

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

The City was successful in carrying out its Action Plan, based upon the goals set forth in the Consolidated Plan. Highlights of this program year include:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Small Business Technical Assistance Program (\$25,000) At New Vue Communities, funds continued to be used to provide outreach and technical assistance to businesses. This program leverages loans for small businesses. 29 Jobs were created/retained, 29 businesses counseled, and 3 loan leveraged. Funds were used to pay staff salary. The benefit of this project is the promotion of economic development and job creation/job retention assisting new and existing businesses.

Downtown Coordinator (\$35,000) Fitchburg State University used funds to pay part of the salary of the Downtown Coordinator to assist in planning and coordinating Main Street Activities, special events, fundraising initiatives, volunteer management, and recruitment with downtown businesses all for the benefit of micro-enterprises. This work supports Fitchburg's efforts as an "Arts, Culture & Recreation destination and Fitchburg as a "College Town" to compliment the revitalization efforts already underway downtown and within the city. The Coordinator was able to assist 52 Microenterprise businesses throughout the year.

Small Business Financial Assistance - The City assisted 18 businesses during the program year through business loans with favorable terms or grants. 16 of those businesses qualified as a microenterprise (IDIS 965, 1034, 1031, 1037, 1036, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1038, 1039, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1049, 1050, 1051), 2 creating or retaining jobs (IDIS: 997, 998). Of the microenterprise businesses assisted that gave their demographics, we were able to obtain the race of 19 individuals: 8 White, Hispanic individuals, 3 white, non-hispanic individuals, 3 black African American, Hispanic Individuals, 2 Asian individuals, 2 multiracial, Hispanic Individuals, and one hispanic individual who did not disclose their race. Of those that were job creation and retention, This created 2 documented full-time positions thus far. Our signs and facades program (\$40,000) completed 8 signs for the program year which included some carry over from the prior year, with several additional businesses lined up for assistance with our new entitlement in the coming year.

The Worcester Regional Food Hub brought the Fitchburg Public Market to the City (\$30,000) this year. They've already assisted 13

microenterprise businesses, of which 10 are Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), offering them services such as business counseling, and educational programs such as Food Safety Classes within the Fitchburg Public Market. \$50,000 was allocated toward their microenterprise assistance program. Funds were used to support their rent and utilities as start-up costs. They officially opened their doors to the public on August 27, 2024. Currently 8 booths are being rented out at the market by small businesses, with farm fresh produce available with a commercial kitchen open 24 hours a day to support food trucks, caterers, and other small food businesses. We will be continuing to review their progress through next year.

In addition to the businesses above, the City has been working with a non-profit business for some time seeking to open a subsidized working artist/artisan shared work and retail space. The business group was absorbed by the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance. The City and FCA agreed to extend funding of staffing of the studio spaces at Main Street Studios with CDBG funding (\$10,000) and was able to assist at least 8 microenterprise businesses throughout the course of the year.

REHAB AND PRESERVATION Code Enforcement (\$96,000): Inspections were conducted on a total of 119 units and 444 dwellings, during the plan year. 1 vacant and accessible building was boarded and secured under the orders of the target area inspector. Tickets, fines and court action have been issued to violators for various Sanitary and Building Code violations with efforts geared toward ridding target neighborhoods of conditions of blight and to promote proper and supervised repair to buildings. The City's large percentage of older housing stock continues to present the need for this code enforcement activity.

HOUSING Critical Home Repair (\$20,000) Habitat for Humanity used CDBG Funding for repairs of 4 homes total that included: installing siding to ensure that a home met City code, repairing the roof and soffits, reflashing the chimney, repairing a leaking toilet, repairing the flooring in a home, a roof repair, bathroom fixture replacement, repaired attic hatch, and electrical work. Any other housing that would need to be added?

HOME OWNER REPAIR- CITY OF FITCHBURG: HOME program funds (\$444,057.05 total committed) CDBG revolving funds (\$109,415 committed) During the program year, 4 homeowner repair projects, started and substantially completed in the prior year, and closed out in IDIS and are being reported as completed in this program year. 4 utilizing HOME and 1 using revolving CDBG funds for the rental unit. The beneficiaries include a single mom with 2 children (969) who has an elder couple tenant (970), an elderly head of household of five, (964), a single mother with 4 children, (957), and a single elder (999).

RENTAL DEVELOPMENT: The City of Fitchburg funded New Vue Communities Fitchburg Arts Community's Artist Preference housing(1028).

Construction of this 68 unit rental project is ongoing and is expected to complete January 2025 and appears to be on target. They've had a very engaged outreach and tenant selection process, and has created a committee to review artist applications to determine if they qualify as artists.

The City closed on it's financing for North Star Family Service's Journey Home Permanent Housing project in Leominster during the spring of 2024. Although we have not made any payments, construction is under way.

Although Moran Square Apartments (968) was completed in a prior year, the activity was closed out this year and the units are being counted in this year.

PUBLIC SERVICES Family Homeless Shelter (\$9,590.32) This program is run through North Star Family Services. NSFS is an emergency shelter which provides case management services to homeless families, which includes assistance with employment, finances, medical issues, and securing permanent housing. 2 of the families served, left the program successfully for permanent housing throughout the course of the year. All families are required to work each day towards self-sufficiency. The year ended with 5 extremely low income Fitchburg households with an ongoing need for assistance.

Drug Enforcement and Foot Patrol (\$61,378.05) The Fitchburg Police Department, used their overtime hours for drug enforcement work, 46 Search Warrants were executed (35 NWCDTF), 39 Arrests were made due to 94C violations (24 NWCDTF), 14 Criminal Complaints were taken out by FPD DSU & NWCDTF for 94C violations. They Seized \$124,037 in U.S. Currency, Seized 2,222.81 grams of Cocaine, Seized 273.28 grams of Heroin, Seized 1,345.1 grams of Fentanyl, Seized 22.57 grams of Fentanyl pills, Seized 6,627 grams of Methamphetamine pills, Seized 406 grams Oxycodone pills, Seized 646 grams of Marijuana (1.4lbs), Seized 42 Suboxone Strips, Seized 79 pills of Gabapentin, Seized 8 Firearms, Seized 168 rounds of ammunition.

During CDBG Main St patrols, officers frequented the areas up and down Boulder Drive, Main St, Riverfront Park and the Main St parking garage. Officers interacted with patrons and businesses owners alike. Additionally, assigned officers deterred people from loitering and engaging in criminal activity by warning them to move along and educating them that their illegal behaviors would not be tolerated in subsequent interactions. Officers spent time along the railroad tracks and rail trail as well.

There have been dozens of reports of graffiti throughout the CDBG area. In an effort to identify the tagger (s), officers conducted deployments throughout the CDBG region. Due to the geographical location of the graffiti, incidents observed along the Main St & Water St corridor were targeted. During walking patrols, assigned officers were responsible for documenting all observed graffiti. Graffiti was observed in the area of

Spruce, Hale, First, Middle, the Intermodal St, and local parks. Because of CDBG activities, officers were able to identify a possible suspect and work on relaying to DPW areas of graffiti that need to be removed. The suspect had vandalized dozens of public buildings, private property and local playgrounds were children gather.

Additionally, during other Main St & Rail Trail walking beats, assigned officers interacted with residents, visitors and local businesses while on their shifts. Officers frequented Monument Park, the rail trail, riverfront park and intown parking garage. Many local downtown businesses were concerned with loitering, and assigned officers fielded their complaints and helped moved along local loitering and other vagrants in the area. Officers interacted with patrons who were visiting local establishments, and those patrons were appreciative of police presence on Main St.

Board of Health Street Outreach (\$14,385.48) Through this innovative program the Street outreach workers engaged homeless individuals living in inhabitable places on 8538 occasions in the City of Fitchburg supplying necessary health, hygiene, and safety items as deemed appropriate by the outreach workers including referrals to medical/mental health/substance use treatment, shelter, etc.

Homelessness Prevention (\$10,069.84) Community Legal Aid assisted 15 residents who were in the process of being evicted or denied Fitchburg Housing Authority Housing units due to issues like overdue rent, rent increases, no-cause evictions, identity verification issues, and displacement issues. The majority of clients served were receiving public rent assistance or had applied for assistance. All clients were income eligible.

Restoration Recovery Center's Access to Recovery (\$4,699.32) program completed 270 Critical Access intakes for Fitchburg-based individuals. The majority of those assisted are currently homeless and are assisted by Recovery Resource Center with applying for the Continuum of Care Program among other programs to assist with access to affordable housing, as well as any contingent document and identification (i.e. photo IDs, Social Security cards, and Birth Certificates). Other barrier with accessing services was addressed by both RRC van transportation, Recovery Coaches, and providing bus tickets when needed.

Fitchburg Farmers Market (\$7,192.74) Growing Places exceeding our goal of serving 1,000 households, the Fitchburg Farmers Market provided services to 1,601 households, 669 (42%) individuals were Hispanic and 1,277 (79.4%) were low or moderate income. This success is due to a concerted marketing effort on social media to promote the market and our partnership in the winter months with the Fitchburg Art Museum that helped us cross promote the market. In total 15 unique vendors signed up for the Fitchburg Farmers Market in 2023/2024 offering local crafts, food, artwork, jewelry, home and body products and more! In addition, Growing Places supported 33 North Central MA Farmers by selling local produce on their behalf at the market and accepting SNAP and the MA Healthy Incentive Program (HIP).

CDBG funding supported 6 high school youth leaders to provide activities for youth attending the market. The youth offered trivia at Growing Places stand about the produce and its health benefits as well as coloring pages of local veggies designed by one of the youth leaders. The youth leaders also promoted the SNAP/HIP program to all individuals attending the market to increase housing stability through increased household income to cover the costs of other basic needs such as food. Through this program they were able to provide equitable access to local, culturally appropriate food and education to significant, low-income, minority, and special needs populations including homeless, disabled, elderly, and youth at risk.

The City's CDBG funding also supported 2 youth-centered programs. The Montachusett Regional YMCA's Spartacus program (\$11,028.87), Spartacus is a program for Fitchburg teens, which reduces the number of first-time and repeat juvenile offenders by instilling a sense of community within participants to make their neighborhoods safer for everyone and demonstrating the merits of choosing a more positive course in life. Spartacus engages over 50 participants a year through basketball, health and exercise, academic tutoring, community service, college exploration, and leadership and social skills development.

The Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster was also supported with CDBG through their Transportation STEAM program (\$14,385.48). This activity provided transportation for 162 students from the Fitchburg Public schools to the Boys and Girls Club located in Leominster. Currently, the Fitchburg School system's bus route does not include the Club in its route. Without this transportation, many of these students would not otherwise have access to the programming provided by the club.

PUBLIC FACILITIES for parks and playgrounds, DPW was able to replace compromised sections of the walking path at Parkhill Park from Causeway St. to the upper portion of the splash park and skate park. This included extending the Paved path to the baseball field behind the concession stand. Additionally, they replaced the drainage swale for the parking lot into the granite Culvert. They repaired sections of the old granite culvert that runs through the park. They also rehabilitated the signs for the park and Memorial Skate Park. Upgrades were also undertaken at the baseball field: recutting and laying out the field, laying in new clay and sand in the field, installing new bases, home plate, and pitcher's mound, updating the benches in the dugout, and minor renovations to the concession stand. The irrigation system was relocated and repaired to be more efficient and functional after the infield was recut. Lastly, repairs were made to parts of the fencing on the field..

For Abolitionist park, DPW pushed back the boulders along Snow St. to add additional parking on the west side of the road. Street signs and line painting still needs to be completed. They are looking to follow up with the Police Department and City Clerk's office for final authorization of new parking signage. DPW staff also removed and replaced existing sidewalk along the face of the park on Snow St.. Additionally, they added handicap accessible ramps on Union St and Cherry St. along the park.

This year the DPW replaced the asphalt sidewalk with ADA compliant concrete wheelchair accessible ramps on three (3) of the four (4) corners of the intersection of Boutelle Street and Goodrich Street and added RRFB's and a painted crosswalk.

Our newly purchased fitness court for Coolidge Park is expected to be installed and completed in the spring of year 50. A new eyewash station was installed within the Coolidge Park pool house and non-slip floor mats will be installed in the summer of 2024.

Friends of the Abolitionist Park (\$5,000) began Phase 3B of their improvements to the park which, this year, includes the development of an interactive display board where images of abolitionists come to life to tell their stories and how they were connected to Fitchburg. Due to a delay in completing the design work, the design and installation of the board is expected to be completed by the end of the 2024 year.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Acq./Dev/Rehab by Non-profit Housing Providers	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$ 1,725,000.00	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	20	0	0%	14	0	0%
Acq./Dev/Rehab by Non-profit Housing Providers	Affordable Housing		Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	0		0	0	0.00%

Acq./Dev/Rehab by Non-profit Housing Providers	Affordable Housing		Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	0	0		0	0	0.00%
CDBG Administration	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ 929,220.00	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%	1	1	100.00%
Clearance Activity	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$400,000	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	20	0	0.00%	2	0	0%
Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ 663,885.00	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	0	7	0%	5	6	120.00%
Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development		Jobs created/retained	Jobs	0	2	0.00%	0	2	0.00%
Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development		Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	50	191	382.00%	15	90	600.00%

HOME Administration	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	HOME: \$ 567,514.00	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%	1	1	100.00%
Housing Program Delivery	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$205,000.00	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%			
Public Facility Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ 1,619,515.00	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	84500	33800	40%	16900	16900	100%
Public Facility Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development		Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Public Facility Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development		Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	0	1	0%	0	0	0%

Public Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ \$696,225.00	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	18400	78512	426.70%	3680	31974	868.86%
Public Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development		Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	16	44	275%	5	24	480%
Public Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development		Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added	Beds	0	29	0%	0	29	0%
Public Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development		Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	50	35	70.00%	2	15	750.00%
Rehabilitation and Preservation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ 934,130/ HOME: \$2,035,783.00	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	6	1	16.67%	0	1	0.00%
Rehabilitation and Preservation	Affordable Housing		Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	60	8	13.33%	4	4	100%

Rehabilitation and Preservation	Affordable Housing		Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	1000	1003	100.30%	200	444	222%
Rehabilitation and/or Acquisition	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$342,365.00	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	10	1	10.00%	1	1	100.00%
Rental Development by For-profit Developers	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$0 / HOME: \$376,493.00	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	8	5	62.5%			

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

The Priority of addressing the issue of homelessness is demonstrated by the jurisdiction's use of funds in Year 49. Citing tables 1 and 2 above, funding provided to the North Star Family Services family shelter gave Fitchburg families access to emergency shelter - the only family shelter in this immediate area, and the Heath Departments Street Outreach services work with homeless individual to connect them to resources and services as they are willing to take them. Community Legal Aid assists income eligible renters with wrongful evictions to help families to remain in their homes. In addition, the YMCA Spartacus is dedicated to youth, with the goal of providing guidance and skill which will lead to productive lives and lessen the chance of poverty and homelessness. The Boys and Girls club similarly has a focus on youth empowerment with which the city provides transportation to their programs. The Fitchburg Farmers’ Market provided by Growing Places increased access to local, affordable produce, goods, and services to low and moderate income families with the ability to accept SNAP/HIP at all produce vendors at the market as well as providing hands-on youth activities to attract families to accessible nutrition education residents might not otherwise be familiar with. These activities all made significant progress towards meeting the specific goals set forth in the plan. The rehabilitation of affordable rental/housing units, as well as homeowner incentives, also reduces the level of homelessness by providing safe, affordable housing. The Economic Development activities provided job creation and retention services, further preventing homelessness. During Year 49, support was needed for local businesses to stay open and retain staff. Both the Downtown Coordinator and NewVue small business support were great

resources for them. Our signs and facades program completed 6 signs for the program year, with additional businesses lined up for assistance with our new entitlement. Demolition funds have been set aside to begin this year with the hope of demolishing at least 2-3 blighted buildings.

With the transition to a new Mayor this year, the Mayor's Energy Fund activity was delayed and will be utilized in the following year, completing the project in year 50.

There is an additional excel sheet included in the attachments that shows the ConPlan Accomplishments to date which shows that our prior year's accomplishments were submitted with some discrepancies (in red) and included data from prior years when they were submitted last year. The accomplishments above have since been corrected to show only the first 2 years of our ConPlan, year 2022 and 2023.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME
White	3,644	2
Black or African American	1,813	0
Asian	64	0
American Indian or American Native	32	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0
Total	5,554	2
Hispanic	160	0
Not Hispanic	5,386	2

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

During the program year, a total of 5554 families were assisted, of which 33% identified as Black or African American, roughly 2% Asian, American Indian/American Native, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and the remaining 65% white. The ethnicity was just under 3% Hispanic.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	1,051,488.64	949,039.09
HOME	public - federal	2,424,735	1044268.08

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
CDBG Target Area, CDBG Strategy Area, Housing Strategy Area, Citywide	100	100	

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The City provides funding to the North Star Family Services Shelter in an adjacent City, however, the funds are used for the benefit of Fitchburg residents who require shelter. Because our funding is assisting residents who were living in Fitchburg at the time of becoming homeless, we consider this within our CDBG target area of Citywide.

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

During the program year, funds were leveraged for a number of activities. Our business assistance funds provided \$163,423 to businesses and leveraged \$212,877.78 in other loans and grants. With respect to housing, The Fitchburg Arts Community artist preference housing project in Fitchburg, (1028), leveraged substantial funds, \$2,986,112 private sources and \$41,517,195 in public sources. Our Downtown Coordinator project leveraged approximately \$35,000 in matching funds from Fitchburg State University.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	1856353
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	1856353
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	71472.13
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	1784880.87

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at beginning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
248613.36	118856.81.	273730.78	0	93739.39

Table 7 – Program Income

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	26	0	0	2	3	21
Number	33918950.84	0	0	3450422	2894116.74	27574412.1
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	33918951	197600	33721351			
Number	26	1	25			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property
Contracts from Fitchburg Arts Community Housing Project**

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0		0		
Businesses Displaced		0		0		
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0		0		
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0		0		
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	2	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	20	14
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	1
Total	22	15

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	5	5
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	20	9
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	1
Total	25	15

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

During the program year, Habitat for Humanity of North Central MA's critical repair program, (1002) assisted 4 homeowners with 4 homeowner repair projects. Our Homeowner Repair program completed and closed an additional four homeowner repair projects, one of which had a rental unit. These projects were substantially completed in prior year, but were not closed and reported on during that year, (964, 969, 957, 970, 999). Moran Square Apartments, also substantially complete in a prior year, is being reported in this year, (958).

Due to a number of factors, primarily the high cost of construction, and staffing limitation, the City decided it will end its homeowner repair program and is no longer taking on any new projects.

With respect to rental housing development, as is now noted in IDIS, progress was made on two rental development projects. The City funded NewVue Communities' rental project, a conversion of the former BF Brown school into 68 units of affordable artist preference housing. At \$850,000 in HOME funding- this is the most funding the PJ has ever given to one project. Construction of this project is well under way and is expected to complete in January 2025. We anticipate reporting outcomes for this project in the next program year. North Star Family Shelter's Journey Home project in Leominster is also receiving a substantial amount of HOME funds, \$600,000. The project has been underwritten and has a HOME commitment, and being its construction in July 2024 but has not been set up in IDIS yet as they have not requested funds. This project will create 15 units of affordable supported housing for families ready to leave the shelter in Leominster MA, four of which will be HOME funded.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Unfortunately we see the high cost of construction continuing to be a challenge for completing the number of units in a given year that we were producing when the consolidated plan was created. When an average homeowner repair project with lead paint costs between \$60,000 and \$100,000 it is extremely limiting to our programs. The city does not intend to continue our homeowner repair program at this time, but recognizes that the need is still great. We will explore ways expand collaboration with other entities such as Habitat for Humanity and New Vue Communities to meet this need in the future. For the time being the City is focusing its HOME Program dollars on rental housing and potential homeownership projects.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	2	1
Low-income	1	2
Moderate-income	1	0
Total	4	3

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Habitat for Humanity's Critical Home repair projects (1002) completed four projects that assisted two extremely low income household, and a low- income household and moderate income household. Three of the households were senior homeowners. The fourth household was a low-income household of 5. We also assisted with a down payment for a buyer to acquire a home built by Habitat

for Humanity (1048), an income-eligible family in Fitchburg. In addition, four homeowner repair projects were completed this program year. One is two family owner occupied property, the homeowner (969) is a single parent of moderate income with a low income tenant (970). IDIS 964 is a multi-generational family with elder owners under 50% AMI, a single mom of a large family (957) under 80% AMI, and a low income elder (999). In addition, we are reporting this year on the completion of Moran Square Apartments, (958). All five households are extremely low income, and all single parents. Four of the five households are Hispanic. Four are white and one household identifies as black.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

The City of Fitchburg provided Year 49 CDBG funds to the North Star Family Services Shelter and the Board of Health Street Outreach Program. NSFS is an emergency shelter which provides case management services to homeless families, which includes assistance with employment, finances, medical issues and securing permanent housing.

A working relationship between the Police Department, Fire Department, Mayor's Office, and the Board of Health has resulted in a unified, and individualized, approach to their efforts. In Year 49, CDBG funding was awarded to the Board of health to support a continuing program called Street Outreach. During the program year, the homeless street outreach team implemented outreach services and CDBG funded one full time employee doing outreach staff work in the field, identifying and interacting with individuals who are homeless, providing appropriate referrals and resources. They accompany folks to appointments and agencies to ensure a successful experience and assist with any paperwork and/or documentation that may be required. In addition, a certified recovery coach assisted with coordinating treatment recovery, dedicated weekly time slots were added at Restoration Recovery where the team accompanies individuals to help them get plugged into the Continuum of Care system to obtain permanent housing. HIV and STD testing and COVID vaccines are provided monthly. The team meets with Lt. Howe at the Police Dept. weekly for discussions of ongoing issues, and a provider group meets weekly, and regular clean-ups of former homeless camps are conducted.

During this past year, the Street Outreach Team had a total of 8,538 contacts with unsheltered individuals. 5,352 were male and 3,186 were female. Monthly Outreach Collaborations in Riverfront Park with resource tables by local community partners providing food, clothing, resources and fellowship. During the winter months, this event is moved inside to the YMCA to coordinate with the free meal program. Outreach & Prevention once again participated in the HUD Annual Point in Time Count in Fitchburg for our regional Continuum of Care/Central Mass Housing Alliance. The PIT count is a count of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

Street Outreach was able to implement an Overnight Warming Center for the homeless population during this quarter - the first time the City has made this resource available specifically to the unhoused. Operating on limited budget, the Warming Center opened on 21 nights from 6pm - 8am and also remained open during two full days due to inclement weather. A total of 57 guests were served and the highest census count was 29. 50 guests requested and received services, including referral application to long term shelter, detox placement, state ID appointment, clothing, and medical/behavioral health appointments.

This project was made possible by the contributions of many community partners whose collaborative efforts led to its success, especially the Fitchburg Housing Authority/Opportunities for Hope..

This past year, 1,802 doses of Naloxone were distributed. In addition to daily outreach, formal Narcan trainings were conducted at local organizations including the Community Justice Support Center of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Community Health Connections ACTION, Clean Slate, Fitchburg CTC staff, Fitchburg Health Fair, Overdose Vigil,

Mount Wachusett CC Health class at Fitchburg Community Health Connections & My Turn. Several public community trainings were also held. The Health Department is an affiliate of the Commonwealth Naloxone Purchasing Program.

Outreach & Prevention continues to facilitate biweekly Fitchburg Interagency Team Collaborative HUB meetings, bring together local providers and city departments who work with the unsheltered community and averaging 25-30 attendees per meeting.

Outreach facilitated a winter coat drive to benefit students at Fitchburg Public Schools. Outreach staff collaborate with the McKinney-Vento program at FPS. Once again we also participated in the 12th Annual Homeless Persons Memorial Day Event at Action Community Health Center held each December. Working in collaboration with AIDS Project Worcester, the designated SSP for this region, we coordinated a successful HepA, HepB & Meningitis vaccine clinic.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Fitchburg supported the following agencies which address the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons living within Fitchburg: North Star Family Services offers emergency shelter to families. The City of Fitchburg provided NSFS with CDBG funds in Year 49 to assist in their efforts. The CDBG funds were only used to assist Fitchburg families. The City is also working with Central MA Housing Alliance, (CMHA) located in Worcester Ma to create a better presence in North Worcester County. CMHA is our Continuum of Care and provides funds and services for the entire Worcester County. It is currently being supported by Restoration Recovery who provided services with CDBG funds from year 49.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after 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); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

The following activities aided in the prevention of low-income individuals and families with children from becoming homeless: HOME program activities in both Consortium cities; CDBG-CV support to NewVue Communities to assist with rent and utilities and Community Legal Aid Assisted in defending

those affected by COVID-19 and wrongfully evicted from their homes. CDBG support to the Housing Rehabilitation programs of the Community Development Department Housing Division that was completed this year in Fitchburg and the Office of the Planning and Development in Leominster; CDBG support to the CDBG Administration and Planning component of the Community Development Department enabled all of the CDBG programs which aid the homeless and those at risk of homelessness to operate in Fitchburg. The Board of Health Code Enforcement performs inspections of dwellings and enforce the state's sanitary and building codes in order to improve Fitchburg's housing stock inspecting over 444 dwellings in Year 49. Community Legal Aid is in its fourth year as a CDBG recipient and provides legal services to 14 individuals whose families are facing eviction and/or housing discrimination. The Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster provided Transportation to 162 Youth from the Fitchburg Public School system to the Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster so they could attend their afterschool program, Project Learn STEAM, offering local youth transportation to a safe, positive place to learn and grow during crucial after school hours between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. to improve the educational outcomes of the youth served. The YMCA Spartacus Program is designed to promote the transformation of At-risk teens by utilizing the resources of the MCB Teen Center, the wellness center and Local Collaborators through adventure-based activities, boot-camp style workouts, academic tutoring, community service, leadership development, anger management counseling, and substance abuse assistance giving them the tools to succeed at school, at home, and in the community and go on to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

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

1. **North Star Family Services** offered services to homeless families in securing permanent housing, employment and child care. They also provided follow up services to families after they have left the shelter, to make sure they are able to maintain permanent housing.
2. **AIDS CARE Services Supportive Housing Program** located in Fitchburg provided homeless prevention services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their family members.
3. **Veteran Hospice Homestead** located in Fitchburg offered transitional housing to veterans.
4. The **Fitchburg Veteran Services Office** provided referral services to veterans in need of housing and supportive services.
5. **VA Fitchburg Community-Based Outpatient Clinic** was opened in July 2015 providing services to Veterans living in the greater Fitchburg area. Services include primary care, mental health and lab blood drawing as well as connecting homeless veterans to appropriate services.

6. **Fitchburg Public Schools McKinney-Vento liaison** provided supportive services and referrals to homeless students and their families.

7. **ACTION Health Services** provided behavioral health, medical and dental care to the homeless as well publicly-housed individuals. Case management and skill training was offered to prevent homelessness.

8. **Community Legal Aid** provided legal services to those facing housing discrimination and/or eviction, as well as helped mediate landlord/tenant disputes that could lead to housing instability.

9. **Habitat for Humanity Critical Home Repair** identifies and works with existing homeowners to assess and alleviate critical health, life, and safety issues or code violations in need of repair.

10. **Board of Health Street Outreach Program** supplying necessary health, hygiene, and safety items as deemed appropriate by the outreach workers including referrals to medical/mental health/substance use treatment, shelter, etc.

11. **Fitchburg HUB**, an adhoc group of agencies working together and meeting twice a month to discuss challenges and solutions to homelessness issues. This is organized by the Board of Health's Outreach and Prevention Coordinator.

12. **Restoration Recovery** through their choices program assists with housing applications and other housing funds referrals, making shelter referrals, sober home referrals, and providing clinically homeless CoC intake, case management, as well as wrap around services once housed.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The City's Community Development Department continues to build relationships with the housing authority and has provided commitments to assist in the rehabilitation of substandard housing authority units. The department continues to work with the Fitchburg Housing Authority regardless of if we fund a project. The board of Health is also going to be providing code inspections for the Housing Authority.

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

In a previous program year, the City has made a commitment to provide matching funds toward the downpayment of a home for a public housing resident, up to \$10,000 through the Housing Authority's Project Able program. To date, no funds have been requested. During the past year, the Housing Authority started a Family Self-Sufficiency program and invited Community Development staff to join their program steering committee. Staff have attended two committee meetings.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

N/A

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken 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. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

Through the use of CDBG funds, The Sanitary Code Enforcement Inspectors of the Board of Health Code Enforcement team monitors and enforces compliance with sections of the State Sanitary Code that relate to housing, lead paint, asbestos, rodent, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, trash, and related nuisance complaints. Inspections were conducted on a total of 119 units and 444 dwellings, during the plan year. 787 violations were issued and 689 corrections were noted. 119 units received a code violation in the year and 119 were corrected using property owner's funding. No dwellings were demolished; 1 vacant and accessible buildings were boarded and secured under the orders of the target area inspector. Tickets, fines and court action have been issued to violators for various Sanitary and Building Code violations with efforts geared toward ridding target neighborhoods of conditions of blight and to promote proper and supervised repair to buildings. \$625.00 in fees, fines, and/or reimbursements were collected in the target area as a result of these efforts. There were 1 lead paint determinations conducted and 0 full lead inspections conducted in year 49.

In a previous year, the City created, then expanded its Smart Growth district in the downtown area. This allows for increased density within the district as well as reduced parking requirements, it also creates a requirement for a percentage of that housing to be affordable. In addition, the City is now working with a consultant to identify a geographical area within a half mile of our commuter rail station, which will allow multifamily housing to be created by right. The goal is to identify an area where at least 2618 units of housing can be created. The City expects this to a lengthy process to be completed by December of 2024.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The principal obstacle in meeting underserved needs was the lack of adequate resources to address those needs in a comprehensive manner. The City of Fitchburg effectively and efficiently addressed many obstacles to meeting underserved needs by not only funding essential services through CDBG, but also by encouraging collaboration and cooperation among various city agencies and departments. The Year 49 Action Plan included funding to provide services to very low income families through the North Star Family Services (NSFS) shelter, which is the only family shelter in the region, and provides access to shelter, food, employment assistance, and case management. Through CDBG-CV funds, NewVue Provided rent and utility assistance to income-qualified families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Youth were served by Year 49 funding through afterschool programs provided by the YMCA Spartacus Program for 50 at-risk youth. The Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster provided Transportation to 162 youth from the Fitchburg Public School system to the Boys and Girls Club of

Fitchburg and Leominster so they could attend their afterschool program, Project Learn STEAM, offering local youth a safe, positive place to learn and grow during crucial after school hours between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. to improve the educational outcomes of the youth served.

CDBG Funding in Year 49 enabled the Board of Health to continue a program called Street Outreach, which assisted an average of 2135 individuals each quarter by supplying necessary health, hygiene, and safety items as deemed appropriate by the outreach workers including referrals to medical/mental health/substance use treatment, shelter, etc.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

During the program year, every housing repair project assisted by the City of Fitchburg had been tested for, and had lead paint hazards addressed if it was present.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The Economic Development office, a division of the Community Development Department, worked with local businesses to create and/or retain low- and moderate-income jobs in the City of Fitchburg. This will ultimately reduce the number of persons below the poverty line. Year 49 CDBG funding was provided to NewVue Communities for the Small Business Technical Assistance Program. This program aided in the effort of assisting businesses to create/retain jobs, develop business plans and provide funds to leverage loans to small businesses in Fitchburg. The City recognized that the current level of federal, state and local resources is inadequate to sufficiently address the vast number of issues which contribute to, or are caused by, poverty. It continued, however, to address issues of homelessness, transitional housing needs, youth services, and economic development, all of which can be associated in part with poverty, through its CDBG program investments. Fitchburg State University's Downtown Coordinator also assisted Microenterprise businesses to develop and maintain their advertising in order to better market themselves and improve their exposure in and around Fitchburg and the local community through social media, public events, and even designing outdoor signage/window display and menu designs for several microenterprises.

The City continued to work with several local anti-poverty agencies to pursue available resources to combat poverty. Those agencies included NewVue Communities, Making Opportunities Count, (MOC) the designated regional anti-poverty agency serving the Consortium, as well as Community Legal Aid's Homelessness Prevention Program to provide thorough and comprehensive legal outreach and advocacy to Fitchburg's low income and elderly renters, with the goal of helping them obtain and maintain safe and affordable housing.

The North Central Massachusetts Regional Employment Board distributed information regarding publicly funded education, training and employment programs at the local Housing Authority sites. Information regarding the housing programs funded through CDBG and administered through the Fitchburg Community Development Department was distributed locally at various human service

agencies which serve lower income and minority populations.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

None at this time

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City works in collaboration with a number of housing entities and agencies including the Fitchburg Housing Authority. Ongoing relationships between these entities and social service agencies already exist, most notably, MOC, and the Fitchburg Housing Authority. The City continues to encourage the Farmer's Market run through Growing Places to remain in the downtown area near a number of Senior Housing Authority properties for ease of access to fresh produce.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

Recommendations in the current analysis of impediments to fair housing choice report included; improve public and private housing choices, improve and support informational programs which promote fair housing and housing opportunities; increase diversity on the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals, Promote visitability in housing by considering ways in which the concept of visitability can be included in residential projects, and record actions taken to eliminate identified impediments.

The City committed available resources to address housing needs through rehab. of homeownership and rental units and providing development funding for the creating of new rental and homeownership units with community developers. The City promotes reuse of abandoned, former demolition lots; amends zoning and other regulatory requirements; uses public funds for demolition of abandoned and blighted properties; and encourages housing development and programs which service the elderly. In recent years, the City requested proposals for development of affordable housing on two city owned parcels, selling both parcels to Habitat for Humanity for nominal amounts. Rental projects funded with HOME Program are required to make at least 5% of those units accessible, and meet affirmative marketing requirements for the full affordability period under the program. The City monitors compliance with these requirements annually.

During the reporting period, the Community Development Dept. continued to provide as needed housing counseling and referral services to minority and low income property owners, renters and potential renters, along with NewVue Communities. The City also provided funding to Community Legal Aid to assist with wrongful eviction and/or housing discrimination for both Low-income renters with CDBG funding and low-income renters effected by the COVID-19 pandemic with CDBG-CV funding. Additionally, with the onset of the pandemic, shut downs, and overall job losses, the City allocated the remainder of its federal CDBG-CV assistance to NewVue Communities to provide rent and

Utility Assistance to clients who are income eligible Fitchburg residents in need. This project and the Cares Act project with Community Legal Aid is expected to be completed by December 2024.

The Fitchburg Housing Authority listed activities to affirmatively further fair housing in its 2015-2019 PHA Plan. The City's of Fitchburg holds its Community Resources Fair each fall and includes information on fair housing as well as information from the Public Housing Authority regarding their affordable housing.

InTown Fitchburg focused on several neighborhoods in the heart of our CDBG target area. The collaboration is focused in three key areas: economic development & entrepreneurship, housing, and community engagement. Through community engagement, the project proposes to Increase the collective impact by developing systems that empower residents to address their needs in the neighborhood, build capacity of resident leaders, and strengthen social connections among residents. MassDevelopment awarded Fitchburg with a TDI (Transformative Development Initiative) Fellow for 3 years. This Fellow works with the City and private developers to expand development in Downtown.

The City also continues to fund the Health Departments Code Enforcement activites in the CDBG target area, the areas with the highest concentration of low income rental households to improve the quality of housing for these renters.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

Fitchburg's Community Development Department will continue its practice of conducting regular program meetings during which the following agenda will be addressed: Review of all active housing cases and issues, including codes and CDBG/HOME regulatory compliance; Review of all proposed projects for compliance with program priorities and conformance with Consolidated Plan goals and strategies; including timeliness of expenditures; Review overall progress in meeting goals and strategies of the Consolidated Plan.

Final housing project recommendations are subject to the review and approval of the Community Development Executive Director and the Director of Housing and Development. Individuals who disagree with a decision or other action of the housing program or its staff, may appeal first to the Community Development Executive Director and then subsequently, to the Planning Board at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Both Fitchburg and Leominster's CDBG and HOME funded housing and code enforcement staff will work with their respective building departments and other municipal departments to ensure long term compliance with housing codes, and other appropriate regulations and statutes.

Contractor advertisements related to housing rehab include the statement: "Minority and women owned contracting firms and Section 3 businesses (owned by 51% or more by low or very-low income persons) are strongly encouraged to apply." In addition to its regular meetings, the Department solicits citizen participation and comment on its performance in meeting its overall Consolidated Plan program goals throughout each program year. Citizens and interested parties may offer comments at public hearings, etc. Any member of the public may review housing program policies and other public information available at the Community Development Department and on our website. We received no no written comments and any comments received during our first public hearing are provided in the copy of the minutes with our citizen participation attachments.

Both Fitchburg and Leominster participated in the North Central Mass. Community Reinvestment Act Coalition (NCMCRA) and the Continuum of Care Coalition which meets regularly with agencies and individuals representing various community needs, including the housing needs of the low income, minority and special needs population.

The City funded anti-poverty and minority agencies, including NewVue Communities, Inc., North Star Family Services, the Street Outreach Program, and MOC, Inc. Through the NewVue Communities CDBG-funded Microenterprise Program, income documentation was required for job creation and job retention with low-mod percentages. The CDBG mailing list includes minority agencies.

Performance Measurement was included in CDBG applications and monitoring forms. Action Plans contained activity descriptions, outputs and outcomes. The CDBG/HOME staff regularly monitored the programs and projects carried out under its CDBG and HOME programs. Program Monitoring and Fiscal Monitoring tools were used by Community Development Department when conducting formal agency monitoring. Job creation/job retention forms were used by CDBG subrecipients when appropriate. In addition to monitoring activities, an audit was required as part of the CDBG application and is reviewed upon receipt.

The Community Development Department's Director of Housing and Development was responsible for insuring that information submitted to HUD, through its IDIS reporting system, is correct and complete.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

The City maintains a Citizen Participation Plan to guide the Department in seeking public comment on Action Plans, Amendments, and Performance Reports.

In addition to the standard legal ads in the local newspaper, the Community Development Department utilizes its website, departmental newsletters, social media accounts, and emails notifications to alert the public to formal opportunities for feedback, including the Public Comment Form and public meetings. Staff contact information is available on the City website, and the comment portal remains open throughout the year.

This year, in recent updates to our Citizen Participation Plan, are now utilizing the Community Bulletin Board and televised public service announcements through the local Fitchburg Access Television as a means to increase outreach and participation of our community in lieu of the legal Ads in the local newspaper.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

The jurisdiction had no changes in the program objectives for the CDBG Year 49

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

The City is currently working with the Board of Health to schedule inspections for the calendar year 2024. Our previous inspector retired. All properties currently due an inspection will be inspected before the calendar year ends.

Projects subject to inspection include:

In Fitchburg: 470 Main St., 30 Summer St., 143 Marshall St., 16 Prichard St., 184 Prichard St., 69 Academy St., 4 Leighton St., 1428 Main St., 10 Main St,

In Leominster: 140 Adams St., 95 Adams St., 42 Terrace Dr., 24 State St., and 142 Water St.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)

We've reviewed and approved Fitchburg Arts Community and Journey Home's Affirmative Marketing and Tenant selection plans.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

During the program year the following projects were assisted with Program Income funds:

964- \$6131.49. The beneficiaries are a white Hispanic household of five, with an elder head of household and income below 80% of AMI..

969- \$5344.50. The beneficiaries are a white Hispanic household of three earning less than 80% AMI

1028 - \$229,300.05- The beneficiaries will be tenants with household incomes below 80% of AMI.

1048-\$25,000- The beneficiaries are a a small white family, non- Hispanic earning below 50% of AMI

1029 and 984- \$5904.22 and \$2050.52 respectively- this is Program Income allocated to admin and used for the administration of the HOME program.

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)

Several community programs have also been funded with CDBG funding to foster and maintain affordable housing. The City's CDBG funded Community Legal Aid to assist Fitchburg residents with eviction prevention, funded Habitat for Humanity's critical home repair to assist low-income homeowners to make needed home repairs, and funded code enforcement to ensure low income renters can live in housing that meets state required quality standards. Working with Habitat for Humanity, we provided down payment assistance to 1 low-income family with our HOME funding. The City is also providing HOME funding to assist NewVue Communities with the Fitchburg Arts Community which will provide 68 mixed-income, artist-preference apartments in three former historic municipal buildings, 10 of which will be benefit low-income and very low-income households. Four more units were assisted in the North Star Family Shelter Project will be specifically set aside for extremely low-income families living in shelter, ready to transition to permanent housing.

CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours	0	0			
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	0	0			
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0	0			

Table 14 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers	0	0			
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.	0	0			
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).	0	0			
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.	0	0			
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).	0	0			
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.	0	0			
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.	0	0			
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.	0	0			
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.	0	0			
Held one or more job fairs.	0	0			
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.	0	0			
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.	0	0			
Assisted residents with finding child care.	0	0			
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.	0	0			
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.	0	0			
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.	0	0			
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.	0	0			
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.	0	0			
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.	0	0			
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.	0	0			

Other.	0	0			
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Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

Our streetscapes activities up to this point have been combined activities. Each program year. While the activities combined exceed \$200,000, we have not had a single construction project that has exceeded \$200,000 in construction work that was contracted out to an individual company. Most of the work is completed by the municipality and therefore have had no section 3 eligible activities.

During the Program Year, the PJ funded the Fitchburg Arts Community Project, as this project is not yet complete, Section 3 data will be reported in the year the project is completed.