

Anoka County PY19 CAPER 9.22.2020 FINAL

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.

Anoka County's goals include utilizing available resources to improve and maintain existing housing stock, expanding development of affordable housing units, and improving the community as a whole by providing opportunities for job creation and redevelopment in commercial and industrial sectors.

For program year 2019 using CDBG funds, Anoka County supported the completion of housing projects along with the creation of jobs through business assistance. All activities/projects aimed to benefit low-to-moderate income households/persons. Over 13,550 persons were assisted through public service CDBG funded activities. Over 32 homeless persons benefitted from a CDBG funded project for The Dwelling Place housing rehabilitation projects providing transitional housing for households experiencing domestic abuse. Local housing improvements included the rehabilitation & preservation of 129 affordable multi-family rental units (CommonBond - Rainbow Plaza & Pine Point). Anoka County's Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program provided 7 single family rehab loans to low / moderate income households.

For the 2019 program year CDBG funds disbursed for activities by Anoka County totaled \$1,582,933 of which \$255,569 for planning and administration activities and \$242,500 for public services countywide. The demand for funds continues to exceed the amount available. Factoring in program income received during program year 2019, 68.26% of CDBG funding was directed to activities that benefit low-and-moderate income households. All projects funded met national objectives as well as high ranking goals and priorities established by the county.

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
Develop & Upgrade Public Facilities/Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	100	5465	5,465.00%			
Facilities and Services for Homeless	Homeless Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	250	1197	478.80%	12	32	266.67%
Fund Activities that Eliminate Slum/Blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	5	2	40.00%			
Fund Activities that Eliminate Slum/Blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	10	0	0.00%			
Planning and Administrative Projects	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	25	5	20.00%	1	0	0.00%
Preserve and Improve Housing	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	CDBG: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	207	414.00%	24	129	537.50%

Preserve and Improve Housing	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	200	76	38.00%	16	7	43.75%
Promote Equal Housing Opportunities	Fair Housing	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	5	5	100.00%			
Public Service Activities	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	24480	32567	133.04%	7896	13552	171.63%
Public Service Activities	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	681		16	0	0.00%
Public Service Activities	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	4		0	0	

Support Construction and Acquisition of Housing	Affordable Housing Public Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	1	5	500.00%			
Support Construction and Acquisition of Housing	Affordable Housing Public Housing	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	6	0	0.00%			
Support Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Brownfield acres remediated	Acre	0	1		1	1	100.00%
Support Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	50	7	14.00%	14	0	0.00%
Support Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	5	5	100.00%	1	0	0.00%

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 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan afforded Anoka County the opportunity to solicit community feedback and rank types of projects into high and low priorities. All projects solicited for funding through the competitive grant process meet one of our high priority goals.

Anoka County allocates funding through an annual competitive application process. Applications are then scored based on the applicant’s capacity, experience, project readiness to utilize funds and past performance. Municipalities, non-profit organizations and housing developers applications are reviewed first to assure a national objective has been met and scored to confirm the project meets a high priority as established in the Anoka Consolidated Plan. Before funds are awarded to a project the beneficiary data is established for each project funded. CDBG and HOME funds are limited and it is a priority of Anoka County

to ensure investments are meeting underserved populations.

PY2019 Anoka County Action Plan highlights included:

Preserve and Improve Housing - In PY19, Anoka County rehabbed a total of 7 single family homes. Anoka County's Rehab Loan Program completed 7 home rehabilitation projects serving low /moderate income households. CommonBond Communities completed two projects rehabbing 129 multi-family rental units at Pine Point Apartments in Coon Rapids and Rainbow Plaza in Anoka.

Projects Serving Homeless Persons - In PY19, over 32 homeless persons benefitted from CDBG-funded housing rehabilitation projects at The Dwelling Place which provides transitional housing for households experiencing domestic abuse.

Public Service - In PY19, CDBG funded various Public Service activities that served over 13,552 low / moderate income persons in Anoka County.

Support Economic Development - Anoka County plans to launch a county-wide economic development business revolving loan (RLF) program for area businesses. Development and implementation of policies and procedures is taking longer than anticipated. Currently, the Ham Lake Development Corporation offers a RLF program serving Ham Lake businesses.

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
White	7,852
Black or African American	1,567
Asian	332
American Indian or American Native	122
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	17
Total	9,890
Hispanic	637
Not Hispanic	9,253

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

Narrative

The racial and ethnic composition of persons assisted reflect the activities receiving CDBG funding, measured in the number of persons (individuals) assisted. Housing activities typically record the number of households served, not individuals.

Mixed race / multi race are NOT included in categories above are based on self reported race information. The table was pulled from activities recorded in IDIS.

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	2,144,873	1,582,933
Other	public - federal	0	

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Projects that serve the entire county or multiple municipalities score additional points during the application process. Funding decisions are based on the following criteria:

- Project eligibility/compliance with Federal regulations
- Consolidated Plan priority
- Benefit to low and moderate income persons
- Past performance (timeliness of expenditures, program compliance)
- Public services must show a marked increase in services or new services

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Anoka County	100	100	

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

All 2019 Program Year CDBG funding was targeted to activities located in Anoka County. Rather than allocating resources geographically, Anoka County uses a competitive application process with funding open to all cities, townships and public service agencies within the county. Projects that serve the entire county or multiple municipalities score additional points during the application process. Funding decisions are based on the following criteria:

- Project eligibility/compliance with Federal regulations
- Consolidated Plan priority
- Benefit to low and moderate income persons
- Past performance (timeliness of expenditures, program compliance)
- Public services must show a marked increase in services or new services

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.

Anoka County is a participant in the Dakota County Consortium. HOME-funded projects require a match contribution of 25%. Many projects funded exceed the minimum match requirement. The federal funds are used to leverage state tax credits, private financing, donations and in-kind services.

Matching Funds: To meet the requirements of the HOME program, projects funded with HOME funds are required to identify potential sources of match at the time of application. In order for the match requirements to be met, the funded projects must provide at least 25% in non-federal funds. Match identified in project applications come from state, local, private funding or in-kind services. If the project is funded, the percent of matching funds identified in the application becomes a requirement of the funding agreement.

Anoka County awards CDBG funds through a competitive application process that takes into account the applicants financial and/or in-kind contributions for the activity funding requested.

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	12	32
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	12	32

Table 5 – 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	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	40	136
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	40	136

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

Anoka County recognizes the growing need for affordable housing in our community.

Preserve and Improve Housing - In PY19, Anoka County rehabbed a total of 7 single family homes belonging to low /moderate income households. CommonBond Communities completed two projects serving 129 multi-family rental units being rehabilitated at Pine Point Apartments in Coon Rapids and Rainbow Plaza in Anoka.

Projects Serving Homeless Persons - In PY19, over 32 homeless persons benefitted from a CDBG-funded housing rehabilitation project at The Dwelling Place which provides transitional housing for households experiencing domestic abuse.

Public Service - In PY19, CDBG funded Public Service activities served over 13,552 low / moderate income persons in Anoka County.

Support Economic Development - Anoka County plans to launch a county-wide economic development business revolving loan (RLF) program. Development of policies and procedures to implement the program is taking longer than anticipated. Currently, the Ham Lake Development Corporation offers a RLF program serving Ham Lake businesses.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Affordable housing remains a priority with Anoka County, the 2015-2019 Con Plan established goals for the number of persons / households served. Funding constraints make it difficult to meet the actual needs of low / moderate persons. Anoka County will continue to fund projects that create affordable housing as part of our new 2020-24 Con Plan.

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	48	0
Low-income	19	0
Moderate-income	37	0
Total	104	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

The CDBG numbers reported above are households served, not persons served. The Dakota County Consortium reports the results of projects using HOME funding.

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

Anoka County, as part of the Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care, uses a 4-step process in its Coordinated Entry System (CES) to reach out to homeless persons and assess their individual needs.

Step 1 is a basic assessment tool that addresses the safety of the household and triages households who can be diverted from homelessness from those who will become homeless. Households who are homeless are referred to shelter.

Step 2 uses VI-SPDAT to identify housing stability barriers. Households receive a score indicating the type of housing that best fits the needs. Supplemental questions are asked to identify eligibility and client preference to ensure appropriate referrals. Assessments are administered by a trained assessor.

Step 3 puts households on a housing priority list based on assessment score and date. The priority list is managed by CoC designated staff.

Step 4 refers households to a housing provider who will contact the household within 72 hours to obtain documentation for admission. Once a referral has been made, the provider contacts the household and over the course of 5 business days, makes every attempt to contact the referred household. The goal is to meet with the client and enroll or deny them as quickly as possible (within an average of 15 days from initial contact).

Provider participation in CES increased in 2019 by 20%. The Coordinated Entry System (CES) workgroup continues to work at improving the homeless response system. The workgroup has found additional areas of development and created ways to meet client needs including a structure to gather client feedback.

County homeless services, which include Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), has an embedded position in the county's Adult Mental Health Intake (AMHI). Target populations for PATH are those living in places not meant for habitation or the emergency shelter, who have an identified mental health diagnosis. The PATH worker is now able to screen for eligibility for the Social Security Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program. In 2018, Anoka County was awarded DHS funds for a new Housing Resource Coordinator and Outreach Social Worker to work with those who are in and out of emergency systems.

Community outreach and tenancy supports to homeless persons has increased tremendously with the creation of Housing with Supports for Adults with Serious Mental Illness (HSASMI) providers. Touchstone Mental Health became a new HSASMI provider in Anoka County and has requested 12 Housing Support beds for market rate housing. Additional service partnerships include Mental Health Resources and Radias Health who are also HSASMI funded agencies. Anoka County awarded Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Wellbeing, AMHI funds to provide housing transition and tenancy supports. This effort will be expanded in the coming year to further address the needs of homeless persons. Anoka County has also aligned with State and Federal plans to help end homelessness for youth by 2020. This alignment resulted in 44 youth being housed by CES.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Anoka County has 115 emergency shelter beds: 66 for singles and 49 for families, and 72 transitional housing beds: 18 for singles, 18 for families, 23 for single youth and 13 for youth-headed families, to meet the needs of homeless persons. In PY19, The Dwelling Place received CDBG funds to improve their transitional housing for victims of domestic abuse.

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

To meet the objectives of low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after discharge from institutions, Anoka County aligned with the CoC's State-adopted mandated discharge policies. In doing so, coordination occurred locally between Regional and State programs to ensure that persons being discharged, from their respective facilities, were not discharged to homelessness. In addition, the county used the CES to streamline access to resources, to ensure appropriate placement of persons being discharged from any of the aforementioned facilities. As a result, Anoka County served over 250 households through: Bridges, Bridges RTC, Long-Term Homeless Housing Support, and CoC-funded housing programs.

State funding through the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) connected 26 households with a Rapid Re-Housing program, the most important component being case management and the connection to mainstream resources. Tenant Based Rent Assistance (TBRA) opened its waiting list for 12 days with 10 available subsidies. Preferences were given to households who were homeless, soon-to-be homeless, or severely rent burdened. Additionally, 52 families continued to receive rental assistance through the Rental Assistance for Anoka County (RAAC) program.

Anoka County also works with health insurance providers and the State of Minnesota, which is a Medicaid expansion state, to facilitate enrollment and improve health outcomes for program participants. The County also partners with hospitals to provide outreach services to persons who are homeless and accessing emergency rooms to increase enrollment and connect to resources through Coordinated Entry (CE).

The primary mainstream employment organizations in Anoka County are the Workforce Center and supported employment programs offered by Rise Inc. and Vocational Rehab Services. These organizations work with households to: 1) provide job readiness services, including employment coaching, financial/educational job readiness training, career training, resume creations, practice interviews, etc. 2) recruit employers willing to hire individuals with limited employment histories, and 3) provide on the job support, including on-site coaching, childcare, transportation, clothing, and advocacy with employers. Additionally, Anoka County also uses SOAR training to increase staff capacity and assist households applying for SSI and SSDI. To further support households in connecting with mainstream resources, Anoka County granted 13,018 households Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) Housing Assistance during the 2019 program year. MSA Housing Assistance helps people with disabilities who pay more than 40% of their income toward housing costs so that they have a choice about where they live.

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

FHPAP provided rent assistance to 76 households to support them in preventing an episode of homelessness. Additionally, 27 households who were homeless received rental assistance, to move into permanent housing through a damage deposit and/or first months rent. Other homeless resources include Bridges vouchers and State-funded transitional housing.

Aeon opened a 54-unit project including 4 Long-Term Homeless units in the Fall 2018. If all the other development projects get approved financing, an additional 209 units will be built in Anoka County over the next 2 years, including 26 Long-Term Homeless units for high priority households.

Veterans are prioritized on the CE priority list for access to non-Veteran specific housing resources. Strong coordination with the VA and MN Assistance Council for Veterans, County Veteran Service Officers has resulted in 15 veteran households being housed. Leveraging SSVF, prioritizing veterans in CE, and using the Minnesota Homeless Veteran Registry are some of the strategies the CoC has identified to ensure that all available resources are being maximized to achieve the goal of ending veteran homelessness.

Anoka County, as a member of the CoC, is reducing the length of time persons spend being homeless through Coordinated Entry (CE). The CE process ensures broad awareness & rapid access to assessments that connect clients to housing programs most aligned with their needs. The CoC set performance measures for CE: length of time from identification to assessment (5 business days), referral to contact (5 business days), and contact to program enrollment (15 days). Anoka County programs connected with CE follow the policies outlined to ensure quality service to clients. The CoC established program targets for clients who have been on the priority list and homeless the longest (CPD 16-11). CE prioritizes serving people with the longest histories of homelessness (CPD 16-11) for all programs within the CoC including CoC & ESG funded projects. The CoC reviews HMIS data quarterly and provides it to the CoC Governing Board for use in funding and policy decisions.

Anoka County adheres to the CoC's System Performance Measures to determine their success in preventing and minimizing returns to homelessness. In 2018 the overall total return to homelessness was 9.7% over 2 years. Returns after exiting PSH were only 3.4%, while returns after exiting emergency shelter were 12.8%. Given the data, the CoC has targeted efforts toward increasing successful ES exits. The primary strategy is to utilize CE to rapidly assess clients and offer connection to housing supports. CE also identifies those who are returning to homelessness. The CoC's adoption of HUD Notice CPD-16-11 ensures that priority is given to chronically homeless households. Regular review of project performance helped to create improvements to service models including connecting households to income, mainstream resources, community supports and life skills.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

There are no active Public Housing Authorities (PHA's) in Anoka County.

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

N/A

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)

Numerous barriers exist in the creation of affordable housing including, but not limited to, exclusionary zoning, transportation obstacles and fair housing issues. Anoka County does not have planning or zoning authority. Cities and townships within the county are responsible for these activities. As a result, the county's focus is on educating local governments about the negative impact of exclusionary zoning. Anoka County is a participant in the regional Fair Housing Implementation Council (FHIC) and works alongside other members to educate decision makers (including municipalities) about the effects of policies that are barriers to fair housing.

The FHIC has updated the Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice. The AI is an important document to help policy makers prioritize resources that promote fair housing and eliminate barriers to fair housing. Recently, the FHIC hired a consulting group to prepare an Addendum to the AI. This Addendum is specifically focused on the protected classes of Race and National Origin and the experiences people of color may have with segregation, housing discrimination, displacement, gentrification, and housing choice in the seven county metro area (includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington). An important part of this Addendum is a robust community engagement and information gathering process that involves communities most likely to experience discrimination, but whose experiences with discrimination may have been underrepresented in previous AI's.

As a sub-recipient of the Fair Housing Implementation Council, the Minnesota Housing Partnership issues a Request for Proposals ("RFP") to organizations meeting the qualifications outlined in the RFP to conduct a community engagement process intended to gather information about barriers to fair housing and solutions to overcome those barriers.

The Metropolitan Council HRA (Metro HRA) provides administration of the Section 8 voucher program throughout Anoka County. The Section 8 voucher program has a long wait list, often exceeding five years. Anoka County works to address housing for "worst-case needs" by utilizing other programs providing temporary assistance to fill the gap. Programs used to meet the needs of very low income renters include McKinney Vento funds, PATH funds for assist those with mental illness. Families not eligible for temporary assistance may utilize Anoka County Emergency Assistance dollars to assist with first month rent, as well as funds from sources such as the McKnight Foundation to provide emergency assistance if they get behind in rent payments.

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

There are many obstacles in meeting the needs of the underserved including lack of public transportation along with a lack of suitable land, public resistance, the Metropolitan Utilities Service Area (MUSA) line, and restrictive zoning that contribute to a lack of affordable housing units.

Two ongoing obstacles with regard to public transportation are limited bus routes and limited schedules. Current transportation options are provided by Metro Transit buses (limited service area / limited service hours), the Anoka County Traveler, and the NorthStar Commuter Rail. The NorthStar Commuter Rail project parallels Highway 10 from Big Lake, Minnesota to downtown Minneapolis and traverses 34 miles within Anoka County but only operates during peak commute times. The county-operated public transportation program, The Anoka Traveler, attempts to meet the needs of Anoka County residents; however, the number of buses, service hours, and funding is limited.

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

Anoka County has implemented lead-based paint regulations found at 24 C.F.R. Part 35, the regulations for Notification, Evaluation and Reduction of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Federally Owned Residential Property and Housing Receiving Federal Assistance (the Final Rule, published 9/15/00).

Anoka County homeowners receiving a housing rehabilitation loan are provided with educational material regarding the dangers of lead-based paint in their home. The county currently has access to three individuals who are trained and certified as Risk Assessors to ensure proficiency in conducting lead-based paint inspections. One contractor has been certified in lead-based paint removal, and additional contractors will be receiving assistance with training and certification. Program staff evaluates the best approach to lead hazard control work so it can be efficiently and safely carried out before or during rehabilitation. The owner, contractor and program staff discuss how the rehabilitation work will be carried out and determine if the homeowner will need to be relocated. After all work is completed, the inspector will do final clearance testing. These steps help to protect residents in properties supported with federal funds.

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

Anoka County works to alleviate poverty through many of its CDBG and HOME funded projects; i.e. providing affordable housing and/or job creation. Various county-wide organizations and the Continuum of Care combine their efforts to coordinate programs and opportunities. Strategies are currently implemented through a variety of methods that include: Workforce Development Initiative, Jobs and Training, homeownership programs, homebuyer education and foreclosure prevention, Head Start, and Individual Development Accounts.

In an effort to increase employment and business opportunities for low and very-low income households, Anoka County complies with Section 3 requirements which provide preference to low and

very-low income residents, regardless of race or gender; and the businesses that employ these low-income persons for new employment, training and contracting opportunities resulting from HUD-funded projects.

Community Development programs work to provide stability to neighborhoods by maintaining and improving the current housing stock. Anoka County provides services for low-income neighborhoods or target populations allows residents to maintain self sufficiency. Anoka County utilizes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds to create and continue neighborhood programs that address the needs of low and moderate income households, as well as disabled, youth and senior populations.

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

As noted in SP-40 of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, gaps are found in the institutional delivery system when important public service activities are presented to the Anoka County Community Development Department for funding and the activity must be denied because it's not deemed a high priority within the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. When situations like this arise, it is possible an activity may be deemed a high priority in the next Five-Year Consolidated Plan as long as impacted citizens are in favor.

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

Anoka County Community Development, along with private developers, non-profit organizations, Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's), the 21 municipalities within Anoka County, private business, and Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care (SMAC) work closely with each other to coordinate efforts and services. Anoka County will enhance coordination by continuing to network and seek out new partnership opportunities.

As mentioned previously, SMAC has developed a coordinated assessment tool, which has proven successful in providing services regarding homeless prevention, supportive services, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.

Anoka County coordinates with a wide range of public and private partners to provide opportunities in our community. State housing assistance, managed by Anoka County Economic Assistance, eligibility requirements for these MN Housing programs:

Emergency Assistance (EA): One-time financial shelter assistance to singles, families, and youth.

MN Supplemental Aid (MSA): Disabled adults may qualify for shelter costs if housing is more than 40% of household gross income.

Housing Support Group Residential Housing (GRH): Room-and-board costs for people with disabilities, and people aged 65 or over, who have low income and assets and live in certain Adult Foster Care or other facilities.

GRH Long-term Homeless Program: Room-and-board costs for people with disabilities and who meet MN's definition of long-term homeless.

Metro HRA: Manages housing subsidies issued to qualified residents-Section 8 for County.

COC Housing (formally Shelter+Care): Permanent housing subsidy for disabled individuals who meet HUDs definition of Chronic Homeless. Adult Mental Health Intake staff and the PATH worker have direct access to housing subsidies via Anoka County Coordinated Entry.

Long-term Homeless (LTH)Bridges: Helps people with mental illness and LTH pay for housing until they receive a Section 8 voucher. The Adult Mental Health Department has direct access to LTH Bridges.

Rental Assistance in Anoka County (RAAC): Enables eligible households who receive case benefits (MFIP/DWP) for housing by subsidizing a portion of each tenant's rent.

Bridges: Helps people with mental illness who are exiting an institution and would be homeless. Bridges pays for housing until they receive a Section 8 voucher. The Adult Mental Health Department makes referrals to Bridges for eligible clients needing housing assistance.

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

In order to ensure that all people have equal access to housing of their choice, Anoka County implements the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. To implement these fair housing related acts and laws, Anoka County faithfully participates in Fair Housing activities.

Anoka County participates in the Fair Housing Implementation Council (FHIC) comprised of staff from Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington Counties, and the Cities of Coon Rapids and Woodbury. The purpose of the FHIC is to affirmatively further fair housing throughout the Twin Cities five-county area. Anoka County allocated \$9,000 to the FHIC to fund activities designed to stop discrimination and promote integration. The activities funded are a response to the Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice. The AI evaluates housing-related policies and practices that may prevent people from living where they would like. It provides an educational tool for housing planners, policymakers and industry professionals. Anoka County and the FHIC use the AI as a tool to outline affirmative Fair Housing actions. Based on Action Plan recommendations listed in the AI, Anoka County and the FHIC have taken actions to address several impediments including updating the AI in

PY19. The updated Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, is currently out for Public Comments and will receive a Public Hearing in Anoka County on September 22, 2020.

Anoka County is focused on these Impediments to Fair Housing Choice:

- Insufficient interest in fair housing
- Lack of sufficient outreach and education
- Insufficient system capacity
- Lack of effective referral system
- Lack of understanding of fair housing
- Discrimination and harassment in the rental markets
- Discrimination of Section 8 Voucher Holders

Anoka County focused on the following Actions to Address the above Impediments to Fair Housing Choice:

- Stimulate additional fair housing outreach and education activities
- Enhance coordination of fair housing activities, including a better referral system
- Enhance homebuyer education
- Encourage inclusive housing location policies for both private and public housing providers
- Enhance outreach and education to rental housing providers and continue supporting complaint-based testing and enforcement
- Encourage local government actions that are more in the spirit of affirmatively furthering fair housing

Anoka County partnered with Housing Link and other counties/cities to produce four high quality short videos to educate renters on overcoming barriers in their background that prevent them from accessing rental housing. Project was completed in late fall 2018.

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

The Anoka County Monitoring Plan provides a format for evaluating and reporting on a sub-recipient's compliance with CDBG and HOME program requirements. In PY19, Anoka County conducted site reviews on Public Service funding recipients to confirm records and documents have been maintained verifying proper use and administration of program funding. Monitoring was done in a timely and thorough manner to ensure programs are in compliance with CDBG and HOME regulations.

Standard Procedures for Review and Monitoring: Reviews are completed in addition to the normal ongoing administration and analysis of CDBG and HOME operations. Areas to be reviewed include management procedures, goals, achievements, record keeping, financial status, construction and labor standards (if applicable), procurement procedures and public service.

Monitoring also includes: In-house review of files, on-site examination of the sub-recipient's documents and files; a follow-up with written conclusions and recommendations for change, if appropriate. Sub-recipients are monitored on the documents and records that qualify the project as well as an examination of records and documents verifying the project was adequately completed.

Risk Assessment: All projects are subject to monitoring. We monitor high-risk projects as a first priority. A project is designated as high risk: if known problems exist; construction or other activities are underway; is a relatively large grant amount; has not previously been monitored; proposed closeout in the near future; changes in conditions; potential impact of adverse findings; new to the CDBG/HOME program; experiencing key staff turnover; plagued by past compliance or performance problems; undertaking multiple CDBG/HOME funded activities for the first time; not submitting timely reports.

Projects that do not set off high-risk triggers or involve experienced fund recipients who are successfully carrying out activities will have a more focused monitoring; one that examines areas where regulations have changed, or new activities are undertaken or aspects of the program have led to problems in the past. Comprehensive monitoring reviews will be conducted periodically on all projects, even those with strong past performances.

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.

Anoka County publishes legal notices inviting citizens to submit comments on Anoka County's Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) during the public comment period and/or participate in a public hearing. The public hearing is held at the Anoka County Government Center as part of an Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (ACHRA) meeting. Copies of the CAPER are available for citizen review and available online at www.AnokaCounty.us/cd.

Part of building an effective Consolidated Plan is encouraging participation from citizens within the community. To meet this requirement, a specially designed written survey was distributed county-wide. The survey asked Anoka County citizens to designate potential HUD activities as either a High or Low priority as related to helping low-and-moderate income individuals and the needs they identified within the communities. In an effort to reach as many households as possible the survey was distributed to households in the county by various methods: online, county-wide newsletter insert, news release, libraries, license bureaus, lobby displays and other points of contact. Of those completing the survey, 100% of the respondents reported they were Anoka County residents. Other departments within the county were also given info and surveys to complete, including social services, our Continuum of Care (CoC) group, economic assistance services, senior and youth services, etc. The homeless data reported in the 2015-2019 CON Plan came from our CoC group.

PY19 CAPER - Anoka County held a public hearing on September 22, 2020 offering any interested party the chance to comment on the 2019 CAPER. A Notice of Public Comment period was also published and ran from August 28, 2020 through September 21, 2020. No comments, written or verbal, were received. Additional outreach efforts for the PY19 CAPER included working with the Anoka County Human Services Division and partner organizations / agencies to seek input from minorities, non-English speaking persons, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

Anoka County also used resources such as social media and electronic notifications to further enhance the awareness of the Consolidated Plan process to both residents and organizations. Through the use of the County website, Facebook and Twitter accounts we were able to send out notices and information in regards to the process and survey for the plan. Additionally, all public notices are published not only in local print media options, but also supported with a post on the Community Development webpage. This provides information as a direct link to the process and a way to further allow citizens the opportunity to participate and provide information into the overall process. The impact of these efforts provides the County a base for determining high priority activities. Through the collection of responses we were able to determine a pattern and support through many similar types of projects and public service needs. The needs and priorities that were designated for use in the 2015-2019 CON Plan were determined by combining all of the various responses received from agencies, citizens, municipalities and others.

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.

In program year 2015 there were Substantial Amendments to our Con Plan to reflect changes in how our units of measurement were recorded. The changes are mostly technical in nature as the IDIS system was new when our 2015-2019 Con Plan / 2015 Action Plan was created.

In program year 2016 there were no Substantial Amendments to our Con Plan.

In program year 2017, a Substantial Amendment was made to our Con Plan to increase the number of housing units under the goal of "Support construction / acquisition of housing" from 1 housing unit to a new goal of 8 housing units. There is strong community need for more affordable housing units.

In program year 2018, a Substantial Amendment was made to our Con Plan to increase the number of activities available for area citizens responded to have the greatest community need. Additional activities included: increase the number of homeless facility activities from 7 to 9 projects under the goal "Homeless Facilities (not operating costs); increase the number of homeowner assistance activities from 1 to 3 projects under the goal "Direct Homeowner Assistance"; increase the number of single family home rehabilitation activities from 18 to 20 projects under the goal "Rehabilitation; Single Unit Residential); increase the number of mulit-family home rehabilitation activities from 3 to 5 projects under the goal "Rehabilitation; Multi-Unit Residential); increase the number of senior public service activities from 6 to 8 projects under the goal "Senior Services"; and increase the number of transporation public service activities from 4 to 6 projects under the goal "Transportation".

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

No

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

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