# CDBG Annual Action Plan

2021

The City of Sharon's Draft Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is available for public review and comment from June 16, 2021 to July 20, 2021. Please contact Community Development Director Melissa Phillips at mphillips@cityofsharon.net or (724)983-3231 with comments or questions.

**2021 DRAFT** 

## **Executive Summary**

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

#### 1. Introduction

The City of Sharon, Pennsylvania is an entitlement community under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). In compliance with HUD regulations, the City of Sharon has prepared its Program Year (PY) 2021 Annual Action Plan for the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. The PY 2021 Annual Action Plan is a strategic guideline for the implementation of the City's housing, community, and economic development activities. This is the second Annual Action Plan under the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

The PY 2021 Annual Action Plan is a collaborative effort between the City, the community at large, social service agencies, housing providers, community development agencies, and economic development groups. The planning process was accomplished through input received at public meetings, analysis of statistical data, and review of the City's strategic plans, including:

- 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, prepared by Suzanne Kepple (2020)
- City of Sharon Blight Strategy Plan, developed by Pala Alto Partners and PA Housing Alliance (2020-2021)
- Save Small Business Memo, prepared by Recast City (2020)
- Downtown Sharon Business Improvement District / Main Street Plan, prepared by PA Downtown Center (2021)

During the 2021 Program Year, the City of Sharon, PA will receive a CDBG Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 allocation of:

• CDBG: \$621,362

• CDBG Program Income: \$60,000

Total: \$681,362

The City proposes to undertake the following activities with the 2021 FY CDBG Funds:

- 1. **Administration** \$136,000
- 2. **Public Facility Improvements -** \$100,000
- 3. Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation \$116,362
- 4. Shenango Valley Shuttle Service \$15,000

- 5. **Zone 5 Police Patrol -** \$34.000
- 6. Microenterprise Technical Assistance \$25,000
- 7. Clearance Activities \$100,000
- 8. **Code Enforcement -** \$90,000
- 9. **Lots to Love** \$40,000
- 10. **Sharon Community Development Corporation** \$25,000

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

**TBD** 

#### 3. Evaluation of past performance

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

Each year the City prepares its Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). This report is submitted within ninety (90) days after the start of the new program year. Copies of the CAPER are available for review at the City's Department of Community Development.

The FY 2019 CAPER, which was the final CAPER for the FY 2015-2019 Five Year Consolidated Plan, was pending approval by HUD as of June 14, 2021. The 2019 CAPER is the City's most recent, as our Program Year was changed from a January 1-December 31 schedule to October 1-September 30. Therefore, the 2019 CAPER reported on periods January 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. The City of Sharon did not made any changes to the FY 2015-2019 Five Year Consolidated Plan and its program objectives during this reporting period; however, a Substantial Amendment was submitted for the 2019 AAP, to include activities to respond to the coronavirus, utilizing CDBG-CV1 funds.

During the development of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Action plan, an emphasis on economic development needs and blight remediation needs were addressed. These identified needs contributed to the following decisions:

- Demolition and clearance funding will remain at approximately \$100,000 annually, and the City will contribute \$300,000 from the general fund to complete the demolition of all blighted homes in the City by 2024.
- Code Enforcement has an increased budget to support additional staff to assist with maintenance compliance throughout the City to ensure residents have safe living environments.
- Funding for the Valley Fab Lab is a priority to assist microenterprise business owners. The program is administered by a local technical college, Laurel Technical Institute.

• A new funding stream to support the Sharon Community Development Corporation's Main Street program is being recommended.

The City has a renewed emphasis on supporting entrepreneurs and existing business owners, as well as implementing a blight strategy to improve neighborhoods.

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

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City prepared its Annual Action Plan in compliance with the City's Citizen Participation Plan. The City held its first public hearing on the needs of the community on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 5:30 PM. This provided the residents, agencies, and organizations with the opportunity to discuss the City's CDBG program and to provide suggestions for 2021 Annual Action Plan priorities and activities. The City discussed potential CDBG funding activities with prospective applicants and stakeholders at the public hearing for FY 2021 CDBG funding.

A "Draft Plan" was placed on display on the City's website at www.cityofsharon.net under the Current News section of the homepage and hard copies of the plan were available for review at the Community Development Department and the City Clerk's Office, both located at 155 West Connelly Boulevard, Sharon, PA 16146, as well as on display at the Shenango Valley Community Library, 11 N Sharpsville Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146 from Wednesday, June 16, 2021 until Tuesday, July 20, 2021 for review and comment. The draft plan review period was advertised in The Herald on Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

The Second Public Hearing was held on Wednesday, July 7 at 12 PM to discuss the proposed FY 2021 CDBG activities. Upon completion of the thirty-day comment period, the Department of Community Development submitted the Plan to City Council for HUD submission approval at the City's regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 6:30 PM. The Annual Action Plan was then electronically submitted through HUD's online IDIS system on XXX.

For a more detailed description of the citizen participation and consultation process, please refer to Sections AP-10 and AP-12.

#### 5. Summary of public comments

**TBD** 

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

**TBD** 

#### 7. Summary

The goal of the 2021 Annual Action Plan is to improve the living conditions for all residents of the City of Sharon, to create a suitable and sustainable living environment, and to address the housing, community and economic development needs of the City. The 2021 Annual Action Plan presents which activities the City will undertake during the program year beginning October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. During the 2021 Program Year, the City anticipates the following federal financial resources: FY 2021 CDBG Funds of \$621,362 and CDBG Program Income of \$60,000.

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

#### 1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

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

Agency Role	Name	Name	
CDBG Administrator	SHARON	Depa	rtment of Community Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

#### **Narrative (optional)**

#### **Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

Melissa Phillips, Community and Economic Development Director 155 West Connelly Blvd. Sharon, PA 16146

(724)983-3231 mphillips@cityofsharon.net

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

#### 1. Introduction

The City of Sharon staff has worked diligently to engage stakeholders and community members throughout the development of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, which was used as the basis to inform this 2021 Annual Action Plan.

The City compiled the following reports to directly inform the Consolidated Action Plan: 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, Blight Strategy Plan and the Save Small Businesses Memo. Stakeholder engagement for these efforts include:

Al: City of Sharon staff, Mercer County Housing Authority, Community Action Partnership of Mercer County, Greater Mercer County Association of Realtors, Mercer County Housing Coalition, Palo Alto Partners, PA Housing Alliance, PA Human Relations Commission, Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh, Western PA CoC, Shenango Valley Urban League, AWARE, Inc., Veterans Affairs, Joshua's Haven, Prince of Peace Center, Salvation Army, Community Counseling Center, F.H. Buhl Club, Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County, Shenango Valley Community Library, Mercer County Regional Council of Governments, United Way of Mercer County, Richardson Inspection Services, Penn State Shenango Campus, Beaver County Community College, Laurel Technical Institute, Sharon Community and Economic Development Commission, Shenango Valley Enterprise Zone Corporation, Shenango Valley Industrial Development Corporation, NW PA Regional Planning and Development Commission, Sharon Industrial Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce.

Blight Plan: The Blight Task Force includes representatives from City government, the school district, residents, landlords, and other stakeholders.

Small Business Plan: Coordination with the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce, Urban League and Small Business Development Center (SBDC), as well as more than 15 Sharon small businesses.

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In 2021 the City has worked with the PA Downtown Center to develop a Downtown Sharon BID / Main Street Plan, in which all downtown property owners have been consulted.

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))

The City of Sharon acts as the single point of contact to coordinate efforts between public and assisted housing providers, as well as private and governmental health, mental health, and social service agencies. The City works with the following agencies to enhance funding and service allocations to address the housing and community development needs of the City:

- Mercer County Housing Authority coordinating on affordable housing (Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing improvements) especially for the very low- and extremely low-income residents of the City.
- Social Services Agencies coordinating on funding allocations to improve the availability and efficacy of social service programs for low-and moderate-income persons.
- Housing Providers coordinating on rehabilitation and development affordable housing needs for low- and moderate-income households.

All members of the housing and social service community are encouraged to actively participate on the CoC's activities. Each year, as part of the CDBG application planning process, local agencies and organizations are invited to submit proposals for CDBG project funding for eligible project activities. These groups participate in the planning process by attending the public hearings and informational meetings, completing survey forms, and commenting on draft plans.

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.

The City of Sharon is a member of the PA 602 Northwest PA Continuum of Care. The City coordinates its activities with the Continuum of Care and supports its applications for funds. The City helps the CoC to address homelessness by working together to develop a framework to deliver housing and services to the homeless.

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

ESG - ESG funds for the CoC member communities are administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The Western CoC is consulted by DCED regarding past program performance and involvement of ESG applicants. The CoC provides input on the allocation of ESG funding to subrecipients, through a Performance Interview Planning Checklist that was developed as a standardized tool for CoC input on applicant capacity and participation in the CoC. The Northwest PA Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB) provides input on ESG applications and ranks and reviews projects.

The Northwest and Southwest CoCs have merged to form the Western PA CoC. Data collection and outcomes are standardized by DCED through the PA HMIS Policies and Standard Operating Procedures.

Throughout different times of the year, the CoC and the HMIS lead work together to assess data quality throughout the CoC. This includes working on Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) submission, the PIT count, project review/ranking, and working with individuals programs while completing their Annual Performance Reports (APRs). Data quality has tremendously improved over the years, largely due to PA HMIS system enhancements. The system ensures data quality by requiring many of the universal data elements upon enrolling a participant into a program. Additionally, the system has an alert system with exit date reminders. The work flow of data entry has been updated to improve data quality. The HMIS lead supports users through the staffing of a Help Desk and ongoing training opportunities. Agency users are able to run self-reports to assess their program's data quality. CoC-funded organizations are motivated to have good data quality, because the CoC has moved toward a data-driven project review and ranking system. Projects with poor data quality are more likely to show poor outcomes, which can impact their funding.

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

Sharon Community and Economic Development Commission Mercer County Housing Authority Community Action Partnership of Mercer County

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Laurel Technical Institute
Shenango Valley Urban League
Shenango Valley Realtors
Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce

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

N/A

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care		

Table 2 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

**Narrative (optional)** 

## AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

**TBD** 

## **Expected Resources**

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

## Introduction

## **Anticipated Resources**

Program	Source	Uses of Funds	Expec	ted Amoun	t Available Ye	ar 1	Expected	Narrative
	of Funds		Annual Allocation:	Program Income:	Prior Year Resources:	Total: \$	Amount Available	Description
			\$	\$	\$		Remainder of ConPlan	
							\$	
CDBG	public	Acquisition						
	-	Admin and						
	federal	Planning						
		Economic						
		Development						
		Housing						
		Public						
		Improvements						
		Public						
		Services	621,362	60,000	0	681,362	0	

Table 3 - Expected Resources - Priority Table

## **Annual Goals and Objectives**

## **AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives**

## **Goals Summary Information**

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	HS-1	2020	2024	Affordable	Citywide	Housing Priority	CDBG:	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 20
				Housing			\$116,362	Household Housing Unit
2	HS-2	2020	2024	Affordable	Citywide	Community	CDBG:	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed
				Housing		Development Priority	\$90,000	Property Care: 520 Household Housing
								Unit
3	SN-3	2020	2024	Non-Homeless	Citywide	Special Needs Priority	CDBG:	Public service activities other than
				Special Needs			\$15,000	Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:
				Non-Housing				13109 Persons Assisted
				Community				
				Development				
4	CD-1	2020	2024	Non-Housing	Citywide	Community	CDBG:	Buildings Demolished: 15 Buildings
				Community		Development Priority	\$100,000	
				Development				
5	CD-2	2020	2024	Non-Housing	Citywide	Community	CDBG:	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities
				Community		Development Priority	\$1,000,000	other than Low/Moderate Income
				Development				Housing Benefit: 13109 Persons Assisted
6	CD-3	2020	2024	Non-Housing	Citywide	Community	CDBG:	Public service activities other than
				Community		Development Priority	\$34,000	Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:
				Development				13109 Persons Assisted

Sort	Goal	Start	End	Category	Geographic	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
Order	Name	Year	Year		Area			
7	CD-4	2020	2024	Non-Housing	Citywide	Community	CDBG:	Public service activities other than
				Community		Development Priority	\$40,000	Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:
				Development				3710 Persons Assisted
8	ED-1	2020	2024	Economic	Citywide	Economic	CDBG:	Businesses assisted: 10 Businesses
				Development		Development Priority	\$25,000	Assisted
9	ED-2	2020	2024	Economic	Citywide	Economic	CDBG:	Businesses assisted: 25 Businesses
				Development		Development Priority	\$25,000	Assisted
10	AM-1	2020	2024	Affordable	Citywide	Administration,	CDBG:	Other: 13109 Other
				Housing		Planning and	\$136,000	
				Public Housing		Management Priority		
				Homeless				
				Non-Homeless				
				Special Needs				
				Non-Housing				
				Community				
				Development				
				Economic				
				Development				

Table 4 – Goals Summary

## **Goal Descriptions**

1	Goal Name	HS-1
	Goal Description	HS-1 is to conserve and rehabilitate the existing housing stock in the community and this goal will be met through the City's Housing Rehab Program.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	HS-2
	Goal	HS-2 is to promote and enforce rehabilitation of rental housing to become decent, safe, and sound housing; Al Goal 2.
	Description	This will be accomplished by Code Enforcement .
3	Goal Name	SN-3
	Goal Description	SN-3 is to support social services, programs, and facilities for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons with other special needs; AI Goal 6.
		This Goal will be accomplished by assisting the Shenango Valley Shuttle Service.
4	Goal Name	CD-1
	Goal Description	Clearance and demo projects will raze approximately 15 dilapidated homes that are unfit for human habitation.
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	CD-2
	Goal Description	Public Facility Improvements such as street and sidewalk replacement will be completed in qualifying LMI areas throughout the City.
6	Goal Name	CD-3
	Goal Description	CD-3 is to improve and increase public safety, city facilities and public services throughout the City. The Crime Prevention activity will support this goal.

7	<b>Goal Name</b>	CD-4
	Goal	CD-5 is to promote and encourage neighborhood investment and revitalization with programs and community
	Description	participation through the Lots to Love program; Al Goal 3. Approximately 50 vacant lots will be revitalized as denoted in the Goal Outcome Indicator.
8	<b>Goal Name</b>	ED-1
	Goal	ED-1 is to support and encourage new job creation, job retention, and job training opportunities.
	Description	This Goal will be supported by Small Business Technical Assistance.
9	Goal Name	ED-2
	Goal Description	ED-2 is to support business and commercial growth through expansion and new development, implemented by the Sharon Community Development Corporation.
10	Goal Name	AM-1
	Goal	AM-1 is to provide program management and oversight for the successful administration of federal, state, and local
	Description	funded programs.
		General Program Administration supports this Goal. Goal Outcome Indicator reflects present Sharon population.

## **Projects**

## **AP-35 Projects - 91.220(d)**

#### Introduction

In order to address the identifiable needs of the City of Sharon, the proposed 2021 Annual Action Plan proposes the following activities:

#### **Projects**

#	Project Name
1	Lots to Love Program
2	Housing Rehabilitation
3	Clearance and Demolition
4	Public Facility Improvements
5	Code Enforcement
6	Microenterprise Technical Assistance
7	Small Business Assistance
8	Crime Prevention
9	Shenango Valley Shuttle Service
10	General Administration

**Table 5 - Project Information** 

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

The allocations and priorities were established by the participation of City and County decision makers, stakeholders and public hearing participants. The major obstacle that the City experiences in addressing underserved needs of the community is access to additional federal, state, and local financial funding resources to accomplish the housing and community development goals of the City.

## **AP-38 Project Summary**

**Project Summary Information** 

1	Project Name	Lots to Love Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	CD-4
	Needs Addressed	Community Development Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$400,000
	Description	The project is a joint effort with Community Action Partnership of Mercer County. The project is being closely watched by Harrisburg and launched with a visit from DCED Secretary Dennis Davin. The purpose of the project is to ensure vacant lots in Sharon do not perpetuate blight. If vacant lots are unkempt, the purpose of blight remediation through demolition become null and void. If we can show the successful model here, this is opportunity to share our strategy throughout the Commonwealth.
	Target Date	9/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 53 vacant lots will be maintained.  We estimate that each of the 53 lots will impact 20 households (5 to the left of the lot, 5 to the right of the lot and 10 in front of the lot) with an estimate of 3.5 individuals per household, for a total of 3,710 residents.  (Neighborhood Assistance Program metric)
	Location Description	The program began as a pilot in the neighborhood north of Buhl Club (Hull to the north, Jefferson to the east, State to the south and Sharpsville to the west). In 2021 the program will likely continue this footprint.
	Planned Activities	Community Action Partnership of Mercer County will serve as the subrecipient to administer the Lots to Love Program. A Project Supervisor will implement three lot revitalization startegies: Adopt-a-Lot, Sponsor-a-Lot and the Side Lot program.
2	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	HS-1
	Needs Addressed	Housing Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$116,362
	Description	Funding to support a Minor Repair Program and Roof Repair Program.
	Target Date	9/30/2022

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	20 projects will be completed.
	Location Description	Citywide; homeowners must income qualify.
	Planned Activities	This Activity was derived from the 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and Blight Strategy Plan (organized by CDBG IDIS Matrix Code and Plan Name and Number).
		14A: Housing Rehab
		AI IMPEDIMENT #3: NEED FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT
		<ol> <li>3-A: Continue to support and encourage housing rehabilitation of existing housing units to become decent, safe, and sound housing that is affordable to lower income households, including managing the Community Development Department's Housing Rehab program.</li> </ol>
		3. AI IMPEDIMENT #4: NEED FOR ACCESSIBLE HOUSING
		4. 4-A: Continue to promote programs that increase housing accessibility through the rehabilitation of existing housing stock by homeowners and landlords who will make handicap improvements.4-B: Promote programs to assist elderly homeowners in the City so they are able to make accessibility improvements to their properties in order for those residents to stay in their homes.
		5. BLIGHT PLAN PRIORITY STRATEGY #4
		4: Work with Banks and Non-Profits to Provide Financing for Home Rehabs
3	Project Name	Clearance and Demolition
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	CD-1
	Needs Addressed	Community Development Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Demolition and Clearance of 15 scattered-site residential units.
	Target Date	9/30/2022

Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities  Location Description  Planned Activities  This Activity was derived from the 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and Blight Strategy Plan (organized by CDBG IDIS Matrix Code and Plan Name and Number).  04: Clearance and Demolition  1. Al IMPEDIMENT #3: NEED FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT  2. 3-C: Continue to use funds and expand resources for housing demolitions and lots program.  3. BLIGHT PLAN PRIORITY STRATEGY #1  1: Prioritize and Demolish Unsafe Structures and Prepare for Reinvestment  Project Name  Public Facility Improvements  Target Area  Citywide  Goals Supported  CD-2  Needs Addressed  Community Development Priority  Funding  CDBG: \$100,000  Description  City administrators and City Council will work with citizens to prioritize 2021-2022 projects, as detailed below.  Target Date  Improvements are determined by selecting projects that will be most impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.			
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Fair Housing Choice and Blight Strategy Plan (organized by CDBG IDIS Matrix Code and Plan Name and Number).  04: Clearance and Demolition  1. Al IMPEDIMENT #3: NEED FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT  2. 3-C: Continue to use funds and expand resources for housing demolitions and lots program.  3. BLIGHT PLAN PRIORITY STRATEGY #1  1: Prioritize and Demolish Unsafe Structures and Prepare for Reinvestment  Public Facility Improvements  Target Area Citywide  Goals Supported CD-2  Needs Addressed Community Development Priority  Funding CDBG: \$100,000  Description City administrators and City Council will work with citizens to prioritize 2021-2022 projects, as detailed below.  Target Date 9/30/2022  Estimate the number and type of families that will be most impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.		<b>Location Description</b>	Demolitions may be completed city-wide.
1. AI IMPEDIMENT #3: NEED FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT  2. 3-C: Continue to use funds and expand resources for housing demolitions and lots program.  3. BLIGHT PLAN PRIORITY STRATEGY #1  1: Prioritize and Demolish Unsafe Structures and Prepare for Reinvestment  Public Facility Improvements  Target Area Citywide  Goals Supported CD-2  Needs Addressed Community Development Priority  Funding CDBG: \$100,000  Description City administrators and City Council will work with citizens to prioritize 2021-2022 projects, as detailed below.  Target Date 9/30/2022  Estimate the number and type of families that will bemost impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.		Planned Activities	Fair Housing Choice and Blight Strategy Plan (organized by CDBG IDIS Matrix Code and Plan Name and Number).
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Target Area Citywide  Goals Supported CD-2  Needs Addressed Community Development Priority  Funding CDBG: \$100,000  Description City administrators and City Council will work with citizens to prioritize 2021-2022 projects, as detailed below.  Target Date 9/30/2022  Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the Improvements are determined by selecting projects that will be most impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.			·
Goals SupportedCD-2Needs AddressedCommunity Development PriorityFundingCDBG: \$100,000DescriptionCity administrators and City Council will work with citizens to prioritize 2021-2022 projects, as detailed below.Target Date9/30/2022Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from theImprovements are determined by selecting projects that will be most impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.	4	Project Name	Public Facility Improvements
Needs Addressed  Community Development Priority  Funding  CDBG: \$100,000  City administrators and City Council will work with citizens to prioritize 2021-2022 projects, as detailed below.  Target Date  9/30/2022  Estimate the Improvements are determined by selecting projects that will be most impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.		Target Area	Citywide
Funding  CDBG: \$100,000  City administrators and City Council will work with citizens to prioritize 2021-2022 projects, as detailed below.  Target Date  9/30/2022  Estimate the number and type of families that will be most impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.		Goals Supported	CD-2
Description  City administrators and City Council will work with citizens to prioritize 2021-2022 projects, as detailed below.  Target Date  9/30/2022  Estimate the Improvements are determined by selecting projects that will be most impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.		Needs Addressed	Community Development Priority
Target Date  9/30/2022  Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the  2021-2022 projects, as detailed below.  9/30/2022  Improvements are determined by selecting projects that will be most impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.		Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the Improvements are determined by selecting projects that will be most impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.		Description	·
number and type of impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects included in the 2020-2024 Con Plan.		Target Date	9/30/2022
		number and type of families that will benefit from the	impactful to Sharon residents. The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects
<b>Location Description</b> Acitivities may be completed citywide.		<b>Location Description</b>	Acitivities may be completed citywide.
		-	I .

	Planned Activities	Street Improvements 24 CFR 570.201(c) or 42 USC 5305(a)(2) Installation or repair of streets, street drains, storm drains, curbs and gutters, tunnels, bridges, and traffic lights/signs. Also use 03K: · For improvements that include landscaping, street lighting, and/or street signs (commonly referred to as "streetscaping"). · If sidewalk improvements (see code 03L) are part of more extensive street improvements.
		The following projects are under consideration for PY2021:
		Grant Street Wall: Our data collection has not show significant movement to the wall; however, the City should consider planning and budgeting for its replacement, as it will likely become a problem. Funding can be used for engineered designs for the wall, as it would be considered "activity delivery".
		General Street Repairs
		Gateway Treatment Project: Funding can be used for required match.
		Moe's Walkway: funding may be used to support Mezaros Foundation in areas where walkway may impact aforementioned Street Improvement items.
5	Project Name	Code Enforcement
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	HS-2
	Needs Addressed	Community Development Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$90,000
	Description	Sharon Code Officers work with residents to establish safe and healthy living environments.
	Target Date	9/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We estimate code officers to assist approximately 2 houses/day (52 weeks).
	Location Description	These activities are city-wide in LMI areas.

	Planned Activities	This Activity was derived from the 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and Blight Strategy Plan (organized by CDBG IDIS Matrix Code and Plan Name and Number).
		15: Code Enforcement
		AI IMPEDIMENT #2: NEED FOR AFFORDABLE AND SAFE RENTAL HOUSING
		<ol> <li>2. 2-A Continue to prioritize rental inspection with higher Code         Office capacity, efficient scheduling, and building relationships         with landlords to promote more private investment.2-B         Effectively and efficiency increase enforcement of housing         violations, whether tenants or landlords, including continuing to         work with court system and receiving resources from Mercer         County Courthouse.</li> </ol>
		3. AI IMPEDIMENT #3: NEED FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT
		<ol> <li>3-B: Encourage residents, especially youth, to maintain their property by providing resources (including on city's website), education, and opportunities with community organizations.</li> </ol>
		5. AI IMPEDIMENT #8: NEED FOR MORE STAFF CAPACITY
		<ol> <li>8-A: Hire and train employees for these departments to meet capacity demands.8-B: Aspects of the rental ordinances need to be updated or performed better.</li> </ol>
		7. BLIGHT PLAN PRIORITY STRATEGY #2
		Coordinate with Mercer County Tax Claim Bureau to Disqualify Negligent & Tax Delinquent Property Owners from Bidding at Sale
6	Project Name	Microenterprise Technical Assistance
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	ED-1
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$25,000

	Description	The FabLab is the first step, offering a space where people can use equipment and learn how to start/grow a maker business. The equipment is housed at Laurel Technical Institute and as of Summer 2020, LTI has developed a new degree program in which students can learn to establish maker-businesses. The City's funding will be used for students and community members to attend classes and trainings to grow a business. Compliance for this project involves tracking how many jobs are created/retained and demographic information of participants. This project is a partnership between the Chamber, Whole Life Services and City and serves veterans (Guardian's Nest), minorities (Urban League), artists (Random Acts of Artists), and individuals with disabilities (Whole Life) to create a Creative Community. The goal is to ultimately create a center where small maker-businesses can receive equipment training and business development assistance and sell products in a retail environment.
	Target Date	9/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This Activity was derived from the Recast City Save Small Business Memo (organized by CDBG IDIS Matrix Code and Plan Name and Number)  18B Economic Development: Technical Assistance  1. SAVE SMALL BUSINESS MEMO LONG-TERM STRATEGY 3  2. Bring small business owners together  The current goal is to assist 5 business owners.
	Location Description	Technical Assistance classes will be hosted at Laurel Technical Institute, located at 200 Sterling Avenue.
	Planned Activities	Ongoing course schedule can be viewed at https://www.valleyfablab.org/.
7	Project Name	Small Business Assistance
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	ED-2
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Funding for the Sharon Community Development Corporation to assist local businesses.
	Target Date	9/30/2022

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	LMI business owners and businesses in LMI area will be provided support services via the Sharon Community Development Corporation.
	<b>Location Description</b>	This activity will be available to businesses citywide.
	Planned Activities	The Sharon Community Development Corporation is currently under development and specific activities will be determined at a future time. Support services may include technical assistance, loans/grants and facade improvement funding.
8	Project Name	Crime Prevention
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	CD-3
	Needs Addressed	Community Development Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$34,000
	Description	Crime prevention activities will be completed by Sharon Police, as efforts to work with troubled community members prior to breaking the law.
	Target Date	9/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for efforts that impact all residents.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Crime prevention activities will be predominately in Sharon's policedenoted Zone 5.
	Planned Activities	Crime Prevention activities for 2021-2022 are under development.
9	Project Name	Shenango Valley Shuttle Service
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	SN-3
	Needs Addressed	Special Needs Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$15,000
	Description	The shuttle provides rides throughout the County, offering affordable, accessible transportation.
	Target Date	9/30/2022

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide activities.
	<b>Location Description</b>	county-wide
	Planned Activities	This Activity was derived from the 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (organized by CDBG IDIS Matrix Code and Plan Name and Number).
		05E: Transportation Services
		AI IMPEDIMENT #5: NEED FOR AWARENESS OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS
		5-C: Work with Mercer County Council of Governments on improving efficiency and outreach of public transportation, especially low-income areas.
10	Project Name	General Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	AM-1
	Needs Addressed	Administration, Planning and Management Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$136,000
	Description	General administration includes day-to-day oversight of projects, grant management, reporting and accounting.
	Target Date	9/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The Sharon population of 2018 is 13,109 and that figure is used as a common metric for city-wide projects.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Activities are completed throughout the city; administration offices are located at 155 West Connelly Boulevard.

#### **Planned Activities**

This Activity was derived from the 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and Blight Strategy Plan(organized by CDBG IDIS Matrix Code and Plan Name and Number)

#### 21A General Program Admin

- 1. AI IMPEDIMENT #5: NEED FOR AWARENESS OF SOCIAL SERVICE
- 5-A: Building relationships and continue to support local agencies, organizations, and banks that provide these services to citizens, especially low-income individuals. These agencies include Shenango Valley Urban League, Community Action Partnership of Mercer County, and Mercer County Housing Authority.
- 3. AI IMPEDIMENT #6: NEED FOR RACIAL DIVERSITY
- 4. 6-A: Survey these individuals and families on their determination in finding a home in general and in Sharon neighborhoods (location, income, job, etc.).6-B: Continue research by talking with agencies that help these individuals and families.6-C: Create and implement solutions determined from survey and other resources to help individuals and families explore more housing options.
- 5. BLIGHT PLAN PRIORITY STRATEGY #5
- 6. 5: Adopt Tax Abatement and Other Programs Authorized by State Law that Provide Incentives for Private Development

#### AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

The City of Sharon will direct CDBG funds citywide.

The City of Sharon identified the following CTs and BGs with minority concentrations over 29%, as determined by the 2010 Census:

CT 303, BG 4, 31.48%; CT 305, BG 3, 40.09%; CT 332, BG 1, 44.54%; CT 332, BG 2, 59.08%; CT 332, BG 3, 60.06%.

The City of Sharon has identified the following CTs and BGs as qualifying low-mod areas:

CT 301, BG 1, 57.46%; CT 301, BG 2, 93.55%; CT 301, BG 3, 67.29%; CT 303, BG 3, 65.48%; CT 303, BG 4, 63.45%; CT 305, BG 2, 52.63%; CT 332, BG 1, 97.62%; CT 332, BG 2, 76.06%; CT 332, BG 3, 88.50%; CT 332, BG 4, 57.14%.

At the time of this report, 2020 Census data is still being analyzed and thus unavailable for incorporation into this Annual Action Plan.

#### **Geographic Distribution**

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Citywide	100

**Table 6 - Geographic Distribution** 

#### Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City of Sharon has allocated its CDBG funds for the 2021 program year based on which activities will principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

The Public Facilities Improvements activities are either located in a low- and moderate-income census area or have a low- and moderate-income service area benefit or clientele. The Housing Rehabilitation Improvements activities have an income eligibility criterion; therefore, the income requirement restricts funds only to low- and moderate-income households throughout the City. The Public Services activities are for social service organizations with low-income clients.

#### Discussion

Under the FY 2021 CDBG Program, the City of Sharon will receive a grant in the amount of \$621,362 and
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anticipates program income of \$60,000. The City will budget \$136,000 for general administration. The balance of funds (\$545,362) will be allocated to: activities which principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons in the amount of \$445,362 (65%) and \$100,000 for the removal of slums and blight (15%).

## **Affordable Housing**

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

#### Introduction

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

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	15
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	15

Table 8 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

## AP-60 Public Housing - 91.220(h)

#### Introduction

The Mercer County Housing Authority is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who need affordable, safe housing choices, and supportive services in well maintained neighborhoods for the residents of Mercer County and the City of Sharon. MCHA provides affordable housing in the most efficient and effective manner to qualified individuals in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Mercer County, the City of Sharon, and any other entity providing funding for affordable housing programs. This is achieved by MCHA assisting individuals and families through its public housing communities and Housing Choice Vouchers.

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

In 2019, the 38 units Pine Hollow Village were renovated along with maintenance of the back wall and landscaping. MCHA will update the units more in 2020 with doors, windows, security cameras (Safety and Security Grant), and updated outdoor lighting. There are also ongoing renovations to all the units that are being converted to RAD are receiving new kitchens and baths by 2027.

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

MCHA encourages residents of its public housing units to organize community resident groups to become more involved in housing management. MCHA publishes a quarterly newsletter that keeps residents informed of various events and activities specific to residents. MCHA staffs a Resident Services Department that offers programs to encourage self-sufficiency, improve quality of life, and encourage healthy communities. The following is a list of some of the services offered through the MCHA: After-school and Summer Programs (school-aged children); Pre-K playgroup (ages 3-5); Job board for resident employment opportunities; Community Events and Resource Fairs; Resume writing assistance; Health & Fitness Programs; Youth Programs; Use of on-site computer lab, copier, and fax machine; Financial literacy classes; and Referrals to community resources. In addition, MCHA promotes and provides information and technical assistance to residents concerning Section 3 opportunities. Part of MCHA's PHA Plan is to be more proactive when it comes to letting the residents know what their options are and what violations can be addressed to prevent termination of the lease. This will help with keeping the units filled and bring down the amount of turnover.

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

#### provided or other assistance

MCHA was not classified as "troubled" by HUD and was performing satisfactorily according to HUD.

#### Discussion

The City of Sharon has identified that there is a need for decent, safe, and sanitary housing to address the households affected by housing problems, severe housing problems, and housing cost burdens. The largest income group affected by housing problems is the extremely low-income households. The Mercer County Housing Authority is an important part of the City of Sharon's housing strategy. MCHA is the primary assisted housing provider of housing for extremely low income, very low income, and lower income residents of Mercer County and the City of Sharon.

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

The City of Sharon is a member of the Western PA CoC. the Western PA CoC is comprised of the Northwest RHAB (Crawford, Warren, McKean, Potter, Mercer, Venango, Forest, Elk, Cameron, Lawrence, Clarion, Jefferson, and Clearfield counties) and the Southwest RHAB (Butler, Armstrong, Indiana, Washington, Westmoreland, Greene, and Fayette counties).

## Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

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

DCED and the Balance of State CoCs have customized a standardized assessment that utilizes Southwest PA 211 to expand and improve coverage. The tool was designed to be a detailed common assessment tool to identify housing and services appropriate to the individuals' needs.

The methods for conducting the unsheltered count utilized by CoC members:

- 1. Public places with interviews on PIT night: Standardized Interview Forms were used in interviewing households to collect/record data
- 2. Public places count: During count, if a family/person was sleeping, not willing to be interviewed or safely reached, details about their household size, gender, estimated age, location, clothes, and appearance were recorded on the Interview Form.
- 3. Service-based count: Some counties within the CoC have moved to a service-based count. This includes conducting interviews at soup kitchens, day centers, food pantries, health clinic, etc. Some counties conducted the service-based count in combination with the public places count.

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

The City does not have plans for program year 2021 to fund projects that address emergency shelter housing.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The Balance of State CoC supports the Housing First approach to ending homelessness that centers on

providing people experiencing homelessness with housing as quickly as possible – and then providing services as needed. This approach has the benefit of being consistent with what most people experiencing homelessness want and seek help to achieve. Housing First programs share critical elements: A focus on helping individuals and families access and sustain permanent rental housing as quickly as possible without time limits; A variety of services delivered to promote housing stability and individual well-being on an as-needed basis; and A standard lease agreement to housing – as opposed to mandated therapy or services compliance.

Currently PAHMIS is the primary tool to track returns to homelessness. It has the capability of tracking people through the recently implemented "client data sheet" which provides users the ability to see other places in the CoC where that client has appeared for service. This system is not yet widely used, but over the course of the coming year, providers will be trained in its value for tracking returns to homelessness and for developing strategies to prevent future returns. PAHMIS staff will, through user input, develop reports that can be used to further this effort. A current limitation of this is that in rural communities, where there are few shelters and reliance on informal support, there are numerous instances of people not returning to CoC programs after returning to homelessness. When coordinated assessment is fully operational, integrated with HMIS and well-advertised as point of entry for homeless assistance, the CoC will have greater ability to track returns to homelessness.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

The Western PA CoC follows the State's Homeless Plan, known as the PA Agenda to End Homelessness. On 1/10/13, the PA Housing Advisory Committee endorsed and adopted Opening Door's 4 goals, with a caveat on the timeline. The State Homeless Steering Committee has established subcommittees responsible for recommendations and implementation of goals. Examples of outcomes to date include: letter to the Department of Public Welfare to request consideration of TANF funds for housing; improved outreach for youth and veterans; recommendations for improved data collection and housing options for youth; and prioritization of chronic, Veterans, youth and families for State ESG.

Children aging out of foster care are protected by laws to ensure that youth are not discharged into homelessness. The Federal Fostering Connections Act and State Court Rule require a Transition Plan before discharge from foster care. The PA Office of Children, Youth & Families guides Transition Plan components. Also, recent state law allows youth under 21 who have aged out to re-enter foster care and receive placement and services. County agencies are required to enter into youth-driven transition planning as early as age 16 and at least 6 months prior to discharge. The court approved Plan may not include referrals to shelters and must address living arrangements for 6 months, as well as a budget and

source of income to address the youth's living expenses. However, County agencies provide limited housing support upon discharge, ending at age 21. Youth go to relatives or family, transitional living placements, four year schools, to live with roommates/friends, reunite with family of origin, or remain with foster family. There were no unaccompanied youth counted in Mercer County in the Point -in-Time counts for 2018 or 2019. There were 2 unaccompanied youth in 2020. The Western PA CoC conducted an abbreviated 2021 PIT Count, due to COVID-19. This abbreviated PIT count was a head-count only, and captured total persons and households experiencing unsheltered homelessness; however, the count did not capture any demographic or subpopulation data. In addition, emergency shelters and transitional housing may have been impacted by COVID-19 (e.g. changes in capacity). 2021 numbers should be considered within this context. There were no unaccompanied youth accounted for in 2021.

Hospitals must have written discharge policies for "appropriate referral and transfer plans" including evaluation of a patient's capacity for self-care and possibility of being cared for in "the environment from which s/he entered the hospital." The actual discharge varies with the individual being discharged, their primary and behavioral health needs, and resources and supports available. While planners try to send individuals home or to family, sometimes they discharge to a nursing home, rehab hospital or as last resort, non-HUD funded shelter. Some shelters have protocols against accepting certain individuals directly from a hospital.

#### Discussion

It was alarming that the Point-in-Time counts demonstrated an increase in 2020, as the data was collected on the forefront of the coronavirus crisis. The homeless situation should be monitored closely during the next year, as the economic impacts are likely to increase the homeless population. More troubling is that the Western PA CoC conducted an abbreviated 2021 PIT Count, due to COVID-19. This abbreviated PIT count was a head-count only.

Even without data, we are determining that there has been an increase in housing instability due to the coronavirus and local social service providers are working to provide emergency shelter with the use of federal funds.

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

#### Introduction:

The City will monitor and review public policies for discriminatory practices and/or impacts on housing availability. The City is committed to removing or reducing barriers to the development of affordable housing whenever possible. A variety of actions include, among others, to reduce the cost of housing to make it affordable:

- Provide developers with incentives for construction of affordable housing
- Restructuring of fees for construction, tap-ins, plan review, etc.
- Modifying development standards to increase density
- Reuse of the 2nd and 3rd floors in the downtown business district to promote new residential housing units

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

From the City's AI, there are no known public policies in the City that are barriers to affordable housing. The following public policies were analyzed:

- Tax policies affecting land and other property
- Use Controls
- Zoning Ordinance
- Building Codes
- Fees and Charges
- Growth Limits
- Return on residential investment

The City will continue to undertake the following actions through CDBG and HOME funding:

- City will leverage its financial resources and apply for additional public and private housing funding
- Continue to provide funds for housing rehabilitation for both owner and renter occupied housing units
- Provide funding for housing counseling programs
- Use of state funds to abate housing units from lead-based paint hazards

#### Discussion:

The City of Sharon will fund the following affordable housing projects with FY 2021 CDBG funds: Housing Rehabilitation.

#### **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

#### Introduction:

The City of Sharon has developed the following actions to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs, foster and maintain affordable housing, reduce lead-based hazards, reduce the number of poverty-level families, develop institutional structures, and enhance coordination between public, private housing and social service agencies.

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

The primary obstacle to meeting the underserved needs in the City of Sharon is the limited financial resources available to address the priorities identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the lack of *quality* affordable housing. The City of Sharon is not a HUD entitlement jurisdiction under the HOME program. Therefore, resources for housing activities are limited. Under the FY 2021 CDBG Program the City will take the following actions:

- Continue to leverage its financial resources and apply for additional public and private funds
- Continue to provide financial assistance for housing rehabilitation
- Continue to provide funding for public service activities
- Continue to do provide public facility improvements
- Continue to remove slum and blighting conditions in the City
- Continue to provide funding for code enforcement activities
- Continue to support economic development opportunities for LMI individuals.

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

The City of Sharon will fund the following affordable housing projects with FY 2021 CDBG funds:

Housing Rehabilitation

The Mercer County Housing Authority will continue to fund the following activities to foster and maintain affordable housing in the City of Sharon:

- Continue to provide Housing Choice Vouchers and public housing units
- Continue to rehabilitate and make improvements to public housing units

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

The City of Sharon will continue to comply with Title 24 Part 35: Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention in Certain Residential Structures (Current Rule) for its Housing Rehabilitation Program. In order to meet the requirements of the new lead-based paint regulations, the City of Sharon will take the following

actions regarding housing rehabilitation:

- Applicants for rehabilitation funding receive the required lead-based paint information and understand their responsibilities.
- Staff properly determines whether proposed projects are exempt from some or all lead-based paint requirements.
- The level of Federal rehabilitation assistance is properly calculated and the applicable leadbased paint requirements determined.
- Properly qualified personnel perform risk management, paint testing, lead hazard reduction, and clearance services when required.
- Required lead hazard reduction work and protective measures are incorporated into project rehabilitation specifications.
- Risk assessment, paint testing, lead hazard reduction, and clearance work are performed in accordance with the applicable
- Standards established in 24 CFR Part 35, Subpart R.
- Required notices regarding lead-based paint evaluation, presumption, and hazard reduction are provided to occupants and documented.
- Program documents establish the rental property owner's responsibility to perform and document ongoing lead-based paint maintenance activities, when applicable.
- Program staff monitors owner compliance with ongoing lead-based paint maintenance activities.

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

The City's goal is to reduce the extent of poverty by actions the City can control and through work with other agencies and organizations. During this program year the City will fund:

- Shenango Valley Shuttle Service
- Community Action Partnership Mercer County
- Sharon Community Development Corporation
- Laurel Technical Institute

#### Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Sharon Department of Community and Economic Development will coordinate activities among the public and private agencies and organizations in the City. This coordination will ensure that the goals and objectives outlined in the FY 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan will be effectively addressed by more than one agency. Staff will facilitate and coordinate the linkage between these public and private partnerships and develop new partnership opportunities in the City.

This coordination and collaboration between agencies is important to ensure that the needs of the

residents of Sharon are being addressed. The main agencies that are involved in the implementation of the Plan, as well as additional financial resources that are available are the following:

Public Agencies:

- City of Sharon Department of Community and Economic Development is responsible for administration of the CDBG program.
- Mercer Housing Authority is responsible for administering Housing Choice Vouchers and public housing units.

#### Non-Profit Agencies:

There are several non-profit agencies that serve low-income households in the City. The City continued to collaborate with these agencies. Some of these agencies are the following:

- Shenango Valley Urban League
- Community Action Partnership of Mercer County
- Mercer County Housing Coalition
- The Salvation Army
- Mercer County Area Agency on Aging
- Community Food Warehouse
- Shenango Valley Community Library
- F.H. Buhl Community Recreation Center
- Mercer County Regional Council of Governments (Shenango Valley Shuttle Service)
- United Way of Mercer County

#### Private Sector:

The private sector is a key collaborator in the services and programs associated with the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The private sector brings additional financial resources and expertise that can be used to supplement existing services in the City. Examples of these private sectors are: local lenders, affordable housing developers, business owners, community and economic development organizations, healthcare organizations, and others. The City will continue to collaborate with local financial institutions, private housing developers, local realtors, etc.

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

The City of Sharon is committed to continuing its participation and coordination with social service agencies, housing agencies, community and economic development agencies, county, federal, and state agencies, as well as with the private and non-profit sectors, to serve the needs of target income individuals and families in the City of Sharon.

During this program year, the City funded Program Administration in the amount of \$136,000 to

accomplish this.

#### **Discussion:**

The City monitors it performance with meeting its goals and objectives with its Five-Year Consolidated Plan. It reviews it goals on an annual basis in the preparation of it CAPER and makes adjustments to its action plan as necessary.

## **Program Specific Requirements**

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

#### Introduction:

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.

## 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	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to	
address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not	
been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	0
Other CDBG Requirements	
1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income.	
Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to	
determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit	
persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this	
Annual Action Plan.	0.00%

All funding will support low-mod activities, except for the Administration line item. This plan will be used for Program Year 2021 activities.