester, MA	602.6	1,091
Massachusetts Total	337.7	22,112

¹ New HIV diagnoses include only individuals who were first diagnosed in Massachusetts.

² HIV prevalence data include all individuals who were residing in Massachusetts as of 1/1/18, regardless of where they were first diagnosed.

Data Source: MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, data are current as of 1/1/18 and may be subject to change; The denominators for rate calculations are from the MDPH Massachusetts Race Allocated Census 2010 Estimates (MRACE 2010), Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Information, Statistics, Research, and Evaluation

Table 3. Individuals living with HIV infection,¹ deaths among individuals reported with HIV/AIDS,² and newly diagnosed HIV infections³ by year: 2007–2016, Worcester, Massachusetts

Year	HIV Prevalence ¹	Deaths among those with HIV/AIDS	Diagnosis of HIV Infection
2007	809	23	46
2008	829	16	31
2009	840	14	30
2010	855	13	42
2011	879	8	26
2012	897	17	21
2013	899	15	35
2014	919	12	28
2015	931	13	26
2016	943	12	42

¹ Number of individuals living with HIV infection on 12/31 of each year. Residence calculated based on vital status. For those alive as of 1/1/18, residence based on most recent record available. For those deceased with known residence at death, residence at death. For those deceased with unknown residence at death, residence at diagnosis.

² All-cause HIV/AIDS death data include only individuals who were first diagnosed in Massachusetts.

³ New HIV diagnoses include only individuals who were first diagnosed in Massachusetts.

Data source: MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, data are current as of 1/1/18 and may be subject to change

Table 4. Number and percentage of individuals diagnosed with HIV infection from 2014–2016¹ and individuals living with HIV infection (ILWH) on 1/1/18² by sex at birth, gender, place of birth, race/ethnicity, exposure mode, and age: Worcester, Massachusetts

	HIV Infection Diagnoses		ILWH	
	N	%	N	%
Sex at Birth:				
Male	68	71%	628	58%
Female	28	29%	463	42%
Gender	N	%	N	%
Cisgender ³	≥5 ⁸	N/A	1,082	99%
Transgender	<5	N/A	9	1%
Place of Birth:	N	%	N	%
US	39	41%	512	47%
Puerto Rico/US Dependency ⁴	9	9%	238	22%
Non-US	48	50%	341	31%
Race/Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	22	23%	268	25%
Black (non-Hispanic)	44	46%	380	35%
Hispanic/Latino	25	26%	409	37%
Asian/Pacific Islander	<5	N/A	23	2%
Other/Undetermined	<5	N/A	11	1%
Exposure Mode:	N	%	N	%
Male-to-male sex (MSM)	38	40%	251	23%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	7	7%	271	25%
MSM/IDU	<5	N/A	31	3%
Heterosexual Sex	6	6%	229	21%
Other ⁵	<5	N/A	27	2%
Total No Identified Risk (NIR)	42	44%	282	26%
• Presumed Heterosexual Sex ⁶	17	18%	144	13%

	NIR ⁷			
	25	26%	138	13%
Age:	N	%	N	%
	At Diagnosis		On January 1, 2018	
Under 13	<5	N/A	<5	N/A
13 to 19	<5	N/A	<5	N/A
20 to 24	8	8%	14	1%
25 to 29	15	16%	44	4%
30 to 34	14	15%	57	5%
35 to 39	16	17%	75	7%
40 to 44	12	13%	92	8%
45 to 49	13	14%	129	12%
50 to 54	7	7%	185	17%
55 to 59	<5	N/A	206	19%
60 to 64	<5	N/A	154	14%
65 to 69	<5	N/A	89	8%
70+	0	0%	41	4%
Total⁹	96	100%	1,091	100%

¹ New HIV diagnoses include only individuals who were first diagnosed in Massachusetts.

² HIV prevalence data include all individuals who were residing in Massachusetts as of 1/1/18, regardless of where they were first diagnosed.

³ Persons whose current gender identity corresponds with their sex assigned at birth.

⁴ All individuals diagnosed with HIV infection from 2014–2016 who were born in a US dependency were born in Puerto Rico; 99% of individuals living with HIV infection in MA who were born in a US dependency were born in Puerto Rico, 1% were born in US minor outlying areas, <1% were born in the US Virgin Islands, and <1% were born in Guam.

⁵ Includes pediatric and blood/blood products exposure modes

⁶ Includes a woman having sex with a man of unknown HIV status or risk. This category is limited to women only.

⁷ Includes a man having sex with a woman of unknown HIV status or risk, those still being followed up for risk information, those who have died with no determined risk, and those lost to follow-up.

⁸ Value ≥ 5 suppressed to protect privacy, N/A=Not Applicable

⁹ Total includes numbers suppressed to protect privacy

Data Source: MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding), data are current as of 1/1/18 and may be subject to change

Any updates to the AI to be placed here

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

Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Facilities:

Public facilities provide residents with access to essential services and provide the foundation for successful community development. In Worcester, many of the existing neighborhood and public facilities such as community centers, health and education facilities, parks, food banks, homeless shelters, and youth centers suffer from old age, deferred maintenance, and heavy use. Nearly three-quarters of the non-profit facilities in Worcester were built before 1975, and approximately 58 percent were built by 1950. In terms of municipally-owned public facilities, the City of Worcester is responsible for over 4.5 million square feet of buildings and facilities that either directly service residents, or exist to house activities that service residents. Roughly 30 percent of these City-owned buildings serving the public were built before 1950, and about 72 percent were built by 1975.

Accessibility improvements are needed for City-owned facilities that serve the public, as captured in the 2014 ADA Self-Evaluation report that provides a summary of architectural barriers and proposed barrier removal solutions for the City’s 11 major municipal buildings, three libraries, one police station, 10 fire stations, and over 20 open spaces. Like many cities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Worcester has a large number of aging buildings and other facilities that pose barriers to residents with disabilities, and the sheer amount of work that would be required to bring these older facilities into compliance is daunting. While most City-owned facilities built or renovated after the year 2000 are substantially more accessible and meet most architectural requirements, additional accessibility improvements to public facilities are necessary. At the neighborhood level, residents and stakeholders most commonly cited the condition of existing parks and public recreational facilities, or the lack thereof, as the most pressing public facilities need.

Depending on further analysis and strategizing based on neighborhood needs and preliminary engineering studies, CDBG will assist with small to medium sized upgrades of infrastructure including, but not limited to, road and/or sewer/drainage reconstruction within the Green Island neighborhood (Census Tract 7325). CDBG Investments will spearhead infrastructure improvements associated with the Green Island Revitalization Initiative, a new City driven initiative modeled after the recent Union Hill Initiative. They will address a distressed neighborhood in which 78% of residents are low- to moderate-income and which suffers from dilapidated roads/sidewalks, aging and maintenance deferred housing, chronic issues with flooding and drainage, as well as possibly pollution and contamination.

The investments made with these CDBG funds will provide an area benefit for the Green Island neighborhood. In 2017 the City reached an agreement with a minor league baseball team, the Pawtucket (RI) Red Sox, to relocate their team to Worcester. The relocation will entail the construction of a new, multi-million dollar baseball stadium and over 180,000 sq.ft. of new, mixed-use development immediately adjacent to the Canal District and the Green Island neighborhood. Neighborhood infrastructure investments will provide a community benefit and complement other anticipated investments while helping to mitigate and offset any new development impacts.

How were these needs determined?

Beginning in the summer of 2019, the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) engaged in a citizen participation process to identify community needs and provide community input on activities and programs to fund. The EOED hosted a series of community meetings using a facilitated process to encourage and seek input. Both "open ended" questions were asked and "voting and ranking" exercises were used with participants. The process addressed both housing and community development needs including public services and public improvements.

Ten community needs assessment public meetings were held in different parts of the City, with at least one in each of the City Council districts. The meetings were attended by 141 total participants from neighborhoods with underserved, low-income, diverse, and minority residents. All meetings were intentionally held at locations accessible for potential and actual beneficiaries. The public meetings were advertised broadly through the City's media office as well as through door-to-door neighborhood outreach with at least one bilingual staff member. At each of the meetings, two bilingual staff persons were present that were able to provide translation and/or facilitation in Spanish and Vietnamese. In addition, a special public hearing was also held in the Green Island neighborhood in July 2019 to focus attention on the needs of that, very low- income, inner-city neighborhood (65 persons participated). There were several community meetings and consultations with local agencies in which the need for public facilities and their maintenance were discussed. As part of its annual CDBG Request for Proposal process, the city solicits "project use" proposals for the improvement or rehab of Public Facilities, including neighborhood or community facilities that serve CDBG eligible uses and population. Public facility needs were also identified through the aforementioned Draft ADA Self-Evaluation and the Draft Evaluation and Transition Plan of Polling Places. Additionally, the needs were determined by surveying non-profit and City-owned building data from the City of Worcester's Assessing Division and two audit reports concerning City facilities.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:

Like many East Coast cities, Worcester experiences general infrastructure needs for streets, water and sewer, and other improvements. The City of Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks maintains all public streets and right-of-way amenities, including approximately 515 miles of streets, 700 miles of sidewalks, and 13,800 street lights. The need for streets and sidewalk improvements was a consistent theme throughout the Consolidated Planning process. Agencies serving children and youth, for example, cited public improvements as a critical strategy for addressing neighborhood safety and increasing the ability of youth to access services and resources. Similarly, the City's Office on Disabilities emphasized the need for improving the condition and accessibility of public rights-of-way for persons with disabilities.

Through a targeted interdepartmental neighborhood revitalization initiative in the predominantly low- and moderate-income Green Island neighborhood, public improvements have been identified as a priority need. The initiative, which has come to involve over \$3 million in planned or currently underway public investments around streets and infrastructure in addition to housing improvements, code enforcement, public safety, and public health, prioritized the following public improvements:

- Tree plantings
- Street and sidewalk improvements
- Water main replacements
- Park upgrades
- Repainting and enhancing crosswalks at major intersections
- Implementing new or fixing existing ADA compliant curb cuts

How were these needs determined?

Beginning in the summer of 2019, the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) engaged in a citizen participation process to identify community needs and provide community input on activities and programs to fund. The EOED hosted a series of community meetings using a facilitated process to encourage and seek input. Both "open ended" questions were asked and "voting and ranking" exercises were used with participants. The process addressed both housing and community development needs including public services and public improvements.

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Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Services:

How were these needs determined?

Beginning in the summer of 2019, the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) engaged in a citizen participation process to identify community needs and provide community input on activities and programs to fund. The EOED hosted a series of community meetings using a facilitated process to encourage and seek input. Both "open ended" questions were asked and "voting and ranking" exercises were used with participants. The process addressed both housing and community development needs including public services and public improvements.

Ten community needs assessment public meetings were held in different parts of the City, with at least one in each of the City Council districts. The meetings were attended by 141 total participants from neighborhoods with underserved, low-income, diverse, and minority residents. All meetings were intentionally held at locations accessible for potential and actual beneficiaries. The public meetings were

advertised broadly through the City's media office as well as through door-to-door neighborhood outreach with at least one bilingual staff member. At each of the meetings, two bilingual staff persons were present that were able to provide translation and/or facilitation in Spanish and Vietnamese. In addition, a special public hearing was also held in the Green Island neighborhood in July 2019 to focus attention on the needs of that, very low- income, inner-city neighborhood (65 persons participated). The Five (5) Year Consolidated Plan informed the proposed first year (2020-2021) annual action plan outreach/funding recommendation process. In addition, after the announcement of the availability of Request for Proposals (RFP) for first year action plan funding through CDBG, HOPWA, and ESG, a Technical Assistance Workshop/Funding Overview meeting was held at City Hall in January 2020 (19 participants).

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) traditionally serves as the formal citizen body that provides input on funding applications submitted as part of the city's CDBG RFP process. The CDAC is a citizen advisory committee comprised of ten members, with two from each of Worcester's five council districts. This year, the CDAC met six times in February and March 2020 to review and evaluate the CDBG proposals and listen to presentations and ask questions of all of the Public Services, Public Facilities and Improvements, and City Interdepartmental applicants that submitted proposals in response to the RFP.

While the CDAC issues initial advisory recommendations on funding allocations, it is the city administration, through the city manager, that ultimately recommends which CDBG projects and activities to fund which form the basis of the annual action plan.

Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

The Housing Market Analysis section of this City of Worcester Consolidated Plan contains Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data generated for HUD by the U.S. Census 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) and imbedded in most of the Econ Planning Suite templates in this document. In order to build on this baseline data and provide the most up to date analysis of recent demographic trends, the City of Worcester's Consolidated Plan also benefits from research and analysis of more recent U.S. Census releases including the latest available from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS).

A summary of significant characteristics of Worcester's housing market and economy are detailed in the following section, including:

After a period of several years of stagnation, the last couple of years have witnessed intensifying economic pressures on the City of Worcester's housing market owing to a resurgence of growth in population and households and a corresponding decline in available housing units.

From 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, the number of housing units in the city has increased by 3% while the number of households increased by 4%. These trends reverse a decline that occurred from 2007-2011 to 2011-2015 in the number of units (-4%) and households (-2%).

Owner occupied units grew by 1% from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, following a -10% decline from 2007-11 to 2011-2015. Renter occupied units grew by 6% from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, following a 4% increase from 2007-2011 to 2011-2015. Owner occupied units now comprise 42% of all occupied units (down from 47% in 2007-2011). Renter occupied units now comprise 58% of all occupied units (up from 53% in 2007-2011).

Although 9% of all housing units were vacant in 2014-2018, only a third of these vacant units were available for occupancy (for sale or rent). The supply of vacant units available for occupancy (for sale or rent) has dropped by -37% since 2007-2011.

Two-thirds of vacant housing units were not available for occupancy in 2014-2018, including units rented or sold but not occupied, units held for seasonal use, and other vacant units not on market. In 2014-2018, the City had a homeowner vacancy rate of just 1.6% and a renter vacancy rate of only 4.1% (down from 2.3% and 6.9% respectively in 2007-11).

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

Introduction

After a period of several years of stagnation, the last couple of years have witnessed intensifying economic pressures on the City of Worcester’s housing market owing to a resurgence of growth in population and households and a corresponding decline in available housing units.

When comparing ACS/CHAS data from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, the number of housing units in the city has increased by 3% (to 77,920) while the number of occupied units (households) increased by 4% (to 71,145). These trends reverse a decline that occurred from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018 in the number of units (-4%) and households (-2%).

Owner occupied units grew by 1% (to 29,807) from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, following a -10% decline from 2007-2011 to 2011-2015. Renter occupied units grew by 6% (to 41,338) from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, following a 4% increase from 2007-2011 to 2011-2015. Owner occupied units now comprise 42% of all occupied units (down from 47% in 2007-2011). Renter occupied units now comprise 58% of all occupied units (up from 53% in 2007-2011).

Although 9% (6,775) of all housing units were vacant in 2014-2018, only a third (2,284) of these vacant units were available for occupancy (including 490 units for sale and 1,794 for rent). The supply of vacant units available for occupancy through sale or rent has dropped by -37% or -1,325 units (from 3,609 to 2,284) since 2007-2011. In comparison from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018 the number of households in Worcester increased by +4% or +2,569 (from 68,576 to 71,145 units).

Two-thirds of vacant housing units (4,491) were not available for occupancy in 2014-2018, including 616 units rented but not occupied, 303 units sold but not occupied, 366 units held for seasonal use, and 3,206 other vacant units not on market.

In 2014-2018, the City had a homeowner vacancy rate of just 1.6% (defined as the percent of all owner occupied housing available for sale), down from 2.3% in 2007-2011. In 2014-2018, the City had a renter vacancy rate of only 4.1% (defined as the percent of all renter housing available for rent), down from 6.9% in 2007-2011.

While there was significant growth (+12%) in properties of 20 or more units from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, there were otherwise only minimal changes in the proportions of units per structure since 2007-11. The percent of units per residential properties for 2007-11, 2011-2015, and 2014-2018 were 1-unit (39%, 38%, 38%), 2-4 units (33%, 34%, 34%), 5-19 units (15%, 14%, 14%), 20 or more units (13%, 13%, 14%).

With regard to the number of bedrooms by tenure the most significant changes were for 0-bedroom units which increased by +251% (to 158) for owner occupied units and +30% (to 2,156) for renter occupied units between 2011-2015 data and 2014-2018. Other changes by number of bedrooms and tenure during that same period were for owner occupied by number of bedrooms: 1 (-6%), 2 (+2%), 3 or more (+2%), for renter occupied by number of bedrooms: 1(+3%), 2 (+9%), 3 or more (+4%).

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	24,110	32%

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit, attached structure	4,695	6%
2-4 units	25,920	34%
5-19 units	10,785	14%
20 or more units	9,910	13%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	305	0%
Total	75,725	100%

Table 26 – Residential Properties by Unit Number

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	45	0%	1,655	4%
1 bedroom	930	3%	10,035	26%
2 bedrooms	7,970	27%	14,280	37%
3 or more bedrooms	20,555	70%	13,100	34%
Total	29,500	100%	39,070	101%

Table 27 – Unit Size by Tenure

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

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

Federal funds are usually targeted to families and individuals with income at or below 80% AMI. However there are some specialty programs that up to 120% of AMI

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

It isn't anticipated that there will be any loss overall of affordable housing inventory. Projects will either renew their affordability period or new projects should make up for any losses.

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

After a period of several years of stagnation, the last couple of years have witnessed intensifying economic pressures on the City of Worcester's housing market owing to a resurgence of growth in population and households and a corresponding decline in available housing units.

When comparing ACS/CHAS data from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, the number of housing units in the city has increased by 3% (to 77,920) while the number of occupied units (households) increased by 4% (to 71,145). These trends reverse a decline that occurred from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018 in the number of units (-4%) and households (-2%).

Owner occupied units grew by 1% (to 29,807) from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, following a -10% decline from 2007-2011 to 2011-2015. Renter occupied units grew by 6% (to 41,338) from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, following a 4% increase from 2007-2011 to 2011-2015. Owner occupied units now comprise 42% of all occupied units (down from 47% in 2007-2011). Renter occupied units now comprise 58% of all occupied units (up from 53% in 2007-2011).

Although 9% (6,775) of all housing units were vacant in 2014-2018, only a third (2,284) of these vacant units were available for occupancy (including 490 units for sale and 1,794 for rent). The supply of vacant units available for occupancy has dropped by -37% (from 3,609) since 2007-2011. During that same period, the number of households in Worcester grew by 1%.

Two-thirds of vacant housing units (4,491) were not available for occupancy in 2014-2018, including 616 units rented but not occupied, 303 units sold but not occupied, 366 units held for seasonal use, and 3,206 other vacant units not on market.

In 2014-2018, the City had a homeowner vacancy rate of just 1.6% (defined as the percent of all owner occupied housing available for sale), down from 2.3% in 2007-2011. In 2014-2018, the City had a renter vacancy rate of only 4.1% (defined as the percent of all renter housing available for rent), down from 6.9% in 2007-2011.

The number of units in residential properties remained consistent when comparing 2014-2018 data to 2011-2015 data or even with 2007-2011. The percent of units in residential properties for 2007-11, 2011-2015, and 2014-2018: Single-units (39%, 38%, 38%), 2-4 units (34%, 34%, 33%), 5-19 units (14%, 14%, 15%), 20 or more units (14%, 13%, 13%). The only significant growth occurred in properties of 20 or more units, which grew by 12% when comparing 2011-2015 with 2014-2018 data.

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Describe the need for specific types of housing:

After a period of several years of stagnation, the last couple of years have witnessed intensifying economic pressures on the City of Worcester's housing market owing to a resurgence of growth in population and households and a corresponding decline in available housing units.

When comparing ACS/CHAS data from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018, the number of housing units in the city has increased by 3% (to 77,920) while the number of occupied units (households) increased by 4% (to 71,145). These trends reverse a decline that occurred from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018 in the number of units (-4%) and households (-2%).

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With regard to the number of bedrooms by tenure the only significant changes were for 0-bedroom units which increased by +251% (to 158) for owner occupied units and +30% (to 2,156) for renter occupied units when comparing 2011-2015 data with 2014-2018. Zero-bedroom units now comprise 1% of owner units and 5% of renter units. Other changes by number of bedrooms and tenure from 2011-2015 to 2014-2018 were for owner occupied by number of bedrooms: 1 (-6%), 2 (+2%), 3 or more (+2%), for renter occupied by number of bedrooms: 1 (+3%), 2 (+9%), 3 or more (+4%).

Discussion

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

Introduction

CHAS/ACS data shows that after a slump in values from \$248,300 in 2005-2009 to \$205,200 in 2011-2015 (-17%), median home values have risen in the City of Worcester to \$220,700 by 2014-2018 (+8%) and to \$245,200 (+11%) by 2018 (ACS single year estimate). Thus median home values in the City have returned to pre-housing slump levels by 2018, and have continued to escalate 2018-2020.

CHAS/ACS data shows despite the slump in housing values from 2009-2015, median contract rents continued rise throughout this period. Median contract rents in the city rose from \$716 in 2005-09 to \$825 in 2011-2015 (+15%) to \$1,064 in 2014-2018 (+29%) to \$1,112 (+5%) by 2018 (ACS single year estimate). Thus median rent values in Worcester have increased by \$396 (+55%) from 2009-2018 in comparison to median home values that had regained parity following several years of losses in value owing to the housing market slump.

Reflective of continual rising rental costs, CHAS/ACS data shows that the percentage of city renters that paid less than \$1,000 rent in dropped from 82% in 2007-2011 to 38% by 2018. During that same period, the percent that paid over \$1,000 in rent jumped from 18% to 62%.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2015	% Change
Median Home Value	248,300	205,200	(17%)
Median Contract Rent	716	825	15%

Table 28 – Cost of Housing

Data Source: 2005-2009 ACS (Base Year), 2011-2015 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	8,305	21.3%
\$500-999	21,645	55.4%
\$1,000-1,499	7,725	19.8%
\$1,500-1,999	1,015	2.6%
\$2,000 or more	390	1.0%
Total	39,080	100.0%

Table 29 - Rent Paid

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Housing Affordability

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	5,800	No Data

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
50% HAMFI	13,930	1,445
80% HAMFI	29,115	7,375
100% HAMFI	No Data	12,270
Total	48,845	21,090

Table 30 – Housing Affordability

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	850	942	1,192	1,494	1,654
High HOME Rent	850	942	1,192	1,494	1,654
Low HOME Rent	770	825	990	1,143	1,275

Table 31 – Monthly Rent

Data Source: HUD FMR and HOME Rents

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

Review items and report on Analysis of Impediments, looks preliminarily more SRO housing is needed.

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

Between 2018 and 2019, the multifamily sales price rose 17%. This rate is significantly above the inflation rate of approximately 2%. This significant year over year rise is likely to considerably change the rental prices throughout the city. Multifamily housing makes up a majority of the housing stock of the city including almost all of the city affordable housing stock. In addition, the city's lack of sale and rental inventory are significant contributors to the price increases seen throughout the city. With sales inventory under 1 month and less than 1% rental vacancy, significant appreciation will continue without additional housing supply becoming available.

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

HOME rents as they stand are slightly higher than Area Median Rents by about \$80-130, depending on the bedroom size. Knowing this when reviewing proforma's of developers, rents expected should be tempered based on the AMR numbers to provide an accurate income stream, which will make the project more viable in the long term.

Discussion

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

Introduction

Definitions

Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	9,560	32%	18,750	48%
With two selected Conditions	365	1%	1,340	3%
With three selected Conditions	30	0%	125	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	15	0%
No selected Conditions	19,550	66%	18,850	48%
Total	29,505	99%	39,080	99%

Table 32 - Condition of Units

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	2,905	10%	1,520	4%
1980-1999	4,950	17%	4,530	12%
1950-1979	7,010	24%	10,565	27%
Before 1950	14,630	50%	22,465	57%
Total	29,495	101%	39,080	100%

Table 33 – Year Unit Built

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

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	21,640	73%	33,030	85%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	2,085	7%	1,420	4%

Table 34 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS (Total Units) 2011-2015 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 35 - Vacant Units

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

There is still a high need for housing rehabilitation in the City of Worcester. About 80% of the total housing units in the City were built prior to 1979. The City still has a substantial number of substandard rental units. The COVID-19 pandemic also added more complications that results in the need for Housing Rehabilitation.

Due to the severe widespread economic consequences created by the COVID-19 pandemic, low/moderate income individuals have suffered immediate economic hardships beginning in March of 2020. On April 1st, 2020, The Realtor Association of Central Massachusetts and Masslandlords, Inc. estimated that 20-30% of tenants in the city were not able to pay rent due to the COVID-19 outbreak. As a consequence, landlords have been unable to afford mortgage payments and lack the funds to perform property maintenance on their rental units. Without proper maintenance, low/moderate income individuals are at risk of living within uninhabitable housing units, ultimately increasing the risk of injury, illness, emotional distress, and homelessness.

The City of Worcester’s Housing Rehabilitation funds is used to address sanitary and building code issues through the repair and rehabilitation of units and common areas inhabited by low/moderate income tenants and/or owners. Especially during this time of social distancing, providing this funding will allow tenants housing stability and a safe environment to shelter within during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without this funding, these units may fall into disrepair and become uninhabitable, putting tenants at risk of homelessness.

We are projecting that the demand from Owners and landlords for Housing Rehabilitation funds are going to grow as a result of the Pandemic. As the economy continues to slow, we predict a slowdown in rent payments; making it more difficult for landlords to reinvest in their properties. Currently, Housing staff receives multiple inquiries per week for rehabilitation grants. We anticipate this to grow as the impacts of the pandemic becomes more felt by residents and homeowners.

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

Based on the 2018 numbers from the State for Worcester, 34% of children under 6 are living in pre 1978 housing. (review and expand this section with any other data available)

Discussion

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

Introduction

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	20	37	2,472	2,027	301	1,726	246	301	0
# of accessible units									

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

Table 36 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Describe the supply of public housing developments:

Senior Only

Elm Park Tower Apartments, 425 Pleasant Street

This 16-story senior-only building offers one and two-bedroom apartments with views of historic Elm Park.

Lincoln Park Tower Apartments, 11 Lake Avenue

Overlooking the shores of Lake Quinsigamond, this active senior community is in close proximity to shops and restaurants.

Webster Square Towers East & West, 1050 & 1060 Main Street

The "Towers", located in the heart of Webster Square, provide its residents a variety of conveniences.

Consolidated Plan WORCESTER 108

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

Elderly/Disabled

Pleasant Tower Apartments, 275 Pleasant Street

This 8-story high-rise offers its residents an onsite management office, 24-hour security and weekly doctor and nurse visits.

Murray and Wellington Apartments, 50 Murray Avenue & 30 Wellington Street

For people who enjoy the conveniences and atmosphere of urban living but also enjoy the intimacy of a neighborhood, Murray and Wellington Apartments fits the bill.

Belmont Tower Apartments, 40 Belmont Street

Belmont Tower Apartments offer panoramic views of Worcester to the residents of this 19-story building.

Mill Pond Apartments - 600 Mill Street, Addison Apartments - 2 Addison Street, and Mayside Apartments - 20 May Street

These garden style studio and one-bedroom wheelchair accessible and conventional apartments offer residents a quiet suburban setting to call home.

Lafayette Place, 2 Lafayette Place

Whether living in a conventional 1-bedroom apartment or enjoying the camaraderie of congregate style living, residents are regularly visited by a doctor and nurse, enjoy monthly community meals and regular social events.

Curran Terrace, 201 Providence Street

Idyllically set, residents at this development enjoy the wildlife that make daily visits to the on site pond.

Greenwood Gardens, 327 Greenwood Street

Residents of this small, one-bedroom garden style apartment development enjoy the close proximity of banks, restaurants, and the grocery store

Booth Apartments, 1 Haven Lane

This quiet, out of the way development of newly renovated 1-bedroom apartments offers residents the ease of apartment living.

Consolidated Plan WORCESTER 109

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

Family Housing

Great Brook Valley and Curtis Apartments, Tacoma Street

Families living in one, two, three, four and five bedroom apartments enjoy on-site daycare, educational and recreational programming, health and nutritional services and a variety of other services that provide assistance to the families that live here.

Lakeside Apartments, Lakeside Avenue

Located near Webster Square and Coes Reservoir, this secluded family development offers one, two, and three bedroom apartments.

Scattered Site Family Housing

(North/Providence, Southwest Gardens, Hooper St., Lewis St., Main South Gardens and Scattered Sites)

These two, three, four and five bedroom conventional and wheelchair accessible apartments are located in some of Worcester's more established neighborhoods.

(Source: Worcester Housing Authority website)

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:

Public Housing Condition

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score

Table 37 - Public Housing Condition

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

On a monthly basis, the Worcester Housing Authority (WHA) Executive Director meets with the Resident Advisory Board and annually they review suggestions for capital improvements. An assessment of capital needs is conducted by the Capital Planning Office and reviewed with residents prior to the development of a capital budget. A five (5) year Capital Plan has been established for the agency and on an annual basis a capital budget is presented to HUD for review and approval.

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

The WHA offers a wide variety of resident programming. The types of programming are varied offering children an opportunity for academic success, providing young adults with the opportunity to earn their high school diploma equivalency, and offering those residents whose primary language is not English opportunities to improve and enhance their language skills. While these activities offer families a means of attaining self-sufficiency, WHA collaborates with local agencies to offer additional recreational, health and well-being programming. Some program/classes offered are:

- Computer Training
- High School Equivalency
- English as a Second Language
- Homework Centers (with Tutoring)
- Career Counseling and Job Placement Assistance
- Food Pantries
- On-site Dental, Nursing, and Physicians Services
- On-site Nutritional and Fitness Classes
- Boys & Girls Club Programming

- Offsite YMCA Elderly programming
- Free Veterinary Clinics (Dogs & Cats)

The WHA has long realized that a portion of its success is dependent upon the satisfaction of its residents. Continuing on a long standing tradition of fostering partnerships and building resident leadership opportunities, WHA supports 13 formally recognized tenant organizations. They are the conduit through which ideas and issues are presented to the WHA administration. In turn, the administration facilitates new policies, operational and programmatic changes, and enhancements for residents through tenant organizations. Additionally, a WHA Resident Advisory Board meets monthly with the Executive Director to discuss policy, operations and programming, and other areas that have a direct effect on the people it serves.

The Authority is also working to enhance the living environment of families residing in our developments. A Smoke Free Policy has been in effect about one year, and has received the support of a majority of residents. The Policy prohibits residents from smoking within their apartments. The intent of this initiative is to promote a healthier environment for all residents, especially those with breathing ailments such as asthma.

Discussion:

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

Introduction

The local strategy to meet the needs of homeless persons considers the housing and supportive service needs in each stage of the process, for example, preventing homelessness, outreach and assessment, emergency shelter services (ES), transitional housing (TH) and helping homeless individuals (especially chronically homeless) make the transition to permanent and independent living.

Facilities and services that meet the needs of the homeless individuals are targeted based on the extent to which they further the achievements of HUD’s goals articulated in Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

Preventions, Emergency Shelter and Rapid Re-Housing services are supported by state, local, and private funds, while the federal Continuum of Care supports the majority of projects (thirty-one) under fourteen sponsor agencies to provide Permanent Supportive Housing and Transitional Housing that address the needs of the homeless population.

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)	976	82	164	371	0
Households with Only Adults	478	82	332	481	0
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	163	0
Veterans	183	0	0	269	0
Unaccompanied Youth	93	0	1	0	0

Table 38 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Data Source Comments:

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

Although in Massachusetts all persons are eligible for health insurance, it is expected that homeless individuals and families are over-represented among the uninsured. Mainstream services include cash-based services that increase participants' income from non-employment services from program entry to program exit date. Examples include Social Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), and Veterans Disability benefits. Staffs within the CoC are trained on how to access publicly-funded resources, as well as the Legal Aid system to apply for, advocate for, and appeal denials of public benefits.

The Family Health Center of Worcester offers homeless families with children support to fully access care, including health benefits advising, health insurance and food stamps enrollment assistance, medical interpretation, care coordination for patients with chronic illness, patient advocacy, exercise and wellness programs, and community health education.

For homeless (especially chronically homeless) individuals, the Homeless Outreach & Advocacy Project (HOAP), through Community Healthlink, connects the region's homeless individuals, many with mental illness and addiction challenges, to healthcare and basic human services. HOAP staff provides outreach to shelters and other emergency care programs, and operates the Healthcare for the Homeless program, establishing contact with unsheltered men and women throughout the city. Basic services are available at HOAP's primary care clinic, and case managers help clients enroll in health insurance programs, access health care and social security benefits, and resolve other benefits-related issues.

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.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is prioritized to address the needs of chronically homeless individuals and disabled families. Without a designated length of stay, participants receive services that reduce return to homelessness and ensure stability. Landlords are hesitant to rent to homeless and formerly homeless households without supportive services. Safe Haven is a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach, primarily unsheltered, persons with severe mental illness that have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. Access to PSH is bolstered by the CoC Coordinated Entry system, (see SP-60 Homelessness Strategy).

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

HOPWA Assistance Baseline Table

Type of HOPWA Assistance	Number of Units Designated or Available for People with HIV/AIDS and their families
TBRA	8
PH in facilities	10
STRMU	30
ST or TH facilities	0
PH placement	48

Table 42-HOPWA Assistance Baseline

Data Source: HOPWA CAPER and HOPWA Beneficiary Verification Worksheet

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.

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development’s most recent Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) was the primary source used to evaluate the city’s supply of income-based housing, including facilities for seniors/elderly and disabled persons. The total units within family oriented developments (5,196) represented 52.8% of the total supply, and units within senior/disabled developments (3,834) accounted for another 38.9%. The remaining 8.3% were either senior disabled care units (586) or owner units (232).

As of 2019 the Worcester Housing Authority operated a portfolio of 3,000 units of public rental housing and 1,387 leased housing units. Of those served 40% are elderly, 20% are non-elderly disabled and 40% are families.

Table VII-6 Income-Based Housing Supply 2010 City of Worcester

#	Total	Income-	Market
Development Target Projects	Units	Based	Units
Family	173	4,848	348
	5,196		

Owner	95	232	229
Senior/Disabled	19		3
Sen-Dis Care		3,834	3,827
41		586	7
			582
			4
Citywide		9,848	9,486
328			362

Source: MA DCHD City of Worcester & RKG Associates, Inc.

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

The City of Worcester continue in coordination with the Continuum of Care with efforts to ensure that persons are not routinely discharged into homelessness, and specifically coordinated access to appropriate supportive housing for such persons. In 2012, a Discharge Planning Committee was created to eliminate inappropriate discharges from State systems, local hospitals, and other health care providers. The Committee has quarterly meetings that focus primarily on inappropriate discharges from local hospitals and emergency shelters, along with the continuous monitoring of referral forms and processes have reduced inappropriate referrals. The City of Worcester, alongside the Worcester Police and Worcester County Sheriff’s office as well as other stakeholders including Directors of Social Service departments at two major City of Worcester Hospitals (Umass Memorial and St. Vincent’s Hospital) assist in this effort.

The Discharging Planning Committee also addresses the need for appropriate supportive housing for persons returning from the mental health system. It works to support and address discharges from State Hospital without appropriate community housing in place, as well as terminations both voluntarily and involuntary) from the State-supported community residential system for the chronically and mentally ill. According to the Continuum of Care Consolidated Application submitted for FY2019, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) indicated that 28% of persons discharged were to the legal system, 42% to families or non-family housing, 20% to community residences, 7% to other DMH facilities and 2% to other locations. CoC Permanent Supportive Housing providers and DMH staff meet regularly to ensure compliance and appropriate service planning for individuals in need of supportive services.

The City continues their longstanding working relationship with one of the area’s largest community health providers, Community Healthlink, Inc. CHL is the County’s largest non-profit provider of housing, health and supportive services for the special needs population, including people with disabilities, HIV/AIDS and homelessness. CHL is a provider funded partially by HUD under the City of Worcester HOPWA grants, as well as CoC Permanent Supportive Housing and Shelter Plus Care programs. CHL is a

major stakeholder in the City's Plan to End Homelessness by providing both "front door", (outreach, assessment, triage and diversion services) and "back door" (housing, supportive service, primary care options) for low income, at-risk and immigrant populations.

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. Line to one-year goals. 91.315(e)

Stakeholders from both mental and physical health institutions are made aware of supportive services and supportive housing resources through the Coordinated Assessment and Entry process facilitated by the Continuum of Care. Additionally, these entities are at the month HHB (Housing and Homelessness Benefits) meeting facilitated by the CoC Lead Agency. Front line service providers, concerned citizens and current and former recipients of services attend, to spread awareness and foster connections for supportive services and special needs providers. The Director of the leading home health agency in Worcester also participates in discharge planning, in coordination with the Continuum of Care to improve housing and supportive services for the elderly without family that lose their homes, but may not qualify for nursing home admission.

A Community Roundtable on Youth Homelessness, coordinated by the City of Worcester and the CoC, takes place with over 25 multi-sector children and youth-serving agencies. A key goal of the roundtable is to reduce youth homelessness by assuring appropriate discharges and transitional care for youth transitioning from the Massachusetts Foster Care System. The State Department of Children and Families and the Worcester Public Schools are represented. The City consults and actively participates in the Worcester Community Connections Coalition (WCCC). The WCCC program is unique as its goals include the empowerment of low income, inner city households through the coordination of resources already in the community, and by bringing out the voices of residents in the planning for local resources by ensuring that services meet the needs of the people and by helping parents to become more confident, competent and nurturing. Funding for this program by the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (MA DCF) has been steady since 2001, in order to provide family-based services, supportive preventive programs and coalition supported services. The WCCC provides referrals and resources that benefit families with disabilities who may need support through employment, child care, and other supportive services that help improve their livelihood and reduce risks, ensuring housing stability.

The principal stakeholders involved in efforts to reduce inappropriate discharges from the corrections system include the Chair of Corrections Discharge Planning Committee, the Director of Dismas House, which is the principal provider of transitional and permanent housing for ex-offenders. The Worcester County Sheriff and Director of Discharge Planning for the State Prisons, as well as the Director of the Assessment Center for homeless individuals in the CoC. Written protocols for referrals and referral information to the community-based housing providers and the Assessment Center for homeless individuals continue to be effective since their establishment. CoC data shows 72% of inmates were released to community housing, 15% to residential treatment and 7% to sober housing for the area.

For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plan 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)).

Research shows the need for continued investment and effort around addressing affordable housing production and barriers to accessing affordable housing and trends related to aging housing stock and deferred maintenance. Particularly, supportive housing providers report a shortage of single room occupancy units that are below Fair Market Rent (FMR) and thus accessible to individuals below 30% AMI transitioning from shelter or transitional housing to permanent housing through ESG Rapid Rehousing or a Continuum of Care (CoC) supported project. Consultation with citizens and service providers stresses the continued need for social and human services and housing supportive services for low- to moderate-income and special needs populations including youth, recent immigrants, resettled refugees, the elderly and homeless, individuals with substance abuse and mental health challenges, and those living with HIV/AIDS.

Efforts to address the needs of victims of domestic violence (DV), including their families, are associated with the state wide network that permits out-of-area placements for families remaining at risk. DV families have priority access to CoC funded transitional housing and state and city funded rapid rehousing programs to promote rapid and safe community reintegration. Crisis intervention and safe housing is a priority, and is supported by the United Way and private foundations.

ESG funds support shelter operations for 3 local organizations RBB/SMOC & Veterans Inc.

Restorer of Broken Bridges/Net of Compassion. Hotel Grace is an emergency cold weather shelter for the homeless. Fifty (50) beds are available on a first come first serve basis, each night that the weather dips below 32 degrees. In addition to a warm and safe place to sleep, Hotel Grace provides a warm meal, counseling and outreach and referral services and volunteer legal services. In the course of a winter, Hotel Grace serves more than 400 individuals.

SMOC (South Middlesex Opportunity Council) The GWHC Triage Center provides emergency housing assessment and placement including into emergency beds for those who are homeless, which services support the City's overall goal of rapid rehousing. For fiscal year 2018-2019, 324 individuals were placed into housing. The emergency shelter and case management services of the Triage Center contribute to these successful outcomes toward reducing and eliminating homelessness.

Veterans Inc. Through this ESG funding Veterans Inc., provides 54 sheltered veterans with intensive case management services including assistance accessing VA and other benefits, health and mental health referrals and follow-up, substance abuse treatment, development of employment plans, housing stabilization budget plans, referral to legal aid, housing search and placement when the Veteran is ready and other services.

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

Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment

From the most recent Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

Awareness of Fair Housing Rights, especially for recent immigrants and those with Limited English proficiency who are vulnerable to abuse. Some landlords are also unaware of their responsibilities under Fair Housing.

An impediment to determining what the City needs in terms of housing is the lack of data. Community Legal Aid only has data on claims filed with their agency and they have been reluctant to share the information they have.

Focus group participants relayed that the City lacks a comprehensive policy or vision about furthering fair housing in Worcester. Another point relayed is the lack of policy coordination among those who build and manage affordable units and those providing services to vulnerable populations.

Regionally Worcester is doing more than its fair share in the production of affordable housing units, compared to many wealthier towns who have far less than their “fair share” of 10% affordable units to all units in the community. Of the affordable units in Worcester, they remain concentrated into a handful of neighborhoods.

The incidence of housing problems – mainly housing cost burden -- is significantly higher among minority households, especially Asian and Black or African American renters with very low and extremely low incomes.

As market conditions have changed, there is more competition between for profits and non-profits. This competition has limited the available pool of units to develop as affordable.

Local zoning codes have been primarily preventing development of affordable housing in suburban Worcester.

High developments and maintenance costs (related to the code requirements at the local and State level) and lack of financing contribute to the challenges associated with creating affordable housing.

Retaliation from a housing discrimination complaint, of which the most common include (in descending order): disability, race, families with children, national origin, sex, color, religion, other. Lack of translations services for leases in other languages and explanation of rights in other languages. Landlord discrimination from not understanding their requirements under the law. Discrimination against Section 8 voucher holders.

Landlord perception that small and large families they see are receiving housing assistance and/or will not honor the terms of a lease.

There was not a consensus whether the impact of college students on the availability and cost of rental housing in Worcester neighborhoods.

With the lead laws requiring property owners to remove or cover all lead paint hazards in homes built prior to 1978 where any child under the age of 6 resides, owners may not be willing to rent to families with children under the age of 6.

Worcester is the largest resettlement city in Massachusetts and is home to 30 percent of all refugees in the state. Approximately one in five residents of Worcester was born outside the United States. Over half of the foreign-born population in Worcester estimates that they speak English “less than very well”.

Foreclosures can have an impact of affordable units as tenants can often be the last informed or remain uninformed until the power or heat is shutoff to a unit. Luckily foreclosures have decreased by over 50% from a peak 388 in 2012, but can still be triggered by something as simple infractions like overdue water and/or sewer bills.

None of the interview or survey participants for this plan cited fair housing problems or issues with practices of real estate brokers in Worcester.

The lack of affordable barrier-free units is the major issue that renter with disabilities face in Worcester. Existing handicapped units are often unaffordable for many renters or they do not have an adequate number of rooms for families. For handicapped renters with Section 8 vouchers looking for an apartment, there is about one accessible unit per year that becomes available, making it highly competitive and challenging to accommodate renters with disabilities. Complicating the issue is that there are often differences in sidewalk quality, roadway crossings, access to transit, and shopping opportunities located in areas where the tenant can access.

Transit is under-provided and not near the level that it should be at for a city of Worcester’s size. This limitation affects health and well-being, jobs and the economy, and access to housing. The lack of adequate transit is an institutional barrier to health and intertwined with fair housing concerns.

A need for a wider range of housing available to people with HIV/AIDS from housing with nursing support to more independent living arrangements.

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

Introduction

The Non-Housing Community Development Assets section of this City of Worcester Consolidated Plan contains Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data generated for HUD by the U.S. Census 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) and imbedded in most of the Econ Planning Suite templates in this document. In order to build on this baseline data and provide the most up to date analysis of recent demographic trends, the City of Worcester’s Consolidated Plan also benefits from research and analysis of more recent U.S. Census releases including the latest available from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS).

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	74	0	0	0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	7,799	0	12	0	-12
Construction	2,397	0	4	0	-4
Education and Health Care Services	22,460	0	33	0	-33
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	3,598	0	5	0	-5
Information	1,373	0	2	0	-2
Manufacturing	7,229	0	11	0	-11
Other Services	2,814	0	4	0	-4
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	5,480	0	8	0	-8
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	8,414	0	13	0	-13
Transportation and Warehousing	2,928	0	4	0	-4
Wholesale Trade	2,733	0	4	0	-4
Total	67,299	0	--	--	--

Table 39 - Business Activity

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS (Workers), 2015 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	93,370
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	84,130
Unemployment Rate	9.90
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	19.67
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	6.86

Table 40 - Labor Force

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	17,825
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	3,745
Service	11,680
Sales and office	18,720
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	5,245
Production, transportation and material moving	4,275

Table 41 – Occupations by Sector

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	55,305	70%
30-59 Minutes	17,690	22%
60 or More Minutes	6,070	8%
Total	79,065	100%

Table 42 - Travel Time

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Education:

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	5,605	915	6,520

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	17,345	2,350	7,340
Some college or Associate's degree	18,800	1,910	4,425
Bachelor's degree or higher	24,255	1,310	3,905

Table 43 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	310	1,180	895	3,470	3,020
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	1,755	1,705	1,990	3,795	2,625
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	8,260	7,375	6,105	13,560	7,870
Some college, no degree	12,520	5,605	4,290	6,980	2,755
Associate's degree	800	2,085	2,345	3,860	1,285
Bachelor's degree	3,135	7,655	3,770	7,640	2,695
Graduate or professional degree	470	3,075	2,445	4,890	2,675

Table 44 - Educational Attainment by Age

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	21,470
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	28,641
Some college or Associate's degree	33,645
Bachelor's degree	47,763
Graduate or professional degree	62,518

Table 45 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

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

The major employment sectors within the City of Worcester are Educational Services and Health Care and Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Manufacturing, and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services. A

significant proportion of the workforce is employed in either Education or Health Services, which has both advantages and disadvantages. The primary advantages are that these industries are relatively stable and offer a wide range of employment opportunities; the primary disadvantage is that the community would benefit from more diverse employment opportunities. It is important to consider that external factors outside of a community's control also drive employment in certain industries (e.g. comparative cost advantages of overseas manufacturing have adverse local effects for that industry).

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

Technology is driving changes in the needs of the business community, not only locally in the city of Worcester, but also on a global scale. Businesses, particularly in manufacturing and production, are rendering certain jobs obsolete through automation and other forms of efficiency. While these innovations and changes generally have a positive effect on the economy and the environment, the workforce is forced to adapt and/or learn new skills. The ubiquity of technology, and specifically the internet, is also fueling business needs for employees with skills in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), including: computer programming, web development, network security, etc.

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.

During the 5-year planning period, there will be significant public and private investment being generated in the City of Worcester, particularly in the Downtown area and within the Life Sciences ecosystem. These investments are primarily real estate investments, occurring in entertainment, residential, hotel development projects, and life sciences real estate. This activity fuels job opportunities in three primary sectors – construction, professional, scientific, technical services and service/hospitality. Workforce development needs that may result from these investments could be job training programs specific to construction trades, STEM and hospitality.

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

Educational attainment in the city of Worcester could be stronger to support some of the jobs being created, specifically in the Education and Health Services industries. The jobs that are being created through recent and planned private real estate investment (construction, hospitality) do not require as much educational attainment. The city of Worcester also has a large immigrant population, with various levels of educational attainment, but recognizing this demographic trend, it will be important to continue supporting English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.

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.

Job creation and job placement are critical components of any economic development strategy. Workforce training initiatives in the City of Worcester would naturally assist the objective of helping local residents secure job opportunities. There are many workforce training programs that exist currently, and there is also an opportunity to further develop these programs. The City's Executive Office of Economic Development has a Division of Workforce Development including the MassHire Worcester Career Center. When considering the average educational attainment / skills, these workforce training programs are essential in the effort to bridge the skills gap and ensure Worcester job seekers are adequately prepared and qualified.

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.

Yes, the City of Worcester participates in a CEDS for the region, prepared by the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, most recently updated in 2018. The CEDS includes an analysis of population, income/poverty, education, workforce/employment, infrastructure, and changes in tax levy. Specifically, the action plan proposed in the CEDS as it relates to workforce/employment is largely consistent with the City of Worcester's Consolidated Plan. It proposes workforce training in emerging industries to bridge any skill gaps and other industries that are currently major employers in the city and region.

Discussion

MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

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

The City of Worcester is comprised of 44 U.S. Census tracts, of which 26 tracts had 51% or more of their populations being persons of Low-Moderate Income (LMI) - defined by HUD as households whose incomes were 80% or less of the metropolitan area median income as adjusted for family size. These 26 LMI tracts were: 7304.01, 7304.02; 7305.00; 7310.02; 7311.01, 7311.02, 7312.03, 7312.04, 7313.00, 7314.00, 7315.00, 7316.00, 7317.00, 7318.00, 7319.00, 7320.01, 7322.01, 7322.02; 7322.03, 7323.02, 7324.00, 7325.00, 7326.00, 7327.00, 7329.02, and 7330.00. (see attached Low Income Population City of Worcester Map for locations). An examination of the attached Demographic Analysis of Target Areas Tables show that these 26 LMI tracts has a greater proportion of the city's racial and ethnic minority populations. According to the latest U.S. Census 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates the citywide percentages by racial and ethnic populations were: 57% White, non-Hispanic, 21% Hispanic, 12% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 7% Asian, non-Hispanic, 3% Other/Multi-Race, non-Hispanic. In the 26 tracts with majority Low-Moderate Income populations, the following percentages were reported for racial and ethnic populations: 46% White, non-Hispanic, 29% Hispanic, 13% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 9% Asian, non-Hispanic, 3% Other/Multi-Race, non-Hispanic. One of these tracts, 7325.00, (the Green Island neighborhood) is one of the most distressed with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. CDBG investments in the Green Island Revitalization Initiative (a new City driven initiative modeled after the recent Union Hill Initiative) benefit a distressed neighborhood in which 71% of residents are low- to moderate-income and suffers from dilapidated roads/sidewalks, aging and maintenance deferred housing, chronic issues with flooding and drainage, as well possibly pollution and contamination. Informed by neighborhood needs analysis, the initiative will address housing, roads, sidewalks, parks, sewer and drainage systems, lighting, intersection signalization, and help to frame, complement, and offset development impacts associated with the construction of the new minor league baseball stadium. Another tract, 7324.00 (Union Hill), was ranked as the city's most distressed and the sixth most distressed in the State with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, foreclosed properties, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. This tract has been the focus of the Union Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative which continues to work across multiple City departments in concert with key community institutions and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in that area.

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

The City of Worcester is comprised of 44 U.S. Census tracts, of which 26 tracts had 51% or more of their populations being persons of Low-Moderate Income (LMI) - defined by HUD as households whose incomes were 80% or less of the metropolitan area median income as adjusted for family size. These 26

LMI tracts were: 7304.01, 7304.02; 7305.00; 7310.02; 7311.01, 7311.02, 7312.03, 7312.04, 7313.00, 7314.00, 7315.00, 7316.00, 7317.00, 7318.00, 7319.00, 7320.01, 7322.01, 7322.02; 7322.03, 7323.02, 7324.00, 7325.00, 7326.00, 7327.00, 7329.02, and 7330.00. (see attached Low Income Population City of Worcester Map for locations). An examination of the attached Demographic Analysis of Target Areas Tables show that these 26 LMI tracts has a greater proportion of the city's racial and ethnic minority populations. According to the latest U.S. Census 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates the citywide percentages by racial and ethnic populations were: 57% White, non-Hispanic, 21% Hispanic, 12% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 7% Asian, non-Hispanic, 3% Other/Multi-Race, non-Hispanic. In the 26 tracts with majority Low-Moderate Income populations, the following percentages were reported for racial and ethnic populations: 46% White, non-Hispanic, 29% Hispanic, 13% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 9% Asian, non-Hispanic, 3% Other/Multi-Race, non-Hispanic.

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

The City of Worcester is comprised of 44 U.S. Census tracts, of which 26 tracts had 51% or more of their populations being persons of Low-Moderate Income (LMI) - defined by HUD as households whose incomes were 80% or less of the metropolitan area median income as adjusted for family size. These 26 LMI tracts were: 7304.01, 7304.02; 7305.00; 7310.02; 7311.01, 7311.02, 7312.03, 7312.04, 7313.00, 7314.00, 7315.00, 7316.00, 7317.00, 7318.00, 7319.00, 7320.01, 7322.01, 7322.02; 7322.03, 7323.02, 7324.00, 7325.00, 7326.00, 7327.00, 7329.02, and 7330.00. (see attached Low Income Population City of Worcester Map for locations). An examination of the attached Demographic Analysis of Target Areas Tables show that these 26 LMI tracts has a greater proportion of the city's racial and ethnic minority populations. According to the latest U.S. Census 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates the citywide percentages by racial and ethnic populations were: 57% White, non-Hispanic, 21% Hispanic, 12% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 7% Asian, non-Hispanic, 3% Other/Multi-Race, non-Hispanic. In the 26 tracts with majority Low-Moderate Income populations, the following percentages were reported for racial and ethnic populations: 46% White, non-Hispanic, 29% Hispanic, 13% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 9% Asian, non-Hispanic, 3% Other/Multi-Race, non-Hispanic. One of these tracts, 7325.00, (the Green Island neighborhood) is one of the most distressed with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. CDBG investments in the Green Island Revitalization Initiative (a new City driven initiative modeled after the recent Union Hill Initiative) benefit a distressed neighborhood in which 71% of residents are low- to moderate-income and suffers from dilapidated roads/sidewalks, aging and maintenance deferred housing, chronic issues with flooding and drainage, as well possibly pollution and contamination. Informed by neighborhood needs analysis, the initiative will address housing, roads, sidewalks, parks, sewer and drainage systems, lighting, intersection signalization, and help to frame, complement, and offset development impacts associated with the construction of the new minor league baseball stadium. Another tract, 7324.00 (Union Hill), was ranked as the city's most distressed and the sixth most distressed in the State with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, foreclosed properties, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. This tract has been the focus of the Union Hill Neighborhood

Revitalization Initiative which continues to work across multiple City departments in concert with key community institutions and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in that area.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

Depending on further analysis and strategizing based on neighborhood needs and preliminary engineering studies, CDBG will assist with small to medium sized upgrades of infrastructure including, but not limited to, road and/or sewer/drainage reconstruction within the Green Island neighborhood (Census Tract 7325). CDBG Investments will spearhead infrastructure improvements associated with the Green Island Revitalization Initiative, a new City driven initiative modeled after the recent Union Hill Initiative. They will address a distressed neighborhood in which 78% of residents are low- to moderate-income and which suffers from dilapidated roads/sidewalks, aging and maintenance deferred housing, chronic issues with flooding and drainage, as well possibly pollution and contamination. The investments made with these CDBG funds will provide an area benefit for the Green Island neighborhood. In 2017 the City reached an agreement with a minor league baseball team, the Pawtucket (RI) Red Sox, to relocate their team to Worcester. The relocation will entail the construction of a new, multi-million dollar baseball stadium and over 180,000 sq.ft. of new, mixed-use development immediately adjacent to the Canal District and the Green Island neighborhood. Neighborhood infrastructure investments will provide a community benefit and complement other anticipated investments while helping to mitigate and offset any new development impacts.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

Depending on further analysis and strategizing based on neighborhood needs and preliminary engineering studies, CDBG will assist with small to medium sized upgrades of infrastructure including, but not limited to, road and/or sewer/drainage reconstruction within the Green Island neighborhood (Census Tract 7325). CDBG Investments will spearhead infrastructure improvements associated with the Green Island Revitalization Initiative, a new City driven initiative modeled after the recent Union Hill Initiative. They will address a distressed neighborhood in which 78% of residents are low- to moderate-income and which suffers from dilapidated roads/sidewalks, aging and maintenance deferred housing, chronic issues with flooding and drainage, as well possibly pollution and contamination. The investments made with these CDBG funds will provide an area benefit for the Green Island neighborhood. In 2017 the City reached an agreement with a minor league baseball team, the Pawtucket (RI) Red Sox, to relocate their team to Worcester. The relocation will entail the construction of a new, multi-million dollar baseball stadium and over 180,000 sq.ft. of new, mixed-use development immediately adjacent to the Canal District and the Green Island neighborhood. Neighborhood infrastructure investments will provide a community benefit and complement other anticipated investments while helping to mitigate and offset any new development impacts.

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.

For broadband needs wiring of most low mod clients there is the ability to install the wiring easily, however any new construction of units the goal is to provide the infrastructure. In regards to the needs at the Worcester Housing Authority, the need for broadband wiring and connections for its residents has grown exponentially since the start of the COVID19 pandemic. This lack of connectivity has been especially apparent when it comes to WHA youth, who have been forced into distance learning arrangements since the closure of Worcester Public Schools in mid-March. In addition to the absence of broadband connectivity, WHA youth also lack the proper technology (laptops and tablets) to access their virtual lessons and assignments, putting them at greater risk for learning loss. The WHA's elderly residents, who have been feeling the effects of social isolation due to social distancing guidelines, are likewise unable to connect with the outside world due to being unable to afford basic internet service.

The WHA is currently in the process of preparing an RFP to explore the costs related to establishing a Wi-Fi network at the Curtis and Great Brook Valley Apartments, which will provide residents – especially families – with internet service at no cost.

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

Currently, those who live in the City of Worcester only have access to the products and services provided by Spectrum. Unfortunately, customer service and representative response times have been slow and inconsistent, leaving many residents dissatisfied. By allowing more than one broadband internet service provider serve the people of Worcester residents will be able to have options in who they wish to use, creating much needed competition in the area.

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

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

Increased flooding is the primary natural hazard that is expected to increase due to climate change. Increases in severe weather events are all expected to contribute to more frequent flooding within the city. The Massachusetts Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan estimates that precipitation will increase 6 to 14% by volume by the year 2050. This estimate also includes winter precipitation as with increasing temperatures, much of the winter precipitation is projected to be in the form of rain rather than snow. As temperatures increase, evidence shows that there is already an increase in the frequency of severe weather events including thunderstorms, damaging winds/tornados, and category 4 and 5 hurricanes. Increased heavy rainfall events may also lead to more frequent dam design failures, which occur when spillways overflow due to flow rates exceed design capacity. This type of failure may have a secondary result of increased riverine flooding below dams. With increased rainfall, flooding events can be expected to increase and become more of a concern, specifically in areas already effected by flooding events.

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

Figure 1. shows the percentages of low- to moderate- income households for each census tract within the city of Worcester. Low- to moderate- income census tracts are primarily located in the center of the city; centered on the downtown neighborhood. Based on Figure 1 and Figure 2. (Worcester National Flood Hazard map), there is not a direct correlation between the location of possible future flooding events and low/moderate income neighborhoods. These flooding events are not expected to disproportionately affect low- to moderate- income residents.

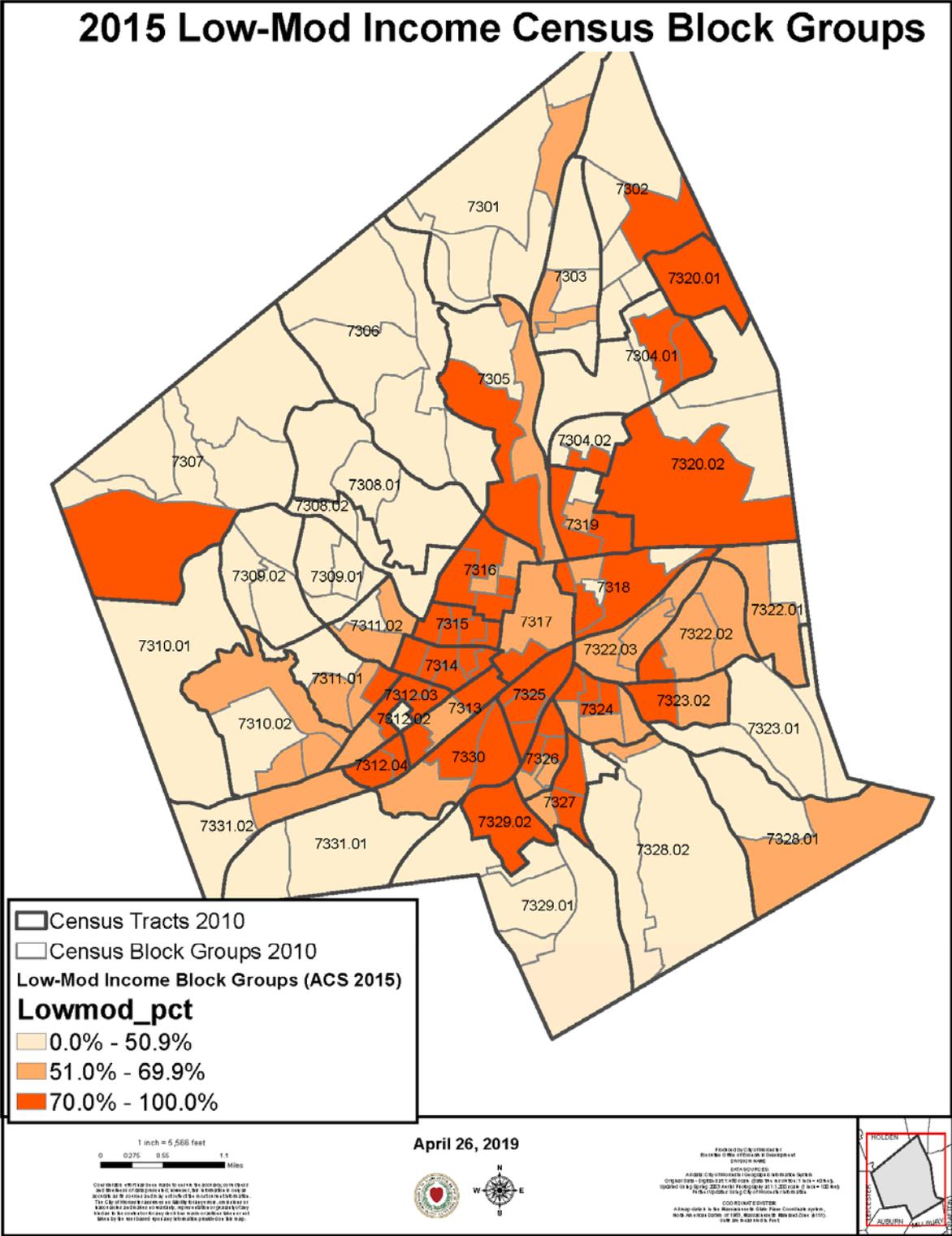


Figure 1: Worcester low- to moderate- income census tracts

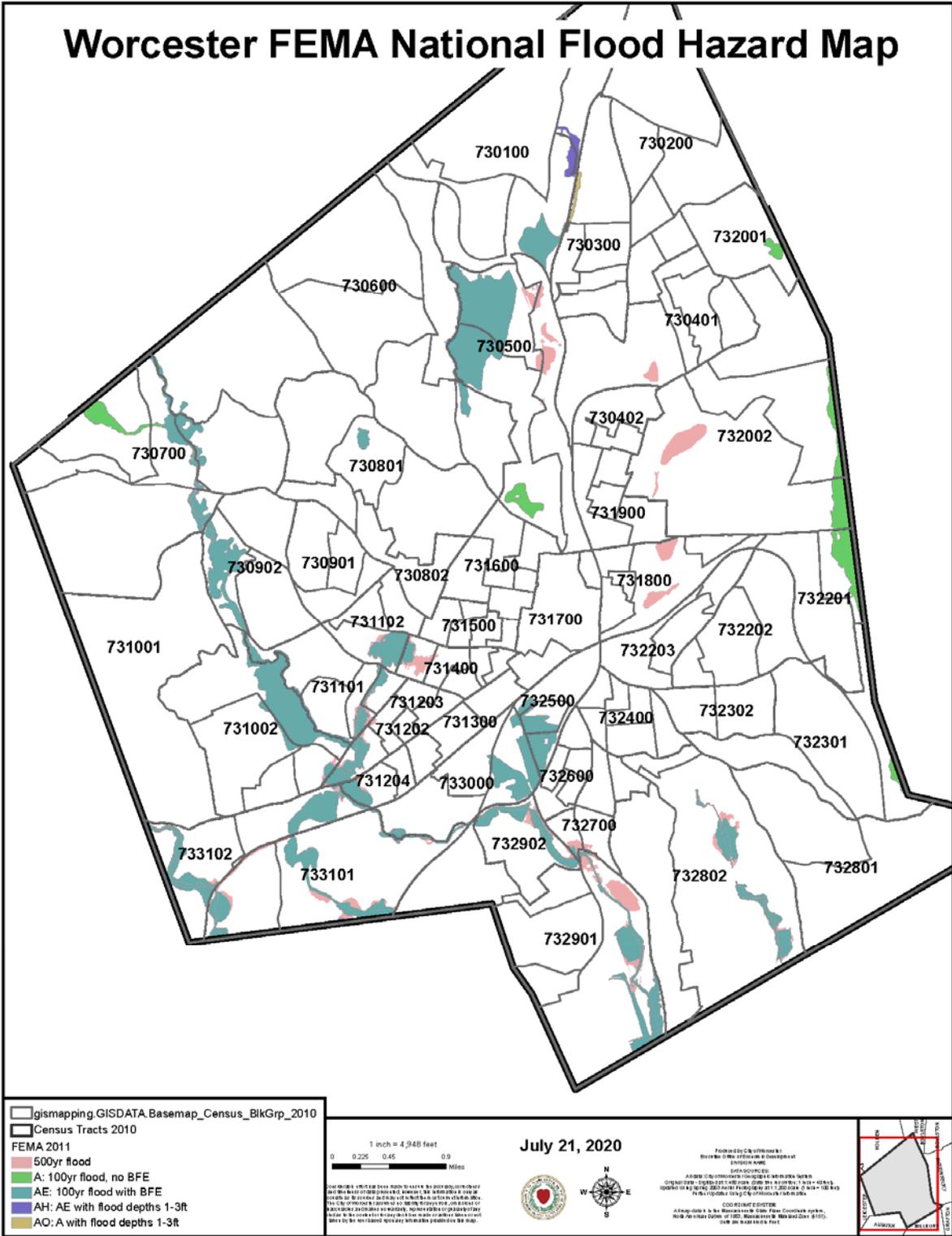


Figure 2: FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer

Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

The City of Worcester is comprised of 44 U.S. Census tracts, of which 26 tracts had 51% or more of their populations being persons of Low-Moderate Income (LMI) - defined by HUD as households whose incomes were 80% or less of the metropolitan area median income as adjusted for family size. These 26 LMI tracts were: 7304.01, 7304.02; 7305.00; 7310.02; 7311.01, 7311.02, 7312.03, 7312.04, 7313.00, 7314.00, 7315.00, 7316.00, 7317.00, 7318.00, 7319.00, 7320.01, 7322.01, 7322.02; 7322.03, 7323.02, 7324.00, 7325.00, 7326.00, 7327.00, 7329.02, and 7330.00. (see attached Low Income Population City of Worcester Map for locations). An examination of the attached Demographic Analysis of Target Areas Tables show that these 26 LMI tracts has a greater proportion of the city's racial and ethnic minority populations. According to the latest U.S. Census 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates the citywide percentages by racial and ethnic populations were: 57% White, non-Hispanic, 21% Hispanic, 12% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 7% Asian, non-Hispanic, 3% Other/Multi-Race, non-Hispanic. In the 26 tracts with majority Low-Moderate Income populations, the following percentages were reported for racial and ethnic populations: 46% White, non-Hispanic, 29% Hispanic, 13% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 9% Asian, non-Hispanic, 3% Other/Multi-Race, non-Hispanic. One of these tracts, 7325.00, (the Green Island neighborhood) is one of the most distressed with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. CDBG investments in the Green Island Revitalization Initiative (a new City driven initiative modeled after the recent Union Hill Initiative) benefit a distressed neighborhood in which 71% of residents are low- to moderate-income and suffers from dilapidated roads/sidewalks, aging and maintenance deferred housing, chronic issues with flooding and drainage, as well possibly pollution and contamination. Informed by neighborhood needs analysis, the initiative will address housing, roads, sidewalks, parks, sewer and drainage systems, lighting, intersection signalization, and help to frame, complement, and offset development impacts associated with the construction of the new minor league baseball stadium. Another tract, 7324.00 (Union Hill), was ranked as the city's most distressed and the sixth most distressed in the State with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, foreclosed properties, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. This tract has been the focus of the Union Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative which continues to work across multiple City departments in concert with key community institutions and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in that area.

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moderate-income and suffers from dilapidated roads/sidewalks, aging and maintenance deferred housing, chronic issues with flooding and drainage, as well possibly pollution and contamination. Informed by neighborhood needs analysis, the initiative will address housing, roads, sidewalks, parks, sewer and drainage systems, lighting, intersection signalization, and help to frame, complement, and offset development impacts associated with the construction of the new minor league baseball stadium

Another tract, 7324.00 (Union Hill), was ranked as the city's most distressed and the sixth most distressed in the State with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, foreclosed properties, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. This tract has been the focus of the Union Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative which continues to work across multiple City departments in concert with key community institutions and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in that area.

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

Geographic Area

Table 46 - Geographic Priority Areas

1	Area Name:	Green Island Revitalization Initiative
	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.	The boundaries of the Green Island Revitalization Initiative target area correspond with U.S. Census Tract 7325.00 Block Group (BG) 2. The Green Island Revitalization Initiative target area is bounded on the north by Lamartine Street, on the east by Interstate Highway I-290, on the south by Endicott Street and Crompton Park and on the west by Quinsigamond Avenue.

<p>Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.</p>	<p>The attached Demographic Analysis of Target Areas Table, shows that the Green Island target area (tract 7325.00 BG 2) was defined as having a “very high concentration of multiple housing problems” as compared to the city as a whole. Within this target area 91.0% of housing was built before 1940 (compared to 48.9% citywide). The percent of units lacking complete plumbing or complete kitchen facilities was 5.6% compared to under 0.8% of citywide units. Within this target area only 9.2% of housing was owner occupied compared to 38.6% citywide and from 2010-2018, the number of owner occupied units declined by -46.3%! Within this target area, 74.3% of renters had high housing cost burdens in which households paid 30% or more of their income for housing compared with 49.9% of renters citywide. The Green Island target area has a disproportionate percentage of low and moderate (LMI) population given that it had 77.5% LMI (20.2% higher than the citywide percentage of 57.3% LMI). Similarly, the percent of persons in poverty for the Green Island target area was 39.1% (21.2% higher than the citywide percentage of 17.9%). The Green Island target Area has a disproportionate share of other socio-economic distress factors. For instance, 71.8% of persons aged 25 or more were high school graduates (compared to 87.2% citywide). Within the target area, 43.7% of households had no vehicle, compared with 15.9% citywide.</p>
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<p>How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?</p>	<p>Beginning in the summer of 2019, the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) engaged in a citizen participation process to identify community needs and provide community input on activities and programs to fund. The EOED hosted a series of community meetings using a facilitated process to encourage and seek input. Both "open ended" questions were asked and "voting and ranking" exercises were used with participants. The process addressed both housing and community development needs include Ten community needs assessment public meetings were held in different parts of the City, with at least one in each of the City Council districts. The meetings were attended by 141 total participants from neighborhoods with underserved, low-income, diverse, and minority residents. All meetings were intentionally held at locations accessible for potential and actual beneficiaries. The public meetings were advertised broadly through the City's media office as well as through door-to-door neighborhood outreach with at least one bilingual staff member. At each of the meetings, two bilingual staff persons were present that were able to provide translation and/or facilitation in Spanish and Vietnamese. In addition, a special public hearing was also held in the Green Island neighborhood in July 2019 to focus attention on the needs of that, very low- income, inner-city neighborhood (65 persons participated).</p>
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	<p>Identify the needs in this target area.</p>	<p>Through a targeted interdepartmental neighborhood revitalization initiative in the predominantly low- and moderate-income Green Island neighborhood, public improvements have been identified as a priority need. The initiative, which has come to involve over \$3 million in planned or currently underway public investments around streets and infrastructure in addition to housing improvements, code enforcement, public safety, and public health, prioritized the following public improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree plantings • Street and sidewalk improvements • Water main replacements • Park upgrades • Repainting and enhancing crosswalks at major intersections • Implementing new or fixing existing ADA compliant curb cuts
	<p>What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?</p>	
	<p>Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?</p>	<p>The target area has experienced progressive decline over recent decades resulting in a multitude of barriers to improvement. These barriers include aging and poorly maintained housing stock, foreclosures, absentee landlords, speculative investing, declining property values, vacant land parcels, illegal dumping, deteriorating public infrastructure, crime: drugs, violence and gangs, and poorly performing public schools. Given the uncertainty of federal fiscal resources moving forward, continued strategic leveraging of private investments and community-based resources are needed. As needs and issues often overlap and concentrate in neighborhoods, there is a need for more strategic, concentrated, neighborhood-based collaborations with private and community resources and cross-departmental collaborations.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Area Name:</p>	<p>Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts</p>
	<p>Area Type:</p>	<p>Local Target area</p>

Other Target Area Description:	
HUD Approval Date:	
% of Low/ Mod:	
Revital Type:	Comprehensive
Other Revital Description:	
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	The City of Worcester is comprised of 44 U.S. Census tracts, of which 26 tracts had 51% or more of their populations being persons of Low-Moderate Income (LMI) - defined by HUD as households whose incomes were 80% or less of the metropolitan area median income as adjusted for family size. These 26 LMI tracts were: 7304.01, 7304.02; 7305.00; 7310.02; 7311.01, 7311.02, 7312.03, 7312.04, 7313.00, 7314.00, 7315.00, 7316.00, 7317.00, 7318.00, 7319.00, 7320.01, 7322.01, 7322.02; 7322.03, 7323.02, 7324.00, 7325.00, 7326.00, 7327.00, 7329.02, and 7330.00. (See attached Low Income Population City of Worcester Map for locations).
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	An examination of the attached Demographic Analysis of Target Areas Tables show that these 26 LMI tracts were defined as having a “very high concentration of multiple housing problems” as compared to the city as a whole. Within these LMI tracts 58.2% of housing was built before 1940 (compared to 48.9% citywide). Within these LMI tracks only 21.9% of housing was owner occupied compared to 38.6% citywide and from 2010-2018, the number of owner occupied units declined by -5.2%. These LMI tracts have a disproportionate share of other socio-economic distress factors. For instance the percentage of persons in poverty in the LMI tracts was 29.8% (compared to 17.9% citywide). For persons aged 25 or more, 80.4% were high school graduates (compared to 87.2% citywide) and among persons aged 16 or more 8.1% were unemployed (compared to 4.4% citywide). Within these LMI tracts, 26.7% of households had no vehicle, compared with 15.9% citywide.

<p>How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?</p>	<p>Beginning in the summer of 2019, the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) engaged in a citizen participation process to identify community needs and provide community input on activities and programs to fund. The EOED hosted a series of community meetings using a facilitated process to encourage and seek input. Both "open ended" questions were asked and "voting and ranking" exercises were used with participants. The process addressed both housing and community development needs include Ten community needs assessment public meetings were held in different parts of the City, with at least one in each of the City Council districts. The meetings were attended by 141 total participants from neighborhoods with underserved, low-income, diverse, and minority residents. All meetings were intentionally held at locations accessible for potential and actual beneficiaries. The public meetings were advertised broadly through the City's media office as well as through door-to-door neighborhood outreach with at least one bilingual staff member. At each of the meetings, two bilingual staff persons were present that were able to provide translation and/or facilitation in Spanish and Vietnamese. In addition, a special public hearing was also held in the Green Island neighborhood in July 2019 to focus attention on the needs of that, very low- income, inner-city neighborhood (65 persons participated).</p>
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<p>Identify the needs in this target area.</p>	<p>The LMI census tracts have experienced progressive decline over recent decades resulting in problems such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging and poorly maintained housing stock • Foreclosures • Absentee landlords • Speculative investing • Declining property values • Vacant land parcels • Illegal dumping • Deteriorating public infrastructure • Crime: drugs, violence and gangs • Poorly performing public schools
<p>What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?</p>	
<p>Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?</p>	<p>The target area has experienced progressive decline over recent decades resulting in a multitude of barriers to improvement. These barriers include aging and poorly maintained housing stock, foreclosures, absentee landlords, speculative investing, declining property values, vacant land parcels, illegal dumping, deteriorating public infrastructure, crime: drugs, violence and gangs, and poorly performing public schools. Given the uncertainty of federal fiscal resources moving forward, continued strategic leveraging of private investments and community-based resources are needed. As needs and issues often overlap and concentrate in neighborhoods, there is a need for more strategic, concentrated, neighborhood-based collaborations with private and community resources and cross-departmental collaborations.</p>

General Allocation Priorities

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

Beginning in the summer of 2019, the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) engaged in a citizen participation process to identify community needs and provide community input on activities and programs to fund. The EOED hosted a series of community meetings using a facilitated process to encourage and seek input. Both "open ended" questions were asked and "voting and ranking" exercises

were used with participants. The process addressed both housing and community development needs include

Ten community needs assessment public meetings were held in different parts of the City, with at least one in each of the City Council districts. The meetings were attended by 141 total participants from neighborhoods with underserved, low-income, diverse, and minority residents. All meetings were intentionally held at locations accessible for potential and actual beneficiaries. The public meetings were advertised broadly through the City's media office as well as through door-to-door neighborhood outreach with at least one bilingual staff member. At each of the meetings, two bilingual staff persons were present that were able to provide translation and/or facilitation in Spanish and Vietnamese. In addition, a special public hearing was also held in the Green Island neighborhood in July 2019 to focus attention on the needs of that, very low- income, inner-city neighborhood (65 persons participated).

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

Priority Needs

Table 47 – Priority Needs Summary

1	Priority Need Name	Development of new affordable housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Individuals Families with Children veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	Development of new affordable housing is one of the many needs identified through the Consolidated Plan public input process. The purpose of developing new affordable housing is to create housing for people that might not otherwise be able to afford it.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
2	Priority Need Name	Development of new mixed-income housing
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	Development of new mixed-income housing is one of the needs identified in the Con Plan. The purpose of developing new mixed-income housing is to allow affordable housing that isn't concentrated in certain geographic areas in the City.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
3	Priority Need Name	Rehabilitation of existing housing stock
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization

	Description	Due to the age of the housing stock this is a large need for the City. The purpose of rehabilitating the existing housing stock is to eliminate code violations, which will allow the units to meet minimum HQS (Housing Quality Standards). This is more involved than simple maintenance or repair which may only address a couple of issues.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
4	Priority Need Name	Housing maintenance services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Description	The purpose of housing maintenance services is to allow the access to maintenance services for low-moderate individuals. This is below the level of full rehabilitation and usually is applied as a public service for the elderly population.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
5	Priority Need Name	Housing repair services
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	The purpose of housing repair services is to eliminate code violations, which will allow the units to meet minimum HQS (Housing Quality Standards).
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
6	Priority Need Name	Assistance for first time homebuyers
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	The purpose of providing assistance to first time homebuyers is to allow homeownership to become more affordable and to allow homeownership in areas where it couldn't occur without assistance.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.

7	Priority Need Name	Systematic housing inspections
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Healthy and Sustainable Housing Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	The purpose of systematic housing inspection activities is to make sure the neighborhood is a suitable and healthy living environment for all.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
8	Priority Need Name	Housing contaminant and pest abatement
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Elderly
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts

	Associated Goals	Healthy and Sustainable Housing Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	Housing Contaminant and Pest Abatement is one of the needs identified in the Con Plan. The purpose of abating pests and housing contaminants is to make sure the unit meets HQS (Housing Quality Standards), leading to a healthier unit and neighborhood.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
9	Priority Need Name	Housing inspections and code enforcement
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Healthy and Sustainable Housing Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	The purpose of the housing inspections and code enforcement activity is to make sure units are meeting minimum HQS (Housing Quality Standards), which improves the sustainability of the unit and the neighborhood.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
	10	Priority Need Name
Priority Level		High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Elderly
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Healthy and Sustainable Housing
	Description	The purpose of home energy efficiency improvements is to rehab structures with more efficient design and products, leading to a more energy efficient unit.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
11	Priority Need Name	Weatherization of homes
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Elderly
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Healthy and Sustainable Housing
	Description	The purpose of weatherizing homes is to make the envelope of the structure more energy efficient.

	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
12	Priority Need Name	Environmental preservation
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Healthy and Sustainable Housing Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Description	Environmental preservation is one of the needs identified in the Con Plan.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
13	Priority Need Name	Demolition of blighted properties
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	The demolition of blighted properties contributes to neighborhood revitalization and stability by removing threats to human health, safety, and public welfare.

	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
14	Priority Need Name	Elimination of area and spot blight
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	The elimination of area and spot blight is intended to improve appearance, safety, and quality of life aspects of geographic areas experiencing slum and blight conditions.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
15	Priority Need Name	Infill development
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	Infill development will help address abandoned, vacant, and underutilized lots, which emerged as a common neighborhood need during the Consolidated Planning process.

	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
16	Priority Need Name	New streets and sidewalks
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	New streets and sidewalks are critical for addressing pedestrian safety, improving neighborhood conditions, and increasing access to services and resources by low- and moderate-income residents.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
17	Priority Need Name	Improvement of existing public infrastructure
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization

	Description	The reconstruction and expansion of existing public infrastructure is needed due to old age, deferred maintenance, and heavy use. Needs include, but are not limited to, streets and sewer networks.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
18	Priority Need Name	Small business assistance
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization Economic Development & Business Assistance
	Description	Direct assistance to small businesses helps individual businesses grow, thrive, and provide jobs and services to neighborhood residents.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
19	Priority Need Name	Job and employment opportunities
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Rural Individuals Families with Children veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Economic Development & Business Assistance
	Description	Expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons through fostering job and employment opportunities helps stabilize communities.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
20	Priority Need Name	Attraction and retention of new businesses
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Economic Development & Business Assistance
	Description	Attracting and retaining businesses helps foster employment opportunities and contribute to economic development.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
21	Priority Need Name	Job and skills training
	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 veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Economic Development & Business Assistance Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Description	Job and skills training helps low- and moderate-income individuals achieve self-sufficiency, individual and household stability, and economic opportunity.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
22	Priority Need Name	Recreational and community facilities
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Economic Development & Business Assistance
	Description	Parks and public recreational facilities, or the lack thereof, are a public facility need; improving recreational and community facilities will increase the livability of neighborhoods and improve public health conditions.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
23	Priority Need Name	Economic development loans and capital
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Economic Development & Business Assistance
	Description	Economic development loans and investment capital assist businesses in preserving and creating new economic opportunities that help provide jobs for neighborhoods and community residents.

	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
24	Priority Need Name	Small business and storefront improvements
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization Economic Development & Business Assistance
	Description	Assistance to small businesses that enhances their attractiveness through façade and infrastructure improvements and help attract more customers while new creating jobs.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
25	Priority Need Name	Technical assistance to small businesses
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Economic Development & Business Assistance

	Description	Technical and financial assistance for small businesses increases assets and creates local jobs; assistance includes but is not limited to workshops, marketing, and business plan assistance.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
26	Priority Need Name	Improving public facilities for public services
	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	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts

	Associated Goals	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
	Description	Preserve and improve public facilities that provide vital public services that address community needs. Such facilities may include but are not limited to non-profit neighborhood and community centers, health centers, and senior centers.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
27	Priority Need Name	Revitalization of neighborhoods
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Description	Neighborhood and commercial corridor revitalization efforts target low- to moderate-income neighborhoods in order to address living conditions, improve neighborhood infrastructure, and support and foster business and economic development.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
28	Priority Need Name	Improving public facilities serving public safety
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
	Description	Preserve and improve public facilities that support public safety and security, such as police and fire stations, and their associated equipment and resources like fire trucks.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
29	Priority Need Name	Energy improvements for public facilities
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
	Description	Provide energy efficiency improvements for public facilities in order to promote sustainability and create a suitable living environment.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
30	Priority Need Name	Accessibility improvements for public facilities
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Elderly Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
	Description	Remove architectural barriers and provide other public facility accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
31	Priority Need Name	Youth educational and recreational programs
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Public Housing Residents Individuals Families with Children Unaccompanied Youth Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Non-housing Community Development

	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Description	Provide youth with the skills, knowledge, and support they need to lead healthy and productive lives, through keeping youth in school, improving their academic achievement, helping them learn job skills, and reducing criminal activity and violence.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
32	Priority Need Name	Neighborhood public safety improvements
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Description	Provide neighborhood and public safety improvements to support a suitable living environment for predominantly low- and moderate-income individuals and areas.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
	33	Priority Need Name
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 Persons with Physical 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	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention
	Description	Support information and referral and direct case management services that help connect low- and moderate-income residents to much needed social and human services.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
34	Priority Need Name	Health services
	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	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
Description	Provide services addressing the physical and health needs of vulnerable and low – to moderate-income populations.
Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.

35	Priority Need Name	Youth employment opportunities
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Families with Children Unaccompanied Youth Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Description	The unemployment rate for youth is higher than that for adults. Providing low-to moderate-income youth employment opportunities establishes a foundation for long-term self-sufficiency and community economic stability.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
36	Priority Need Name	Food access and security
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Description	Increasing access to healthy food and supporting greater food security for low-to moderate-income residents and special needs populations, including the elderly, helps improve public health and community economic stability.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
37	Priority Need Name	Housing security and eviction prevention
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS 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	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Description	Providing services that enable individuals and families to remain in their home, including eviction prevention services, stabilizes communities and neighborhoods.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
38	Priority Need Name	Senior and elderly services
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Description	Providing services for elderly persons including but not limited to home maintenance assistance, social, medical, and human services.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
39	Priority Need Name	Services for disabled or special needs population
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents 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	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention
	Description	Provide services and increase access for disabled and special needs populations, including reasonable accommodations, and conformance with the American with Disabilities Act.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
40	Priority Need Name	Information and services for new immigrants

	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Description	Provide information and services for new and recent immigrants to include interpretation and translation services, and information, referral, and access to local medical, social, and human services.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
41	Priority Need Name	Transportation and access to public services
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Individuals Families with Children 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	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Description	Providing transportation services to low- and moderate-income persons facilitates access to much needed public services and fills a common resource gap that exists in the community.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
42	Priority Need Name	Substance abuse services
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Unaccompanied Youth Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Description	Providing substance abuse recovery programs and substance abuse prevention/education activities helps to save and stabilize the lives of low- and moderate income individuals, improving public health, and helping to stabilize communities and households.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
43	Priority Need Name	Mental health and substance abuse services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle

	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons
	Description	Delivering services to low- and moderate-income individuals to help save and stabilize lives, including: mental health and/or substance abuse crisis intervention, ongoing therapy and outpatient treatment, case management, and care coordination, improving public health, and helping to stabilize communities and households.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
44	Priority Need Name	Access to public housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts

	Associated Goals	Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons
	Description	Providing affordable housing resources to very low-to-moderate income households through partnerships with Public Housing Authorities, including housing access for special needs and people experiencing homelessness.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
45	Priority Need Name	Case management services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly 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	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Description	Assessing and coordinating the delivery of individualized services to meet the needs of program participants. Case Management may include counseling, developing individualized service plans, securing, and coordinating services, obtaining Federal, State, and local benefits, and monitoring and evaluating program participant progress over time.

	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
46	Priority Need Name	Coordinated entry system
	Priority Level	High
	Population	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	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons
	Description	Strategies to better match people experiencing homelessness to the most appropriate types of housing assistance based on the assessment of household needs. Referrals are based on streamlined knowledge of program requirements and available openings and services.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
47	Priority Need Name	Discharge planning
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts

	Associated Goals	Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention
	Description	The planning of services to prevent homelessness for individuals who are leaving health care institutions, jails and prisons, protective youth services, or the armed forces.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
48	Priority Need Name	Housing search and advocacy
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Description	Providing services that help families and individuals, including homeless, search for sustainable housing options, which may include landlord negotiation, education, the promotion of fair housing, and elimination of housing discrimination.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
	49	Priority Need Name
Priority Level		High

	Population	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	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Associated Goals	Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Description	Helping families and individuals quickly move out of homelessness and into permanent housing by providing short-term or medium-term financial assistance and supportive services.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.
50	Priority Need Name	Housing stabilization funds
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Large Families Families with Children Elderly Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly
	Geographic Areas Affected	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts

	Associated Goals	Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention
	Description	Homeless prevention programs to assist households with very low income in obtaining or maintaining housing by providing first and/or last months' rent, security deposits, rental/utility arrears or utility payments.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There was no tiering of the needs as all the needs identified are of the highest priority.

Narrative (Optional)

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)	<p>Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) is a rental subsidy that the City utilizes to help individual households afford housing costs such as rent and security deposits. The City of Worcester is located in a more expensive housing market, being heavily influenced by the Boston, MA market (Greater Boston metropolitan statistical area). Many renter and owner occupied households have a cost burden greater than 30% of their monthly income. There is a clear need to respond appropriately to this abundant housing problem. The Worcester Housing Authority administers the Section 8 voucher program and demand for this program far exceeds the supply of vouchers. To help ease the gap, with single adult unsheltered homeless population, the City of Worcester has in the past, and may in the future allocate HOME Program funds.</p>
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	<p>The market condition is Worcester illustrate a high cost burden for low income households with high market housing costs. The City of Worcester supports a number of other programs with ESG funds to support the rapid rehousing of homeless individuals as well as homelessness prevention activities. HOME funds are also used to support the construction of affordable housing units; several units within these project have been identified for extremely-low and low-income households. Additionally, the City of Worcester has identified HOME funds to support a TBRA program specifically designed for unsheltered homeless individuals. These funds will provide up to 24 months of rental assistance. Partnerships with local social service agencies will provide wrap-around support services to help ensure long-term stability and self-sufficiency of those assisted. Additionally, HOPWA TRBA funds are used throughout Worcester County and Wilmington County, Ct. to support eligible households by supplementing their income to afford housing.</p>

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
New Unit Production	<p>Market factors influencing development of new housing units, and particularly affordable housing units include: Cost of land; cost of infrastructure improvements required for development of land; development impact fees; construction regulations; and general economic conditions, including income and employment levels and market interest rates. With nearly 50% of Worcester’s housing stock having been built before 1940, the City recognizes the value of supporting redevelopment projects, particularly in cases where planned improvements result in safer, higher-quality, and more energy efficient homes for Worcester residents.</p> <p>Through partnership with for-profit and non-profit housing organizations, funding will support the objective to provide affordable housing to lower income households by expanding and maintaining the supply of decent, safe, sanitary, accessible, and mixed income rental housing; strengthening the ability of state and local governments to provide housing, and leveraging private sector participation. Eligible activities that would increase legitimate units in the City with HOME and CDBG funds would be acquisition and rehabilitation of existing rental housing, rehabilitation of existing rental housing, new construction of rental housing, and conversion of commercial/industrial space into residential units. The City will focus funding to alleviate market funding gap into projects the yield that highest return to the local economy and community, and have the highest potential to spur concurrent projects.</p>
Rehabilitation	<p>Market factors influencing the rehabilitation of housing include: age of housing stock; general economic conditions, including income and employment levels as factors which affect whether homeowners repair their homes or not; positive rate of return; presence of lead-based paint, and market interest rates. Given Worcester is an older City on the East coast, there are many older homes with demonstrated housing problems and presence of lead paint. An older housing stock necessitates a disproportional amount of funding, in comparison to newer markets, to maintaining a healthy housing stock. Of the City's current housing stock, over 50% percent was constructed prior to 1980 and older housing, which typically carries greater maintenance costs, is more likely to fall into substandard condition. The City will continue to prioritize a portion of its federal funds to assist low income homeowners with housing rehabilitation. CDBG housing rehab funds are awarded to bring units into compliance and afford the residents safe, sanitary and healthy homes. Often rehab funds are used in conjunction with the City’s lead paint abatement program. Funding is provided as a contingent grant forgiven after a five-year affordability restrictive period.</p>

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Acquisition, including preservation	There are a number of opportunities to redevelop older commercial sites which serve economic, recreational, and historic purposes, and can add to the vitality of their surroundings. As a result Worcester’s planning efforts, North Main Street and the Arts District, the Downtown prioritize the use of existing HOME subsidy programs to facilitate projects that have economic and redevelopment benefits in addition to housing and/or historic preservation value, and advocate for enhanced subsidy to close financing gaps which compromise the economic viability of Downtown redevelopment in Gateway Cities like Worcester. Efforts will continue to promote the conversion of historic mill buildings and vacant upper stories of commercial buildings in the downtown area to residential units, artist live/work spaces, and other uses as deemed appropriate; and continue to take advantage of available opportunities to market and promote downtown Worcester as a city on the move.

Table 48 – Influence of Market Conditions

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

Introduction

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	4,617,908	50,000	2,051,862	6,719,770	18,471,632	Projection of level funding for the next 5 years.
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,624,475	15,000	815,296	2,454,771	6,497,900	Projection of level funding for the next 5 years.

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: \$		
HOPWA	public - federal	Permanent housing in facilities Permanent housing placement Short term or transitional housing facilities STRMU Supportive services TBRA	651,256	0	111,469	762,725	2,605,024	Projection of level funding for the next 5 years.
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	385,068	0	5,138	390,206	1,540,272	Projection of level funding for the next 5 years.

Table 49 - 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

Federal funds will be used to leverage other public and private resources in the housing, public facilities, public services, and economic development areas. Matching fund requirements, along with the needed documentation, are specified in the subrecipient agreements.

Matching funds include non-federal cash sources, infrastructure, appraised land/real property, and site preparation, construction materials, and donated labor. The City and its program partners will seek funds from the following sources to support the goals identified in this ConPlan: Project-based Section 8 certificates through the Worcester Housing Authority, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, project financing at favorable interest rates from the MassHousing and local lenders, and private contributions to subrecipients.

The City of Worcester will continue to identify funding from the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, operated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, as a source of additional match. In order to meet its ESG match requirements, the City of Worcester requires all ESG sub-recipients to demonstrate a 100% match using other eligible federal, state, local, or private resources.

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

Discussion

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

Table 50 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

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			
Legal Assistance			
Mortgage Assistance			
Rental Assistance			
Utilities Assistance			
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement			
Mobile Clinics			
Other Street Outreach Services			
Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse			
Child Care			
Education			
Employment and Employment Training			
Healthcare			
HIV/AIDS			
Life Skills			
Mental Health Counseling			
Transportation			
Other			

Table 51 - 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)

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

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

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	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts Green Island Revitalization Initiative	Development of new affordable housing Development of new mixed-income housing Rehabilitation of existing housing stock Housing maintenance services Housing repair services Assistance for first time homebuyers	CDBG: \$3,079,642 HOME: \$2,745,633	
2	Healthy and Sustainable Housing	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts Green Island Revitalization Initiative	Systematic housing inspections Housing contaminant and pest abatement Housing inspections and code enforcement Home energy efficiency improvements Weatherization of homes Environmental preservation	CDBG: \$224,599	

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts Green Island Revitalization Initiative	Development of new affordable housing Development of new mixed-income housing Rehabilitation of existing housing stock Housing maintenance services Housing repair services Assistance for first time homebuyers Systematic housing inspections Housing contaminant and pest abatement Housing inspections and code enforcement Demolition of blighted properties Elimination of area and	CDBG: \$1,489,691	

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
						Cont. spot blight Infill development New streets and sidewalks Improvement of existing public infrastructure Small business assistance Small business and storefront improvements Revitalization of neighborhoods Neighborhood public safety improvements		

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Economic Development & Business Assistance	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts Green Island Revitalization Initiative	Small business assistance Job and employment opportunities Attraction and retention of new businesses Job and skills training Recreational and community facilities Economic development loans and capital Small business and storefront improvements Technical assistance to small businesses	CDBG: \$245,903	

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts Green Island Revitalization Initiative	Housing maintenance services Environmental preservation Job and skills training Youth educational and recreational programs Neighborhood public safety improvements Information and referral to public services Health services Youth employment opportunities Food access and security Housing security and eviction prevention Senior and elderly services Services for disabled or special needs population Information and services for new immigrants Transportation and access to public services Substance abuse services	CDBG: \$649,784	

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	New streets and sidewalks Improvement of existing public infrastructure Improving public facilities for public services Improving public facilities serving public safety Energy improvements for public facilities Accessibility improvements for public facilities	CDBG: \$889,872	
7	Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention	2020	2024	Homeless	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Information and referral to public services Housing security and eviction prevention Services for disabled or special needs population Mental health and substance abuse services Access to public housing Case management services Discharge planning Housing stabilization funds	ESG: \$196,115	

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
8	Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons	2020	2024	Homeless	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Mental health and substance abuse services Access to public housing Case management services Coordinated entry system Housing search and advocacy Rapid re-housing rental assistance	ESG: \$193,037	
9	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Housing security and eviction prevention Transportation and access to public services Case management services Housing search and advocacy Rapid re-housing rental assistance	HOPWA: \$728,320	

Table 52 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation
	Goal Description	The affordable housing development & preservation goal includes the development of new and mixed use affordable housing, rehabilitation of existing housing stock, maintenance & repair services, and assistance to first time homebuyers.
2	Goal Name	Healthy and Sustainable Housing
	Goal Description	The healthy and sustainable housing goal includes environmental preservation, weatherization & energy efficiency improvements, housing inspections & code enforcements, systematic housing inspections, and contaminant and pest abatement.
3	Goal Name	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Goal Description	The neighborhood stabilization & revitalization goal includes the development of new affordable housing, development of new mixed-income housing, rehabilitation of existing housing stock, housing maintenance services, housing repair services, assistance for first-time homebuyers, systematic housing inspections, housing contaminant and pest abatement, housing inspections and code enforcement, demolition of blighted properties, elimination of area and spot blight, infill development, new streets and sidewalks, improvement of existing public infrastructure, small business assistance, small business and storefront improvements, revitalization of neighborhoods, and neighborhood public safety improvements.
4	Goal Name	Economic Development & Business Assistance
	Goal Description	The economic development & business assistance goal includes small business assistance, job and employment opportunities, attraction and retention of new businesses, job and skills training, recreational and community facilities, economic development loans, and capital, small businesses and storefront improvements, and technical assistance to small businesses.
5	Goal Name	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Goal Description	The public services for low-moderate income persons goal includes housing maintenance services, environmental preservation, youth educational and recreational programs, neighborhood public safety improvements, information and referral to public services, health services, youth employment opportunities, food access and security, housing security and eviction prevention, senior and elderly services, services for disabled or special needs population, information and services for new immigrants, transportation and access to public services, and substance abuse services.

6	Goal Name	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
	Goal Description	The improvements and preservation of public facilities goal includes new streets and sidewalks, improvement of existing public infrastructure, improving public facilities for public services, improving public facilities serving public safety, energy improvements for public facilities, and accessibility improvements for public facilities.
7	Goal Name	Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention
	Goal Description	Ensure sufficient resources are available for 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.
8	Goal Name	Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons
	Goal Description	This goal is designed to help 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 and facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units.
9	Goal Name	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Goal Description	Using City of Worcester HOPWA funds, community-based organizations offer housing resources to PLWHA, including short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance payments, rental assistance, and supportive services to address varying needs and barriers to stable housing: Recognizing that being stably housed plays a critical role in ensuring that individuals living with HIV live healthy and productive lives, this goal ensures that housing assistance and supportive services are available to low-income people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the areas of Worcester County and Northeastern Connecticut in order to avoid homelessness, or obtain stable housing.

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)

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)

The WHA is currently not under a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement.

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

The WHA encourages all residents to become active members of their communities and has formally recognized 13 tenant associations that are encouraged participate and engage other residents to take an active role at their sites. Representatives from each resident council meet with the WHA CEO on a regular monthly basis to discuss issues that may have a direct impact on tenant's well-being and quality of life. Additionally, the WHA has regularly scheduled Monthly Resident Meetings with members of the WHA Public Safety, Maintenance and Property Management staffs to discuss issues with tenants that are germane to that specific location.

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

(Please review section MA-40)

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

(Currently under review)

SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)

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

The City will continue its current strategies in reaching out to shelter and unsheltered homeless persons and assessing their individual needs. Community organizations are working to engage partners and stakeholders to create a holistic system of outreach. For example, engaging with hospitals, law enforcement, detox centers, and other services that may commonly encounter homeless individuals. Without disclosing sensitive personal information, the partners then strategize using common resources and learning from success stories on how to ensure the safety and improved life condition of the individuals and the community.

Outreach to homeless families focuses on collaboration with first responders, local governments, and neighborhood centers that most frequently come into contact with newly homeless families. The agencies know how to contact emergency shelters with designated overflow beds.

There are homeless outreach services in the City that offer immediate and long-term assistance to unsheltered individuals as well. These outreach teams spend time at frequented locations such as the downtown corridor of Union Station, the Public Library and other public buildings; as well as parks and roadways prone to panhandling and loitering throughout the City. Soup kitchens and food pantries are other locations that outreach workers are able to successfully identify and engage with such individuals. Unfortunately, some individuals do refuse services for various personal reasons including substance abuse and chronic mental health, but many eventually accept help through long-term engagement of the street outreach workers.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Understanding that permanent housing is the ultimate goal, but not the first step for all that are homeless, the City will continue to support intensive case management for shelters and transitional housing on-site as a stepping stone to achieving long-term stable housing. Case Management services are vital to ensure that the Triage and Assessment model, which includes individualized housing stability plans, functions and serves the wide needs of households that are literally homeless.

Task Force for Sustaining Housing First Solutions Recommendations

GOAL: To achieve and sustain a “functional zero” i of adult chronic homelessness in the City of Worcester by creating a community response that incorporates the five components of Housing First: Crisis Response; Housing Supply; Support Services; Housing Crisis; and a Data-Driven System.

OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Public, Nonprofit organizations, and private landlords should work together to produce 103 housing units by December 30, 2019, and continue to preserve and develop adequate units for those who become chronically homeless in future years. 2. All community housing entities and mainstream support service providers should become part of the Worcester City & County Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinated Entry System (CES), aimed at providing housing subsidies with individualized support services prioritized for chronically homeless individuals. 3. The Worcester City Manager should establish and support a “Sustaining Housing First Solutions Coordinating Council,” which will ensure a coordinated community-wide system that acts with urgency and embodies these essential elements: a. Actionable, measurable goals; b. Clear, accountable leadership; c. Prioritized access to housing, with active case conferencing that respects confidentiality; d. Public commitment & transparent reporting; e. Funder education, alignment & sufficiency of resources

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again.

The City will continue the success of its Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) model across providers, which requires a written needs assessment and individual service plans for all referrals. The needs assessments include a Housing Barriers Assessment Process to examine barriers such as criminal background, and poor rental history; financial barriers; and housing maintenance or self-sufficiency barriers such as substance abuse or mental illness. Barrier assessments help providers prioritize the need and length of assistance appropriate to each household to assist in the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

The City has a role in the CoC’s development of a Coordinated Entry policy to improve access to housing and services, including community-based affordable housing. The process will continue to improve access to CoC housing and services for homeless individuals and families through: Assessing needs in a uniform manner; Prioritizing need for precious housing and service resources; Matching needs with available resources in a cost-effective manner to shorten period(s) of homelessness and improve housing stability. Coordinated Entry workgroups include case management and supervisory staff from agencies that provide housing and supportive services to homeless families and veteran, youth, and individuals from throughout the CoC. Notices of the time and place of workgroup meetings are widely disseminated via the Lead Agency e-distribution list, which opens up the Coordinated Entry process for any providers in the community and region. The Worcester Housing Authority prioritizes homeless

families and individuals for admission to public housing, and works collaboratively with case management staff of shelters and transitional housing to minimize barriers to public housing.

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

The strategy for Worcester to provide a continuum of homeless prevention (HP) services to families and individuals at-risk involves the use of flexible funds for utility and rent arrearages, appropriate referrals and case management, workforce training, discharge planning, and public education efforts.

Educational efforts with first responders such as schools, healthcare providers, neighborhood centers, and food pantries, can help identify persons at-risk of homelessness, and will encourage appropriate referrals to divert households from homelessness. Outreach to landlords will preserve tenancies through mediation, advocacy, and intervention services.

To assure that people being discharged from public institutions and systems of care do not become homeless, the City will continue its work with providers, the medical community, and the Continuum of Care Discharge Planning working group to examine and implement the best possible discharge planning procedures and work towards creating additional respite beds in the City to bridge the critical gap between hospital release and triage for the homeless. Positive working relationships exist between providers and institutions discharging people at-risk of homelessness. The City will work to strengthen coordinated re-entry for Veterans and former prisoners to address existing gaps in services for those populations. The City is committed to preventing youth homelessness by assuring appropriate transitional care for youth aging out of the Massachusetts Foster Care system.

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

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

The City of Worcester, through the Executive Office of Economic Development's (EOED) Housing Division, is an existing Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR) grantee and has been awarded funds under the Lead Hazard Control and LHR program in fiscal year 2019, 2015, 2012, 2009, and 2007. As of January 2020, the Housing Division's Worcester Lead Abatement Program (WLAP) had completed 269 Units from the \$3.4 million in funds awarded from the previous 2015 Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant. Through HUD's Lead Hazard Reduction 2019 funds, the City of Worcester's Housing Division will remediate lead paint hazards in 250 moderate, low and very low income units of housing using \$5,000,000 in lead abatement funds, as well as further remediate 120 of those same units using \$600,000 in Healthy Homes supplemental funding over a 42 month period (01/02/2020 - 06/30/2023). The Worcester Lead Abatement Program can provide up to \$10,000 per unit to assist with lead abatement in approved properties with low/moderate income tenants. In addition, WLAP coordinates the Massachusetts "Get the Lead Out" loan program funded by MassHousing for additional abatement assistance over the \$10,000 per unit threshold. Additionally, this grant will be matched by \$603,121 in other public and private resources to further provide lead paint and soil abatement, as well as provide primary prevention services in the form of outreach and education to low and moderate income families with children under age six within the City of Worcester.

In addition, any CDBG funded housing rehabilitation project over \$25,000 will be de-lead in conjunction with the rehabilitation activities to take place. For projects between \$5,000 and \$24,999, a lead report will be obtained prior to rehabilitation work taking place. Any area of work that contains lead paint will be conducted using EPA RRP and Massachusetts Lead Safe Renovator standards. The EOED's Worcester Lead Abatement Program anticipates applying for subsequent rounds of HUD Healthy Homes funding on a 3-year basis (2021 and 2023). The WLAP intends to request a total of \$625,000 in CDBG funding primarily for HUD Lead Hazard Reduction/Healthy Homes matching funding (\$125,000 per year for 5 years). It is estimated that during the 5-year period a total of 300 units of housing will be made lead safe.

To ensure that units that have undergone grant-funding rehabilitation continue to benefit low-income families long after project completion, homeowners and investors must agree to the placement of a five-year Affordable Housing Restriction on each unit that will undergo rehabilitation using funding from the Lead Hazard Reduction grant, capping rents at HUD Fair Market Rent. As an additional stipulation of the Affordable Housing Restriction, preference must be given to families with children under the age of six years old to inhabit available units.

The City of Worcester has made lead hazard reduction a policy priority for over 25 years. By providing lead abatement through the Worcester Lead Abatement Program, as well as the incorporation of lead abatement in any CDBG housing rehabilitation projects, over time the lead in housing stock for lower income earners will be addressed. Additional support for lead hazard reduction activities is provided by Worcester's Department of Inspectional Services which employs two, full-time lead paint staff enforcing both Massachusetts and Federal Lead Paint codes funded by tax levy. Lead hazard enforcement from

the Department of Inspectional Services ensures that landlords using private funding are remediating properties identified to contain lead hazards.

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

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health continues to classify Worcester as a “high-risk” municipality for childhood lead poisoning. Among the criteria used to determine risk are the number of Worcester children identified as having elevated blood lead levels each year, the age of the existing housing stock, and other socioeconomic factors including the percentage of low-income families. Worcester is home to 14,655 children under the age of 6 comprising 8% of the city’s total population. Children under six years of age are at an increased risk for becoming lead poisoned and suffering the long-term consequences of lead exposure which negatively impact learning, behavior, and development. Worcester’s older housing stock further increases the risk of lead exposure among young children. As of 2018, 79% of Worcester’s housing units were built before 1978 (compared to 70% state-wide), the year that lead paint was banned. Of those units, 32,221 were built before 1940 and are more likely to contain lead painted surfaces and hazards.

Socioeconomic factors can also impact rates of lead poisoning among children, as families may face additional barriers to living in safe, affordable housing units. An estimated 4,982 families in Worcester with young children under five years of age report having incomes below the federal poverty level. Additionally, 34.8% of the Worcester population speaks a language other than English at home, which may hinder the receipt of information on tenant’s rights, affordable housing programs, and available home rehabilitation services. Through funding provided by HUD’s Lead Hazard Reduction grant, income-qualifying units can be made lead-safe at little to no cost, further expanding the number of lead-safe units available for families with young children.

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

The activities of the Worcester Lead Abatement Program are in direct support of the Lead Law (MGL c. 111, § 189A through 199B) put forth and enforced by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Our assistance supports Section 197 of the Lead Law which states, “Whenever a child under six years of age resides in any premises in which any paint, plaster or other accessible structural material contains dangerous levels of lead, the owner shall abate or contain said paint, plaster or other accessible structural materials in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) or (c).”

The Worcester Lead Abatement Program (WLAP) has separate policy and procedures for conducting Lead Hazard Control activities through the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH), however the WLAP policies are also integrated in the CDBG Housing Policy and Procedures. This includes following HUD dust clearance standards which are more stringent than Massachusetts standards.

The type of housing rehabilitation activities that may be under taken include “Testing for and abatement of lead-based paint”; and “Lead-based paint testing and abatement as a standalone program or included as rehabilitation as noted above (24 CFR § 570.202(f)“.

The CDBG Housing Policy and Procedures also states that per the Consolidated Plan requirements, the City of Worcester shall consult with Worcester's Housing Development Division (HDD), who is the department charged with coordinating the City's lead-based paint strategy and reducing lead hazards in housing assisted with federal funds.

The City is committed to using CDBG funds to conduct Lead Paint Hazard activity's complementing the WLAP program through matching funds and allows the program to address more lead hazard activities, where OLHCHH projects are over funding limits but the projects are necessary due to at risk children.

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

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

The City's anti-poverty strategy seeks to support programs that provide basic food and shelter, as well as social and human services and job and life skills training and other advancement opportunities necessary for an individual or family to move out of poverty.

Many of the City's programs impact poverty-level families, and the following two Consolidated Plan goals and associated strategies have a direct influence on reducing the number of families living at or below the poverty level:

Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons, including, but not limited to, job and skills training, youth educational and recreational programs, and youth employment opportunities. Economic Development & Business Assistance, including small business assistance, job and employment opportunities, attraction and retention of new businesses, economic development loans and capital, and façade improvements.

Through these goals, the City seeks to enable low- and moderate-income residents to become and continue to be economically secure and self-sufficient.

The EOED also coordinates with the Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board (CMWIB) around programs and initiatives that support the City's goal of reducing poverty. The primary role of the CMWIB is to convene civic and business leadership, and utilize their insights to direct public funds aimed at building the skills of the workforce in our area. The CMWIB also oversees the One Stop Career Center in Worcester, known as Workforce Central. This coordination helps ensure the non-duplication of services that provide employment training and job opportunities, and aids in maximizing the impact of the limited resources available for these types of services and programs.

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

The EOED is the lead agency responsible for drafting this report, and oversees the investments made in economic development, public services, and neighborhood revitalization. The department works on a daily basis with developers, public officials, and community leaders and organizations seeking to increase the accessibility to jobs and affordable housing for low- to moderate-income persons.

Worcester uses federal resources to increase homeownership and affordable housing opportunities through the following programs: 1) owner occupied rehabilitation, 2) rental rehabilitation development/rehabilitation, 3) down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers, 4) the Worcester Lead Abatement Program, and 4) the Healthy Homes program.

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 City of Worcester has an internal management plan to assure the proper and compliant implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Annual Plan activities. Procedures have been put in place to assure proper compliance with all program requirements for the CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG entitlements. ****[As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic all on-site monitoring activities referred to below have been suspended until further notice].**

Project managers are responsible for monitoring their assigned projects and activities. Priority is given to new projects or organizations. Monthly “desk audits” of grant subrecipients’ programs allow project managers a chance to track the timeliness of expenditures and the status of program outcomes, through subrecipient Project Cash Requests (PCR) documentation. Additionally on-site monitoring provides an opportunity for staff members to ensure subrecipients are in compliance with Federal regulations and are actively working to achieve the objectives outlined in their grant agreements and the Annual Action Plan. Site visits also allow subrecipients to receive technical assistance and provide feedback about program administration. By carefully examining subrecipients’ performance through desk audits and on-site monitoring, the City can conduct a risk assessment to identify which subrecipients require more comprehensive monitoring. High-risk sub-recipients might include those new to the CDBG, HOME, ESG, or HOPWA programs, those who experienced turnover in key staff positions or a change in goals or direction, those with previous compliance or performance problems including failure to meet schedules, submit timely reports, or clear monitoring or audit findings, and those undertaking multiple CDBG, HOME, ESG, or HOPWA funded activities for the first time.

An on-site monitoring schedule is prepared based on this risk assessment. First, the assigned monitor will contact the agency to explain the purpose of monitoring and schedule a date and time for the on-site visit. Once this is completed, a confirmation letter is sent before the scheduled visit to confirm all aspects of the monitoring and to explain what can be expected.

During the actual visit, a thorough review of the subrecipient’s files ensures they comply with all regulations governing their administrative, financial and programmatic operations and that they are achieving their performance objectives within schedule and budget. A clear written record of the on-site visit is kept by using one or more of the City of Worcester/HUD monitoring checklists. The assigned monitor will fill out the form during the visit. At the end of the visit, the monitor concludes the visit by reviewing the tentative conclusions from the monitoring. Once the on-site visit is completed, the monitor prepares a formal written letter describing the results of the visit, providing recognition of the subrecipient’s strengths and weaknesses. If the subrecipient is experiencing problems or is failing to comply with regulations, these issues will be specifically outlined in the monitoring follow-up letter, along with recommendations or requirements to address and rectify problems. If a concern or finding is issued for noncompliance with Federal rules and regulations, the monitoring follow-up letter will provide recommendations on how the situation can be remedied. When a finding is issued, the

monitoring follow-up letter will identify a deadline for when the specific issues must be corrected. The monitor will then follow-up with the organization to make sure the corrections have been made.

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

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	4,617,908	50,000	2,051,862	6,719,770	18,471,632	
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,624,475	15,000	815,296	2,454,771	6,497,900	

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: \$		
HOPWA	public - federal	Permanent housing in facilities Permanent housing placement Short term or transitional housing facilities STRMU Supportive services TBRA	651,256	0	111,469	762,725	2,605,024	
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	385,068	0	5,138	390,206	1,540,272	

Table 53 - 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

(Please review answer under Section SP-35 above)

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

Discussion

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	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation	2015	2019	Affordable Housing	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Development of new affordable housing Development of new mixed-income housing Rehabilitation of existing housing stock Housing maintenance services Housing repair services Assistance for first time homebuyers	CDBG: \$3,079,642 HOME: \$2,745,633	Rental units constructed: 42 Household Housing Unit Rental units rehabilitated: 7 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 3 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 28 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 15 Households Assisted Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 20 Households Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
2	Healthy and Sustainable Housing	2014	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Systematic housing inspections Housing contaminant and pest abatement Housing inspections and code enforcement Home energy efficiency improvements Weatherization of homes Environmental preservation	CDBG: \$224,599	Buildings Demolished: 3 Buildings Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 1590 Household Housing Unit

3	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Development of new affordable housing Development of new mixed-income housing Rehabilitation of existing housing stock Housing maintenance services Housing repair services Assistance for first time homebuyers Systematic housing inspections Housing contaminant and pest abatement Housing inspections and code enforcement Demolition of blighted properties Elimination of area and spot blight Infill development New streets and	CDBG: \$649,784	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 4925 Persons Assisted
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Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
						sidewalks Improvement of existing public infrastructure Small business assistance Small business and storefront improvements Revitalization of neighborhoods Neighborhood public safety improvements		

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Economic Development & Business Assistance	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Small business assistance Job and employment opportunities Attraction and retention of new businesses Job and skills training Recreational and community facilities Economic development loans and capital Small business and storefront improvements Technical assistance to small businesses	CDBG: \$245,903	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 3 Business Jobs created/retained: 5 Jobs Businesses assisted: 8 Businesses Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons	2015	2019	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Housing maintenance services Environmental preservation Job and skills training Youth educational and recreational programs Neighborhood public safety improvements Information and referral to public services Health services Youth employment opportunities Food access and security services Substance abuse services	CDBG: \$649,784	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5440 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
						(Cont) Housing security and eviction prevention Senior and elderly services Services for disabled or special needs population Information and services for new immigrants Transportation and access to public		

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	New streets and sidewalks Improvement of existing public infrastructure Improving public facilities for public services Improving public facilities serving public safety Energy improvements for public facilities Accessibility improvements for public facilities	CDBG: \$889,872	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5145 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention	2015	2019	Homeless	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Information and referral to public services Housing security and eviction prevention Services for disabled or special needs population Mental health and substance abuse services Access to public housing Case management services Discharge planning Housing stabilization funds	ESG: \$196,115	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 60 Beds

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
8	Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons	2015	2019	Homeless	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Mental health and substance abuse services Access to public housing Case management services Coordinated entry system Housing search and advocacy Rapid re-housing rental assistance	ESG: \$193,037	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 165 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 35 Persons Assisted Housing for Homeless added: 165 Household Housing Unit
9	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS	2015	2019	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Housing security and eviction prevention Transportation and access to public services Case management services Housing search and advocacy Rapid re-housing rental assistance	HOPWA: \$728,320	Housing for People with HIV/AIDS added: 6 Household Housing Unit HIV/AIDS Housing Operations: 37 Household Housing Unit

Table 54 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation
	Goal Description	The affordable housing development & preservation goal includes the development of new and mixed use affordable housing, rehabilitation of existing housing stock, maintenance & repair services, and assistance to first time homebuyers.
2	Goal Name	Healthy and Sustainable Housing
	Goal Description	The healthy and sustainable housing goal includes environmental preservation, weatherization & energy efficiency improvements, housing inspections & code enforcements, systematic housing inspections, and contaminant and pest abatement.
3	Goal Name	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Goal Description	The neighborhood stabilization & revitalization goal includes the development of new affordable housing, development of new mixed-income housing, rehabilitation of existing housing stock, housing maintenance services, housing repair services, assistance for first time homebuyers, systematic housing inspections, housing contaminant and pest abatement, housing inspections and code enforcement, demolition of blighted properties, elimination of area and spot blight, infill development, new streets and sidewalks, improvement of existing public infrastructure, small business assistance, small business and storefront improvements, revitalization of neighborhoods, and neighborhood public safety improvements.
4	Goal Name	Economic Development & Business Assistance
	Goal Description	The economic development & business assistance goal includes small business assistance, job and employment opportunities, attraction and retention of new businesses, job and skills training, recreational and community facilities, economic development loans and capital, small business and storefront improvements, and technical assistance to small businesses.

5	Goal Name	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Goal Description	The public services for low-moderate income persons goal includes housing maintenance services, environmental preservation, youth educational and recreational programs, neighborhood public safety improvements, information and referral to public services, health services, youth employment opportunities, food access and security, housing security and eviction prevention, senior and elderly services, services for disabled or special needs population, information and services for new immigrants, transportation and access to public services, and substance abuse services.
6	Goal Name	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
	Goal Description	The improvements and preservation of public facilities goal includes new streets and sidewalks, improvement of existing public infrastructure, improving public facilities for public services, improving public facilities serving public safety, energy improvements for public facilities, and accessibility improvements for public facilities.
7	Goal Name	Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention
	Goal Description	Ensure sufficient resources are in available for 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.
8	Goal Name	Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons
	Goal Description	This goal is to help 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 and facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units.

9	Goal Name	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Goal Description	Using City of Worcester HOPWA funds, community-based organizations offer housing resources to PLWHA, including short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance payments, rental assistance, and supportive services to address varying needs and barriers to stable housing. Recognizing that being stably housed plays a critical role in ensuring that individuals living with HIV live healthy and productive lives, this goal ensures that housing assistance and supportive services are available to low-income people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the areas of Worcester County and Northeastern Connecticut in order to avoid homelessness, or obtain stable housing.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City of Worcester is creating 17 projects to address the goals identified in year 1 of the Action Plan. These 17 projects will address which goals they are meeting and which sources of funds will be used.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	PUBLIC SERVICES
2	NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT FUND
3	PUBLIC FACILITIES FUND
4	AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS
5	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
6	DEBT SERVICE
7	HOPWA20 AIDS PROJECT WORCESTER
8	HOPWA20 COMMUNITY HEALTHLINK
9	HOPWA20 MONTACHUSETT OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL
10	HOPWA20 CT PERCEPTION PROGRAMS
11	HOPWA20 GRANTEE ADMIN
12	HESG20 - WORCESTER
13	CDBG PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION
14	HOME ADMIN
15	TBRA (TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE)
16	GREEN ISLAND
17	CODE ENFORCEMENT

Table 55 – Project Information

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

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	PUBLIC SERVICES
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons
	Needs Addressed	Housing maintenance services Environmental preservation Job and skills training Youth educational and recreational programs Neighborhood public safety improvements Information and referral to public services Health services Youth employment opportunities Food access and security Housing security and eviction prevention Senior and elderly services Services for disabled or special needs population Information and services for new immigrants Transportation and access to public services Substance abuse services
	Funding	CDBG: \$656,836
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	

2	Project Name	NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT FUND
	Target Area	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization
	Needs Addressed	Development of new affordable housing Development of new mixed-income housing Rehabilitation of existing housing stock Housing maintenance services Housing repair services Assistance for first time homebuyers Systematic housing inspections Housing contaminant and pest abatement Elimination of area and spot blight Infill development New streets and sidewalks Improvement of existing public infrastructure Small business assistance Small business and storefront improvements Revitalization of neighborhoods Neighborhood public safety improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$469,984
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	

	Planned Activities	
3	Project Name	PUBLIC FACILITIES FUND
	Target Area	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
	Needs Addressed	New streets and sidewalks Improvement of existing public infrastructure Improving public facilities for public services Improving public facilities serving public safety Energy improvements for public facilities Accessibility improvements for public facilities
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,006,279
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
4	Project Name	AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS
	Target Area	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation

	Needs Addressed	Development of new affordable housing Development of new mixed-income housing Rehabilitation of existing housing stock Housing maintenance services Housing repair services Assistance for first time homebuyers
	Funding	CDBG: \$2,388,700 HOME: \$2,431,598
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
5	Project Name	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Economic Development & Business Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Small business assistance Job and employment opportunities Attraction and retention of new businesses Job and skills training Recreational and community facilities Economic development loans and capital Small business and storefront improvements Technical assistance to small businesses
	Funding	CDBG: \$628,328

	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
6	Project Name	CODE ENFORCEMENT
	Target Area	Union Hill Target Area Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Healthy and Sustainable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Systematic housing inspections Housing contaminant and pest abatement Housing inspections and code enforcement Home energy efficiency improvements Weatherization of homes Environmental preservation
	Funding	CDBG: \$172,000
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
	Project Name	DEBT SERVICE

7	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation
	Needs Addressed	Development of new affordable housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$444,039
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
8	Project Name	HOPWA AIDS PROJECT WORCESTER
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Needs Addressed	Housing security and eviction prevention Transportation and access to public services Case management services Housing search and advocacy Rapid re-housing rental assistance
	Funding	HOPWA: \$183,902
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	

	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
9	Project Name	HOPWA COMMUNITY HEALTHLINK
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Needs Addressed	Transportation and access to public services Substance abuse services Case management services Housing search and advocacy
	Funding	HOPWA: \$102,579
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
10	Project Name	HOPWA JUSTICE RESOURCE INSTITUTE
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Needs Addressed	Case management services
	Funding	HOPWA: \$9,692
	Description	
	Target Date	

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
11	Project Name	HOPWA MONTACHUSETT OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Needs Addressed	Housing security and eviction prevention Transportation and access to public services Case management services Housing search and advocacy Rapid re-housing rental assistance
	Funding	HOPWA: \$109,994
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
12	Project Name	HOPWA CT PERCEPTION PROGRAMS
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS

	Needs Addressed	Transportation and access to public services Case management services Housing search and advocacy Rapid re-housing rental assistance
	Funding	HOPWA: \$86,289
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
13	Project Name	HOPWA GRANTEE
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Needs Addressed	Housing security and eviction prevention Transportation and access to public services Case management services Housing search and advocacy Rapid re-housing rental assistance
	Funding	HOPWA: \$13,601
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	

	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
14	Project Name	HESG15-WORCESTER
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Expanded Resources for Homeless Prevention Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons
	Needs Addressed	Mental health and substance abuse services Access to public housing Case management services Coordinated entry system Housing search and advocacy Rapid re-housing rental assistance
	Funding	ESG: \$383,552
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
15	Project Name	CDBG PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts

	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Healthy and Sustainable Housing Neighborhood Stabilization & Revitalization Economic Development & Business Assistance Public Services for Low-Moderate Income Persons Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
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	<p>Needs Addressed</p>	<p>Development of new affordable housing Development of new mixed-income housing Rehabilitation of existing housing stock Housing maintenance services Housing repair services Assistance for first time homebuyers Systematic housing inspections Housing contaminant and pest abatement Housing inspections and code enforcement Home energy efficiency improvements Weatherization of homes Environmental preservation Demolition of blighted properties Elimination of area and spot blight Infill development New streets and sidewalks Improvement of existing public infrastructure Small business assistance Job and employment opportunities Attraction and retention of new businesses Job and skills training Recreational and community facilities Economic development loans and capital Small business and storefront improvements Technical assistance to small businesses Improving public facilities for public services Revitalization of neighborhoods Improving public facilities serving public safety Energy improvements for public facilities</p>
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		Accessibility improvements for public facilities Youth educational and recreational programs Neighborhood public safety improvements Information and referral to public services Health services Youth employment opportunities Food access and security Housing security and eviction prevention Senior and elderly services Services for disabled or special needs population Information and services for new immigrants Transportation and access to public services Substance abuse services
	Funding	CDBG: \$993,355
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
16	Project Name	HOME ADMIN
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation

	Needs Addressed	Development of new affordable housing Development of new mixed-income housing Rehabilitation of existing housing stock Housing maintenance services Housing repair services Assistance for first time homebuyers
	Funding	HOME: \$178,609
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
17	Project Name	Green Island
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing Development & Preservation
	Needs Addressed	Housing stabilization funds
	Funding	HOME: \$287,976
	Description	
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

The City of Worcester is comprised of 44 U.S. Census tracts, of which 26 tracts had 51.0% or more of their populations being persons of Low-Moderate Income (LMI) - defined by HUD as households whose incomes were 80% or less of the metropolitan area median income as adjusted for family size. These 26 LMI tracts are: 7304.01, 7304.02; 7305.00; 7310.02; 7311.01, 7311.02, 7312.03, 7312.04, 7313.00, 7314.00, 7315.00, 7316.00, 7317.00, 7318.00, 7319.00, 7320.01, 7322.01, 7322.02; 7322.03, 7323.02, 7324.00, 7325.00, 7326.00, 7327.00, 7329.02, and 7330.00. (see attached 2015 Low Income Population City of Worcester Map for locations). An examination of the attached Demographic Analysis of Target Areas Tables show that these 26 LMI tracts has a greater proportion of the city's racial and ethnic minority populations. According to the latest U.S. Census estimates (from 2017), the citywide percentages by racial and ethnic populations were: 57.1% White, non-Hispanic, 20.9% Hispanic, 11.8% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 7.3% Asian, non-Hispanic, 2.3% multi-race, non-Hispanic, 0.4% all other single races. In comparison within these 26 tracts with majority Low-Moderate Income populations, the latest U.S. Census estimates (from 2017) reported the following percentages by racial and ethnic populations: 45.5% White, non-Hispanic, 29.4% Hispanic, 13.3% Black/African American, non-Hispanic, 8.5% Asian, non-Hispanic, 2.3% multi-race, non-Hispanic, 0.4% all other single races.

One of these tracts, 7324.00, was ranked as the city's most distressed and the sixth most distressed in the State with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, foreclosed properties, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. This tract (7324.00) is the focus of the Union Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative which continues to work across multiple City departments in concert with key community institutions and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in that area.

Another of these tracts, 7325.00, was ranked as one of the top 5 of the city's most distressed and the with high levels of poverty, crime, problems with idle youth including gangs and drugs, foreclosed properties, absentee property ownership, vacant/boarded-up buildings, empty lots and other economic distress factors. This tract (7325.00) is the focus of the Green Island neighborhood which will work across multiple City departments in concert with key community institutions and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in that area.

The city's focus on targeted, strategic neighborhood development and revitalization is exemplified by the targeting of allocations to programs that serve Low-Moderate Income census tracts particularly in the Union Hill and Green Island neighborhoods. Overall 97% non-administrative, Fifth Year Annual Action Plan (7/1/19 – 6/30/20) funds are targeted to activities located or that serve the above reported 26 LMI Census Tracts, while 14% of allocated funds will directly serve the Green Island neighborhood.

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	97

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Union Hill Target Area	11
Green Island Target Area	24

Table 56 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Beginning in 2014, the city of Worcester embarked on the development and implementation of a new Five (5) Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2020). In order to establish an updated baseline of community needs for the Consolidated Plan, the city sponsored an extensive public outreach effort in 2014 and 2015, holding a series of eight (8) community needs assessment meetings in various neighborhoods throughout the city, with at least one in each of the city council districts. The meetings were attended by over 110 total participants. This neighborhood outreach was complimented by various individual and group consultations with numerous housing, human, and social service providers in the areas of homelessness, public housing, and services for special needs and low-income populations.

The Five (5) Year Consolidated Plan and the subsequent annual action plans helped to inform the proposed fifth year (2019-2020) annual action plan outreach/funding recommendation process. In addition, after the announcement of the availability of Request for Proposals (RFP) for fifth year action plan funding through CDBG, HOPWA, and ESG, a Community Needs Public Hearing was held on January 17, 2019 at City Hall to review and assess updated needs information received through workshops and any additional community input.

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC), has traditionally served as the formal citizen body that provides input on funding applications submitted as part of the city's CDBG RFP process. The CDAC is a citizen advisory committee comprised of ten members, with two from each of Worcester's five council districts. This year, the CDAC met seven times from October 2018 through March 2019 to review and evaluate the CDBG proposals and listen to presentations and ask questions of all of the Public Services, Public Facilities and Improvements, and City Interdepartmental applicants that submitted proposals in response to the RFP.

While the CDAC issues initial advisory recommendations on funding allocations, it is the city administration, through the city manager, that ultimately recommends which CDBG projects and activities to fund which form the basis of the annual action plan.

HOPWA proposals were vetted by the city administration together with the HOPWA Advisory Committee. This committee is composed of experts in community health and the HIV/AIDS field in Worcester County and Connecticut. The process was similar to CDAC in its review, including holding a public meeting to introduce the HOPWA process and guidelines, a technical assistance meeting for interested applicants, and a review and ranking session held in public at City Hall.

ESG proposals were vetted by an ESG RFP Review Committee that was comprised of members of the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care (CoC), and local funders of such social services such as the United Way. The ESG RFP Review Committee also followed a similar process to the CDAC in its review, including holding a public meeting to introduce the ESG process and guidelines, a technical assistance meeting for interested applicants, and an RFP review and ranking session at City Hall.

Discussion

As discussed above, 97% non-administrative, Fifth Year Annual Action Plan (7/1/19 – 6/30/20) funds are targeted to activities located or that serve the above reported 26 LMI Census Tracts, while 11% and 24% of allocated funds will directly serve the Union Hill and Green Island Target Areas respectively.

In an effort to address public facilities goals contained in the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan \$500,000 in CDBG funds have been allocated in the Fifth Year Action Plan to improve streets, sidewalks, and other forms of eligible public infrastructure within the Green Island neighborhood (in tandem with improvements made by other city departments, public and private partners. Likewise, \$350,000 in CDBG funds has been allocated to the Neighborhood Development Fund which will also be used to improve streets, sidewalks, sewers, and other forms of eligible public infrastructure. Both of the allocations will benefit low- and moderate-income persons and communities.

All CDBG funded public service activities operate out of facilities that are located within and have the vast majority of the clients that they serve come from the Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts.

Beneficiaries to be served through two public facilities improvement projects to be funded through CDBG during the Fifth Year Action plan are: Veterans Inc. Transitional Housing Upgrade and YWCA of Central Massachusetts ADA Bathroom Upgrades.

CDBG funded economic development activities will be used for façade improvement and microloan programs that support small business growth and aesthetic improvements to key corridors in distressed areas and retain existing jobs and create new jobs.

During 2019-2020, the city will fund 5 programs through 4 HOPWA Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area non-profits (3 in Worcester County and 1 in Windham County, CT), providing services and housing that will help over 125 individuals and families obtain and maintain stable housing.

During 2019-2020, the city will 6 programs through 5 entities through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) that will provide services, shelter, and sustenance to over 400 persons (both individuals or those within families), including veterans, youth, formerly incarcerated, those fleeing domestic violence, unsheltered homeless, and those exiting the Triage & Assessment Center for permanent housing.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

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

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

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

Table 58 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type
Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

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

1) The WHA has several actions planned during the next year to address the city's needs to public housing:

Gateway Cities Revitalization Program: The WHA recently received notice from the MA Department of Housing and Community Development that it has been funded \$10 million for its Gateway Cities Revitalization Project. Entitled "Inspire to Grow", this project will allow the WHA to make significant capital improvements to its Curtis Apartments development and increase its capacity in helping residents achieve self-sufficiency. With the construction of a new Economic Opportunity Center (a one-stop destination where residents can take part in self-sufficiency programming, Life Skills Courses, and work with Family and Resident Services staff), the WHA will be able to turn over office space at 30, 32, and 34 Great Brook Valley Avenue to 18 new units (6 fully accessible) to welcome new individuals and families into the housing authority. Furthermore, the relocation of the Worcester Comprehensive Education and Care Network into the new EOC will open up additional space for 18 more units to be created at the Great Brook Valley Apartments (not funded by this award). Twenty new rear staircases at the Curtis Apartments will also bring much needed safety upgrades and will improve curbside appeal. Additionally, the development of landscaped green space at the rear of the Curtis Apartments will increase connectivity throughout the Great Brook Valley community, making the neighborhood and the WHA a more welcoming place than ever before.

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

The WHA Family Self-Sufficiency Program encourages and works with participants and tenants in developing a 5 year action plan that promotes self-sufficiency and homeownership. The FSS staff assists participants in establishing realistic goals with the ultimate goal of moving out of subsidized housing into the private rental market and eventually into homeownership. Each participant's situation is unique and the establishment of short term and long term attainable goals is necessary for the individual's success.

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

provided or other assistance

N/A

Discussion

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

The City's Plan to Address Homelessness strives to expand on the successful “housing-first” model which moves away from extensive and costly shelter stays to focus on homelessness prevention to stabilize individual adults, families, youth and young adults experiencing housing instability. The City’s ultimate goal is to quickly stabilize those in our community who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness so they can ultimately obtain safe and affordable permanent housing. The City recognizes the need to develop units for individuals and families through innovative strategies including rehabilitating existing housing stock, furthering homelessness prevention efforts, and improving the delivery of comprehensive service strategies that address the health, employment, and long term self-sufficiency skills targeted to specific populations struggling with homelessness and other special needs.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

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

The City continues its current strategies in reaching out to shelter and unsheltered homeless persons and assessing their individual needs. This action is associated with Action Plan Goal 8: Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons. City ESG funds will support the salary and fringe for an Outreach Case Manager to conduct assessment of individual needs and enable access to mainstream resources and housing referrals for households without children that are unsheltered. In one year, it is expected that the outreach case manager will engage with about 100 literally homeless individuals and unsheltered couple households). The Outreach Worker, an employee of the City of Worcester’s Department of Health & Human Services, will work closely with the City of Worcester Quality of Life Task Force, the Worcester Police Department’s Crisis Intervention Team, and other local outreach players in collaboration with the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care’s Coordinated Entry System.

In addition to ESG Outreach, there are homeless outreach services in the City to identify and engage with such individuals/families that offer immediate and long-term assistance to unsheltered persons by frequenting locations such as the downtown corridor of Union Station, the Public Library, parks and roadways prone to panhandling and loitering, soup kitchens, and food pantries. The goal is to engage with people over time and, through an outreach presence and relationship, connect those who typically refuse services to resources such as housing case management, substance abuse treatment and benefit assistance. Now in its second-year as an outreach team, it is support by the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC), the agency that operates the Triage & Assessment Center. This additional staff helps to facilitate referrals to the Triage & Assessment Center and ultimately, permanent housing solutions. Community outreach organizations engage with partners and stakeholders to create a holistic system of outreach, engaging with hospitals, law enforcement, detox centers, and other services that

may commonly encounter homeless individuals.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City plans to address emergency shelter and transitional shelter needs for the homeless are encompassed in Strategic Plan Goal 8: Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons, and Goal 9: Housing Opportunities for People Living with HIV/AIDS. These actions will be supported by both ESG and HOPWA funds through the following activities.

Hotel Grace, run by the Net of Compassion, takes action when temperatures drop, they work extra hard to make sure our neighbors experiencing homelessness are safe, warm, and dry. As the City expands our efforts to build on the housing first model this seasonal shelter warming space works with community partners to support basic safe shelter for those who need it during cold weather months when our other services providers are over capacity.

(ESG) Emergency Shelter provides Emergency Shelter Essential Services for unaccompanied homeless adults at the Triage & Assessment Center, the Bridge of Central Mass and for Veterans through a veterans-specific emergency shelter project. HOPWA funds provide supportive services that may assist individuals living with HIV/AIDS in connecting, as determined by individual needs, to emergency shelter and transitional housing through Coordinated Entry and Access systems in both Worcester County and Windham County, CT.

All of these activities help address the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless populations because of the crisis-intervention nature of the program support. These programs recognize that permanent housing is the ultimate goal, but some populations that are particularly at-risk may need enhanced stabilization and case management.

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

Helping homeless persons, including chronically homeless, individuals, families with children, veteran with their families, and unaccompanied youth make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, and ensuring that households do not return to homelessness are priority needs identified in Goal 8: Resolve Barriers to Housing for Homeless Persons and Goal 9: Housing Opportunities for People Living with HIV/AIDS of the Strategic Plan. One-year goals to address this priority area focus on the housing facility and supportive service needs to transition to permanent housing, thanks to the expertise of sub-recipient agencies responsible for carrying out permanent housing placement and rapid re-housing activities. For example, all of the financial assistance for

housing that the City provides through ESG and HOPWA also ensures a supportive service match that leads households to self-sufficiency during the process of Rapid Re-Housing. The Coordinated Entry & Assessment process through the Continuum of Care ensures that housing placements are made with the appropriate supportive services using Continuum of Care and other mainstream resources targeted to disabled and/or chronically homeless households.

ESG Rapid Re-Housing provides funding towards unaccompanied adults to support first and last months' rent and short-to-medium-term rental assistance, depending on individual needs. To support the housing needs of unaccompanied young adults, ESG Rapid Re-housing funds support first and last months' rent, short-to-medium-term rental assistance and other financial assistance related to rehousing young adults ages 18-24 years.

HOPWA funds focus on stabilization in the transition to permanent housing by providing supportive services through case management and permanent housing placement for rapid re-housing. HOPWA supports Tenant-Based Rental Assistance which focuses on the attainment of permanent housing through mobile vouchers. Additional permanent housing is available through facility-based permanent supportive housing programs and Permanent Housing Placement rental start-up assistance.

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.

Needs associated with preventing homelessness for all populations City-wide are addressed through Strategic Plan Goal 7: Expand Resources for Homeless Prevention. This focus will include housing stabilization case management for some and actual cash assistance for limited utility and rent payments depending on specific household needs (or a combination of both, as assessed by housing providers). The commitment of the actions is supported by HOPWA Short-term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility assistance (STRMU) for over 75 low-income households with a family member or individual that is HIV-positive. Housing stabilization needs including referrals, services for special needs and disabled households, skills training, and planning for individuals discharged from publicly funded institutions. These goals are accomplished widely through community partnerships brokered between agencies and in collaboration with the City.

ESG funds for housing stabilization case management for homeless and formerly homeless individuals will accomplish the needs and goals identified for year three. Institutional delivery of services that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, as well as youth needs are also

facilitated through coordination and in coalition with City departments and initiatives.

Discussion

Task Force for Sustaining Housing First Solutions; The City Manager's Task Force for Sustaining Housing First Solutions has undertaken an in-depth examination of Worcester's community needs and resources in addressing adult chronic homelessness from March to June 2018; ultimately developing a plan to employ the actions and resources necessary to sustain a long-term system of permanent supportive housing within the City of Worcester. Three committees are tasked with the gathering of specific information regarding data, affordable housing, case management and supportive services; providing detailed, actionable recommendations to the City Manager on each key element towards implementation. The Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness has developed and launched the first ever federal strategic plan to end homelessness; she's implemented the plan and executed the strategies that have achieved significant measurable results.

On June 7, 2018 the Task Force for Sustaining Housing First Solutions released its draft recommendations. It has a stated goal to achieve and sustain a "functional zero" of adult chronic homelessness in the City of Worcester, by creating a community response that incorporates the five components of Housing First: Crisis Response; Housing Supply; Support Services; Housing Crisis; and a Data-Driven System. As part of that release it recommended the following overarching recommendations:

Public, Nonprofit organizations, and private landlords should work together to produce 103 housing units by December 30, 2019, and continue to preserve and develop adequate units for those who become chronically homeless in future years.

All community housing entities and mainstream support service providers should become part of the Worcester City & County Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinated Entry System (CES), aimed at providing housing subsidies with individualized support services prioritized for chronically homeless individuals.

The Worcester City Manager should establish and support a "Sustaining Housing First Solutions Coordinating Council," which will ensure a coordinated community-wide system that acts with urgency

and embodies these essential elements:

Actionable, measurable goals;

Clear, accountable leadership;

Prioritized access to housing, with active case conferencing that respects confidentiality;

Public commitment & transparent reporting; and

Funder education, alignment & sufficiency of resources.

Assessing & Addressing Acute Risk Behaviors; The City of Worcester is pleased to introduce a new initiative called the Hub. The Hub is a strategic program that combines the efforts of more than 30 local and state organizations to assess and address acute risk behaviors and cases including drug and opioid abuse, chronic homelessness, mental health issues, poverty and crime. The Hub is a coordinated mobilization of resources to address individuals or families facing acute levels of elevated risk. The purpose is to lower risk and connect individuals or families to services immediately. This Hub table will be overseen by a Systems Leader Group (SLG) that will be updated by the Hub on any systemic issues the table is seeing. This SLG will look into the data and trends to try to identify opportunities for systemic change.

Finally, the City of Worcester Department of Health & Human Services provides coordination and management of the City's critical services in the areas of Public Health, Veterans' Services, Human Rights and Disabilities, Elder Affairs and Youth Services. Access to these programs and services associated with persons with special needs are streamlined through this City department by providing information, outreach and educational programs for all Worcester residents regardless of age, race, ability or health condition.

AP-70 HOPWA Goals - 91.220 (I)(3)

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:	
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	70
Tenant-based rental assistance	37
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Total	107

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

Introduction:

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

From the most recent Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

Awareness of Fair Housing Rights, especially for recent immigrants and those with Limited English proficiency who are vulnerable to abuse. Some landlords are also unaware of their responsibilities under Fair Housing.

An impediment to determining what the City needs in terms of housing is the lack of data. Community Legal Aid only has data on claims filed with their agency and they have been reluctant to share the information they have.

Focus group participants relayed that the City lacks a comprehensive policy or vision about furthering fair housing in Worcester. Another point relayed is the lack of policy coordination among those who build and manage affordable units and those providing services to vulnerable populations.

Regionally Worcester is doing more than its fair share in the production of affordable housing units, compared to many wealthier towns who have far less than their “fair share” of 10% affordable units to all units in the community. Of the affordable units in Worcester, they remain concentrated into a handful of neighborhoods.

The incidence of housing problems – mainly housing cost burden -- is significantly higher among minority households, especially Asian and Black or African American renters with very low and extremely low incomes.

As market conditions have changed, there is more competition between for profits and non-profits. This competition has limited the available pool of units to develop as affordable.

Local zoning codes have been primarily preventing development of affordable housing in suburban Worcester.

High developments and maintenance costs (related to the code requirements at the local and State level) and lack of financing contribute to the challenges associated with creating

affordable housing.

Retaliation from a housing discrimination complaint, of which the most common include (in descending order): disability, race, families with children, national origin, sex, color, religion, other. Lack of translations services for leases in other languages and explanation of rights in other languages. Landlord discrimination from not understanding their requirements under the law. Discrimination against Section 8 voucher holders.

Landlord perception that small and large families they see are receiving housing assistance and/or will not honor the terms of a lease.

There was not a consensus whether the impact of college students on the availability and cost of rental housing in Worcester neighborhoods.

With the lead laws requiring property owners to remove or cover all lead paint hazards in homes built prior to 1978 where any child under the age of 6 resides, owners may not be willing to rent to families with children under the age of 6.

Worcester is the largest resettlement city in Massachusetts and is home to 30 percent of all refugees in the state. Approximately one in five residents of Worcester was born outside the United States. Over half of the foreign-born population in Worcester estimates that they speak English “less than very well”.

Foreclosures can have an impact of affordable units as tenants can often be the last informed or remain uninformed until the power or heat is shutoff to a unit. Luckily foreclosures have decreased by over 50% from a peak 388 in 2012, but can still be triggered by something as simple infractions like overdue water and/or sewer bills.

None of the interview or survey participants for this plan cited fair housing problems or issues with practices of real estate brokers in Worcester.

The lack of affordable barrier-free units is the major issue that renter with disabilities face in Worcester. Existing handicapped units are often unaffordable for many renters or they do not have an adequate number of rooms for families. For handicapped renters with Section 8 vouchers looking for an apartment, there is about one accessible unit per year that becomes available, making it highly competitive and challenging to accommodate renters with disabilities. Complicating the issue is that there are often differences in sidewalk quality, roadway crossings, access to transit, and shopping opportunities located in areas where the tenant can access.

Transit is under-provided and not near the level that it should be at for a city of Worcester’s size. This limitation affects health and well-being, jobs and the economy, and access to housing.

The lack of adequate transit is an institutional barrier to health and intertwined with fair housing concerns.

A need for a wider range of housing available to people with HIV/AIDS from housing with nursing support to more independent living arrangements.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Challenges to meeting underserved needs in the coming year stem primarily from increasing demand for program activities combined with decreasing amounts of funding. In order to maximize efficiency and achieve a greater impact, the City proposes the following actions:

- Annually, EOED conducts funding overview and technical assistance workshops for parties interested in applying for HUD entitlement funds through CDBG, HOPWA, and ESG, (usually planned for November). The workshops are designed to focus and facilitate discussion with interested parties in order to define the key social service issues and community needs in Worcester, to identify gaps in service, and to brainstorm potential strategies to address needs and gaps. The workshops were also designed to foster dialogue among agencies/departments to enhance collaboration and the sharing of information.
- Continue to work to improving access to services by persons with limited English proficiency in order to reach underserved populations. According to recent U.S. Census American Community Survey data, 18 percent of the Worcester population speaks a language other than English and speaks English less than “very well.” It is therefore important to ensure that critical programs and services address language and cultural barriers that isolate households and impede successful utilization of community resources. This proposed action includes developing a Language Assistance Plan for HUD Entitlement Programs.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will foster the rehabilitation of both rental and owner housing units, as these efforts keep people in affordable housing and may serve to prevent homelessness, especially for extremely low-income and elderly homeowners. The City also prioritizes homeless activities, ranging from the provision of emergency shelter to supportive services that prevent homelessness. Affordable Housing funds will also be prioritized to address the recommendations of the Task Force for Sustaining Housing First Solutions. Overall, the City will focus on multiple efforts to foster and maintain affordable housing, including rental assistance, rental acquisition and rehabilitation, new owner construction, owner occupied rehabilitation, and down payment assistance for first-time buyers.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The Worcester Lead Abatement Program was awarded a \$3.714 million Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant from the HUD Office of Healthy Homes in 2015 for the lead paint and soil abatement of low income and very low income housing units, as well as the provision of primary prevention services in the form of outreach and education to low- and moderate-income families with children under age six. The City plans to continue these efforts through subsequent rounds of HUD Lead

& Healthy Homes funding including a 42 month NOFA response in 2019, and anticipates addressing lead-based paint hazards in 70 housing units over the next year.

The City's Housing Development Division (HDD) administers the Worcester Lead Abatement program that can provide up to \$10,000 per unit to assist with lead abatement in approved properties with low-to moderate-income tenants. HDD also coordinates the Massachusetts "Get the Lead Out" loan program funded by MassHousing for additional abatement assistance over the \$10,000 per unit threshold. In addition, any CDBG funded housing rehabilitation project over \$25,000 will be deleted in conjunction with the rehabilitation activities to take place. For projects between \$5,000 and \$24,999, a lead report will be obtained prior to rehabilitation work taking place.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Given the high proportion of residents living in poverty, the City focuses on using its HUD entitlement program funds for initiatives and projects that provide the maximum benefit to very low, low and moderate income individuals and households. The City's anti-poverty strategy seeks to support programs that provide job and life skills training and other advancement opportunities, and is part of a coordinated effort to create jobs and improve the local economy. This two-pronged approach helps families achieve and maintain economic security and self-sufficiency. In addition, EOED will continue coordinating with the Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board (CMWIB) around programs and initiatives that support the City's goal of reducing poverty.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Coordinated Entry for Homeless Persons is convened by the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc. (CMHA), the lead agency for the Continuum of Care (CoC) in partnership with the City of Worcester and CoC agencies. The purpose of the Coordinated Entry system is to improve the quality of the CoC and greater Worcester's homeless housing and service system, and to improve outcomes for individuals and families in the continuum that are threatened with or experiencing homelessness. Two Work Groups convene bi-weekly to develop the coordinated entry policy, with one group focused on the needs of homeless families and the other on homeless individuals (including veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth). The work groups implement processes that prioritize individuals and families with the greatest needs (especially chronically homeless households) for housing and service assistance, and attempt to minimize barriers to entry because of lack of employment or income, drug or alcohol use, or having a criminal record. The City and the CoC encourage a Housing First model, but recognize that some housing and service resources are required by funding agencies or providers to give preferences to certain populations including sub-groups determined by age, disability, gender, or community problem.

The Coordinated Entry system ensures appropriate access to housing based on individual needs and assessments, and promotes effective referrals and partnerships throughout the homeless services

system.

Community partners at the heart of the overall institutional structure, including those that serve homeless and non-homeless populations, have cited gaps in the coordination, collaboration, and information sharing among organizations responsible for program delivery. In particular, the consultation process highlighted a need to increase awareness of existing resources amongst organizations. This gap impacts the referral system for clients, and consequently affects the ability of low- and moderate income residents to access other critical resources in the community. As a result, the City will support information and referral and direct case management services that help connect low- and moderate-income residents to much needed social and human services.

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

A number of local and regional agencies, non-profit organizations, and service providers engaged in the consultative process that informs this Action Plan. EOED will capitalize on these relationships to enhance coordination, as well as continue to work collaboratively with various municipal departments to maximize the use of limited resources to address the needs of low- and moderate-income residents. In addition, the City will continue to actively participate in ongoing efforts to enhance coordination with private industry, businesses, developers, and social service agencies in order to foster economic development. EOED, for example, plays a leadership role in the Worcester Business Resource Alliance (WBRA), a centralized network of business professionals, technical assistance providers, lenders, and community development organizations that collectively provide services to entrepreneurs and small business owners and managers.

Discussion:

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

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocations to fund Fifth Year Action Plan (7/1/19 - 6/30/20) activities contained within this document include \$4,382,360 in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fiscal Year 2019 CDBG Entitlement Funds for the City of Worcester (Grant # B-19-MC-25-0026), \$50,000 in CDBG anticipated program income generated from prior years activities, and \$1,608,631 in CDBG unexpended balances from prior year allocations. Thus a total of \$6,040,991 in CDBG funds will be available and has been allocated for Fifth Year Action Plan Activities (7/1/19 - 6/30/20) as presented in Tables AP-20 (Annual Goals and Objectives) and AP-38. Of non-administrative CDBG funds available during the Fifth Year Action Plan, 98.12% has been allocated for activities that meet the low/moderate income community development objective, while 1.88% will be used for demolition and securing vacant and condemned structures and thus address the slums and blight national objective.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	\$50,000
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	
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	
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.	
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	
Total Program Income	\$50,000

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)

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

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 is not currently using HOME Investment Partnership Program funds for homebuyer assistance activities. In the event of resale of a property where there is not a direct subsidy to the homebuyer, the City uses a Resale Provision to preserve the remaining affordability period to ensure the housing is retained for occupancy for low-income households. The Resale Provision requires that if the owner of an income restricted property sells, conveys, or transfers his/her ownership interest in the property prior to the end of the minimum federally-required affordability period, the sale, conveyance, or transfer shall only be to an eligible, income-qualified purchaser. Other restrictions concerning notice of sale, maximum resale price, and marketing of affordable unit(s) shall apply and are fully detailed in the City's Resale Provision.

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 purchaser must occupy the property as his/her principal residence throughout the period of affordability. For projects that are subject to a recapture provision, the period of affordability is determined by the amount of the amount of direct subsidy (defined below) to the homebuyer, as follows:

5 years for individual projects receiving between \$1,000 and \$14,999 in Housing Fund assistance per unit; and

10 years for individual project receiving between \$15,000 and \$40,000 in Housing Fund assistance per unit; and

15 years for individual project receiving more than \$40,000 in Housing Fund assistance per unit.

While long-term affordability can be accomplished through either recapture or resale provisions, the City has elected to impose recapture provisions on all HOME-assisted homeownership projects.

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: *The City of Worcester does not currently intend to use HOME funds to refinance existing debt currently secured with HOME funds.*

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

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

Written standards are provided as an attachment to this plan.

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

Coordinated Entry for Homeless Persons is convened by the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc. (CMHA), the lead agency for the Continuum of Care (CoC) in partnership with the City of Worcester and CoC agencies. The purpose of Coordinated Entry is to improve the quality of the CoC and greater Worcester's homeless housing and service system, and to improve outcomes for individuals and families in the continuum that are threatened with or experiencing homelessness. Two Work Groups convene bi-weekly to develop the coordinated entry policy, with one group focused on the needs of homeless families and the other on homeless individuals (including veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth). The work groups implement processes that prioritize individuals and families with the greatest needs (especially chronically homeless households) for housing and service assistance, and attempt to identify and minimize barriers to entry including lack of employment or income, drug or alcohol use, or criminal record. The City and the CoC encourage a Housing First model, but recognize that some housing and service providers give preference to certain populations based upon age, disability status or gender.

The Coordinated Entry system ensures appropriate access to housing based on individual needs and assessments, and promotes effective referrals and partnerships throughout the homeless services system.

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).

Please see attached the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Emergency Solutions Grant Program - Request for Proposals, which explains the process for making sub-awards and how funds are allocated to private nonprofit organizations. The City allocates and administers ESG funds to private nonprofit agencies via executed contracts, as recommended by the Emergency Solutions Grant Advisory Committee, the Continuum of Care, and as approved by the City Manager and City Council of Worcester.

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.

The City has a homeless or formerly homeless person serving as a voting member on the Emergency Solutions Grant Advisory Committee. Additionally, members of the CoC Board and diverse funding partners with knowledge of existing needs and resources in the community, such as the United Way, contribute to recommendations for making sub-awards for ESG. This year, direct service providers also participated as committee members to share insight into how ESG-funded projects are working on a practical level. In the past 5 years, ESG funds have been used for prevention, rapid-rehousing, street outreach and emergency shelter operations to serve major sub-populations represented in our community. The decision to allocate funds to these activities is greatly informed by the gaps and resources currently available through the federal HEARTH act in consultation with the CoC Board, and further informed by “on-the-ground” feedback in regards to how certain programs are filling service gaps in the community.

The CoC Board is staffed according to HUD's requirements, including: broad geographical representation, formerly homeless individuals, the City of Worcester as ESG recipient agency, veterans services, homeless assistance providers, mental health providers, social service providers, victims services providers, faith-based organizations, hospitals, higher education, government, and the public housing authority. The role of this entity is as follows:

- Identifies emerging or changing needs among homeless individuals and families and recommends new resources to best address those needs
- Implements and supports policies that ensure the best use of available resources for the homeless population through a coordinated assessment and entry system
- Makes decisions on applications for new and/or renewed project funding based on a specific set of review criteria including monitoring and evaluation of specific program performance and documentation of an effective and transparent prioritization of resources to those with the greatest need.

The CoC Board's input, based on its characteristics highlighted above, is considered significantly in the ESG funding recommendation process.

Based on feedback from this year's funding recommendation process, the ESG grant administrator plans to update the scoring and ranking process to make it more intuitive and straightforward, encouraging participation by individuals and residents who don't have extensive experience reading through grant proposals, but have valuable insight into the service system in Worcester. Voices of direct service providers this year have proven valuable to the process, and a simplification of the process will facilitate more representative input from the community.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

As part of the process of allocating ESG funds through the City's RFP process, there are established

performance standards to evaluate ESG program subrecipients. Under the “Project Narrative & Description” section, subrecipients provide a method for tracking clients that can be measured through recording individual client or household-level data. Subrecipients predict the unduplicated number of families/persons that will benefit from the activity (output) and the cost to provide the service. Desk monitoring occurs with every payment request submission.

On a quarterly basis, ESG subrecipients submit HMIS-generated Performance Reports to measure progress alongside financial drawdowns for each project.

Appendix - Alternate/Local Data Sources

1	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>Worcester City and County CoC Data</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc. (CMHA), lead agency for the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care, and HMIS Lead Agency provided the data for the number of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night, and number of persons experiencing homelessness each year.</p> <p>The data of race and ethnicity, and the estimated persons experiencing or exiting homelessness or becoming homeless over the course of the year is drawn from Annual Performance Report data of providers participating in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), as well as the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) reporting system managed by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), which oversees a large percentage of shelters serving households with children across the state.</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>The data represents the most recent Housing Inventory Count (HIC) for the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care. It has been combined with additional HMIS data to include both CoC-supported units/beds, and community-based units/beds that do not receive CoC funds.</p>

	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>The purpose of developing this data set is to reference the nature and extent of unsheltered and sheltered homelessness in the geographic area served by the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care. The purpose of including County-wide data is to illustrate the regional nature of homelessness in Worcester County, highlighting how the needs of homeless persons extends within (and beyond) the City of Worcester ESG and HOPWA grantee jurisdiction.</p>
	<p>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</p> <p>The data represents the entire geographic area served by the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care, see MA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment Supplemental Map #1.</p> <p>The Worcester County and City CoC does not serve any rural homeless households, as defined by HUD (Section 491(k)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act) due to the fact that all areas served in the Worcester City and County CoC are located within the Worcester eMSA, and no area served is within a rural county unto itself.</p> <p>The data collection is not concentrated among a certain population. It covers the number of persons on a given night by populations required in HUD's Annual Point in Time Count. However data estimating the number of persons who exit homelessness each year was only available for households with children, and adult households without children.</p>
	<p>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</p> <p>The data estimating number of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night is drawn from the Point in Time (PIT) count which occurred on January 29, 2014.</p> <p>The time period estimating the number of persons who experience homelessness each year, number of persons that exit homelessness each year, and number of days that persons experience homelessness, is drawn from HMIS data at the local and state level for individuals and families, respectively, from the period of January 1, 2014-December 31, 2014.</p>
	<p>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</p> <p>The data set is complete for the data available.</p> <p>Recognizing the lack of data for number of persons who lose their housing and become homeless each year, the City of Worcester and the CoC hope to explore the possibility of collecting this data in the future. Access to this data could potentially inform early warning systems and address gaps in homeless prevention efforts.</p>
2	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>MA Special Commission Unaccompanied Youth Survey</p> <hr/> <p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p><p align="LEFT">Massachusetts Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth</p></p>

	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>Beginning in 2104, the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness (ICHH) implements a state-wide survey on homeless youth via the local Continuum of Care in the state. The MA ICHH Youth Point-in-Time survey was modeled after best practices in the Compass Network's efforts to understand the extent of risk factors associated with young adult housing instability in Worcester.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>The Fiscal Year 2014 state budget included \$150,000 at EOHHS to conduct a count in order to better understand the scope of homelessness among unaccompanied youth. The ultimate goal is to use information obtained from the count to effectively match housing and services to youth experiencing homelessness. Ideally, the Youth Count will act as a benchmark for monitoring progress towards ending youth homelessness in Massachusetts over the coming years.</p>
	<p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</p> <p>The data was collected in 2014, for one week beginning on January 29, 2014.</p>
	<p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p> <p>EOHHS to conducts a count in order to better understand the scope of homelessness among unaccompanied youth. The ultimate goal is to use information obtained from the count to effectively match housing and services to youth experiencing homelessness. Ideally, the Youth Count will act as a benchmark for monitoring progress towards ending youth homelessness in Massachusetts over the coming years.</p>
	<p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</p> <p>The data was collected in 2014, for one week beginning on January 29, 2014.</p>
	<p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p> <p>The Fiscal Year 2014 state budget included \$150,000 at EOHHS to conduct a count in order to better understand the scope of homelessness among unaccompanied youth. The ultimate goal is to use information obtained from the count to effectively match housing and services to youth experiencing homelessness. Ideally, the Youth Count will act as a benchmark for monitoring progress towards ending youth homelessness in Massachusetts over the coming years.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>Worcester City/County CoC Housing Inventory Count</p> <p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>Worcester City and County Continuum of Care and HMIS Data Management team</p>

	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>The data represents the most recent Housing Inventory Count (HIC) for the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care. It has been combined with additional HMIS data to includes both CoC-supported units/beds, and community-based units/beds that do not receive CoC funds.</p> <p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons who are homeless, categorized by five Program Types: Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing; Rapid Re-housing; Safe Haven; and Permanent Supportive Housing. It is a requirement by HUD for all CoCs.</p> <p>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</p> <p>The data is comprehensive of the entire geography served by the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care (see map attached).</p> <p>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</p> <p>The HIC data represents the point-in-time inventory of 2014 units and beds.</p> <p>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</p> <p>The data set is complete.</p>
4	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>2009-2013 ACS (Workers)</p> <p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>U.S. Census Bureau 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data.</p> <p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>An Economic Development Market Analysis Business Activity table was developed and attached to MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets section of the consolidated plan. The table provides number of workers, number of jobs, share of workers, share of jobs and job less workers for City of Worcester by Business Sectors. The table replaced the same table(from 2007-11 ACS data) that had been imbedded in the Econ Planning Suite for Worcester, MA, but which was found to be widely inaccurate based on analysis with U.S. Census on-line data.</p> <p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>As just described, the data originally prepopulated in the above table was incorrect. Data from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS) was used instead to determine the number and share of workers by sector. Unfortunately, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program is not yet producing public-use statistics for Massachusetts and thus the columns related to jobs could not be completed.</p> <p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</p> <p>U.S. Census Bureau 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data.</p>

	<p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p> <p>U.S. Census Bureau 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data.</p>
	<p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</p> <p>U.S. Census Bureau 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data.</p>
	<p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p> <p>U.S. Census Bureau 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data.</p>
5	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>HUD HOME Rent Limits</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>HUD</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>This is an updated data set of what is in the default data for this section in the plan.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>this is for developers and owners of HOME funded projects.</p>
	<p>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</p> <p>This is for the City of Worcester</p>
	<p>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</p> <p>This data set is effective July 1, 2020 and usually is updated within 12 months.</p>
	<p>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</p> <p>Complete.</p>