

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
2023-2024 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
OF THE 2019-2023 CONSOLIDATED PLAN**



**CITY OF EL CENTRO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

ADOPTED APRIL 2023

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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that all state and local governments prepare an Annual Action Plan that brings needs and resources together to achieve statutory goals, thereby, addressing decent housing, creating a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities for all persons, particularly low and moderate-income residents. This requirement includes the City's federal planning application, and reporting requirements for receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

The 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan describes all available resources for housing programs. This Annual Plan also highlights all of the available resources to the City of El Centro for use in carrying out housing, public service and other community development activities.

For the program year 2023-2024, El Centro anticipates receiving \$563,406 in CDBG funds. Of the funds received, the City intends to allocate approximately fifteen percent (15%) or \$84,494 for public services activities, two percent (2.7%) or \$15,000 for housing and public facilities projects, fourteen percent (14%) or \$80,000 for Code Enforcement in blighted areas, forty-eight percent (48%) or \$271,231 for sidewalks, and twenty percent (20%) or \$112,681 for administration.

It is also anticipated that the city will receive an additional \$14,000 in Program Income and intends to allocate twenty percent (20%) or \$2,800 for Program Administration, fifteen percent (15%) or \$2,100 of the Program Income toward Public Services, and the balance of \$9,100 will be applied to public facilities projects.

The Annual Action Plan is intended to provide a method to receive input from many different sources. In effect, this document was developed through the combined efforts of City staff, City Council, and through the Citizen Participation process of local non-profit organizations and residents of El Centro.

The staff responsible for overseeing the development of El Centro's 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan is the Community Services Department's Economic Development Division.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The City has extensive housing and community development needs. The CDBG program alone is not adequate to address the myriad of needs in the community. Recognizing the national objectives of the CDBG program and specific program regulations, the City intends to use CDBG funds to offer programs, services, and projects that create a decent and suitable living environment to benefit low and moderate-income households and those with special needs.

Through the citizen participation process, the City established six priority needs. To address these needs, the City utilized information obtained from the community, stakeholders and past program history to establish objectives / goals to guide the program toward addressing the priority needs.

Priority: Provide Decent and Affordable Housing

Objectives / Goals:

- Housing Rehabilitation Program
- Affordable Rental and Homeownership Opportunities
- Increase affordable homeownership opportunities
- Code Enforcement
- Lead Based Paint Reduction
- Asbestos Testing and Removal
- Energy Efficiency

Priority: Support Continuum of Care System for the Homeless

Objectives / Goals:

- Continuum of Care
- Public Services for Homeless
- Increase Accessibility to Support Agencies
- Chronic Homeless Support Services

Priority: Promote Equal Housing Opportunity

Objectives / Goals:

- Promote Fair Housing
- Comply with Fair Housing Planning Requirements

Priority: Provide Community Facilities and Infrastructure

Objective / Goal:

Community, Parks, and Recreation Facilities
Improved and New Infrastructure
Sidewalk Improvement Program
ADA Improvements
Graffiti Abatement and Prevention

Priority: Provide Community and Supportive Services

Objective / Goal:

Fire / Safety Equipment
Domestic Violence Support Services
Homeless Women, Children, and Families
Public Services for Homeless
Chronic Homeless Support Services
Crime and Fire Awareness Prevention
Activities for Youth and At-Risk Youth
Support Services for Seniors
Support Services for the LGBT Community
Emergency Public Support Services

Priority: Encourage Economic Development Opportunities

Objective / Goal:

Expand the Economic Base
Employment Opportunities

3. Evaluation of past performance

Over the past 20 years, the City of El Centro has made remarkable progress in achieving many of the goals and objectives included in the City's Five Year Consolidated plans. Unfortunately, due to the continued reduction in allocation of CDBG funds to the City, the number of people assisted with CDBG funds has been significantly reduced. Since 2004, the City has seen an estimated 30% reduction in its allocation and it is anticipated that further reductions will be done in the future. The City has also strived to focus the majority of its public infrastructure and facility needs within neighborhoods with the highest concentration of low- to moderate-income persons.

The City is not the only organization that has been negatively impacted by a reduction in revenue sources. Many, if not all, of the nonprofit agencies the City collaborates with to deliver supportive services have experienced significant reductions in their program budgets over the past five years.

Given the amount of CDBG funds expected to be available during this Annual Action Plan period, the City will focus its efforts on providing assistance to organizations, in most cases, that are well established, have demonstrated the ability to administer their CDBG funds in a timely manner, and have a good delivery system in place to provide services to clients, that meet an identified target group where significant needs exist, or a qualifying target group that requires assistance. All programs and project proposals submitted during the City's Request for Proposal period were evaluated using the following criteria: project feasibility, activity eligibility, whether funding will directly benefit the community, project budget (City has limited the use of CDBG funds for salaries to no more than 20% to nonprofit agencies), leveraging of program with other sources of funding, and past year's performance with CDBG funds.

The City understands how important it is to continue providing services to the elderly, homeless, those at-risk of becoming homeless, youth, and persons with disabilities, affordable housing activities, and public improvements and facilities that benefit low-to moderate-income persons.

4. Summary of “Citizen Participation Process” and consultation process

The successful implementation of a plan occurs when there is broad support for the strategies in the plan. This is evidenced by the involvement of local public officials, business, faith-based organizations, and other community based organizations. The citizen participation and consultation process was created with the intent of obtaining input from stakeholders who are critical to identifying the needs in our community.

A Citizen Participation Plan is an integral component for the receipt of federal funds, which in the City of El Centro's case is under the CDBG program. Such plan establishes the process City staff follows to solicit the necessary public input to create the Five Year Consolidated Plan. The City's Citizen Participation Plan sets forth the City's policies and procedures for public involvement in El Centro's Consolidated Planning Process. The Economic Development Division of the Community Services Department, acting as the lead agency for the Consolidated Plan is responsible for the citizen participation process and for making available the Consolidated Plan and other CDBG related documents, such as this Annual Action Plan,

Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), and any Substantial Amendments to the Consolidated Plan or Action Plan.

The essential elements of the citizen participation and consultation process is to encourage public input via community meetings, public hearings, providing full access of CDBG documents, community input at different community events, and the City's website. Below is a summary of the citizen participation process the City completed to prepare this Annual Action Plan.

- Information posted on City's website at www.cityofelcentro.org.
- Published first notice of public meeting and solicitation of public input on November 4, 2022, in *Adelante* (Spanish newspaper).
- Published notice of two public meetings and solicitation of public input on November 4, 2022, in *Imperial Valley Press* (English newspaper).
- First community meeting held at the El Centro Adult Center on November 21, 2022.
- Second community meeting held at City of El Centro Economic Development office on December 12, 2022.
- Action item to City Council on February 21, 2023, regarding the allocation of CDBG Entitlement funds.
- Published notice of public hearing and solicitation of public input on March 31, 2023, in *Adelante Valle* (Spanish newspaper).
- Published notice of public hearing and solicitation of public input on April 3, 2023, in *Imperial Valley Press* (English newspaper).
- Public hearing held at El Centro Council Chambers on April 13, 2023, to approve "Draft" Annual Action Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

As part of the Annual Action Plan development, a public hearing was held on April 13, 2023, to solicit input on the City's proposed uses of CDBG funds and to finalize its funding allocations. The public hearing was held at 1275 Main Street, El Centro, California. A 30-day public review period of the Annual Action Plan was held from April 14, 2023, through May 13, 2023.

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

No comments were received.

7. Summary

The City of El Centro encourages community participation in the development of the Annual Action Plan. The City's Citizen Participation Plan emphasizes the involvement of low to moderate-income persons, particularly where housing and community development funds are spent. The Citizen Participation process includes a public review period of 30 days to obtain citizen input on the projects or strategies proposed. Public input is very significant during the development of the Annual Action Plan as it enables the City to determine the type of programs and activities to fund in order to continue meeting the needs of the community.

The Process

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	City of El Centro	Community Services
CDBG Administrator	City of El Centro	Community Services

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

In 2004, the City of El Centro became an entitlement grantee to receive CDBG funds directly from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City does not receive any funds directly from HUD for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) and The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) programs.

The City of El Centro is the lead agency and entity responsible for the administration of all aspects of the CDBG Program. The specific City Department responsible for the administration, operation, and monitoring of the CDBG Program is the City's Community Services Department within the Economic Development Division. This Division is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the program. The Division administers and coordinates housing programs, which identifies various programs to expand and preserve affordable housing. In addition, staff develops and updates the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER). The Division also coordinates with HUD, nonprofit groups, private organizations, and other City Departments to develop programs funded by the CDBG program.

Other involved agencies are those nonprofit organizations that provide direct services to the targeted income groups as well as the Imperial Valley Continuum of Care on Homelessness providing services to the homeless under the Continuum of Care system.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Adriana Nava
Director of Community Services
City of El Centro
1249 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 337-4543
Fax No. (760) 352-4867
Email: anava@cityofelcentro.org

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

1. Introduction

The City of El Centro followed its Citizen's Participation Plan to notify and encourage the public, other local government agencies, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, the Imperial Valley Continuum of Care Council (also known as the “IVCCC”), etc. to participate in the City’s development of the Consolidated Plan as required by 24 CRF 91.100. The City of El Centro is an active member of the IVCCC (which includes various County departments, many nonprofit organizations, local housing authorities, as well as other agencies) and works directly with the homeless population. The IVCCC meets on a monthly basis; hence, it allows the City to communicate with other nonprofit organizations and County departments providing supportive services on a regular basis. These services are not only for individuals who are homeless, but individuals that require other types of assistance that may not be homeless (i.e., persons with disabilities, at-risk of becoming homeless, domestic abuse, battered women, senior assistance, etc.).

During the process of preparing the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan, the City of El Centro followed the same citizen participation process as outlined above for the Consolidated Plan.

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

The City of El Centro, as previously mentioned, is part of the IVCCC. The IVCCC meets once a month to discuss service delivery and assistance to be provided to homeless persons. Members of the IVCCC include public agencies, housing authorities, community based organizations, faith based organizations, and private citizens representing the interest of the homeless population. The IVCCC on an annual basis also coordinates an event in the Imperial Valley known as “Project Homeless Connect” whose sole purpose is to outreach to homeless individuals in the county. Several agencies, including the City of El Centro, participate in this yearly event. At the event, homeless persons receive food, information about social services and supportive programs, personal grooming, such as haircuts and warm showers, and many other case management services.

The IVCCC serves as the forum to coordinate with its members many of the goals and objectives under the Continuum of Care system. The IVCCC participates in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to gather data on specific issues that the homeless and the homeless providers face on a day-to-day basis. Through this coordination, the City will be able to address homeless needs in the community and the region as a whole.

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

The IVCCC was consulted to provide information on homelessness and resources available. Several agencies that provide housing and supportive services in the City of El Centro for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless include Womanhaven, Catholic Charities (House of Hope) and Salvation Army.

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 El Centro does not receive ESG funding. However, since the City is part of the Continuum of Care system through the IVCCC, it participates in the ESG process when local organizations are applying for ESG funds. Through the IVCCC, a review committee is formed so it may review data and rank organizations that are applying for or receiving ESG funds based on the new Tier System. Once ranking has been completed, the rankings are submitted to HUD for review and notices are sent to the respective organization for appeal and review of ranking. It has been determined that Catholic Charities will be the HMIS lead agency in Imperial County. As the lead agency, Catholic Charities will be responsible for providing technical support to train organizations in the HMIS system. The IVCCC in coordinated efforts with the County of Imperial launched the HMIS system on April 2, 2015. The County funded its operation for the first year. Thereafter, request for funds to operate and maintain the HMIS system on a yearly basis are be done through local non-profit agencies directly working with the homeless population and public jurisdictions, such as cities.

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

The City launched a collaborative effort to consult with City elected officials, City departments, community stakeholders, and beneficiaries of entitlement programs to inform and develop the priorities and strategies contained with this action plan. Below is a comprehensive list of participants.

Agency / Group / Organization	Agency /Group / Organization Type	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?
EL CENTRO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Other Government – Local City Department Grantee Department	All sections of plan	Developed, reviewed, and prepared data within the plan. Provided information on Economic Development strategies.
EL CENTRO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT	Other Government – Local City Department Grantee Department	Housing Need Assessment Other – Housing Building, Planning, and Code Enforcement	Provided information relative to all Housing, Building, Planning, and Code Enforcement needs and activities.
EL CENTRO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT	Other Government – Local City Department Grantee Department	Other – Non-housing community needs/public facility needs	Provided information relative to all park improvements and recreation programs.
EL CENTRO POLICE DEPARTMENT	Other Government – Local City Department Grantee Department	Homelessness Strategy Other – Non-housing community needs/public facility needs	Provided information on police needs.

Agency / Group / Organization	Agency /Group / Organization Type	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?
EL CENTRO FIRE DEPARTMENT	Other Government – Local City Department Grantee Department	Other – Non-housing community needs/public facility needs	Provided information on fire department needs.
EL CENTRO PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	Other Government – Local City Department Grantee Department	Other – Non-housing needs/public infrastructure. Public Works, land, and water resources.	Provided information on public infrastructure needs. Also provided coordination and information for needed services and assistance for the community during the pandemic. Provided information on needed infrastructure improvements within the CDBG Target Area. They are also the division that provides direction and information on the land and water resources within the City of El Centro.
INLAND FAIR HOUSING AND MEDIATION BOARD	Service-Fair Housing	Other – Barriers to affordable housing and fair housing issues	Provided information on foreclosures and strategies to address fair housing issues.

Agency / Group / Organization	Agency /Group / Organization Type	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?
IMPERIAL VALLEY HOUSING AUTHORITY	PHA	Public Housing Needs	Provided information and data related public housing, section 504 needs assessment, and housing choice vouchers.
SPECTRUM CABLE AND INTERNET	Services – Broadband Internet Service Providers Services – Narrowing the Digital Divide	Other – Broadband and Digital Divide	Provided information regarding the availability of internet in the City of El Centro.
AT&T	Services – Broadband Internet Service Providers Services – Narrowing the Digital Divide	Other – Broadband and Digital Divide	Provided information regarding the availability of internet in the City of El Centro.
IMPERIAL COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION	Services – Education Services – Narrowing the Digital Divide	Other – Addressing the digital divide during the pandemic.	Provided information about addressing the digital divide with students and their families during the pandemic.

Agency / Group / Organization	Agency /Group / Organization Type	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?
IMPERIAL COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES	Other government – County	Other – Emergency Services	Provided coordination and information for needed services and assistance for the community during the pandemic.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Imperial Valley Continuum of Care Council	Through the outreach process, the City has identified homelessness and homelessness prevention services as a priority for the CDBG program. These services will complement the regional Continuum of Care Strategy.
Housing Element	City of El Centro	The Housing Element focuses on the provision of a variety of housing options for all income groups, with special attention for lower and moderate-income households. The Consolidated Plan housing goals and objectives are consistent with the Housing Element.

Table 3 – Other Local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan.

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

The City of El Centro conducted a citizen participation process to help develop the Consolidated Plan as well as this One-Year Action Plan. The process involved the following components:

- Consultation with various departments and agencies, provided information on the needs of the community and the lack of necessary services and facilities;
- Funding application and allocation process;
- Public Hearings; and
- Public review of draft documents.

Results of these outreach activities were carefully considered by the City to establish priorities and objectives in the One-Year Action Plan.

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 Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	Although the meeting was advertised, there were no attendees.	No comments received	No comments received	
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	Although the meeting was advertised, there were no attendees.	No comments received.	No comments received.	
3	Public Meeting	Project/ Program applicants	Meeting was advertised, one person was in attendance.	Wanted to know the purpose of the meeting and how funds were spent. Was working on a school assignment.	N/A	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The anticipated resources to be available to assist with the implementation of the fifth and final year of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, which starts on July 1, 2023 and ends on June 30, 2024, are described below.

However, prior to identifying the resources available to complete activities in program year 2023-2024, it is important to highlight the amount of funding available in CDBG funds and the type of activities the City will be completing with these funds. The City will have approximately \$563,406 of CDBG funds to complete the following activities and anticipates receiving \$14,000 in Program Income for a total of \$577,406.

Two housing programs in the amount of \$15,000, which consist of the following:

- Lead Based Paint Abatement Program
- Asbestos Testing/Abatement Program

Public services activities in the amount of \$84,494 in CDBG funding and \$2,100 in Program Income will also be provided in the areas of fair housing, senior services, at-risk youth activities, homeless shelter services, and services to battered spouses and their children, and \$112,681 in CDBG funding and \$2,800 in Program Income for administration. These services will be provided by local nonprofit agencies through subrecipient agreements between the City of Centro and the non-profit agency.

The City plans to continue funding its Code Enforcement program in the amount of \$80,000, which consists of conducting inspections for code violations and enforcement of state and/or local codes. Finally, the City will use \$271,231 in CDBG funds and \$9,100 in Program Income for the repair of sidewalks located within the city's CDBG target area.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 5				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	563,406	0	0	563,406	0	With the CDBG allocation, the city will complete Housing Activities, Public Services, Code Enforcement, Public Facilities/Infrastructure Improvements, and Planning & Administrative Activities.
Other	Public - State	Admin and Planning Improvements Public Services	0	14,000	0	14,000	0	The City receives Program Income from State CDBG generated loans. With the CDBG PI, the city will complete, Public Services, Public Facilities/Infrastructure Improvements, and Planning & Administrative Activities.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 5				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
Other	Public - State	Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services Other	0	0	512,917	512,917	0	The City of El Centro through the Community Services Department currently offers down payment assistance to first time homebuyers through the HELP Program. The maximum loan amount is \$25,000 at a zero percent (0%) interest payable over a 20-year term.
Other	Public - State	Admin and Planning Housing	0	220,548	0	220,548	0	The City receives Program Income from State HOME generated loans. The funds will be used for construction of affordable housing.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The only federal funds the City receives as a direct allocation from the Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) formula programs is CDBG funds. The City does not receive ESG, HOPWA, Section 8, or any other type of federal funds.

If there is an area where the City has been very effective, is in the leveraging of funds. Over the years, the City has managed to leverage CDBG funds with other state, local, and private donations. For instance, when the opportunity is available, the City will apply for HOME funds through the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development to fund a housing rehabilitation loan program, rather than using CDBG funds for this program. The City also applies for HOME funds, especially now that redevelopment funds are no longer available for the preservation or construction of new affordable housing projects. During periods of time when HOME funds are not available, the City continues to offer housing rehabilitation opportunities through the CDBG Program.

City staff continuously works with interested developers to identify sources of funding for the construction of new affordable, multi-family housing such as tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds, State of California Multi-Family Housing Program, and tax credits. In FY 2021-22, the City partnered with Chelsea Investment Corporation to apply for funding from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant opportunity through the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and HCD for the Jacaranda Gardens affordable housing development. The proposed housing development consists of a 168-unit affordable housing project targeted for low-income residents who earn 30% to 60% of the Area Median Income, which is currently \$63,900. Of the 168 units, 166 will be affordable units and 2 manager's units; 40 will be one-bedroom units, 78 will be two-bedroom units, and 48 will be three-bedroom units. Phase I of the development will include 96 units, 24 will be one-bedroom, 47 will be two-bedroom, and 24 will be three bedroom. Phase II will include 16 one-bedroom units, 31 two-bedroom units, and 24 will be three bedroom. Both projects will also include a managers unit each that is not income restricted. In February 2022, the SGC approved the application for the Jacaranda Gardens in the amount of \$15.8 Million.

The City has effectively partnered and plans to continue partnering with affordable housing developers and lenders to create new affordable housing units in the city. The City will also continue supporting the efforts of the Imperial Valley Housing Authority to obtain state and federal funds for the construction of affordable housing for lower income households.

In terms of economic development activities, the City seeks other sources of funding through the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, and from the Local Entity Program, which is a local funding source available for economic development projects from the Imperial Irrigation District.

For transportation related projects, the City applies for funds under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through the State of California Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and State of California Proposition 1B.

Another local funding source available in our community is the Rule 310- Mitigation Program, which is administered by the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD). Any application submitted to this program has to be leveraged with other funding sources. This local funding source has been used in the past to pave parking lots for City parks.

The ICAPCD also administers funding available through AB 617 for the Calexico, Heber, El Centro Corridor. As part of this program, the City has the opportunity to apply for funding for Paving Projects that will aid in reducing particulate matter emissions by paving unpaved lots and roads within the corridor.

The City leverages many programs with its General Fund and Development Impact Fees. For example, the City's code enforcement program is leveraged with the City's General Fund. Many of the recreational activities or facilities on which CDBG funds have been used are leveraged with local funding source has been in the past to pave parking lots for City Parks.

City staff continues to identify new funding opportunities for the City that could enhance existing community services and/or address community needs. Staff is committed to leveraging funds at all levels whether it is at the federal, state, or local level. City staff will continue collaborating with the County of Imperial and local non-profit agencies to continue providing supportive services to the special needs population. Many of the community events the City offers are partially funded with private donations from local businesses, financial institutions, service clubs, and other community-based organizations.

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

The majority of the publically owned land or property the City of El Centro owns has public facilities the City uses to conduct business or to provide recreational opportunities.

Nineteen properties are owned by the now dissolved redevelopment agency. Of the 19 properties, eight are for government use, four are for commercial and industrial use, and seven are residential lots, which can be used to provide affordable housing to low income households. The Long Range Property Management Plan (LRPMP), which is required to be submitted to the State of California Department of Finance (DOF) by successor agencies, has been reviewed and approved by DOF. The City of El Centro Successor Agency is evaluating the disposition of these properties.

On January 1, 2020, the State of California passed the Surplus Land Act (SLA). The SLA is a “right of first refusal” law that requires all local agencies to offer surplus land for sale or lease to affordable home developers and certain other entities before selling or leasing the land to any other individual or entity. Any time a local agency disposes of land, it must follow the SLA unless the land qualifies as exempt surplus land. Dispositions include both sales and leases. If a Notice of Interest (NOI) is received from a qualified party, a deed restriction must be recorded requiring that, in the event 10 or more residential units are developed on the land, 15% of the units must be set aside as affordable housing.

The City of El Centro has processed six of residential lots on the LRPMP through the SLA procedure. Staff is working with a local realtor who will be constructing housing on the lots. At least 15% of the units will be established as affordable housing.

Discussion

During the time period of the Five Year Consolidated Plan (2019-2023) City staff continues to seek resources that contribute to the goals of providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons and special populations. The City will make every effort to align its collective resources towards meeting its goals and objectives within this Strategic Plan.

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	Lead Based Paint Reduction	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Provide Decent and Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$5,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 1 Household Housing Unit
2	Asbestos Testing and Removal	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Provide Decent and Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$10,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 1 Household Housing Unit
3	Promote Fair Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Citywide	Promote Equal Housing Opportunity	CDBG: \$47,250	Fair Housing Services: 200
4	Support Services for Seniors	2019	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Provide Community and Supportive Services	CDBG: \$15,900 State Program Income: \$2,100	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 60 Households Assisted
5	Public Services for Homeless	2019	2023	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Support Continuum of Care System for the Homeless	CDBG: \$6,000	Homelessness Prevention: 125 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Domestic Violence Support Services	2019	2023	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Provide Community and Supportive Services	CDBG: \$5,344	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5 Households Assisted
7	Activities for Youth and At-Risk Youth	2019	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Provide Community and Supportive Services	CDBG: \$10,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 600 Persons Assisted
8	Code Enforcement	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide CDBG Project Area	Support Continuum of Care System for the Homeless Provide Community and Supportive Services	CDBG: \$80,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
9	Sidewalk Improvement Program	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG Project Area	Provide Community Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$271,231 Public State / Program Income: \$9,100	Public facility infrastructure activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: TBD Households Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goals Description

Goal	Goal Name	Goal Description
1	Lead Based Paint Reduction	Coordinate public and private efforts to reduce lead based paint hazards and protect young children.
2	Asbestos Testing and Removal	Coordinate public and private efforts to eliminate asbestos hazards in housing.
3	Promote Fair Housing	Promote fair housing services provided by the City’s fair housing services provider.
4	Support Services for Seniors	Support senior population by providing home-delivered meals.
5	Public Services for Homeless	Provide wrap-around services for homeless individuals.
6	Domestic Violence Support Services	Provide supportive services for battered spouses and their children.
7	Activities for Youth and At-Risk Youth	Provide youth with programs and activities mentored by police officers and volunteers of the Police Athletic League.
8	Code Enforcement	Inspect for code violations and enforcement of state and/or local codes in deteriorated properties.

Goal	Goal Name	Goal Description
9	Sidewalk Improvement Program	Repair and add sidewalks within the CDBG target area.

Table 7 – Goals Description

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Priority Needs established in the FY 2019 - FY 2023 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, which form the basis for establishing objectives and outcomes in the FY 2023-24 Action Plan are as follows:

- Provide decent and affordable housing
- Support the continuum of care system for the homeless
- Promote equal housing opportunity
- Provide community facilities and infrastructure
- Provide community and supportive services
- Encourage economic development opportunities

The major obstacle to addressing the underserved needs is the lack of adequate funding, especially for affordable housing activities. With the dissolution of redevelopment agencies in California and reduced State and Federal funding levels, the City's ability to address the extensive needs in the community are seriously compromised.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Lead Based Paint Testing/Abatement Program
2	Asbestos Testing / Abatement Program
3	Fair Housing Services
4	Senior Nutrition Program
5	Homeless Day Center
6	Sure Helpline
7	El Centro Police Athletic League
8	Code Enforcement
9	CDBG Sidewalks
10	Program Administration

Table 8 – Project Information

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

As part of the Citizen Participation Process used for the preparation of the Annual Action Plan, a public hearing was held to receive public input on the priorities for the annual CDBG allocation. The City Council established priorities of Housing, Fair Housing, Public Services, Code Enforcement, and Sidewalk Improvements.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Lead Based Paint/Testing Abatement Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Lead Based Paint Reduction
	Needs Addressed	Provide Decent and Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	This activity will pay for the testing and abatement of Lead Based Paint in conjunction with the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City anticipates assisting one income-eligible family.
	Location Description	1275 W. Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 - Community-wide program.
2	Project Name	Asbestos Testing / Abatement Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Asbestos Testing and Removal
	Needs Addressed	Provide Decent and Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	This activity will pay for the testing and abatement of lead-based paint in conjunction with the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City anticipates assisting one income-eligible family.
	Location Description	1275 W. Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 - Community-wide program.
3	Project Name	Fair Housing
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Promote Fair Housing
	Needs Addressed	Promote Equal Housing Opportunity
	Funding	CDBG: \$47,250
	Description	This activity will pay for fair housing services. Said services are being provided through a sub-recipient, Inland Fair Housing and Mediation Board.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is anticipated that 168 people will receive assistance pertaining to fair housing issues.
	Location Description	1275 W. Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 - City-wide program
4	Project Name	Senior Nutrition Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Support Services for Seniors
	Needs Addressed	Provide Community and Supportive Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$15,900 State CDBG Program Income: \$2,100 for a total of \$18,000
	Description	This activity will pay for home-delivered meals to the most vulnerable senior population - those who are frail, home-bound, isolated, and nutritionally high risk.

	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is anticipated that 180 individuals will be assisted.
	Location Description	250 W. Orange Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243 – Citywide Program
5	Project Name	Homeless Day Center
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Continuum of Care Public Services for Homeless
	Needs Addressed	Support Continuum of Care System for the Homeless
	Funding	CDBG: \$6,000
	Description	This activity will pay for wrap around services for homeless individuals that reside in the City.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 60 individuals will be assisted.
	Location Description	250 W. Orange Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243
6	Project Name	Sure Helpline
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Domestic Violence Support Services
	Needs Addressed	Provide Community and Supportive Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,344
	Description	This activity will pay for supportive services for battered spouses and their children.

	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 5 families will be assisted.
	Location Description	654 W Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243
7	Project Name	El Centro Police Athletic League
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Activities for You and At-Risk Youth
	Needs Addressed	Provide Community and Supportive Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	This activity will provide income-eligible youth with programs and activities mentored by police officers and volunteers of the Police Athletic League.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is anticipated that 600 individuals will be served through this activity.
	Location Description	1104 N. 4 th Street, El Centro, CA 92243
8	Project Name	Code Enforcement
	Target Area	CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Code Enforcement
	Needs Addressed	Provide Community and Supportive Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$80,000

	Description	The purpose of the program is to conduct inspections for code violations and enforcement of state and/or local codes in deteriorated properties located in El Centro. This program will cover salaries and related expenses of code enforcement inspectors and legal proceedings.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City estimates enforcing building codes at approximately 100 residential and commercial locations.
	Location Description	1275 W Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243
9	Project Name	CDBG Sidewalks
	Target Area	CDBG Target Area
	Goals Supported	Community Facilities and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Provide Community Facilities and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$271,231 State CDBG Program Income: \$9,100 for a total of \$280,331
	Description	For this activity, the city anticipates making improvements such as city sidewalks, curbs, gutters, etc. located within the low-moderate income CDBG Target area.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The estimate of families who will benefit from the activity is based on census data. The locations to be improved are yet to be determine.
	Location Description	1275 W Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243
10	Project Name	Program Administration
	Target Area	Not applicable
	Goals Supported	Not applicable

Needs Addressed	Not applicable
Funding	CDBG: \$112,681 State CDBG Program Income: 2,800 for a total of \$115,481
Description	Funds will be used to provide for the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the CDBG Program.
Target Date	6/30/2024
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Not applicable
Location Description	1249 W. Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243

Table 9 – Project Summary Information

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

The majority of the City of El Centro qualifies as a low and moderate-income area. Therefore, given the extensive needs in the community, the City has not targeted any specific neighborhood for investment of CDBG funds. Instead, projects are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, based on emergency needs, cost-effectiveness, feasibility, and availability of other funding to address the needs or leverage federal funds.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
CDBG Target Area	62%

Table 10 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

When projects are undertaken to improve an area based on geography, they are limited to the City's CDBG Target Area, which includes areas where over 50 percent of the residents are low- and moderate- income.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City plans to utilize CDBG funds to support its authorized housing activities including lead based paint and asbestos testing / abatement programs. Two households will be assisted through the Housing Rehabilitation Program with CDBG funding. This will include evaluation for lead based paint and asbestos along with remediation, if necessary. The City continues to offer HELP Program Income funds to provide a First Time Homebuyer Down-payment Assistance Program.

In 2019, the City in collaboration with AMG and Associates, LLC was successful in securing a HOME Investment Partnership grant in the amount of \$5,100,000 from the State of California Department of Housing (HCD) and Community Development for the development of affordable housing. Of the amount received, \$5,000,000 was subsequently lent to an affordable housing developer to leverage with California Tax Credit Allocation funding, as well as tax-exempt bond funding for the construction of the El Dorado Apartment complex. The City also committed \$134,000 of HOME Program Income Funds as a loan to the developer. The first phase of development has 24 housing units and targets families earning up to 60% of the area median income for Imperial County. The complex became available for occupancy in December 2021.

Additionally, the Successor Agency to the City of El Centro Redevelopment Agency committed \$500,000 in funding toward the development of the Countryside II Apartments, also known as Girasol. The developer of this project was successful in securing HOME funding in the amount of \$5,000,000 and secured additional funding to leverage for the project including tax-exempt bond funding. The complex has 56 housing units and targets seniors aged 55 and older which are at 30% to 60% of the Area Median Income for Imperial County. The project opened for occupancy in February 2022.

As previously mentioned, in FY 2021-22, the City partnered with Chelsea Investment Corp. to apply for funding from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant opportunity through the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and HCD for the Jacaranda Gardens affordable housing development. The proposed housing development consists of a 168-unit affordable housing project targeted for low-income residents who earn 30% to 60% of the Area Median Income, which is currently \$63,900. Phase I of the development will include 96 units,

24 will be one-bedroom, 48 will be two-bedroom, and 24 will be three-bedroom.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	2
Special-Needs	0
Total	2

Table 11 - 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	2
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	2

Table 12 – One Year Goals for Affordable Housing Support Type

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The City of El Centro does not operate its own public housing authority. Therefore, residents of El Centro seek public housing and housing choice vouchers through the Imperial Valley Housing Authority (IVHA).

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

The needs of public housing are addressed by the Imperial Valley Housing Authority.

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

The Imperial Valley Housing Authority established The Family-Self Sufficiency Program (FSS) to assist Section 8 residents and Public Housing (PH) families to gain economic independence from all governmental assistance. There are currently 39 participating families (21 Section 8 and 18 PH). To date, 197 FSS participants have achieved economic self-sufficiency and no longer require any form of rental and welfare assistance. Of the 197 FSS graduates, 71 families (22 Section 8 families and 49 PH families) have purchased homes upon completion of the FSS Program.

To assist first-time homebuyers, the Imperial Valley Housing Authority (IVHA) has established the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program (HP). The HP assists eligible participants in the Section 8 program that are also a part of the FSS Program. Outreach efforts are also extended to the residents of the Public Housing Program. In order to maximize the use of resources available to home seekers, the IVHA and Community Valley Bank apply for the Workforce Initiative Subsidy for Homeownership (WISH) offered by the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco (FHLBSF). This program assists income qualified first time home buyers by providing a 4:1 match on homebuyer contribution up to \$29,000 for down payment and closing costs. IV Housing Authority also works in collaboration with other First Time Home Buyer Programs such as USDA, and the Imperial County Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP-3). Currently, 11 participants are enrolled in the Homeownership Program. A total of 34 families have purchased homes with the Section 8 Homeownership Program. The Section 8 Homeownership Program allows a family to utilize their Section 8 voucher to assist with monthly homeownership expenses.

The Housing Authority actively promotes homeownership among all program participants. This promotion begins at the family's briefings and orientation upon inception of housing assistance. The Homeownership Coordinator works closely with each family to identify barriers they may have in becoming homebuyers and sets up an individual service plan with each adult family member that identifies the barriers, the steps each adult family member needs to take to eliminate the barrier, and the timeframe in which to do so.

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

Not applicable to the City of El Centro.

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

Introduction

Homeless and homeless prevention services are identified as a high priority need in the FY 2019 - FY 2023 Consolidated Plan. The City anticipates expending approximately 20% of its public service cap (up to fifteen percent [15%] of the CDBG annual allocation) on homeless and homeless prevention services.

Describe the jurisdiction's 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 El Centro participates in the Imperial Valley Continuum of Care Council (IVCCC), comprised of five cities and the County of Imperial, non-profit service providers, and stakeholders. The IVCCC oversees the various programs to address issues regarding homelessness in the region. The IVCCC also oversees the collection of regional homeless data, identifies gaps in services, and leads strategic planning for future creation of permanent housing for the homeless. The City will continue to work with the IVCCC as staffing and resources allow to support services and apply for funding to address (and end) homelessness in our region.

In addition, the City uses its CDBG funds to complement the IVCCC strategy. For FY 2023-2024, the City plans to allocate funding in the amount of \$6,000 for Catholic Charities for their Homeless Day Center. This program provides the homeless population services such as shelter, personal care facilities, access to comprehensive continuum of care services, and linkage to longer-term housing and referrals to other community based services. The City will also be providing \$18,000 to Catholic Charities for their Senior Nutrition Program. This activity will provide meals to homebound seniors in order to enable them to remain independent in their own residence.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City plans to allocate \$6,000 for Catholic Charities (Homeless Day Center) to address the homeless population by providing services such as shelter, personal care facilities, access to comprehensive continuum of care services, and linkage to longer-term housing and referrals to other community based services.

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

As mentioned previously, El Centro participates in the IVCCC in its efforts in ending chronic homelessness. The IVCCC coordinates services from other agencies for the homeless. Chronically homeless persons require rehabilitation services, employment training and placement, health services, and case management to move from homelessness to transitional housing, and then to supportive/permanent housing. The IVCCC offers a full range of services and facilities. The City supports the IVCCC's strategy in providing supportive services that would improve their employment skills.

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

The City and five incorporated cities of Imperial County have made a long-term commitment to defeating chronic homelessness. The City of El Centro will continue being part of the IVCCC, which is the main vehicle to address homelessness in Imperial County.

Discussion

The City of El Centro does not receive HOPWA funds.

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

Introduction:

The City of El Centro minimizes the financial impact in its efforts to protect public health and safety by taking actions to reduce costs or provide offsetting financial incentives to assist in the production of safe, high quality, affordable housing.

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

On April 7, 2015, the City Council of the City of El Centro adopted Ordinance No. 15-04, a City Ordinance providing for the deferral of payment of development impact fees. This ordinance in essence provides for the temporary deferral of the impact fees to the earlier of final inspection or Certificate of Occupancy, or one year from the date the deferral is approved by the City Manager. Even though this ordinance does not waive development impact fees, it is of benefit to residential projects because developers do not have to finance the payment of these fees up front.

To ensure the development of affordable housing, the City will make efforts to ensure that developmental review processes are efficient, fees reasonable, and that the development industry is involved in the formulation of policies regarding review processes and fees.

Actions to ensure future housing affordability include the approval of density bonuses and enhanced permit processing procedures.

Additionally, the City will continue to utilize available resources to assist in increasing the availability of affordable housing through such means as:

- Fast track permitting processes, where and when possible
- Maximize limited resources to increase affordable housing units
- Continue to ensure that General Plan and Zoning Code allow for all types of development and a broad range of densities
- Implement programs and services that provide financial assistance to maintain affordable housing
- Address discriminatory barriers through awareness and education workshops
- Undertake projects to address physical barriers where and when possible
- Develop and implement programs that address identified barriers to fair and affordable housing

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Priority Needs established in the 2019-2023 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, which form the basis for establishing objectives and outcomes in the FY 2023-2024 One-Year Annual Action Plan, are as follows:

- Provide decent affordable housing
- Support the continuum of care system for the homeless
- Promote equal housing opportunity
- Provide community facilities and infrastructure
- Provide community and supportive services
- Encourage economic development opportunities

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The retention of the affordable housing stock is an important element in providing housing that meets the needs of existing and future residents. The rehabilitation of deteriorating and substandard housing occupied by extremely low, low, and moderate-income property owners is a priority as it represents a large portion of the population sustaining housing cost burdens and substandard conditions. The City currently has prior year CDBG funding available to aid in the rehabilitation of properties of low/moderate income-eligible homeowners during the 2023-2024 program year. This funding will be supplemented by CalHOME or HOME Program Income. The City has also applied for State HOME funding in the amount of \$400,000 to continue with Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program efforts.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The majority of the actions identified as part of this Action Plan are specifically aimed at increasing and maintaining the City's existing affordable housing stock. Activities such as new construction, conservation of at-risk units, and preservation of existing units are all striving to increase the affordable housing stock.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Lead-based paint in residential units poses severe health and behavioral threats to children. The State of California established a comprehensive program to identify children at risk of lead poisoning in 1991. That year the State established a program requiring that all children up to

the age of six be screened for lead poisoning.

The Imperial County Public Health Department has a contract with the State of California Department of Health Services (DHA) to provide public health follow-up in accordance with the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991. This Act established a comprehensive secondary prevention program requiring evaluation, screening and medically necessary follow-up services. The Act defined “appropriate case management” as consisting of health care referral, environmental assessments and educational activities performed by the appropriate person, professional, or entity. These guidelines require follow-up on children who meet the case definition, one-venous blood lead level ≥ 20 mcg/dl or two blood lead levels ≥ 15 mcg/dl. Imperial County provides these services through the local Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

The City addresses lead based paint hazards on a case-by-case basis through the following steps:

Step 1: As newer homes are built under stricter environmental guidelines and the sale and rental of older homes are regulated to protect potential buyers and renters, while lead-based paint hazard is still a potential problem, it has allowed for better protection to children and adults. This minimizes lead based paint hazards in new homes.

Step 2: The City will work with residents and the Imperial County Public Health Department to address the issue of lead-based paint hazards through testing and abatement efforts on a case-by-case basis.

Step 3: The City will conduct outreach and education through the City’s Community Services and Community Development Departments. These departments will ensure that regulations related to enforcement of lead-based paint are carried out on City projects and on private projects, when possible, through rehabilitation of older units. Distribution of educational brochures as well as inspections will be undertaken given specific situations.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The majority of the strategies incorporated in the City's Annual Action Plan are intended to target the housing and economic needs of the community, particularly for lower income households. This includes those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, as well as those with special needs; therefore, the City's Plan is aimed at reducing, to the extent possible, the number of poverty level families and individuals taking into consideration the many factors which the City has no control (e.g. reduction in funding resources, severe economic recessions, increasing costs in medical care, company downsizing, company

closures, etc.).

The effects of the City's efforts will result in the direct preservation and provision of housing. This is particularly true for those activities, which preserve and produce housing units intended for lower income families and individuals, together with the coordinated programs undertaken with other public agencies, service providers and private industry. These efforts will incrementally assist in the reduction of the number of poverty level families through the provisions of housing and community services.

In an effort to reduce the number of households in poverty, El Centro will continue to support the use of existing County job training and social service programs to enhance employment marketability, household income, and housing options. In addition, the City participates in various county-sponsored programs by providing City Hall as a work site, providing temporary positions, with supervision, training and performance evaluations to indicate their degree of success.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City continues to collaborate with a number of non-profit agencies and other city departments in order to provide for the affordable housing and community development needs of its residents. As part of its grant administration, the City provides technical assistance to its sub recipients and monitors their performance in both meeting the client's needs and capacity to comply with regulatory requirements. This process of monitoring helps the City enhance and increase the overall service delivery to low and moderate income residents.

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

The City maintains a contact list of interested potential applicants. Letters or notices announcing the availability of funds are mailed to these interested agencies at least annually, in addition to notices published in the local newspaper and the posting of notices at the City's library, the City's various social media platforms and on the City website. Applications for public services and public facility projects are accepted after notification for a minimum of a 30-day availability period as stated above. In addition, staff attends several local and regional meetings, which include service providers, neighboring agencies and elected officials to keep abreast of issues affecting the quality of life for El Centro's low-income residents. The City maintains a web presence and is pro-active in providing technical assistance throughout the year to assist interested citizens and agencies in understanding and applying for El Centro's

CDBG funds.

In addition, the City is developing enhancements and strengthening its coordination and consultation processes with other agencies, including State and local public agencies, the Imperial Valley Continuum of Care Council and others to ensure that needed services and funding for homeless and other services are directed to the El Centro residents specifically. Staff has and will continue to consult closely with members of the Imperial Valley Continuum of Care Council to develop efficiencies in data sharing and strategic planning which will ultimately achieve the goals and objectives of the City's Annual Action Plan.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The following discusses the other program-specific requirements.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

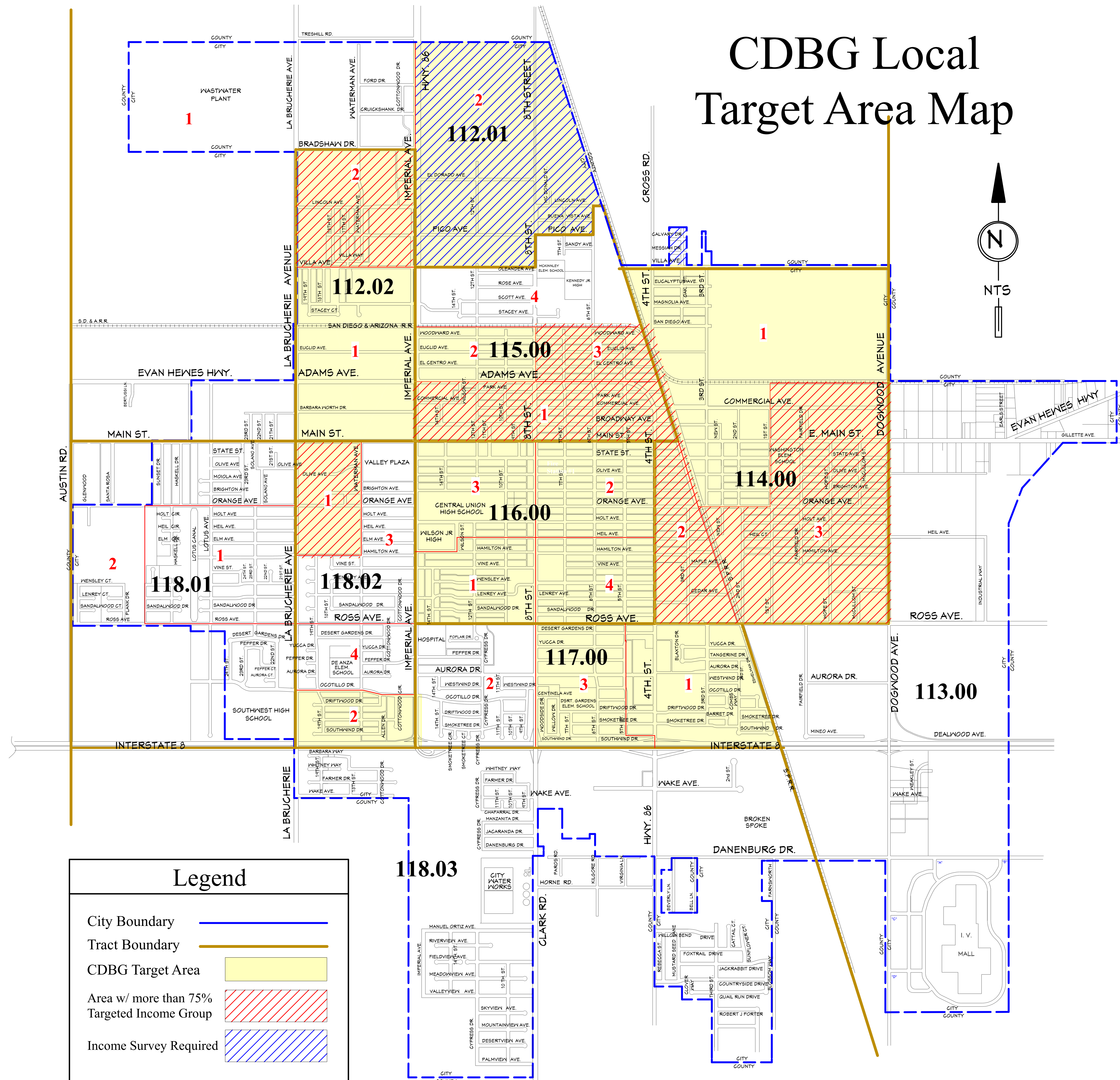
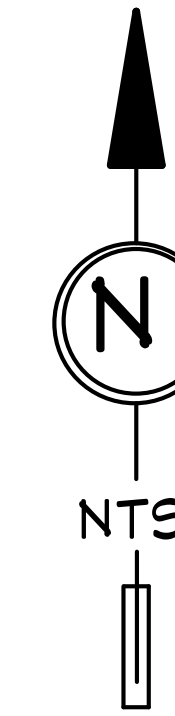
Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	\$14,000
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	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:	\$14,000

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%

CDBG Local Target Area Map



Legend

- City Boundary
- Tract Boundary
- CDBG Target Area
- Area w/ more than 75% Targeted Income Group
- Income Survey Required

CITY OF EL CENTRO

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW CDBG ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN (2023-2024)

Under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the City of El Centro invites citizens to participate in the preparation of the FY 2023-2024 One Year Action Plan. The One-Year Action Plan consists of the proposed activities to be funded through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The CDBG funds are for community development improvements to benefit low and moderate-income residents. During FY 2023-2024, the City of El Centro anticipates receiving approximately \$563,406 in Community Development Block Grant funds. The City also anticipates expending approximately \$14,000 for fiscal year 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) in State Program Income generated by previous State awarded grants. Therefore, a total of \$577,406 is expected to be available for program year 2023-2024. Pursuant to federal regulations, every CDBG activity must meet the requirements for one of the national objectives: benefit low and moderate-income persons; prevent or eliminate slum or blight; or meet an urgent need that poses a serious or immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at the City Council Chambers located at 1275 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. The purpose of the public hearing is to present to the City Council the City's Draft CDBG 2023-2024 One-Year Action Plan and to provide El Centro residents with the opportunity to comment on the use of CDBG funds.

The publication of this notice is the beginning of the 30-day public review period required under Federal Regulations 24 CFR 91.105(b)(2). The public review and written comment period begins **April 14, 2023** and ends **May 13, 2023**.

One-Year Action Plan

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, the City of El Centro proposes the utilization of CDBG funds as follow:

	ACTIVITY	2023-2024 FUNDING ALLOCATION	CDBG PROGRAM INCOME
	PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION	\$112,681	\$ 2,800
	PUBLIC SERVICES	\$ 84,494	\$ 2,100
	ELIGIBLE PROJECTS	\$366,231	\$ 9,100
	SUBTOTAL	\$563,406	\$14,000
	TOTAL FUNDS FOR FY 2022-2023	\$577,406	

A copy of the One-Year Action Plan is available for public review at the following locations:

City Hall
City Clerk's Office
1275 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Economic Development Division
1249 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

El Centro Public Library
1198 N. Imperial Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243

The purpose of the public hearing will be to give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known. City Council meetings are held in person as well as virtually. All members of the public are able to participate via Zoom. The information for participating virtually is listed below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83322722173?pwd=ell0aUFhaVVDSXFYdXU4cmtiaXpqUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 2272 2173; Passcode: 072002

If special accommodations are required due to sensory impairment/disability, please contact the Economic Development Division at (760) 337-4543 to arrange for those accommodations to be made.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you may direct written comments on the housing, community, economic development needs, and proposed projects as articulated in the CDBG One-Year Action Plan. All comments relative to the Public Hearing for the One-Year Action Plan (2023-2024) are to be submitted to the Economic Development Division no later than 11:00 a.m. on April 13, 2023, and may be addressed to the following:

City of El Centro
Community Services Department
Economic Development Division
Attn: Adriana Nava, Director of Community Services
1249 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
760-337-4543

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.


PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE <input type="text" value="Interim City Manager"/>
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION <input type="text" value="City of El Centro"/>	DATE SUBMITTED <input type="text" value="05/15/2023"/>

CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the consolidated plan regulations, the jurisdiction certifies that:

Affirmatively Further Fair Housing --The jurisdiction will affirmatively further fair housing.

Uniform Relocation Act and Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan -- It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4601-4655) and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24. It has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan required under 24 CFR Part 42 in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the Community Development Block Grant or HOME programs.

Anti-Lobbying --To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form --to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and
3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Authority of Jurisdiction --The consolidated plan is authorized under State and local law (as applicable) and the jurisdiction possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations.

Consistency with plan --The housing activities to be undertaken with Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant, and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS funds are consistent with the strategic plan in the jurisdiction's consolidated plan.

Section 3 -- It will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 75.



Signature of Authorized Official

May 15, 2023

Date

Interim City Manager
Title

Specific Community Development Block Grant Certifications

The Entitlement Community certifies that:

Citizen Participation -- It is in full compliance and following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105.

Community Development Plan -- Its consolidated plan identifies community development and housing needs and specifies both short-term and long-term community development objectives that that have been developed in accordance with the primary objective of the CDBG program (i.e., the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and expanding economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low and moderate income) and requirements of 24 CFR Parts 91 and 570.

Following a Plan -- It is following a current consolidated plan that has been approved by HUD.

Use of Funds -- It has complied with the following criteria:

1. Maximum Feasible Priority. With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG funds, it has developed its Action Plan so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low- and moderate-income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The Action Plan may also include CDBG-assisted activities which the grantee certifies are designed to meet other community development needs having particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available (see Optional CDBG Certification).

2. Overall Benefit. The aggregate use of CDBG funds, including Section 108 guaranteed loans, during program year(s) 2023 [a period specified by the grantee of one, two, or three specific consecutive program years], shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period.

3. Special Assessments. It will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds, including Section 108 loan guaranteed funds, by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements.

However, if CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of a fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of public improvements (assisted in part with CDBG funds) financed from other revenue sources, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds.

In addition, in the case of properties owned and occupied by moderate-income (not low-income) families, an assessment or charge may be made against the property for public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds if the jurisdiction certifies that it lacks CDBG funds to cover the assessment.

Excessive Force -- It has adopted and is enforcing:

1. A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and

2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

Compliance with Anti-discrimination laws -- The grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-3619) and implementing regulations.

Lead-Based Paint -- Its activities concerning lead-based paint will comply with the requirements of 24 CFR Part 35, Subparts A, B, J, K and R.

Compliance with Laws -- It will comply with applicable laws.



Signature of Authorized Official

May 15, 2023
Date

Interim City Manager
Title