



CITY OF STAUNTON,
VIRGINIA

2022 Annual Action Plan

Prepared for: Staunton Department of
Community and Economic Development



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AP-05 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - 24 CFR 91.200(C), 91.220(B)

1. Introduction

The City of Staunton is a federal entitlement community under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a HUD entitlement community, the City is required to prepare Annual Action Plans related to the most recent Five-Year Consolidated Plan (CP) in order to implement any federal programs that fund housing, community development and economic development within the community. The Staunton Annual Action Plan covers the period from FY 2022 (October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023) and has a CDBG allocation of \$317,340.

This Annual Action Plan (AP) outlines the planning and project requirements for CDBG funds. The primary objective of the CDBG Program is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income levels.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

Objectives. The Consolidated Plan three overarching objectives guiding proposed activities:

- Providing Decent Affordable Housing
- Creating Suitable Living Environments
- Creating Economic Opportunities

Goals. All future activities funding in the next three years of the Consolidated Plan will support at least one objective and one outcome. The City's framework for realizing the objectives and outcomes include the following goals:

- Provide Decent, Affordable Housing
- Provide a Suitable Living Environment
- Increase Homeownership

Anticipated Outcomes. Outcomes or accomplishments show how programs and activities benefit low- and moderate- income areas of a community or the people served. The three outcomes anticipated are:

- Improve Availability/Accessibility
- Improve Affordability
- Improve Sustainability

3. Evaluation of past performance

The following evaluation of past performance is from the Program Year 2020 (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation (CAPER) report.

CDBG funds were used to fund public services that are directed to seniors, youth, disabled populations and persons who are homeless and are presumed to serve low-income people.

During FY 2020 the City of Staunton completed the following high priority activities:

- Persons benefiting from Public Services: 207 persons served: Of those 120 were seniors or persons with disabilities who benefited from the Meals on Wheels program,
- 252 one-way rides were provided to 29 Staunton residents aged 62 or older who did not have access to other forms of transportation;
- 10 individuals experiencing homelessness were assisted with security deposits or first month's rent to move into permanent housing;
- 23 individuals experiencing significant financial hardship due to the impact of the COVID-19 were provide short-term rental and/or utility subsistence payments to low-moderate income, qualifying households, and 48 youth were assisted with advocacy service.
- Housing Units identified for rehabilitation: 4 homes identified
 - 2 Roofing work completed and inspected successfully
 - 2 homes pending contact award

During 2020, the City of Staunton received CARES Act funding for the prevention of, preparation for and response to coronavirus. Of the 988 persons served, 773 were served by activities designed to prepare, prevent and respond to coronavirus.

The City of Staunton expended CARES Act funds in 2020 to address the below objectives:

- Providing emergency payments for rental, mortgage and utility assistance to low-to-moderate income households.
- Provide funding for additional emergency shelter staffing due to the increased shelter space needs resulting from social distancing.
- Provide food assistance to low-to-moderate income households.
- Increase outreach and education to underserved populations to provide prevention messaging in socially vulnerable areas, as identified by CDC social vulnerability index maps, of the City.
- Providing legal aid services to persons at risk of homelessness as a result of COVID-19 to low-to-moderate income households facing evictions.
- CDBG CV Program Administration

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Public Hearings—A public hearing was held on May 12th, 2022, in Council Chambers 116 W Beverley St, Staunton VA 24401 at 2:00pm to solicit feedback on the Annual Action Plan development. This hearing was to solicit input from the public on the needs and priorities for the City.

A second public hearing was held on July 14, 2022. This hearing allowed for the public to review the proposed projects in the 2022 Annual Action Plan. Both hearings were advertised in the *News Leader* and on the City's website in accordance with the City's Citizen Participation Plan.

City staff presented the draft Annual Action Plan to City Council on July 28, 2022.

5. Summary of public comments

[completed after public hearings]

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

All comments were accepted. A complete summary of comments received is included in the Citizen Participation Appendix.

7. Summary

The City of Staunton continues to use CDBG funding to support at least one objective and one outcome. The City's framework for realizing the objectives and outcomes include the following goals: provide decent, affordable housing, provide a suitable living environment and/or increase homeownership.

PR-05 LEAD & RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES – 91.200(B)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	City of Staunton, VA	Department of Community and Economic Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City, a relatively new designated HUD entitlement grantee, is required by HUD to prepare an Annual Action Plan that meets the Consolidated Plan regulations in order to receive grant program funds. The lead agency responsible for overseeing the development of these plans and reports is the City's Community and Economic Development Departments.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Mr. William L. Vaughn, Director
Community and Economic Development Departments
116 W. Beverley Street
Staunton, VA 24401
Office: 540.332.386

AP-10 CONSULTATION – 91.100, 91.200(B), 91.215(L)

1. Introduction

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))

As an Entitlement grantee, the City encouraged a high level of public communication and agency consultation when developing the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan to demonstrate its commitment to identifying priority needs and engaging the participation of citizens, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations in a positive and collaborative manner. A list of stakeholders was developed for the purpose of developing the Plan, and included affordable housing providers, public agencies and private nonprofit organizations whose missions include the provision of affordable housing and human services to LMI households and persons. In line with the process during the Consolidated Plan, these stakeholders were invited to participate in scheduled public meetings held to develop the 2022 Annual Action Plan.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The City participates in the Virginia Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) and is a member of one of twelve local planning groups. This group encompasses the City of Staunton, Augusta County, the City of Waynesboro, Highland County, the City of Lexington, the City of Buena Vista, and Rockbridge County. Members of the CoC were consulted during the development of the Con Plan to understand how to best address the needs of homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness. Through its cooperation with the CoC, the City will seek to identify ways to enhance coordination among the assisted housing providers and governmental health, mental health, and service agencies.

The City anticipates continuing its coordination of human service funding with other social service agencies and charitable organizations to better target the limited amount of human service dollars available in the community. The City continues to fund non-profit organizations that provide services to person's experiencing homelessness.

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

The City does not receive ESG funds.

City staff will continue to work with the local planning group of the BoS CoC to undertake the establishment of performance measurements for homeless programs. Members of the CoC provided valuable input during public outreach, plan drafting, and project selection process of the Con Plan. The CoC administers the local HMIS.

The City's Citizen Participation Plan allows for citizens, community agencies, and the local CoC to provide input on the use of all funding. Notifications of the public hearings are published in Staunton's newspaper

of largest distribution, the *News Leader*. Information is also made available at the City's office of Community Development and is displayed on the City's website.

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

1	Agency/Group/Organization	STAUNTON REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Staunton – Public Works-Engineering Office
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This municipal department was consulted through a one-on one meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Staunton – Community and Economic Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This municipal department was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	VPAS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Foundation of Central Blue Ridge
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Community Foundation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Valley Supportive Housing
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Blue Ridge CASA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Blue Ridge Legal Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs

How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization was consulted through public meetings and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
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Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

All entities were considered for consultation. Data was collected using Federal Communications Commission data and the Brookings Institute *Closing the digital and economic divides in rural America*. Hazard mitigation information was collected from the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission's website.

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?
Strategic Plan	BoS CoC	The CoC Strategic Plan goals were reviewed.
Capital Improvement Plan	City of Staunton	The City's Capital Improvement Plan, updated in 2021, informed the Strategic Plan sections aimed at public infrastructure improvements.
ALICE Report United Way	United Way Greater Augusta	The goals of the Strategic Plan are aligned with the goals of ALICE, to improve access to opportunity for Staunton residents.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

AP-12 PARTICIPATION – 91.105, 91.200(C)

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

In April 2020, the City updated the Citizen Participation Plan to include information on how the City will collect citizen participation in the event of an emergency. Subsequently, public meetings associated with each Annual Action Plan have been held virtually. In 2022, the City held its public hearing both in-person and virtually, utilizing video conferencing software that had the ability to allow live questions to be asked and comments in real time.

Public Hearings—A public hearing was held on May 12th, 2022 to solicit community needs feedback on the Annual Action Plan development. This hearing was to solicit input from the public on the needs and priorities for the City. Several persons and council members were in attendance and no comments were made.

A second public hearing was held on July 14, 2022. This hearing presented the draft Annual Action Plan for public comment. Both hearings were advertised in the *News Leader* and on the City's website in accordance with the City's Citizen Participation Plan.

The City underwent extensive citizen participation in the development of its 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, which included stakeholder meetings, public hearings and an online survey. Results from this process outlined the five-year strategic goals for the City of Staunton. The creation of the 2022 Annual Action Plan included a smaller engagement process including discussions with CDBG applicants, City department directors, attendance at CoC meetings, and two public hearings.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	0 participants	There were no attendees	All comments accepted.	https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/departments/community-development/hud-community-development-block-grant/notice-of-public-needs-hearing
2	Applicant Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Annual Action Plan was uploaded on the City's	Applicants provided program needs	n/a	

			website during the 30-day public comment period.	information		
3	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	[complete after 2 nd PH]	See Appendix	All comments accepted.	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

EXPECTED RESOURCES

AP-15 EXPECTED RESOURCES – 91.220(C)(1,2)

Introduction

The City of Staunton will utilize the CDBG allocation for Program Year 2021 for Admin and Planning, Housing, Public Infrastructure Improvements, and/or Public Services

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	Admin and Planning Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$317,340	\$0	\$0	\$317,340	\$371,384	The estimated expected amount available for the remainder of the Con Plan is just over one times the 2022 annual allocation

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

Over the next two years, Staunton will attempt to leverage its CDBG allocations with federal and other public resources, as well as private sector funding sources, to address the City's housing and community development needs. The City will continue to partner with other public agencies and non-profit organizations, when feasible, to leverage resources and maximize outcomes in providing the housing and supportive services needs of the community.

The City annually provides general fund dollars to organizations that provide housing and/or supportive services to area residents, including LMI households. The City will continue this practice to maximize its CDBG investments.

The non-profit organizations funded through the CDBG program have additional financial capacity through foundations, fundraising campaigns, and other grants. The City's allocation of federal funds provides these organizations with the opportunity to expand their services to benefit more low- and

moderate-income persons.

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

The Staunton Crossing redevelopment site is publicly owned and will be used as a catalyst for economic development in Staunton. In January 2022 additional funding from the VA Business Ready Sites Program from the VA Economic Development partnership. Some of the needs identified in the 2022 Action Plan consistent with this development, but also the City as a whole. Development outcomes include: improved infrastructure and focused workforce development programs for middle to high paying jobs.

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	Improve Access to and Quality of Housing	2022	2023	Affordable Housing	City Wide	Increase Access to Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$13,000	
2	Provide Public Services	2022	2023	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	City Wide	Provide Public Services	CDBG: \$34,600	Public Service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 197 persons. Public Service activities Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5 households
3	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure	2022	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	City Wide	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$206,272	Public Facility or Infrastructure other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: Hundreds of Staunton residents
4	Planning and Administration	2022	2023	Other	City Wide	Planning and Administration	CDBG: \$63,468	Other: 1 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

	Goal Name	Improve access to and quality of housing
	Goal Description	Includes the rehabilitation and preservation of quality affordable housing as well as increasing access to homeownership through City initiatives and partnerships with SR&HA.
	Goal Name	Provide public services
	Goal Description	Expand and continue non-housing community development supportive services, including services for the homeless, mental health, elderly, and other special needs populations.
	Goal Name	Improve public facilities and infrastructure
	Goal Description	Continue and expand public facility improvements and improve and maintain infrastructure servicing households in low-income areas.
	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	Provide loan and technical assistance to small businesses to promote the creation and retention of jobs in the City of Staunton.
	Goal Name	Planning and Administration
	Goal Description	Includes administration of the CDBG program, planning activities and activities to affirmatively further fair housing choice.

PROJECTS

AP-35 PROJECTS – 91.220(D)

Introduction

The following project information for the FY2022 provides a comprehensive overview of CDBG activities.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Program Administration
2	Valley Mission, Inc Initial Housing Support Program
3	VPAS Senior Transportation Program (STP)
4	Blue Ridge Legal Services
5	Salvation Army Facilities Improvement
6	Blue Ridge CASA
7	A Street Aging in Place
8	VPAS Meals on Wheels

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The City of Staunton has directed its FY 2022 CDBG activities to low/moderate income neighborhoods where concentrations of poverty, deteriorated infrastructures and community facilities, and poor housing conditions are most prevalent.

The following are obstacles to meeting underserved needs in the City:

- Aging infrastructure and housing stock are a continued obstacle to overcome.
- City and non-profit organization staff capacity issues directly lead to low program performance and low program outcomes.
- As the population of Staunton grows, so will problems with affordable housing volumes and availability.

AP-38 PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG Program Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Planning and administration
	Needs Addressed	Planning and Administration
	Funding	CDBG: \$63,468
	Description	This funding will be used to support the general administration and planning activities for the Community Development Block Grant Program.
	Target Date	9/30/22
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Other
	Location Description	Citywide
2	Planned Activities	This funding is used to support the general administration and planning activities for the Community Development Block Grant Program.
	Project Name	Valley Mission Inc., Initial Housing Support Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Provide public services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	Formally homeless individuals who move into housing within Staunton City limits after exiting Valley Mission will be assisted with approximately \$500 to \$1,000 each initial housing support or other funds necessary to facilitate moving into safe, affordable, permanent, and appropriate housing.
	Target Date	09/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from	5 persons

	the proposed activities	
	Location Description	City Wide
	Planned Activities	Subsistence payments to assist formally homeless individuals more into safe housing. Payments will be made to the landlord or utility company directly.
3	Project Name	VPAS Senior Transportation Program (STP)
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Provide Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public services
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	VPAS' Senior Transportation Program (STP) provides elderly Staunton residents and those under 60 with a disability transportation services to medical and other life necessary destinations when there is no other reliable or affordable transportation option available to them.
	Target Date	9/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	30 people
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Funding will pay for outreach activities, development multi-passenger ride scheduling, volunteer recruitment, and a full time driver to serve residents of the community.
4	Project Name	Salvation Army Facilities Improvements
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Provide Public Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities
	Funding	CDBG: \$55,000
	Description	Rehabilitation of the Salvation Army facility. Improvements will be made to building, new paint and new vents in gymnasium which is used more as a community gathering space for programs and serviced and renovation of kitchen space to make it more energy efficient and space efficient for services to the community.
	Target Date	9/30/2023

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Hundreds of clients who visit each year during seasonal activities and the residents of Staunton
	Location Description	1700 West Beverley Street
	Planned Activities	Infrastructure Improvements will be made to building, new paint and new vents in gymnasium which is used more as a community gathering space.
5	Project Name	Blue Ridge Legal Services
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Provide public services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$8,000
	Description	Provide free legal assistance to low-income residents of Staunton in various types of civil legal matters. The project will focus on providing assistance to low-income residents facing eviction, foreclosure, and other critical housing matters. BRLS will also provide assistance on other legal issues such as domestic violence and other family disputes, access to affordable health care, eligibility for various governmental assistance programs for the poor, protecting the poor's meager possessions and wages, and issues involving the elderly poor.
	Target Date	09/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We estimate that these funds will cover the costs of providing free civil legal assistance to approximately 12 additional residents of Staunton facing critical legal issues.
	Location Description	City Wide
	Planned Activities	The services provided over the project year will range from legal advice and performing a brief service, to direct representation and extensive services.
6	Project Name	Blue Ridge CASA
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Provide public services

	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$14,600
	Description	Provide advocacy for abused and neglected children. The proposed activities will directly benefit low-income children living in unstable and inadequate housing conditions who have been victims of abuse or neglect and have special needs. Indirectly, these activities will benefit dozens of, if not more, community members; by working in direct collaboration with health care, mental health care, child welfare and safety institutions, this Program's impact reduces local expenditures related to child abuse and neglect
	Target Date	09/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The proposed activities will directly benefit at least 60 low-income children
	Location Description	City Wide
	Planned Activities	Recruit, select, and train 5 new Advocates. Prepare mid-year evaluation of Advocate Manager's performance. Conduct measurement of retention rate. Perform annual performance assessment of advocates and the Advocate Manager.
7	Project Name	A Street Aging in Place Project
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$151,272
	Description	These funds will help improve the service and safety of existing homeowners as well as new homeowners. We will be extending water access for new LMI units to be built at the end of A street.
	Target Date	09/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	15 households

	Location Description	A Street from Hickory SE
	Planned Activities	Infrastructure Improvements to A Street including curb and sidewalks for new housing units on extended A Street.
8	Project Name	VPAS Meals on Wheels
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Provide Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	VPAS' Meals on Wheels (MOW) program provides a freshly prepared nutritious meal five days per week to frail, older Staunton residents who are at nutritional risk. The goal of the program is to help older persons obtain needed nutrition, maintain or improve their health, remain socially engaged, and remain living independently in their homes and community.
	Target Date	9/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	VPAS estimates that at least 95 of Staunton residents receiving MOW are age 62 or older, falling into the CDBG presumed benefit "elderly" population.
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	VPAS clients and new clients will receive Meals on Wheels services. VPAS Case Managers will follow standard procedures to determine need and eligibility for more contacts as they request service.

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 will use CDBG funds throughout the jurisdiction to serve low and moderate-income persons.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Citywide	100%

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Staunton does not allocate funds by target areas. Rather, the City allocates funds based upon the priorities that have been identified by citizens participating in the public input process and through the regular planning contacts made with elected officials and staff. The City will use CDBG funds throughout the jurisdiction to serve low and moderate-income persons.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

AP-55 AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 91.220(G)

Introduction

The City will use its federal funds to provide affordable housing by providing funds to rehabilitation existing units.

The special needs population will be served through grants to local service providers. The homeless population will be served through assistance grants to local service providers.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	5
Non-Homeless	3
Special-Needs	0
Total	8

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	5
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	8

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

Valley Mission will receive \$5,000 to provide subsistence payments to assist 5 formally homeless individuals more into safe housing.

AP-60 PUBLIC HOUSING – 91.220(H)

Introduction

As of 2016, Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (SR&HA) converted all of its public housing units into project-based Section 8 units under the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program. SR&HA currently owns and manages a total of 150 residential units including 50 units for elderly and disabled. The units range from one bedroom to five-bedroom townhouses. Rent is based on income and utilities are included.

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

SR&HA converted all of its public housing units into Section 8 units under the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program.

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

SR&HA has a functioning resident council that participates in meetings and events. The Council was particularly active during the conversion of the units to project-based vouchers under the Rental Assistance Demonstration program in 2016.

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

SR&HA is not designated as troubled.

AP-65 HOMELESS AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS ACTIVITIES – 91.220(I)

Introduction

As a participant in the Virginia Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC), the City is a partner in addressing homelessness and the priority needs of homeless individuals and families, including homeless subpopulations.

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 BoS CoC has an established Coordinated Entry System, which offers a central point of entry for households experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. During an initial phone call, a housing counselor asks questions that will help determine eligibility for services with local agencies. The BoS CoC uses two assessment tools for prioritization of services. Prevention assessment: The BoS created a prevention prioritization tool that includes both homeless vulnerability and housing barriers. Once a household's housing crisis is triaged and it is determined that the household is at imminent risk of homeless (14 days or less), then the coordinated entry staff will conduct the prevention prioritization assessment. Based on eligibility and assessment score prevention providers are guided on service needs of households. The BoS CoC uses the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) as the common standardized assessment tool for those who are literally homeless. This assessment is conducted no more than 3 to 5 days after the household has been referred to shelter or once an outreach worker is able to establish rapport with an unsheltered or un-engaged household.

Each January, the CoC conducts a Point-in-Time (PIT) count of the City's sheltered and unsheltered homeless to ascertain the number and characteristics of the homeless population and to assess their needs. Staunton's continued participation in the PIT study will give the City the ability to collect information to be used in setting priorities, written standards, and performance measures for the area.

In 2022, the City will continue to support Valley Mission, which offers emergency shelter and services for homeless individuals and families. In 2022, Valley Mission will receive \$5,000 to provide subsistence payments to assist 5 formally homeless individuals more into safe housing.

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

The City will maintain coordination and collaboration with local non-profit agencies serving the homeless population. The City will continue will use its entitlement grant funds to assist non-profit organizations that serve homeless individuals and families in Staunton.

Valley Mission uses CDBG funds to assist formally homeless households' transition into safe, permanent housing. Blue Ridge Legal Services will also receive funding to assist households with free legal services to

reduce the threat of homelessness in the City by using the courts to prevent evictions or foreclosures and keep City residents in their homes.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

The City will maintain coordination and collaboration with local non-profit agencies serving the homeless population. The City will continue will use its entitlement grant funds to assist non-profit organizations that serve homeless individuals and families in Staunton.

The City utilized federal CARES Act funds support the following homeless shelter and prevention programs:

- Valley Mission
- Salvation Army Homeless Prevention
- Community Foundation of Blue Ridge Homeless Prevention

AP-75 BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 91.220(J)

Introduction:

The City of Staunton has prepared an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice to satisfy requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, in 2020. This act requires that any community receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds affirmatively further fair housing.

A summary of the impediments to fair housing choice that emerged from the data analysis, public engagement initiatives, and policy review were identified. They are the results of primary and secondary research that define the underlying conditions, trends, and context for fair housing planning in Staunton. The impediments were assigned three priority levels based on the amount and strength of the supporting evidence that initially identified the factor:

- High – factors that limit or deny fair housing choice or access to opportunity, as well as other factors that are urgent or establish a foundation for future actions
- Medium – moderately urgent or building on prior actions
- Low – limited impact on fair housing issue

Factor	Priority	Responsible Parties	Discussion
Access to community assets and opportunities	High	City	Community assets such as public transit and jobs can improve access to opportunities, especially for lower income households and persons with disabilities. While the City has adequate coverage regarding public transit in R/ECAPs, these areas have poor access to the City's employment centers and higher performing schools. Expanding the public transit system to higher opportunity areas could increase opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents.
Location and type of affordable housing	High	City, SRHA, Private Sector	Providing more housing choices in more areas across the City could increase the accessibility and affordability of housing in Staunton. The majority of Staunton's housing stock is single-family housing (67.1%). Conversely, multi-family units comprised 32.8% of the total housing stock in Staunton. Multi-family housing can be a more affordable housing option that provides members of the protected classes access to other parts of the City that are otherwise unaffordable. Minority households are more likely to have four or more members in the household, requiring larger units. In order to house larger families, a sufficient supply of larger dwelling units consisting of three or more bedrooms is necessary. There has been a decrease in the number of 4-and 5-bedroom units in Staunton since 2010. Homeownership is also lower among non-white residents in Staunton.

Land use and zoning	Medium	City	The City of Staunton's zoning ordinance is at moderate risk relative to discriminatory provisions for housing members of the protected class. One concern with Staunton's zoning ordinance is the lack of a Reasonable Accommodations provision. Reasonable accommodation is a change in rules, policies and practices that enables persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.
Creation of Policy and Procedures related to Fair Housing	High	City	The City of Staunton is a new CDBG entitlement community and should develop several policies and procedures to support initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing.
Fair Housing Education and Outreach	High	City	There are many strategies that local governments can employ to increase fair housing choice for residents in their jurisdictions. Several best practices can help to ensure that residents are educated about their fair housing rights and that municipal officials and staff are aware of their fair housing responsibilities. Municipalities should make consumer information regarding fair housing rights available to their constituents.

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

Impediment: Location and type of affordable housing

The City and other local organizations should address the diverse housing needs for the City's various subpopulations, including low-and moderate-income households, persons with disabilities, and large families. They will do so by Continuing to invest in housing in a wide geographic area throughout the City. This will be measured by the number of affordable units created/rehabilitated by location and unit type. The City should expand affordable housing in areas of higher opportunities.

During FY2020, the City's federal funds supported A Street Aging In Place to develop infrastructure that benefited 25 households. The City continued to fund this project in FY2021 and develop infrastructure for a minimum of 23 new homes. In FY2022 the project will be funded again to extend water access for an addition 15 new units to be built at the end of A street and to create street/curb/sidewalks for new housing units extended from A street. The A Street project is located in Census Tract 3, which is within one of the Lowest Opportunity tracks, however it is directly bordering Census Track 4, which is the only "Higher Opportunity" track in the City.

Impediment: Lack of policies and procedures related to fair housing.

During FY2020, the City created an Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan in accordance with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and HUD regulations at 24 CFR 42.325.

Impediment: Fair housing education, outreach, and enforcement

In FY2021, the City designated a Fair Housing liaison and intends to add a new fair housing page to the City's website.

AP-85 OTHER ACTIONS – 91.220(K)

Introduction:

The following information illustrates other actions that Staunton will take to address its priority needs.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The primary impediment to the City's ability to meet underserved needs is the limited amount of funding to address identified priorities. The City will continue to seek public and private resources to leverage its entitlement funds in assisting with implementation of policies and programs.

Programs funded through the CDBG program will assist the elderly and children living in unstable and inadequate housing conditions, who have been victims of abuse or neglect.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will continue to support its goals of maintaining and expanding affordable housing. In FY 2022, the City has 5 low income housing apartment complexes within its boundaries. These apartments are funded from a variety of sources including HUD, Section 8, VA Housing Authority, local public housing, non-profit senior and family low income apartments, as well as apartments funded through Low Income Housing Tax Credit programs.

As needed, the City will utilize CDBG funds to complete the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the construction of affordable units in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, DHCD and VHDA.

In 2021, the Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (SRHA) accepted proposals from developers to provide affordable, permanent new construction housing for families within the City of Staunton. SRHA anticipates the construction of possibly 23 housing projects by one or more developers.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City will work with other parties to achieve cost effective methods for controlling these hazards through the following:

- As part of its code enforcement efforts, Staunton's building code department will continue to educate City residents about lead paint hazards.
- Properties will be made lead safe during renovation of older residential units.
- The City will continue to monitor Virginia Department of Health reports regarding Staunton children with elevated blood lead levels.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will collaborate with human service, social service, and economic development agencies and organizations to facilitate their efforts and maximize their resources to provide quality services to low-income residents to help them improve their incomes.

The Community Action Partnership of Staunton, Augusta, and Waynesboro (CAPSAW) is the community action agency designated in July 2009 by Virginia's governor to serve the citizens of Augusta County, the

City of Staunton, and the City of Waynesboro. CAPSAW administers funds made available annually to designated community action agencies through the Federal Community Services Block Grant, the State Community Services Block Grant, and Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds, along with required match funds provided by each of three localities.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Although the City feels that the existing institutional structure is sufficient for carrying out activities to address identified community development needs, the City Manager's Office plans to continue to strengthen its working relationships with local social service agencies. Public and non-profit agencies that are critical to the institutional structure must work cooperatively, and agency staff have the ability and expertise to deliver services efficiently and effectively, often with years of expertise in their respective fields.

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

The City plans to improve coordination among its partners to promote a broadly shared understanding of community needs, collaborative, and complementary approaches to addressing needs, and responsiveness to changes in conditions.

The City anticipates coordination of human service funding with other social service agencies and charitable organizations to better target the limited amount of human service dollars available in the community. The City will also continue to coordinate its housing efforts with SR&HA.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

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

Introduction:

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.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0.00
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan	0.00
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0.00
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan.	0.00
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0.00
Total Program Income	0.00

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income.	100%