

**City of Homestead
CDBG Annual Action Plan
FY 2020-2021**



City of Homestead Annual Action Plan FY 20/21

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1. Introduction

Each year, the City develops an Action Plan to program its allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. For the last five years, the City has utilized the Action Plan format outlined by HUD to streamline data entry into the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). The 2020-2021 Action Plan outlines projects designed to implement the strategies outlined in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The funding for FY 2020-2021 is \$824,017, as determined by HUD. The strategies as outlined in the Consolidated Plan are as follows: Strategy 1: Enhance the access to public facilities to the City's low- to moderate- income populations. Strategy 2: Enhance public infrastructure throughout the City's low-to-moderate income neighborhoods. Strategy 3: Improve the Quality of life for Homestead's most vulnerable populations. Strategy 4: Improve housing opportunities for the LMI population.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The City of Homestead intends to use CDBG funds to continue to develop the new Cybrary in conjunction with Homestead Station, a new multipurpose development located at Krome Avenue and Mowry Drive. The new Cybrary will replace the existing library located on US 1 and Campbell Drive. The library will provide area benefit to the entire City of Homestead, which is over 51 percent low income. The City will also continue to use CDBG funds for STEM Public Services, Utility and Rental Assistance, and Administration. Several non-profits, New Hope CORPS and Sunrise Community, will see CDBG-funded improvements to their Homestead facilities, as well as the City's Police Athletic League (PAL) Gym, Robey George Park, and Blakey Park.

Following is the proposed budget for FY 2020-2021:

Project	Organization	Amount
PAL Gym	City	\$67,139
Renovation and Security Upgrade	New Hope CORPS	\$43,568
Hurricane Mitigation	Sunrise Community	\$45,805
Section 108 Payment	City	\$260,149
STEM Education (Public Service)	Subrecipient	\$101,802
Utility and Rental Assistance (Public Service)	City	\$40,751
Roby George Park (Basketball and Soccer Facilities)	City	\$90,000
Blakey Park (Track Restripe/Paint)	City	\$10,000
Fair Housing Impediments Study (Required by HUD)	City	\$25,000
Administration (17%)	City	\$139,803
TOTAL		\$824,017

1. Evaluation of past performance

Homestead is entering its thirteenth year as an entitlement community. In that time, the City has pursued numerous types of projects ranging from large public facilities and infrastructure projects to small public service grants. The City tracks the progress of every project to ensure that the City meets its timeliness obligations. The City continues to clear older projects that are not moving forward in a timely manner and intends to monitor future projects to ensure timely implementation. Overall, the City has provided tremendous value to its residents through infrastructure, public facilities such as parks and non-profit building renovations, and housing. The City has met its timeliness performance standard for the prior fiscal year, and is on track to once again meet timeliness for the current fiscal year.

2. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The City of Homestead strives to maintain an open dialogue with citizens in regards to the CDBG program throughout the year. This year, the City sent notices to every non-profit and community service provider in the community development database and advised them of available funding and invited them to attend advertised public meetings. The following is a summary of the public participation schedule of events:

- March 6, 2020: Advertisement for CDBG applications
- March 25, 2020: Public meeting regarding CDBG applications, Fair Housing, and Community Development needs
- April 14, 2020: CDBG applications due
- May 27, 2020: Council Meeting to review CDBG application recommendations
- June 29, 2020: Ad runs for public meeting and comment period.
- July 14, 2020: Committee of the Whole meeting to consider 2020 Action Plan
- July 22, 2020: Council meeting to consider 2020 Action Plan
- Around August 10, 2020: 2020 Action Plan submitted to HUD

3. Summary of public comments

Public comments concerned the CDBG application process. Relevant comments are included in the appendix.

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

Comments from the public were regarding the CDBG application process and did not warrant a change in the 2020 Action Plan.

5. Summary

In summary, the City has developed this Action Plan in accordance with local and Federal policies and procedures. The Action Plan will advance two of the primary strategies in the Consolidated Plan, which are to: improve the Quality of life for Homestead's most vulnerable population, and Enhance public facilities through the City's low-to-moderate-income neighborhoods.

The City followed a robust public information and public participation schedule and to date has received no negative comments from the Council or the public.

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The only expected resources are CDBG funds from HUD, which are expected to be \$824,017. CDBG CV in the amount of \$484,742 was allocated as part of an amendment to the 2019 Action Plan in June of 2020. It is included here since the timing of the CDBG CV funding corresponded so closely with formulation of the 2020 Action Plan.

Anticipated Resources

Table 1 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	Federal	Admin and Planning, Public Improvements, Public Services Section 108 Loan Repayment	\$824,017	\$0	\$0	\$824,017	\$0	The only source of funding for these activities is the CDBG.
CDBG CV (FY 2019)	Federal	Community Policing, Utility and Rental Assistance, and Administration	\$484,742	\$0	\$0	\$484,742	\$0	COVID CDBG CV allocated in FY 2019

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

The projects outlined in the 2020 Action Plan would not be funded if not for CDBG resources. There are no other funds. However, the City did provide leveraged funds with the Section 108 program to complete the new Homestead Cybrarium Library, which is budgeted at approximately \$16 million. The Section 108 is repaid over 20 years, with the first three years paid.

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

N/A

Discussion

There is no city-owned property available to address the needs of the plan besides City-owned facilities.

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	Quality of Life for LMI Population- Public Facility	2020	2022	Public Facilities	City of Homestead	Public Facilities	CDBG: \$516,661	Public Facility Activities 62,290/34,065 LMI
2	Quality of Life for LMI Population- Public Services	2020	2021	Public Services	City of Homestead	Public Services	CDBG: \$142,553	Public Services for STEM & COVID 62,290/34,065 LMI

Table 2 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

<p>Goal Description</p>	<p>The Public Facility allocation for the FY 2020-2021 Annual Allocation Plan are as follows:</p> <p>New Homestead Cybrary/Library, (Public Facilities: \$260,149 (Section 108 Repayment)) –</p> <p>The City will replace the aging and outdated Homestead Library with a new facility proposed to be located at the southwest corner of Krome Avenue and Mowry Drive.</p>
<p>Goal Description</p>	<p>The Public Services allocation for the FY 2020-2021 Annual Allocation Plan are as follows:</p> <p>The City of Homestead has a significant population of low income students. This population require a variety of services and programs to provide access to better educational opportunities through STEM. Programs will consist of \$101,820.</p> <p>Mitigate Impact of COVID 19. The City will allocate \$40,751 to provide utility and rental relief for City residents affected by COVID 19.</p>
<p>Goal Description</p>	<p>The City of Homestead has a significant low-income population that relies on public facilities for recreation and active programming. The City will allocated funds to renovated three City facilities: Roby George Park, Blakey Park, and the PAL Gymnasium.</p> <p>The City contains several non-profit organizations that house the most vulnerable residents of Homestead. The City will provide funding for two residential facilities that house vulnerable residents.</p>

Table 7 – 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 91.215(b):

The City does not receive HOME funds.

Projects

AP-35 Projects –91.220(d)

Introduction

As in previous years, the new Homestead Cybrarium is part of the 2020 Action Plan because of ongoing principle and interest payments. The new facility will be located at the southwest corner of Krome Avenue and Mowry Drive and is being developed in conjunction with a multimodal center for parking, as well as retail and entertainment. The Cybrary/Library is a continuation of a project approved by HUD, and is because of its great importance to the economic well-being of the City and the need to provide world class educational facilities to the City’s residents. Homestead’s residents, especially those in this area, are over 75 percent low income, and the area suffers from blight. In order to bring opportunity and change to this neighborhood, the City is investing heavily in public improvements, and the Cybrary/Library is a lynchpin in the ongoing redevelopment.

Also proposed for funding are two public service initiatives: STEM education for the low-income youth population of the City who require programs and opportunities in order to improve their quality of life and provide access to educational opportunities. In addition, funding is being provided to continue the Utility and Rental Assistance program started with the COVID 19 CDBG CV funds. Since these public services together exceed the 15 percent cap, a waiver has been requested to waive the cap.

Three City facilities and two non-profit facilities are expected to received CDBG funds to undertake basic renovations.

Projects

Table 3 – Project Information

Project	Organization	Amount
PAL Gym	City	\$67,139
Renovation and Security Upgrade	New Hope CORPS	\$43,568
Hurricane Mitigation	Sunrise Community	\$45,805
Section 108 Payment	City	\$260,149
STEM Education (Public Service)	Subrecipient	\$101,802
Utility and Rental Assistance (Public Service)	City	\$40,751
Roby George Park (Basketball and Soccer Facilities)	City	\$90,000

Blakey Park (Track Restripe/Paint)	City	\$10,000
Fair Housing Impediments Study (Required by HUD)	City	\$25,000
Administration (17%)	City	\$139,803
TOTAL		\$824,017

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

Allocations for the CDBG program are based on current priorities developed by the City in conjunction with resident input.

Project Descriptions

Police Athletic League (PAL) Gymnasium

600 SW 14th Avenue
Homestead, Florida
\$67,139

Improvements to the PAL gymnasium to include interior and exterior painting and sound baffles.

New Hope CORPS (Residential drug treatment facility)

1020 North Krome Avenue
Homestead, Florida
\$43,568

Renovations of residential facility to upgrade security and interior, including central courtyard area.

Sunrise Community (Residential facility for developmentally disabled)

1102 North Krome Avenue
Homestead, Florida
\$45,805

Hurricane mitigation activities for Sunrise group home to include window and door hardening.

Section 108 Repayment

Homestead Cybrarium
\$260,149

Ongoing principle and interest repayment for Homestead Cybrarium.

STEM Education (Public Service)
\$101,802

Ongoing STEM Education program for Homestead students.

Utility and Rental Assistance (COVID 19)
\$40,751

Continuation of CARES Act Program to provide utility and rental assistance to COVID-impacted residents.

Roby George Park Improvements
201 SW 11th Avenue
Homestead, Florida
\$90,000

Resurface basketball courts, convert outdoor courts to miniature soccer pitches.

Blakey Park Improvements
600 SW 14th Avenue
Homestead, Florida
\$10,000

Restripe and repaint running track.

Fair Housing Impediments Study
\$25,000

The City is required to update the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, which is a study that reviews fair housing in the City of Homestead. The City is currently procuring services for this activity, which should be completed in the Spring of 2021.

Administration
\$139,803

Administration for ongoing activities related to the CDBG program and the requisite administrative burdens.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

Project	Organization	Amount
PAL Gym	City	\$67,139
Renovation and Security Upgrade	New Hope CORPS	\$43,568
Hurricane Mitigation	Sunrise Community	\$45,805
Section 108 Payment	City	\$260,149
STEM Education (Public Service)	Subrecipient	\$101,802
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TOTAL		\$824,017

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 Homestead intends to use CDBG funds to strengthen neighborhoods City-wide. While some parts of the City have greater concentrations of low-income and minority residents, the City has determined that there is need for CDBG funding that will benefit the entire City. Several neighborhoods have a significant number of problems, as well as other basic public facility needs.

The following projects are location-based or may be perceived as location-based due to the nature of the facilities and activities, but can and will be used for residents living throughout the City.

New Homestead Cybrary/Library: The public facility will serve the City-wide low income population, which is currently 63 percent. All the census tracts directly adjacent to this census tract are at least 77 percent low income.

Police Athletic League (PAL) Gymnasium, Roby George Park, and Blakey Park: All three public facilities are located in a low income geographic area well over 51 percent low income.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City of Homestead	100%

Table 4 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

As a result of public meetings with the citizens of the City of Homestead, the City has identified areas of need as follows:

1. Public Facilities and Services
2. Public Services for the student population: STEM
3. Public Services for COVID impacted residents: Utility and Rental Assistance

Discussion

Funding within the City is based on the following factors:

Public Facilities

- The current or future location of facilities that serve LMI residents and those residents presumed to be LMI (special needs populations such as the elderly, developmentally disabled, and persons living with HIV).
- The condition of these facilities and their current and future potential capacities.
- The cost to renovate or build new facilities to continue providing services to low-moderate income clients.

Public Services

- Focus on the special populations to elevate and stabilize their quality of life
- Determine the LMI population of the neighborhood.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City of Homestead has previously allocated funds to provide basic rehabilitation activities. Homestead has a history of significant hurricane damage that has impacted the quality of life and the economic base of the community. Items eligible for repair in the City’s program are all minimum housing quality standards deficiencies to include lead-based paint abatement, plumbing, electrical, structural, roof repair, storm mitigation, and other necessary improvements.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	12
Special-Needs	0
Total	12

Table 5 - 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	12
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	12

Table 6 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

In 2013-2014, the City began directly funding housing rehabilitation for the first time using entitlement CDBG funds. In the Action Plan for 2020-2021, no additional housing funds are programmed.

The City also continues to manage NSP and is working to close the program as soon as possible.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

There are no public housing facilities operating in the City that are owned by the City. The Homestead Housing Authority operates one facility in the City.

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

No actions are anticipated.

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

No actions are anticipated. There are no homeownership activities planned for the City of Homestead using Federal or state funds.

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

be provided or other assistance

The PHA operating near Homestead is the Homestead Housing Authority (HHA), which is not troubled.

Discussion

The City of Homestead does not have a public housing agency or public housing operating within its jurisdictional boundaries. The HHA is located in the unincorporated County as are most of their physical facilities. The City cooperates with the HHA and its programs and has met with leaders of the HHA in the past to discuss project and ways that the City may assist the HHA. The City is in complete support of the HHA's ongoing effort to improve their facilities and provide housing for the low income community of South Miami-Dade County.

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

Introduction

Homelessness in Miami-Dade County is addressed through the Homeless Trust, which receives funding to address this issue County-wide. The City of Homestead supports the efforts of the Homeless Trust, however it offers no direct funding for such efforts.

Public Facilities funding for New Hope CORPS and Sunrise Center assist in the prevention of homelessness because the residents may be homeless but for those programs.

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

The City of Homestead supports the efforts of the Homeless Trust but has no dedicated funding for reaching out to the homeless.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City supports the efforts of the Homeless Trust and the HAC II campus located outside of the City limits.

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 City supports the efforts of the Homeless Trust and the HAC II campus located outside of the City limits.

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 City supports the efforts of the Homeless Trust and the HAC II campus located outside of the City limits.

Discussion

All of the activities proposed in the Action Plan are intended to provide supportive services to the low income population. These activities support the LMI community and provide a level of service that may avoid homelessness.

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

Introduction:

There are numerous barriers to affordable housing in Homestead, which include the cost, stringent lending requirements, and the high cost of commuting. Another barrier is that fact that there is not a housing authority operating within the City of Homestead. The Homestead Housing Authority (HHA) operates in unincorporated Miami-Dade County and it continues to renovate housing for low income families.

Other strategic initiatives considered are:

- Expanding Veterans Assistance program
- Expanding Section 8 by requesting that HUD remove the cap on the number of vouchers
- Elderly Housing potentially in Leisure City (outside of Homestead)

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

Existing Land Development Codes, Zoning Ordinances and other provisions are reviewed to address the impact on affordable housing on a continuing basis. However, these policies are not direct barriers to affordable housing and are necessary to create a sustainable and livable community.

Discussion:

As mentioned above, cost continues to be the primary factor in affordable housing. Since the real estate crash of 2008, values in the City have steadily improved and the City is looking forward to a continued expansion of housing opportunities. Unfortunately for many borrowers, lending standards have become more stringent so the availability of credit has become an obstacle. As housing costs in Miami-Dade County continue to rise with no signs of loosening credit standards, there are few resources available in Homestead to bridge the gap for most low income families seeking homeownership or rental assistance.

Another area of concern as a barrier to affordable housing is the high cost of commuting in Homestead. Most residents do not work in the City—they work in the unincorporated County or in the cities to the north such as Miami. There are express bus services in the City, but most residents find it necessary to own a car for transportation needs. For low income families, the cost of operating and insuring a car is extremely expensive and will limit housing options.

Another barrier as mentioned is the lack of a housing authority in Homestead. Traditionally, these agencies have provided housing to the poorest residents. However, it is unlikely a housing authority will be established in the City.

Other problems that create barriers to affordable housing are related to the economy. Most residents of Homestead are employed in service based industries. While many of these jobs are readily obtained, they are predominately low income positions requiring a low level of skills. Frequently they are not fulltime positions. A low rate of pay coupled with few if any benefits create a high barrier for accessing housing of any kind.

Overall, in spite of these obstacles, Homestead is considered an affordable option to housing cost in the adjacent urban communities. Homestead is once again thriving under the driving demand for new, suburban housing to service the Miami-Dade metro area.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The following is a discussion of other actions that may be undertaken by the City.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City will continue to meet with agencies throughout the year to better understand their needs. It is likely there may be unallocated resources from past administrative line items that can be reallocated to future projects.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will finalize NSP. Program funds may be available to create additional affordable housing opportunities.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

For properties rehabilitated using CDBG funds, any housing constructed prior to 1978 will be tested for lead-based paint prior to commencement of construction. If lead-based paint is found, the lead-based paint will be removed or encapsulated, depending on the circumstances. So far, two homes in the housing rehabilitation program have been found to have lead, and measures were taken to address this issue. No additional lead based paint contamination has been identified.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will continue to implement all of the CDBG funded programs to help families in need.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City continually reviews the institutional structure to determine areas that may be improved

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

The City continually coordinates with housing and social service agencies to enhance coordination. At this point, most major providers of social services in the City have received some level of CDBG assistance. City staff is in frequent communication with all of these agencies. Furthermore, the City is relatively compact, and it is common for City staff to visit agencies and observe operations first hand.

Discussion:

The City of Homestead, as discussed above, will continue to undertake other actions as necessary to coordinate the delivery of CDBG funded services. In addition, the City will continue to work with agencies to identify need for possible future CDBG-funded projects.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Program specific requirements are addressed in the following section.

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.

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. | 10 |

Discussion

The City of Homestead uses all CDBG funding for LMI benefit, including administrative costs. The city intends to use the current CDBG allocation and Section 108 funding for the new library to be located at Krome Avenue and Mowry Drive in downtown Homestead. The obsolete status of the current facility, its location adjacent to the previous and shuttered City Hall, and the rise in low income families has prompted the City to take action and provide residents with access to 21st Century technology and opportunities.