

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

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

Despite a limited amount of CDBG and HOME funds available for programming and overcoming challenges related to capacity with staff turnover and reductions within the last two years, the City of Elmira's Department of Community Development was able to successfully carry out its 2013-2014 Annual Action Plan. The City of Elmira, the Department of Community Development, and nonprofit partners are focused on efforts to improve the quality of life for City of Elmira low-moderate income residents. Highlights from the 2013-2014 program year include the following:

- The City of Elmira and Catholic Charities First-Time Homebuyer had a successful 2013-2014 year, with **10** households benefiting from direct financial assistance in the form of downpayment and closing cost assistance as well as pre- and post-purchase counseling. It is worth noting that two first-time homebuyers came from public housing. The City and Catholic Charities exceeded its goal of only assisting 6 new homebuyers. Altogether, 25 households participated in group trainings to learn about becoming a first-time homebuyer.
- CDBG funding for Catholic Charities Housing Counseling Services, enabled **30** homeowners within the City receive one-on-one mortgage foreclosure prevention and loss mitigation services, **24** homeowners took steps to avoid foreclosure, **16** households received group counseling to repair credit and reset financial priorities.
- The Department of Community Development was also able to approve the rehabilitation of **43** new homeowner houses utilizing CDBG and HOME funds surpassing the expected goal of 17.
- In the area of increasing access to quality public facilities, **4** parks were enhanced including the City of Elmira purchasing and installing playground equipment at Hathorn Park located immediately adjacent to LIHTC project operated by Hathorn Redevelopment Company which currently houses **251** youth under the age of 18.
- The City of Elmira strengthened its role within the NY-501 Regional Continuum of Care as the Director of Community Development was added to the CoC Board on January 31, 2014.

The Department of Community Development also continued to enhance community outreach efforts and build strategic partnerships to carry out its strategic plan as well as look forward to future plans. The City completed the Southside Rising Revitalization Strategy funded under the New York State Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program and the area-wide master plan will be utilized in the development of the City's 2015

Consolidated Plan as well as incorporated into an updated Comprehensive Plan if the City is success in obtaining funding under the NYS 2013 Consolidated Funding Application.

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

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

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Create economic opportunities through job creation	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$120000	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	6	0	0.00%		0	
Create economic opportunities through job creation	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$120000	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	3	0	0.00%	3	0	0.00%
Improve Elmira's Existing Housing Stock	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$149103 / HOME: \$58362	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	12	43	358.33%	17	43	252.94%

Increase access to quality public facilities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$191454	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted		0		5000	7145	142.90%
Prevent Homelessness	Homeless	CDBG: \$20000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted		0		7000	7545	107.79%
Prevent Homelessness	Homeless	CDBG: \$20000	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted		0		300	479	159.67%
Prevent Homelessness	Homeless	CDBG: \$20000	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	10000	7545	75.45%	375	668	178.13%
Promote Homeownership Opportunities	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$60000	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit		3			1	
Promote Homeownership Opportunities	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$60000	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	6	10	166.67%	6	10	166.67%
Provide Enrichment Opportunities for Youth	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$99787	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1055	556	52.70%	1055	556	52.70%

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

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

Table 1 and Table 2 displays the City of Elmira's accomplishments, however in future CAPER reports, Table 2 will be more useful since this is the first year the City has completed its CAPER in HUD's eCon Planning Suite. After the City of Elmira submits its next Five Year Consolidated Plan (Strategic Plan) utilizing this format (May 2015), Table 2 will reflect accomplishments based on expected outcomes set at the beginning of the five year period. The City of Elmira's use of CDBG and HOME funds has proven effective in improving Elmira's existing housing stock and the number housing units rehabilitated exceeded the expected amount by over 250%. Housing Rehabilitation is a high priority need given the age of Elmira's housing stock with 65.7% being built in 1939 or earlier. Public service activities such as housing counseling, providing enrichment opportunities for youth, and homeless prevention also continue to be high priority needs and the City of Elmira worked with non-profit, partners, as subrecipients, to accomplish goals set forth in these areas. During the year, the City of Elmira entered into two contracts for youth services (Southside Community Center and Ernie Davis Community Center). The Woodlawn Youth Center closed prior to the start of the program year and CDBG funds were amended to be utilized to improve the Hathorn Park Playground which is located across the street from the Center. The Center has since reopened with assistance from Frontline Ministries, however it did not receive CDBG funds. Housing Counseling services provided by Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuylers (mortgage foreclosure prevention, credit counseling, financial fitness, and pre and post first-time homebuyer counseling) continues to be a highly effective in assisting low/moderate income families reach their dream of homeownership and preventing foreclosure within the City. Public facility improvements (parks, ADA sidewalk transitions, and street improvements) also continue to be a high priority need with aging public infrastructure. The City incorporates the use of CDBG funds in their Capital Improvement Program and the Department of Community Development, Department of Public Works (Buildings and Grounds and Engineering Divisions), and Creating Healthy Places meet twice monthly to plan for current and future projects.

A significant amount of CDBG funds (\$320,503) continues to be applied towards the City's Section 108 Loan obligation for the First Arena and this commitment will be over in August 2019. Unfortunately, the City's ability to address priorities and specific objectives identified in Annual Action Plans and the Consolidated Plan will be hampered until this obligation is satisfied.

Although funds were allocated to Southern Tier Economic Growth (STEG) during the program years, there were no new economic development loans approved during the program year. The City hopes that the 2014-2015 program year will experience growth in this area and that jobs will be created for low, moderate income residents and additional businesses will be assisted through this financing tool. The City of Elmira, STEG, and Chemung County are developing a redevelopment plan for West Water Street (former Rosenbaums and Marvin's properties) after the two anchor properties were demolished under emergency conditions.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME	HOPWA
White	326	27	0
Black or African American	179	11	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian or American Native	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	20	0	0
Not Hispanic	485	38	0
Total	1,010	76	0

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

Narrative

The Department of Community Development continues to expand outreach to all low income families throughout the City of Elmira and included in those efforts are efforts to reach minorities. Community Development staff attended two neighborhood meetings during the program year held by Councilwoman Nykole Parks on October 1, 2013 and June 9, 2014. Councilwoman Parks is active in the minority community (herself being a minority) and has served as an excellent bridge to raise awareness of the City's community development programs. The City was able to assist a significant number of minority families during the program year as shown by the above chart with 35% of families assisted with CDBG were minorities and 31% of families assisted with HOME funds.

The Department of Community Development continues to outreach to minority contractors for participation on the Department's Active Contractor list although to date efforts have been largely unsuccessful. The Community Development Director learned of a state-wide program being promoted by New York State Empire State Development called the "Bridge to Success" Loan Program for Minority and Women (M/WBE) certified Contractors. Community Development will assist in promoting this program and the New York State M/WBE certification process.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Expected Amount Available	Actual Amount Expended Program Year X
CDBG		1,219,071	773,177
HOME		210,316	200,134
Other	Chemung County	250,000	170,053
Other	CHIPS Funding	618,000	
Other	Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	139,001	140,800
Other	Local Private Foundations	150,000	146,541
Other	NeighborWorks NFMC Program	10,000	26,629
Other	New York State Affordable Housing Corporation Funds	300,000	381,122
Other	NYS Department of Corrections Residential Stabilization Program	104,254	94,122
Other	NYS Department of Health Creating Healthy Places Funding	25,000	30,383
Other	NYS Homeowner Protection Program	137,600	85,346
Other Total		1733855	1,074,996

Table 3 – Resources Made Available

Narrative

The above chart outlines anticipated sources of funds and the actual amount expended during the 2013 Program Year. The actual amount expended includes Program Income generated from housing rehabilitation and economic development loans as well as grant and loan payoffs received by the Department of Community Development. The actual amount expended for CDBG is the total shown on Line 15 of the PR26 report. A Drawdown Report (PR 07) was pulled for the City of Elmira which included draws for Section 108 Loan Payment (\$320,503.00) and General Administration (\$134,764.10). HOME Actual Amount Expended Program Year 2013 comes from the PR07 report for draws processed during Program Year 2013. An adjustment of \$548.50 was made for AD funds drawn in July 2013 for expenses incurred from April-June 2013.

The total amount of CDBG funds expended was impacted by a few activities that saw no activity during the reporting period. Southern Tier Economic Growth (STEG) was awarded an allocation of \$120,000 but did not approve any new economic development loans under the City of Elmira Commercial/Industrial Loan Program and the City made the decision to discontinue administrative support (\$30,000) to STEG since an economic development specialist position focused on the City of Elmira remained unfilled during the program year. Additionally, \$45,000 was allocated to the City of

Elmira Youth Court Program, however during the program year, the City learned that funds passing through Chemung County from New York State did not allow for the local share to be federal funds, therefore the City of Elmira will be completing a substantial amendment to reallocate 2013 CDBG funds from Youth Court to other CDBG eligible activities which will be reported in the FY 2014 CAPER.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA	10	9	Housing rehab, public facilities and improvements, economic dev. study
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT	10	1	Only 1% was actually allocated consisting of streetscape and facade improvements with the BID
NEW YORK MAIN STREET TARGET AREA	2	1	Only 1% was actually allocated consisting of streetscape and facade improvements with the NYMS area

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

During the program year, only 1% was expended for the Business Improvement District (downtown) due to investments made under Elmira Downtown Development's Operation Green Streets (streetscape program) and Signage and Facade Improvement Program. This percentage was less than planned because there was no new economic development loans approved.

The City of Elmira received funding from the NYS Department of State under the Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program to develop a neighborhood revitalization strategy for a portion of the City impacted by the presence of brownfield and previous industrial activity. During the program year, 9% of the City's 2013 CDBG and HOME funds expended was on activities occurring in the Brownfield Opportunity Area (Southside Rising). These activities included owner-occupied housing rehabilitation assistance, park improvements to Miller's Pond Park, street improvements, and a feasibility study for a mixed-use project involving two properties on South Main Street.

Leveraging

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

CDBG and HOME funds are leveraged by the City of Elmira and non-profit subrecipients seeking state and private foundation grants in order to accomplish community development objectives. The use of New York State Affordable Housing Corporation funds allows the City to stretch CDBG funds for homeowner rehabilitation and assist more families with their housing needs and during the program year \$381,122 in AHC funds leveraged federal funds. Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuylers has a successful track record of leveraging CDBG funds with over \$100,000 in state and federal funds through NYS Attorney General's Office Homeowner Protection Program, Catholic Charities USA HUD Housing Counseling grant, and Neighborworks National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling grant for their housing counseling services. Catholic Charities Second Place East Emergency Shelter and Homeless Prevention Program also is successful in obtaining other sources of funds to aid in the prevention of homelessness. During the 2013-2014 program year, CDBG funds only accounted for six percent of Catholic Charities total budget for Second Place East. The City also leveraged \$30,383 in New York State Creating Healthy Places funding received by Arnot Health for Chemung County to enhance the City's parks and create healthy neighborhoods.

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

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

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

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at beginning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
53,421	51,081	32,899	0	73,169

Table 7 – Program Income

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	142,381	0	0	0	0	142,381
Number	11	0	0	0	0	11
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	142,381	0	142,381			
Number	11	0	11			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8– Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

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

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition		
Parcels Acquired	0	0

Businesses Displaced	0	0
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced	0	0
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced	0	0

Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	400	238
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	2,000	637
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	5	65
Total	2,405	940

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	18	46
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	1	0
Total	19	46

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

The 238 homeless that were provided affordable housing units represent those reported in Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuylers Annual CDBG Report (as a subrecipient of the City of Elmira) as the number of individuals whom were homeless but were able to be provided with affordable housing. The City of Elmira did not directly provide non-homeless or special needs with affordable housing units, however Catholic Charities was able to determine the number of non-homeless provided affordable housing units and special needs to be provided affordable housing through data obtained through HMIS. Catholic Charities used the HMIS STEHP data from July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014 as the measure of who they supported and used the numbers for the CCST STEHP ESG Prevention program for the non-homeless.

The number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units is a total of rehab jobs between CDBG (37) & HOME (9).

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The outcomes from the reporting period show that there continues to be a need for the rehabilitation of existing housing units although the outcomes reflect only the rehabilitation of owner-occupied units and rental units were not rehabbed during the program year utilizing CDBG, HOME, or any other source of City leveraged funds. Future annual action plans and the City's 2015 Consolidated Plan may consider a plan to address the condition of Elmira's rental housing since according to available Census data, 46.5% of the housing within the City of Elmira is renter occupied. While the City is helping to stabilize neighborhoods through addressed owner-occupied housing and continuing to fund and promote the homeownership through the First-Time Homebuyer Program, the City will be looking to rehab more units through developing strategic partnerships with affordable housing groups that specialize in scattered-site neighborhood revitalization by redeveloping rental units and providing quality affordable housing. Neighborhoods have been identified by members of City Council and will be further developed as the City begins to gather data for its 2015 Consolidated Plan.

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

Number of Persons Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	7	0
Low-income	11	12
Moderate-income	17	7
Total	35	19

Table 13 – Number of Persons Served

Narrative Information

The City of Elmira continued to provide grants to homeowners within the City of Elmira that fell between 0-50% of HUD's Median Family Income (MFI) and a 60% grant (utilizing New York State Affordable Housing Corporation funds) and 40% repayable loan at 3% interest for those households whose incomes fell between 51%-80% of HUD's MFI. This strategy was effective in assisting extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income households make necessary home repairs and not place an additional financial burden on those making up to 50% of MFI. The First-Time Homebuyer Program also continued to assist income eligible families with downpayment and closing cost assistance to purchase their first home within the City of Elmira and the program saw an increase in activity over the last few years with 10 households benefitting from the program.

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

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

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

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schulyer Counties is the lead agency when it comes to reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs. Many of the activities of the NY-501 Regional CoC are mandated by federal code and regulation under the McKinney-Vento Act, the HEARTH Act, the CoC Program Interim Rule, and annual stipulations of the HUD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for HUD One CPD grant programs. These include, but are not limited to the following activities:

- Conducting an annual Point In Time (PIT) Count of all unsheltered homeless in each CoC county. Increased planning and training have resulted in a three-fold increase in the accuracy and number of homeless individuals enumerated in the annual Point In Time (PIT) Count—resulting in a more comprehensive understanding of the number of unsheltered homeless, where they are located, their prioritized needs, and subpopulation data to be used in future planning for housing and supportive service initiatives.
- Planning efforts to meet the HUD mandated Coordinated Assessment Plan is resulting in a rollout of a centralized and coordinated homelessness intake screening and priority referral system.
- Partnerships with regional 2-1-1 Helpline and designated agency access points within each county will ensure that homeless and at-risk individuals are routed to Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler and resources necessary to provide immediate supportive services and housing.

Catholic Charities is currently in the planning phase to add street outreach services to reach the homeless population currently underserved.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

During the program year, the City of Elmira continued to utilize Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler as a CDBG subrecipient and provided \$20,000 for Second Place East Homeless Shelter and Homelessness Prevention Services. Catholic Charities reported in their Annual Report to the City of Elmira that 479 homeless individuals were served through the emergency shelter. Every client that seeks shelter services is screened for Gateways Residential Services eligibility and through this screening staff are able to identify accurately client's individual needs and place them in the appropriate level of care. Clients placed in Gateways Residential services are placed in either transitional supportive housing or permanent supportive housing depending upon their needs. The Salvation Army is the primary referral

source for victims of domestic violence who are transitioning out of shelter into safe transitional or permanent 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

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuylers as the lead agency for homeless services within the City of Elmira and Chemung County receives funding from multiple sources to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living and away from homelessness. In addition to the Catholic Charities operated programs listed previously, Catholic Charities assists in the following ways:

Emergency Shelter services will be provided to those in need of emergency shelter at Second Place East, the Salvation Army Safe House, or at a local motel – depending on need and resources available. Program components involve one-on-one case management and connection to mainstream expedited benefits through LDDS onsite liaison, which includes housing and employment.

Rapid Re-housing case managers will assist homeless individuals and families in categories 1 and 4 of the homeless definition, move into stable housing. Program components involve identifying a housing location, provision of rental and certain forms of financial assistance, and support services with a focus on stable employment and permanent housing.

Prevention funds assist individuals and/or families that have a demonstrated housing crisis and face imminent risk of losing their permanent housing. Program components include targeting eligible households, thorough assessment of the needs of each household, assistance to households in expanding housing options and resources, provision of rental and certain forms of financial assistance, and provision of support services needed for permanent housing and stable employment.

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

Catholic Charities' Emergency Services Center provides services to many individuals and families who are faced with evictions and court proceedings as well as those facing homelessness. Case managers have developed positive relationships with area landlords in order to prevent court eviction proceedings. Examples of programs/projects that Catholic Charities has to assist those likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care include the following:

- Community Residence (OMH): a 14-bed transitional congregate-level housing program licensed by the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) and home to individuals with serious and persistent mental illness. These individuals receive 24-hour supervision and intensive person centered case management services.
- Supportive Treatment Apartments (OMH): a OMH licensed 36-bed transitional congregate apartment housing program in an apartment facility for individuals with a serious and persistent mental illness.
- Project S.H.A.R.E., (Supportive Housing and Residential Empowerment) is a transitional housing, HUD funded project providing 12-units of transitional housing in scatter-site apartment project that provides up to two years of rental assistance and supportive services to young adults between the ages of 18-25 who are homeless and have resided in the foster care system.
- Lasting Success (County / NYS OTDA): a transitional housing 24-bed Supervised Independent Living Program (SILP) in a provider-owned apartment facility for youth 16-21 who are aging out of the foster care system.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Although the City of Elmira Department of Community Development is not directly involved in managing public housing and the Elmira Housing Authority does not request CDBG funding, the City consults with the Elmira Housing Authority when developing its Annual Action Plan, Consolidated Plan, and completion of the CAPER. As reported by the Elmira Housing Authority, due to the fact that congressional appropriations to the Housing Authority's Capital Fund Program have been greatly reduced, there have been minimal improvements made to public housing properties.

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

The Elmira Housing Authority Board is made up of seven members, five of whom are appointed by the City Manager of the City of Elmira. The other two members are elected by the residents of the Housing Authority and their input is used for the Agency Plan. The Housing Authority also puts out a 45 day notice that the Agency Plan is available for review and holds a Public Hearing.

Two members of public housing successfully completed the City of Elmira, Catholic Charities First-Time Homebuyer program during the program year, received pre-homeownership counseling and downpayment and closing cost assistance. These households were able to achieve the dream of homeownership during the reporting period.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

There were no actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHA since the Elmira Housing Authority is not troubled.

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

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

One action taken during the program year that addresses public policies that may serve as barriers to affordable housing or effect the return on residential investment was the Department of Community Development assisted the City and its consultant (HUNT Engineers) to submit an application under the 2013 NYS Consolidated Funding Application for NYSEDA's Cleaner, Greener Communities Initiative to update the City of Elmira's 1998 Comprehensive Master Plan. A Comprehensive Master Plan Update is needed to examine possible negative effects of public policies and establish a community vision moving forward that involves community impact. If successful in receiving state funding, the City of Elmira will embark on this project in spring 2015. An updated Comprehensive Master Plan will take a look at the City's zoning ordinance and make preliminary recommendations. During the program year, the City also continued utilizing state funds under the Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program as part of the Southside Rising Project which has identified some opportunities for affordable housing on the south side.

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

In the City's 2013-2014 Annual Action Plan, improving the condition of the City's rental properties was identified as an underserved need. The Department of Community Development continues to utilize CDBG, HOME, and state AHC funds to improve owner-occupied properties but acknowledges that 52% of the occupied housing within the City is renter-occupied. Near Westside Neighborhood Association (NWNNA) is also in the process of creating a revolving loan program for rental rehab utilizing project proceeds obtained from the sale of their property at 256 W. Henry Street. NWNNA and the Department of Community Development have been compiling a list of interested property owners to take advantage of this new opportunity for rental property owners since funding has not been available for several years. The City of Elmira has reached out to Housing Visions which has a strong reputation for affordable rental housing development in New York State for the potential of planning a scattered site housing project in one of Elmira's high rental areas. Housing Visions has a strong reputation at the state and federal level for the quality of their construction and their emphasis on providing energy efficient units. The City will also continue having conversations with Catholic Charities and Providence Housing.

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

The City of Elmira also continues to reduce lead-based paint hazards by being especially diligent when inspecting houses where there are young children who reside in the home or frequently visit the property. Contractors that perform work funded with CDBG, HOME, or New York State Affordable Housing Corporation funds must have proof that they have participated in a Lead Safe Work Practices and Lead Renovators training and that proof is kept on file. The Department of Community

Development Construction Technician utilizes a Lead Safe Housing Requirements Screening Worksheet when inspecting a home. The City maintained its partnership with the Chemung County Health Department to conduct lead risk assessments and lead clearance inspections on an as needed basis for a set fee and during the program year a family of 7 was referred to the Department of Community Development because of young children in the household will elevated lead blood levels.

The City also continued to take actions through its owner-occupied home repair program to meet the needs of elderly and disabled individuals who wish to continue to reside in their homes. The City assisted a severely disabled 55- year old man and his wife make their home handicap assessible by making a lower level bathroom handicapped accessible, adding a handicap ramp outside of the home, and making accomodations to their kitchen using their existing kitchen cabinets. CDBG funds were also able to assist a minority, disabled woman who is wheelchair bound with a lower level bathroom. During the program year, efforts were made to coordinate with other service providers in helping disabled homeowners in need of rehabilitation assistance go through the process of applying for assistance. In one particular case, a previous first-time homebuyer couple, in which both individuals are disabled, the Department of Community Development coordinated with Catholic Charities First- Time Homebuyer Program (since a relationship had previously been formed with the couple), ARC (Case Management), and Chemung County Department of Social Services (Rep. Payee) to walk this couple through the application process.

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

During the last year, Community Development has been looking for ways to reduce the number of persons living below the poverty level including looking to other programs. Community Development staff continue to participate in the Chemung County Poverty Coalition and participated in a day-long Community Conference on Poverty held on November 18, 2013 at the Ernie Davis Community Center and included a poverty simulation.

The City continues to promote NYSERDA's EmPower New York program which offers no-cost energy services for households that fall within HEAP's income guidelines. Information is distributed at public meetings as well as applications for CDBG/HOME assistance. High energy costs is a significant burden on individuals (owners and renters) living below the poverty level.

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler as a subrecipient of CDBG funds is a key partner whose mission is aimed at reducing the number of persons below the poverty level. Through intensive case management services, helping individuals and families access mainstream benefits, connecting people with job assistance, and offering housing counseling services- Catholic Charities is helping individuals achieve economic stability.

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

Actions taken to develop institutional structure include participation in HUD Buffalo's monthly Technical

Assistance Conference Calls to connect with other entitlement communities and participating jurisdictions throughout the state. These have been extremely helpful in developing capacity, learning about best practices, and receiving clarification on federal regulations and reporting requirements. Community Development staff have invited subrecipients to participate in these conference calls, for example Southern Tier Economic Growth (STEG) participated in the one held on Economic Development. Monthly meetings have been established between Community Development and Near Westside Neighborhood Association (CHDO).

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

There continues to be efforts to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies within the City of Elmira. The City of Elmira's Department of Community Development became a more active participant in the NY-501 Regional Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Director of Community Development was appointed to the NY-501 CoC Board at the Board Meeting held on January 31, 2014. Community Development staff reached out to Chemung County Habitat for Humanity and met with them twice during the program year to receive an update on the organization's progress and future housing goals within the City of Elmira. The Southside Rising Revitalization Strategy funded under the New York State Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program increased coordination between Community Development, Chemung County Planning Department, Creating Healthy Places Initiative, Zoning Board, and the private sector. Community Development staff participate in monthly Housing Coalition meetings convened by Catholic Charities and shares updates regarding funding available and programs. Meetings and preliminary discussions were held with private housing agencies, for example Near Westside Neighborhood Association (the City's CHDO), Catholic Charities, Providence Housing (which currently has two properties in Elmira), and Housing Visions.

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

The main impediment identified in the City of Elmira's analysis of impediments to fair housing choice continues to be a lack of education on the part of the community regarding fair housing issues as well as a fear of negative consequences. The Department of Community Development distributed Fair Housing Posters to local service providers and community organizations to raise awareness of fair housing. The City's Department of Community Development is advertised to have a Fair Housing Officer (Jennifer Miller, Community Development Director) to receive questions concerning fair housing and refers individuals who have felt as though their fair housing rights have been violated to file an official complaint with HUD. During the program year, the Department received one complaint regarding a family with whom felt they were being discriminated because of a "service animal" and in consultation with the HUD Buffalo Field Office Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Division, the complaint process was explained to them and they were directed to file the form. Community Development staff also refers individuals to follow-up with Chemung County Neighborhood Legal Services which provides pro bono legal services for low income individuals/families and is colocated in the Catholic Charities building.

Lastly, the City of Elmira monitors the City's HOME CHDO and CDBG sub-recipient housing providers such as Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuylers to ensure they are following Fair Housing Law and affirmatively furthering fair housing. An impediment to fair housing choice continues to be the lack of quality, affordable rental units and this is going to be addressed in the City's 2015 Consolidated Plan and the City has had discussions with Housing Visions.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

Sub-grantee activities are reviewed quarterly upon review of their quarterly reports which summarizes their activities for that quarter as well as annually when they submit their Annual Report. In general, sub-grantees are monitored every three years by the Contract Compliance Officer unless something in their quarterly or annual reports triggers a more frequent monitoring visit. The Department of Community Development is in regular communication with sub-grantees especially those that fall behind in their activities. Southern Tier Economic Growth (STEG) is regularly communicated with as the administrator of the City's Economic Development Loan Program to ensure job creation is being tracked and how much program income is being collected.

The City's Community Housing Development Organization, Near Westside Neighborhood Association, Inc., is using Home funds to invest in rehabilitating dilapidated houses in the City through their One House at a Time program. Community Development staff closely monitors the progress of each project through Quarterly Reports. There is a yearly CHDO certification application which has been implemented and every two years the Department of Community Development performs an on-site monitoring.

The City of Elmira frequently consults the New York State MWBE database and tries to elicit increased participation from minority and women-owned businesses. The Department of Community Development has also been promoting state certification of MWBE and a source of financing available to state-certified MWBE's known as the "Bridge to Success" Loan Program being administered by Empire State Development.

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

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

The Elmira City Council scheduled a public hearing for September 8, 2014 at their meeting held on August 25, 2014 and a public notice for the public hearing appeared in the Star Gazette Legal Notices on August 26, 2014 announcing the public hearing and a 15-day public comment period on the City of Elmira's Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). A public comment period was scheduled for September 4, 2014- September 18, 2014. A draft of the CAPER as well as a one-page summary sheet was made available on the City of Elmira's website, to members of City Council, the Steele Memorial Public Library, and members of the Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee. There were no oral or written comments received on the City's performance at the public

hearing held on September 8th and no comments were received during the public comment period.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

The City of Elmira has focused HOME and CDBG housing related funds towards improving the quality of owner-occupied housing within the City of Elmira and encouraging homeownership through the use of HOME funds for downpayment and closing cost assistance with the First-Time Homebuyer Program. These programs have been manageable for a five-person Community Development office and a 20-year partnership with Catholic Charities (2014 is the 20th Anniversary of the First-Time Homebuyer Program). While these programs have largely been successful, especially based on the number of units and households assisted during the 2013 Program Year, Community Development staff and the City have been exploring future strategies that can be utilized to leveraging additional state and federal funding as well as capacity to also address the rental units within the City. The City has passed legislation in the Rental Registry and Certification Ordinance and Vacant Properties Ordinance, however there are still reportedly a number of substandard rental units. The City of Elmira will be establishing criteria for selecting rental projects to be assisted with future CDBG and HOME funds and an emphasis will be placed on organizations that have strong organizational capacity, experience utilizing CDBG and HOME funding, high quality building standards that incorporate energy-efficient design, and projects that can have a transformative impact on a neighborhood. These criteria will be in place for the City of Elmira's 2015 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

A priority continues to be expanding economic opportunities (jobs) for low to moderate income residents through the City of Elmira's Economic Development Loan Program administered by Southern Tier Economic Growth (STEG). This program experienced no activity during the program year and there are currently only six open economic development loans. Given some difficulties in meeting job creation standards since the City's local program had a stricter public benefit standard than HUD at \$15,000 loaned per job created instead of HUD's standard which is \$35,000 per job created, program guidelines have been modified to be less strict at \$30,000 per job created. Despite no loan activity during 2013, STEG continues to be involved with projects within the City that have the potential to create jobs and participate in the future, for example redevelopment on West Water Street with added involvement by Chemung County. These efforts will continue to be monitored and the City of Elmira hopes to incorporate a more comprehensive economic development strategy in the 2015 Consolidated Plan to spur additional economic development activity, the creation of jobs, and focus on the developing the City's downtown.

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

grants?

No

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

CR-50 - HOME 91.520(d)

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

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

On-site inspections were completed for Near Westside Neighborhood Association CHDO project at 362, 364a, and 364b W. Gray St on May 20, 2014 by the City's staff inspector, Gary Sokolowski. A summary of issues detected during the inspection included the following: a couple of railings needed to be reattached, smoke detector batteries needed to be replaced, a smoke/CO detector needed to be replaced which had been removed, blown light bulbs needed to be replaced including no working light bulbs in the basement, a bathroom vent needed cleaning, and pvc pipes in basement needed to be capped off. A re-inspection was conducted on June 25th and all items were corrected by the time of the re-inspection and the property is compliant with housing codes and other safety regulations.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 92.351(b)

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler marketed the HOME funded First-Time Homebuyer Program through billboards purchased with funding received by Catholic Charities USA that ran a total of four months and highlighted the First-Time Homebuyer Program and other housing counseling services offered by the organization. Near Westside Neighborhood Association continued to affirmatively market a vacant until they had available at 362-364 W. Gray Street and the fair housing logo was placed on all marketing materials. Catholic Charities and Near Westside Neighborhood Association also prominently display fair housing posters at their offices.

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

A total of \$32,899.14 of HOME program income was expended during the program year. HOME program income derived from HOME grant payoffs was utilized to assist four (4) single-family property owners rehabilitate their homes. The owner characteristics included the following: 1 elderly man with an income between 31-50% of HUD's MFI; 1 elderly female with an income with 50% of HUD's MFI; Disabled, family of 2, income within 30% of HUD's MFI; A female-headed household, family size of 5, 50% of HUD's MFI.

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

The City of Elmira as a HOME participating jurisdiction took several actions during the program year to foster and maintain affordable housing. The Department of Community Development reached out to Housing Visions (a neighborhood revitalization non-profit, based out of Syracuse, NY) after meeting them in 2013 at a CPD Annual Conference. The City of Elmira has expressed an interest in Housing Visions developing a scattered-site, LIHTC project in Elmira and pre-planning is underway for a 2015 LIHTC application by Housing Visions to New York State Homes and Community Renewal which will be incorporated in the City's 2015 Consolidated Plan. Community Development staff also met with Chemung County Habitat for Humanity during the program year to discuss ways that the City and Habitat may be able to partner in the future and ways the local Habitat for Humanity Chapter could develop its organizational capacity. Providence Housing also approached the Department of Community Development and the City intends on meeting with them to discuss future affordable housing projects. During the upcoming fall 2014, the Department of Community Development will be developing criteria for evaluating affordable housing projects moving forward which will be incorporated in the City's 2015 Consolidated Plan.