



**PY 2014 Consolidated Annual
Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)**



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Submitted by
THE CITY OF WARNER ROBINS
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Prepared by Community Development Department and the Middle Georgia
Regional Commission

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

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

The City of Warner Robins CAPER (Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report) outlines the city's accomplishments in terms of the goals set forth in the city's Consolidated Plan and 2014 Annual Plan. This describes the impacts of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, which are provided to the city on an annual basis. All CDBG programs are administered through the city's Community Development Department. Program Year 2014, which this report analyzes, is the final year of the city's five-year consolidated planning cycle. For this program year, HUD apportioned Warner Robins \$472,827 for community development projects that will accomplish HUD objectives in the city. These objectives include:

- Decent Housing: Providing decent housing includes helping individuals who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless find suitable long-term housing, maintaining current levels of affordable housing stock, and increasing the availability of affordable permanent housing to low-to-moderate income individuals.
- Suitable Living Environment: Providing a suitable living environment includes improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods, reducing the isolation of income groups within the community by improving neighborhood aesthetics and housing availability, and increasing access to quality public and private facilities and services.
- Economic Opportunity: Facilitating economic opportunity denotes the creation and retention of jobs; provision of public services, including transportation resources that encourage access to employment; increasing the availability of job training programs; and providing financing for home buying and rehabilitation.

In 2014, the City of Warner Robins has focused its efforts and CDBG funding allocation in an area of the city known as the Neighborhood Strategy Area (NSA). The NSA has been designated as such because it meets and/or exceeds the low-to-moderate income criteria required for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) eligibility, as well as having the greatest need for CDBG-type projects, such as infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitation, community facilities, etc.

The City of Warner Robins CDBG Program saw many successes throughout PY 2014, providing high quality services and resources to 1055 individuals through a variety of CDBG funded programs and organizations. Of these, 96 percent were from low-income households. The majority of beneficiaries, 65 percent, are considered extremely low-income by HUD income standards. Another 20 percent, 229 people, are found in very low-income families. Only 3.4 percent of the beneficiaries are above low-income, and most of these are considered to be in vulnerable populations with other special needs challenges. These city's program maximized CDBG

dollars and spent roughly \$470 per beneficiary.

The city utilizes a network of service providers to extend assistance to these families in a philosophy that seeks to be as holistic as the problems themselves. This system continued to bear fruit in this program year with many notable successes. The vast majority of the sub-recipient nonprofits met or exceeded their proposed goals as described in the 2014 Annual Plan. Some examples include:

- Despite anticipating serving 100 clients, Caring Solutions provided crucial pregnancy care to 129 women, promoting the strategic plan goal of a suitable living environment and the action plan objective of improved health and welfare.
- Rebuilding Together continued the city’s longstanding efforts to proactively eliminate blight through helping low-income homeowners make important repairs, successfully rehabilitating 36 owner-occupied homes. This effort far surpassed previous expectations of providing decent housing for 25 families.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Houston County advocated on behalf of 64 extremely low-income children facing neglect and abuse, 28 percent more than projected.

These are just a few examples of the hundreds of lives positively impacted by CDBG funds in the City of Warner Robins in PY 2014. Other examples include, the Boys and Girls Club providing educational and recreational opportunities for 200 low-income children through an after-school program. This helped to accomplish the action plan objective of improving the health and welfare of residents in need. True Light Transportation provided transportation services to 98 low and low-to-moderate income residents, many of them elderly and disabled, allowing residents to go to health care appointments and to shop for necessities. This CAPER will comprehensively review the plethora of accomplishments brought about through this year’s program.

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

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

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
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Code Compliance Inspections	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$27277	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	250	0	0.00%	200	200	0.00%
Eliminate Slum and Blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$43428	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	70	66	94.29%	70	66	94.29%
Fair Housing Education	Fair Housing Education	CDBG: \$2500	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	50	0	0.00%	100	153	
Fair Housing Education	Fair Housing Education	CDBG: \$2500	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	0		5	0	0.00%
Fair Housing Education	Fair Housing Education	CDBG: \$2500	Other	Other	0	0		50	0	0.00%
Homeless Persons and persons with drug addiction	Homeless	CDBG: \$10482	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	55	41	74.55%	55	41	74.55%
Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$334722	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	25	18	72.00%	25	36	72.00%
Program Administration	Program Administration	CDBG: \$121900	Other	Other	2	0	0.00%	2	0	0.00%
Public Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$82518	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	473	290	61.31%	473	794	61.31%

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

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

In PY 2014, the City of Warner Robins continued to utilize CDBG funds in a variety of ways, targeting funds at several important objectives. Among the most emphasized of these objectives has been and continues to be the enhancement of the city's affordable housing stock. In order to improve the quality of the local affordable housing stock, the city partners with Rebuilding Together. PY 2014 was another successful year as they rehabilitated 36 homes in the city, benefitting 67 low-income residents and surpassing the annual plan goal by rehabilitated 36 homes. With these program accomplishments, the city is taking steps towards transforming neighborhoods and creating a suitable living environment.

Serving the homeless population has also been a concern in Warner Robins and the greater Houston County area. The Community Outreach Service Center is a community emergency homeless shelter for the general homeless population in the City of Warner Robins. This organization helps homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living by networking with other service providers to link clients with job training, educational opportunities, or physical and mental health services. Through the Community Outreach Service Center, the CDBG program was able to serve 40 homeless persons.

As a part of the city's anti-poverty strategy, it has also dedicated funds to organizations that provide much needed relief to low-income residents. By partnering with the local Meals on Wheels, the city was able to serve 16 extremely low-income senior adults healthy and nutritious meals. This not only benefits the health and welfare of the beneficiaries, but allows those on fixed incomes greater flexibility in spending. Similarly, True Light Transportation provides transportation services to a variety of low-income residents, including the elderly and disabled. This service allows the residents to go to health care appointments and to shop for necessities. This year 98 low-income seniors and disabled persons were served with trips basic to their survival.

As has been a recent trend, Warner Robins heavily prioritized fair housing education in PY 2014. Through its annual housing fair and homebuyer education workshop, the city was able to directly spread the fair housing message, reaching more than 150 people. Each of these people were provided with crucial information about their housing rights and opportunities. Beyond this, the city also advertised fair housing resources in city hall and through other means. Beyond educating the public, the city reviewed its policies and regulations to identify any other impediments that may cause a lack of affordable and accessible housing in the city.

Beyond these goals and success, the city made significant progress in the areas of public housing and blight reduction. The city has maintained a highly effective relationship with the Warner Robins Housing Authority (WRHA). In the past program year, Warner Robins partnered with the Authority in their efforts to redevelop a dilapidated housing complex, the Oscar Thomie Homes. With funds, WRHA has been able to clear the land and begin the process of constructing a new development on the site. A chief priority of community development has also been the removal or standardization of blighted and derelict property. Through its code enforcement office, the city's efforts have been heavily concentrated particularly on those areas identified with the highest concentrations of low quality housing.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

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

Narrative

In the City of Warner Robins Consolidated Plan, statistics indicate that many of the community's problems disproportionately affect minorities, particularly African American and Hispanic persons. A disproportionately greater need occurs when an issue occurs among a demographic group at a greater rate (10 percent or higher) than in the general population. The Consolidated Plan recognized that African Americans face a disproportionately greater need in housing problems, severe housing problems, cost burden, and severe cost burden. Along with these specific housing issues, other vulnerabilities are present within these communities at higher rates than the rest of the jurisdiction.

The beneficiaries of services from PY 2014 funds mirror the prevalence of need. Of the city's 1,055 beneficiaries, 67.3 percent are African American. White residents constitute the bulk of the remaining population served, accounting for 25.2 percent. Hispanic persons of any race account for only 1.1 percent of those served despite being 7.6 percent of the city's population (ACS 2013 5-year estimates). This indicates a continued need of local service providers to identify and conduct outreach with the Hispanic population. Keeping this potential service gap in mind, the city published both public hearing notices in a Spanish-language newspaper, published a survey soliciting public feedback in Spanish on surveymonkey.com, and supported English as a Second Language (ESL) classes through the Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP). The city intends to build off of this progress and continue to find new ways to reach out to the Hispanic population in the years ahead.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG		0	472,827

Table 3 – Resources Made Available

Narrative

In PY 2014, the city utilized \$472,827 in CDBG funding to make a profound impact towards the continued community development of the City of Warner Robins directly benefiting 1,055 residents. CDBG funds acted as a supplement to the Community Development Department's allocations from the city's general budget, allowing the city to make a greater impact in the lives of the low-income residents of the City of Warner Robins. Outside of direct funding, community partners like the Warner Robins Housing Authority, Central Georgia Technical College, and the Boys and Girls Club provided facilities for a variety of CDBG funded community events, leveraging the full resources of the community to make a greater impact.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
NSA Neighborhood Strategy Area	45%	45%	

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The Warner Robins Neighborhood Strategy Area (NSA) has been identified as having a high concentration of need. The city's NSA mirrors the defined Redevelopment Area and is designated as "Slum and Blight" because it meets and/or exceeds the low-to-moderate income criteria required for CDBG eligibility and has the greatest need for CDBG-type projects. This urbanized, developed area has certain housing structures and buildings that are in need of improvements by reason of dilapidation, deterioration, age, or absenteeism. In PY 2014, 45 percent of Warner Robins CDBG funds were allocated to initiatives targeting the Neighborhood Strategy Area (NSA), while the remaining 55 percent were spent on projects pertaining to a wider geographic base. Allocating such a large portion of funds specifically to projects in this area strategically targets the concentrations of blight, poverty, and inequality in a deeply impactful way. This strategic method allowed the city to make an enormous difference in the quality of life of residents of the NSA while also making major investments in programs aimed at low-income individuals in the entire city. The city's efforts to enforce codes on neglected

properties and to rehabilitate substandard structures are especially focused in this target area.

Leveraging

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

In order to accomplish the work outlined in this report, local stakeholders utilized many other forms of funding beyond CDBG. CDBG funds were used in conjunction with allocations from the City of Warner Robins General Fund and the normal operating budgets of the funded sub-recipients. The local staff responsible for administering CDBG funds are found in the city's Community Development Department. The bulk of this department's staffing is funded through local city revenues. It is the city's financial support that allows the Community Development Department to keep a talented and dedicated staff, serving as innovative stewards of CDBG and other community development funds. Warner Robins also portions some of its CDBG allotment towards the funding of a code enforcement officer. The city shares in a 50-50 funding split to pay for this officer whose job is to proactively eliminate blight within the CDBG target area.

In addition to city funds, each of the nonprofit and public sub-recipients funded through the city's CDBG funds has its own operating budget, of which CDBG allocations only comprise a part. In some cases, CDBG funds are only a small portion of the monies used to operate a program. Though CDBG funds are vital for these organizations to produce the levels of service needed, each does not depend entirely on city CDBG funds for operating expenses.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of non-homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of special-needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 5- Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through rental assistance	0	
Number of households supported through the production of new units	0	
Number of households supported through the rehab of existing units	30	36
Number of households supported through the acquisition of existing units	0	
Total	30	

Table 6 - Number of Households Supported

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

As noted in the PY14 Annual Plan, the City of Warner Robins prioritized the rehabilitation of the city's current housing stock in support of affordable housing efforts. In order to be considered affordable housing, housing must be not only financially attainable but also of livable quality. Housing that is worn, dilapidated, unsanitary, or lacks basic functionality is not a valuable commodity no matter the cost. Utilizing windshield surveys, the city learned that many homes, while occupied, did not meet this standard of quality. With that in mind, the city developed goals to support the rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes through Rebuilding Together and the city's Single-Unit Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. In the Annual Plan, the city projected rehabilitating 30 homes for low-income, elderly families. Actual efforts surpassed these goals, with 36 units being improved at no cost to the residents.

Beyond direct resource provision to local residents, CDBG funds were used to assist extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families attain affordable housing through informational and educational programs. An example of this was that the city supported a homebuyer education workshop, which helped people take steps for independent home ownership. Additionally, the city held a Housing Fair with 25 housing vendors. These vendors provided low-income residents with housing information on a wide variety of topics. More than 150 people attended these events and were provided insight into opportunities for affordable housing.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

In examining the goals versus outcomes, it can be noted that the city and its partners surpassed expectations from the Annual Plan. While the goal is to estimate as closely as possible to anticipated accomplishments, it is likely that future annual action plans will continue to be conservative in their estimates.

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

Number of Persons Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	26	0
Low-income	4	0
Moderate-income	37	0
Total	67	0

Table 7 – Number of Persons Served

Narrative Information

Rebuilding Together, one of the nation’s leading nonprofits, works to preserve homes for the poor and elderly and is one the city’s primary vehicles for housing rehabilitation. Over the years, the City of Warner Robins has increased funding for this organization due to its ability to maximize resources. In PY 2014, the city dedicated \$75,000 to this groups efforts. Its program is operated year-round, providing much needed housing rehabilitation to low-income, elderly and handicapped homeowners who are physically and financially unable to make home repairs themselves. These repairs allow homeowners to maintain their independence while at the same time maintaining the housing stock in the city. Funds are used to offset the cost of materials purchased to do repairs to owner-occupied homes. Labor is donated by both skilled and unskilled volunteers.

The city’s partnership with Rebuilding Together directly led to the standardization of 36 homes

benefitting a total of 67 low-income residents. Rehabilitating aging and damaged housing not only impacts the individual residents of these homes and their families, but over time will help to transform neighborhoods, helping to instill a strong sense of place and neighborhood pride among residents. Through these continued efforts, the city has seen a rise in the stock of its affordable, decent housing, increasing the quality of life of residents while improving the aesthetic appeal of many neighborhoods as well.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)
Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

The Community Outreach Service Center is a community emergency homeless shelter for the general homeless population in the City of Warner Robins. This organization helps homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living by networking with other service providers to link clients with job training, educational opportunities, and physical and mental health services. For the 2014 program year, the Community Outreach Service Center was allocated \$10,482 for operating expenses from Warner Robins CDBG monies. With these and other funds, the organization helped 41 clients, each with extremely low income.

As noted in the city's Consolidated Plan, there are several contributing factors to homelessness which include: (1) lack of low-income or affordable housing; (2) lack of jobs; and (3) lack of adequate care for the mentally ill. For this reason, treating the source of the problem is the city's primary approach for combating homelessness. These problems are often identified through informal or formal assessment when homeless shelters are utilized. Shelter staff then make referrals based on the conclusion of these assessments. Therefore, the city's long-term strategy for assisting the homeless is to encourage appropriate treatment for persons suffering from chronic mental illness and substance abuse in a supportive housing setting with the goal of assisting as many people as possible to progress toward independent living. NAMI Central Georgia aided those with these challenges throughout PY 2014 serving 11 extremely low-income persons. Job training is also a focus to reducing homelessness by providing people the skills necessary for financial independence. Warner Robins partnered with local service providers like Central Georgia Technical College and Exceptional Mail and More Georgia to work towards this end.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

As mentioned in the previous section, CDBG funds were provided to operate the Community Outreach Service Center, a homeless emergency shelter. The shelter networked with other service providers to link clients with job training, educational opportunities, and physical and mental health services. Of the 41 persons assisted by the center, 40 were homeless and all were extremely low-income. Though not exclusively to homeless persons, NAMI Central Georgia, with assistance from CDBG funds, also provided temporary housing to those impacted by physical disability, developmental disability, mental illness, and substance abuse.

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 under the previous two headings, the City of Warner Robins assisted numerous groups that provide services to the homeless and those at-risk for homelessness, improving the chances of these individuals finding permanent residences and living independently. Most of the services funded by the city can be directly or indirectly linked to accomplishing this goal. Some of the serviced provided include:

- Counseling services and support resources to low-income and vulnerable populations
- Transportation resources and basic nutrition to low-income persons, allowing them to save more funds for housing
- Information related to housing resources and Fair Housing Rights
- Medical assistance for new and expectant mothers
- Rehabilitation of substandard and aging housing stock
- Job and skills training

Through each of these services, the city hopes to provide homeless families transition to new, full-time, and stable living arrangements.

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

Through its network of service providers, the City of Warner Robins seeks to identify individuals at high risk for homelessness. These individuals include those with mental illnesses, those affected by domestic violence, those with medical issues, those impacted by substance abuse, the elderly, and those facing financial hardships. For these low-income families and individuals who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless, services providers, such as the Community Outreach Center, provided the necessary transitional or long-term housing assistance needed either through their facilities or through rent vouchers made available through their programs. As mentioned in the previous section, the bulk of CDBG-funded programs help these vulnerable

families to avoid homelessness. The Family Counseling Center, NAMI Central Georgia, Inc., CLCP Career Pathways, and Caring Solutions all met the needs of individuals who are at risk for homelessness. In PY 2014, these organizations helped 406 at-risk individuals across a spectrum of needs, nearly doubling the goal for the year of 208 beneficiaries.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Beyond the ongoing services it provides, the Warner Robins Housing Authority (WRHA) engaged in a redevelopment project in PY 2014. The WRHA's mission is to develop and promote quality housing options for their tenants, who are their number one priority. One WRHA community, known as the Oscar Thomie Homes, was built in 1965 and consists of 70 multi-family units which are in poor condition. Prior to this year, efforts were made to transition the complex's residents to other Housing Authority communities. In PY 2014, the Authority received approval for the demolition of the Oscar Thomie Homes from the Special Application Center (SACS). The Authority demolished a majority of the existing homes and prepared to build new units on the site. The City of Warner Robins sees this effort as vital for establishing adequate levels of housing. The city utilized \$43,428 of PY 2014 CDBG funds to assist in the effort to clear and demolish this community blight as part of a total of \$89,293 of CDBG funds dedicated toward the project between PY 2011 and PY 2014. Next, the process of rebuilding will begin in an effort to create new housing units that are both livable and appropriate.

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

The Warner Robins Housing Authority continued to provide Resident Leadership Training for the Resident Council, helping them to function as a community-based organization. The Warner Robins Housing Authority Resident Council met every third Tuesday of each month. Bi-weekly mini-meetings were hosted in the communities. This council gives the residents a voice in the actions of the Housing Authority and a role in the planning and direction of their community. Beyond this entity, all residents are encouraged to participate in public activities and attend public hearings. These opportunities provide the residents opportunities to learn about their community and to have their thoughts and opinions heard.

Beyond opportunities for input, the Housing Authority provides its residents with access to homeownership resources and other resources that will improve their quality of life. The Warner Robins Housing Authority works with residents to help them move beyond their current housing situation. Monthly newsletters and flyers continue to be the key in letting the residents know what is happening in their community. These advertisements also provide them with information and resources for which they may qualify.

The Warner Robins Housing Authority has continued to furnish their resident families with resources that will equip them with skills, knowledge, and training necessary to achieve financial independence and move from affordable housing to homeownership. The Authority

regularly offers programs and opportunities for not only the heads of household but for youth and older adults, as well. Residents are heavily encouraged to take part in these programs as they become available.

In order to provide opportunities for self-sufficiency and independence, the Warner Robins Housing Authority continued to utilize outside organizations and volunteers. Part of the mission of the WRHA is to foster partnerships between public and non-profit organizations to address the fundamental needs of the community. In PY 2014, the Authority collaborated with over 30 health, social service, education, and community-based organizations including:

- Central Georgia Technical College: GED Classes were held at Central Georgia Technical College. The Housing Authority transported tenants to and from class, making sure they were on track to receive their GEDs. After completion of a GED, the Housing Authority encouraged each resident to excel higher in education.
- Construction Training for tenants to help in rebuilding and demolition. The Authority provided basic construction training to tenants.
- Habitat for Humanity: The Authority provided six Homeownership Workshops in PY 2014 through Habitat for Humanity. These workshops provided residents, staff, and other people in the community an opportunity to learn what it takes to become a homeowner.
- Houston HealthCare (Edu-Care): The Authority provided nursing staff volunteers to teach workshops for residents. Health Fairs were provided dealing with subjects like colon cancer and diabetes. Residents received literature explaining free services for which they qualify. Life Skill Classes provided training in areas of Communication Skills, Dress for Success, Health and Nutrition, Resume Writing and Job Search – Job Placement.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The Houston County and Warner Robins Housing Authority is not considered a troubled Public Housing Authority (PHA). While the city, through CDBG resources, did aid the authority in the demolition of a dilapidated complex, they did not directly assist a troubled PHA.

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

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i) 48804 72531

The City of Warner Robins updated its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) in 2011. The AI is a component of Fair Housing Planning for Entitlement Communities and is an assessment investigating fair housing practices, examining any obstructions that may hinder the application of those practices. The Analysis of Impediments seeks to combine current demographic trends, coupled with current housing trends, to identify any impediments present that may lend themselves to housing discrimination. Due to the recent population explosion in Warner Robins, an increase of 48.6 percent from 2000 to 2013, the demand for new housing has been robust. To keep up with the demand, Warner Robins has worked hard and steadily to provide affordable and adequate housing to those relocating to the city. Various sources of data were examined for the analysis, including the Census, American Community Survey, Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data, Loan Application Register (LAR) data, Fair Market Rents, Income Limits, Warner Robins Zoning Ordinance, and fair housing complaints filed with the Georgia Civil Rights Department-Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity. In recent years, HUD has received a low number of housing complaints from residents of Houston County.

As a result of the fair housing study, the city has made efforts to review its practices to ensure the maximization of fair housing opportunities. Since that time, the city has a practice of constantly reviewing and updating its regulations and zoning ordinances to create the environment that promotes housing for all members of the community. During the 2014 program year, Warner Robins made key changes to its planning and zoning policies to add additional transparency to the process. The city strongly feels that this will make the system more trustworthy and clear to local developers and residents alike. Recently, the city has also updated its policy on group housing in a way that mirrors best practices and improves the quality of housing that residents have.

Beyond policy changes, the city has made fair housing education a significant priority. In conjunction with its annual housing fair, homebuyer education workshops, and Fair Housing Month, the city has spread the message of Fair Housing rights to its residents. These opportunities provide free resources to educate the community. In addition to these opportunities, the city has made a practice of advertising Fair Housing rights through newspapers, public hearings, and displays. In the next program year, the city will work to update its AI document and consistently review potential impediments in the community.

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

In PY 2014, the City of Warner Robins' Department of Community Development continued to seek new programs and initiatives, improve existing programs, and identify additional sources of funding to better serve those in need of affordable housing and related services.

Based on the outlined community needs of the city's Consolidated Plan, CDBG funds were used to support a variety of efforts to improve public services to suffering and disadvantaged residents. The city utilized CDBG funds to fund after-school programs through the Boys and Girls Club. They served 200 low-income children, providing them both recreational and educational activities. Other organizations supported included the CASA of Houston County, the Family Counseling Center, NAMI Central Georgia, Caring Solutions, Meals on Wheels, and Exceptional Mail and More. CASA of Houston County assisted in the placement and protection of 64 abused and neglected children. The Family Counseling Center met the needs of victims of rape, abuse, and other crimes. In doing so, it served 187 participants. NAMI Central Georgia, Inc. provided support for the community's mentally ill and reached 11 members in PY 2014.

Another example of a program opportunity offered to low-to-moderate income citizens is the city's free homebuyer's education workshop. This workshop educated low-to-moderate income citizens regarding acquisition opportunities and Fair Housing Rights. Also, the Warner Robins Community Development Department holds an annual Housing Fair to help educate all residents of their Fair Housing Rights, available housing resources and help to eliminate discrimination. In an effort to identify and address underserved needs in Warner Robins, the city participates in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) Program, which brings together an expansive group of housing stakeholders. Through this group, the city garners input from the community in order to develop and implement a plan to address housing needs, neighborhood redevelopment, and provide basic services.

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

As the majority of the Houston County's housing stock is relatively new, data collected specifically for Houston County indicates less than five cases of lead poisoning from 726 screen children under the age of six. While there does not appear to be a substantial number of cases involving children and lead-based paint in the county, this is still a major concern for the city due to the high volume of aging properties within the city's NSA. For this reason, the city inspects all homes receiving CDBG assistance, including those constructed prior to 1978 for lead-based paint. On occasions where lead-based paint is found, the elimination of lead-based paint becomes part of the scope of work to rehabilitate the home.

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

The City of Warner Robins Community Development Department's antipoverty strategy involves helping low-income people improve their economic status and assisting those considered as borderline low-income to remain out of poverty. This strategy involves education, job training, and job creation; health services; and services to assist people in emergency situations. Ultimately, the city believes that every CDBG funded program helps to reduce the number of poverty-level families.

Specifically, job training and GED certification are provided through Central Georgia Technical College where program scholarships and forgivable loans are available to low-to-moderate income individuals. Another educational avenue aimed at reducing poverty is the Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP). As the program name would suggest, this curriculum assists low-to-moderate income persons with Adult Basic Education classes, teaching English as a Second Language classes, and with obtaining a GED. This program benefited 79 low-income persons in the past year. It is the hope that with this additional training, they will have the skills necessary to climb out of poverty. Also, in PY 2014, the City of Warner Robins provided CDBG funds to operate a homeless emergency shelter, the Community Outreach Service Center. The program networked with other service providers to link clients with job training, educational opportunities, and physical and mental health services. The National Objective is to benefit low-to-moderate income limited clientele. Forty-one persons benefitted from this investment of \$10,482 in PY 2014.

Another strategic partnership involves family counseling through the Family Counseling Center of Central Georgia. Since there are many contributing factors to poverty, individuals and families are encouraged to utilize the Family Counseling Center (FCC) to seek help with problems often associated with poverty, including domestic violence, depression, child abuse and violence in relationships, divorce, and the restructuring of families. The FCC assisted 187 people in this program year.

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

The lead agency responsible for implementing CDBG funds is the City of Warner Robins. Under the umbrella of the city is the Community Development Department, which directly oversees the day-to-day operations of Entitlement Funding. The Community Development Department works to ensure regulatory compliance with HUD and manages the funds received through yearly CDBG allocations. Also under the city's umbrella is Code Enforcement. Strategic planning efforts to eliminate slum and blight are coordinated through the Community Development Department and carried out by Code Enforcement. The Warner Robins Housing Authority was also an instrumental collaborator in identifying housing needs throughout the

Consolidated Planning process and remains a partner for which vision and ideas are frequently shared.

One of the city's primary methods of service delivery is the use of sub-recipient non-profit groups that directly carry out services. Since 2012, the city has utilized a Selection Committee to choose the Public Service sub-recipients each year. This committee is comprised of five citizens appointed by Mayor and Council. Selection is based on a competitive application process that gauges several components including the organization's capacity to perform, ability to provide the requisite reporting information, and community impact. Committee members were also provided the recently updated Consolidated Plan, which outlines the community's needs and priorities. The application process, along with the Consolidated Plan, is instrumental in guiding the Selection Committee's recommendations which are approved by Mayor and Council. Despite this significant advancement, the city is continuing to look for further opportunities to engage citizens in the process of utilizing CDBG funds.

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

The City of Warner Robins continued to work in coordination and collaboration with multiple public and private entities including Houston County/Warner Robins Housing Authority, Houston County, as well as for-profit and nonprofit agencies in addressing the needs of low-income, special needs, and homeless populations in PY 2014. The city continued to attend and facilitate Collaborative Partnership meetings once per month, providing area for-profit and nonprofit organizations along with the Houston County/Warner Robins Housing Authority the opportunity to meet and address and discuss community needs. Warner Robins has continued to utilize the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Program (GICH) team as an opportunity to coordinate and collaborate in meeting its citizens' housing needs and neighborhood revitalization. Monthly meetings were held with the HC/WRHA, nonprofits, for-profits, community leaders, school officials, and government officials to address the housing needs of our community.

Also, to address Fair Housing requirements, the city collaborated with Fort Valley State University (FVSU) Cooperative Extension, Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Consumer Credit Counseling Agency, WRHC Housing Authority, Life Changers, and Houston County Habitat for Humanity to provide low-to-moderate income citizens with a free homebuyers/homeowners education workshop and Housing Fair to inform them of their Fair Housing Rights and housing opportunities. This Housing Fair was held on September 27, 2014 and had 25 vendors, featuring experts on all aspects of housing. In total \$2,500 was allocated for these projects and there were 153 beneficiaries. Other activities may include various speaking engagements and seminars, a poster contest, and a public display in April to represent

Fair Housing month.

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

As discussed earlier in Section CR-35, the City of Warner Robins updated its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) in 2011. In recent years, substantial population growth has led to increased demand for new housing, making it essential for the city to diligently make sure that affordable and adequate housing is available to all. Since conducting the AI, the city has consistently updated and reviews its policies, regulations, and zoning ordinances, keeping fair housing at the forefront of decision making. In PY 2014, the city made adaptations to its planning and zoning policies to increase the openness and transparency of the system as well as making significant changes to its group housing policy, finding new ways to promote quality of life. Additionally, the city has prioritized fair housing education through the provision of an annual housing affair, workshops, and various public information campaigns.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

Warner Robins Community Development staff is committed to a comprehensive program of monitoring and evaluating the progress of housing and community development activities in accordance with HUD regulations. The city regularly monitors all agencies receiving CDBG funds. Prior to issuing any funds, staff met with each sub-recipient and outlined the terms and conditions for acceptance of CDBG funds. These conditions include all standards and requirements that the sub-recipient must follow. At regular intervals, staff conducted site visits to ensure financial compliance and activity progress. The city required each agency receiving funds to have an outside, independent audit of their finances at the end of their respective fiscal year. In addition to financial compliance, the city required supported agencies to maintain valid information concerning their beneficiaries and accomplishments. This assured that the project was completed under its intended purpose and allowed the city to track programmatic success in order to plan for future projects. Those found noncompliant with HUD or Warner Robins policies and requirements would have their funding terminated. No agencies were found to be noncompliant in PY 2014.

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

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

The City of Warner Robins is committed to engaging its citizenry in the planning and implementation of its Consolidated Plan. The consolidated planning process requires the adoption of a Citizen Participation Plan. The City of Warner Robins already has this plan in place. City staff utilized this plan to engage local citizens and community groups in the development phase.

In accordance with CDBG regulations, Warner Robins made specific efforts to engage local stakeholders and seek program input. In order to accomplish public engagement, the city held two public hearings during the plan year. While the primary goal of these hearings is to receive feedback concerning future plan updates, the city has welcomed and encouraged participants to share thoughts on past performances. At the first public hearing, held on January 13, 2015, city staff explained CDBG program funding, outcomes, goals and the planning process to the public. Additionally, 14 local community service groups were provided the opportunity to speak about their programs and the impact of CDBG funding. A second public meeting was held on March 3, 2015, where the funding objectives and priorities for the plans were reviewed and additional public comments were solicited. Each public hearing was advertised in the city's legal organ, a Spanish-language newspaper, and the city website. The city also utilized the newspapers to advertise for additional public comments. In order to gain more public feedback, city staff developed online surveys in both Spanish and English, through surveymonkey.com. As city staff collected public comments, it utilized this information to develop its priorities. Public comments will continue to be encouraged throughout the implementation process.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

In future years, the city intends to concentrate its funding more specifically in a smaller number of organizations and initiatives, seeking to target its efforts and make the biggest difference possible in strategic program areas. The city has been transitioning towards this sort of approach for the past several years. Affordable, high-quality housing will continue to be a major priority, particularly through the Rebuilding Together low-income housing rehabilitation program. Additionally, the city plans to branch out more into economic development initiatives, particularly through façade grants as outlined in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

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

The City of Warner Robins does not currently have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative grants, but is interested in reaching out more into economic development, particularly brownfield development in the future. The city recognizes that brownfields present unique challenges, but also unique development opportunities and is interested in making uses of those opportunities in the future.

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

N/A