

FY 2022 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN - DRAFT

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Baton Rouge and unincorporated East Baton Rouge Parish (City-Parish) apply as one jurisdiction for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) Funding. The City-Parish Office of Community Development (OCD) is the lead agency for overseeing the development of the Consolidated Plan as well as the subsequent implementation and monitoring of the activities funded by the Annual Action Plans. The OCD oversees the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) entitlement grants for the City-Parish and serves as the lead agency to ensure compliance with all local, state, and federal requirements.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

See section AP-20 for goals and objectives.

3. Evaluation of past performance

Most of the projects and programs administered during the previous program year were in response to and/or preparation for the COVID-19 pandemic. Those include rental and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, healthcare service projects, various supportive services, and economic development activities. The City-Parish also continued the implementation of the DPW blighted housing demolition program and the single-family owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program. These activities provided assistance to hundreds of households in the City-Parish and helped sustain households, partner organizations and local small businesses during the height of the pandemic.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

This section will be updated after the end of the public comment period.

5. Summary of public comments

This section will be updated after the end of the public comment period.

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

This section will be updated after the end of the public comment period.

7. Summary

This section will be updated after the end of the public comment period.

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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	Baton Rouge	Office of Community Development
HOPWA Administrator	Baton Rouge	Office of Community Development
HOME Administrator	Baton Rouge	Office of Community Development
ESG Administrator	Baton Rouge	Office of Community Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

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))

City-Parish administration coordinates and regularly participates in meetings and communications with partner agencies and organizations, such as the Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless, the Housing First Alliance, and Healthy BR. All parties communicate regularly in an effort to coordinate services and provide a holistic approach to assistance for the LMI and at-risk populations. The City-Parish also regularly works and meets with numerous nonprofit agencies that provide a variety of services including, but not limited to, the Mid-City Redevelopment Alliance, the Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation, Habitat for Humanity, the YWCA, Project 70805, Volunteers of America, St. Vincent de Paul, and many others.

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.

City-Parish representatives work with representatives from the local Continuum of Care (COC), Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless (CAAH), regularly. The CAAH receives entitlement funding for projects such as day center building rehabilitation, operations and supportive services, and development of supportive housing units for homeless persons. CAAH regularly submits proposals for projects and programs and subsequently receives awards from entitlement funding sources beyond just ESG.

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-Parish annually issues a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for its CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG funding. This NOFA provides local organizations, agencies, nonprofits and developers with an opportunity to submit requests for funding for eligible projects. The proposals are reviewed by an evaluation committee and the results are submitted to the City-Parish Administration. Once approved by Administration, award letters are distributed, and the award process begins. When reviewing proposals, the evaluation committee is tasked with objectively ranking projects based on numerous factors, including proposed outcomes, organizational capacity, and cost reasonableness.

When developing the five-year plan, OCD and BBR held a meeting with the CAAH to discuss coordination of services, ESG funding, housing needs, coordinated entry, HMIS and other funding opportunities for

homeless programs and services. The City-Parish’s annual ESG allocation is not substantial considering the demands for these funds, so homeless service providers have been encouraged to coordinate services and apply for other sources of funding, including HOME and CDBG. It was agreed that EBR DHDS staff would also attend the CAAH board meetings to improve communication.

CAAH is a member of the Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (LA BOSCO), which is a coalition of people and housing service providers dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in Louisiana. Members of the BOSCO share best practices, expand their referral networks, and collaboratively develop policies and procedures to guide how people experiencing homelessness are served in their communities. The BOSCO also assists in the management and coordination of local HMIS data as well.

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	MID CITY REDEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	When developing the five-year plan, numerous groups, agencies and organizations were consulted. An AAP meeting was held July 26th and representatives from MCRA attended.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	HOUSING AUTHORITY OF EAST BATON ROUGE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	When developing the five-year plan, representatives from the the EBRPHA participated in stakeholder meetings.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	CAPITAL AREA ALLIANCE FOR THE HOMELESS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Representatives from the CAAH attended all 5-year plan Stakeholder Meetings as well as the Community Meetings. A separate meeting was held with a CAAH representative to discuss homelessness in further detail. The CAAH was encouraged to apply for other sources of funding besides only ESG. As a result, they submitted project proposals for CDBG, HOME and ESG funds. The CAAH contributed ideas for innovative housing projects and shared valuable information about the needs of the populations they serve.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	SVDP Bishop Ott Night Shelter
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless Services-Health Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy HOPWA Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Representatives from Bishop Ott shared information about the needs of the populations they serve. They also contributed ideas to enhance coordination of providers.

5	Agency/Group/Organization	URBAN RESTORATION ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	UREC provided input on affordable housing needs of the City-Parish.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF GREATER BATON ROUGE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Habitat for Humanity attended all five-year plan Stakeholder Meetings. They provided input on the housing needs of the City-Parish as well as the funding needs of Habitat for Humanity. They also stated the need for more repair programs in order to make affordable housing more sustainable.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	ST VINCENT DE PAUL
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	St. Vincent de Paul staff participated in all five-year plan Stakeholder and Community Meetings. They provide input on various topics, services and needs of homeless, LMI and special needs populations in the City-Parish. They attended the July 2021 AAP meeting as well.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Baton Rouge Black Alcoholism Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Representatives from BRBRAC attended the July 2021 community meeting.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	The Walls Project
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Representatives from the Walls project attended the July 2021 community meeting.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The LAFHAC participated in the five-year plan Stakeholder Meetings and also attended a separate meeting with OCD and Build Baton Rouge staff to discuss the fair housing needs of the City-Parish area.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Lafleur Industries
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	A representative from Lafleur Industries participated in the five-year plan Stakeholder Meetings and provided input on the affordable housing needs of the City-Parish.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy 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?	Catholic Charities representatives attended five-year plan Stakeholder and Community Meetings. They provided input and feedback on the needs of various LMI and special needs populations in the Baton Rouge area.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	Empower 225
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Empower 225 attended five-year plan Stakeholder Meetings and provided input on the needs of youth in the Baton Rouge area.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Vital Resource Solutions
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment 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?	VRS attended five-year plan Stakeholder Meetings and provided input on general community development needs of the community.

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

All agencies are able to provide comments and feedback regarding this plan.

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless	Data, information, and planning efforts are coordinated among the agencies and providers.

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

The citizen participation process for the development of the current five-year plan began in late 2018. Two separate Stakeholder Meetings were held that allowed various partners, agencies and organizations to discuss priority needs in the City-Parish and also suggest ways to address those needs. Comments and feedback from Stakeholders were used as source information for many aspects of the Consolidated Plan. A community meeting is being held July 19th, 2022, for this year's annual plan. Feedback from that meeting will be added to this FY22 plan prior to submission to HUD.

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Admin and Planning Housing Public Services	3,218,185					
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,551,378	\$950,000				

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOPWA	public - federal	Permanent housing in facilities Permanent housing placement Short term or transitional housing facilities STRMU Supportive services TBRA	2,010,806					
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	273,951					
Other	public - federal	Admin and Planning Housing Rental Assistance						

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

Each subrecipient and developer who will be awarded Entitlement funds for a project will be committing their own or other financial and/or manpower resources to that project. When applying for funding, each applicant must state, in detail, how they will be contributing to the administration of the project or program. Projects utilizing volunteers leverage labor costs. Public service supported activities generate private and other state and local funding to increase the ability of organizations to provide services to those in need. HOME funds used for homebuyer loans leverage private mortgage financing to make owner

housing more affordable.

The City-Parish received Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds from the U.S. Treasury in early 2021. The funds were used to create the EBR ERAP which provided over \$45M in assistance to upwards of 9,000 renter households. The ERAP team consisted of the City-Parish, three primary private contractors and six nonprofit community partner organizations. The City-Parish also expanded the use of its existing case management system of record which was already used to support the LIHEAP and other programs managed by the City-Parish Division of Human Development Services. The ERAP team was so successful in providing case management services and providing a point-of-entry for EBR residents to obtain rental assistance services that the existing model will be used to implement a comprehensive housing support program through the use of EBR's entitlement funding and other funding sources. The City-Parish also created an emergency response website that will be expanded to accept applications for other forms of grant and disaster related assistance requests.

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 EBR Parish Housing Authority owns property that will be redeveloped as part of BR Choice, an initiative funded by HUD's Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant and spearheaded by the EBRPHA, Partners Southeast, the City-Parish and the EBRRA. This neighborhood initiative is redeveloping approximately 1.6 square miles of three adjoining neighborhoods, known as the Ardenwood Area (Melrose East, Smiley Heights and East Fairfields). This project will include infrastructure, community, and social service improvements as well as affordable housing developments. The grant award for the Ardenwood project is \$30,000,000.

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	Housing Rehabilitation	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	HUD 2020 LMI Census Tracts	Housing Repair	CDBG: \$900,000.00	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 40 Household Housing Unit
2	Blighted Homes Demolition	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	HUD 2020 LMI Census Tracts	Blight Removal	CDBG: \$200,000.00	Buildings Demolished: 40 Buildings
3	Case Management, Housing Placement and Supportive Services	2020	2024	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Jurisdictional Area of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge	Housing Supportive Services	CDBG: \$1,008,366.00	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1,000 Persons Assisted
4	Basic Needs Assistance	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Jurisdictional Area of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge	Basic Needs Assistance	CDBG: \$189,500.00	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 400 Persons Assisted
5	Housing Counseling	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Jurisdictional Area of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge	Housing Counseling	CDBG: \$53,500.00 HOME: \$515,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Households Assisted
6	Rent and Mortgage Assistance	2021	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	HUD 2020 LMI Census Tracts	Housing	CDBG: \$505,00.00	Persons Assisted: 500

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	Development of Affordable Housing	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Jurisdictional Area of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge Scotlandville Zion City and Glen Oaks Choctaw Corridor Northdale and Standard Heights Melrose East HUD 2020 LMI Census Tracts	Affordable Housing Development	HOME: \$1,831,340.00	Homeowner Housing Units Added: 40
8	Homebuyer Assistance	2022	2024				HOME: \$515,000.00	
9	Housing and Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Jurisdictional Area of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge	Special Needs Supportive Services	HOPWA: \$2,010,806	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 800 Persons Assisted
10	Emergency Shelter for the Homeless & Homeless Services	2020	2024	Homeless	Jurisdictional Area of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge	Homeless Services & Emergency Shelter	ESG: \$273,951	Homelessness Prevention: 700 Persons Assisted
11	Planning & Administration	2020	2024	Planning and Administration	Jurisdictional Area of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge		CDBG HOPWA ESG HOME	

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to administer housing repair programs.
2	Goal Name	Blighted Homes Demolition
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to demolish blighted homes in LMI census tracts.
3	Goal Name	Case Management, Supportive Services, Housing Placement
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide case management and related services to direct LMI persons to the appropriate housing program and/or supportive service
4	Goal Name	Basic Needs Assistance
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide basic needs (food, medicine, etc.) to LMI or presumed-LMI persons.
5	Goal Name	Housing Counseling
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide homebuyer counseling and foreclosure prevention services to LMI households
6	Goal Name	Rent/Mortgage Assistance
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide LMI households with short-term rent or mortgage assistance.
7	Goal Name	Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	Funds will be used for pre-construction and construction costs associated with the development of affordable housing units in East Baton Rouge Parish.
8	Goal Name	Homebuyer Assistance
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide direct financial assistance to qualified homebuyers in Baton Rouge Parish.
9	Goal Name	Housing and Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide supportive housing, permanent housing, temporary housing, financial assistance, emergency housing and supportive services to persons who suffer from HIV/AIDS and their families.
10	Goal Name	Emergency Shelter for the Homeless
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide support to shelter providers who offer emergency shelter and related services to the homeless in East Baton Rouge Parish.

11	Goal Name	Planning & Administration
	Goal Description	Planning and Administration

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

A Notice of Funding Availability will be issued in fall 2022. Local agencies and organizations will submit proposals for funding based on City-Parish priorities and needs as identified in this Plan. All awardees and projects will begin by January 2023. Projects will fall likely fall within, but are not necessarily limited to, the below categories.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Housing Rehabilitation
2	Blighted Housing Demolition
3	Case Management, Housing Placement and Supportive Services
4	Basic Needs Assistance
5	Housing Counseling
6	Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance
7	Development of Affordable Housing
8	Homebuyer Assistance
9	Housing for Persons with HIV/AIDS
10	Emergency Shelter For Homeless Persons
11	Program Administration

Table 7 - Project Information

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

During the provision of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, the extreme need for all forms of housing stability services and assistance became abundantly clear. Thousands of residents were in need of rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. The rate at which case managers are currently getting requests for additional rental assistance from households who already received assistance shows the need for increased case management, housing placement, supportive and wraparound services. By creating a comprehensive **EBR Housing Support System** in which residents contact a call center and get directed to the appropriate case manager/service provider/program, the City-Parish can apply a more targeted and purposeful approach to increasing overall housing stability for LMI residents and families.

Although the City-Parish provides assistance to homeless shelters, shelter caseworkers say there are

barriers hindering their efforts to move homeless individuals toward self-sufficiency. The lack of decent, low-cost housing, single room occupancy units and adequate transportation are just a few barriers. Also, the requirement for credit references is often an obstacle to persons and families attempting to obtain rental housing after a period of homelessness. Furthermore, persons with a history of mental illness and who are homeless, often encounter difficulty obtaining rental housing. The needs of the community have consistently outnumbered the funds available for support. The City-Parish will continue to fund affordable housing development that will tie into the Housing Support System.

The major obstacle to meeting underserved needs is a lack of sufficient funds to address all the non-housing needs. The demand for facilities and services continues to be greater than the resources available to provide them. This problem is illustrated by the large number of projects with high needs that cannot be funded due to lack of available funds. The Office of Community Development will issue a request for proposals (RFP) for its CDBG, HOME, ESG, ARP and HOPWA funds during each program year. Many proposals go unfunded due to the lack of funding availability. In addition, the decline in local revenues and cutbacks in State funding have increased the need for CDBG funds.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	Parish-Wide; HUD 2020 LMI Census Tracts
	Goals/Needs Supported	Single-Family Owner-Occupied Housing Repair
	Description	Rehabilitation and accessibility improvements of owner-occupied housing
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A minimum of 40 housing units owned by LMI owners will receive rehabilitation services
	Location Description	Scattered sites in LMI Census Tracts
2	Project Name	Blighted Housing Demolition
	Target Area	HUD 2020 LMI Census Tracts
	Goals/Needs Supported	Blight Removal
	Description	Demolition of blighted housing
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A minimum of 40 blighted homes will be demolished

	Location Description	Scattered sites in LMI census tracts
3	Project Name	Case Management, Housing Placement and Supportive Services
	Target Area	Parish-Wide
	Goals/Needs Supported	Supportive services, housing, case management
	Description	Increase access to housing services for and provide supportive services to LMI Persons
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1,000
	Location Description	Parish-Wide
4	Project Name	Basic Needs Assistance
	Target Area	Parish-Wide
	Goals/Needs Supported	Provision of basic needs
	Description	Provision of basic needs (food, medication, etc.)
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A minimum of 400 person will receive assistance
	Location Description	TBD by RFP
5	Project Name	Housing Counseling
	Target Area	Parish-Wide
	Goals/Needs Supported	Affordable homeownership, housing stability, foreclosure prevention
	Description	Homebuyer counseling and foreclosure prevention
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A minimum of 100 households will receive services
	Location Description	TBD by RFP
	Project Name	Rent and Mortgage Assistance

6	Target Area	Parish-Wide
	Goals/Needs Supported	Housing/Financial Assistance
	Description	Provision of rent and mortgage assistance to LMI households
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 500 households will receive rent, mortgage, and/or utility assistance
	Location Description	Location TBD by RFP; Parish-wide via online access
7	Project Name	Development of Affordable Housing
	Target Area	Low Poverty Areas or Areas Susceptible to Rising Home Costs and Displacement
	Goals/Needs Supported	Affordable Housing
	Description	Developers will construction affordable housing for LMI buyers and/or renters
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A minimum of 10 new affordable units will be constructed
	Location Description	TBD
8	Project Name	Homebuyer Assistance
	Target Area	Parish-Wide
	Goals/Needs Supported	Access to Affordable Housing
	Description	Down payment and other mortgage assistance
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A minimum of 40 persons will receive assistance
	Location Description	TBD
9	Project Name	Housing & Supportive Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Target Area	Parish-Wide
	Goals/Needs Supported	Supportive Housing, Emergency Housing, Transitional Housing, Housing Assistance
	Description	Supportive Housing, Emergency Housing, Transitional Housing, Housing Assistance

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 800 people with HIV/AIDS will receive housing assistance
	Location Description	TBD
10	Project Name	Emergency Shelter and Supportive Services for Homeless Persons
	Target Area	Parish-wide
	Goals/Needs Supported	Homeless Housing and Services
	Description	Provision of housing and supportive services for homeless persons or persons at risk of homelessness
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 500 persons will receive assistance
	Location Description	TBD
11	Project Name	General Planning & Administration
	Target Area	Parish-wide
	Goals/Needs Supported	Program Administration
	Description	Program Administration
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	Parish-Wide

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

All areas of the City of Baton Rouge - East Baton Rouge Parish are under the jurisdiction of the grantee, except the incorporated areas of Baker, Zachary and Central.

The Baton Rouge area owes its geographical importance to its site upon the Istrouma Bluff, the first natural bluff upriver from the Mississippi River Delta. In the 1950s and 1960s the region experienced a boom in the petrochemical industry, causing the city to expand away from the original center. In recent years, government and business have begun a move back to the central district. A building boom that began in the 1990s continues today.

The City-Parish will also target affordable housing construction and preservation in low-poverty areas or neighborhoods that may be susceptible to rising home costs and associated displacement (ex: Government St. Corridor or south Baton Rouge neighborhoods).

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Jurisdictional Area of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge	100
Scotlandville	20
Zion City and Glen Oaks	15
Choctaw Corridor	15
Northdale and Standard Heights	15
Melrose East	15
HUD 2020 LMI Census Tracts	80

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The basis for allocating investment geographically is to meet the needs of the lowest income residents, particularly in areas of low-income concentration. As a general rule, program activities and resources are made available parish-wide, except for the incorporated areas of the cities of Baker, Zachary and Central. Historically, the City-Parish awards Entitlement funding to subrecipients through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. All project proposals must be for grant-compliant activities that target low- to moderate-income populations. LMI census tracts are numerous and are located throughout the jurisdiction,

therefore the City-Parish selects all LMI census tracts as local target areas.

FuturEBR, the City-Parish's Comprehensive Plan, contains the following components:

- Vision
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Community Design and Neighborhoods
- Housing
- Environment and Conservation
- Parks and Recreation
- Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Public Services

The "Community Design and Neighborhoods" section of FuturEBR identified "small areas" that would be targeted for community improvements. These areas are as follows:

- Scotlandville
- Zion City and Glen Oaks
- Northdale and Standard Heights
- Choctaw Corridor
- Melrose East

All areas are primarily low-income and in need of housing and other improvements. Entitlement and other funding will be used to address these local target areas as identified in the City-Parish's Comprehensive Plan as communities in need of improvements.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The affordable housing objectives for the Consolidated Plan are based on a five-year time frame. The jurisdiction proposes to use the available housing funds for programs that will provide decent housing for persons with cost burdens and substandard housing. Some of the programs are restricted to the 0- 30% MFI households; some are restricted to the under 50% MFI households, and some are available to households with incomes up to 80% MFI. All programs are designed with the intent to:

1. Improve and preserve the existing stock of affordable housing.
2. Increase the stock of available affordable housing, especially in high opportunity neighborhoods.
3. Increase the ability of persons to afford standard housing.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	3,000
Non-Homeless	5,000
Special-Needs	500
Total	8,500

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	5,000
The Production of New Units	10
Rehab of Existing Units	40
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	5,050

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

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

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

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority (EBRPHA) maintains an inventory of 907 public housing units in 10 developments throughout the Parish. Interior renovations of Kelly Terrace was planned for the fourth quarter of 2018, but the project was put on hold pending Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) portfolio decisions. To date, the EBRPHA and its nonprofit partner, Partners Southeast, have added 311 affordable units to its portfolio with an additional 65 under or planned for construction in 2019. The City-Parish was recently selected to receive a Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) grant award from HUD. This award will be used to redevelop Ardenwood Village. Phase 1 of the project includes the construction of 168 affordable units; Phase 2 will include the construction of 120 units; and Phase 3 will include the construction of 260 units.

EBRPHA and its nonprofit partner, The Banyan Foundation, recently completed demolition and began reconstruction of the Elm Grove housing development. The new community, The Capstone at Elm Grove, will consist of eighty-four (84) affordable housing units for the Scotlandville area of EBR Parish. Each unit will be designed with a more open-concept floor plan that will include energy efficient appliances, energy efficient windows, central HVAC, washer/dryer, and modern design elements. Amenities on the property will include a state-of-the-art community room that will include a computer lab, and a large meeting area where the residents can participate in support services that will be offered. Property management will coordinate with local agencies and conduct various classes/activities weekly if not daily. Activities will take place at various times throughout the work day and some activities will take place in the evenings or on weekends. The property will have a staff member that will be designated to coordinate all activities that take place on site. Examples of the programs that will be offered are, but not limited to: after school programs for youth, summer breakfast/lunch programs for youth, and supportive services to include financial wellness, family wellness training, health check-up programs through area hospitals, job training programs, and GED class for the adult tenant. Construction and occupancy will be completed by 2023.

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

Public Housing is directly managed, including maintenance services, by the EBRPHA. The EBRPHA has policies in place that govern agency operations. Policies include: The Public Housing Admissions and Occupancy Policy (ACOP) including a rent policy, pet policy, community service policy, banning policy, debt repayment policy, VAWA policy, and transfer and reasonable accommodations policy. The EBR Housing Authority will ensure that clients interested in homeownership are referred to the Housing Counseling Program that will be administered by the Mid-City Redevelopment Authority and funded with CDBG dollars.

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

provided or other assistance

The PHA is not designated as "troubled."

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

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

CDBG, ESG, and HOPWA funding will be provided to organizations for administration of homeless assistance programs. ESG funds will fund organizations where outreach is provided. HOPWA funds will be used to provide outreach services and to administer short-term rent and mortgage assistance. The City-Parish anticipates that at least 2,000 homeless individuals will receive outreach assistance during year one. CDBG funds are used to supplement public services provided to the homeless when gaps in funding are left by ESG and HOPWA.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Homeless persons that are transitioning out of emergency shelter are typically in need of case Management, which is an integral part of the delivery of services to the homeless. These services are very instrumental in the provision of the total “continuum of care” required to assist homeless persons with the transition from emergency or transitional shelter to permanent housing and independent living. Case Management includes the provision of job training, counseling, adult education, job development, health services, transportation, daily living skills, and childcare. The OCD focuses on the extent to which basic shelter is coordinated with services and delivery capacity and to which it integrates short-term with longer-term self-sufficiency goals as its method of setting priorities for its homeless activities. It is estimated that 2,200 persons will receive emergency shelter assistance in year one. At least 3,000 more will receive rental assistance from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

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 process of transitioning to independent living is seen as generally a 3-step mechanism:

1. Address the immediate shelter needs of homeless.
2. Initiate services to address the causes of the homelessness in coordination with non-shelter transitional housing.
3. Transition to independent permanent housing/ living as the person or household establishes a satisfactory level of self-sufficiency through case management.

The number of available permanent supportive housing units does not meet the demand for the units. Homeless persons will be placed in supportive housing when possible. Others may be referred to affordable rentals without the permanent supportive services.

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.

Health Care - The One Stop Homeless Services Center has developed a relationship with several hospitals that includes appropriate referral for services to persons discharged from hospitals who were homeless prior to admission. Social work staff at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center and the Baton Rouge General Regional Medical Center coordinates with the patient, any families/friends, and service provider agencies to identify appropriate low-income and special needs housing for the patient in order to not discharge to the street or a place not meant for human habitation. If a patient has Medicaid and the placement is warranted, they go to nursing homes or other short-term placements for housing needs.

Mental Health - CoC agencies work with mental health facility social workers to ensure patients are not routinely discharged into homelessness. The One Stop Homeless Services Center has developed a relationship with several facilities that include appropriate referral for services to persons discharged who were homeless prior to admission. The One Stop Homeless Services Center routinely fields calls for housing options and directs mental health workers to appropriate resources. Mental Health facilities work with the patients, family members, mental health treatment programs, and private psychiatrists to ensure patients discharged from publicly funded mental health facilities are not discharged into homelessness. Patients are routinely discharged to licensed facilities or mental health housing programs.

Foster Care- In the Foster Care system, the efforts to avoid discharge into homelessness for youth involves a continuum of care system which includes case workers, attorneys, CASA workers, Department of Children and Family Services, foster family and the judicial court. Youth Oasis has a youth shelter and transitional housing facility to assist youth in transitional to independent living. Youth Facilities - The effort to avoid discharge into homelessness includes the youth and their case manager, CASA workers, attorneys, Department of Children and Family Services, the Judicial Court, the fostering family, and parents/guardians working on a long term plan. Louisiana also has a program for youth exiting at age 18 to continue working with foster care on a voluntary basis while they pursue education or vocational training. This program is available up to age 21.

Corrections - The Baton Rouge CoC works collaboratively with Capital Area Re-Entry Coalition (CAPARC) to ensure that ex-offenders are not routinely discharged into homelessness. CAPARC is a coalition of service providers who work with and mentor those exiting Corrections. Their efforts begin prior to release

and continue with supports on the outside. The CoC is also working with the Discharge Planning Group of the Louisiana Department of Corrections. Probation and Parole Community Resource Coordinator, Reception and Diagnostic Center personnel, Transition Specialist, offenders, family members, various courts, and the CAPARC Service Providers work together as stakeholders and/or collaborating agencies to ensure the offender being released is not discharged into homelessness.

AP-70 HOPWA Goals– 91.220 (I)(3)

One-year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:	
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	20
Tenant-based rental assistance	200
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	100
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	100
Total	420

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

Introduction:

The City-Parish, in conjunction with Build Baton Rouge and the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) in early 2020. The AI provides a thorough analysis of the housing market in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

The following information is from *Section VI. Fair Housing Goals and Priorities* in the AI.

"The City-Parish and Build Baton Rouge, in partnership with residents, representatives from the business, economic development, non-profit, faith, and other key community stakeholders, propose the fair housing goals and strategies listed below to address the challenges raised in this AI. The goals and strategies reflect the balanced approach of increasing access to high opportunity areas and public investment in underserved neighborhoods.

Goal #1: For underserved and disinvested neighborhoods, improve the conditions of the existing housing stock, target efforts to address vacant buildings and lots, and prioritize investments in infrastructure and amenities.

Goal #2: Combat entrenched segregation by lowering barriers to affordable housing in higher opportunity neighborhoods, especially in south Baton Rouge

Goal #3: Invest in Fair Housing education, resources, and enforcement.

Goal #4: Increase access to opportunity for people with disabilities and other marginalized groups.

Goal #5: Equitable COVID-19 Recovery

Further details regarding the strategic steps to be taken to reach each goal may be found in the AI.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Although the City-Parish provides assistance to homeless shelters, shelter caseworkers say there are barriers hindering their efforts to move homeless individuals toward self-sufficiency. The lack of decent, low-cost housing, single room occupancy units and adequate transportation are just a few barriers. Also, the requirement for credit references is often an obstacle to persons and families attempting to obtain rental housing after a period of homelessness. Furthermore, persons with a history of mental illness and who are homeless, often encounter difficulty obtaining rental housing. The needs of the community have consistently outnumbered the funds available for support.

The major obstacle to meeting underserved needs is a lack of sufficient entitlement funds to address all the non-housing needs. The demand for facilities and services continues to be greater than the resources available to provide them. This problem is illustrated by the large number of projects with high needs that cannot be funded due to lack of available funds. The Office of Community Development will issue a request for proposals (RFP) for its CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA funds during each program year. Many proposals go unfunded due to the lack of funding availability. In addition, the decline in local revenues and cutbacks in State funding have increased the need for CDBG funds. EBR is also administering an Emergency Rental Assistance Program, (ERAP) funded by the U.S. Treasury.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The affordable housing objectives for the Consolidated Plan are based on a five-year time frame. The jurisdiction proposes to use the available housing funds for programs that will provide decent housing for persons with cost burdens and substandard housing. Some of the programs are restricted to the 0- 30% MFI households; some are restricted to the under 50% MFI households, and some are available to households with incomes up to 80% MFI. All programs are designed with the intent to:

1. Improve and preserve the existing stock of affordable housing.
2. Increase the stock of available affordable housing, especially in high opportunity neighborhoods.
3. Increase the ability of persons to afford standard housing.

During the first year of this planning cycle, HOME funds will be used for development of affordable housing units and CDBG funds will be used for rehabilitation of existing housing stock. Housing developers who do not receive funds from the City-Parish will be referred to the Louisiana Housing Corporation for other potential financing opportunities. The City-Parish, in conjunction with the EBRPHA and Build Baton Rouge was awarded funding for the Choice Neighborhood grant, which will allow for the development of

a significant number of affordable housing units.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

In accordance with the HUD Lead-Based Paint Regulation (24 CFR Part 35), rehabilitation work on housing built before 1978 that is financially assisted by the Federal government is subject to requirements that will control lead-based paint hazards. EBR requires that all contractors complete EPA's Lead-Based RRP (Renovation, Repair, and Painting) training. Contractors must submit a list to EBRRA of all individuals and subcontractors that will be involved in each project stating that each has completed a HUD approved training course on Lead Safe Work Practices. As necessary, EBRRA will conduct a risk assessment to identify lead-based paint hazards, perform interim control measures to eliminate hazards that are identified or, in lieu of a risk assessment, perform standard treatments throughout a unit. The type and amount of Federal assistance and rehabilitation hard costs for the unit will determine the level of lead hazard reduction completed. Lead procedures to be followed will be specified on the bid/contractor on a per project basis.

City-Parish is also the recipient of \$3.4M from HUD's Healthy Housing and Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program. The Office of Community Development will administer this grant program which will offer grants to eliminate lead-based paint hazards in homes located in the City-Parish. The program is available to home owners and rental property owners who meet qualification criteria. Those who qualify may receive a grant for repairs designed to control lead-based paint hazards. Repairs may include replacing old wooden windows with new vinyl windows, vinyl siding and aluminum trim, covering porch floors and ceilings, and fresh paint. Additionally, the Healthy Homes Supplemental Grant can be used for identifying and remediating multiple other housing-related health and safety hazards such as mold, asbestos, home safety and pest control.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Baton Rouge – Parish of East Baton Rouge plans to fund the maximum amount allowed under public services to assist in reducing the number of poverty level families in the Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. CDBG public services will be used to assist low-income families with transportation, job skills training, case management, financial literacy and other support services. The City will continue to partner with public and private entities to produce affordable housing and related services for low-income individuals and families.

The City-Parish plans to reduce the number of families in poverty through additional strategies such as:

1. Continue funding for housing, community and economic development programs and services to low-income residents.
2. Creating opportunities for low-income families with children to move into higher opportunity neighborhoods has been proven to contribute to a 30% increase in income for those children when they are adults.

3. Continue to support services to homeless families and families at risk of homelessness to increase housing options.
4. Continued support of information and referral networks to allow easier access to community resources.
5. Dissemination of information about programs such as Head Start, Earn Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other programs (TANF, Food Stamps, Workforce Investment Administration and Medicaid).
6. Providing funding for community development projects to assist low-income residents to obtain skills and jobs needed to become self-sufficient.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

To overcome the gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system, the City-Parish and its partners will:

1. Implement bi-annual stakeholder meetings to discuss strengths, needs and brainstorm solutions to gaps.
2. Develop a comprehensive resource guide for all community stakeholders.
3. Continue to apply for other sources of funding for and coordinate affordable housing/community development projects.
4. Encourage nonprofits to coordinate and leverage resources.

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

The OCD will maintain communication with the agencies parish wide to ensure coordination and avoid duplication of services. A number of public and private social services, mental health, youth, health care, and other agencies operate within the parish, each typically providing services of a particular type and to particular populations. In carrying out affordable and supportive housing strategies, it is often necessary to coordinate housing assistance with other needs, particularly services that enable individuals to become and remain self-sufficient and which contribute to community stability and revitalization. The City-Parish will also implement bi-annual stakeholder meetings to discuss strengths, needs and brainstorm solutions to gaps.