**El Paso County, Colorado**

**Community Development**

**Block Grant (CDBG) Program**

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2020 Annual Action Action Plan Draft

 Prepared by: El Paso County, Colorado

 Economic Development Department Staff

# Executive Summary

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

**1. Introduction**

Since 1974, the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has provided a flexible source of annual funding to communities nationwide. The CDBG program offers local governments, in conjunction with citizen participation, the opportunity to address a wide range of unique community development needs. An Annual Action Plan is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from all jurisdictions receiving Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). El Paso County is submitting its 2020 Annual Action Plan as the fourth Annual Action Plan of the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan. This Action Plan was developed in accordance with HUD guidelines 91.220. This document addresses the general issues relating to citizen involvement and planning necessary to address community needs. The Action Plan also includes information on available and potential resources. Additionally, the annual objectives and activities to be undertaken this year will be established; performance measures and additional actions will also be identified. El Paso County will receive $1,090,777 in CDBG funds during the 2020 program year, which runs April 01, 2020, through March 31, 2021. The CDBG activities, which are outlined in this plan, strictly adhere to the three main national objectives established by HUD. Those objectives include:

* Activities principally benefitting low- and moderate-income residents
* Aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
* Meeting an urgent community need

All of the activities in this Plan are based on defined priorities and quantified by the level of need. By addressing these priorities, the County hopes to meet the local objectives stated in the five-year Consolidated Plan and the HUD accepted the El Paso County Assessment of Fair Housing. Additionally, El Paso County’s CDBG goals are consistent with the federal CDBG goals and the County’s Strategic Plan. The County’s CDBG goals aim to develop viable communities by ensuring a range of affordable housing choices, supporting necessary services, strengthening the local economy, and mobilizing community resources to enhance collaboration and community partnerships. Additionally, the County’s CDBG program aims to provide effective and efficient planning and program administration.

The approach that the County will take in meeting its goals is not singular, rather it is a comprehensive and holistic approach that realizes that all housing, community, and economic development elements are interconnected. Meeting the needs of the community must be looked at as a whole in order to create a vibrant community, a vigorous economy, and a healthy environment. This document, along with the Consolidated Plan and Assessment of Fair Housing, will assist the County in completing its CDBG program goals. Specifics about the County’s strategies and goals are noted throughout this Plan.

**2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan**

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

**3. Evaluation of past performance**

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

In evaluating past performance, CDBG program staff were able to determine the following:

* Subrecipients of infrastructure activity dollars were generally pleased with the results and sought funding again in subsequent years, although rural projects typically struggle to attract a variety of contractors during the open RFP process. As our region grows, construction has become more expensive and so the infrastructure portion of the application cycle has become more competitive in the past 3 years.
* Subrecipients of public facility activity dollars were generally pleased with the results but rarely seek similar funding in subsequent years. This is because the majority of public facility projects have been focused on ADA compliance and no longer require additional funds once the public facility has become ADA compliant.
* Subrecipients of the public service activity dollars were generally pleased with the results but some subrecipients find the requirements of federal fundings to be too onerous, specifically in regards to clientele tracking and activities related to homelessness. Even with technical assistance from CDBG staff, some subrecipients have chosen to only apply for CDBG intermittently, as a form of last resort funding when trying to expand services.
* Feedback from subrecipients has helped the El Paso County CDBG program develop a deeper understanding of which projects are the most mutually beneficial for all parties involved. CDBG staff have also noted that subrecipients with previous experience utilizing federal funding typically experience the greatest success in understanding and implementing federal procedural requirements, while organizations with less than five employees or rely heavily on volunteers experience greater turnover and quickly lose institutional knowledge pertaining to the administration of CDBG funding. This has led to the CDAB continuing to seek applicants with capacity and experience to complete larger projects to ensure proper compliance and the successful completion of projects.

**4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The 2020 Annual Action Plan is a result of comprehensive public outreach efforts. These efforts include Community Development Advisory Board meetings, citizen participation meetings, solicitation of funding proposals throughout the community, and a public review of the Plan with a 30-day comment period. In addition, the County consulted with staff of the participating jurisdictions, as well as various local agencies and organizations to discuss program priorities, available funding, and the proposal process. The El Paso County Citizen Participation Plan has been attached to this section of the Annual Action Plan, as well as all documentation pertaining to public meetings, public comments, and public outreach.

The following groups and organizations summarized below participated in the development of the Annual Action and are involved in various aspects of the CDBG program:

• The Public: To make the program as responsive as possible to local community needs, the public was encouraged to participate in all phases of program and Plan development.
• Participating Jurisdictions, Various Non-Profits, and Service Organization: These groups were fundamental in determining the needs of the community. Their participation in the development of the Plan was essential and beneficial.
• Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB): CDAB was established as a volunteer community board to make recommendations on matters pertaining to the CDBG program, such as community needs, issues, and fund allocations. The board was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and is comprised of one member from each of the participating jurisdictions and one member chosen from each Commissioner District (12 members total). CDAB is a dedicated, hard-working group and an integral part of the program.
• El Paso County -Economic Development Department (CDBG Staff): The El Paso County- Economic Development Department is the lead agency and administers the County’s CDBG program.
• El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC): The County is the recipient of CDBG funds and, as such, is responsible for program administration and the use of funds. The BoCC has the final approval for the CDBG plans and makes final decisions on funding allocations.

In addition to standard publications and consultations as delineated in our Citizen Participation Plan, the El Paso County CDBG program has taken advantage of our website to increase outreach. The new El Paso County CDBG page now features six tabbed sections to the page, rather than having multiple pages, to create a streamlined, efficient experience for the user. The first tab that is automatically displayed when the user reaches the pages pertains to public notices, public comment periods, and upcoming public meetings. The website was intentionally redesigned this way to ensure visitors of the website are immediately informed of any participation opportunities coming up or currently in progress.

Another way in which the County has increased participation outreach is with postcards. Formal letters inviting local stakeholders and nonprofit agencies to participate in comment periods had garnered little interest or response. The El Paso County CDBG program then switched to using simple yet attractive postcards to garner attention with increased interest. In an effort to make the Annual Action Plan more accessible to those who lack the time or literacy to comprehend a 70+ page document, the El Paso County CDBG program has also created a one-page infographic that depicts where annual CDBG funding will be used and some anticipated outcomes. This infographic was sent out to participating municipalities as well so that they may distribute the infographic to residents. The infographic and postcard are attached to the appendices of the Annual Action Plan.

**5. Summary of public comments**

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

During the initial meeting held in the El Paso County Economic Development conference room, comments were made thanking the El Paso County CDBG program for being a low barrier program with open, public meetings. Grant staff from various agencies expressed frustration towards other grant opportunities in the region that do not host open meetings and rely exclusively on email or telephone communication.

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

The El Paso County CDBG Program does not refuse comments or views. Any and all comments received by the program, if any, are accepted regardless of their pertinence or relevance to the program.

**7. Summary**

Efforts to educate citizens and empower their participation were a continuous part of the planning process. Opportunities to comment on and participate in the creation of this plan were provided throughout the County. The following public notification, outreach efforts, and opportunities for citizen involvement were employed during the process:

* All public notices were published in newspapers of general circulation at least fifteen days prior to all public hearings and other meetings. These notices were also made available online in advance. Postcards formally inviting partnership agencies and minority representation nonprofits to comment on the Annual Action Plan were sent out (for a complete list of nonprofits, please see the consultation section of the plan)
* Handouts were created which gave general information on the CDBG program, the planning process, opportunities for participation, and available funding. Interested parties were able to utilize the handouts to request further information and notification on CDBG activities. The handouts were available at each public meeting and online during public comment periods.
* Our Annual Action Plan and associated materials were arranged in a display in the main lobby of the El Paso County Economic Development Department, located at 9 E Vermijo Ave. Photos of our meetings and samples of our outreach materials have been attached to the appendix. The plan was also made available online via our website.

## 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** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lead Agency | EL PASO COUNTY |   |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CDBG Administrator | EL PASO COUNTY | Economic Development |
| HOPWA Administrator |   |   |
| HOME Administrator |   |   |
| HOPWA-C Administrator |   |   |

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

**Narrative (optional)**

**Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

Any residents or agencies interested in learning more about our Consolidated Plan have access to the plan online at www.elpasoco.com and in person at our office located in downtown Colorado Springs at 9 E Vermijo Avenue Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Note this location is open during normal business hours, five days a week, is ADA-accessible and open to the public. Any member of our office will also forward calls concerning the 2019 Annual Action Plan to Crystal LaTier (719-520-6484) or Chloe Lomprey (719-520-6249). Our office can also be reached by email at crystallatier@elpasoco.com and chloelomprey@elpasoco.com.

## AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

**1. Introduction**

The County, through its Economic Development Department and CDBG staff, will act as the lead agency for the El Paso County CDBG program as well as for the development of the 2020 Annual Action Plan. El Paso County's housing and community development strategies are only feasible through the variety of public, private, and nonprofit organizations that work collaboratively in our region. Throughout the Annual Action Plan, lists of actual and potential partners for the CDBG program are mentioned. These organizations play key roles in delivering and managing housing and community development programs throughout the County. Many of these agencies were also key resources of information and feedback during the development of our Assessment of Fair Housing in 2016.

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

As the lead agency, the administration of the CDBG program is performed by the El Paso County Economic Development Department. The program is administered with other local governments, nonprofit agencies, and other public and private entities. This department also provides technical assistance to nonprofits and other local governments that receive CDBG funds from the County. The County is dedicated to taking all appropriate steps, within HUD guidelines, to assure compliance with all applicable laws and requirements. All public and assisted housing providers, governmental health, mental health, and service nonprofit agencies are invited to participate in our annual action planning process and apply for funding on an annual basis. Not all organizations choose to participate, which may be due in part to the fifteen percent cap on public services. The same organizations were invited to participate in the Assessment of Fair Housing and the 2017-2021 consolidated planning process. Insights and consultations with these organizations are described in detail later in AP-10.

**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.**

Crystal LaTier, Executive Director of the El Paso County Economic Development Department, serves on the Continuum of Care board. As a member of the CoC board of directors, she is actively participating. **in MORE INFO**

**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**

At this time, El Paso County does not receive ESG funds. Please refer to consultations with the Continuum of Care located later in the section for information regarding our consultations with the agency.

**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**

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | El Paso County Housing Authority |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | PHA |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing NeedsHomeless Needs - Chronically homelessHomeless Needs - Families with childrenHomelessness Needs - VeteransHomelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youthHomelessness StrategyNon-Homeless Special NeedsMarket AnalysisEconomic Development |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | The El Paso County Housing Authority was consulted several times during the preparation of the 2020 Annual Action Plan. |
| 2 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | COLORADO SPRINGS CITY GOVERNMENT |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Other government - Local |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing NeedsHomeless Needs - Chronically homelessHomeless Needs - Families with childrenHomelessness Needs - VeteransHomelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youthHomelessness StrategyNon-Homeless Special NeedsMarket Analysis |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | Our respective agencies share resources and each others contact information with new agencies in the area that are interested in community development. Additionally, our agencies meet several times a year to discuss emerging issues within the region, as well as any relevant data or research we have found. |
| 3 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Peak Vista Community Health Centers |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-homelessServices-HealthHealth Agency |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Homeless Needs - Chronically homelessHomeless Needs - Families with childrenHomelessness StrategyAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 4 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Housing Authority of the City of Fountain |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | HousingPHA |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing Needs |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 5 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | COLORADO SPRINGS HOUSING AUTHORITY |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | HousingPHA |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing Needs |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. The El Paso County CDBG program reviews their annual reports and other documents on their site as made available to stay up to date on the Authority's recent work and priorities. |
| 6 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Independence Center |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-Persons with Disabilities |
| **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?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. The agency did participate in a one-on-one meeting with CDBG staff during the 2020 application cycle, to discuss their 2019 program year funding, as well as the current shared priorities of our agencies. |
| 7 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Pikes Peak Library District Foundation |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Other government - LocalRegional organization |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing NeedsAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 8 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Colorado Housing Connects |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | HousingService-Fair Housing |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing NeedsAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 9 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | PIKES PEAK UNITED WAY |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-HealthServices-EducationRegional organization |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. A representative from the organization attended the January 24, 2020 meeting held in the El Paso County Economic Development Department Conference room. She shared at the meeting that Pikes Peak United Way conducts similar public meetings to the El Paso County CDBG program and have found to be well received by the community. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 10 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | HousingServices - Housing |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 11 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | NAMI Colorado Springs |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-Persons with Disabilities |
| **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?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 12 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Mount Carmel Center of Excellence |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-EmploymentVeteran Services |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Homelessness Needs - VeteransAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. The agency did not participate in public meetings but did schedule a phone call with CDBG staff during the 2020 application cycle to discuss our respective strategies and goals for the 2020 year. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 13 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Pikes Peak Justice and Pro Bono Center |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Regional organizationCivic LeadersLegal Services |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Homelessness StrategyAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 14 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Cheyenne Village |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | HousingServices-Persons with Disabilities |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing NeedsNon-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?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 15 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Regional organizationCivic Leaders |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 16 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | NAACP of Colorado Springs Unit #4001 |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Regional organizationCivic Leaders |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 17 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | TESSA |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-Victims of Domestic ViolenceServices - Victims |
| **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?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 18 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO SPRINGS |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-Health |
| **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?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 19 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Colorado Springs Black Chamber of Commerce |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-EmploymentBusiness and Civic Leaders |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic Development |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 20 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Colorado Springs Chinese Cultural Institute |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Civic Leaders |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 21 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | African American Historical & Genealogical Society of Colorado Springs |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Civic Leaders |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 22 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | United Portuguese of Colorado |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Civic Leaders |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 23 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Pacific Pride Island Hearts |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Civic Leaders |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 24 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | One Nation Walking Together |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Civic Leaders |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 25 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Golden Lotus Foundation |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Civic Leaders |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 26 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | El Cinco De Mayo Incorporated |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Civic Leaders |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Economic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 27 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | GRECCIO HOUSING UNLIMITED, INC |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | HousingServices - HousingService-Fair Housing |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing NeedsHomelessness Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 28 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | PARTNERS IN HOUSING, INC |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | HousingServices - Housing |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing Needs |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 29 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | ROCKY MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY LAND TRUST |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | HousingServices - Housing |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing Needs |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 30 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | ITHAKA LAND TRUST |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | HousingServices - Housing |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentPublic Housing Needs |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 31 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Community Health Partnership |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-homelessServices-HealthRegional organization |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Homeless Needs - Chronically homelessHomeless Needs - Families with childrenHomelessness Needs - VeteransHomelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youthHomelessness Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |
| 32 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | St. Paul Community Outreach Center |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services - HousingServices-ChildrenServices-Elderly PersonsServices-Persons with DisabilitiesServices-Persons with HIV/AIDSServices-Victims of Domestic ViolenceServices-homelessServices-HealthServices-EducationServices-EmploymentService-Fair HousingServices - Victims |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Housing Need AssessmentHomelessness StrategyNon-Homeless Special NeedsEconomic DevelopmentAnti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out via postcard and mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but the program hopes that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies. |

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

All agencies within the Pikes Peak region were welcome to comment and submit a suggestion, and no organizations were categorically or singularly excluded. If an agency did not participate, it was of their own volition and not through any selective exclusion.

**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 | Community Health Partners (CHP) | Both agencies seek to end homelessness in the Pikes Peak region. Shared tactics include the support of rapid transition from unsheltered to supportive housing, as well as preventative measures to act as safety nets for persons at high risk of entering homelessness for the first time or returning to it. |

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

**Narrative (optional)**

## 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**

For the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan, the El Paso County CDBG program has made efforts to improve grassroots approaches to community engagement and involvement. This approach has had a mixed share of successes and obstacles, but overall our community events have seen an increase in participation and community involvement. Please note that proofs of publication, agendas, website printouts, and copies of emails are attached in the citizen participation section of the appendix.
The initial public meeting hosted in downtown Colorado Springs at our department's office to kick off the start of the development of the 2020 Annual Action Plan was well attended and exceeded expectations. No formal comments were left, but discussion at the meeting included an appreciation for the El Paso County CDBG Program's open meetings and ease of access to the program materials. The second public meeting at the city of Fountain's public library was held in the evening after normal working hours to ensure residents who could not leave work had an opportunity to comment.

Overall, this year's annual action planning process had greater involvement from local stakeholders than in previous years and more consistent public meeting turnout. The El Paso County CDBG Program is happy to report this robust increase in community involvement and hopes to maintain this trend in future years.

**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 | Newspaper Ad | Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community | A public notice advertising our initial public meetings for the 2020 Annual Action Plan was published in the Fountain Valley News on 1-8-2020 in the English and Spanish. | No comments were received directly in reference to this public notice. | No comments were refused. |   |
| 2 | Newspaper Ad | Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community | A public notice advertising our initial public meetings for the 2020 Annual Action Plan was published in the Pikes Peak Bulletin on 1-9-2020 in English and Spanish. | No comments were received directly in reference to this public notice. | No comments were refused. |   |
| 3 | Internet Outreach | Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community | A public notice advertising our initial public meetings for the 2020 Annual Action Plan was posted online on the El Paso County CDBG website on 1-8-2020 in English and Spanish. Notices were provided in plain text and as readable PDF formats so that people with disabilities could use screen readers and other technology to read the notices | No comments were received directly in reference to this public notice. | No comments were refused. |   |
| 4 | Internet Outreach | Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities community service providers | A public notice advertising our initial public meetings for the 2020 Annual Action Plan was emailed through the Coalition for Homeless Advocates and Providers (CHAP). The email list goes out to approximately 449 email addresses, which includes soem of hte most important community service providers in the County. The notice was provided in English and Spanish, with attached readable PDF format for those who need to use screen reader technology. | No comments were received directly in reference to this public notice. | No comments were refused. |   |
| 5 | Postcard Advertisement | Public Resource Agencies | Postcards advertising our initial public meetings for the 2020 Annual Action Plan were mailed to a list of public resource agencies that represent diverse community groups. A complete list of these agencies is detailed under the Consultation section. Phone calls were received with interested parties inquiring about the public event, including some attendances at the meetings. See public meetings in this section for more information | Other than inquiries regarding parking and material covered at the event, no comments were received directly in reference to this public notice. | No comments were refused. |   |
| 6 | Internet Outreach | Non-targeted/broad community Community service providers | An email was sent to an email list compiled over the years by our department of agencies that are interested in CDBG programming and resources. There are 129 emails in this list. The email included information about our 2020 Annual Action Plan initial public meetings in English and Spanish. | No comments were received directly in reference to this email. | No comments were refused. |   |
| 7 | Public Meeting | Non-targeted/broad community | A public meeting was held on January 24, 2020 at 11 am in the conference room located at the El Paso County Economic Development Department Office, which is located at 9 E Vermijo Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. 9 people attended this event, which is a tie with our most well attended AAP planning meeting. Persons represented a wide variety of community services and needs, including municipal representatives, housing advocates, and homelessness providers. Following a brief presentation, discussion was had regarding changes to the El Paso County CDBG application for the 2020 program year and reporting requirements. Individuals had one on one discussions with County staff after the meeting, which in turn helped those agencies submit applications for the 2020 CDBG application cycle. | While there were general comments/questions regarding CDBG regulations and program expectations, the most notable comment came from the Pikes Peak United Way employee, who thanked County staff for hosting a such a public and open meeting. She stated that many other funding sources in town are not as transparent or open about how to fill out the application or how to meet the expectation of the program and she really appreciated it. | No comments were refused. |   |
| 9 | Public Meeting | Non-targeted/broad community | A public meeting was held at the Pikea Peak Library District Fountain Library located in Fountain, Colorado. Fountain is the largest municipality in our eligible jurisdiction and has a number of low to moderate income areas located within the boundaries, with more low to moderate areas immediately adjacent to it in unincorporated El Paso County. The meeting was held from 5 pm to 6:30 pm to ensure persons who could not take off of work but wanted to participate would have the opportunity to do so. | There were no attendees, but this was a fairly expected outcome. Historically for the program, events held outside normal business hours are not well attended, while meetings held at lunchtime or 4pm seem to be the most successful. However, staff felt it was important to ensure the opportunity was made available to those who may wish to attend but could not leave work. In the future similar events may need to be tied or concurrent to a similar event to bolster community involvement. | No comments were refused. |   |

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

# Expected Resources

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

**Introduction**

CDBG funds are a primary funding source for El Paso County’s housing, community, and economic development needs throughout the County. This grant will be used to address the priority needs, goals, and objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan. The funds will be used to support activities consistent with the National Objectives for the CDBG program, as established by HUD. No program income is anticipated to be created from prior year projects.

Notification of the CDBG-CV funding allocation allowed our program to begin moving toward a strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions with our volunteer board, local municipalities, and key stakeholders such as the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care allowed us to obtain data on the community impact and how to move forward. The use of these funds, which is listed in greater detail in AP-35, will allow our program to assist the community with stabilized housing situations and increased access to opportunities for those disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

**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 | AcquisitionAdmin and PlanningEconomic DevelopmentHousingPublic ImprovementsPublic Services | 1,090,777 | 0 | 96,624 | 1,187,401 | 0 |   |
| Other | public - federal | Other | 641,668 | 0 | 0 | 641,668 | 0 | CDBG-CV Funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 response. |

Table 1 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The CDBG allocation on its own will not be able to address all the needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. It is important to leverage both financial and intellectual resources to accomplish the goals of the program. In addition to utilizing the sources mentioned above, the County will take prudent actions to assist other agencies and organizations in applying for all available funds and leveraging other resources to implement the strategies and programs. Also, while there is no Federal match requirement for the CDBG program, the County will find more weight in applications that do propose to match funds. Smaller applicants who do not have the financial resources necessary to provide match funding will often provide in-kind services through the donation of staff time, equipment, or leftover resources from other projects.

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

Not applicable. There is no publicly owned land or property that can be used to address the needs identified in the plan.

**Discussion**

The County will take financially prudent actions to assist other agencies and organizations in applying for all available funds and leveraging other resources to implement the strategies and programs. Also, while there is no federal match requirement for the CDBG program, the County will find more weight in applications that do propose to match funds. For the 2020 program year, $1,090,777 was allocated to our program from HUD. In addition, we allocated $96,624 in prior year funding to the 2020 program year. We also received a CDBG-CV allocation in the amount of $641,668.

# 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** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 2 – Goals Summary

**Goal Descriptions**

## Projects

## AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

**Introduction**

The 2020 program year is the fourth year that the El Paso County CDBG program will be selecting projects under the guidance of the Assessment of Fair Housing and the four goals subsequently developed as a result of that analysis. All projects selected for the 2017-2021 program years will meet at least one of the goals listed in the Consolidated Plan, as well as address the associated priority need. However, applications that meet one of the goals that are not yet completed/close to completion were given higher priority and greater consideration during the recommendation process completed by the Community Development Advisory Board.

**Projects**

| **#** | **Project Name** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | 2020 Admin/Planning |
| 2 | 2020 Public Service |
| 3 | 2020 Public Facility |
| 4 | 2020 Infrastructure Project |
| 5 | 2020 Housing Project |

Table 3 - Project Information

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

The County will take financially prudent action to assist other agencies and organizations in applying for all available funds and leveraging over resources to implement the strategies and programs. While there is no federal match requirement for the CDBG program, the County will find more weight applications that do propose to match funds. For the 2020 program year, $1,090,777 was allocated to our program from HUD.

A frequent obstacle to addressing underserved needs is a lack of applicants willing to tackle said needs with federal funding. Multiple prospective applicants echoed similar concerns regarding hesitation to undertake federal funds that would require them to restructure their client intake process and extensive documentation requirements. Ultimately some of those agencies choose to pass on submitting an application. Additionally, agencies that meet underserved needs will often seek non-federal sources as their first choice, using federal funding only as a last resort when other funding options fall through. For this reason, our program continues to offer extensive technical assistance so as to reduce the administrative burden of the funding.

## AP-38 Project Summary

**Project Summary Information**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Project Name** | 2020 Admin/Planning |
| **Target Area** |   |
| **Goals Supported** |   |
| **Needs Addressed** |   |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $218,155 |
| **Description** | 2020 CDBG Admin/Planning |
| **Target Date** | 3/31/2021 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | All activities will benefit from the administration/planning project. |
| **Location Description** | Not applicable.  |
| **Planned Activities** | Administration of the El Paso County CDBG program, to include fair housing activities.  |
| **2** | **Project Name** | 2020 Public Service |
| **Target Area** |   |
| **Goals Supported** |   |
| **Needs Addressed** |   |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $60,000 |
| **Description** | 2020 Public Service Project |
| **Target Date** | 3/31/2021 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | Activities to be funded by CDBG Public Service Project:-Tri-Lakes Cares: Housing & Utility Assistance-CASA: Supervised Exchange and Parenting Program-The Place: Emergency Youth ShelterAll activities will serve persons of low to moderate income.  |
| **Location Description** |   |
| **Planned Activities** | -Tri-Lakes Cares: Housing & Utility Assistance-CASA: Supervised Exchange and Parenting Program-The Place: Emergency Youth Shelter |
| **3** | **Project Name** | 2020 Public Facility |
| **Target Area** |   |
| **Goals Supported** |   |
| **Needs Addressed** |   |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $164,700 |
| **Description** | 2020 Public Facility Project for 2020 Public Facility Activities |
| **Target Date** |   |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | The El Paso County Community Services' ADA Accessibility at the County Fairgrounds Complex will benefit persons with disabilities and allow them access to all Fairgrounds amenities.  |
| **Location Description** | At the El Paso County Fairgrounds Complex located outside of Calhan, Colorado.  |
| **Planned Activities** | The El Paso County Community Services' ADA Accessibility at the County Fairgrounds Complex will install ADA-accessible walking pathways between the fairgrounds buildings so persons with disabilities can access fairgrounds amenities.  |
| **4** | **Project Name** | 2020 Infrastructure Project |
| **Target Area** |   |
| **Goals Supported** |   |
| **Needs Addressed** |   |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $679,353 |
| **Description** | 2020 Infrastructure Project |
| **Target Date** |   |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | Activities for 2020 Infrastructure Project:-El Paso County ADA Improvements In Widefield-Town of Calhan ADA Sidewalk Improvements-Town of Fountain Prado Drive/Downtown ADA Improvements-Town of Ramah Commercial Street Improvements-City of Manitou Springs Canon Avenue Sidewalk Improvements and ADA Ramps |
| **Location Description** | -El Paso County ADA Improvements In Widefield will be in unincorporated El Paso County, in the area commonly referred to as Widefield.-Town of Calhan ADA Sidewalk Improvements will take place in Calhan, Colorado. -Town of Fountain Prado Drive/Downtown ADA Improvements will take place in the Southmoor neighborhood and the downtown in Fountain, Colorado. -Town of Ramah Commercial Street Improvements will take place along Commerical Street in Ramah, Colorado. -City of Manitou Springs Canon Avenue Sidewalk Improvements and ADA Ramps- will take place near Soda Springs Park in Manitou Springs, Colorado.   |
| **Planned Activities** | -El Paso County ADA Improvements In Widefield-Town of Calhan ADA Sidewalk Improvements-Town of Fountain Prado Drive/Downtown ADA Improvements-Town of Ramah Commercial Street Improvements-City of Manitou Springs Canon Avenue Sidewalk Improvements and ADA Ramps |
| **5** | **Project Name** | 2020 Housing Project |
| **Target Area** |   |
| **Goals Supported** |   |
| **Needs Addressed** |   |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $65,193 |
| **Description** | 2020 Housing Project |
| **Target Date** | 3/31/2021 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | The Brothers Redevelopment Home Modification and Repair Program will assist low to moderate income families who need urgent household repairs, including replacement of water heaters, furnaces, and ADA accessibility improvements for those who need it.  |
| **Location Description** | Various locations throughout El Paso County, at individual homeowner's addresses.  |
| **Planned Activities** | The Brothers Redevelopment Home Modification and Repair Program will assist low to moderate income families who need urgent household repairs, including replacement of water heaters, furnaces, and ADA accessibility improvements for those who need it.  |

## 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**

Geographic areas of entitlement are based on HUD recognized low to moderate income area (LMA) census tract block groups within the jurisdiction. In particular, geographic areas where multiple LMA groups are identified are given higher priority than smaller, isolated ones. A summary of these high priority areas are as follows:

* Security-Widefield: The unincorporated area of El Paso County has a number LMA block groups, many of them immediately adjacent to Fort Carson or the city of Fountain. An unincorporated portion of the county, it has some of the highest percentages of persons of Black and Hispanic race/ethnicity, as well as elderly persons.
* City of Fountain: This municipality south of Colorado Springs also have a number of LMA block groups, also with a large elderly population. Additionally, some of the block groups are located relatively close to the LMA block groups in the Security-Widefield area. Racial/ethnic minority representation is higher in this this municipality than the majority of the county.
* Cimarron Hills: This community on the east side of Colorado Springs, in relative close approximation to the Colorado Springs Airport and Schriever Air Force Base and consists of pockets of unincorporated El Paso County of varifying size and nature (some commercial, some residental). Our jurisdictions highest low to moderate income area is also located in this area.

New LMISD was released in February 2019. Examining this data reveals that the areas mentioned above has not seen significant improvement since the last round of data was released. Given this information, the El Paso County CDBG Program has no intentions of amending the current Consolidated Plan, as the high-priority areas remain the same.

**Geographic Distribution**

| **Target Area** | **Percentage of Funds** |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

Table 4 - Geographic Distribution

**Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

The rationale behind priority locations in the county are based on the number of LMA blocks groups in the area, and the amount of special population concentration. Other LMA block groups in the county are also considered of strategic importance, specifically in improving ADA accessibility and transportation, but the aforementioned locations are considered the highest need area. During deliberations conducted by the El Palso County Communite Development Advisory Board, the determination has been made to spread funding across needs in the county, rather than focusing a year's funding exclusively to one geographic area of entitlement. This process also allows for multi-year projects in areas such as Fountain or Security-Widefield to be phased in over time and across multiple funding years. This approach typically results in a more holistic approach to community development and increases support from residents and local agencies, as they have the opportunity to provide feedback between phases. Typically, projects aimed to improve low to moderate income area block groups are given priority.

**INSERT INFO ABOUT 2020 PROJECTS**

**Discussion**

Given that El Paso County is over 2,000 square miles, spreading an annual allocation to address the wide variety of issues present can be a daunting task. This technical obstacle is further complicated by the unique makeup of each community's strengths, obstacles, and underserved needs. Some areas of the county face issues with substandard housing and a lack of studio apartments, while other face overcrowding and lack of access to quality schools. By using our funds across the county in our multiple communities, rather than in a single area, we hope to improve the quality of life for all low to moderate income persons and special needs groups in the county. To ensure that the needs of low to moderate income residents continue to be addressed, the El Paso County CDBG program continues to make use of our Assessment of Fair Housing goals in prioritizing projects in geographic areas of entitlement. This will increase access to opportunities and act as a catalyst for long-term improvements to designated areas. Key investments in public infrastructure, public facilities, public services, and housing will have a multi-faceted, far reaching improvements for the areas those programs serve.

# Affordable Housing

## AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

**Introduction**

While the El Paso County CDBG Program cannot build new affordable housing units, support of affordable housing continues through our program in a variety of ways. This includes homeowner rehabilitation assistance, emergency rent and utility assistance, and infrastructure improvements in affordable housing areas. Homeowner rehabilitation assistance helps maintain affordable homes in our community, as well as helps the homeowners continue to enjoy the benefits of homeownership. Emergency rent and utility assistance provide struggling families with a support system that prevents homelessness, and infrastructure helps affordable housing areas maintain serviceability for disabled persons as well as improved quality of life through access to opportunities.

| **One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported** |
| --- |
| Homeless | 0 |
| Non-Homeless | 0 |
| Special-Needs | 0 |
| Total | 0 |

Table 6 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

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

Table 7 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

**Discussion**

Affordable housing continues to be an ongoing need in our community, but through the strategic use of funding, the El Paso County CDBG Program aims to address the need in a holistic, multi-pronged approach. Continued collaboration with municipalities and public housing agencies will be necessary to increase the reach and leveraging power of CDBG dollars. This is especially true since our CDBG program lacks the financial and regulatory capacity to significantly leverage the development of new units. Regional collaboration and investment in key areas of the community will also continue to be imperative aspects of our continued success.

The El Paso County CDBG Program works closely with the El Paso County Housing Authority. This collaboration will continue in the 2020 program year. El Paso County and the El Paso County Housing Authority will issue Private Activity Bonds for the development of 500 new units of affordable housing in 2020 (The Creek at Cottonwood has 258 units, Barnes Apartments has 242 units). The Housing Authority will also issue $1,825,000 in low-interest loans for the development of affordable multifamily units.

## AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

**Introduction**

Public housing is a scarce resource in El Paso County, specifically outside of the city of Colorado Springs. For this reason, maintaining a good working relationship with the Calhan Housing Authority has been an emerging commitment to the program. By providing technical assistance for both the agency and their subcontractors, the El Paso County CDBG program is able to provide continued support in the form of CDBG funding to the Calhan Housing Authority’s Silvercrest Villas, which provide affordable housing to low-income seniors. While the Calhan Housing Authority did not apply for 2020 CDBG funds, it is anticipated that future partnerships with the Calhan Housing Authority will bring increased safety and accessibility amenities to public housing residents.

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

For the 2020 program year, the El Paso County CDBG program is not completing any activities to benefit public housing, although this has more to do with a lack of applications pertaining to public housing. The Calhan Housing Authority chose to not submit an application to allocate more time towards other grants received, and although the Fountain Housing Authority was invited to participate in meetings and the application cycle, chose not to. The El Paso County CDBG program will continue to seek out future opportunities to partner with and contribute to the quality of life for public housing residents.

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

Due to a lack of applications pertaining to public housing in the 2020 CDBG application cycle, our program will not be undertaking any specific actions to assist public housing residents in participating in homeownership. However, the El Paso County Housing Authority offers a program known as "Turnkey Plus," which is down payment assistance in the form of a 0% deferred loan. The 4 or 5% down payment is partially forgivable depending on how long the owner lives at the residence and completely forgivable if the resident remains at the property for 30 years. From January 1, 2020, through April 23, 2020, 36 loans have closed, and it is anticipated that as many as 75 more will be issued this year depending on market conditions. Many public residents interested in homeownership are well within the income eligibility requirements of the program.

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

There is currently no PHA designated as troubled in our jurisdiction.

**Discussion**

There are a very limited number of public housing authorities in El Paso County, yet outside Colorado Springs. These public housing authorities are also limited in scope and capacity, which limits their capacity to manage additional federal funding. While the El Paso County CDBG program continues to offer extensive technical assistance to subrecipients, not all projects are a good fit for CDBG funding. The program will continue to seek best-fit opportunities with local public housing authorities to ensure public housing residents receive quality amenities and housing.

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

**Introduction**

The El Paso County CDBG Program continues to support homeless outreach and homeless prevention. However, our program does not typically receive a large volume of homeless related applications. A contributing factor to this is the nature of the program and the region. The majority of homeless assistance providers are located within Colorado Springs and the majority of homes less interested in the region remain within the city as well. As our funds cannot be used to serve those clients, our efforts are limited to providers who are willing to adjust their client intake process and increase outreach to outlying communities. During the 2020 program year CDBG application cycle, we received an application from The Place, formerly known as Urban Peak. This homeless provider specializes in providing support services, shelter beds, and transitional housing to the youth and young adults in our community.

**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**

In the 2020 program year, The Place (formerly known as Urban Peak), plans to use El Paso County CDBG funds to increase outreach to outlying communities, including Calhan, Ramah, Green Mountain Falls, Fountain, and Manitou Springs. By providing this funding, The Place will be more able to locate unsheltered persons outside Colorado Springs, assess their individual needs, and respond appropriately. Many of the clients contacted by The Place's Street Outreach Team will receive gateway services, such as food, clothing, and harm reduction supplies. Exactly what kind of services offered to clients will largely depend on the team's assessment of their needs.

**Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

The 2020 CDBG application cycle received no applications for emergency shelter and transitional needs of homeless persons. This is partially due to the fact that the majority of emergency shelters and transitional housing is located within the city of Colorado Springs. This limits our program's ability to assist with the operating expenses and other aspects of emergency and transitional housing. Fortunately, the city of Colorado Springs has been a continued partner in supporting homeless service providers, particularly those located in Colorado Springs.

The El Paso County CDBG program will be supporting The Place in their outreach to homeless youth and young adults.

**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 El Paso County CDBG program will continue supporting a new subrecipient, Mt. Carmel Veterans Center of Excellence/Veterans Service Center, which a program called Veterans Climb. This innovative program aims to assist eligible veterans, particularly veterans who are ex-offenders, to create a path to self-sufficiency through case management, vocational education, and employment training. By focusing on a group that frequently experiences homeless, this program hopes to reduce both recidivism and homelessness by taking a holistic approach. Their first project with the program exceeded expectations in the first and second quarters and has received positive feedback from the community.

The city of Colorado Springs, in partnership with the Continuum of Care, has taken steps in addressing chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, and assisting them in transitioning into affordable housing units while also preventing the recently homeless from becoming homeless. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they were also an important community partner in getting an isolation locations set up for homeless persons who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

**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.**

**Discussion**

Homeless needs are described in detail in the County's 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan. The main obstacle to meeting all the identified community needs is a lack of funding and resources to meet all the needs of the community. In addition, the high cost of housing, lack of knowledge of social services, and service providers in the County for low-income residents and availability of living wage jobs are also challenges in meeting needs. Our program will continue to collaborate with the Continuum of Care and other community partners to further the discussion on best addressing the needs of homeless persons in the region.

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

**Introduction:**

Barriers to affordable housing are policies, administrative rules and regulations, market conditions, public or private systems, and economic conditions that impede access to affordable housing. Two barriers to affordable housing in El Paso County that were identified in the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan are:
• Market Constraints such as land costs, construction costs, and access to financing. The County and individual jurisdictions have little influence over market constraints but can provide incentives or assistance to overcome the impacts of market constraints.
• Social Constraints. There are various social beliefs and standards that impede affordable housing. These social constraints consist of social perceptions, industry standards, and discrimination.

**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**

Unfortunately, local governments do not have the ability to remove or control market forces or completely eliminate social perceptions that act as barriers to affordable housing. Local governments can, however, lead by example in reforming public policies and regulations that serve as barriers.
• Create a streamlined permitting system to make reviews more user-friendly without diminishing environmental, public health, or safety standards.
• Adopt an expedited system to process permits for affordable housing projects.
• Support programs that provide Fair Housing education and services.

In 2018, El Paso County received national attention and awards for the implementation of a new Electronic Development Application Review Process (EDARP). This process:
• Allows the public to view online, both active and archived development applications
• Enables a registered applicant login access to their application review project(s)
• Applicants can initiate both major and minor developments applications
• Initiate Early Assistance Meeting (EA) for a Major Application
• Land Use Applications
• Permit Applications
This new process has not only resulted in a more user-friendly process but also a more transparent process for all.
Additionally, the El Paso County CDBG Program provides in-house semi-annual fair housing events throughout the county. The content of these fair housing events is derived from the needs identified in our Assessment of Fair Housing. These events are designed to make safe, accessible, and affordable housing easier for residents to obtain through education and empowerment. The events have continued to be a successful tool for public outreach and engagement, gaining more attendance year over year.

**Discussion:**

El Paso County addresses barriers to affordable housing by offering programming and funding that ensures our region is leveraging state and federal resources that address affordable housing. This approach is done by looking at the entire housing continuum and offering programming to address multiple areas. In addition to the federal CDBG funding, the El Paso County Economic Development acts as staff to a non-traditional El Paso County Housing Authority which administers a local housing trust fund. The federal resources, as well as the local housing trust fund resources, provide incentives and assistance to overcome the impacts of market constraints. Recent examples of this assistance are:

* Loan commitments that will help leverage federal and state housing tax credits for the development of new affordable rental housing;
* Grant rental and utility assistance, grant and 0% deferred loans for homeowners needing emergency housing rehabilitation;
* Continuation of a down payment assistance program that has ensured residents can still attain the dream of homeownership.

The social constraints are also being positively impacted by the CDBG Program's continuous outreach through semi-annual fair housing events, as well as the Economic Development Department's partnership with Colorado Housing Connects Program.

## AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

**Introduction:**

The CDBG allocation on its own will not be able to address all the needs identified in the Consoldiated Plan and Assessment of Fair Housing. It is important to leverage both financial and intellectual resources to accomplish the goals of the program. The County will work with a network of representatives from the private lending community, financial experts, and private and non-profit developers and consultants who can provide technical expertise as needed. CDBG program staff will also note programs of exceptional merit and competency to the Community Development Advisory Board, in the interest of maintaining an effective, efficient program.

Potential Economic Benefits in Opportunity Zones:

* Promoting economic vitality in areas that experienced uneven recovery over the past few years
* Funding the development of workforce and affordable housing
* Supporting new infrastructure or broadband to support population and economic growth
* Investing in startups businesses that have the potential for rapid increases in sale
* Upgrading the capability of existing underutilized assets through capital improvement investments

For the 2020 Annual Action Plan we continued to review the Opportunity Zones in the area and how we can effecitvely leverage their use in partnership with our program. Our program also participated in a phone call with HUD staff in Washington, DC to discuss any suggestions or best practices recommended by their experts. Our program is also awaiting future guidance from HUD regarding changes to economic development projects and how we can use those changes to leverage Opportunity Zones.

**ADD STUFF ABOUT OZ BLOCK GROU**PS

**Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

For the 2020 program year, the El Paso County CDBG program worked alongside the Community Development Advisory Board to access which goals we wished to prioritize, which goals we felt were not a imporant because we have already met them, and which goals needed to be given more attention. This planning meeting took place in October 2019 and led to some very insightful discussions regarding what should be addressed in the remaining years of the Consolidated Plan.

**Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

Insert info about Tri-Lakes care

Our program's work with Brothers Redevelopment will also continue. Brothers Redevelopment helps residents age in place and address emergency items in their homes such as broken water heaters or inaccessible entryways, while still maintaining the current affordability of their home. Homeowner rehabilitation programs allow residents to address health and safety issues within the already affordable home, rather than having to move to a new (and potentially not as affordable) home. It also helps keep the residents rooted into their already existing community, which has been shown to help communities maintain resiliency and even slow the onset of dementia in elderly community members.

**Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

Our continued support of the Brothers Redevelopment Homeowner Rehabilitation Program will continue to be our primary form of reducing lead-based paint hazards in the country. Necessary abatement work will is completed as needed, depending on the scope of the project, cost of the project, and age of the structure. An ideal aspect of this program is that it helps those who are least able to handle the lead-based paint abatement work do so.

The El Paso County CDBG program will also continue to participate annually in the Lead Safety Awareness Week, which is typically held in October.

**Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

The El Paso County CDBG program will continue to partner with Mt. Carmel Veterans Center to support their program called Veterans Climb, which assists veterans, particularly ex-offenders, with holistic wrap-around service while they receive employment training. Given their high-risk status to become homeless or re-incarcerated, the project is aimed at improving outcomes for veterans and their families, as well as access to opportunities for eligible veterans.

**Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

El Paso County's housing and community development strategies will be implemented by a variety of public, private, and non-profit organizations. There is, overall, good coordination and little duplication of services locally, in part because the participating jurisdiction is mostly small communities. The local nonprofit infrastructure is diverse and active in the community. The local public housing authorities are reputable and provide leadership in the community. Additionally, there is strong coordination and

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

CDBG staff is accountable for the necessary coordination and communication to identify and manage the CDBG program. It is essential that staff coordinates with other agencies to implement, enhance, and bring success to the County's CDBG program. To enhance overall coordination, CDBG staff will continue consultations, open lines of communication, and attend meetings that will enrich the program. While all funds are allocated according to federal, state, and local program requirements dialogue with agencies, advisory committees, subrecipients, and the public will ensure the goals, objectives, and accomplishments of the program are in line with community needs. By maintaining an accessible program that is readily available to all agencies, any new housing and social services agencies that emerge will have the opportunity to coordinate with the program as well.

**Discussion:**

The El Paso County Economic Development Department has developed a robust selection of partners across the county, including nonprofits, local government agencies, and public housing authorities. Moving forward, the CDBG program will continue to pursue new partnerships to increase the effectiveness of our program, leverage new sources of funding, and fulfill our obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. Seeking new resources for quality projects to serve LMI residents and special needs populations are critical to improving the county as a whole. This year the El Paso County CDBG program received new interest from nonprofits seeking to expand into El Paso County, and as well as nonprofits interested in increasing outreach to rural areas. Not all nonprofits are a good fit for a program, but it is a promising sign to see so many new agencies express interest in the program.

# Program Specific Requirements

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

**Introduction:**

The County's CDBG activities are intended to primarily benefit low and moderate income residents and the underserved communities within the County by addressing affordable housing, homelessness, and non-housing community development needs. These activities seek to meet three objectives: (1) provide decent affordable housing; (2) create suitable living environments; (3) sustainability resulting from improved communities or neighborhoods, making them livable or viable by providing benefit to low and moderate income persons, or by providing services that sustain quality communities and neighborhoods.

**Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**

**Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)**

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

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| 1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed | 0 |
| 2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan. | 0 |
| 3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements | 0 |
| 4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan | 0 |
| 5. The amount of income from float-funded activities | 0 |
| **Total Program Income:** | **0** |

**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.Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan. | 99.99% |

Specific annual objectives and priority needs that will be addressed by activities using CDBG funds, including proposed accomplishments and outcomes, are discussed in earlier in the Action Plan. The projects and programs that will take place during the program year will address priority needs and goals detailed in the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan.