

Executive Summary

ES-05 Executive Summary - 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

Anoka County's five year Consolidated Plan provides a framework for identifying housing, homeless, community and economic development needs, as well as available resources, and to tailor a strategic plan for meeting those needs. This Consolidated Plan covers the five year period of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2020, or the program years 2015-2019. The Consolidated Plan also provides citizens with a means to help define their local government's priorities for addressing the aforementioned needs and resources. The plan also serves as a resource guide to the general public, municipalities, and community groups and coalitions.

For Anoka County, submitting the plan is a statutory requirement in order to receive annual funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD sets forth the basic format and content for the Consolidated Plan. There are three basic statutory goals that entitlement programs must meet: 1) Provide decent housing; 2) Provide a suitable living environment; and, 3) Expand economic opportunities. This plan details how those 3 goals will be met by Anoka County over the next five years.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The 2015-2019 Anoka County Consolidated Plan has identified the following objectives and outcomes:

- 1. Support construction and acquisition of housing to create decent and safe housing for lower income persons.** Funded through HOME & CDBG. Affordability of Decent Housing outcome.
- 2. Preserve and improve housing through rehabilitation of existing structures.** Funded through HOME & CDBG. Affordability of Decent Housing outcome.
- 3. Promote equal housing opportunities.** Funded through HOME & CDBG. Availability/Accessibility of Suitable Living Environment outcome.
- 4. Fund activities that eliminate slum and blight for the creation of new development.** Funded through HOME & CDBG. Sustainability of Suitable Living Environment outcome.
- 5. Develop and upgrade public facilities and infrastructure to help lower income persons and those with special needs.** Funded through CDBG. Availability/Accessibility of Suitable Living Environment outcome.

6. **Support economic development in Anoka County to provide new jobs, primarily for lower income persons.** Funded through CDBG. Sustainability of Economic Opportunity.
7. **Fund public service activities serving primarily lower income persons and those with special needs.** Funded through CDBG. Availability/Accessibility of Suitable Living Environment outcome.
8. **Complete planning and administration projects that support the above objectives.** Funded through HOME & CDBG.
9. **Evaluate support facilities and service needs of the homeless and those at eminent threat of becoming homeless, and identify appropriate agencies and resources.** Funded through Continuum of Care process. Availability/Accessibility of Decent Housing outcome.

3. Evaluation of past performance (need to add some meat, stats/facts)

During the five years in which the previous Consolidated Plan was active (program years 2010-2014), Anoka County worked with and encouraged applicants to select projects that met the needs and goals identified in the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan. Those goals were later categorized as eligible objectives and outcomes. Unmet needs were addressed with available funds to the fullest extent possible.

Anoka County utilized available resources to improve and maintain existing housing stock, to expand development of affordable housing units through new construction and first time homebuyer programs, and to better the community as a whole by creating jobs and encouraging redevelopment activities through economic development programs. Projects over the past five years have worked to address rehabilitation needs the existing single family housing options. Rehabilitation has included work to address health, safety, code and lead based paint hazards. The rehabilitation program has also been able to partner with additional funding opportunities offered through the State of Minnesota and the Department of Agriculture to continue to offer options that address housing and maintain the affordable housing condition. Past performance also shows Anoka County committed local HOME funds to improve or maintain affordable housing. HOME funds were committed alone and in coordination with other State and Federal funding opportunities to develop new single and multifamily housing units, rehabilitate existing housing units, and to make housing affordable through tenant based rental assistance and down payment assistance programs.

Accomplishments for CDBG in Anoka County also address various social service needs to low-income residents including activities that provide health and mental health services, disability services and senior programs to reduce isolation by providing group transportation and meal programs. Public service funding has worked with agencies that target the health and well-being of children and youth and families within the battered spouse programs. Anoka County through the public service agencies assisted over ten thousand low income households with basic needs and services. The county continues to support programs such as these not only with federal CDBG dollars but directly using state and local funds to continue to improve opportunities for households.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

Anoka County used several methods of contact when seeking citizen input to determine what HUD-approved activities should be deemed a “High” priority and funded during the 2015-2019 CON Plan period. Prior to conducting the required public hearing and public comment period in 2015 to approve the CON Plan, info and data were gathered as follows:

- Staff met with 17 of the county’s 21 city administrators/staff to personally discuss needs and priorities. Surveys were emailed to those cities that did not want to meet;
- A work session was held on August 7, 2014, for county non-profits, faith based communities and other organizations to discuss and identify the needs and gaps that are barriers to the low-to-moderate income households;
- Staff was available to meet with any citizen, business, organization or government official who requested info or wanted to discuss the priorities and CON Plan;
- Information was presented to all county departments (Human Services, Sheriff, Senior Services, etc.) at monthly Management Committee meetings. Departments were encouraged to submit completed surveys as they provide daily services to many of the county’s low-income residents;
- A written survey was used to gather the data to determine what activities were of a high priority to the community through the use of displays at county libraries, license centers and the Government Center lobby, and emailed to public service agencies, developers, area churches, school district superintendents, and past CDBG and HOME funding recipients
- This survey was made available to the public via our county website for a period of 45 days.

Once the deadline for submitting survey responses passed and the data was tallied, a new “Needs and Priorities Chart” was presented to the Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (ACHRA) Board on October 28, 2014 for approval. The ACHRA Board gave their approval and this new “Needs and Priorities Chart” was included as part of the 2015 CDBG and HOME funding applications packet.

The public was given the opportunity to make comments on the 2015-2019 CON Plan at two public hearings; one hearing was held on March 12, 2015 and was open to any residents of our HOME Consortium’s jurisdictions, and the other hearing was held at the ACRHA Board Meeting on March 24, 2015. They were also able to make any final comments during our published Public Comment period which ran from March 27, 2015 to 4:30 p.m. on April 27, 2015.

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 not only provides information to the internal County departments but also allows organizations who may not have been able to attend the work session a direct link to the process and a way to further refer citizens of Anoka County and their programs.

5. Summary of public comments

No comments regarding the 2015-2019 CON Plan or 2015 annual Action Plan were received during the March 12th or 24th hearings.

A comment was received in a direct response to a CDBG funding decision. At the March 24, 2015 hearing one CDBG funding applicant, Bryon Laher of the Community Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) did comment on their 2015 application which was not recommended for funding. The ACHRA Board of Trustees took his comment into account however funding recommendations were not changed.

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

All comments or views were accepted.

7. Summary

Anoka County, using a variety of methods to broaden public participation, encouraged its residents, agencies, municipalities and organizations to provide input in the development of the activities/priorities of greatest need for our low-to-moderate income citizens during the upcoming 5-year period. Our main data-gathering tool was a survey which was made available to potential participants starting in July with an August 29th deadline for submission. In June of 2014 department staff scheduled one-on-one meetings with city administrators and community development directors. At these meetings the CON Plan process was explained, questions about upcoming needs were discussed and the survey was left for completion. The survey was also discussed at the county's monthly Management Committee meetings, attended by all department heads, which allowed us to notify other departments of the need for their input. An August 7, 2014, a work session was held for public services, faith based organizations and other non-profit agencies. This along with emails and on-line information these steps provided us opportunities to further gather public participation and gather input. Once the survey results were compiled a *Needs and Priority Chart* was drafted, approved by the ACHRA Board in October as the goals and priorities of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

The Process

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies - 91.200(b)

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

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	Anoka County	Community Development
Joint Agreement	City of Coon Rapids	Community Development

Table 1– Responsible Agencies

Narrative

Anoka County as an Urban County is the Lead Agency responsible for it and through a Joint Powers agreement, the City of Coon Rapids as an entitlement community.

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PR-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(I)

1. Introduction

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

In preparing the Consolidated Plan, Anoka County consulted with other public and private agencies that provide assisted housing, health services, and social services including those focusing on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, and homeless persons. On August 7, 2014 Community Development Staff held a work session for all interested parties inviting faith-based organizations, social service organizations, homeless organizations, food shelves, and other health and mental health providers to discuss priorities. At this meeting we discussed the Consolidated Plan process, the impact of funding and the priorities within the Anoka County community. The Minnesota Department of Health and Anoka County Public Health Department documents were consulted to determine the need for lead based paint hazard testing. 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 not only provides information to the internal County departments but also allows organizations who may not have been able to attend the work session a direct link to the process and a way to further refer citizens of Anoka County and their programs.

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

Anoka County is a member of the Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care, (SMAC) along with the counties of Carver, Dakota, Scott and Washington. Each county within the CoC has created and implemented their own response to those persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Monthly face-to-face meetings occur where members of each county discuss best practices and look to develop common policies and procedures as a framework for Coordinated Entry. The region utilizes the same policies and procedures when determining priority for housing resources. In addition, the Waitlist managers at each County have monthly phone calls to talk through issues or concerns and share successes as it relates to households coming off the waitlist and being matched to programs. Whereas Anoka started its Coordinated Entry process in October 2014, the other counties launched their pilot in January 2015. Anoka is leading the conversation as it pertains to Coordinated Entry. Anoka County has a joint effort between the Continuum of Care, State homeless prevention programs and its Heading Home Initiative. The group meets monthly to coordinate efforts and programs with the homeless

population and service providing. Anoka County feels this increases communication and strengthens program participation in both homeless prevention and assistance.

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

With Anoka County being an active member in SMAC, annual meetings of are conducted to review funding, assess performance, evaluate outcomes, develop funding and review policies and procedures for HMIS administration.

The SMAC Governing Board is a body elected by SMAC membership to carry out the duties and responsibilities as delegated by SMAC to ensure compliance with the requirements as described in the HEARTH Act and the CoC Interim Rule. There are four distinct regions within SMAC. To ensure adequate representation, each region will select up to three members to sit on the SMAC Governing Board. SMAC Governing Board composition will be reviewed annually to ensure adequate diversity and representation from persons having experienced homelessness. Solicitation will be made to identify new members from under-represented groups.

Specific responsibilities of the Governing Board include, but are not limited to:

- Lead organization for the planning, development, and implementation of the response to homelessness in SMAC, also referred to as SMAC Plan
- Drafting and approving all formal documents related to the above described responsibilities
- Strategic planning and goal setting
- Monitoring and evaluating performance goals for all homeless housing and service providers in SMAC, including all CoC, ESG and FHPAP providers
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of SMAC Collaborative Applicant
- Monitoring and evaluating system-wide goals related to ending and preventing homelessness
- Ensuing the availability of data for planning and goal setting
- Establishing priorities and making decisions about the allocation of CoC resources
- Developing written guidelines that define CoC priorities, eligibility standards for all components of the CoC Plan, and data collection and reporting requirements for all providers
- Aligning and coordinating CoC and other homeless assistance and mainstream resources
- Establishing sub-committees and task forces, as needed, to carry out the work of SMAC
- Enter into contracts and MOU's on behalf of SMAC and monitor performance under these contracts
- Establish and implement a communications plan to ensure transparency of CoC operations and results to SMAC and the general public

SMAC has decided to operate within a statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and, along with the other CoC regions in the state, has designated Wilder Research Center (WRC) as the lead agency of that system, a role which includes:

- **Operate the CoC HMIS**
 - Data and Technical Standards Compliance: Wilder Research Center will ensure that this operation will be in compliance with the HMIS Data and Technical Standards (69 FR 146, March 10, 2010). WRC will review this compliance on an annual basis and report to SMAC Governing Board on the review results with any corrective action if it is required.
 - Policies and Procedures: WRC will maintain comprehensive HMIS operational policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, a privacy plan, security plan, and data quality plan. These policies and procedures will be reviewed for any needed updates annually.
 - Training and Technical Assistance: WRC will provide regular and ongoing training and technical assistance and support to all homeless system agencies using the HMIS network.
 - Monitor System Participation / Data Quality Performance: WRC will monitor regularly the number of homeless system agencies utilizing the network and report the percentages to SMAC. WRC will work collaboratively with SMAC to develop a plan to address low participation rates, as needed.
- **Reporting / Analysis**
 - Performance Reporting: WRC will coordinate a collaborative effort with SMAC to design a CoC-wide performance outcomes report, consistent with the expectations of the HEARTH Act.

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR): WRC will manage the collection of all data elements required for the Annual Homeless Assessment Report and enter the data as required into the HUD Homeless Data Exchange on behalf of SMAC.

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

The county engaged and requested input from a range of housing and social service providers including area food shelves and meals on wheels programs, domestic violence caregivers, homeless shelters, general health and mental health care providers. Staff looked to agencies that help seniors and youth, transportation services, the school districts and colleges, faith-based organizations and the Community Action Program (CAP). Efforts were made to address many social and health service needs. Anoka County as a jurisdiction has services meeting the basic living, education and health needs within its boundaries that work with very low and low income families. Some programs participating in the consolidated plan process provide one specific service while others such as the CAP provide multiple types of services targeting a variety of low income households and their needs. Both the CAP and the City of Columbia Heights/Public Housing Authority, were contacted to become engaged in the consolidated plan process as they are both identified affordable housing providers. Steps to interest and receive the participation of these agencies included Anoka County holding work sessions for the groups identified and provided information in regards to the current plan and its successes. Further discussed were the needs and gaps of existing projects/programs and the process of identifying the priorities in the county for the next five years. Each agencies was requested to complete a survey with the identified needs of social and community services that residents are using and struggling with. With input from faith based organizations and established social services agencies it was identified that many of the services presented as a high priority are similar to the past five years. As Anoka County

participates in a member of a regional fair housing organization, it has continued to further update an develop an Analysis of Impediments and continues to work with local agencies and jurisdictional partners.

Participating Agencies:

Categories	Surveys Sent	Responses
Anoka County depts. that provide services	18	2
CAP Agency (ACCAP)	1	0
Faith-based organizations providing meals, shelters, etc	21	2
Disability / Mental Health / Special needs	7	3
Food Shelves & Meals on Wheels	8	3
Health/Medical service providers	2	2
Homeless providers	7	2
Municipalities within Anoka County	21	17
School Districts within Anoka County	10	2
Transportation providers	2	2
Youth service providers	5	1
Public Housing Authority, City of Columbia Heights	1	1
Totals:	103	37

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated
Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

Category	Participating Public/Private Agency
Homeless Services Chronically Homeless	Alexandra House Stepping Stone Emergency Housing Anoka County Heading Home Committee
Health, Disability and Mental Health Services	Arc Greater Twin Cities North Suburban Counseling Services Nucleus Clinic Family Life Center Lee Carlson Center North Metro Pediatrics
Social Services	Anoka County Human Services Department Anoka County - Minnesota Family Investment Program Anoka County Community Action Program, Inc. (ACCAP) Coon Rapids Blaine Meals on Wheels
Other	Community Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP)

	Southern Anoka County Assistance Program (SACA) YMCA Greater Twin Cities Advent Lutheran Church Family Welcome Center, Anoka Hennepin Dist #11 Forest Lake Area Schools Free to Be United Methodist Church of Anoka Anoka County Parks & Recreation Anoka County Sheriff's Office Anoka County Highway Department Anoka County Attorneys Office Job Training - Work Force Center Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Anoka County Corrections Department Anoka County Property Records & Taxation Metropolitan Council
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Table 3– Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

All agency types were consulted throughout the planning process.

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Community Health, Data Book	Anoka County Community Health and Environmental Services	Goals address not only the general health status of Anoka County residents but also all factor that either promote or serve as barriers to achieving the best health status possible. Data includes Anoka County as a place and as people reviewing educations, housing and physical environment.

Table 4– Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))

Narrative

Anoka County worked with each municipality directly and received an 85% response in their opinion of local needs and priorities. In an effort to gain participation in the process of determining the needs and priorities staff visited each city to discuss current needs and projects and what they felt were the social service issues within their communities. Community Development staff visited with City Administrators and Community Development staff reviewing the importance and impact of the Consolidated Plan document. During the sessions, information was provided on the current plan, what we are seeing through existing projects and the process of identifying needs and priorities in the county. Each City was requested to complete a survey with the identified needs of the city, social and community services that residents of their area are struggling with. Cities then worked with their elected officials to further inform them of the process and receive input. Anoka County received responses from 18 of its 21 communities in which directly impacted the results of the priorities and the goals of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. In an effort to increase participation of other County departments, the Consolidated Plan and identifying the priorities within was brought to an internal management committee in which hosts all division heads, the Sheriff and Attorney offices. To obtain and compare non housing economic development data within the plan, we worked with the Jobs and Training Center to ensure data is accurate to the current needs. Also we were internally able to utilize Public and Community Health to understand the data as it relates to the health of our communities including items such as lead based paint, radon and clean water needs. The Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority reviewed the selected priorities and adopted them in an October 2014 board meeting for the purposes of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. Cooperation and coordination were not only completed on a local level, but Anoka County utilizes information in regards to the condition of the county through many State of Minnesota offices such as the Metropolitan Council, Housing Finance, DNR and Agricultural partners.

PR-15 Citizen Participation - 91.401, 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

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 “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 and 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 that is reported in the 2015-2019 CON Plan came from our CoC group.

Two other opportunities for comment were offered to county residents, agencies and municipalities. Anoka County held a public hearing on March 24, 2015 and offered any interested party the chance to comment on the 2015-2019 CON Plan, 2015 Action Plan and the proposed 2015 CDBG/HOME funding applications. The only comment received had to do with the 2015 funding applications as detailed in our answer to question 5. *Summary of Public Comments*. A Notice of Public Comment period was also published and ran from March 27, 2015 through April 27, 2015. No comments, written or verbal, were received.

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 the efforts discussed allowed the County a base for the selection of high priorities. 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 CON Plan were determined by combining all of the various responses received from agencies, citizens, municipalities and others.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Table 5– Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode Of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of responses/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	One-on-One Mtgs. (17)	Cities/Towns within Anoka County	17	Prioritized activities & # to fund	All comments accepted	N/A
2	Group Meeting (2)	Public Service agencies & other county depts.	9	Prioritized activities & # to fund	All comments accepted	N/A
3	Emails (info and surveys)	Cities, public service agencies, developers, school districts & churches	9	Prioritized activities & # to fund	All comments accepted	N/A
4	On-Line info/survey	Residents	118	Prioritized activities	All comments accepted	N/A
5	County Newsletter Article (1)	Residents, businesses, agencies	Not Measurable	-----	All comments accepted	N/A
6	Displays (3)	Residents	37	Prioritized activities	All comments Accepted	N/A
7	Public Hearings (2)	General public, CDBG/HOME funding applicants, residents of consortium jurisdictions	1	Not CON Plan related – comment on CDBG funding application	All comments accepted	N/A
8	Public Comment Period (1)	General public	0	No Comments	No comments received	N/A
TOTAL responses:			191			

Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

Housing Needs Assessment

Anoka County, located in the State of Minnesota, is an urban county with 21 cities covering approximately 424 square miles. Anoka County is located in the Northern suburbs of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Twin Cities area and is bordered by the counties of Wright, Sherburne, Isanti, Chisago, Washington, Ramsey (home to the city of St. Paul), and Hennepin (home to the city of Minneapolis).

The U.S. Census Bureau data indicates that Anoka County has a population of 327,702 (based on 2010 data). The Metropolitan Council estimates that the County's population will continue to grow at a decreasing rate by the year 2030 to an estimated population of 425,260.

Data shows 7,102 single-person households could essentially be in need of some type of housing assistance. It is not recommended for any household to have a housing payment, which is over 30% of their household income. Housing assistance programs are available in Anoka County, however, funding is scarce and often times goes to the most immediate need.

Out of the 61,588 owner households, 34% are affected by a housing cost burden. Out of the 26,025 renter households, 32% are affected by a housing cost burden. In regards to the housing cost burden greater than 50%, the populations most affected for both owners and renters are within 0-30% Area Median Income (AMI). As their income increases, both household types show less households being affected.

Disproportionately Greater Need

While reviewing and calculating the CHAS data provided for households experiencing housing problems in Anoka County, it appears there is a disproportionately greater need for every ethnic/racial group in all income levels with the exception of Non-Hispanic, White households, as well as Pacific Islanders (there's a reported 10 households who are of the Pacific Islander ethnic/racial group and do not experience any housing problems). It is important to note that out of the 58,675 households in Anoka County that were reported in the CHAS data set, 89% of them are made up of Non-Hispanic, White households. Four percent of the households are Black/African American, 3% are Asian, 1% is American Indian/Alaskan Native, less than 1% is Pacific Islander, and 2% are Hispanic.

Public Housing

There is a waiting list with the Coordinated Entry system for section 504 public housing through the Anoka County Human Services Department. There are no available units at the time of the submission of this Consolidated Plan. The needs, besides housing, can range from needing to be connected to mental health providers, job coaches for employment opportunities, and credit counselors for credit restoration, and to service providers to assist with paying fines for crimes that have been committed.

The most immediate needs of the residents of Parkview Villa (Anoka County Public Housing Facility) continues to be access to social services. Many people at Parkview Villa are physically and/or mentally disabled and require services beyond the capabilities of the Columbia Heights HRA and HUD to perform.

Homeless Needs Assessment

Anoka County is able to see how many have become homeless versus those who will be homeless. It is challenging to estimate how many people will become homeless each year. The following chart indicates the number of persons becoming homeless and exiting homelessness for 2013 and 2014 as obtained through the Homeless Management Information System database. Stepping Stone Emergency Housing and Family Promise in Anoka County provided the information based the populations they serve.

	Becoming Homeless	Exiting Homelessness	Chronically Homeless	Veterans	18-24
2013					
Singles	282	35	68	17	65
Families	21	7	14	1	0
Total	303	42	82	18	65
2014 as of 12/23					
Singles	233	55	73	23	50
Families	20	11	9	0	2
Total	253	66	82	23	52

According to the Anoka County Human Services Department, there are 97 households currently in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Forty-Eight (48) of the 97 households are currently in a shelter and 49 households are currently in a transitional housing program. This data was collected from the 2014 Point-in-Time Count. The 97 households are reported to be fleeing domestic violent situations. Most are female head of households with children.

The number of families with children in need of assistance, according to the 2014 Point in Time count for Anoka County only, was 28 and the number of families of veterans in need of assistance was 0. Anoka County does not identify the type of families that may need housing assistance.

Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment

The high Non-Homeless Special Needs groups in the areas of housing problems for the next five years are:

- Disabled households who are renters, all income levels
- Disabled households <80% MFI who are owners
- All special needs renters <50% MFI
- All special needs owners <80% MFI

Research shows that for people living with HIV/AIDS, adequate and stable housing is preventative, hence, housing is health care, and serves to reduce overall healthcare costs of services provided, averts transmissions, and adds ear of life. There was a total of 301 new HIV diagnoses statewide in 2013, which is a 4% decrease over 2012. Eighty-two percent (82%) of the new infections are in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. As for Anoka County, 14 new cases were reported.

As stated previously, under the Homeless Needs Assessment, according to the Anoka County Human Services Department, there are 97 households currently in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Forty-Eight (48) of the 97 households are currently in a shelter and 49 households are currently in a transitional housing program. This data was collected from the 2014 Point-in-Time Count. The 97 households are reported to be fleeing domestic violent situations. Most are female head of households with children.

Non-Housing Community Development Needs

The Anoka County need for public facilities includes the obligation for new construction and rehabilitation to assist the communities in parks and recreational facilities, fire stations and homeless facilities. These non-housing priorities provide communities a valuable asset to their stability and safety need. As Anoka County has several public facility needs, each city was asked to review its need based on program demand, age and use, the population served by the facility to meet the ongoing needs of each community as they continue to grow and further develop. The overall impact of public facilities is identified as important as it provides an opportunity for a public benefit to low income households in which may not otherwise have an opportunity. Indoor and outdoor recreational facilities affect the community design and has the overall ability to provide lower income neighborhoods with organized activities and effective ways of promoting community health. Anoka County currently has one homeless facility for individuals and as discussed continues to be an ongoing need. It is shown within the homeless data the need for additional beds and facilities to meet the needs of families and youth. Awareness of the homeless population has increased and cities are recognizing the need for placement of the growing homeless youth community.

Public improvement concerns and priorities fell upon the neighborhoods basic structures. Public improvements identified as a need in Anoka County include water/sewer improvements, street and sidewalk improvements and clean-up of contaminated sites. Anoka County has three characteristics within its jurisdictional boundaries identified as urban, suburban and rural. Within each of these characteristics neighborhoods are facing the needs for improvements, upgrades or installation of their infrastructures. Additionally as there is new growth and development in both housing and economic develop these basic infrastructure components are essential for transportation and livability. The Anoka County communities rely on this type of infrastructure to boost the overall productivity and raise opportunities, including living standards, for individuals within the community. Working with the communities and economic development programs it was identified as essential to increase, maintain and improve the infrastructure to further housing and job opportunities.

Public services that were identified as a high need within Anoka County include services for the seniors, transportation, battered and abused spouses, health services including mental health and rental subsidies to create additional affordable housing opportunities. In communication with communities, residents and public service agencies it was identified that these are the current gaps within the jurisdiction overall. The high public service priorities in Anoka County are those that are instrumental to meeting the basic needs of households and securing self-sufficiency, a healthy community and the ability to obtain basic needs.

NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs - 91.415, 91.215 (f)

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Facilities:

How were these needs determined?

While working directly with the 21 municipalities it was determined that the needs for public facilities has changed direction. Anoka County staff worked with City Administrators, Managers, Community and Economic Development staff to determine the current and immediate future needs as they relate to public facilities. The Anoka County need for public facilities includes the obligation for new construction and rehabilitation to assist the communities in parks and recreational facilities, fire stations and homeless facilities. These non-housing priorities provide communities a valuable asset to their stability and safety need. As Anoka County has several areas that share through cooperative agreements their fire station facilities, it has become a question of capacity and meeting the ongoing needs of each community as they continue to grow and further develop. While meeting directly with the cities and township located within Anoka County the need for fire stations and equipment was identified as a high priority for community structure. The overall impact of public facilities such as parks and recreational facilities in Anoka County is identified as important as it provides an opportunity for a public benefit to low income households in which may not otherwise have an opportunity. Outdoor recreational facilities such as open spaces and a walkable community design can focus on the ability to provide lower income neighborhoods with organized activities and effective ways of promoting physical activities for adults and youth. Anoka County currently has one homeless facility for individuals. It is shown within the homeless data the need for additional beds and facilities to meet the needs of families and youth. Awareness of the homeless population has increased and cities are recognizing the need for placement of the growing homeless youth community. Funding for this type of public facility addresses a community outreach need to place families and youth in a safe overnight environment.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:

How were these needs determined?

Public improvement concerns were evident in the survey completed as current concerns and priorities fell upon the neighborhoods basic structures. Public improvements identified as a need in Anoka County include water/sewer improvements, street and sidewalk improvements and clean-up of contaminated sites. Anoka County has three characteristics within its jurisdictional boundaries identified as urban, suburban and rural. Within each of these characteristics neighborhoods are facing the needs for improvements, upgrades or installation of their infrastructures. In older neighborhoods there is a percentage of homes utilizing lead pipe plumbing maintaining the residential units with their main water supply. In the rural areas we work continuously with families that are addressing needs of safe and sanitary water and sewer options. Additionally as there is new growth and development in both housing and economic develop these basic infrastructure components are essential for transportation and livability. The Anoka County communities rely on this type of infrastructure to boost the overall productivity and raise opportunities, including living standards, for individuals within the community. Working with the communities and economic development programs it was identified as essential to

increase, maintain and improve the infrastructure to further housing and job opportunities. Sites which have been deemed unsafe and are in need of contamination clean up exist not only within industrial areas but are affecting the surrounding neighborhood. Using this priority communities will be able to improve the quality of water, soil and redevelopment sites to increase job development and further improve neighborhood health conditions.

Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Services:

How were these needs determined?

Public services that were identified as a high need within Anoka County include services for the seniors, transportation, battered and abused spouses, health services including mental health and rental subsidies to create additional affordable housing opportunities. In communication with communities, residents and public service agencies it was identified that these are the current gaps within the jurisdiction overall. The public services identified as a need within the communities are both stand-alone services and at times correlated needs within the populations served. Anoka County with its various characteristics lacks the necessary transportation in suburban and rural areas to meet the needs of the low income populations. The lack of public transportation opportunities can leave seniors and low income households isolated and without the opportunity to reach basic living and medical facilities. The high public service priorities in Anoka County are those that are instrumental to meeting the basic needs of households and securing self-sufficiency and the ability to obtain basic care.

The public service needs were determined by engaging Anoka County residents, municipalities, and public service organization in the citizen engagement survey. High priorities were summarized within the outcomes of the survey.

Based on the needs analysis above, describe the State's needs in Colonias

Not Applicable

Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

Supply and Demand

The current supply of housing stock in Anoka County is mostly single-family homes and a mix of townhomes and condominiums. There are 125,596¹ housing units in Anoka County, of which just over half were built before 1980. The housing stock in Anoka County consists of 83% single-family homes.

Based on sales price data from the Saint Paul Area Association of Realtors, average home prices in Anoka County ranged from \$201,912 in October 2013 to \$215,815 in October 2014.

The number of residential building permits issued is a good indicator of demand for new housing. Since 2010, the number of residential, new construction building permits issued continually increased based on data from the Metropolitan Council. In 2010, there were 723 residential, new construction building permits issued county-wide. Three years later, there were 1,034 issued, approximately a 70% increase.

In addition to residential, new construction building permits, home sales can also provide insight into housing demand. In Anoka County, from January to December 2014, there was 3643 closed home sales.² It should be noted that the calendar year 2014 is not the same as the assessment year 2014. Comparing the average closing sales with the average number of listings per month for the same time period, there is a large gap between the two. With an average of 1,916 listings per month, and an average of 304 closed sales, the supply exceeds the demand.

Costs and Value

According to the 2013 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates, 74% of housing units have a mortgage, contract to purchase, or similar debt and the remaining 26% of housing units have no mortgage. Out of the 74% who have a mortgage, 22.5% of mortgagees have either a

¹ American Community Survey

² Anoka County Property Records Department

second mortgage or home equity loan and 76.6% have just a primary mortgage. From 2012 to 2013, there was a 2.1% decrease in housing units with a second mortgage or home equity loan.

Taking a closer look at only the housing units with either a second mortgage or home equity loan, the percent of housing units with only a second mortgage decreased from 7.7% in 2012 to 7.4% in 2013. The percentage of only home equity loans also decreased from 16.9% in 2012 to 15.2% in 2013. The percentage of housing units with both a second mortgage and home equity loan remained steady around 1% between the years of 2012 and 2013.

Median monthly owner costs³ for housing units with a mortgage decreased by \$53 from 2012 to 2013. In 2013, homeowners with a mortgage were spending a median amount of \$1,487 per month on owner costs. This is a decrease of about 3% from 2012. In dollar amounts, homeowners with a mortgage saw a median decrease of \$636 per year on housing costs. During the same time-frame, there was an increase for housing units without a mortgage: monthly median owner costs increased 3% from \$457 in 2012 to \$470 in 2013. The annual median dollar amount of the increase for households without a mortgage was \$156.

The median value for housing units with a mortgage increased from \$181,000 in 2012 to \$183,300 in 2013. For housing units without a mortgage, the value also increased from \$165,700 in 2012 to \$166,000 in 2013.

In 2013, Anoka County was home to 25,374 renters.⁴ Median contract rent decreased 5% from 2012 to 2013. The 2013 median rent for Anoka County renters was \$894 per month. From 2012 to 2013, there has been a decreasing shift in monthly rent amounts paid. The largest percentage decrease occurred in the group of renters that pay \$1,000 to \$1,499. In 2012, this group made up 32.6% of renters. In 2013, this group decreased to 25.8% of renters. Renters paying “no cash” rent increased by almost 3.2% from 2012 to 2013.

Monthly housing costs for owners and renters have remained relatively consistent from 2012 to 2013. Households spending \$2,000 or more per month on housing decreased from 15.2% to 11.3%. Households paying \$1,000 to \$1,499 per month in housing costs decreased by 0.7%. Overall, there has been a shift to higher monthly housing costs with approximately 31.1% of households paying more than \$1,500 monthly for housing, however this is a decrease of 0.3% from 2012.

³ Monthly owner costs include mortgage payment(s) and the cost of electricity and gas, and the 12-month cost of water and sewer. Source: American Community Survey, 2013 & 2012

⁴ American Community Survey, 2013 & 2012

Condition

Data is not available on the condition of homes in Anoka County, but the condition of the unit may be inferred based on the age of the home. Units that are more than 15-20 years old may be in deteriorating condition if homeowners have not performed routine maintenance. Also, if the home has been vacated for any length of time, it can be assumed that the condition has deteriorated. Forty-six percent (46%) of Anoka County's housing stock was built before 1980, making about half of the housing stock more than 30 years old. It is not known how many units have had routine maintenance or improvements completed. As discussed in earlier sections, the number of second mortgages and home equity loans decreased by 2.1% from 2012 to 2013. It is unknown if home owners used a second mortgage or home equity loan to make improvements to their home, or if it was used for other purposes.

As discussed in the Housing and Homeless Needs Analysis section of this Plan, Anoka County has a low number of units that are substandard according to HUD's definition (lacking complete kitchen or plumbing facilities).

Foreclosures

When discussing the condition of the housing stock, it is important to consider the nationwide foreclosure crisis our country went through starting in 2005. Locally, Anoka County suffered from the epidemic. In 2005, there were approximately 500 foreclosures; in 2007, there was a steep increase to over 1,500; in 2009, the number of foreclosures had another leap of an increase to 2,700. This high number of foreclosures led to a large number of houses sitting vacant in neighborhoods. The conditions of these vacant, foreclosed homes were often substandard and not suitable for rehabilitation. With current data, Anoka County can safely say the foreclosure trend has decreased and leveled off with only 507 completed foreclosure sales in the calendar year 2014.

Anoka County was awarded Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding in three grants. Two of the grants came directly from HUD and one came from the State of MN with a total investment into Anoka County communities of \$13 million to date. A total of 86 vacant and foreclosed properties were purchased. Thirteen properties were demolished and sold for redevelopment. Seventy-three properties were rehabilitated and sold to income-eligible households.

Vacant/Abandoned Property

Data on vacant properties can also provide insight into the condition of properties. For example, if a home sits vacant for longer than 6 months, it can be assumed that the property will not be in a suitable, livable condition and will need some rehabilitation work. Weather conditions in Minnesota also take a toll on vacant homes. For example, winter weatherization of plumbing is needed to avoid potential water damage and future mold problems as a result of humid summers. If a home is not ventilated and exposed to circulating air, mold problems can be an issue.

The longer a property sits vacant, the higher the risk of the property becoming uninhabitable and unsuitable for rehabilitation. The United States Postal Service (USPS) has provided HUD with data on addresses that have been vacant, both for residential and business properties.

Reviewing USPS data from Quarter 1, 2008, the average days a residential address was vacant in Anoka County was 363. This number increased to 550 by Quarter 3, 2009, a 51.5% increase over an 18 month time period. From 2008 through 2009, the quarterly percentage of total residential vacancies ranged between 2-2.5%. According to data on length of time a residential address is vacant, the number of properties vacant for longer than 36 months was 8.8% in Quarter 3 2009, where in Quarter 1 2008, there were 0. In Quarter 3 2009, 63.3% of vacant homes (1,629 units), had been vacant for 6 months or longer.

Based on this data, at the end of Quarter 3 2009, over 1,600 homes had been vacant for longer than 6 months. It is likely that most of those homes will need repairs and/or rehabilitation work to bring them back to a livable condition.

Areas of Low-Income and Minority Concentration

Areas of low-income concentration in Anoka County include the cities of Bethel, Anoka, Lexington, Hilltop and Columbia Heights. The low income status is defined as being below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The most recent data available on the city level for income is from the 2000 Census, and the measure that was used is the city median income. Therefore, if a city's median income fell below the county's 2009 80% AMI or below \$67,120, it was designated as low income. (Reference the Low Income Cities map in the appendix.)

The Demographic Profile shows Anoka County has a very low minority population. Therefore, areas of minority concentration are defined as any city where minorities make up more than 10% of the population. The cities of Columbia Heights (14% minority), Fridley (12% minority) and Hilltop (20% minority) are designated as minority concentrations. These three cities are in the southern-most part of Anoka County and are closest to the core cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. (Reference the Cities with Minority Populations Greater Than 10% map in the appendix.)

MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets - 91.410, 91.210(f)

Introduction

Economic Development Market Analysis

Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	455	318	0	0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	14,710	9,703	10	10	0
Construction	6,876	5,833	5	6	1
Education and Health Care Services	27,809	15,083	19	16	-3
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	11,963	3,471	8	4	-4
Information	3,179	471	2	0	-2
Manufacturing	25,750	27,668	18	28	10
Other Services	6,485	4,864	5	5	0
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	14,658	3,870	10	4	-6
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	17,720	17,745	12	18	6
Transportation and Warehousing	4,427	3,124	3	3	0
Wholesale Trade	9,816	5,076	7	5	-2
Total	143,848	97,226	--	--	--

Table 6 - Business Activity

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS (Workers), 2011 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	189,789
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	175,802
Unemployment Rate	7.37
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	21.58
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	5.23

Table 7 - Labor Force

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	42,501
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	7,686
Service	15,657
Sales and office	47,443
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	15,308
Production, transportation and material moving	11,132

Table 8 – Occupations by Sector

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	92,404	56%

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
30-59 Minutes	63,052	38%
60 or More Minutes	10,455	6%
Total	165,911	100%

Table 9 - Travel Time

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Education:

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	6,006	1,119	3,192
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	40,278	3,435	8,945
Some college or Associate's degree	58,674	3,731	8,902
Bachelor's degree or higher	44,352	1,395	4,956

Table 10 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	167	801	746	1,634	1,839
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	4,186	2,305	1,505	3,326	2,785
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	8,756	10,112	12,466	30,093	13,591
Some college, no degree	9,454	10,540	13,174	24,681	6,510
Associate's degree	1,564	5,914	6,524	10,546	1,460
Bachelor's degree	2,458	10,603	11,430	14,513	3,148

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Graduate or professional degree	185	3,188	3,936	7,096	1,937

Table 11 - Educational Attainment by Age

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	24,089
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	34,185
Some college or Associate's degree	40,838
Bachelor's degree	53,636
Graduate or professional degree	65,723

Table 12 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

The major employment sectors in Anoka County are the Education and Health Care Services and Manufacturing services which makes up 50% of the labor workforce within the Anoka County jurisdiction. These major employment sectors are out of balance between the labor force and the number of the jobs available. In the Education and Health Care Services, there are over ten thousand more workers than there are jobs available within the Anoka County jurisdiction. Another employment sector that identifies a higher number of available workforce is the Professional, Scientific, and Management fields again showing a gap exceeding ten thousand between the workforce and the jobs available in this area. These numbers are significant as it identifies that a high number of Anoka County residents would be leaving the area for employment opportunities in these fields. Within the Manufacturing business sector, it is an ongoing concern that there is a higher number of jobs within this sector without the available labor force to fill needed demand. This can be supported with the occupations by sector as it identifies that within the occupational sectors, the individual choices are exceeding 64% for types of employment in jobs related to management, business, financial, sales or office duties. This continues to leave industrial and manufacturing position unfilled by county residents.

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

The business communities continue to show a need in the manufacturing workforce. Local workforce demands for these positions is the ability to fully train an individual in the technical skills of those positions. To fill local workforce demands, there are local college programs collaborating with county, municipal and school district opportunities to provide training and education starting at our high school aged youth. Within the current labor force it is identified that the majority of those employed are greater than a high school graduate. Although the highest population employed holds some college or an Associate’s degree they are also the highest population unemployed closely followed with those supporting only a high school graduation. The need to further higher education supports not only the local business community but additionally the household’s ability to further median earnings. With a high number of persons leaving the area for employment purposes Anoka County and its affected communities continue to support the transportation infrastructure. Ongoing needs of traffic movement, public and private initiatives and opportunities for commuting are evolving with the growth within the communities.

Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.

How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?

Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.

Discussion

According to data provided, over 50% of the Anoka County workforces is between the ages of 35-65 years old. Within this demographic group only 38% have higher than a high school education. This identifies the need to continue higher education opportunities as that number of

individuals with higher than a high school education decreases in ages 18 to 34. State unemployment data shows the age groups still struggling are those in the 16-24 years of age. There is also a disparity in employment for African Americans with a higher percentage still unemployed. Programs are needed to continue to support the needs of ongoing higher education to not only maintain the current level of individuals holding an Associate's degree or higher degree but to increase that number. Within the jurisdictional boundaries of Anoka County there are several institutions of higher education. The community college and technical college work directly with the school districts within Anoka County to offer higher education programs to high school youth. The local colleges offer degree programs that support the local workforce of education, business, health care and industrial needs. It has been identified by the colleges by working with local business there is a shortage of skilled labor for the needs of today's manufacturing and industrial opportunities. The colleges are working closely with these businesses to support the needed labor training to lessen the gap by creating training specific programs for job readiness.

Anoka County and several of the municipalities are stabled Economic Development authorities. This public initiative acts as a catalyst for responsible economic growth that improves the quality of life for the county and the cities within. The Economic Development authorities work individually and collaboratively to promote revitalization, commercial development and improvements, business expansion to increase the number of jobs and opportunities with the jurisdiction. Several efforts are underway with opportunities for businesses to obtain direct and indirect investments into the community to create and sustain job opportunities. Major initiatives that focus on businesses include loans, locality retention programs and redevelopment of industrial sites, all of which influence and impact the local job economy. Programs for direct business loans include funding from local, state and federal programs. A countywide Economic Gardening program has been established and designed to grow businesses in place. Keeping a business in place creates the stability in the workforce while allowing the business to expand meeting agency needs.

Anoka County does not participate in a Comprehensive Development Strategy (CEDS).

MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

Areas of low-income concentration (housing problem) in Anoka County include the cities of Bethel, Anoka, Lexington, Hilltop and Columbia Heights. The low income status is defined as being below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The most recent data available on the city level for income is from the 2000 Census, and the measure that was used is the city median income. Therefore, if a city's median income fell below the county's 2009 80% AMI or below \$67,120, it was "concentrated" and designated as low income.

Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

The Demographic Profile shows Anoka County has a very low minority population. Therefore, areas of minority concentration are defined as any city where minorities make up more than 10% of the population. The cities of Columbia Heights (14% minority), Fridley (12% minority) and Hilltop (20% minority) are designated as minority concentrations. These three cities are in the southern-most part of Anoka County and are closest to the core cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?

Characteristics can include:

- Large number of mobile home/manufactured home units
- Lacks complete kitchen facilities
- Lacks complete plumbing facilities
- Overcrowded households
- Cost burden households
- High level of lead base paint as there are many older homes

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

Current community assets within these areas include individuals, association, institutions, physical assets and connection. The individuals within these areas include not only a multi-generational community but the inclusion of many race and cultures. With the diversity in age and cultural needs the communities have expanded their opportunities and partnerships with associations to address current and future needs of the citizen such as, places of worship, neighborhood associations and cultural centers. With the growth and development of Anoka County and these areas identified there are both direct and indirect opportunities for these communities as they have direct access to one or more institutions in areas such as higher education colleges, hospitals and libraries. These assets provide direct services to these areas.

Directly within each community are individual assets related to parks, business and industry. Each area has established public safety and fire prevention measures that allow for a timely response. Additionally each has incorporated within its area open space, parks and community center programs that allow a citizen engagement allowing for social, educational and recreational activities.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

The areas discussed each face housing, business and infrastructure needs and plan for ongoing strategic opportunities. They continue to work to address affordable housing and housing quality issues. The communities identified have an aging housing stock. In utilizing programs to address rehabilitation on existing housing issues continues to address lead based paint, code deficiencies, health and safety. Areas have also developed infill programs to address units being removed due to substandard conditions and new development needs. Aging public facilities and infrastructure, or the need for development of new facilities or infrastructure, has also been identified. The long term needs of roads, bridges, technological opportunities continues to be within plans as it must continue to support the existing structures and services but have room for development and expansion as community needs change. Anoka County continues to work with these areas and their local plans for housing programs, water/sewer needs, workforce development, commercial and industrial growth and roads and infrastructure.

Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

The strategic plan outlines the approach Anoka County will take to meet the needs that have been established in the previous sections as being a high priority. The needs will address homeless, housing and non-housing community development activities that have the greatest need throughout the entire county. All of the activities are required by federal statute to meet one of the following national objectives:

1. Provide decent housing
2. Provide a suitable living environment
3. Expand economic opportunities

The needs will be primarily addressed by utilizing CDBG and HOME funding, combined with communication and education services between public services, housing providers, human services agencies, non-profit agencies, government agencies including local, state, and federal agencies and various coalitions.

General

The funding priorities are defined by HUD as follows:

- **High:** Activities to address this need will be funded by the locality during the five-year period.
- **Low:** The locality will not fund activities to address this need during the five-year period. The locality will consider certifications of consistency for other entities' applications for federal assistance.
- **No Such Need:** The locality finds there is no need or the grantee shows that this need is already substantially addressed. No Certification of Consistency will be considered.

SP-10 Geographic Priorities - 91.415, 91.215(a)(1)

Geographic Area

Table 13 - Geographic Priority Areas

Anoka County, as an Urban County, is located in the northwest corner of the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan regional area. It is the third largest in land mass in this region and the fourth most densely populated with 782 people / square mile. Per the U.S. Census Bureau 2014 estimate, Anoka County has a population of 341,864 as it is comprised of 20 cities and one township. One in ten, or 10.3%, of households speak another language other than English at home. The median age in Anoka County is 37.1 years.

General Allocation Priorities

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the state:Gene

Anoka County allocates funding based on an annual competitive application process. This process works with municipalities and organization to determine the allocation priority and need. The application process holds a deadline in which all projects and public services are reviewed to meet federal requirements. Anoka County reviews applications based on the applicant's capacity, experience and project readiness to utilize funding. Additionally applications are reviewed on details related to relocation, environmental requirements and monitoring compliance. Before funds are awarded to a project the beneficiary data is determined to identify that there is a direct need to the targeted households in regards to a high priority activity and a high need target group. Funding allocations and investments are limited and it is a high priority of Anoka County to ensure investments are geographically meeting underserved populations. No geographical targeting is needed and the application process allows Anoka County to address areas of need throughout the county and target priority needs.

SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.415, 91.215(a)(2)

Priority Needs

Table 14 – Priority Needs Summary

Priority Needs

Table 15 – Priority Needs Summary

1	Priority Need Name	Acquisition of Real Property
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Community Development
	Description	Provide funding to acquire property
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to acquire property for Community Development

2	Priority Need Name	Homeless Facilities (not operating costs)
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Community Development
	Description	Provide funding for improvements to be made to homeless facilities
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to maintain and improve homeless facilities

3	Priority Need Name	Parks, Recreational Facilities
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Community Development

	Description	Provide funding to improve parks and recreational facilities
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to maintain, improve, and develop parks and recreational facilities
4	Priority Need Name	Water/Sewer Improvements
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Community Development
	Description	Provide funding for water and sewer improvements
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to maintain, improve, or replace their water and sewer systems

5	Priority Need Name	Street Improvements
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Community Development
	Description	Provide funding to improve streets in Anoka County
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to maintain, improve, or construct the streets throughout Anoka County

6	Priority Need Name	Sidewalks
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Community Development
	Description	Provide funding to improve sidewalks in Anoka County
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to maintain, improve, or construct the sidewalks throughout Anoka County

7	Priority Need Name	Fire Stations / Equipment
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Community Development
	Description	Provide funding for fire stations and equipment
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to maintain, improve, or construct/purchase fire stations and fire equipment

8	Priority Need Name	General Public Services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Public Service Organization
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Public Services
	Description	Provide funding to non-profit organizations to administer a general public service activity
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to provide a general public service in Anoka County

9	Priority Need Name	Senior Services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Public Service Organization
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Senior Services
	Description	Provide funding to non-profit organizations to administer a senior service, public service activity

	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to provide a senior service, public service, in Anoka County
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10	Priority Need Name	Transportation Services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Public Service Organization
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Transportation
	Description	Provide funding to non-profit organizations to administer a transportation, public service activity
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to provide a transportation, public service, in Anoka County

11	Priority Need Name	Battered and Abused Spouses
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Public Service Organization
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Battered and Abused Spouses
	Description	Provide funding to non-profit organizations to administer a battered and abused spouses, public service activity
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to provide a battered and abused spouses, public service, in Anoka County

12	Priority Need Name	Health Services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Public Service Organization
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Health Services

	Description	Provide funding to non-profit organizations to administer a health service, public service activity
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to provide a health service, public service, in Anoka County

13	Priority Need Name	Mental Health Services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Public Service Organization
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Public Services for Mental Health Services
	Description	Provide funding to non-profit organizations to administer a mental health service, public service activity
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to provide a mental health service, public service, in Anoka County

14	Priority Need Name	Rental Housing Subsidies (if HOME, tenant based rental assistance)
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Housing
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	To provide a housing subsidy for income eligible households
	Description	Provide funding to administer a rental housing subsidy program
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to provide a rental housing subsidy program serving households who income qualify

15	Priority Need Name	Construction of Housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Housing
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	To construct new, affordable housing

	Description	Provide funding to develop new, affordable housing throughout Anoka County
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to develop new, affordable housing throughout Anoka County

16	Priority Need Name	Direct Homeownership Assistance
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Housing
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	To provide a direct homeownership assistance program for income eligible households
	Description	Provide funding to administer a direct homeownership assistance program
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to provide a direct homeownership assistance program serving households who income qualify

17	Priority Need Name	Rehabilitation: Single-Unit Residential
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Housing
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	To provide a housing rehabilitation program for income eligible households
	Description	Provide funding to administer a housing rehabilitation program
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to provide a housing rehabilitation program serving households who income qualify

18	Priority Need Name	Rehabilitation: Multi-Unit Residential
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Housing

	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	To provide funding to developers to rehabilitate multi-unit properties
	Description	Provide funding to developers to rehabilitate multi-unit properties to preserve existing multi-family housing
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to rehabilitate existing multi-family housing with the goal to preserve

19	Priority Need Name	ED Direct: Direct Financial Assistance to For-Profit Business
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Economic Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	To provide direct financial assistance to for-profit business
	Description	Provide direct financial assistance to for-profit business
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to receive direct financial assistance for their for-profit business

20	Priority Need Name	Planning
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	To provide funding to a planning activity
	Description	Provide funding to a planning activity
	Basis for Relative Priority	Allows eligible applicants to receive funding for their planning activity

21	Priority Need Name	General Program Administration
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development

	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	To provide funding for general program administration of CDBG and HOME funding
	Description	Provide funding for the general administration of CDBG and HOME funding
	Basis for Relative Priority	Provide funding for the general administration of CDBG and HOME funding

22	Priority Need Name	Fair Housing Activities (subj to 20% admin cap)
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	To provide an agreed upon amount of CDBG funding to Fair Housing efforts in Anoka County
	Description	Funding provided to the Fair Housing Initiative to carry out Fair Housing activities
	Basis for Relative Priority	Funding provided to the Fair Housing Initiative to carry out Fair Housing activities

23	Priority Need Name	Clean-up of Contaminated Sites/Brownsfields
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	To provide funding to an eligible applicant to administer the clean-up of contaminated sites/brownsfields
	Description	Funding will be used to clean-up contaminated/brownsfields sites throughout Anoka County
	Basis for Relative Priority	There are contaminated sites within Anoka County that will need clean-up funding

24	Priority Need Name	Un-Programmed Funds
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-Housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Anoka County Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Un-Programmed funds, also known as “unallocated funds,” will be allocated to a viable project
	Description	Un-Programmed funds will be allocated to a viable project
	Basis for Relative Priority	Un-Programmed funds will be allocated to a viable project

Narrative (Optional)

SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.420(b), 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$1,405,382	\$50,000	\$0	\$1,455,382	\$7,276,910	Number is based on PY2015 allocation
HOME	public - federal	Housing and admin	\$407,171	\$50,000	\$0	\$457,171	\$2,285,855	Number is based on PY2015 allocation
LIHTC	State	Housing	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000	Projection is determined through the knowledge of possible projects expected to apply for LIHTC financing

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
COC – McKinney Vento	Federal	Emergency Housing, Transitional Housing, & Permanent Supportive Housing	\$680,180	\$0	\$0	\$680,180	\$3,400,900	Number is based on PY2015 renewing projects through the Continuum of Care
Other Federal	Federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$100,500	\$0	\$0	\$100,500	\$502,500	Number is based on the leveraged funds of awarded PY2015 activities through both CDBG and HOME
Other State	Public – state	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$170,903	\$0	\$0	\$170,903	\$845,515	Number is based on the leveraged funds of awarded PY2015 activities through both CDBG and HOME

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
Private	Non-Public Organizational	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$2,696,450	\$0	\$0	\$2,696,450	\$13,482,250	Number is based on the leveraged funds of awarded PY2015 activities through both CDBG and HOME
Local Funding	City/County (Non CDBG or HOME)	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$820,879	\$0	\$0	\$820,879	\$4,104,395	Number is based on the leveraged funds of awarded PY2015 activities through both CDBG and HOME

Table 16 - Anticipated Resources

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

Anoka County Community Development releases a competitive application for both CDBG and HOME funds every year. Applications showing the use of leveraged funds will score higher and be more likely to obtain funding from Anoka County Community Development for their proposed project as it will maximize the use of funds. A 25% MATCH is required per the HOME Final Rule. All HOME projects are required to provide a 25%

non-federal MATCH. As noted above in table 16, \$3,788,732 of leveraged funding is expected to add to the layers of subsidies for activities that Anoka County Community Development recommends for funding.

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

Anoka County and the municipalities within, hold publically owned land and property that meet the ongoing needs of local residents. Publically owned land includes that of parks and greenspace used for educational and recreational purposes. Property eligible for housing opportunities may be eligible for partnerships with organizations for the future development of affordable housing opportunities with state and federal funding programs. Publically owned property includes many of the senior and community centers in which provide residents the ability to obtain a safe and healthy meal, allow social interactions and provide a community space for safe and local activities. Currently Anoka County is the title holder of the property utilized for homeless services for individuals. This collaborative allowed the current homeless programs the ability to expand and increase the services they were providing to individuals. Each community continues to utilize publically owned property for meeting the needs and providing opportunities to fill identified gaps identified within the plan.

Discussion

SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure - 91.415, 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
Anoka County, Community Development	County Government	Urban County	Anoka County jurisdiction

Table 17 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

The structure in which Anoka County will carry out the Consolidated Plan includes the collaboration between the County, 20 cities, one township and many local nonprofit housing and non-housing organizations. Anoka County is a direct recipient of the CDBG funds and works with the City of Coon Rapids, an entitlement agency, to administer their program funding as well. The Community Development Department is the responsible department within Anoka County and includes other departments, such as Public Health, Jobs and Training, Social Services, Environmental Health and Economic Assistance, in necessary actions to meet the needs of households identified as a high priority with the 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, Anoka County Community Development will take note any may include as a possible high priority in the next Five-Year Consolidated Plan as long as the citizen engagement is in favor.

Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	Yes	Yes	No
Legal Assistance	Yes	Yes	No
Mortgage Assistance	Yes	No	No
Rental Assistance	Yes	Yes	No
Utilities Assistance	Yes	Yes	No
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	No
Mobile Clinics	Yes	No	No
Other Street Outreach Services	Yes	Yes	No

Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	Yes	No	No
Child Care	Yes	No	No
Education	Yes	No	No
Employment and Employment Training	Yes	Yes	No
Healthcare	Yes	No	No
HIV/AIDS	Yes	No	Yes
Life Skills	Yes	Yes	No
Mental Health Counseling	Yes	Yes	No
Transportation	Yes	Yes	No
Other			
Domestic & Sexual Violence Organization	Yes	No	No

Table 18 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary

Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)

Knowledge of housing program eligibility, creative solutions and collaboration to make sure all populations are served is a fundamental focus of Anoka County’s delivery system. The service delivery system is under-going a major shift with the implementation of Coordinated Assessment. One of the major initiatives with Coordinated Assessment is to ensure homeless persons have as equal access to mainstream resources as those who are not dealing with homelessness. Many of the direct service providers like Second Harvest Heartland, Anoka County Economic Assistance, all 3 shelters (Stepping Stone Emergency Housing, Alexandra House and Family Promise in Anoka), just to name a few, are involved in Anoka County’s Coordinated Assessment Planning Committee. Those service providers not directly connected with Coordinated Assessment, are instead, active participants at the Heading Home Anoka meetings. Monthly updates and education are provided to those in attendance, regarding Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program, the Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care and Coordinated Assessment. Weekly waitlist phone calls for Coordinated Assessment have matched homeless persons to programs which has allowed homeless individuals, especially chronically homeless individuals, become housed. In addition, the weekly waitlist phone calls have connected providers to each other in ways that haven’t existed before. Housing providers are going to the shelters to complete applications with those referred from the waitlist, expediting acceptance into housing programs. Outreach workers are going to drop-in centers to conduct all necessary assessments for youth to connect them as quickly as possible to available resources. Finally, families have appointments set with providers so their time is maximized face-to-face when following through with the Coordinated Assessment process. Veterans get directly connected via Coordinated Assessment and through the Anoka County Veteran Service Officers. Veterans are the only population in which parallel housing tracks can be done simultaneously. Overall, Anoka County has improved its service delivery system to

meet the needs of homeless persons, especially those who are chronically homeless, youth, families and veterans.

Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above

The strength of Anoka County's service delivery system is the Coordinated Assessment process. Developed from the ground up in collaboration with our local providers, the Anoka County Coordinated Assessment Planning Committee looked at what would best serve the community. The Coordinated Assessment process has created opportunities for housing service providers to collaborate and coordinate services to connect households to the appropriate service provider. Instead of households experiencing homelessness competing for any and all available housing openings, providers can now direct people to a central point where they will be assessed and connected with an opportunity that will meet their needs.

Coordinated Assessment is also assisting Anoka County in better identifying gaps within the service system. In the first quarter of Anoka County's Coordinated Assessment implementation (Oct-Dec 2014), 132 Step 2 Assessments were completed. Scores from the assessments indicate there is a fairly even need across the supportive housing spectrum: 35 assessments indicated the household needed Rapid Re-Housing, 42 assessments indicated the household needed Transitional Housing, and 37 assessments indicated the household needed Permanent Supported Housing. Currently, Anoka County has no programs operating a Rapid Re-Housing model. This is a significant gap in our local system. Also, the lack of availability, and creation of new permanent supportive housing subsidy options, limits turn over or movement within existing subsidies. Another challenge in further developing resources is finding funding for the supportive services to accompany the housing options. For specialty populations Anoka County tries to be creative. For example, those dealing with mental health issues may be able to access supportive services through third party billing to Medical Assistance. Anoka County supplements that with additional dollars to assist households in skill building in order to obtain and maintain stable housing. The braiding of funding, to make the housing system function, makes the system cumbersome and difficult to maneuver both for clients and for agencies trying to operate programs.

Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs

The Homeless strategy, which Anoka County is currently using and will continue to improve upon, is HUD's required implementation of Coordinated Assessment through the HEARTH Act of 2009. Falling in line with the State of Minnesota's two-year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, the pilot started October 1, 2014 and has thus far yielded excellent results to assess and address needs of households experiencing homelessness. Coordinated Assessment has opened the door for collaboration between the housing system and other mainstream benefit systems such as SNAP and other Economic Assistance programs. These are systems that have historically affected one another but have not intentionally worked together to assist households. Anoka County is finding it challenging at times to adapt processes in mainstream systems that have been in place a long time. However, we are making progress to better connect systems that will get clients the help they need to stabilize and return to self-sufficiency.

Anoka County will be developing and maintaining additional prevention resources to assist low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless. Anoka County has specifically targeted those being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or those who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies. During 2014, a work group of Anoka County housing providers and other stakeholders conducted a needs assessment. This included a survey of providers and listening sessions with clients in order to identify barriers and needs within Anoka County for household's currently experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness.

One of the barriers identified through the needs assessment was a lack of employment opportunities with living wages. Currently, jobs people acquire do not pay them enough to be able to afford a market-rate unit. This also connects to another barrier identified by the needs assessment, the lack of affordable housing available in Anoka County available to those with lower income. Finally, the needs assessment identified transportation within the county as a barrier. There is a lack of public transportation routes especially in the northern half of the county. Applications for funding will be targeted to address some of these barriers moving forward specifically the application for Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program funded by Minnesota Housing.

SP-45 Goals - 91.415, 91.215(a)(4)

Goals Summary Information

Table 19 – Goals Summary

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Support construction and acquisition of housing	2015	2019	Affordable housing	Anoka County	Decent safe housing, new construction, redevelopment	HOME	Housing units
2	Preserve and improve housing	2015	2019	Affordable housing	Anoka County	Preserve existing structures, improve health of home	CDBG/HOME	Housing units
3	Promote equal housing opportunities	2015	2019	Affordable housing	Anoka County	Availability, access and fair housing opportunities	CDBG/HOME	Households served
4	Fund activities that eliminate slum/blight	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Sustain a suitable living environment	CDBG	Housing units, jobs, businesses
5	Develop and upgrade public facilities and infrastructure	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Availability and access to community assets	CDBG	Public facilities, public infrastructure
6	Support economic development	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Provide job creation and retention, economic opportunity	CDBG	Job creation and retention
7	Public Service activities	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Serving primarily low income	CDBG	Households
8	Planning and administrative projects	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Project support and administration	CDBG/HOME	None
9	Facilities and services for homeless	2015	2019	Non Housing / Affordable Housing	Anoka County	Service needs of the homeless and those at eminent threat	CDBG/HOME	Facilities, households, housing units

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	01-Acquisition	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Acquisition of real property for housing and non-housing uses	CDBG/HOME	People, Businesses, Public Facilities, Housing Units, Jobs
2	03C - Homeless Facilities (not operating costs)	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Development and improvements to facilities serving homeless populations	CDBG	Public Facilities
3	03F – Parks, Recreational Facilities	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Development and improvements to facilities serving low income population/areas	CDBG	Public Facilities
4	03J – Water/Sewer Improvements	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Installation, replacement or repair of water and sewer lines	CDBG	People, housing units
5	03K – Street Improvements	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Installation and repair or streets, drains, curb and gutter	CDBG	People, Housing units
6	03L – Sidewalks	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Improvements to sidewalks, walkways and paths	CDBG	People, Public Facilities, Housing Units
7	03O – Fire Stations/Equipment	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of fire stations and equipment	CDBG	Public Facilities
8	05-Public Services	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Other public services such as food and basic services	CDBG	People
9	05A – Senior Services	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Services for the low income elderly	CDBG	People

10	05E – Transportation Services	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	General transportation services for low/mod income	CDBG	People
11	05G – Battered and Abused Spouses	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Services for battered and abused spouses and their families	CDBG	People
12	05M – Health Services	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Services addressing the physical health needs of residents	CDBG	People
13	05O – Mental Health Services	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Services addressing the mental health needs of residents	CDBG	People
14	05S – Rental Housing Subsidies	2015	2019	Housing	Anoka County	Tenant based rental assistance programs	HOME	Households
15	12-Construction of Housing	2015	2019	Housing	Anoka County	New construction of housing	HOME	Housing Units
16	13-Direct Homeownership Assistance	2015	2019	Housing	Anoka County	Direct assistance, down payment and closing cost	HOME	Households
17	14A – Rehabilitation – Single Unit Residential	2015	2019	Housing	Anoka County	Rehabilitation, health housing and lead based paint	CDBG/HOME	Housing Units
18	14B – Rehabilitation – Multi Unit Residential	2015	2019	Housing	Anoka County	Rehabilitation, health housing and lead based paint	CDBG/HOME	Housing Units
19	18A – ED Direct: Direct Financial Assistance to For-Profit businesses	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Loans and assistance for business job creation and retention	CDBG	Jobs, Businesses
20	20-Planning	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Program and community planning activities	CDBG	None
21	21A – Administration	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	CPD administration of programs and funding	CDBG/HOME	None
22	21D – Fair Housing Activities	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Fair housing activities	CDBG	None

23	04A – Cleanup of Contaminated Sites	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Clean toxic hazards and environmental issues	CDBG	Businesses, Public Facilities, Housing Units
24	22-Unprogrammed Funds	2015	2019	Non Housing	Anoka County	Funds not allocated within program year	CDBG/HOME	None

Goal Descriptions

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)

As previously mentioned in MA-10 “Number of Housing Units”, Anoka County expects to continue providing affordable housing options to:

- 101 households through Columbia Heights Public Housing Facility
- 1,487 households through public housing vouchers
- 117 HOME funded rental housing units

Anoka County can realistically project adding 30 affordable housing option in the next five years along with continuing the rehabilitation programs to further sustain the existing affordable housing options.

SP-65 Lead-based Paint Hazards - 91.415, 91.215(i)

Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards

Action to address the LBP hazards in Anoka County include several educational and action steps structured around the type of situation a household is in. In working with home buyer programs, buyers are notified through the use of educational materials of the dangers and needs of homes built prior to 1978. This process is within real estate documents and disclosures and supported by information from the EPA and the Department of Health. Anoka County and its partners administer housing rehabilitation programs in which we are able to directly address items within the home that test positive for levels of lead based paint and product materials. Lead-based hazard testing is conducted on all rehabilitation projects where the housing unit was built before 1978. Rehabilitation programs require a clearance test at the completion of all work to ensure not only that the known lead based paint issues have been addressed but to ensure that further dust contamination did not occur within the area. In the administration of rental programs such as tenant based rental assistance or other, an inspection of all units for lead hazards is completed. If an area of paint is in poor condition or to be disturbed we work directly with property owners to safely remediate and improve the condition of deficient areas. Additional opportunities to education households are taken through local events to promote a healthy home and increase awareness of lead safe practices for renovation.

How the actions are listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?

Units with lead-based paint can also be considered substandard. According to the 2008 Blood Lead Surveillance Report (Minnesota Department of Health), "...lead paint is most often found in homes built before 1950, but may be found in any home built before 1978, the year lead paint was banned for residential use. More than 80% of all homes built before 1978 in the U.S. have lead-based paint."

Based on data available, roughly 58% of the county's rental housing stock was built before 1979. Over half of rental units, or 10,815, are more than 30 years old with a high likelihood of lead-based paint contamination if the home has not been rehabilitated to remove any lead hazard. Owner-occupied units consist of about 40% or 43,835 units built before 1979. Of the total owner-occupied and rental housing units in Anoka County, 46.3% of units were built before 1979.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, individuals with the highest risk for lead poisoning are children under 6 years of age. Therefore it is important to also look at the households living in units built before 1978 that have children under 6 years of age. The 2009 CHAS data shows that 52.65% of renters and 46.06% of owners with children under 6 years of age live in a unit built before 1978. Of total households with children under age 6, 46.28% live in units built before 1978. It is unknown the amount of lead present in these units, if any, but there is the potential for 54,650 units to have lead-based paint.

How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?

Anoka County's strategy to reducing lead-based paint hazards is addressed in the all housing programs and any housing project that is funded with CDBG and HOME funds. Lead-based hazard testing is

required on all rehabilitation projects where the housing unit was built before 1978. Contractors working directly with Anoka County must use Lead Supervisors for the remediation of lead rehabilitation projects. Additionally many of the municipalities are requiring contractors to identify they are Renovation, Repair and Painting program certified as identified by the EPA and has become part of the compliance requirement for obtaining building permits. Anoka County has also designated a staff person who is responsible for the lead based portion of programs and overall monitor's compliance, and completes inspections during construction for work safe practices.

SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy - 91.415, 91.215(j)

Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families

How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan

The demographic profile at the beginning of this document provides a glimpse of the number and characteristics of households living in poverty.

Anoka County is the principal provider of programs and services to enhance the economic well-being of its lowest-income citizens. The county strategy is to continue to fund programs and services that reduce poverty. In addition, Anoka County continues to coordinate efforts with other public and private agencies to develop antipoverty strategies and initiatives.

Key strategies identified to help accomplish this vision focus on the coordination of county programs and services in a manner that will facilitate individual self-sufficiency at the highest level possible. These strategies are currently implemented through a variety of methods:

- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) - Includes 11 support programs assuring ready access to the critical services needs of citizens. Programs include family self-sufficiency, Welfare to Work, Workforce Development Initiative and the Anoka County Workforce Jobs and Training Center.
- Anoka County Community Action Program, Inc. (ACCAP) - A local non-profit agency, provides emergency assistance, foreclosure and eviction counseling services and Head Start programs for Anoka County.
- Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) - This project enables persons with low wage jobs to build assets through savings. Earned income is matched by funds that provide a means to save for homeownership, higher education, or a micro business.

Anoka County's antipoverty strategy will reduce poverty by targeting all age groups in the county. Housing programs provide households the opportunity to reduce living expenses and to build assets. Reduced living expenses allow a household to better provide for their medical and educational needs. Building assets is a strong component of reducing poverty because it creates household stability, allows opportunity for risk taking, creates a social influence and provides a foundation for the well-being of a household's children.

Education programs within the county, such as Early Childhood Development, Head Start, English as a Second Language (ESL), General Education Degree (GED) and job training programs add the ability to increase an individual's paid wages and to fill positions that offer health benefits and stability.

Community development programs are working to provide stability to neighborhoods by maintaining and improving the current housing stock hard hit by the high number of foreclosures. Anoka County is able to provide services for low-income neighborhoods or target populations that allow residents to maintain self-sufficiency. A household has a better opportunity avoid welfare programs when assistance

is available at the point of crisis. When a crisis occurs, it can initiate a spiral effect of losing a residence, job loss or discontinuing education opportunities. Anoka County uses Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds to continue and create neighborhood programs that meet the needs of low and moderate income households, as well as disabled, youth and senior populations.

Economic development is an evolving program in Anoka County. As the population outgrows the transportation system, the county continues to work with companies and businesses to provide needed services and jobs. As the population of minorities and immigrants increase, the county is experiencing a higher demand for goods and services that are not currently available in Anoka County. By providing loans for micro and small business start-up, it is anticipated that jobs will be created, opportunities will be created and access will be increased for needed goods and services of Anoka County residents.

In an effort to increase employment and business opportunities for low and very-low income households, Anoka County complies with Section 3 HUD requirements which provide preference to low and very-low income residents, regardless of race or gender; and the businesses that substantially employ these persons, for new employment, training and contracting opportunities resulting from HUD-funded projects.

SP-80 Monitoring - 91.230

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

Objectives:

The object of the Anoka County Monitoring Plan is to provide a format for evaluating and reporting on a sub-recipient's compliance with CDBG and HOME program requirements. Anoka County will conduct desk and site reviews to confirm records and documents have been maintained verifying proper use and administration of program funding. Monitoring will be done in a timely and thorough manner so as to ensure programs are in compliance with CDBG and HOME regulations.

Standard Reporting Procedures:

Reports of each compliance review will be maintained in the project file. Written reports will be prepared at the conclusion of each monitoring visit and will:

- a. describe the scope and objective of the review;
- b. be concise and clearly written;
- c. present factual matters accurately, completely, and fairly;
- d. present findings and conclusions objectively and in a language as clear and simple as the subject matter permits;
- e. include only factual information that is adequately supported;
- f. include recommendations for specific actions to correct problem areas noted in the review;
- g. place emphasis on improvement;
- h. identify and explain issues and questions needing further study and consideration;
- i. include recognition of noteworthy accomplishments;
- j. state whether any significant information has been omitted because of the sub-recipient's inability to furnish records;
- k. indicate what specific follow-up action will be required either of the sub-recipient or county staff.

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 will include management procedures, goals, achievements, record keeping, financial status, construction and labor standards (if applicable), procurement procedures, and public service. Monitoring will also include:

- a. an in-house review of files;
- b. an on-site examination of the sub-recipient's documents and files;
- c. a follow-up with written conclusions and recommendation/s for change, if appropriate.

Sub-recipients will be 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 will monitor high-risk projects as a first priority. A project will be designated as “at risk” if:

- a. known problems exist;
- b. construction or other activities are underway;
- c. relatively large grant amount;
- d. not previously monitored;
- e. proposed closeout in the near future;
- f. changes in conditions;
- g. potential impact of adverse findings;
- h. new to the CDBG/HOME program;
- i. experiencing key staff turnover;
- j. plagued by past compliance or performance problems;
- k. undertaking multiple CDBG/HOME funded activities for the first time;
- l. not submitting timely reports.

Projects that do not set off “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.

Frequency of Meetings, Monitoring, and Inspections:

CDBG

All cities, townships, and organizations funded by the Anoka County CDBG program are subject to monitoring. Each year, after performing a risk analysis, a schedule will be drafted to determine which projects need monitoring and the level of review the monitoring will include.

HOME

At a minimum, rental projects will be monitored following the HOME program guidelines based on total units in the rental project.

Assistance projects such as, “rental assistance” or “down payment assistance” will be monitored every two (2) years to ensure compliance with HOME regulations.

Pre-Monitoring Preparation:

After it is determined which project will be monitored based on risk factors and history, county staff will gather all information it has access to; including, but not limited to, disbursement request forms, agreements, compliance with federal regulations, beneficiary data, and any other information reported to the county or HUD. Additional information to be assessed may include noting the file's strengths and weaknesses, past history, and monitoring checklists.

The sub-recipient, city, or township will be sent a letter notifying them that a monitoring visit is due, what funding year and project will be monitored, and what information staff will be evaluating. Following delivery of the notification letter, county staff will contact the agency to schedule a date for the review.

Use of Staff and Other Sources for Monitoring:

In preparation for the site visit, our office will contact the sub-recipient, city, or township and review with their staff the reason for the upcoming visit. Anoka County staff will also ask that they provide a place and contact person (on-site) who will be available to secure requested documents and answer any questions that may arise.

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources - 91.420(b), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$1,405,382	\$50,000	\$0	\$1,455,382	\$7,276,910	Number is based on PY2015 allocation
HOME	public - federal	Housing and admin	\$407,171	\$50,000	\$0	\$457,171	\$2,285,855	Number is based on PY2015 allocation
LIHTC	State	Housing	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000	Projection is determined through the knowledge of possible projects expected to apply for LIHTC financing

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
COC – McKinney Vento	Federal	Emergency Housing, Transitional Housing, & Permanent Supportive Housing	\$680,180	\$0	\$0	\$680,180	\$3,400,900	Number is based on PY2015 renewing projects through the Continuum of Care
Other Federal	Federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$100,500	\$0	\$0	\$100,500	\$502,500	Number is based on the leveraged funds of awarded PY2015 activities through both CDBG and HOME
Other State	Public-State	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$170,903	\$0	\$0	\$170,903	\$845,515	Number is based on the leveraged funds of awarded PY2015 activities through both CDBG and HOME

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
Private	Non-Public Organization	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$2,696,450	\$0	\$0	\$2,696,450	\$13,482,250	Number is based on the leveraged funds of awarded PY2015 activities through both CDBG and HOME
Local Funding	City/County (Non CDBG or HOME)	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$820,879	\$0	\$0	\$820,879	\$4,104,395	Number is based on the leveraged funds of awarded PY2015 activities through both CDBG and HOME

Table 20 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

Anoka County Community Development releases a competitive application for both CDBG and HOME funds every year. Applications showing the use of leveraged funds will score higher and be more likely to obtain funding from Anoka County Community Development for their proposed

project as it will maximize the use of funds. A 25% MATCH is required per the HOME Final Rule. All HOME projects are required to provide a 25% non-federal MATCH. As noted above in table 16, \$3,788,732 of leveraged funding is expected to add to the layers of subsidies for activities that Anoka County Community Development recommends for funding.

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

Anoka County and the municipalities within, hold publically owned land and property that meet the ongoing needs of local residents. Publically owned land includes that of parks and greenspace used for educational and recreational purposes. Property eligible for housing opportunities may be eligible for partnerships with organizations for the future development of affordable housing opportunities with state and federal funding programs. Publically owned property includes many of the senior and community centers in which provide residents the ability to obtain a safe and healthy meal, allow social interactions and provide a community space for safe and local activities. Currently Anoka County is the title holder of the property utilized for homeless services for individuals. This collaborative allowed the current homeless programs the ability to expand and increase the services they were providing to individuals. Each community continues to utilize publically owned property for meeting the needs and providing opportunities to fill identified gaps identified within the plan.

Discussion

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	21A – General Administration	2015	2016	Non Housing	Anoka County	Program Administration	CDBG/HOME	None
2	21D -Fair Housing	2015	2016	Non Housing	Anoka County	Fair housing activities	CDBG	None
3	05 – General Public Services	2015	2015	Non Housing	Anoka County	Basic living and food services	CDBG	People
4	12 – Construction of Housing	2015	2017	Housing	Anoka County	Acquisition and construction of new single family housing	HOME	Housing Units
5	01 – Acquisition	2015	2016	Housing	Anoka County	Acquisition of units not fit for habitation	CDBG	Housing Units
6	22 – Unallocated Program funds	2015	2016	Non Housing	Anoka County	Pending qualified project or activity	CDBG/HOME	None
7	14A – Rehabilitation Single Unit Residential	2015	2017	Housing	Anoka County	Address needs and conditions of existing housing supply	CDBG/HOME	Housing Units
8	04A –Cleanup of Contaminated Site	2015	2016	Non Housing	Columbia Heights	Cleanup of contaminated land for future redevelopment	CDBG	Slum/Blight
9	05A – Senior Services	2015	2015	Non Housing	Anoka County	Services for the elderly	CDBG	People
10	05E – Transportation Services	2015	2015	Non Housing	Anoka County	Services to meet transportation needs of low/mod	CDBG	People
11	05O – Mental Health Services	2015	2015	Non Housing	Anoka County	Services to meet the individuals mental health needs	CDBG	People

Table 21 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

Goal descriptions are outlined with the project summary as each goal met for the 2015 program year is tied to an individual activity meeting the needs of the low to moderate income community in which the project is targeting.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

#	Project Name
1	Anoka County – CDBG Administration
2	Anoka County – Fair Housing Activities
3	Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP) – Manufactured Home Removal and Replace
4	City of Columbia Heights – Central Avenue Contaminated Site Clean-Up
5	City of Coon Rapids (Entitlement City) – Single-Family Home Rehabilitation
6	Anoka County – Un-Programmed CDBG Project Funds
7	ACCAP (Public Service) – Chores and More
8	Alexandra House, Inc. (Public Service) – Salary 1 Full-Time Follow-Up Staff
9	Cars For Neighbors, Inc. (Public Service) – Emergency Car Repair Program
10	Family Life Mental Health Center (Public Service) – Coordinated Care Medical Assistant Wages
11	Impact Services (Public Service) – 3 Meals on Wheels Agencies
12	Lee Carlson Center-Bridgeview (Public Service) – Meals for Members
13	Linwood Senior Center (Public Service) – Replace Commercial Kitchen Appliances
14	North Suburban Counseling Center (Public Service) – Aromatherapy/Relaxation Program
15	Southern Anoka Community Assistance (Public Service) – Purchase of Cooler/Freezer

Table 22 – Project Information

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

Allocation priorities for 2015 CDBG funds match the priority needs of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

#1 – Anoka County – CDBG Administration – CDBG Funding

CDBG funds will be used for the daily administrative needs to maintain the CDBG grant and its regulations within Anoka County Community Development Department.

#2 – Anoka County – Fair Housing Activities – CDBG Funding

CDBG funds will be used for the administrative needs to maintain the Anoka County Fair Housing regulations with the regional Fair Housing Implementation Counsel (FHIC).

#3 – Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP) – Manufactured Home Removal and Replace – CDBG Funding

CDBG funds will be used to replace existing substandard manufactured housing units with new or standard manufactured housing units. This program will serve residents countywide.

#4 – City of Columbia Heights – Central Avenue Contaminated Site Clean-Up – CDBG Funding

CDBG funds will be used to meet the community needs of cleaning up contaminated sites and finalizing the process of removing slum/blighted lots on Central Avenue in the City of Columbia Heights. This project will be managed by Community Development and Public Works as well as consultants. The site have extensive ground contamination, which is an obstacle in redeveloping the parcels. Completion of environmental contamination removal and soils corrections will make these lots fully improved.

#5 – City of Coon Rapids (Entitlement City) – Single-Family Home Rehabilitation – CDBG Funding

CDBG funds will be used for zero interest/deferred loans to assist low/mod homeowners with home rehabilitation activities so as to maintain minimum housing standards. Households apply for the assistance and are handled on a first come first serve basis. All applicants are required to complete a program application and are screened for income, value, and need. Lead based paint testing and soft costs to the administrator are included in the total CDBG funding awarded. Loan terms are zero interest or payments, but the amount due remains as an encumbrance against the property until either sold, refinanced with cause to settle, or no longer owner occupied.

#6 – Anoka County – Un-Programmed CDBG Funds – CDBG Funding

The Un-Programmed CDBG Funds are called “Unallocated CDBG Funds” within Anoka County documents. The unallocated CDBG funds can be used with an amendment to the Action Plan or will be rolled into the next year’s competition for funding.

#7 – ACCAP – Chores and More – CDBG Public Service Funding

CDBG funds will be used by the ACCAP Chores and More Program to provide minor home repairs, seasonal chores (raking, mowing, snow removal), and housekeeping to Anoka County residents age 60+. This program provides needed support to those seniors living with chronic or terminal illnesses, those returning home from recent hospitalization, as well as providing much needed assistance and relief for their caregivers.

#8 – Alexandra House, Inc. – Salary 1 Full-Time Follow-Up Staff – CDBG Public Service Funding

CDBG funds will be used by Alexandra House, Inc. through its Follow-Up Services. This program proposes to serve 115 households during the 201-2016 funding cycle who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence and are willing to receive in-depth case management services.

#9 – Cars for Neighbors, Inc. – Emergency Car Repair Program – CDBG Public Service Funding

CDBG funds will be used by Cars for Neighbors, Inc. through its Emergency Car Repair Program. This program provides a critical service need in Anoka County by reducing transportation barriers through immediate car repair to individuals in danger of losing employment. The goal is to help individuals and families that are economically disadvantaged by removing their transportation barriers.

#10 – Family Life Mental Health Center – Coordinated Care Medical Assistant Wages – CDBG Public Service Funding

CDBG funds will be used by Family Life Mental Health Center to assist in creating a tracking process for clients who are seen for psychiatry. This tracking system will assist in making more connections with primary care, dental care, substance abuse programs, and other service providers for psychiatry clients. There are currently approximately 2,373 clients that will benefit from this.

#11 – Impact Services – 3 Meals on Wheels Agencies – CDBG Public Service Funding

CDBG funds will be used by Impact Services to fund the 3 Meals on Wheels Agencies. Meals on Wheels is a service that helps individuals live independently in their own home. The hot, fresh, and healthy meal provides for the needs of clients who are at nutritional risk. Meals on Wheels provides the client with a wellness check to make sure the individual is safe and healthy.

#12 – Lee Carlson Center Bridgeview – Meals for Members – CDBG Public Service Funding

CDBG funds will be used by the Lee Carlson Center for its Meals for Members program. This program is a 3-year initiative designed to provide balanced lunches and snacks for members Monday through Friday through 2017. CDBG dollars will support the food portion of the program provided by Bob's Produce in Fridley, MN. For roughly \$3.40 per person, Lee Carlson Center can feed up to 60 people per day.

#13 – Linwood Senior Center – Replace Commercial Kitchen Appliances – CDBG Public Service Funding

CDBG funds will be used by the Linwood Senior Center to replace their commercial kitchen appliances including a dishwasher, stove, and coffee pot.

#14 – North Suburban Counseling Center – Aromatherapy/Relaxation Program – CDBG Public Service Funding

CDBG funds will be used by the North Suburban Counseling Center for the development of their Aromatherapy/Relaxation Program. Funding will assist with training expenses for three clinicians in the use of aromatherapy. Funding will also pay for the equipment needed for the aromatherapy/relaxation program.

#15 – Southern Anoka Community Assistance – Purchase of Cooler/Freezer – CDBG Public Service Funding

CDBG funds will be used by Southern Anoka Community Assistance to purchase a cooler/freezer for their food bank

AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.420, 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds

Table 23 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Discussion

Anoka County, as an Urban County, is located in the northwest corner of the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan regional area. It is the third largest in land mass in this region and the fourth most densely populated with 782 people / square mile. Per the U.S. Census Bureau 2014 estimate, Anoka County has a population of 341,864 as it is comprised of 20 cities and one township. One in ten, or 10.3%, of households speak another language other than English at home. The median age in Anoka County is 37.1 years.

Anoka County allocated funding based on its annual competitive application process. This process works with municipalities and organization to determine the allocation priority and need. The application process held a deadline in which all projects and public services must be submitted for review to meet federal regulations and Action Plan requirements. Anoka County reviewed the 2015 applications based on the applicant's capacity, experience and project readiness to utilize funding. Applications reviewed were scored on details related to relocation, environmental requirements and monitoring compliance. All activities funded meet a high priority in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. Funding allocations and investments are limited and it is a high priority of Anoka County to ensure investments are geographically meeting underserved populations.

AP-85 Other Actions - 91.420, 91.220(k)

Introduction

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Programs that are expected to address the obstacles of those with underserved needs include not only the creation and stability of housing but also public service activities that will specifically address low to moderate income households in need of care for senior services, transportation or health. Through the use of CDBG and HOME funds housing opportunities are being created for very low income households in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity. The services for households with mental health are able to connect to resources related to healthy living, food and medical care.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Anoka County with the use of program year funding will foster and maintain affordable housing through a collaboration with local nonprofit housing organizations. Funds have been set aside for the development of 5 new units of single family home ownership to households at low income levels. Existing housing stock will be maintained through three rehabilitation programs working with the City of Coon Rapids and ACCAP. The first works directly with the existing housing supply for low to moderate income home owners who are struggle to make repairs related to health and safety measures. An additional acquisition and rehabilitation program will remove unsafe and unhealthy housing units and allow owners to obtain a home in livable conditions.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Action to address the LBP hazards in Anoka County include several educational and action steps structured around the type of situation a household is in. In working with home buyer programs, buyers are notified through the use of educational materials of the dangers and needs of homes built prior to 1978. This process is within real estate documents and disclosures and supported by information from the EPA and the Department of Health. Anoka County and its partners administer housing rehabilitation programs in which we are able to directly address items within the home that test positive for levels of lead based paint and product materials. Lead-based hazard testing is conducted on all rehabilitation projects where the housing unit was built before 1978. Rehabilitation programs require a clearance test at the completion of all work to ensure not only that the known lead based paint issues have been addressed but to ensure that further dust contamination did not occur within the area. In the administration of rental programs such as tenant based rental assistance or other, an inspection of all units for lead hazards is completed. If an area of paint is in poor condition or to be disturbed we work directly with property owners to safely remediate and improve the condition of deficient areas. Additional opportunities to education households are taken through local events to promote a healthy home and increase awareness of lead safe practices for renovation.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

One of the barriers identified through the needs assessment was a lack of employment opportunities with living wages. Currently, jobs people acquire do not pay them enough to be able to afford a market-rate unit. Additionally, the needs assessment identified transportation within the county as a barrier. There is a lack of public transportation routes especially in the northern half of the county. Applications for funding targeted to address some of these barriers were funded such as the Cars for Neighbors program in which works to provide safe dependable transportation opportunities for households to make employment requirements.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure:

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, Anoka County Community Development will take note any may include as a possible high priority in the next Five-Year Consolidated Plan as long as the citizen engagement is in favor.

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

Anoka County Community Development, along with private developers, non-profit organizations, Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's), the 21 city's within Anoka County, private business, and SMAC work very closely with each other, which fosters a coordination of 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 been proven to be successful in providing services regarding homeless prevention, supportive services, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. The coordinated assessment is fairly new and will enhance coordination.

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements - 91.420, 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed | \$50,000 |
| 2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan | Anoka County does not hold any section 108 loan guarantees |
| 3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements | Anoka county does not hold any surplus funds from urban renewal settlements |
| 4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan. | There have been no grant funds returned to the line of credit |
| 5. The amount of income from float-funded activities
Total Program Income | There are no income amounts from float funded activities |

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities

There are no urgent need activities identified in Anoka County

Discussion

Appendix - Alternate/Local Data Sources