## CITY OF SLIDELL

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

**2024-2025 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

Prepared for Submission to the U.S Department of HUD

By the City of Slidell

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Submitted to HUD: DATE TBD

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# Executive Summary

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

## 1. Introduction

The City of Slidell 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan is the City’s one year plan to implement housing and community development activities funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This program is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and provides funding for a variety of community development activities to assist low and moderate- income families and households.  It is authorized under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended**42 U.S.C. 5301 et.** This annual action plan represents the fifth year of the City of Slidell’s five-year 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. It provides a description of the programs and activities proposed for the fiscal year 2024-2025, and it is the City’s application to HUD for Community Development Block Grant entitlement funds. All proposed spending less administrative costs, will occur in the lowest income area in Slidell, Census Tract 409 (CT409)*.*

The strategy developed for this plan is based on the priorities that were outlined in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. By addressing these priorities, the City hopes to achieve the objectives outlined in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The City has not received its final allocation from HUD. Therefore, for the public comment period draft, the City estimates that it will receive $160,000 in CDBG funds. The level of funding is based on funding from the previous year.

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

**This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.**

The City of Slidell developed its annual action plan based on the data presented in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan with additional planning and input from the community. As a result, the following priority needs and goals were established:

**Priority 1**: Public Facilities Improvement (High Need) - Continue revitalization of public facilities/public parks within CT409 to create a more viable community and improve the quality of life for area residents. Quantifiable Goal: Improvements made to benefit 2041 persons.

**Priority 2:** Increased coordination with Service Providers (High Need) – To assist the City in identifying community needs and to invest in the future of families who may need emergency services, the City will network with service providers including but not limited to those that provide homelessness prevention, emergency and supportive services and affordable housing. Quantifiable Goal: Network with ten service providers.

**Priority 3**: Urgent Need Public Facilities (High Need): This is a preemptive and proactive measure to address emergency public facility needs based on an unforeseen disaster. Quantifiable goal: To be determined based on need and funding.

**Priority 4**: Urgent Need Public Services (High Need): This is a preemptive and proactive measure to address emergency public service needs based on an unforeseen disaster. Quantifiable goal: To be determined based on need and funding.

**Priority 5**: Administration and Planning (High Need):  Provide for administration and planning activities to develop community development strategies and programs needed to carry out activities. Quantifiable goal: Efficient management of CDBG program.

**3. Evaluation of past performance**

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

Significant contributions have been made in the CDBG Target Area, CT409. The following is a highlight of past accomplishments:

**CDBG-CV**

In 2020, HUD awarded the City a CDBG-CV allocation of $288,026 to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus. Part of this allocation was utilized to provide WI-FI in four area parks located within the CDBG Target Area to provide school children access to internet availability to assist in learning activities. Additional CV funds were used to provide enhanced restroom improvements in three area parks within the CDBG Target Area. Improvements included touchless fixtures, improved air circulation and outdoor fans.

**2020-2024 CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

Public Facilities Improvements: The City’s CDBG activities provided funding over the last four years for recreation improvements in Ducksworth Park. This park is located within the CDBG Target Area. These activities were based upon priorities established in the Ducksworth Park Plan, adopted by the Planning Commission in August 2019. Elements of the Ducksworth Plan were subsequently incorporated into the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the City’s Annual Action Plans. Proposed activities in the action plans included but were but not limited to conversion of a baseball field to a multi-use field, lighting, walking trail and new playground. New playground equipment was installed in 2023. Construction of the new multi-use field is imminent. Prior to 2020, two basketball courts were constructed in Ducksworth Park.

Administration and Planning: The City utilized funds for program administration and planning for the CDBG program and for compliance with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

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

**Summary from citizen participation section of plan**.

The City conducted the two public hearings on April 9, 2024 and May 1, 2024. Residents, local agencies, and regional organizations were encouraged to provide input and to participate in the development of the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan. Interested parties had opportunities to comment. The City is engaged in ongoing efforts to increase coordination among the network of service providers that serve community. In accordance with the City’s adopted Citizen Participation Plan, the City consulted with local civic leaders and non-profits. The City made citizens aware of the meetings by publishing a public hearing notice in the official journal, *The Farmer*; posting a notice on the public bulletin board at City Hall; and posting a notice on the City website; emails and meeting invitations to stakeholders and by informing participants of local and regional meetings staff attended. Furthermore, the Planning Department staff organized several meetings with the Mayor’s office and other City departments to gain input on anticipated needs, priorities and to assess problematic areas of concerns. A draft of the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan was made available at the City Planning office and on the City's website during the 30 day comment period.

**5. Summary of public comments**

**This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.**

All comments were accepted.

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

All comments were accepted.

**7. Summary**

The strategy of the 2024-2025 Annual Action plan is to develop a viable community by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities for low and moderate- income persons. The primary means towards this end is analyzing data from a myriad of sources including public input. It is the City’s determination that public facility improvements are the best use of CDBG funds.

## 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** | **Department/Agency** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CDBG Administrator |  | City Planning Department |

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

**Narrative (optional)**

The City of Slidell Planning Department is the lead agency responsible for the management and implementation of the CDBG program.

**Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

The public email contact is *cdbg@cityofslidell.org*. The Slidell Planning Department phone number is (985) 646-4320 and correspondence may be directed to CDBG, City of Slidell Planning Department, P.O. Box 828, Slidell, LA 70459.

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

**1. Introduction**

The City of Slidell conducted consultation as part of the planning process in different venues where citizens representing the public, municipal officials, nonprofit agencies, governmental agencies, and the Continuum of Care could assist in preparing this plan**.** Copies of the 2024-2025 Action Plan were posted on the City of Slidell website, myslidell.com and in the office during the 30 day public review period.

**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(l))**

The City will continue to work with providers, both public and private and will seek out opportunities to strategize with a number of organizations that address short-term and long-term community needs through participation in local and regional meetings. Furthermore, the City is engaged in efforts and initiatives to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers, as well as private and governmental health, mental health, and social service agencies. These organizations include but are not limited to the Commission on Families and the Northlake Homeless Coalition. In an effort to encourage the development of affordable housing opportunities, the City will continue to network with non-profit organizations which provide programs and services for low-income households, in addition to representatives of the private sector, including financial and housing development groups. The City consults with other agencies as needed, depending on the nature of current and future projects.

**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.**

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is an integrated system offering a comprehensive array of housing and supportive services designed to prevent and end homelessness. A CoC must have a community plan to organize and deliver housing services and supportive services to meet the specific needs of the homeless as they move to stable housing and self-sufficiency. HUD identifies four necessary parts of a continuum:

* Outreach, intake, and assessment;
* Emergency shelter;
* Transitional housing with supportive services;
* Permanent & permanent supportive housing with services, if needed.

The City of Slidell supports the Region IX Continuum of Care (CoC), the Northlake Homeless Coalition (NHC) which guides the service system to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families in Region IX. It influences local homeless policy, locates and secures funding for homeless services, and administers and evaluates homeless programs to meet community needs. Its offers comprehensive homelessness prevention services; services to people who are currently homeless and housing resources to reduce chronic homelessness. Participation in this organization assists the City’s outreach into the community.

**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**

The City of Slidell does not receive ESG funds. For those organizations that do participate in the ESG program, the Northlake Homeless Coalition determines which community programs to fund, and it also evaluates the outcomes of activities. The CoC plays a major role in the gathering and reporting of homeless data with the "Point-in-Time" count. The information gathered, which includes data counts within the City of Slidell, helps create continuum-wide performance measures that are used to evaluate performance and determine resource allocations for the COC.

**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**

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Northlake Homeless Coalition |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-homeless |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | Consultation via email correspondence. |
| 2 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | United Way of Southeast Louisiana |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Housing Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Regional organization |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | Consultation via email correspondence |
| 3 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Community Christian Concern |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services - Housing Services-homeless |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | Consultation via email correspondence |
| 4 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Safe Harbor |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-Victims of Domestic Violence |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | Consultation via email correspondence |
| 5 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA GREATER NEW ORLEANS |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Regional organization |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | Consultation via email correspondence |
| 6 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | Slidell Housing Authority |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | PHA Services - Housing |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Anti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | Consultation via email correspondence |
| 7 | **Agency/Group/Organization** | St. Tammany Community Action Agency |
| **Agency/Group/Organization Type** | Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Other government - County |
| **What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?** | Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy |
| **Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?** | Consultation via email correspondence |

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

During the preparation of the FY 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan, the City consulted and coordinated with many organizations to determine need and to develop annual goals. Time and financial resources limit the ability to consult with all possible agencies serving residents, though a focused effort has been made each year to expand on these efforts.

**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 | Northlake Homeless Coalition | Identifies gaps in homeless services and formulates initiatives to address gaps. |

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

**Narrative (optional)**

The purpose of the CDBG program is to develop integrated strategies to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities for low and moderate- income persons. The primary means towards this end is the development of partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector, including for profit and nonprofit organizations. The Annual Action Plan is an application for funds under HUD's formula grant program. The 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan combined with the 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan act as a blueprint to be followed in carrying CDBG activities.

**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**

During the preparation of the FY 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan, the City consulted and coordinated with many organizations to determine need and to develop annual goals. Time and financial resources limit the ability to consult with all possible agencies serving residents, though a focused effort has been made each year to expand on these efforts.

**Citizen Participation Outreach**

| **Sort**  **Order** | **Mode of Outreach** | **Target of Outreach** | **Summary of**  **response/attendance** | **Summary of**  **comments**  **received** | **Summary of**  **comments not accepted and reasons** | **URL (If applicable)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Public Notice | Non-targeted/broad community | A public notice was published stating that that two public hearings would be held and that a draft plan of the Annual Action Plan would be available for public comment. | Not Applicable | Not Applicable |  |
| 2 | Public Meeting | Non-targeted/broad community | Two public hearings were held to gather public comment. | No comments were received at the first meeting. | Not Applicable |  |
| 3 | Internet Outreach | Non-targeted/broad community | A summary of the Annual Action Plan was made available on the City website myslidell.com. | To Be Determined | Not Applicable |  |

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

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

**Introduction**

**Anticipated Resources**

| **Program** | **Source of Funds** | **Uses of Funds** | **Expected Amount Available Year 1** | | | | **Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan**  **$** | **Narrative Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Annual Allocation: $** | **Program Income: $** | **Prior Year Resources: $** | **Total:**  **$** |
| CDBG | public - federal | Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services | 160,000 | 0 | 0 | 160,000 | 160,000 | CDBG funds anticipated for the fifth year of the ConPlan are $160,000. The City expects no program income or other types of HUD funding. CDBG funds will finance public facility improvements. CDBG funds are leveraged with other funding sources when possible. |

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Slidell has not received the 2024-2025 allocation. Expected resources are based on funds received from the 2023 -2024 allocation. Funding is distributed so that 80% of funds are directed to activities and 20% for administration.

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

There are no matching requirements for the CDBG program. A Land and Water Conservation Grant was secured by the City to provide additional resources for the Ducksworth Park Multi-Year Plan. Additional program funding is constantly being researched using the City’s grant management staff and consultant.

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

Ducksworth Park is a municipally owned park where major improvements will be completed utilizing CDBG funds.

**Discussion**

All public facility improvements are anticipated to be completed in Ducksworth Park.

# 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** | Public Facility Improvements | 2020 | 2024 | Non-Housing Community Development | CDBG Target Area CT409 | Public Facilities Improvements | CDBG: $128,000 | Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2041 Persons Assisted | |
| **2** | Foster Coordination with Service Organizations | 2020 | 2024 | Non-Housing Community Development | CDBG Target Area CT409 | Increased coordination with service providers | CDBG: $0 | Other: 10 Other | |
| **3** | Urgent Needs: Public Facility Improvements | 2020 | 2024 | Non-Housing Community Development |  | Public Facilities Improvements | CDBG: $0 |  | |
| **4** | Urgent Needs: Public Service Activities | 2020 | 2024 | Non-Housing Community Development | CDBG Target Area CT409 | Urgent Need | CDBG: $0 |  | |
| **5** | Administration and Planning | 2020 | 2024 | Planning and Administration | CDBG Target Area CT409 | Public Facilities Improvements Increased coordination with service providers Urgent Need | CDBG: $32,000 | | Other: 1 Other |

Table 6 – Goals Summary

**Goal Descriptions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Goal Name** | Public Facility Improvements |
| **Goal Description** | To provide public improvements including but not limited to improvements and upgrades to area parks. |
| **2** | **Goal Name** | Foster Coordination with Service Organizations |
| **Goal Description** | To increase networking with organizations that assist the low and moderate- income community. |
| **3** | **Goal Name** | Urgent Needs: Public Facility Improvements |
| **Goal Description** | To provide public facility improvements that have a particular urgency and are designed to alleviate existing conditions that result from a serious and/or immediate emergency that threaten the health or welfare of the community. |
| **4** | **Goal Name** | Urgent Needs: Public Service Activities |
| **Goal Description** | To provide public services that have a particular urgency and are designed to alleviate existing conditions that result from a serious and/or immediate emergency that threatens the health or welfare of the community. |
| **5** | **Goal Name** | Administration and Planning |
| **Goal Description** | To provide administration and planning activities to ensure efficient implementation of the program. |

## Projects

## AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

**Introduction**

The 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan determined the prioritization of CDBG funds. The 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan defines activities that are aligned with the Consolidated Plan. Eligible activities included in this allocation are recreation improvements; increased coordination with service organizations; urgent need public facilities; urgent need public services; and planning and administration. The City will focus on public facility improvements – public parks for the PY 2024-2025 CDBG allocation.

**Projects**

| **#** | **Project Name** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Public Facility Improvements - Parks and Recreation |
| 2 | Foster Coordination with Service Organizations |
| 3 | Urgent Needs Public Facility Improvements |
| 4 | Urgent Needs: Public Services |
| 5 | Planning and Administration |

Table 7 - Project Information

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

Priorities are based on citizen input and community needs. Rising construction costs due to inflation present a significant obstacle and challenge in carrying out proposed activities.

## AP-38 Project Summary

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Summary Information1** | **Project Name** | Public Facility Improvements - Parks and Recreation |
| **Target Area** | Ct 409 |
| **Goals Supported** | Public Facility Improvements |
| **Needs Addressed** | Public Facilities Improvements |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $128,000 |
| **Description** | Improvements will be made to public parks. |
| **Target Date** | 6/30/2025 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | Estimates indicate that 586 low to moderate- income families within the target area may benefit from improvements to public parks. |
| **Location Description** | Parks within the CDBG Target Area CT409 |
| **Planned Activities** | Improvements will be made to area parks. |
| **2** | **Project Name** | Foster Coordination with Service Organizations |
| **Target Area** | CT 409 |
| **Goals Supported** | Foster coordination with service providers |
| **Needs Addressed** | Increased coordination with service providers |
| **Funding** | : 0 |
| **Description** | Increase networking with organizations that assist the low to moderate-income community. |
| **Target Date** | 6/30/2025 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | Estimates indicate that 586 low to moderate- income families within the target area may benefit from interagency coordination. |
| **Location Description** | 250 Bouscaren St.  Slidell, LA 70458 |
| **Planned Activities** |  |
| **3** | **Project Name** | Urgent Needs Public Facility Improvements |
| **Target Area** | CT 409 |
| **Goals Supported** | Urgent Need |
| **Needs Addressed** | Urgent Public Facility Improvements |
| **Funding** | : 0 |
| **Description** | The purpose of this project is to provide public facility improvements that have a particular urgency and are designed to alleviate existing conditions that are a serious immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community. |
| **Target Date** | 6/30/2025 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | - To be Determined |
| **Location Description** | CT 409 |
| **Planned Activities** | To provide public facility improvements based on needs resulting from an emergency or disaster |
| **4** | **Project Name** | Urgent Needs: Public Services |
| **Target Area** | CT 409 |
| **Goals Supported** | Urgent Need |
| **Needs Addressed** | Urgent Need Public Services |
| **Funding** | : 0 |
| **Description** | To provide public services that have a particular urgency and are designed to alleviate existing conditions that pose a serious immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community. |
| **Target Date** | 6/30/2025 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | To Be Determined |
| **Location Description** | CDBG Target Area CT 409 |
| **Planned Activities** | To provide public services that have a particular urgency and are designed to alleviate existing conditions that pose a serious immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community. |
| **5** | **Project Name** | Planning and Administration |
| **Target Area** |  |
| **Goals Supported** | Planning and Administration |
| **Needs Addressed** | Public Facilities Improvements Increased coordination with service providers Urgent Need |
| **Funding** | CDBG: $32,000 |
| **Description** | Planning and Administration |
| **Target Date** | 6/30/2025 |
| **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities** | Estimates indicate that 586 low to moderate- income families may benefit from activities administered through the CDBG program. |
| **Location Description** | 250 Bouscaren St., Slidell, LA |
| **Planned Activities** | Administrative and Planning Activities |

## 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**

**Geographic Distribution**

| **Target Area** | **Percentage of Funds** |
| --- | --- |
| CDBG Target Area CT409 | 100 |

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

**Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

CT 409 has been the target area in previous years and needs have been identified in various public meetings in preparation for previous plans and this current plan. This area has the highest concentration of low and moderate- income households. Over the years, CDBG investment in the target area provided several community enhancements including but not limited to drainage improvements, sidewalk construction, recreation improvements, restroom improvements in public parks and Wi-Fi availability in public parks. Because of this concentrated investment, Census Tract 409 has benefited from consistent public facility andinfrastructureupgrades.

**Discussion**

The goal of the target area is to take the limited funding the City receives and invest in a neighborhood community that has been historically underserved.

# Affordable Housing

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

**Introduction**

There are limited opportunities and funding available to provide affordable housing in Slidell. The Slidell 2040 Comprehensive Plan states that affordable housing in Slidell is often in poor condition. Most of the multifamily rental units located in Slidell are luxury apartments with rent beyond that which low and moderate- income families can afford. Demand for buildable land, high homeowner’s insurance and high flood insurance costs present a huge market barrier for low and moderate- income families. In addition, misconceptions of perceived crime, decreased property values, overwhelmed schools and increased traffic congestion pose major deterrents to affordable housing development. Affordable housing provided by the Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) fund is restricted due to the prevalence of affluent households living in St. Tammany Parish which decreases St. Tammany Parish’s and Slidell’s competitiveness for funds. There are only 158 LIHTC units available within Slidell and the Housing Choice Voucher Program has only 612 units available.

In the City’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the following affordable housing goals are listed.

* Goal: Increase access to affordable homeownership.
* Strategy: Support credit counseling and homeownership education.
* Strategy: Use public land and adjudicated properties as an in-kind subsidy for affordable development in areas with access to jobs and services.
* Strategy: Provide additional temporary and permanent shelter for homeless residents of Slidell.
* Strategy: Expand opportunities for accessory dwellings in single-family neighborhoods in proximity to schools, services, and employment opportunities.
* Goal: Ensure that renters and homeowners have access to a safe and healthy housing.
* Strategy: Continue to actively enforce Slidell’s Property Maintenance Code and respond to calls from renters about housing quality issues that their landlords refuse to correct.

* Goal: Increase climate-resilient housing stock.
* Strategy: Mitigate and prevent environmental issues that disproportionately affect affordable housing development in Slidell.
  + Strategy: Evaluate the environmental constraints that create challenges with developing market based and subsidized affordable housing.
  + Strategy: Improve regulations so designs and specifications for new homes incorporate resilient elements, such as residential-scale green infrastructure and energy efficient windows.
  + Strategy: Provide incentives for incorporating green infrastructure beyond requirements.

During FY 2024-2025, the City will address affordable housing needs as follows:

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

Table 9 - 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 | 0 |
| Acquisition of Existing Units | 0 |
| Total | 0 |

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

**Discussion**

The numbers represented above include assistance to homeless families through the Section 8 and the Public Housing Program. The City is not the responsible agency for operation and management of the Slidell Housing Authority programs and facilities.

## AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

**Introduction**

The Slidell Housing Authority was established pursuant to the U. S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended. It provides safe, decent and affordable housing to low-income families.

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

The Slidell Housing Authority works directly with HUD to address public housing needs.

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

The housing authority under the purview of HUD holds regular public meetings.

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

The Slidell Housing Authority is not a "troubled" PHA.

**Discussion**

The City is committed to working with the Housing Authority to provide equal access to housing services and providing safe, decent and affordable housing.  The City promotes removing barriers to fair housing and equal opportunity and furthering self-sufficiency and economic opportunity for its residents.

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

**Introduction**

The City addresses homelessness through its participation in the local Continuum of Care (CoC). This organization consists of agencies and service providers that provide a unified approach to serving the homeless in Region IX.

**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 Slidell plans to coordinate with the Northlake Homeless Coalition. Staff will attend meetings and keep current on issues that address homeless persons; and when opportunities are available, serve on committees that address homelessness prevention.  As need arises, the City may provide information and referral services to help individuals and families avoid homelessness. This includes and is not limited to the following:

* extremely low income individuals and families;
* 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);
* those receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs;
* the chronically homeless.

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

The City will continue to participate in the Continuum and coordinate with those organizations that provide emergency shelter and transitional housing needs.

**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 has no direct funding in this program year to address chronic homelessness.Local resources from various non-profit organizations provide homeless prevention. They provide a wide range of services to address transitional housing, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing and supportive services to prevent the recently homeless from becoming homeless again. The CoC member organizations utilize HMIS.

To overcome the gaps in delivery of homeless services or other community development services, the City will work together with homeless prevention organizations and other service providers.

**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 member organizations of the CoC address the needs of low-income households to avoid becoming homeless. Information and referral between organizations guides those who contact them for assistance. The City will continue to attend the local CoC meetings to stay current with homeless resources and help address issues that face individuals and families facing homelessness.

**Discussion**

As outlined in the City’s five year Consolidated Plan, the City will work together with homeless prevention organizations and service providers to addressing homeless prevention.

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

**Introduction:**

Public policies directly and indirectly impact affordable housing; both positively and negatively. Local government cannot control many factors that tend to restrict the housing supply. For example, a primary challenge for affordable housing identified in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan is the prevalence of floodplains and wetlands. Many residential areas are in high-risk flood zones. The **2017 Assessment of Fair Housing** for the City of Slidell states that it is far more difficult to create new publicly supported housing units and compete for housing fund-including HUD funding-when large areas of the city are in the floodplain. Other barriers that contribute to affordable housing are as follows:

* Rising inflation which is expected to tighten credit for homebuyers. This restricts the home buying market for low and moderate- income buyers. The City of Slidell does not have any specific public policy that affects the home buying market other than those costs associated with regulatory building codes established for the overall public good;
* Limited Land Availability Within the City Limits;
* Aging Housing Stock;
* Rising Construction Costs;
* Rising Costs of Homeowner’s Insurance and Flood Insurance;
* NIMBYism;
* Resources for Affordable Housing Development;
* Maintenance Challenges for Aging Housing;
* Prevalence of Single-Family Ownership Housing;
* Access to Publicly-Supported Housing for Persons with Disabilities.

**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**

The City has contracted a planning consultant to examine its zoning ordinance to identify code regulations and policies that may serve as barriers to affordable housing and will explore new avenues to promote affordable housing.

**Discussion:**

Slidell’s housing and land development policies and codes do not reduce the availability of affordable housing. All housing development has to meet the standard regulations as set by the State of Louisiana when adopting the International Building Code, the updated Fire Safety Code, and the International Electrical Code.

## AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

**Introduction:**

The City will continue to strategically search for new funding for community development activities, and it will provide outreach and general support to social service providers which provide an array of community services. The City of Slidell will spend 100% of its CDBG allocation to benefit the LMI residents in the CDBG Target Area.

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

The City will continue to strategically search for new funding for community development activities, and it will provide outreach and general support to social service providers which provide an array of community services.

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

The City will continue to encourage affordable housing by collaborating with public and private housing organizations. Staff will stay up-to-date on issues that affect affordable housing and identify gaps left by State and Federal programs.

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

The City will continue to educate the public about the dangers of lead based paint.

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

The following strategies may be taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families:

* Actively pursue methods to attract businesses that will generate more employment opportunities;
* Coordinate with businesses to increase the number of jobs available, especially higher waged jobs, for low and moderate- income persons;
* Coordinate with the local school board and Northshore Technical College to generate education and training to prepare individuals for employment.

**Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

The City of Slidell Planning Department works closely with Parish-wide service organizations who identify underserved needs and provide programs to meet those needs. Maintaining open lines of communication allows ample opportunity for community input and awareness and helps ensure that the goals and objectives outlined in the PY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan are effectively addressed.

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

Reaffirmingrelationships with community organizations in the areas of affordable housing, community development, and homeless prevention enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. Over the course of the program year, the City will seek to build on existing relationships and establish new connections with community partners.

**Discussion:**

Enhancing coordination with community organizations, assists the City in creating an environment whereby families can recover from economic hardships.  Cultivating and strengthening relationships help improve the delivery of services that lead to self-sufficiency.

# Program Specific Requirements

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

**Introduction:**

Described below are the Program Specific Requirements for each of these programs. In the implementation of programs and activities under the FY 2023-24 Annual Action Plan, the City will follow all HUD regulations concerning the use of program funds and overall low- and moderate-income benefit for the CDBG program.

**Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**

**Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(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. | 100.00% |