

# HUD Consolidated Plan and Strategies

## Five-Year Plan

FY 2019 – FY 2023

(July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2024)

## City of Alliance, Ohio

May, 2019



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## City of Alliance, Ohio FY 2019 - 2023 CONSOLIDATED PLAN

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES-05 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	1
-------------------------------	---

### THE PROCESS

PR-05 LEAD & RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES .....	7
PR-10 CONSULTATION .....	9
PR-15 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION .....	17

### NEEDS ASSESSMENT

NA-05 OVERVIEW .....	21
NA-50 NON-HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS .....	38

### HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS

MA-05 OVERVIEW .....	39
ADDENDUM – BROADBAND AVAILABILITY .....	48
ADDENDUM – NATURAL HAZARD RESILIENCY .....	49
MA-45 NON-HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSETS .....	51
MA-50 NEEDS AND MARKET ANALYSIS DISCUSSION .....	60

### STRATEGIC PLAN

SP-05 OVERVIEW .....	64
SP-10 GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES .....	67
SP-25 PRIORITY NEEDS .....	73
SP-35 ANTICIPATED RESOURCES .....	76
SP-40 INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERY STRUCTURE .....	79
SP-45 GOALS .....	85
SP-65 LEAD BASED PAINT HAZARDS .....	88
SP-70 ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY .....	90
SP-80 MONITORING .....	92

## Executive Summary

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

#### 1. Introduction

The Consolidated Plan is a collaborative process whereby a community establishes a unified vision for community development actions. It offers a local jurisdiction the opportunity to shape the various housing and community development programs into effective, coordinated neighborhood and community development strategies. It also creates the opportunity for strategic planning and citizen participation to take place in a comprehensive context, and to reduce duplication of effort at the local level.

This Five-Year Consolidated Plan (FY 2019-2023) for the City of Alliance describes the needs of low- and moderate-income residents, persons with special needs, and homeless individuals and families. The Strategic Plan section outlines the goals, strategies, partners, and anticipated financial resources that will be available to implement projects using HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds. A companion document, the Annual Action Plan, sets forth the specific projects that will be implemented during FY 2019. At the conclusion of each year, the City submits the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), describing the results in implementing projects.

HUD funding is intended to assist individuals and families that earn less than 80% of the Median Family Income (MFI) in a metropolitan area. HUD defines these categories based upon household income, adjusted for family size. Alliance is part of the Canton-Massillon Metropolitan Statistical Area (Stark and Carroll Counties). The 2019 income categories for a family of four are: Extremely Low Income - \$25,100 maximum; Very Low Income (50% of MFI) - \$32,450 maximum; and Low Income, also known as Moderate Income for some program definitions - \$51,900 maximum (80% of MFI).

#### Stark County HOME Consortium

The City of Alliance is a member of the Stark County HOME Consortium (Consortium). The three Consortium members – the HUD entitlement jurisdictions of Alliance, Massillon, and the Stark County Urban County (balance of Stark County minus the City of Canton) – formed the HUD-approved Consortium in the early 1990's to leverage HOME program funds for their communities. By acting jointly, the funding amount received by the group is greater than the amount of money that could be obtained by the jurisdictions individually. The Consortium also uses the opportunity of having communities representing 80% of all county residents (301,000 people) working together to ensure broader planning and coordination on affordable housing issues within Stark County.

The FY 2019-2023 Five-Year Plan for the Stark County Urban County incorporates discussions pertaining to the Consortium as a whole.

## **2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview**

### **HOUSING NEEDS**

Alliance, Ohio, a community of 8,730 households and 22,140 persons (2009-13 ACS), is located in northeast Stark County/southwest Mahoning County. Since 2000 the City has lost about 1% of its population and 2% of its households. While the median income, at \$31,900, has decreased slightly since 2000, almost 60% of all households have incomes that are 80% or less of (HUD) Area Median Family Income (HAMFI). The 2009-13 ACS showed that while poverty citywide was 27%, it varied by Census Tract.

The percentages of all households whose incomes were 80% or less of HAMFI varied depending on household type: elderly households containing at least one person 62 years or older (65%, 2,055 households); households with one or more children six years of age or younger (60%, (705 households); small family households (51%, 1,660 households); and large family households (51%, 350 households).

Housing affordability is one of the most prevalent housing problems in Alliance. Median rent, at \$470 and median housing value, at \$79,400, while more affordable when compared to the county medians, still pose a financial burden for households with lower incomes. Another measure of affordability is cost burden, defined as spending more than 30% of income for housing, or severe cost burden, defined as spending more than 50% of income for housing. Of the 1,560 households with a cost burden greater than 30%, 1,450 households (60% renters and 40% owners) had incomes that were 80% or less of HAMFI. Of the 1,110 households with a cost burden greater than 50%, 1,100 households (67% renters and 33% owners) had incomes that were 80% or less of HAMFI. Small family households, the elderly, and other households with incomes that were 80% or less of HAMFI experienced the greatest burden.

Poverty also continues to put low-income individuals and families with children at-risk of homelessness.

### **Needs of Homeless Persons and Families**

The following information is summarized from the Stark County HOME Consortium FY 2019-2023 Five-Year Plan. More detailed information is available in that document.

The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (also referred to as HCCSC or the CoC) collects data on the extent and nature of homelessness in Stark County through providers at emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing facilities utilizing the Homeless Management Information System. The CoC also conducts the annual Point-in-Time count, which is conducted in

accordance with HUD standards. The annual Point-in-Time count (January 2018) estimated that in Stark County about 300 persons experience homelessness on any given night; about 1,375 persons experience homelessness each year; and almost 1,050 persons – both individuals and families – lose their housing and become homeless each year. The homeless include chronically homeless individuals and families, children, and veterans. Almost two-thirds of homeless persons are White, and slightly more than one-third are Black or African American. About 15% of homeless persons are unsheltered.

In Stark County, the network of public, private, and non-profit agencies that comprise the CoC work in concert to meet the needs of homeless persons, actively promoting an approach that focuses on preventing and ending homelessness and rapidly returning people who have become homeless to housing. Particular emphasis is placed on assisting chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. The network includes providers of housing and supportive services for the homeless, as well as governmental departments and area non-profit agencies that provide services and link persons to mainstream benefits, helping the homeless to find, and retain, housing.

The City of Alliance does not directly receive HUD Emergency Solutions Grant funds to assist in implementing these strategies, however residents of any community countywide, including Alliance, can utilize the CoC's services.

### **Non-homeless Persons with Special Needs**

HUD has defined a number of special needs categories of persons within the low- and moderate-income population: elderly (age 62 and older); frail elderly; persons with mental, physical, and/or developmental disabilities; persons with alcohol or other drug addiction; persons with HIV/AIDS and their families; and victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Persons in all these categories live in Consortium jurisdictions and have housing and supportive service needs.

A network of providers delivers housing and supportive service in Stark County to meet the needs of special needs populations.

Detailed information is available in the Stark County HOME Consortium FY 2019-2023 Five-Year Plan.

### **HOUSING MARKET**

More than 80% of all housing units in Alliance were built before 1980, with almost 40% of units built 1950-1979. The 2011-2015 CHAS data showed that there were 10,010 housing units in Alliance, with about 87% occupied and 13% vacant. Of the occupied housing units, 54% were owner-occupied, while 46% were renter-occupied. Owner and renter occupancy varied by Census Tract.

About 72% of all units (7,255 units) in Alliance were single-family (detached or attached). An additional 14% of all units (1,405 units) were in buildings with two to four units. Only 5% of all units (545 units) were in structures with 20 or more units. The number of buildings with five or more units varied by Census Tract.

The number of bedrooms in housing units showed considerable variation by tenure. Larger units were more prevalent among owners (4,749): 73% of units had 3 or more bedrooms and 26% of units had 2 bedrooms. Conversely, of renter-occupied units (3,975), 36% had 3 or more bedrooms, 39% had 2 bedrooms, 24% had 1 bedroom, and 1% had zero bedrooms. The percent of units with 3 or more bedrooms, regardless of tenure, varied by Census Tract.

In terms of affordability, a limited number of units are affordable to low income renter households, based on HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI): 9% at 30% HAMFI, about 29% at 50% HAMFI, and about 61% at 80% HAMFI. The situation is even more serious for owner households: (no data at 30% HAMFI), about 18% at 50% HAMFI, about 36% at 80% HAMFI, and 46% at 100% HAMFI.

### **Cost of Housing**

When compared to housing costs in other parts of the country, the overall housing market in Stark County and Alliance has remained relatively affordable for the last several decades. During the Great Recession, rents remained stagnant and home values fluctuated substantially. While median home sale prices stabilized and have been increasing in Alliance and properties are beginning to sell more quickly, the recovery of the housing market remains gradual. No significant change is anticipated in the overall affordability of the housing market relative to home values or rent levels.

### **Housing Condition**

About 83% of the housing units in Alliance (7,245) were built in 1979 or earlier, meaning cyclical maintenance is an ongoing need. About 1% - 2% of the housing units experienced the situation of overcrowding, lack of complete kitchen facilities, or lack of complete plumbing facilities.

Lead based-paint (LBP) hazard is an ongoing issue due to the quantity of pre-1980 housing stock. In addition, 16% of all occupied housing units (1,160 units) built before 1980 included one or more children age six or under. While lead remediation has occurred in a limited number of units, childbirth and/or the movement of households to unremediated units creates new situations of LBP hazards for small children.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

### Goals and Programs

The City of Alliance has identified five goals through which programs will be implemented during the next five years:

**Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing:** focus on owner-occupied housing and implement projects to improve the physical condition, health, and safety of residential neighborhoods with activities such as housing rehabilitation.

**Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods:** improve the physical condition, health, and safety of residential neighborhoods with projects such as improvements to rights-of-way, water and/or sewer lines, and/or public facilities; building code enforcement; and demolition of abandoned, blighted buildings.

**Provide Needed Public Services:** implement public service activities that maintain and improve neighborhood and household stability, such as - but not limited to - programs related to children, youth, and senior citizens, as well as health and employment. The City will also provide fair housing services for landlords and tenants.

**Increase Economic Opportunities:** provide public infrastructure improvements that aid economic development; assist for-profit commercial or industrial firms with rehabilitation, removal of blighted structures or conditions in commercial districts, and/or new construction activities designed to create or retain jobs; eliminate substandard or blighted building conditions; implement downtown revitalization projects.

**Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness:** assist Alliance residents (individuals and families) experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness by funding activities and/or projects that will be administered by the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County.

### 3. Evaluation of past performance

The City of Alliance has used its federal entitlement funds to productively respond to the community needs of residents, businesses, and other community stakeholders. In addition, the City has developed relationships with community-based organizations, which are essential in addressing neighborhood needs and strengthening the community as a whole.

The City of Alliance will continue to program its Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds for activities that significantly address neighborhood and community issues. For example, housing rehabilitation work eliminates significant health and safety deficiencies; neighborhood level needs are addressed with infrastructure improvements, public facilities upgrades, building code enforcement, and

demolition of abandoned, blighted buildings; economic development efforts to create or retain jobs; and public service activities focus on maintaining and improving household stability.

#### **4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process**

The City of Alliance utilizes its Citizen Participation Plan, which outlines the procedures and processes to solicit citizen input in the development and reporting of HUD-funded activities.

During the development of the FY 2019-2023 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2019 Annual Action Plan, the City of Alliance utilized notices in a newspaper of general circulation, public meetings, and internet outreach to solicit public comment. During the 30-day public comment period, a hard copy of the document was available in City Hall and on the City's website.

The City of Alliance's Community Planning & Development Committee reviewed public service funding proposals from sub-recipient applicants and discussed proposed CDBG-funded projects and allocations. The Committee discussed and approved its recommendations in a public meeting, which were forwarded to Alliance City Council. The City Council discussed the FY 2019 CDBG allocations and the FY 2019-2023 Five-Year Plan at regularly scheduled public meetings.

For more specific details about the citizen participation process, please refer to section **MA-15 Citizen Participation**.

The City of Alliance is active throughout the year in monitoring its subrecipients and consulting with nonprofit organizations and public agencies to gain input and feedback. For more specific details about the consultation process, please refer to section **MA-10 Consultation**.

Regarding HOME program funding, the City of Alliance participated in the planning and development of the FY 2019-2023 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2019 Annual Action Plan for the Stark County HOME Consortium, prepared by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC). More information on the citizen participation and consultation process is available in the SCRPC document.

#### **5. Summary of public comments**

No comments were received.

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

No comments were received.

## The Process

### PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies - 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
CDBG Administrator	ALLIANCE	Department of Planning and Development

Table 1– Responsible Agencies

#### Narrative

This document discusses the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds received directly from HUD by the City of Alliance. This document is also part of a submission to HUD by the Stark Housing Consortium, representing the three jurisdictions of Alliance, Massillon, and the Stark County Urban County for funds through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

These three jurisdictions formed a consortium to receive HOME funds jointly from HUD. By creating the Consortium, the total amount of HOME funds received by the group is greater than the amount of HOME funds that could be obtained by the individual jurisdictions. Cumulatively, that decision has brought to Stark County millions of dollars for local housing programs. Actions taken as the Stark Housing Consortium do not affect allocations of CDBG funds or other federal funds to the individual members.

In addition to receiving HOME funds, the Consortium leverages the fact that communities throughout Stark County work together on the Consolidated Plan process, which is an opportunity to ensure broader planning and coordination on affordable housing issues within the county. The following CDBG entitlement community is not a member of the Consortium and files Consolidated Plan documents directly with HUD: Canton.

The Consolidated Plan approach is the means to meet the submission requirements for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs:

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).** These funds are used for a variety of community development, neighborhood revitalization, or economic development programs, with the intent of assisting low- and moderate-income people and improving deteriorated areas.
- **HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).** These funds are used specifically for housing related projects, such as housing rehabilitation or first-time homebuyer assistance. The Stark Housing Consortium receives the funds directly from HUD on behalf of its three partner jurisdictions, and Stark County is the lead administrative entity.

### **Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

For information regarding the City of Alliance's Consolidated Plan, contact Director of Planning and Development, Joseph C. Mazzola at (330) 829-2235.

## **PR-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(I)**

**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 types of providers and agencies listed in this question most often operate on a countywide basis.

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) provided information in its FY 2019-2023 Five-Year HUD Consolidated Plan concerning coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and government health, mental health, and service agencies in Stark County, which has the potential to involve residents of Alliance.

SCRPC sent out an online survey to a wide variety of agencies including public and assisted housing providers, private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies, as well as political subdivision leaders in the county (over 130 completed responses were received). Additionally, each of these agencies was invited to participate in one of the four public visioning meetings held throughout May 2018. Once the draft plan was completed, these agencies were made aware of the draft being available on the SCRPC web site for comment.

**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 City of Alliance participates in the Continuum of Care, which coordinates activities and operates on a countywide basis.

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) provided information in its FY 2019-2023 Five-Year HUD Consolidated Plan describing coordination among the Continuum of Care, housing providers, and health and service agencies to address the needs of homeless persons, including the chronically homeless, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth, as well as persons at risk of homelessness.

SCRPC sent out an online survey to the Continuum of Care (CoC) and other homeless services-related agencies to gather input and feedback on applicable programs. In preparing the Consolidated Plan, one of the four public visioning meetings was held at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Homeless Services Collaborative of Stark County (HSC), a homeless services network that also includes members of the CoC. Feedback from the survey and from this meeting was included in the Consolidated Plan. The

executive director for the Stark Housing Network, which is the management organization for the CoC, also attended one of the other meetings. Data and input on applicable plan sections was provided by the HSC, in cooperation with the Stark Housing Network. The draft Plan was also reviewed by and comments solicited from the CoC and its members.

**Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards and evaluate outcomes, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the administration of HMIS**

The City of Alliance is not a recipient of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding.

The only jurisdiction in Stark County that receives ESG funding is Canton. The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County assists Canton with the administration of its ESG funds.

**2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdictions consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities**

**Table 2– Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Employment Business and Civic Leaders
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development Market Analysis
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance officials have policy and program discussions with this organization on an ongoing basis to address the needs of county businesses.

2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Victims Nonprofit organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance staff and officials work with CoC staff, its Board of Directors, and committees on an ongoing basis to coordinate the needs of homeless and at-risk homeless county residents.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Non-housing Community Development
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance officials have policy and program discussions with this organization on an ongoing basis to address the transportation needs of residents and businesses.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Stark County Area Transportation Study
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Regional organization Planning organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-housing Community Development

	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance has policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the transportation, infrastructure and transit needs of the community.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance and the Continuum of Care have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the needs of county residents.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Stark County Department of Jobs and Family Services
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services - Victims Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance officials and the Continuum of Care have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the needs of community residents.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Market Analysis

	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance has policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address foreclosure and property disposition issues in the community. The City and this agency jointly plan and implement projects that impact low- and moderate-income areas, including acquisition, sale, demolition, and rehabilitation of buildings.
8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Victims Health Agency Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance officials, through Stark County and the Continuum of Care, have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the needs of county residents.
9	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Stark County Regional Planning Commission
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Regional organization Planning organization

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance has policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis related to planning, community development, and neighborhood revitalization issues. As a U.S. Census Bureau affiliate, this agency can also provide data, data analysis, and customized products to the community. This agency is the lead jurisdiction for the Stark Housing Consortium.
10	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Stark Economic Development Board
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Employment Nonprofit organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development Market Analysis
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance officials have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the needs of residents and businesses on issues such as economic development.
11	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Public Housing Needs
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	City of Alliance has policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the needs of community residents.

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

All agency types were consulted.

**Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan**

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County	The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County serves all communities in Stark County. The CoC coordinates a network of public, private, and non-profit agencies that facilitate and/or provide, either directly or indirectly, assisted housing, health services, and/or social services to persons in Stark County who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, unaccompanied youth, and persons with HIV. <a href="https://starkhomeless.starkmhar.org">https://starkhomeless.starkmhar.org</a>
Stark County Comprehensive Plan 2040	Stark County Regional Planning Commission	This recent update of the county comprehensive plan provides a broad range of data and recommendations. It is intended to provide a flexible framework within which local governments can work to address their own issues and work cooperatively on issues as well. Document topics include demographics, economy, land use, natural resources, housing, community, livability, transportation, infrastructure, future land use, and recommendations. <a href="https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/StarkCounty/media/_RPC-Planning/Stark-County-2040-Comprehensive-Plan-07-11-2017.pdf">https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/StarkCounty/media/_RPC-Planning/Stark-County-2040-Comprehensive-Plan-07-11-2017.pdf</a>
Strengthening Stark	Stark Economic Development Board	The Strengthening Stark report was developed by Stark Community Foundation on behalf of the Stark Civic Group, an informal group of leaders representing all sectors of Stark County. Upon completion of the report, which examined the demographic and economic trends and projections of our county, the Stark Economic Development Board (SEDB) was asked to lead the creation of a countywide plan. The Strengthening Stark Economic Competitiveness Plan, made up of 7 focus areas and 28 initiatives, is aimed at transforming Stark County from a smaller, older and poorer community into a larger, younger and more prosperous community. Economic development entities and community partners from across the county have assumed responsibility for much of the plan's development. SEDB will oversee measuring the progress of the plan and communicating that progress to the community. The seven focus areas are Program Governance, Workforce Talent, Business Growth, Targeted Industry Development, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Infrastructure Development, and Engagement and Advocacy. <a href="http://www.starkcoohio.com/index.php?submenu=ourTeammates&amp;src=gendocs&amp;ref=strengtheningStark&amp;category=ourTeammates/">http://www.starkcoohio.com/index.php?submenu=ourTeammates&amp;src=gendocs&amp;ref=strengtheningStark&amp;category=ourTeammates/</a>
Vibrant NEO 2040	Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium Initiative	Funded by a HUD/USDOT/USEPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative grant, this twelve-county regional project guided by 33 organizations developed a vision for the future of Northeast Ohio. The eight objectives include promoting investment in established communities, developing the regional economy with accessible employment opportunities, and enhancing the regional transportation network. The Consolidated Plan Strategic Plan goals focus on investing funds in housing, businesses, and infrastructure in developed neighborhoods, commercial districts, and industrial areas, which reinforce the goals of Vibrant NEO 2040. <a href="http://vibrantneo.org">http://vibrantneo.org</a>

**Table 3– Other local / regional / federal planning efforts**

**Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))**

Ongoing coordination takes place between Alliance, Massillon, and Stark County, the three jurisdictions that comprise the Stark Housing Consortium, which is the entity that receives HOME Investment Partnerships funding from HUD on behalf of the jurisdiction. Staffs communicate on a regular basis regarding community needs, planning, programs and expenditure of HOME funds. Coordination and communication with the City of Canton also takes place regularly on projects of mutual interest.

All four entities in Stark County that receive CDBG entitlement funding (Alliance, Canton, Massillon, and Stark County) have jointly participated in the recent completion of a coordinated Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice study (December 2018), to satisfy the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. This Act requires that any community receiving HUD funds affirmatively further fair housing. As a result, Alliance, Canton, Massillon, and Stark County have the responsibility to conduct their CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs in compliance with the federal Fair Housing Act. The responsibility of compliance with the federal Fair Housing Act extends to nonprofit organizations and other entities receiving federal funds through these four jurisdictions.

Communities receiving HUD funds are required to:

- Examine and attempt to alleviate housing discrimination within their jurisdiction;
- Promote fair housing choice for all persons;
- Provide opportunities for all persons to reside in any given housing development regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin;
- Promote housing that is accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities; and
- Comply with the non-discrimination requirements of the Fair Housing Act.

These requirements can be achieved through the preparation of an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) is a review of a jurisdiction's laws, regulations, and administrative policies, procedures, and practices affecting the location, availability, and accessibility of housing, as well as an assessment of conditions, both public and private, affecting fair housing choice. The document is here: [https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/StarkCounty/media/RPC-Fair-Housing/AI\\_Final-Draft.pdf](https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/StarkCounty/media/RPC-Fair-Housing/AI_Final-Draft.pdf)

Stark County Regional Planning Commission staff administers the following community programs on a contractual basis: City of Alliance housing rehabilitation program and City of Massillon housing rehabilitation program inspections.

The City of Alliance regularly participates in the Ohio Conference of Community Development (OCCD), a statewide association whose members include community and economic development professionals from political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and consulting firms involved in the expenditure of HUD funds.

## **PR-15 Citizen Participation - 91.401, 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 Alliance undertakes the following types of actions to encourage citizen involvement:

- Meeting locations and office space housing City staff is accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Meetings, hearings and other public activities are scheduled at times and locations convenient to encourage attendance.
- Reasonable and timely access is provided to information and records relating to the Consolidated Plan and use of HUD assistance.
- The City has a Citizen Participation Plan, which outlines the procedures and processes used by the City to solicit citizen input in the development of the City of Alliance's Five-Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, and Annual Performance Reports.

**Table 4** shows the public comment process undertaken by the City of Alliance. All public meetings were publicized in a newspaper of general circulation. Public meetings were held at City Administration Building, a well-known local facility accessible to persons with disabilities. Citizens were invited to provide comments via telephone, mail, or in person. During the 30-day comment period, copies of the Five-Year Plan and Annual Action Plan documents were available in public places, such as government offices and a public library. Public meetings were held on weekdays.

At each public meeting, the Five-Year Plan was listed and discussed as a separate agenda item. The discussions included presentations of background information, data, and priorities, and time was allotted for audience questions. The meetings linked the Five-Year Plan and FY 2019 Annual Plan, providing continuity for discussing short-term and long-term timeframes.

In addition to the solicitation of public input, the Department of Planning and Development provides technical assistance to all concerned individuals and organizations regarding any aspect of the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Programs. Staff contact information is available on the City's website.

Alliance also participates in the planning and development of the Consolidated Plan for the Stark County Consortium in relation to funding received through the HOME Investment Partnerships program. The Consortium's process is also governed by a Citizen Participation Plan.

The City of Alliance, Department of Planning and Development, as the lead administrative entity, is responsible for overseeing development of this Five-Year Plan, with assistance from PlaceMark Collaborative, LLC, Lakewood, Ohio.

### 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	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/ broad community	The City published a public notice in the Alliance Review on November 28 and December 5, 2018, describing the Consolidated Plan and proposed Annual Action Plan, listing the first round of public hearings to be held December 11 and 13, 2018 and inviting citizen review and comment. The notice was also posted on the City website.	not applicable	not applicable	
2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/ broad community	FY 2019-23 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2019 Annual Action Plan, December 11, 2018, City Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 504 E. Main Street, 9:30 a.m. The public meeting was held at a well-known location that was accessible to persons with disabilities. At the public meeting, the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Action Plan were listed and discussed as a separate agenda item. The meeting included presentations of background information and data, along with discussions of programs and funding. Time was allotted for audience questions.	Discussion did not include specific comments	not applicable	

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)
3	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/ broad community	FY 2019-23 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2019 Annual Action Plan, December 13, 2018, City Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 504 E. Main Street, 4:00 p.m. The public meeting was held at a well-known location that was accessible to persons with disabilities. At the public meeting, the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Action Plan were listed and discussed as a separate agenda item. The meeting included presentations of background information and data, along with discussions of programs and funding. Time was allotted for audience questions.	Discussion did not include specific comments	not applicable	
4	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community  CDBG sub- recipients	Community Planning & Development Committee, FY 2019 Annual Action Plan, review of CDBG Budget Proposals. January 28, 2019, City Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 504 E. Main Street, 11:30 a.m. The public meeting was held at a well-known location that was accessible to persons with disabilities. At the public meeting, the proposed FY 2019 CDBG budget was reviewed. Separate discussions were held concerning the review of public service proposals from sub-recipients, as well as proposed specific CDBG-funded projects and allocations. The Committee approved its advisory recommendations on FY 2019 funding and forwarded the recommendations to Alliance City Council.	Discussion did not include specific comments	not applicable	

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)
5	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/ broad community	The City published a public notice in the Alliance Review on April 5 and April 10, 2019, describing the proposed FY 2019-23 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the proposed FY 2019 Annual Action Plan. The public notice announced the start of the 30-day comment period, listing the locations at which the plans will be available for public review, listing the public hearing date, and inviting citizen review and comment.	not applicable	not applicable	
6	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/ broad community	The City published a public notice in the Alliance Review on April 17, 2019, describing the Consolidated Plan and proposed Annual Action Plan, listing the second public hearing to be held April 26, 2019, and inviting citizen review and comment. The notice was also posted on the City website.	not applicable	not applicable	
7	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/ broad community	FY 2019-23 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2019 Annual Action Plan, April 26, 2019, City Administration Building, 504 E. Main Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 10:00 a.m. The public meeting was held at a well-known location accessible to persons with disabilities. At the public meeting, the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Action Plan were listed and discussed as separate agenda items. The meeting included discussions of priorities and activities to be funded. Time was allotted for audience questions.	No comments were received.	not applicable.	

**Table 4– Citizen Participation Outreach**

# Needs Assessment

## NA-05 Overview

### Needs Assessment Overview

Located in northeast Stark County/southwest Mahoning County and encompassing an area of 8.96 square miles, Alliance, Ohio is a community of 22,140 persons, 8,730 households, and 10,010 housing units. An assessment of the needs of the residents of Alliance shows that low incomes, poverty, unemployment/underemployment, and the residual effects of the Great Recession have had a negative effect on housing stability for many of the City's residents.

According to the 2009-13 American Community Survey and HUD mandated tables, Alliance lost about 1% of its population and 2% its households since 2000 (**NA-Table 1**). While total housing units increased by 3% since 2000, about 13% (1,286 units) were vacant by 2009-13. Of all occupied housing units, 4,749 units (54%) were owner-occupied and 3,975 units (46%) were renter-occupied (**MA-Tables 1 and 2, Maps-Owner-and Renter-Occupied Housing**). The median income, at \$31,914, decreased slightly since 2000, while poverty citywide increased (18% in 2000 to 27% in 2009-13), and varied by Census Tract (**NA-Table 1, 2009-13 ACS, Maps-Median Household Income and Poverty Rate**). Unemployment, at 13.08% citywide, varied by Census Tract (**MA-45 Table 6 and Map-Percent Unemployment**).

**Table NA-2** shows that 59% of all households have incomes that are 80% or less of the HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI), which is currently \$64,900 for the Canton-Massillon, OH MSA. The percentages of all households whose incomes were 80% or less of the HAMFI varied depending on household type and Census Tract (**Table NA-2, Maps-ELI, LI, and MI Households**). Of the 3,235 small family households, 51% (1,660 households) had incomes that were 80% or less. Of the 3,155 households containing at least one elderly person 62 years or older, 65% (2,055 households) had incomes that were 80% or less. Of the 680 large family households, 51% (350 households) had incomes that were 80% or less. Of the 1,179 households with one or more children six years or younger, 60% (705 households) had incomes that were 80% or less.

HUD considers cost burden (housing affordability), substandard housing condition, and overcrowding to be serious housing problems (**Maps-Households with Any of 4 Severe Housing Problems, ELI, LI, and MI Households**). At least to some degree, all of these housing issues occur in Alliance, with cost burden and housing condition being the two most prevalent housing problems, particularly among low-income households. Median rent, at \$470 and median housing value, at \$79,400, while more affordable when compared to the county medians, still pose a financial burden for households with lower incomes (**MA-Table 3, Maps-Median Home Value and Median Contract Rent** show that rents and housing values

vary by Census Tract. **Maps-Change in Median Contract Rent and At Risk of Homelessness From Increased Rent**) show the effects of cost burden and housing affordability issues.

Cost burden (spending more than 30% of income for housing) and severe cost burden (spending more than 50% of income for housing) is illustrated in **Table NA-3, Maps-ELI, LI, and MI Households with Severe Cost Burden**. As shown, 1,560 households (895 renters and 665 owners) had a cost burden of >30% and 1,110 households (740 renters and 370 owners) had a cost burden of >50%. Of the households with a cost burden of >30%, 1,450 households (855 renters and 595 owners) had incomes that were 80% or less of the HAMFI. Of the households with a cost burden of >50%, 1,100 households (740 renters and 360 owners) had incomes that were 80% or less. Small family households, the elderly, and other households with incomes that were 80% or less of the HAMFI experienced the greatest cost burden (**Tables NA-4 and NA-5**). If transportation costs were taken into consideration, the effects of cost burden would be even more pronounced.

Substandard housing, where the unit lacked complete plumbing or kitchen facilities, was uncommon, affecting a total of 100 households, all of whom were renters (**NA-Table 3, Maps-ELI, LI, and MI Households with Substandard Housing**). About 90% (90 households) had incomes that were 0-80% of HAMFI. While the Census definition does not capture the extent of repair needs, the age of housing can be an indicator of condition. As shown in **MA-Table 8**, 83% of the housing stock was built before 1980 and 46% was built before 1950. These homes are now at least 39 years old, requiring systems replacement and a significant rehabilitation investment. The year units were built in Alliance varies by Census Tract (**Maps-Percent Rental Housing Built Before 1949 and 1980**).

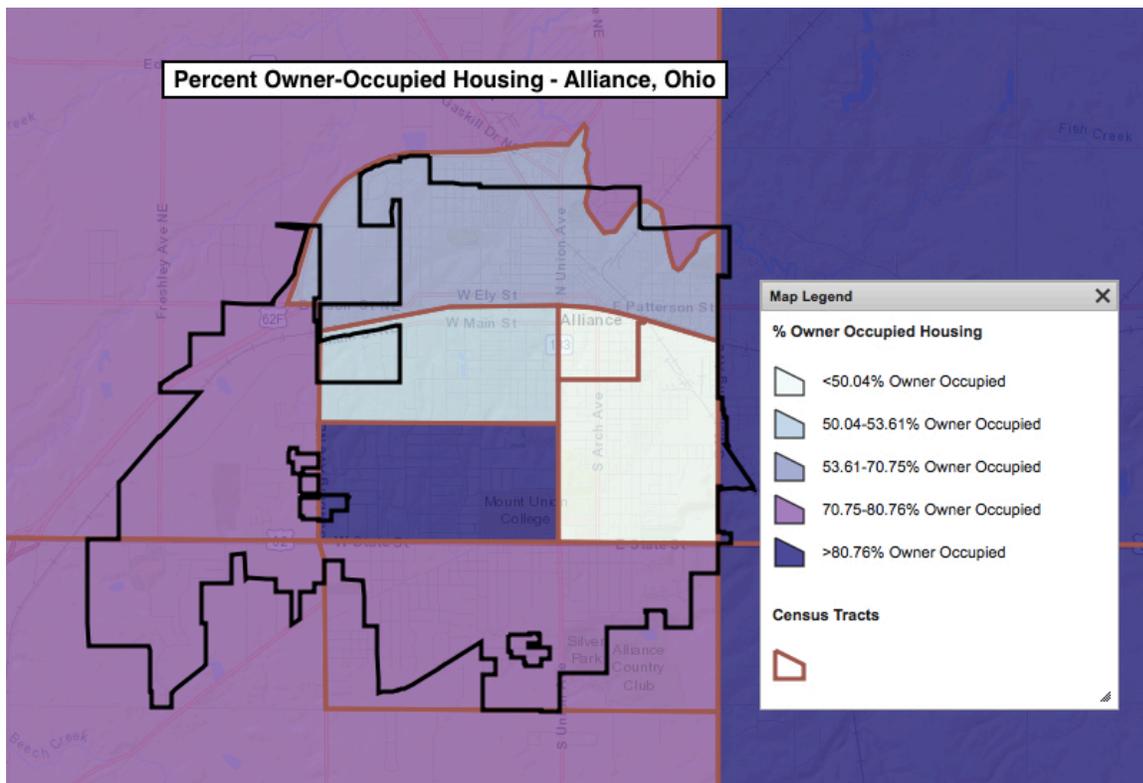
**Tables NA-3 and NA-6** show that very few households experienced overcrowding (1.01 -1.5 people per room), but of the 85 households that did, 45 were renters with incomes that were 80% or less of the HAMFI. There were 40 owner households that experienced severe overcrowding (>1.51 people per room) that had incomes that were 80% or less of the HAMFI. Most households experiencing overcrowding were single-family households.

The only categories where a disproportionate need by a minority racial or ethnic group (in terms of housing problems) was found was 15 Asian households in the 0%-30% of AMI category, 10 Asian households in the 50%-80% of AMI category, and 15 Asian households with a housing cost burden >50%.

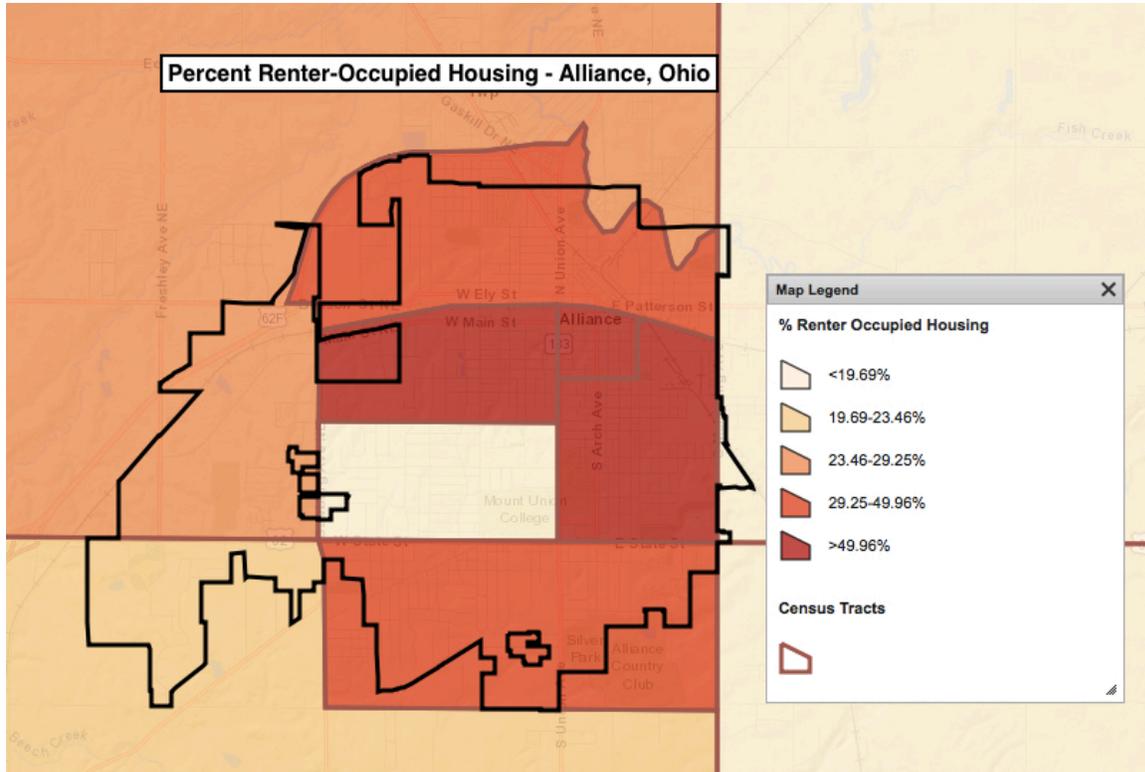
Extremely low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled living in Alliance, turn to the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) for public housing. SMHA maintains seven separate semi-jurisdictional waiting lists, including Alliance, for public housing, as well as for Housing Choice vouchers. While the lists have consistently been composed of families with children, households with at least one disabled person, and elderly persons, many of whom are minorities, the agency has seen an increase in the number of applicants with accessibility needs who have mobility, vision, and/or hearing disabilities.

Countywide, there are almost 10,000 households on the list, which has been closed since June 2015. This overwhelming demand shows the need for additional affordable rental housing units, particularly for families with children.

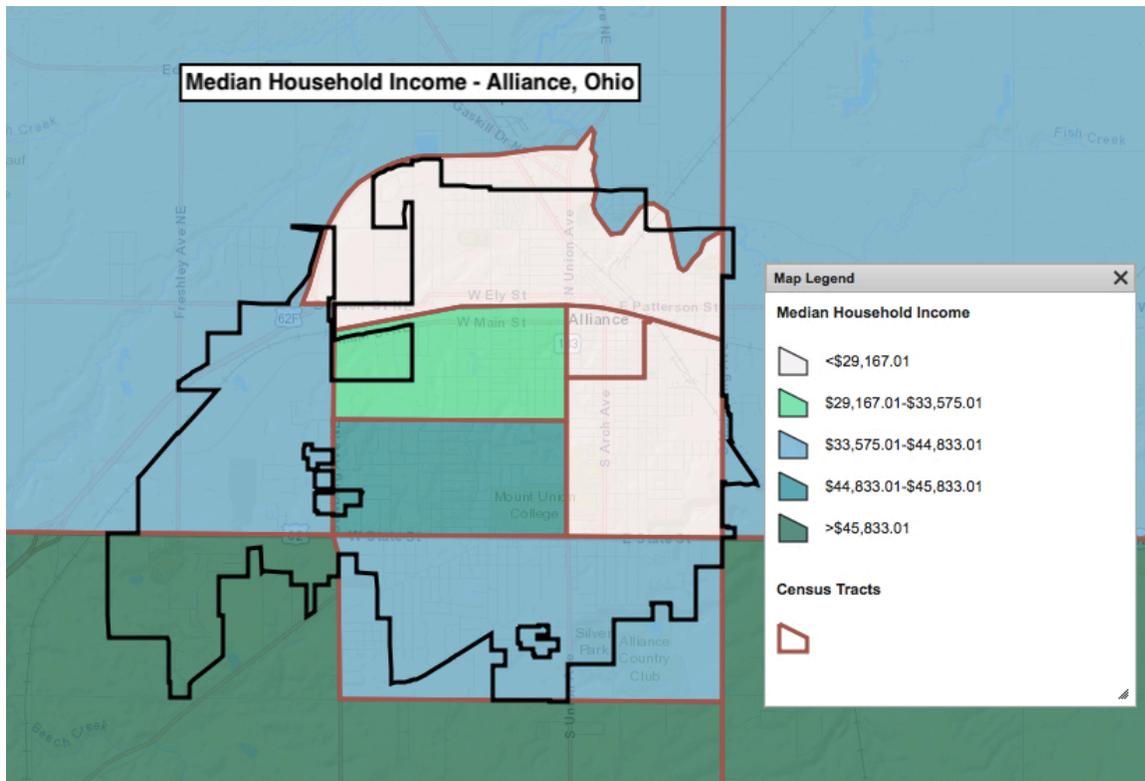
The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC or the CoC), which is managed by the Stark Housing Network Inc., an independent non-profit organization formed in 2017, develops supportive housing options and services for the County’s homeless population. Alliance, which provides representation on the CoC, will continue to work in concert with, and support, the organization’s priorities for homeless persons or those at-risk of homelessness.



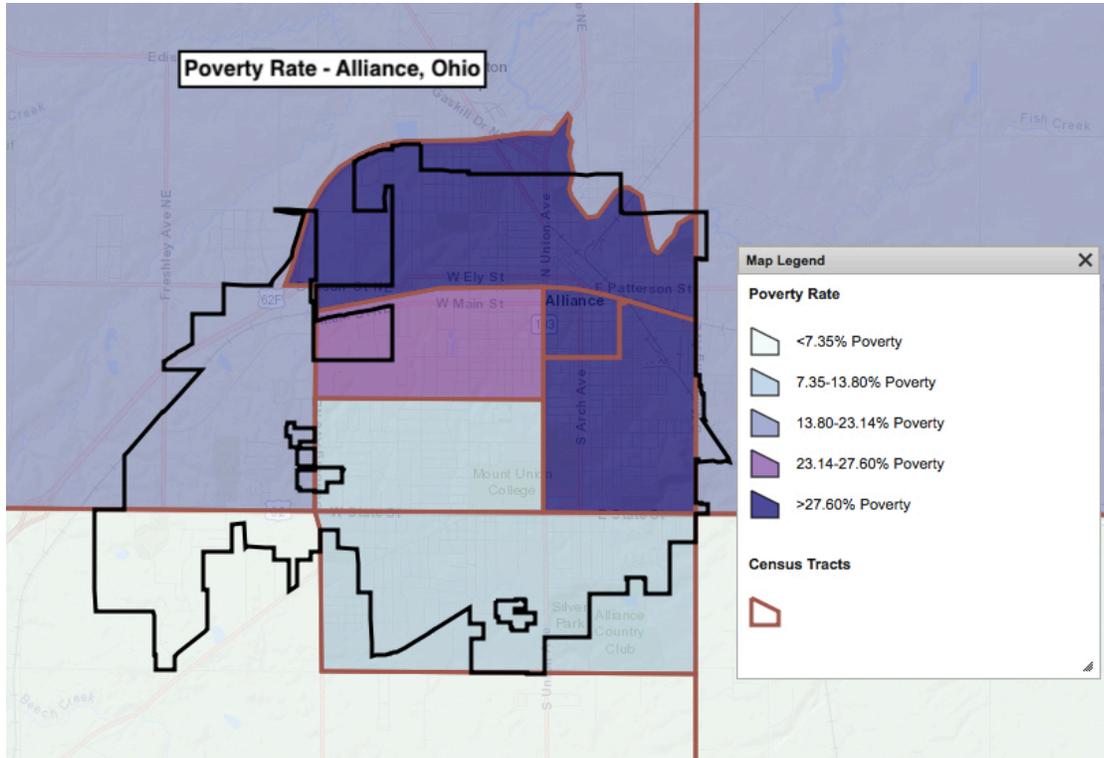
**Percent Owner-Occupied Housing**



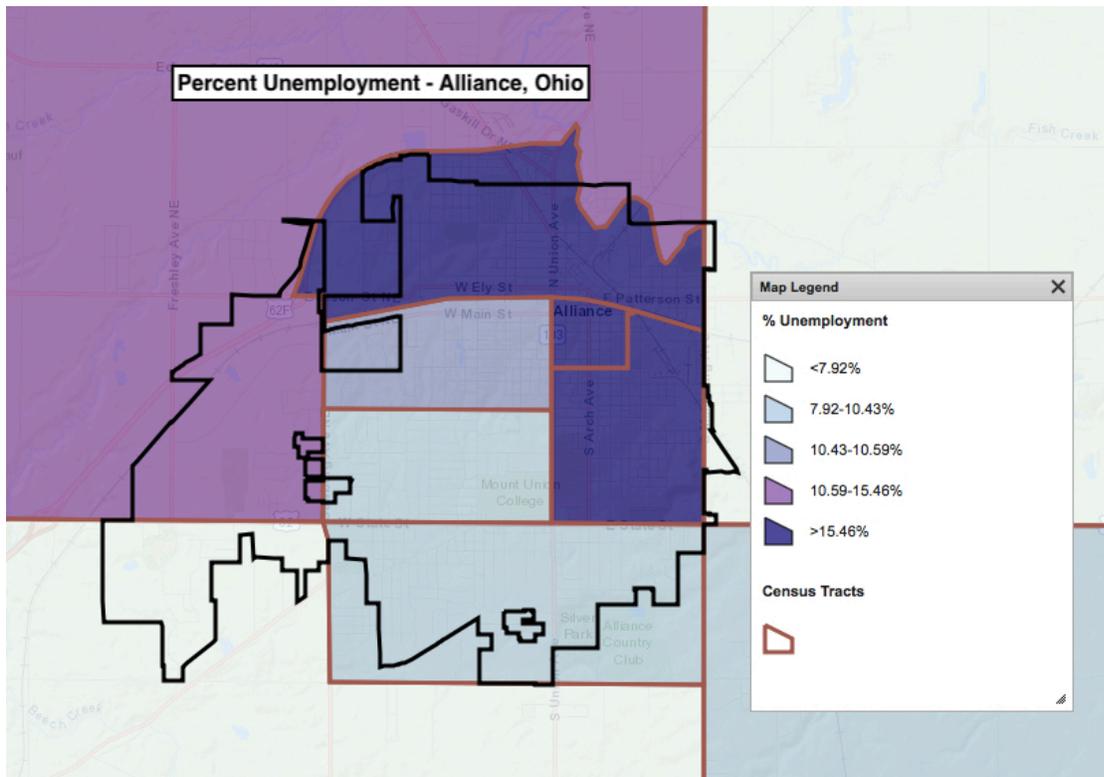
Percent Renter-Occupied Housing



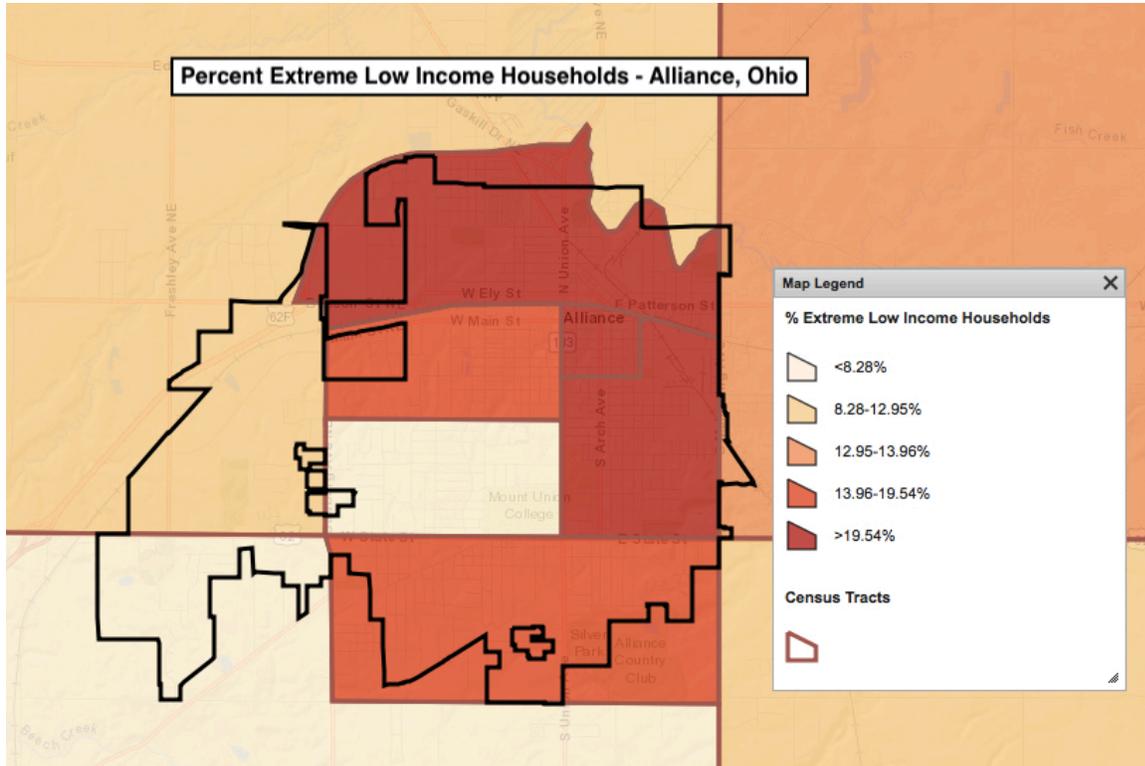
Median Household Income



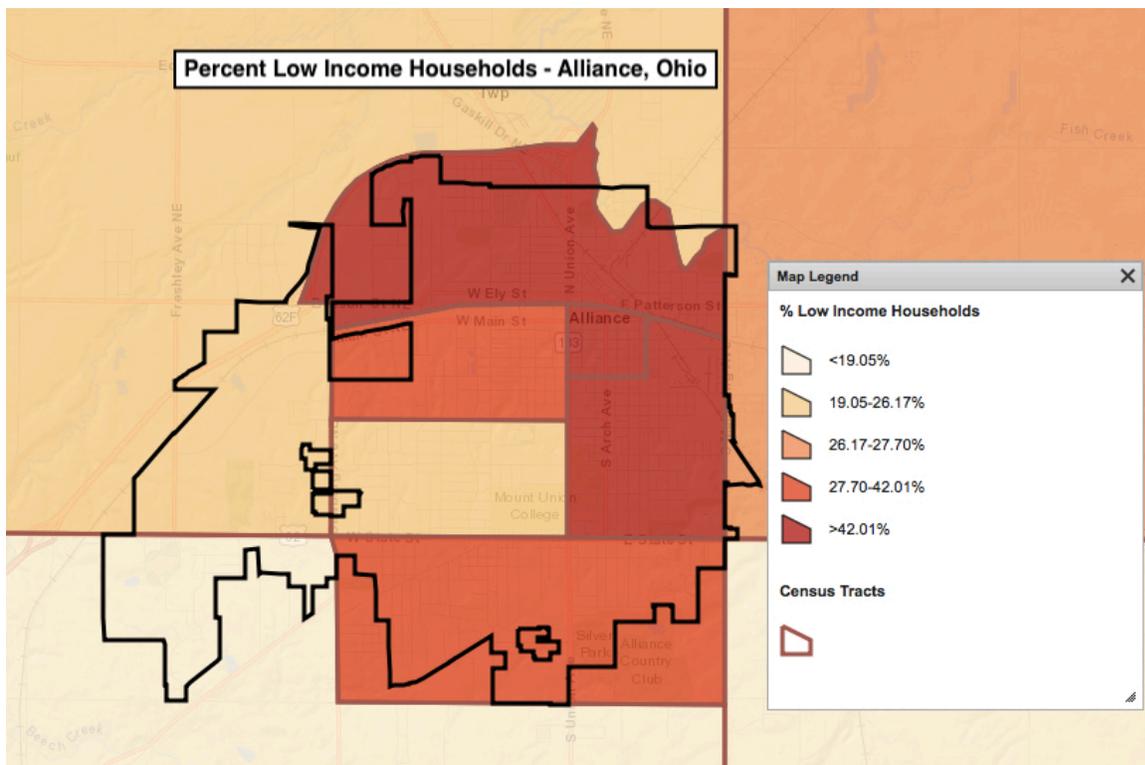
**Poverty Rate**



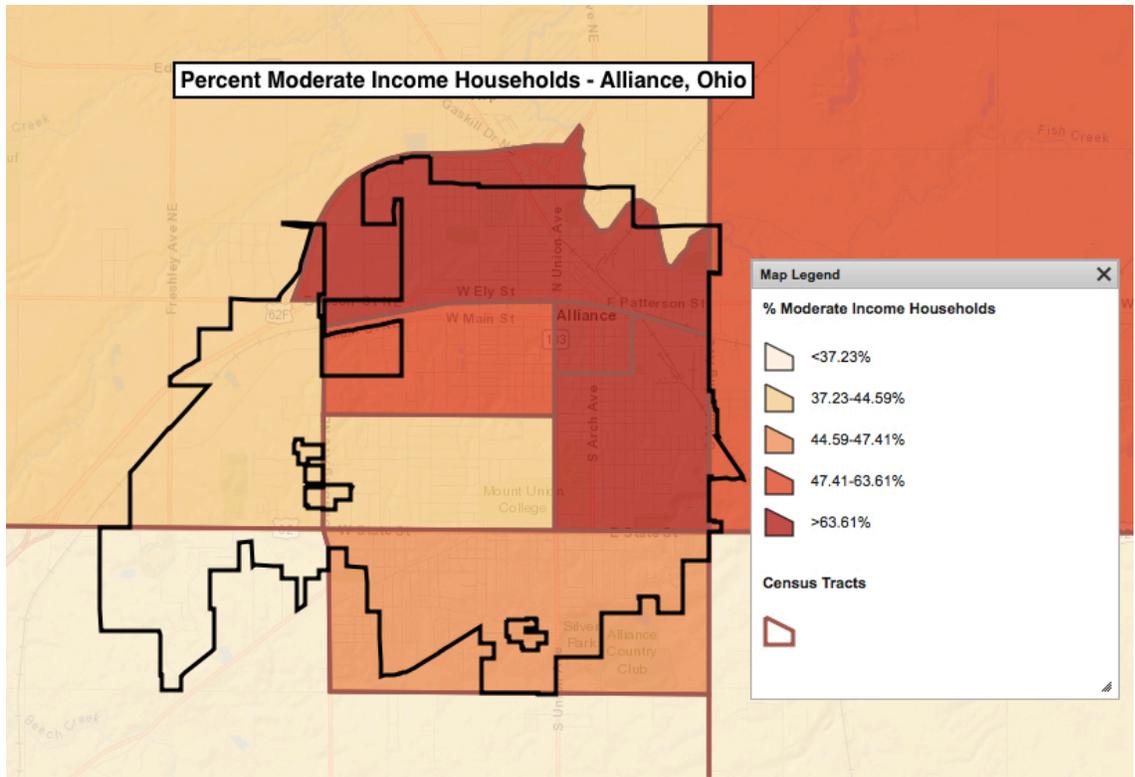
**Percent Unemployment**



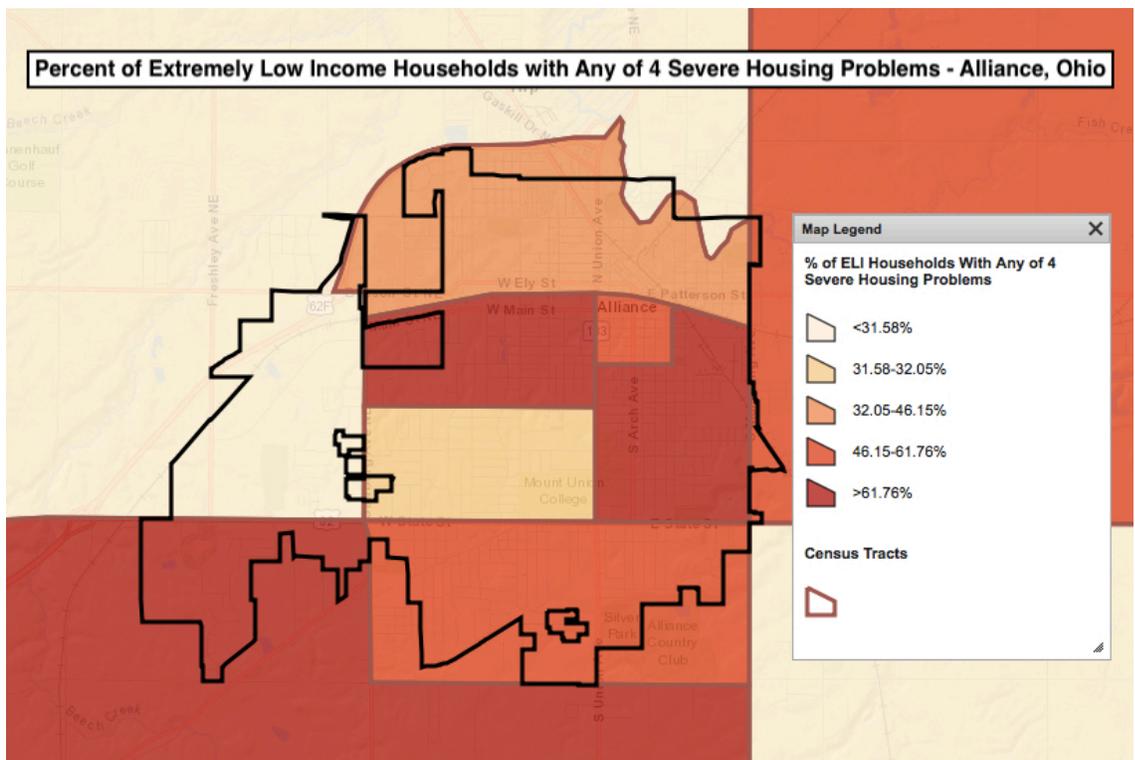
Percent Extreme Low Income Households



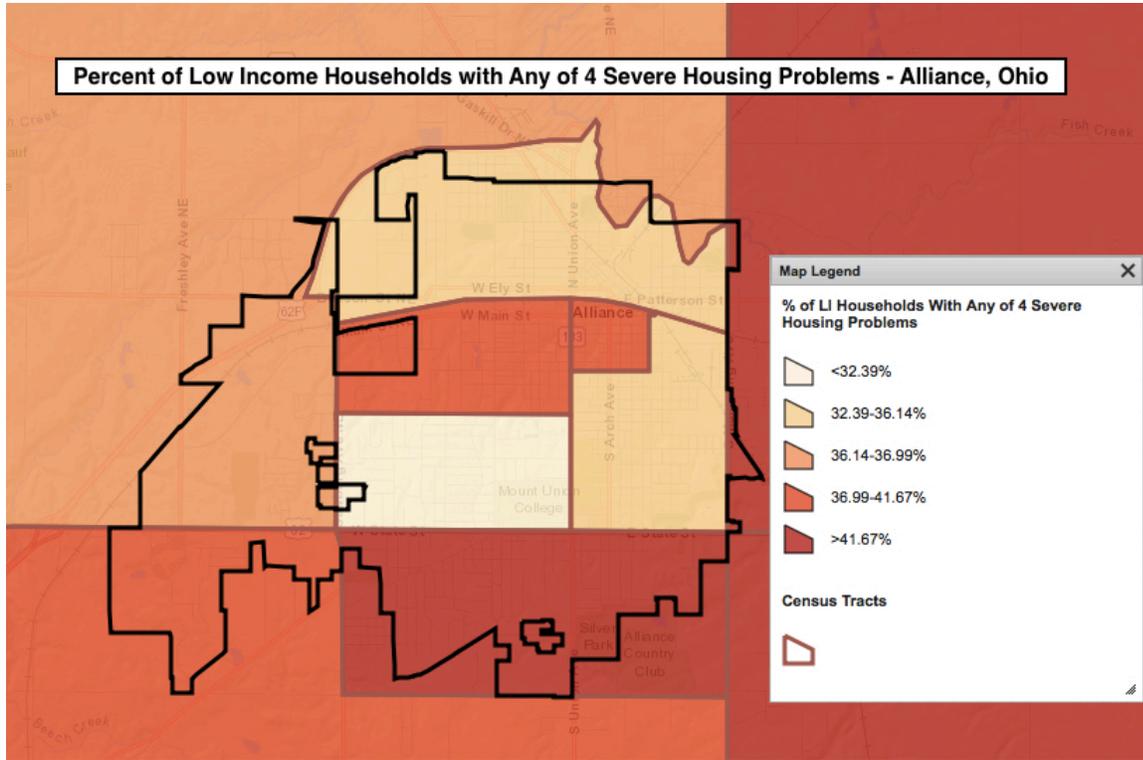
Percent Low Income Households



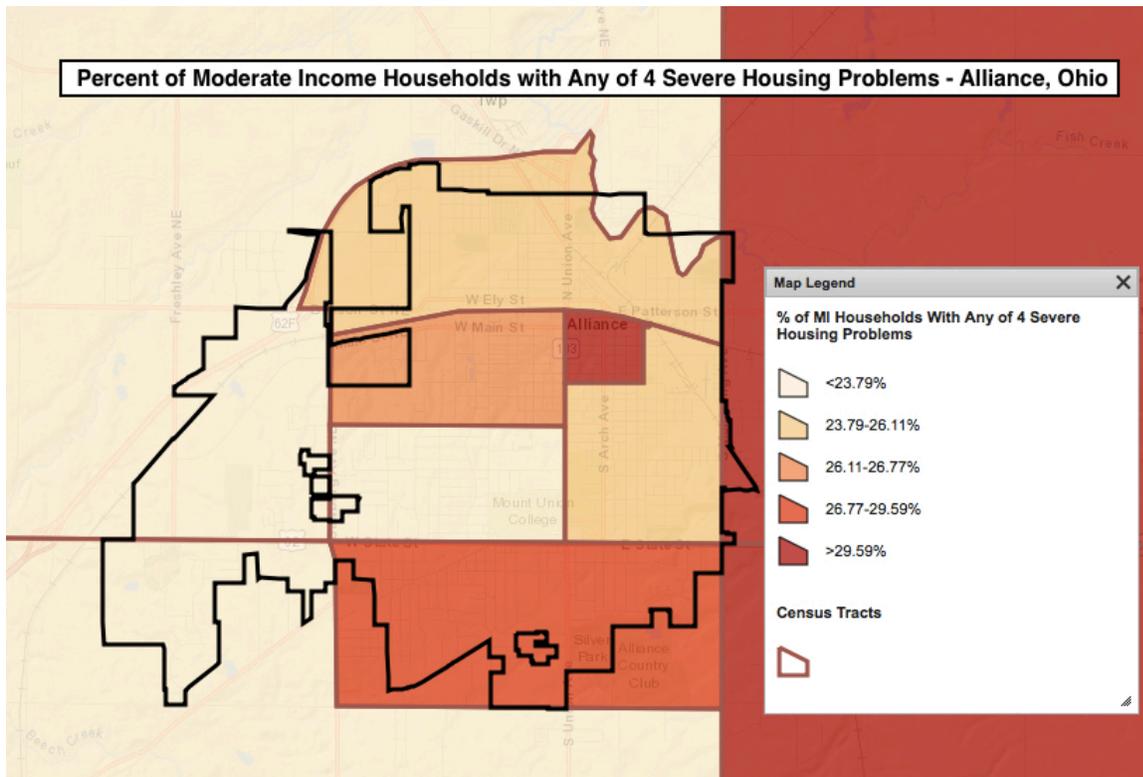
Percent Moderate Income Households



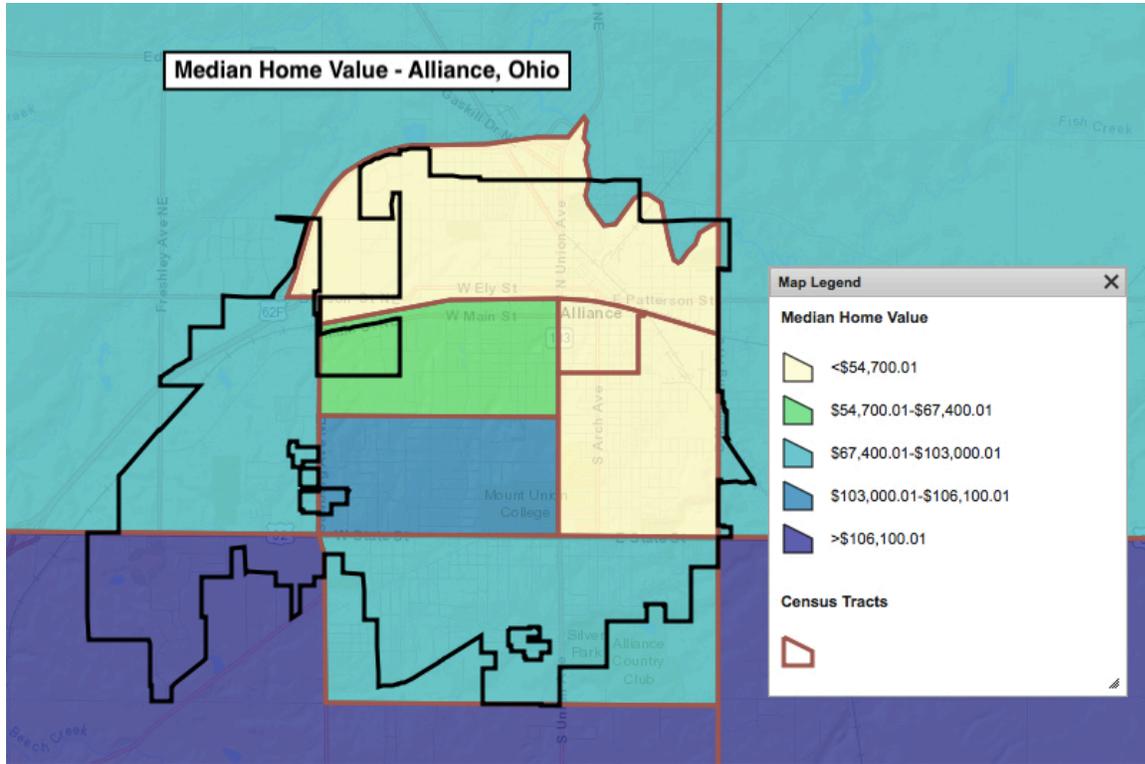
Percent ELI Households with Any of 4 Severe Housing Problems



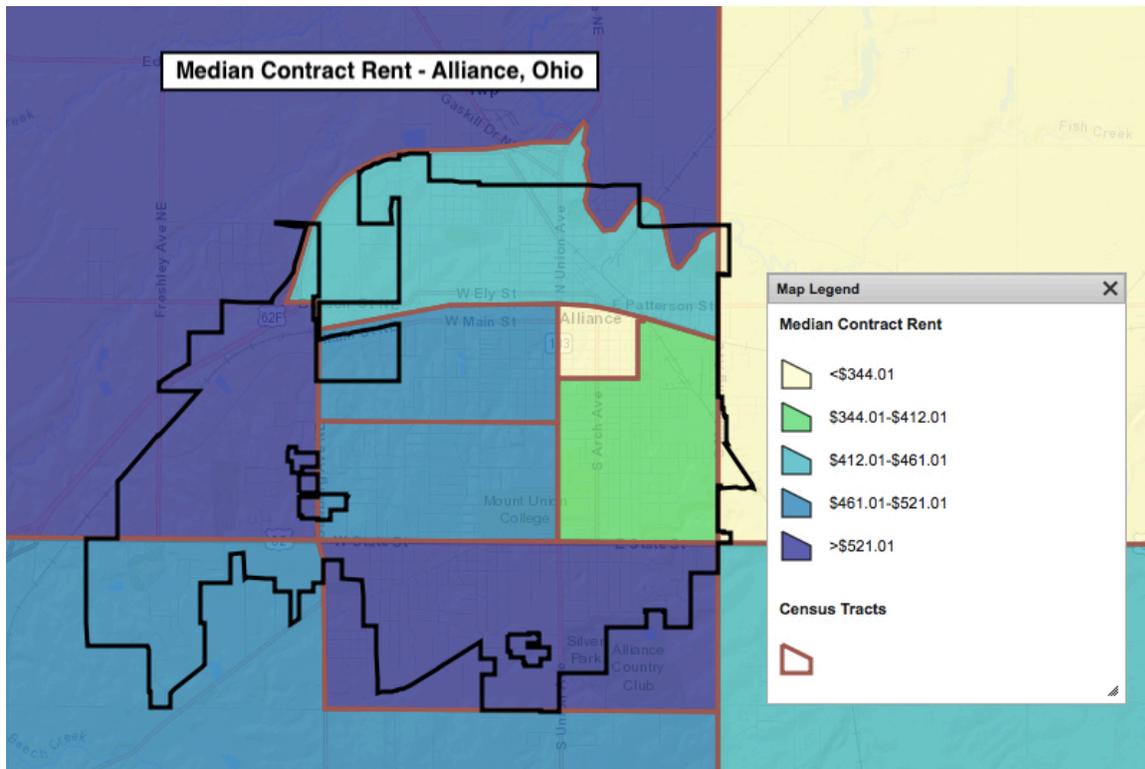
Percent LI Households with Any of 4 Severe Housing Problems



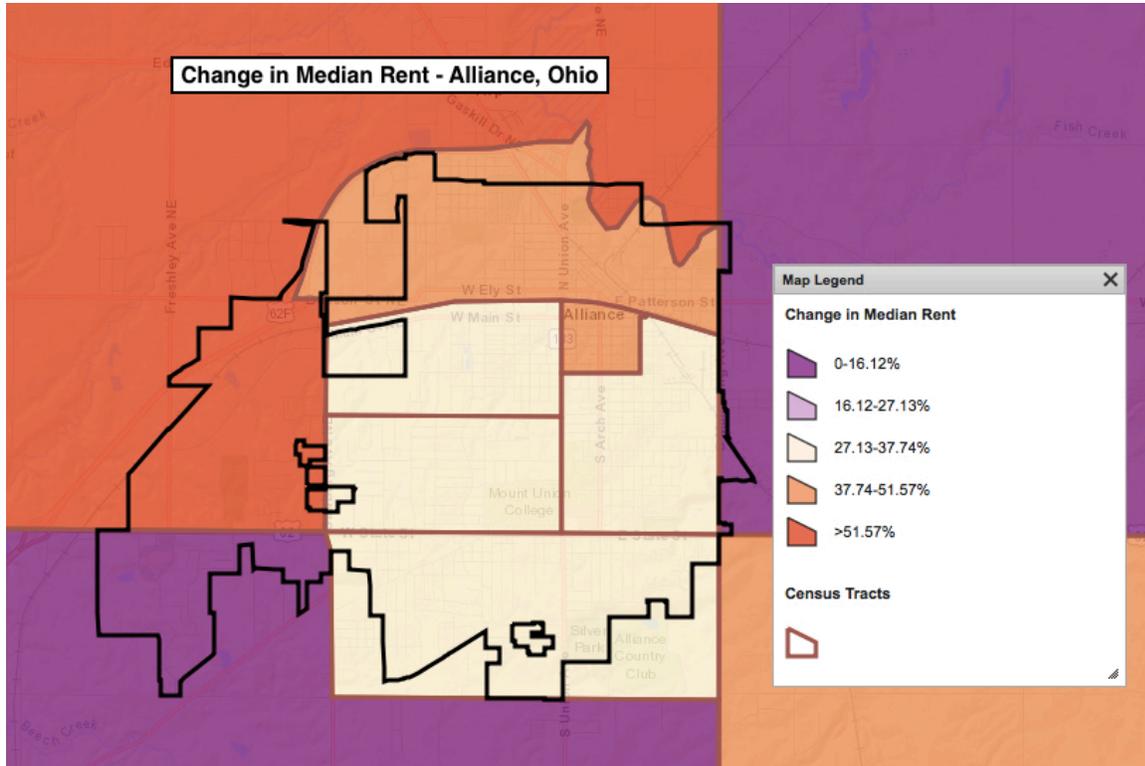
Percent MI Households with Any of 4 Severe Housing Problems



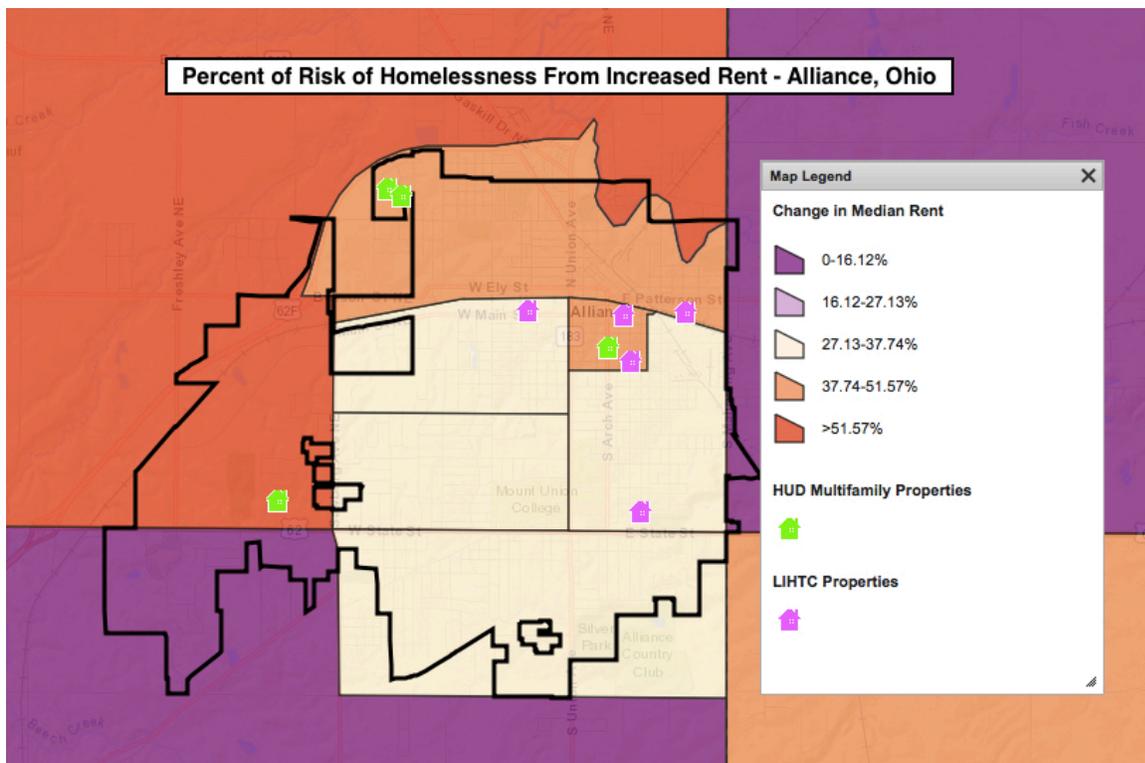
**Median Home Value**



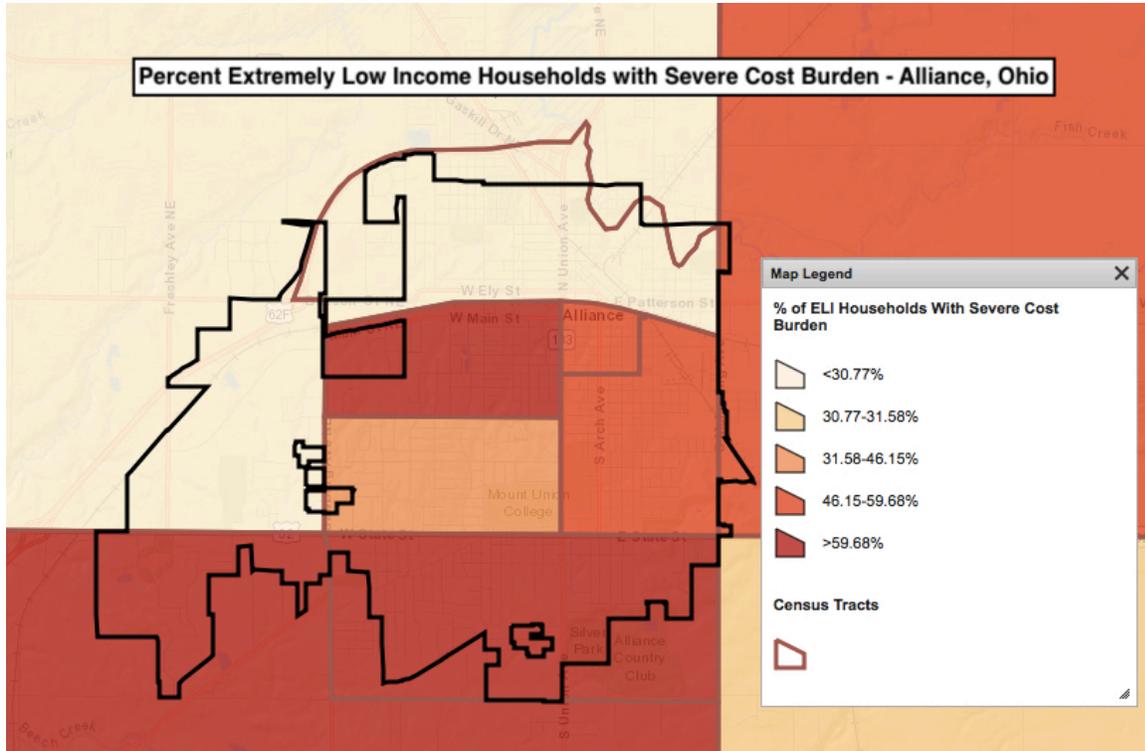
**Median Contract Rent**



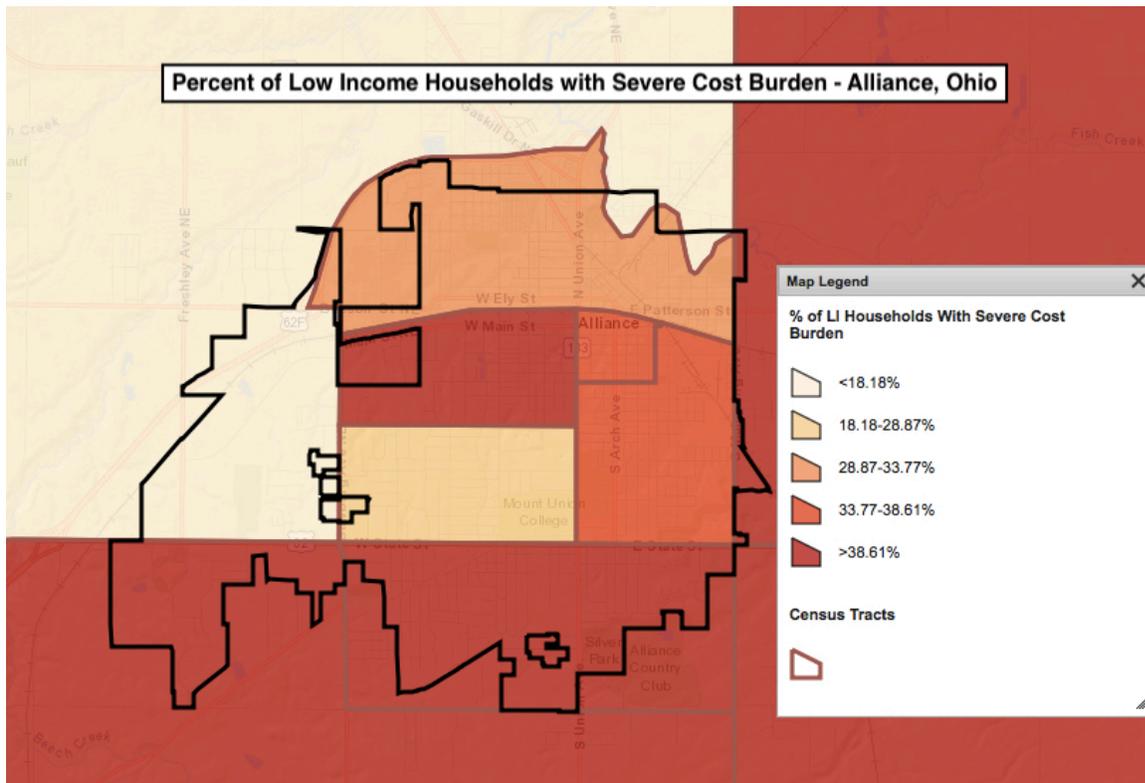
Change in Median Rent



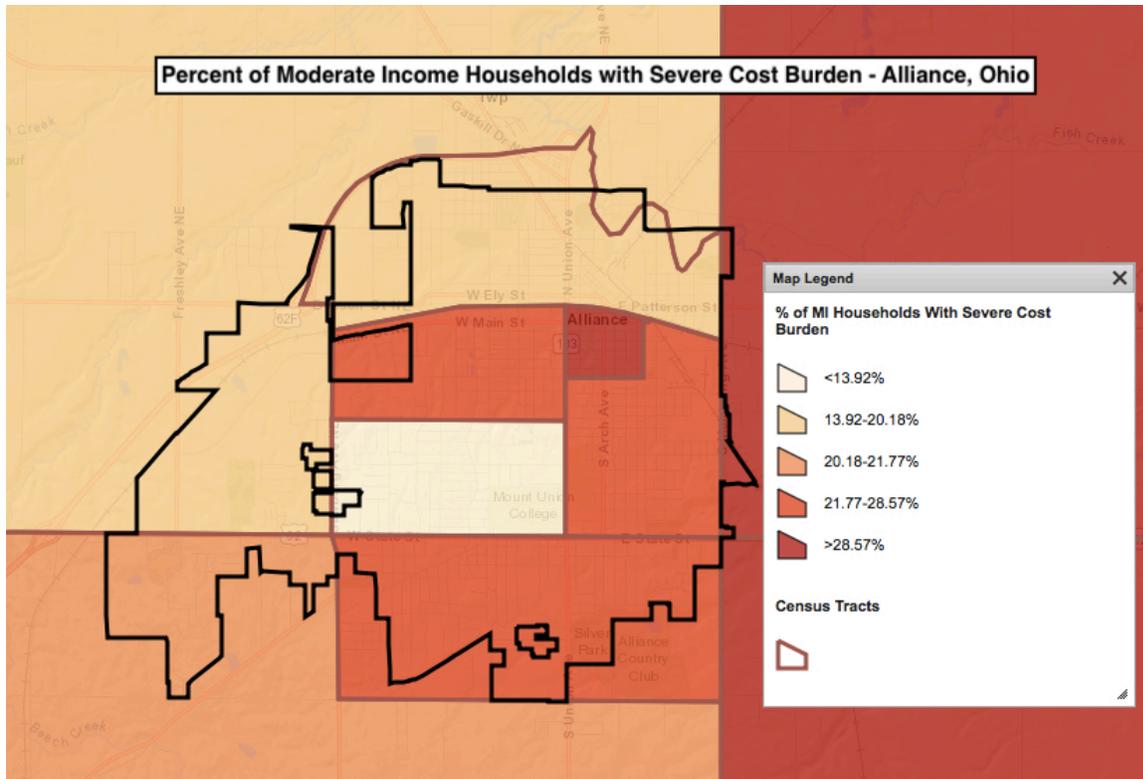
Percent Risk of Homelessness from Increased Rent



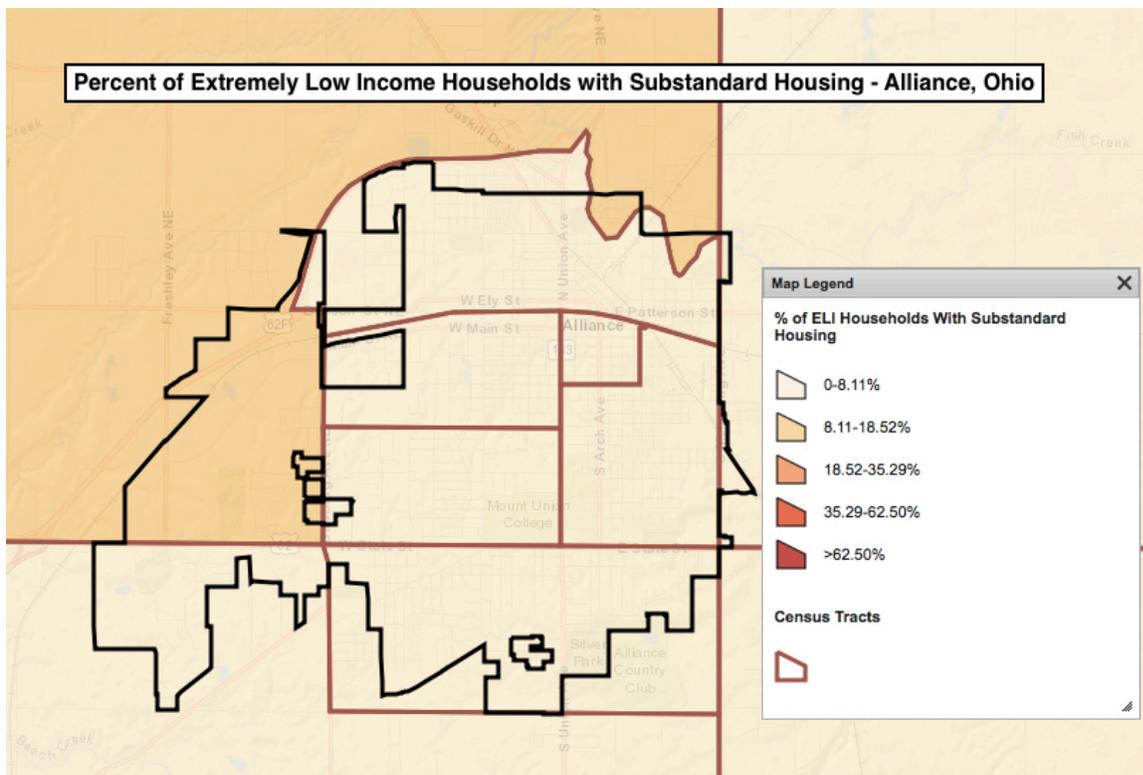
**Percent ELI Households with Severe Cost Burden**



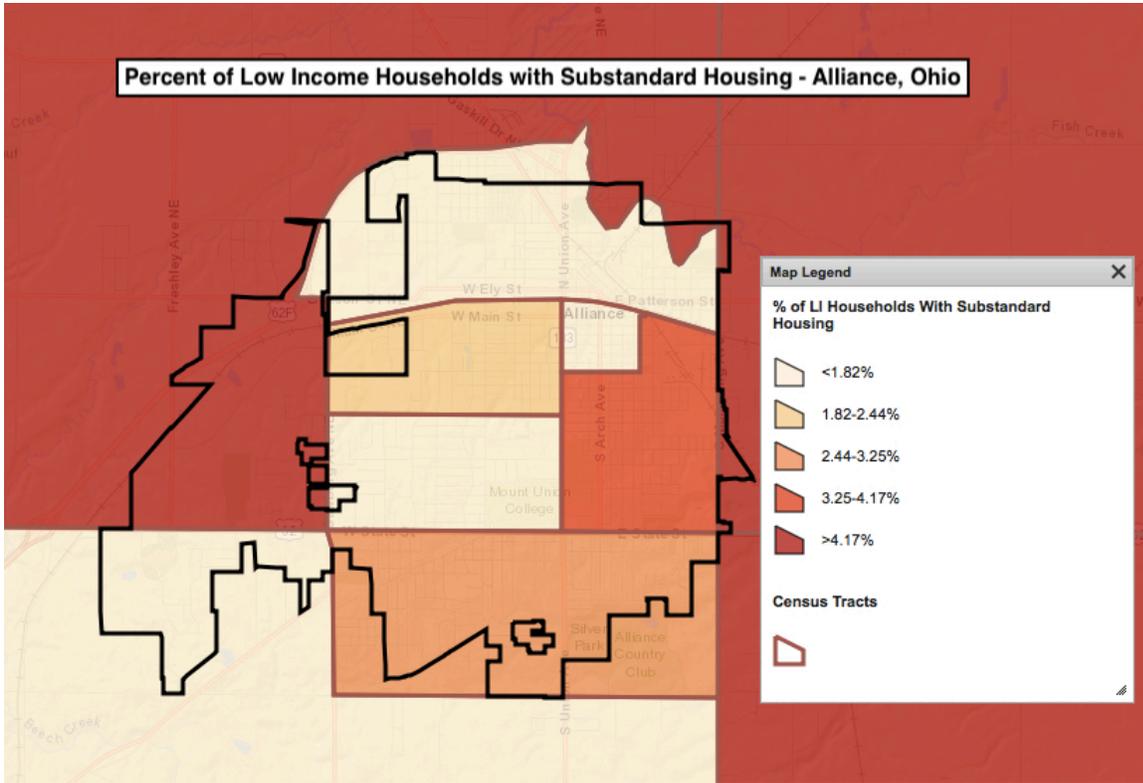
**Percent LI Households with Severe Cost Burden**



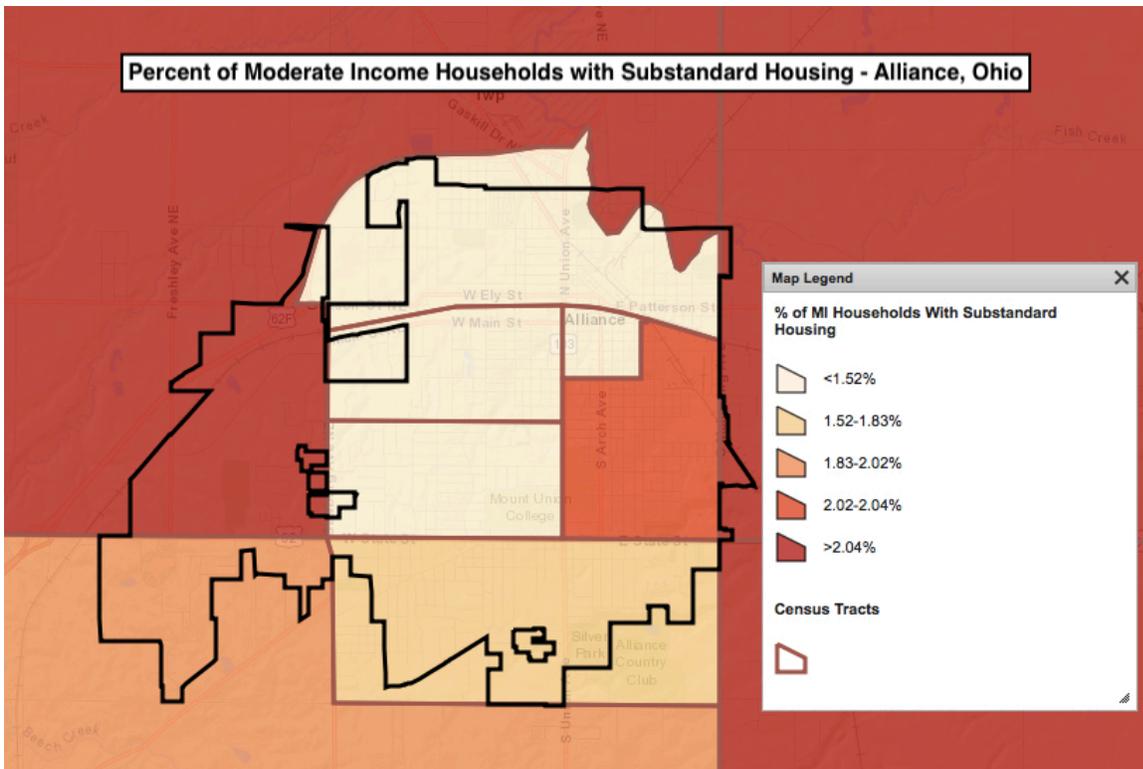
**Percent MI Households with Severe Cost Burden**



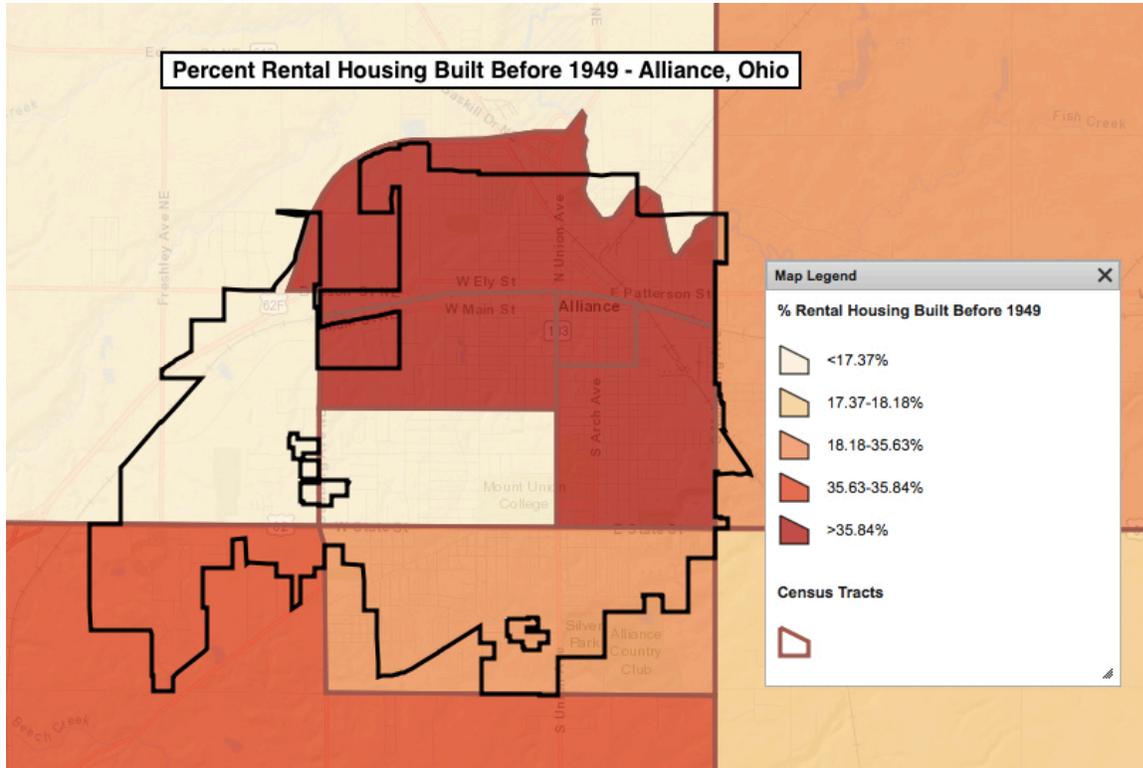
**Percent ELI Households with Substandard Housing**



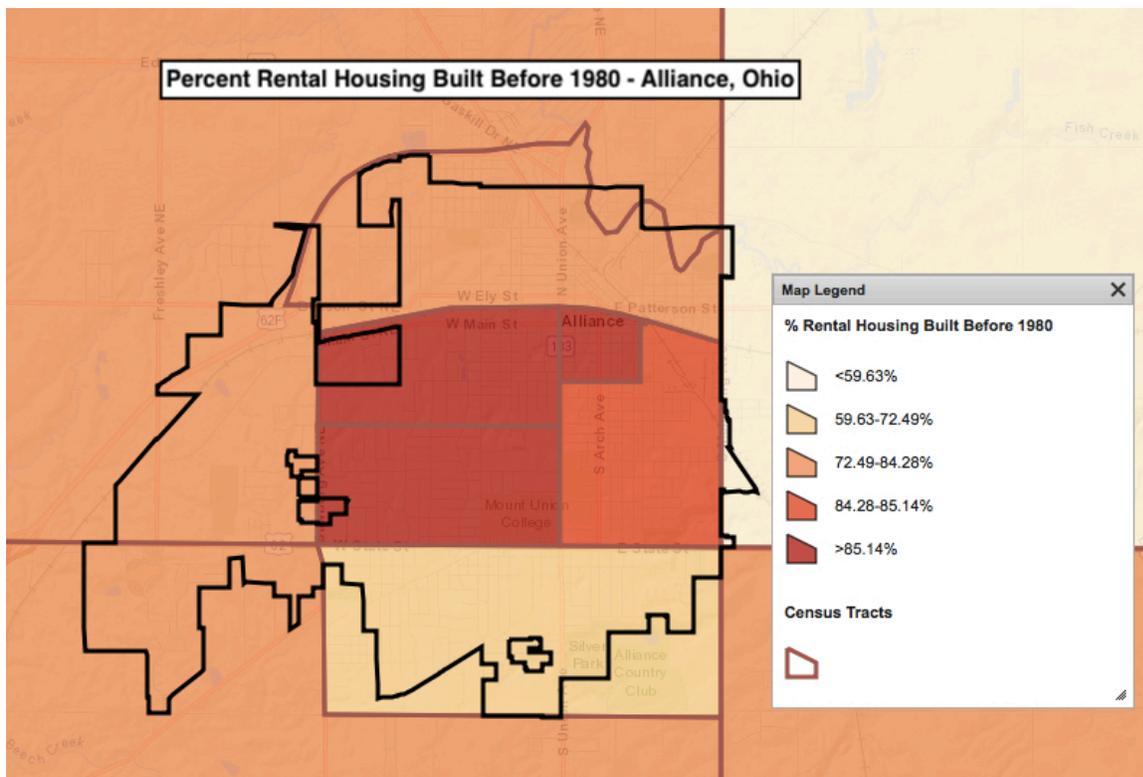
Percent LI Households with Substandard Housing



Percent MI Households with Substandard Housing



**Percent Rental Housing Built Before 1949**



**Percent Rental Housing Built Before 1980**

Tables NA-1 through NA-6

Demographics

Demographics	Base Year: 2000	Most Recent Year: 2013	% Change
Population	22,322	22,140	-1%
Households	8,928	8,730	-2%
Median Income	\$32,743.00	\$31,914.00	-3%

Table NA-1 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2011-2015 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>2,555</b>
Small Family Households	580	460	620	330	1,245
Large Family Households	60	105	185	115	215
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	265	380	370	235	550
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	140	450	450	120	195
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	240	230	235	189	285

Table NA-2 - Total Households Table

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

## Housing Needs Summary Tables

### Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	25	65	0	10	100	0	0	0	0	0
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	40
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	15	20	10	0	45	0	0	0	0	0
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	600	140	0	0	740	190	155	15	10	370
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	130	550	175	40	895	125	245	225	70	665
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	85	0	0	0	85	145	0	0	0	145

Table NA-3 – Housing Problems Table

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

### Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	230	270	60	560	160	95	30	285
Large Related	49	24	0	73	0	25	0	25
Elderly	174	270	60	504	59	235	140	434
Other	300	150	65	515	90	45	75	210
<b>Total need by income</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1,652</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>954</b>

Table NA-4 – Cost Burden > 30%

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

### Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	210	35	0	245	100	30	0	130
Large Related	4	4	0	8	0	0	0	0
Elderly	135	70	0	205	15	115	15	145
Other	255	55	0	310	75	10	0	85
<b>Total need by income</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>360</b>

Table NA-5 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

### Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	15	20	0	0	35	0	0	40	0	40
Multiple, unrelated family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other, non-family households	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total need by income</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>

Table NA-6 – Crowding Information

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

## **NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs - 91.415, 91.215 (f)**

### **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Facilities:**

A city with older neighborhoods has an ongoing need to maintain public facilities. As opportunities occur, and funding is available, Alliance utilizes a portion of its CDBG funds to leverage the impact of projects that are part of the City's ongoing program to reinvest in public facilities that may include recreation and community facility renovation/repair/replacement, park/recreation improvements, and improvements to facilities housing nonprofit agencies that provide CDBG-eligible services.

### **How were these needs determined?**

City staff monitors the condition and performance of public facilities and implements a systematic program to maintain/improve public safety and services. Community members, organizations, and other public agencies also provide their input to City staff and elected officials.

### **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:**

A city with aging infrastructure has ongoing needs. As opportunities occur, and funding is available, Alliance utilizes a portion of its CDBG funds to leverage the impact of projects that are part of the City's ongoing program to reinvest in infrastructure such as streets, street lighting, sidewalks, and water/sewer lines.

### **How were these needs determined?**

City staff monitors the condition and performance of community infrastructure and implements a systematic program to maintain/improve public safety and services. Community members, organizations, and other public agencies also provide their input to City staff and elected officials.

### **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:**

A neighborhood is more than just the physical condition of its building stock. The HUD objective of creating a suitable living environment also means meeting the needs of residents. The City annually utilizes the maximum allowable percentage of its CDBG allocation for public service activities, which may include, but are not limited to, elderly services, children and youth services, health, employment, nutrition, fair housing, and homelessness.

### **How were these needs determined?**

On an ongoing basis, City staff and elected officials discuss public service needs with other community stakeholders, such as the school system, churches, nonprofit organizations, and the Continuum of Care. In addition, residents provide input through community meetings and their contact with local organizations and entities.

# Housing Market Analysis

## MA-05 Overview

### Housing Market Analysis Overview:

Alliance, Ohio, a medium-sized city of 22,140 persons, is located in Stark County. The City is approximately 16 miles northeast of Canton, 27 miles southwest of Youngstown, 35 miles southeast of Akron, and 51 miles southeast of Cleveland, well within commuting distance for jobs. Alliance still retains some of its historic importance as a manufacturing and railroad hub, and it is home to the University of Mount Union, a private liberal arts college established in 1846. The college is also a major employer in the City. Alliance, which is surrounded by suburban townships and large expanses of rural land, has both an historic main street commercial center and newer suburban shopping areas established in the mid- to late- 20th century. The City's 10,010 housing units are a mix of types, styles, sizes, ages, and conditions. The 2011-2015 ACS shows that only about 550 housing units (6%) have been built citywide since 2000 (**MA-Table 8**). About 13% (1,286 units) of all housing units are vacant.

The Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation (SCLRC) has been demolishing blighted vacant homes within Stark County cities, including in Alliance, as a first step toward re-developing these areas. Most recently the SCLRC was awarded \$4.2 million for the demolition of qualified residential structures. Ohio joined a \$25 billion federal-state settlement agreement with the nation's five largest mortgage servicers over foreclosure abuses and fraud, and unacceptable nationwide mortgage practices. Ohio's estimated share of the settlement is \$330 million. The resulting Moving Ohio Forward program has funded and continues to fund a number of demolitions of the worst substandard homes in Stark County, including over 27 homes in Alliance. Alliance has also used funds from the NIP program to demolish approximately 170 substandard homes over the last several years.

According to the 2011-2015 ACS, 54% of all occupied housing units, were owner-occupied units (4,749 units) and 46% were renter-occupied units (3,975 units) (**MA-Tables 1 and 2, NA-Maps-Owner-and Renter-Occupied Housing**). **Table MA-1** showed that about 72% of all units (7,255 units) in Alliance were single-family (detached or attached) housing units, 14% (1,405 units) were 2-4 units, 8% (795 units) were 5-19 units, and 5% (545 units) were structures with 20 or more units. There were 10 mobile homes. As shown on **Maps-Percent Structures with 5-19 and 20 or More Housing Units**, percentages of structures with a large number of units varied by Census Tract.

Unit size (number of bedrooms) showed considerable variation by tenure. Larger units were more common among owners, with 73% of all units (3,460 units) having 3 or more bedrooms (**Table MA-2**). Only 26% of all owner units had 2 bedrooms (1,240 units) and 1% had 1 bedroom (45 units). Only 4 units had zero bedrooms. Conversely, only 36% of all renter-occupied units had 3 or more bedrooms (1,435 units), 39% had 2 bedrooms (1,545 units), 24% had 1 bedroom (960 units), and 1% had zero bedrooms

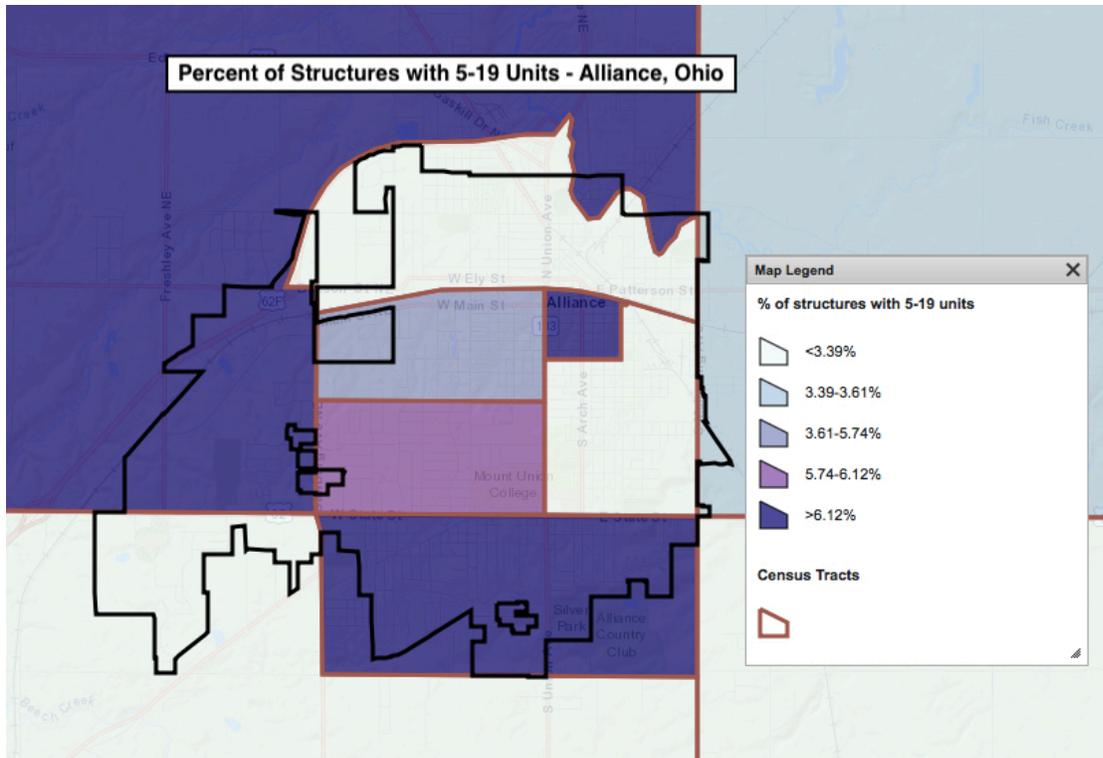
(35 units). The percent of units with 3 or more bedrooms, regardless of tenure, varied by Census Tract (**Maps-Percent Owner and Renter Units with 3 or More Bedrooms**).

**Table MA-3** showed that the median home value in Alliance (\$79,400) decreased by about 7% since 2000. The median contract rent (\$470) increased 11%. Changes varied by Census Tract (**NA-Maps-Median Home Value, Median Contract Rent, and Change in Median Contract Rent**). When rent paid is examined by category, almost 61% of all rents paid were less than \$500. Another 39% were \$500-\$999 (**Table MA-4**). The remaining 0.6% were \$1,000-\$1,999.

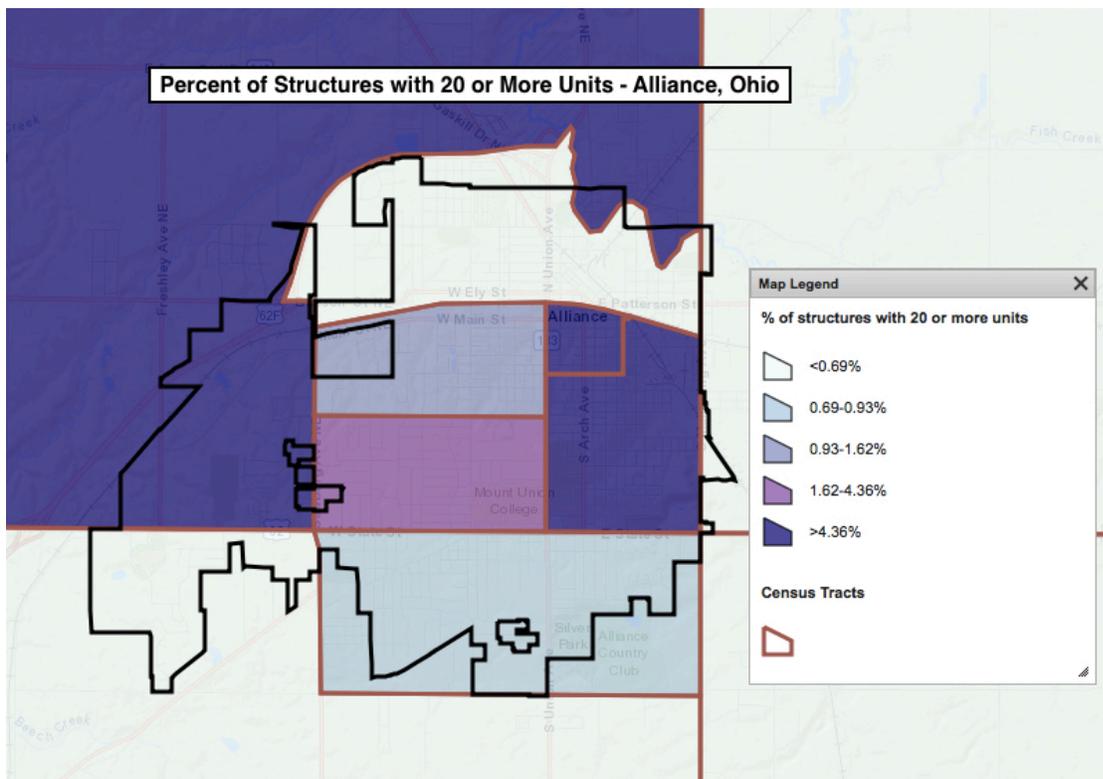
Housing affordability is an issue for many owner and renter households in Alliance (**Table MA-5**). Only 9% (455 rental units) are affordable to renter households at 30% of the HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) (**Map-Percent Renter Units Affordable to 30% HAMFI**). About 29% (1,440 rental units) are affordable to renter households at 50% HAMFI (**Map-Percent Renter Units Affordable to 50% HAMFI**). About 61% (3,020 rental units) are affordable to renter households at 80% HAMFI (**Map-Percent Renter Units Affordable to 80% HAMFI**). No data is available for renter households at 100% HAMFI. Owner units are even less affordable to low income households. While no data is available for owner households at 30% HAMFI, about 18% (1,075 owner units) are affordable to owner households at 50% HAMFI (**Map-Percent Owner Units Affordable to 50% HAMFI**). Approximately 36% (2,095 owner units) are affordable to owner households at 80% HAMFI (**Map-Percent Owner Units Affordable to 80% HAMFI**). Only 46% (2,700 owner units) are affordable to owner households at 100% HAMFI (**Map-Percent Owner Units Affordable to 100% HAMFI**).

While very few housing units were considered substandard where the unit lacked complete plumbing or kitchen facilities, as defined by the Census, about 33% (2,905 units) of all households lived in housing units that had one selected condition issue. Renter households more frequently lived in housing with a condition than did owner households, since 44% (1,750 units) of renter-occupied units had one condition issue and 24% (1,155 units) of owner-occupied units had one condition issue (**Table MA-7**).

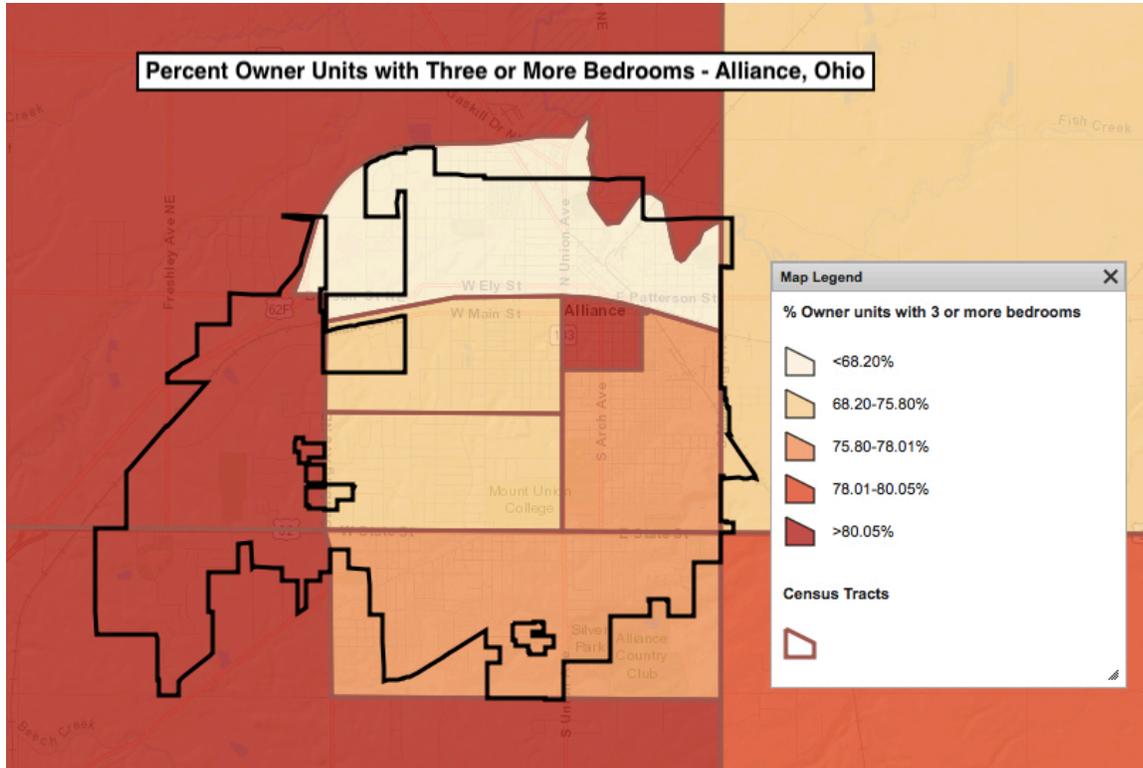
As discussed in NA-05, the age of housing can be an indicator of condition. The main period of housing construction in Alliance was pre-1980, when about 83% of all housing units were built (**Table MA-8**). These units are now at least 39 years old, and may require systems replacement and a significant rehabilitation investment. Furthermore, of the 7,245 occupied housing units built before 1980, there were 1,160 units (16%) occupied by families with children age six or under (**Table MA-9 and Table 13, 2011-2015 CHAS data**). Because lead wasn't banned from paint until 1978, these children could be at risk for lead paint poisoning.



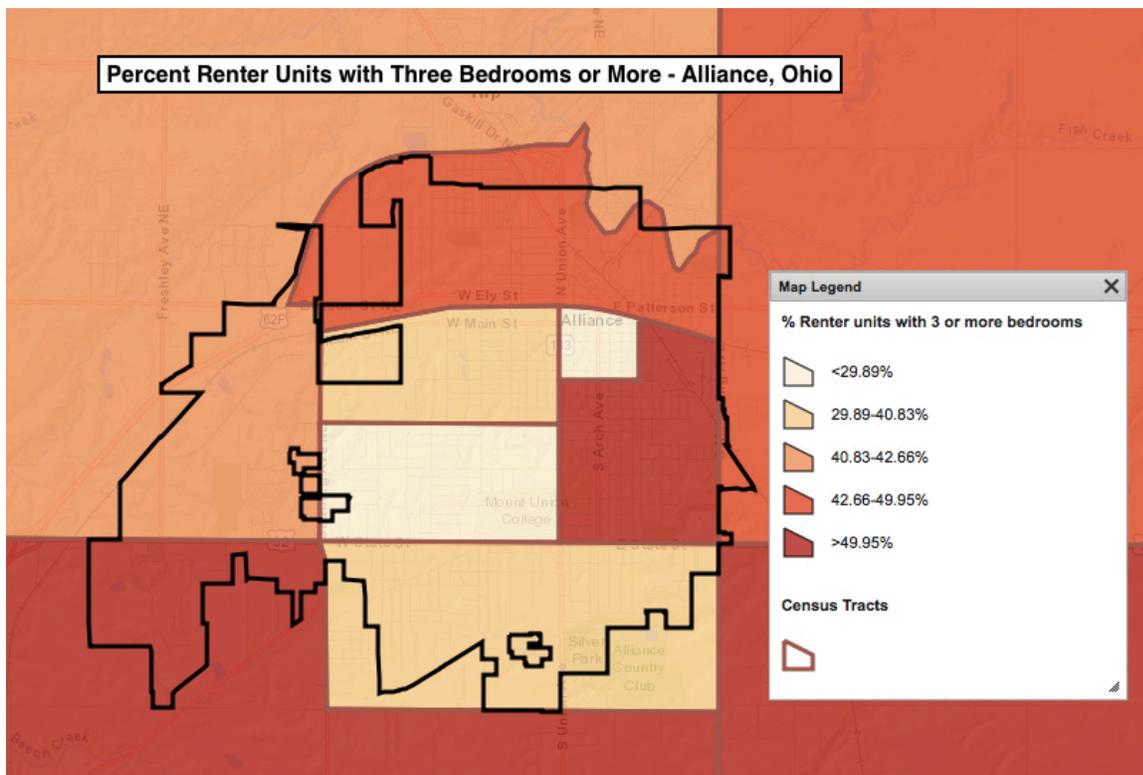
**Percent of Structures with 5-19 Units**



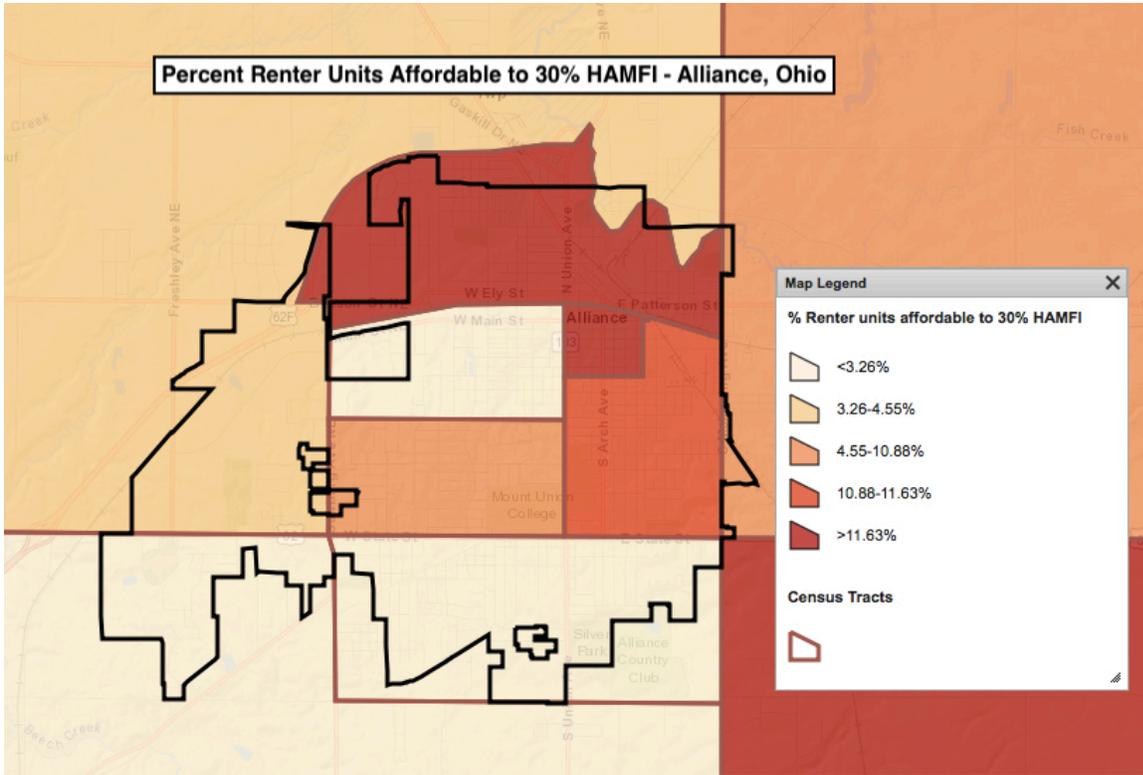
**Percent of Structures with 20 or More Units**



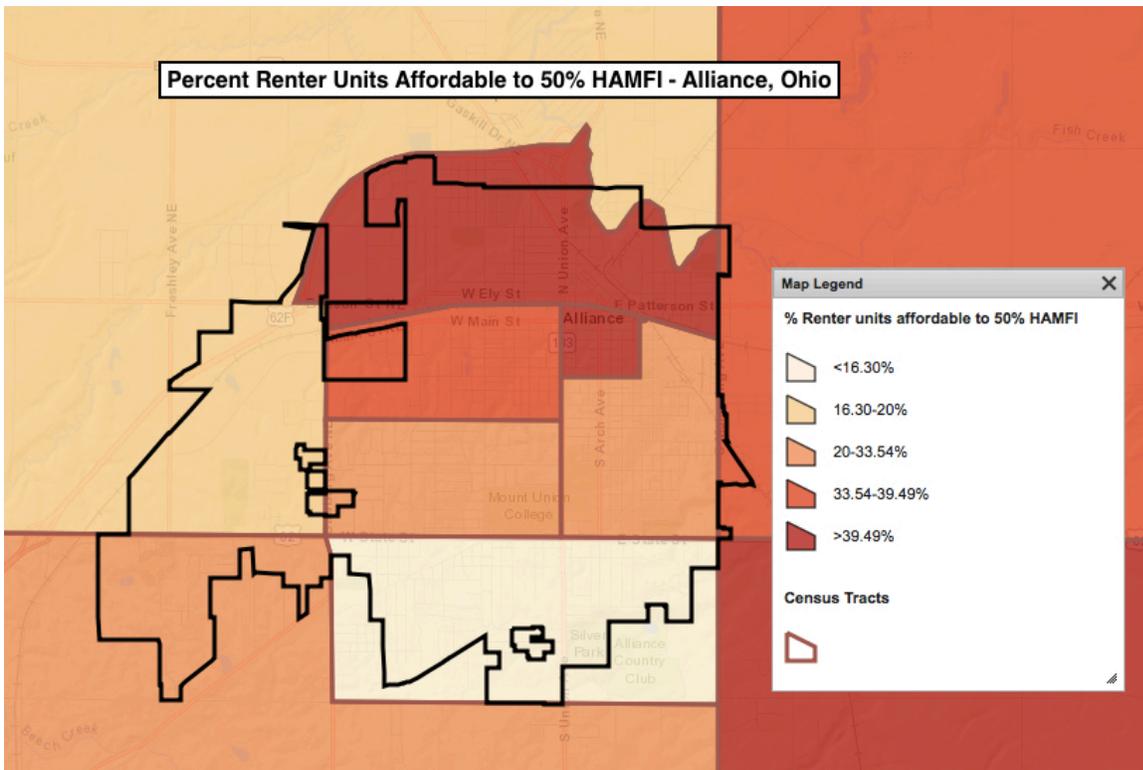
Percent Owner Units with Three Bedrooms or More



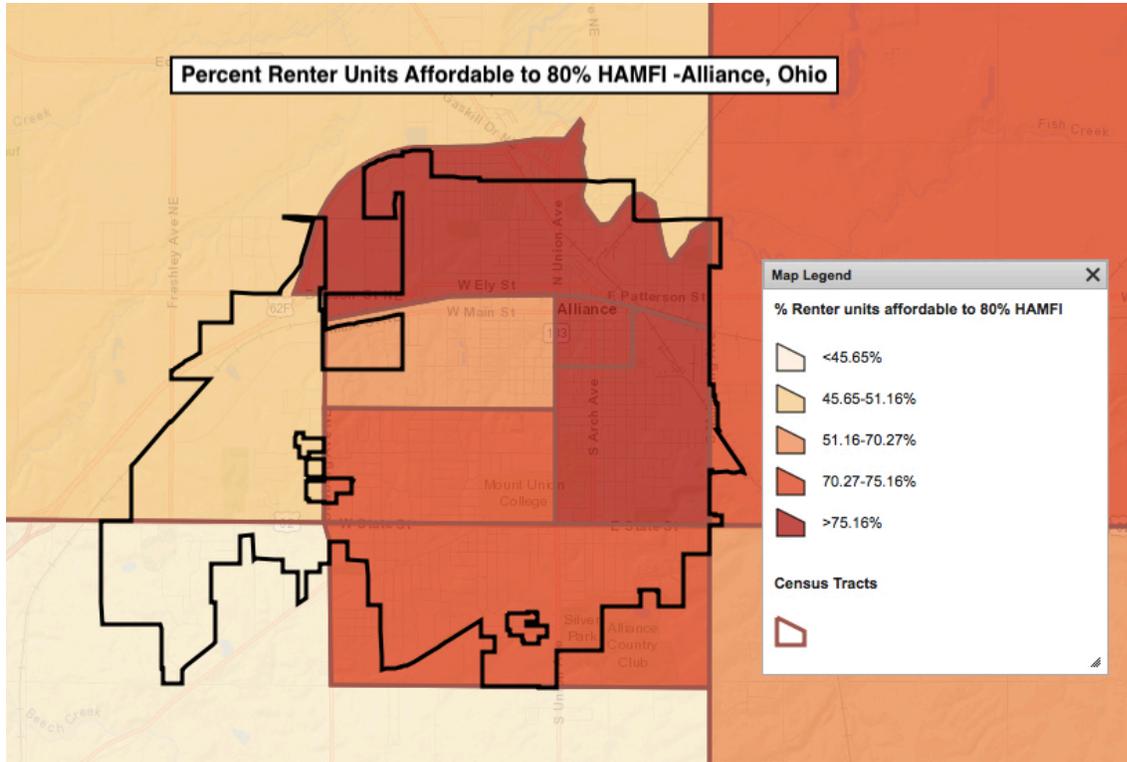
Percent Renter Units with Three Bedrooms or More



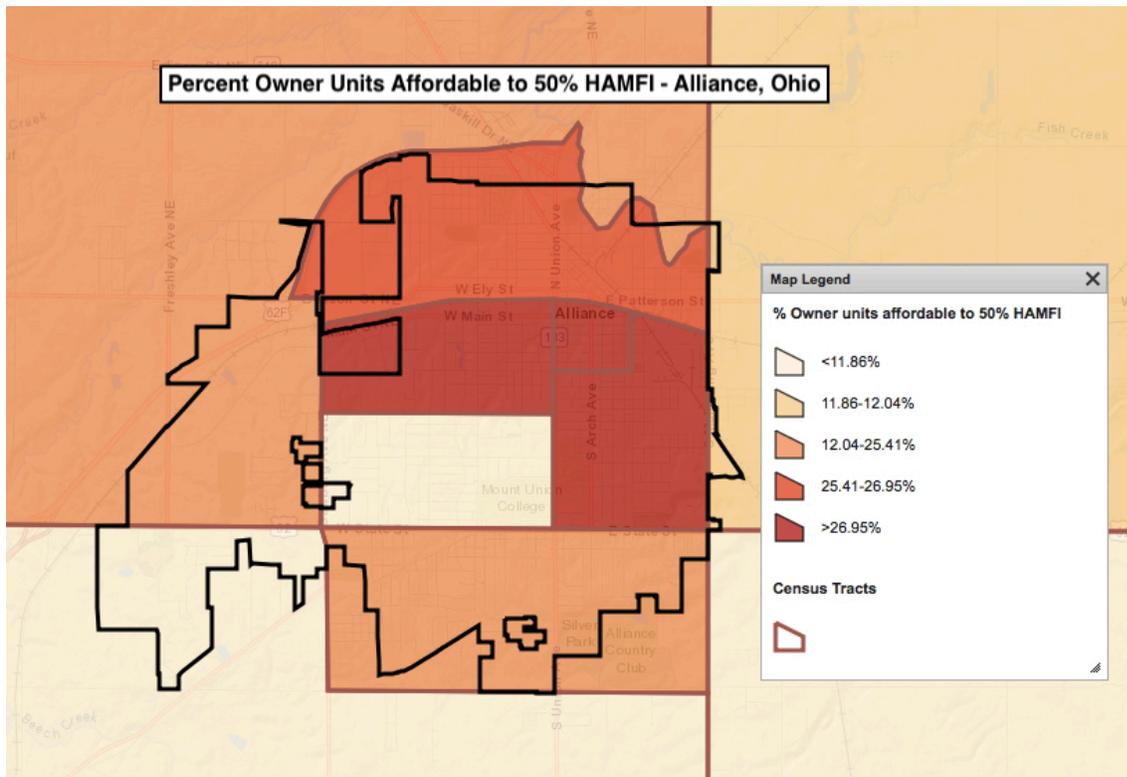
**Percent Renter Units Affordable to 30% HAMFI**



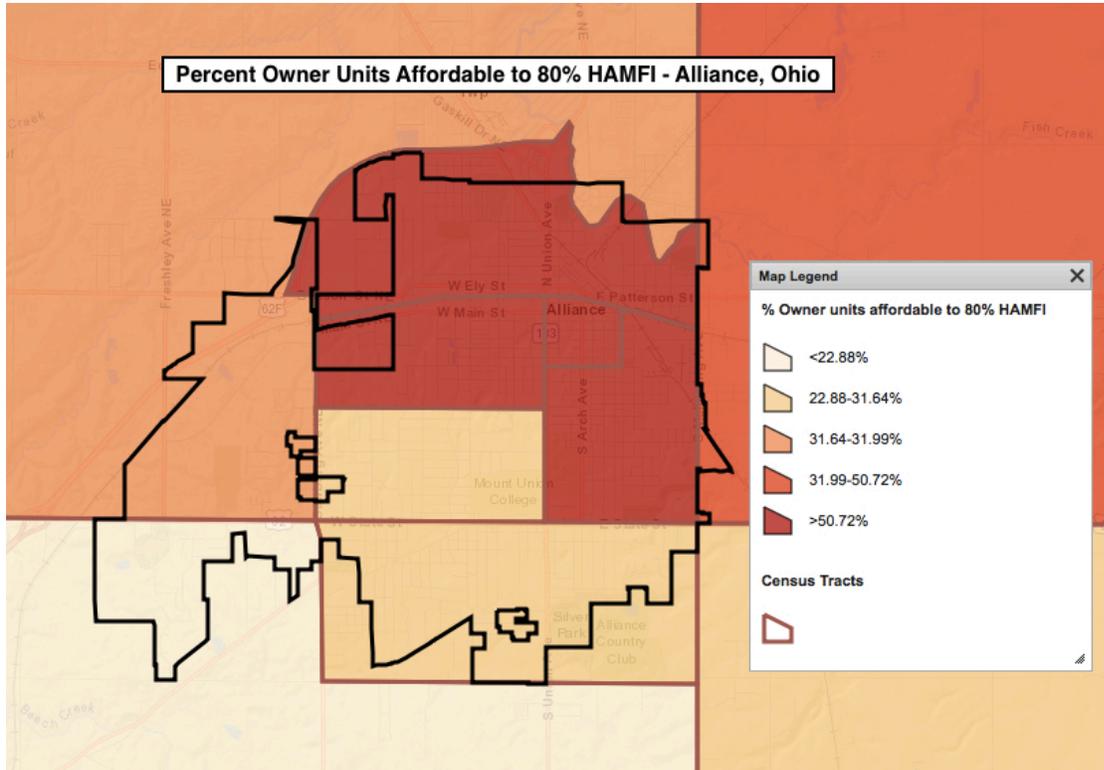
**Percent Renter Units Affordable to 50% HAMFI**



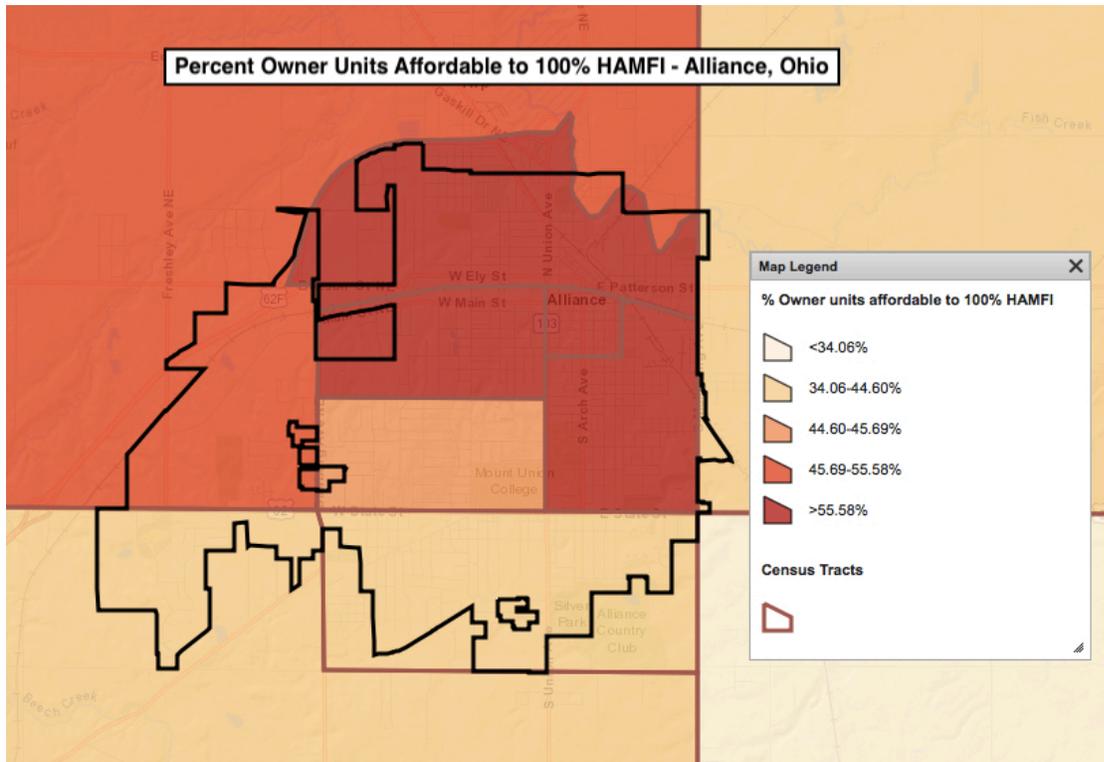
**Percent Renter Units Affordable to 80% HAMFI**



**Percent Owner Units Affordable to 50% HAMFI**



**Percent Owner Units Affordable to 80% HAMFI**



**Percent Owner Units Affordable to 100% HAMFI**

**Tables MA-1 through MA-10**

**All residential properties by number of units**

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	6,935	69%
1-unit, attached structure	320	3%
2-4 units	1,405	14%
5-19 units	795	8%
20 or more units	545	5%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc.	10	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,010</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table MA-1 – Residential Properties by Unit Number**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

**Unit Size by Tenure**

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	4	0%	35	1%
1 bedroom	45	1%	960	24%
2 bedrooms	1,240	26%	1,545	39%
3 or more bedrooms	3,460	73%	1,435	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,749</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,975</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table MA-2 – Unit Size by Tenure**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

**Cost of Housing**

	Base Year: 2000	Most Recent Year: 2013	% Change
Median Home Value	85,100	79,400	(7%)
Median Contract Rent	425	470	11%

**Table MA-3 – Cost of Housing**

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2011-2015 ACS (Most Recent Year)

**Rent Paid**

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	2,405	60.5%
\$500-999	1,555	39.1%
\$1,000-1,499	20	0.5%
\$1,500-1,999	4	0.1%
\$2,000 or more	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,984</b>	<b>100.2%</b>

**Table MA-4 - Rent Paid**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Housing Affordability

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	455	No Data
50% HAMFI	1,440	1,075
80% HAMFI	3,020	2,095
100% HAMFI	No Data	2,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,915</b>	<b>5,870</b>

**Table MA-5 – Housing Affordability**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

## Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
High HOME Rent	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Low HOME Rent	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**Table MA-6 – Monthly Rent**

Data Source: HUD FMR and HOME Rents

## Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	1,155	24%	1,750	44%
With two selected Conditions	45	1%	75	2%
With three selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	3,560	75%	2,150	54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,760</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,975</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table MA-7 - Condition of Units**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	200	4%	350	9%
1980-1999	400	8%	525	13%
1950-1979	1,735	36%	1,500	38%
Before 1950	2,415	51%	1,595	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>3,970</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table MA-8 – Year Unit Built**

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

## Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	4,150	87%	3,095	78%
Housing Units built before 1980 with children present	585	14%	575	19%

**Table MA-9 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint**

**Data Source:** 2011-2015 CHAS, Table 13.

**Data Source Comments:** Table line published by HUD for “Housing Units Built Before 1980 with Children Present” was incorrect. Detailed CHAS Data accessed at HUD User, tallied, and inserted

## Vacant Units (Optional Table)

For a general discussion concerning this table, please refer to Section MA\_20 in the Stark Housing Consortium FY 2019-23 Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units	Not available	Not available	Not available
Abandoned Vacant Units	Not available	Not available	Not available
REO Properties	Not available	Not available	Not available
Abandoned REO Properties	Not available	Not available	Not available

**Table MA-10 - Vacant Units**

## Addendum - Broadband Availability

For Five-Year Consolidated Plans submitted to HUD after January 1, 2018, a discussion on broadband availability is required. This narrative is for informational purposes only.

According to Federal Communications Commission broadband deployment data, as of December 2017 (latest release), 100% of the population of the City of Alliance had access to at least three Internet providers offering download speeds of 25 Mbps (25 megabytes per second). In addition, 100% of the population had access to at least one Internet provider that offered download speeds of 100 Mbps. The primary service providers in Alliance are AT&T and Time Warner Cable/Charter (now Spectrum).

The following information is summarized from the Stark County HOME Consortium FY 2019-2023 Five-Year Plan. More detailed information is available in that document.

In October 2016, a study prepared on behalf of the Stark County Area Broadband Task Team identified AT&T, Time Warner Cable/Charter (now Spectrum) and MCTV as the predominant service providers in Stark County. The study found that the types and costs for services locally are disparate when compared

to more densely populated urban areas such as Cleveland. Stark County also appears to have lower internet speeds available when compared to other metro areas. In 2015, AT&T announced it would start offering residents in some areas speeds up to 1 Gb per second, and MCTV confirmed an upgrade of their network to all-fiber by mid-2019.

The study recommended forming a Stark County Broadband Authority (SCBA) to identify needed broadband facilities and fiber optic routes, and funding opportunities. The study recommended the SCBA develop grant programs for low income groups, etc. To date, no Authority has been established; however, the County Commissioners and various local political subdivisions passed resolutions supporting such efforts. Provisions for higher-speed internet have also been included in recent economic reports.

Spectrum's website noted an Internet Assist program, offering affordable high-speed internet to qualified households, with no contract required. To qualify, a household member must be a recipient of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the Community Eligibility Provision of the NSLP, or Supplemental Security Income. AT&T's website stated the company offers a low-cost wireline home Internet service to qualifying households (based on similar factors).

#### **Addendum - Natural Hazard Resiliency**

For Five-Year Consolidated Plans submitted to HUD after January 1, 2018, a discussion on natural hazard resiliency is required. This narrative is for informational purposes only.

The following information is summarized from the Stark County HOME Consortium FY 2019-2023 Five-Year Plan. More detailed information is available in that document.

According to the Stark County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) 2010 Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis Study, flooding and tornadoes/severe storms are the two natural hazards most likely to occur in the county. The 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan noted the most significant impact from climate change locally will be an increase in flooding (caused by excessive rainfall/snowmelt), which could lead to land subsidence and dam failures.

The City of Alliance has adopted floodplain regulations, which restrict and/or prohibit uses that could create a negative impact during flooding. The City also regulates the alteration/filling of areas that accommodate/control flood waters.

According to the County EMA 2016 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), "if special assistance is needed during a disaster, requests will be coordinated with appropriate agencies. Firefighters and law enforcement will serve as first responders and assist with warning and movement to shelters of individuals/families within evacuation areas." The EMA provides postcards that households requiring special assistance may fill out and return or submit online.

Fire departments have a county-wide mutual-aid agreement to ensure adequate material and personnel support in the event of emergencies, and in 2017, the County approved funding for a multi- agency radio communications system, allowing every department or governmental entity connected to the system to communicate seamlessly.

Based on the HUD Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) maps, and per conversations with EMA and other natural hazard management agencies, it appears flood-prone areas within the Consortium are widespread throughout the County and do not appear to affect vulnerable neighborhoods in particular. However, to reduce any vulnerability to increased natural hazards for LMI-occupied housing, the SCRPC has made the LMI maps available to EMA to utilize in future disaster planning coordination. At the County level, the RPC will continue to collaborate with flood-control authorities and support efforts to enforce/strengthen stormwater runoff and water quality regulations to improve flooding conditions affecting vulnerable populations. SCRPC has offered to include EMA on future CDBG and HOME workshop invitations and in meetings with a) local zoning inspectors to discuss public education/awareness efforts for their communities and b) the County stormwater-based Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) Committee.

## MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets - 91.410, 91.210(f)

### Introduction

Alliance, located in Stark County, was formed in 1854 by the merger of three smaller communities. Alliance became the intersection point of two railroads, stimulating industrial growth during the 19th and 20th centuries by bringing in raw materials and shipping out finished products. Today, both railroads lines are part of the Norfolk Southern network. Manufacturing remains important to Alliance's economy, however following the national trend, Alliance's economy has been shifting to a more services-based economy. The largest sector in Alliance's economy today is education and health care services.

### Economic Development Market Analysis

#### Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	77	6	1	0	-1
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	886	1,164	11	13	2
Construction	334	173	4	2	-2
Education and Health Care Services	1,686	2,827	21	31	10
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	307	240	4	3	-1
Information	85	73	1	1	0
Manufacturing	2,090	2,133	27	23	-4
Other Services	268	363	3	4	1
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	378	148	5	2	-3
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	1,019	1,756	13	19	6
Transportation and Warehousing	227	18	3	0	-3
Wholesale Trade	511	366	6	4	-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,868</b>	<b>9,267</b>	--	--	--

**Table 5 – Business Activity**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS (Workers), 2015 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

#### Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	9,955
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	8,640
Unemployment Rate	13.08
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	22.06
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	8.37

**Table 6 – Labor Force**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Occupations by Sector

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	1,140
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	330
Service	1,224
Sales and office	2,080
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	550
Production, transportation and material moving	715

**Table 7 – Occupations by Sector**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	6,065	73%
30-59 Minutes	1,875	23%
60 or More Minutes	370	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 8 - Travel Time**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Education:

### Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	520	165	580
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	2,825	310	1,165
Some college or Associate's degree	1,825	380	655
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,360	0	335

**Table 9 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Educational Attainment by Age

Educational Attainment	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	19	4	70	130	355
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	335	170	375	520	520
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	715	990	1,035	2,275	1,845
Some college, no degree	1,980	575	495	965	585
Associate's degree	39	330	125	375	115
Bachelor's degree	135	315	290	565	215
Graduate or professional degree	15	70	200	260	110

**Table 10 - Educational Attainment by Age**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	20,553
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	25,023
Some college or Associate's degree	28,622
Bachelor's degree	36,361
Graduate or professional degree	56,451

**Table 11 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months**

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

## Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

The City of Alliance has about 7,900 workers and about 9,300 jobs (**Table 5 – Note HUD has set Public Administration line to zero to emphasize non-public sector employment**). The largest employment sectors based on share of jobs are Education and Health Care Services (31%), Manufacturing (23%), Retail Trade (19%), and Arts/Entertainment/Accommodations (13%). These four sectors represent about 85% (7,880) of all jobs.

When reviewed by the share of workers in Alliance’s employed workforce, the two largest sectors are Manufacturing (27%) and Education and Health Care Services (21%), which represent 48% (3,776). Retail Trade (13%) and Arts/Entertainment/Accommodations (11%) represent another 24% of all workers (1,905).

Overall, the number of jobs in Alliance (9,267) is about 118% of the number of employed Alliance residents in those occupations (7,868). For example, about 1,686 Alliance residents are employed in the

Education and Health Care Services fields, but there are about 2,827 jobs in those occupations in Alliance, meaning more than 1,100 persons who are not Alliance residents travel in to Alliance to work in jobs in those fields.

## **Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:**

### **Workforce Needs**

Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland research has outlined the importance of education and innovation in the income growth of a region. Innovation creates jobs and improves productivity, but it requires an educated and appropriately trained workforce. Improving the overall educational attainment of the Alliance and Stark County workforce is important. Ongoing training for new and veteran workers is also a priority. In Alliance, these needs apply to a number of the important employment sectors discussed in the preceding question, where technical knowledge, continually updated training, and a higher level of management and administrative skills are important. For Alliance, these needs are particularly important in manufacturing and healthcare.

### **Infrastructure Needs**

There are many arterial roads that extend through Alliance. This road network represents important commuting routes and provides access to industrial, office, and commercial districts throughout the city, which are employment, shopping, and entertainment hubs.

In addition, Alliance needs dependable roadway infrastructure to be part of the county and regional economy. US 62 skirts the western boundary of Alliance, and the city is about ten miles south of I-76 and fifteen miles east of I-77. These highways provide important access to the Akron, Canton, and Youngstown metropolitan areas.

Roadway investment is an ongoing need for the industrial, office, and commercial districts in Alliance. Well maintained roads result in less cumulative wear to vehicles of employees, customers, mass transit providers, and delivery firms. In many areas, roadway work must be supplemented with improvements to sidewalks and parking areas, as well as items such as street furniture and plantings, in order to create an inviting shopping/employment area.

The Stark County Engineer's Office has an ongoing pavement condition assessment program, and maintenance of some arterial roads in Alliance is the responsibility of the County. Funding sources include federal funds allocated through the Stark County Area Transportation Study (the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the area), the Ohio Public Works Commission annual competitive grant program, and County fees. The City of Alliance also recognizes the need for infrastructure investment and as funding permits, prioritizes street improvement projects through the CDBG funding program.

In a broader view, other types of infrastructure also need continuing modernization to meet current standards and demands. In addition to roads and bridges, infrastructure systems include sanitary and storm sewers, as well as electric, natural gas, and water utilities.

**Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.**

The City of Alliance works to maintain and expand employment opportunities within the community. The City also maintains a relationship with the Stark Economic Development Board, which focuses on retaining, expanding, and attracting investment in Stark County. The Board provides financing through federal and state programs, location and building searches, government relations coordination, economic development incentive packaging and infrastructure planning.

**How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?**

Workers employed in Alliance are a combination of persons who also reside within Alliance or travel into Alliance to work. Regardless of a worker's home community, the workforce issues are similar. The dominant issue is the ongoing need for more education and training.

**Tables 9, 10, and 11**, showing data from the 2011-2015 ACS, emphasize the correlation of education and employment, along with the generational change that is occurring in the City of Alliance. Looking at the ratio of employed to unemployed persons in the labor force, roughly one-in-three-and-one-half persons with a high school degree or less were unemployed. The number of unemployed persons dropped to one-in-five for persons with some college or Associate's degree. The ACS data showed roughly full employment for persons with a bachelor's degree or higher. The attainment of additional education beyond high school is beneficial, and in many situations essential, for the diverse fields represented among Alliance residents.

Generationally, about 23% of Alliance residents age 65 years and over have educational attainment of less than a high school degree, compared to 12% of residents age 25-44. College degree attainment has also substantially increased. About 26% of Alliance residents age 25-44 have an Associate's, Bachelor's, or graduate/professional degree, compared to 12% of residents age 65 and over. In addition, ACS data also showed that for the most recent twelve-month period, Alliance residents with a Bachelor's degree earned 45% more than a person with only a high school degree (\$36,361 vs. \$25,023). For persons with a graduate or professional degree, the difference jumped to 125% (\$56,451 vs. \$25,023).

**Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.**

A variety of workforce training initiatives and opportunities are available for Alliance residents and workers. For example, programs at Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences focus on nursing education. Kent State University main campus and Stark campus offer professional continuing education and training courses. Other training sources include:

**Alliance Career Center**

The Alliance Career Center is a public postsecondary career technical center institution, under The Ohio Department of Higher Education. Adult students must have a high school diploma or equivalent. The Center offers programs in nursing, medical assisting, welding technology, and cosmetology.

**Stark State College**

The College offers more than 230 associate degrees, options, one-year and career enhancement certificates in business and entrepreneurial studies, education, engineering technologies, health and human services, information technologies, liberal arts, mathematics, and sciences.

**OhioMeansJobs – Stark and Tuscarawas Counties (OMJ)**

OMJ is a collaborative workforce system of Stark and Tuscarawas Counties. The local Workforce Development Board assists both employers and job seekers by coordinating the workforce development activities of the employment, education and economic development entities in the region. **The OhioMeansJobs One-Stop partnership** supports the **Workforce Development Board** by serving as a consolidated employment resource for all partner programs, employers, and job seekers.

**Ohio Development Services Agency**

The Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program is open to for-profit employers across the state. The program reimburses a portion of employer's costs to upgrade the skills of its incumbent workforce. An eligible employer must operate a state-designated targeted industry. Training opportunities include, but are not limited to, classes at an accredited education institution, operational skills training, certification processes, and equipment training. Training can occur at the employer's facility, at the training provider's facility or at a third-party site.

## **Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE)**

NOCHE's 16-county coverage area encompasses higher education institutions that enroll more than 225,000 degree-seeking students and grant more than 40,000 certificates and degrees annually. Members near Alliance include Kent State University, Aultman College, and the Northeast Ohio Medical University. NOCHE focuses on talent development programs linking the higher education and business communities to enhance college access and completion; address workforce needs; and promote and facilitate experiential learning, which connects classroom learning with professional practice for students and improves recruitment and retention efforts for employers.

### **Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?**

Yes. (U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration program)

### **If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.**

The City of Alliance participates in a CEDS through its involvement with the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO).

In 1978, NEFCO was designated as an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) for Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne Counties. This designation gives member communities ongoing eligibility for economic assistance programs through the EDA.

NEFCO maintains this eligibility by updating the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), an annual document required by the EDA and containing the region's goals and objectives, and the economic development priorities of NEFCO members. The CEDS, which represents the consensus of NEFCO's dues-paying members, articulates the economic development planning priorities of the region.

NEFCO's regional economic development planning program strives to grow the region's economy through collaborative planning efforts with NEFCO's area governments and by providing assistance in activities that: promote a diversified and sustainable economy; support the most economically distressed areas of the region; capitalize on the region's existing strengths and assist with efforts to promote innovation and technology; and ensure the efficient use and development of land and resources.

## **Other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth:**

### **Strengthening Stark – A Call for Economic Transformation**

The Strengthening Stark report was developed by Stark Community Foundation on behalf of the Stark Civic Group, an informal group of leaders representing all sectors of Stark County. Upon completion of the report, which examined the demographic and economic trends and projections of our county, the Stark Economic Development Board (SEDB) was asked to lead the creation of a county-wide plan.

The Strengthening Stark Economic Competitiveness Plan, made up of 7 focus areas and 28 initiatives, is aimed at transforming Stark County from a smaller, older and poorer community into a larger, younger and more prosperous community.

Economic development entities and community partners from across the county have assumed responsibility for much of the plan's development. SEDB will oversee measuring the progress of the plan and communicating that progress to the community. The seven focus areas are Program Governance, Workforce Talent, Business Growth, Targeted Industry Development, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Infrastructure Development, and Engagement and Advocacy.

<http://www.starkcoohio.com/index.php?submenu=ourTeammates&src=gendocs&ref=strengtheningStark&category=ourTeammates/>

### **Vibrant NEO 2040 - Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium Initiative**

Funded by a HUD/USDOT/USEPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative grant, this twelve county regional project guided by 33 organizations developed a vision for the future of Northeast Ohio. The eight objectives include promoting investment in established communities, developing the regional economy with accessible employment opportunities, and enhancing the regional transportation network. The Consolidated Plan Strategic Plan goals focus on investing funds in housing and infrastructure in developed neighborhoods, commercial districts, and industrial areas, which reinforce the goals of Vibrant NEO 2040. <http://vibrantneo.org>

### **Team NEO**

Team NEO is a regional, private-sector organization that focuses on business retention, attraction, and expansion into eighteen counties in Northeast Ohio, as well as regional marketing and research on the region's economy and competitive position. Team NEO also emphasizes that the strong regional history of innovation and traditional manufacturing has evolved into advanced manufacturing and is facilitating the growth and development of three regional innovation clusters: Additive Manufacturing, Energy Storage and Smart Devices and Systems. Each of these clusters is designed to connect companies,

academic and research institutions with opportunities to collaborate and take advantage of new technologies that build on the industrial, organizational and workforce strengths of the region.

**Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio, Inc.**

Goodwill Industries provides a comprehensive set of services designed to improve employment skills, focusing on pre-employment training (career counseling, assessments, work adjustment, and job coaching) and job placement services.

## MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

### Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

HUD defines "housing problems" as one or more of the following:

**Substandard Housing**-Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities.

**Overcrowded**-Housing more than 1.01 to 1.50 persons per room excluding bathrooms, porches, foyers, halls or half rooms.

**Severely Overcrowded**- Housing more than 1.51 persons per room excluding bathrooms, porches, foyers, halls or half rooms.

**Housing Cost Burden**-Housing costs that are more than 30% of the household's total gross income. For renters, cost includes rent paid plus utilities. For owners, cost includes mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and utilities.

**Household Has No/Negative Income**-Households whose income is zero or negative due to self-employment, dividends, and net rental income.

A "concentration" of multiple housing problems can be defined as households who experience multiple housing problems at a greater rate (10 percentage points or greater) than the households for the City of Alliance as a whole.

The usual source for this information is the CPD Maps Report. Because this report is currently unavailable, the "concentration" can only be roughly estimated using other sources. The 2011-2015 ACS was used as the source for citywide data, while the maps from CPD Maps were used as the source for Census Tract data. This information showed that 2,965 low- and moderate-income households living in Alliance had one or more of the "housing problems" listed above. ***NA-Maps-Households with Any of 4 Severe Housing Problems, ELI, LI, and MI Households*** shown in the Needs Assessment illustrates where the most serious issues occur.

The HUD mandated tables for Alliance, showed that of the 8,730 households in the City, 35.34% (3,085 households) had any of 4 housing problems. Using the above-cited definition of "concentration," (35.34% plus 10 percentage points = 45.34%), there was not a "concentration" of households with any of 4 housing problems living in any Census Tract in the City.

It should be noted that in several Census Tracts, including most of those that encompass the City's Target Areas, there were higher percentages of households with any of 4 housing problems in CT 7102 (28.01%), CT 7103 (31.72%), CT 7104 (35.06%), CT 7105 (28.36%), and CT 7106 (33.02%).

Cost burden was the major problem cited by most of the households having one or more "housing problems" The HUD mandated tables for Alliance, showed that of the 8,730 households in the City, 26.04% were cost burdened. Using the above-cited definition of "concentration," (26.04% plus 10 percentage points = 36.04%), there was not a "concentration" of cost burdened households living in any Census Tract in the City.

It should be noted that in several Census Tracts, including most of those that encompass the City's Target Areas, there were higher percentages of households with cost burden in CT 7102 (22.97%), CT 7103 (31.72%), CT 7104 (35.06%), CT 7105 (26.34%), and CT 7106 (33.02%).

Only very small percentages of households lived in housing that was substandard or lived in overcrowded conditions. Investment in the housing stock is needed through rehabilitation, resolution of code violations, nuisance abatement, and selected demolition. The main period of housing construction in Alliance was pre-1980, when 83% of the housing was built. Much of the housing stock in Alliance is at least 39 years old, and may require systems replacement and a significant rehabilitation investment.

### **Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")**

A concentration of racial/ethnic persons or low-income households can be defined as person/household, racial, or income types that occur in an area at a greater rate (10 percentage points or greater) than the person/household types for the City of Alliance as a whole.

#### **Concentration of Racial/Ethnic Persons**

The 2011-2015 ACS for Alliance showed that of the 22,256 persons citywide, 11.20% (2,503 persons) were **Black or African American**. The percentages by Census Tract ranged from a low of 3.74% to a high of 13.60%. Using the above-cited definition of "concentration" (11.20% plus 10 percentage points = 21.20%), there was not a "concentration" of Black or African Americans living in any Census Tract in Alliance. The percentages of American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Some Other Race, or Two or More Races, as well as persons of Hispanic origin were very small and did not constitute a "concentration" of persons in any Census Tract in the City.

It should be noted that in several Census Tracts, including most of those that encompass the City's Target Areas, there were higher percentages of Black or African Americans in CT 7102 (12.81%), CT 7103 (13.60%), CT 7104 (12.58%), and CT 7105 (13.36%); Asians in CT 7105 (1.57%); Two or More Races in CT 7102 (5.70%), CT 7104 (3.61), CT 7105 (5.58%), and CT 7106 (3.45%); and persons of Hispanic

Origin in CT 7102 (3.77%), CT 7103 (4.97%), CT 7104 (4.92%), and CT 7106 (3.99%) than the City as a whole. The Target Areas were created based on the high percentage of low income individuals/families in the area, an aging housing stock, the poor condition of residences, and/or the existence of vacant/abandoned structures.

### **Concentration of Low-Income Households**

The HUD mandated tables for Alliance, showed that of the 8,700 households in the City, 37% of households had incomes that were 0-50% of the HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) (1,625 Extremely Low Income [ELI] Households with incomes that were 0-30% of HAMFI and 1,590 Low Income [LI] Households with incomes that were 31-50% of HAMFI). Using the above-cited definition of “concentration,” (37.0% plus 10 percentage points = 47.0%), there was not a “concentration” of Low-Income households living in any Census Tract in the City.

It should be noted that in several Census Tracts, including most of those that encompass the City’s Target Areas, there were higher percentages of Low-Income households than in the City as a whole. These Census Tracts included CT 7102 (32.39%), CT 7103 (40.91%), CT 7104 (36.99%), CT 7105 (35.71%), CT 7106 (43.09%), and CT 7128 (40.00%).

### **What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?**

Most of the households living in these areas of “concentration” have median household incomes that are significantly below the City’s median household income of \$31,914 (HUD Mandated Tables). There are also higher poverty and unemployment rates than the citywide rates of 27% poverty and 13% unemployment. In terms of housing, most of the areas of “concentration” listed above exhibited higher vacancy rates than the citywide rate of about 13%, and low homeownership rates. About one-half of the areas listed had percentages of older rental housing stock that exceeded the citywide percentage. Median contract rents and median home values in most of the areas were generally lower when compared to citywide figures for median contract rent (\$470) and median home value (\$79,400).

### **Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?**

While there was not a “concentration” (as defined by HUD) by race, ethnicity or low income persons by Census Tract, there were Census Tracts that exhibited higher percentages of these characteristics, and included CT 7102, CT 7104, and CT 7105, which are also considered Target Areas by the City of Alliance. To a lesser extent, CT 7103, CT 7106, and CT 7128 also exhibited higher percentages of these characteristics. Housing located in these neighborhoods offer a broad range of options in terms of styles, sizes, types, and prices. Residents are not far from several parks and recreation facilities, as well as the historic downtown district, an area where the local government and private sector are focusing revitalization efforts and scheduling events and activities, such as a weekly farmers market. At just under 9 square miles in size, the city is fairly compact. Additionally, Alliance is served by the Stark

County Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) bus system. Citywide, institutional assets which residents may access include the YWCA, the Rodman Public Library, public and parochial schools, the Alliance Career Center, and the University of Mount Union, a private, four-year higher education institution with a long legacy in Northeast Ohio and beyond. A number of manufacturing companies are based in Alliance, and they not only provide jobs to area residents, but are committed to improving the community as well.

**Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?**

There are numerous public and non-profit agencies in the City of Alliance that work together to provide housing and social services to low- and moderate-income residents, retain and attract jobs, institute infrastructure and streetscape improvements, improve the housing stock, implement commercial revitalization, and generally improve the quality of life for all residents in the city. The Department of Planning and Development utilizes CDBG and HOME funding to address housing and community needs, including housing rehabilitation, code enforcement, and affordable housing and anti-poverty strategies. The City offers Community Reinvestment and Enterprise Zone Agreements to qualifying commercial and residential applicants as a tax abatement incentive for development and expansion. Additionally, consideration is being given to repurpose/consolidate vacant parcels for new development. The City, along with its partners from the non-profit, institutional, and business community have developed a close working relationship, and together work to strengthen and enhance the city of Alliance and improve the lives of its citizens.

# Strategic Plan

## SP-05 Overview

### Strategic Plan Overview

The FY 2019-23 Plan outlines Alliance's five-year priorities, anticipated financial resources, partners, and programs to address the needs outlined in Needs Assessment and Market Analysis. The five-year framework is linked to the FY 2019 Annual Plan, which describes activities to be implemented. The annual activities and long-term goals/priorities must meet one of HUD's statutory objectives: providing decent affordable housing, creating a suitable living environment, or expanding economic opportunities. In addition to meeting a statutory objective, HUD expects activities to reflect at least one outcome: availability/accessibility, affordability, or sustainability.

### PRIORITY NEEDS

Alliance has identified five needs for the next five years, four of which are ranked as a High Priority:

**Affordable Housing:** improve and maintain neighborhood stability through housing rehabilitation, which will ensure that housing is safe, code-compliant, and meets the needs of existing homeowners.

**Non-homeless Persons with Special Needs:** improve the condition and energy efficiency of housing and offer services to assist persons to remain in their home, particularly the elderly, frail elderly, and persons with physical disabilities.

**Non-Housing Community Development:** revitalize commercial/industrial areas with infrastructure/public facility investments and economic development programs to retain and attract residents and offer a desirable environment for businesses to invest and expand the community's employment base.

**Homelessness:** partner with the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County to fund activities to further the goals of preventing and ending homelessness and rapidly returning people who have become homeless to housing.

**Public Housing** was identified as Low priority needs due to the existing network of agencies/organizations that assist persons via countywide systems.

### ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The City will utilize various funding sources to address priorities. The main sources will be CDBG funds as an entitlement community, and HOME funds as a Stark Housing Consortium member.

## **PARTNERS**

The City will utilize its own departments in various roles, non-profit organizations for public service activities, and public agencies for community development projects and fair housing programs, as the “institutional delivery structure” for its programs.

## **GOALS AND PROGRAMS**

Alliance has identified five goals through which programs will be implemented during the next five years:

**Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing:** focus on owner-occupied housing and implement projects to improve the physical condition, health, and safety of residential neighborhoods with activities such as housing rehabilitation.

**Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods:** improve the physical condition, health, and safety of residential neighborhoods with projects such as improvements to rights-of-way, water and/or sewer lines, and/or public facilities; building code enforcement; and demolition of abandoned, blighted buildings.

**Provide Needed Public Services:** implement public service activities that maintain and improve neighborhood and household stability, such as - but not limited to - programs related to children, youth, and senior citizens, as well as health and employment. The City will also provide fair housing services for landlords and tenants.

**Increase Economic Opportunities:** provide public infrastructure improvements that aid economic development; assist for-profit commercial or industrial firms with rehabilitation, removal of blighted structures or conditions in commercial districts, and/or new construction activities designed to create or retain jobs; eliminate substandard or blighted building conditions; implement downtown revitalization projects.

**Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness:** assist Alliance residents (individuals and families) experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness by funding activities and/or projects that will be administered by the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County.

## **OTHER STRATEGIES**

The Strategic Plan also discusses strategies for the next five years regarding lead-based paint hazards and anti-poverty strategies, plus a description of procedures to monitor activities.

## HUD Statutory Objectives

- ***Providing decent affordable housing*** includes helping homeless persons obtain appropriate housing; assisting those at risk of homelessness; retaining the affordable housing stock; increasing availability of permanent housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons without discrimination; increasing the supply of supportive housing, including structural features and services to enable persons with special needs to live independently; or providing affordable housing that is accessible to job opportunities.
- ***Creating a suitable living environment*** involves improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods; eliminating blighting influences and the deterioration of property; or increasing access to quality facilities and services;
- ***Expanding economic opportunities*** involves creating or retaining jobs that are accessible to low- and moderate-income persons; establishing, stabilizing, or expanding small businesses; making mortgage financing available to low- and moderate-income persons at reasonable rates, providing access to credit for development activities that promote long-term economic and social viability; or empowering low-income persons to achieve self-sufficiency.

## HUD Outcomes

- ***Availability/Accessibility*** activities make services, infrastructure, housing, or shelter available or accessible to low- and moderate-income people, including persons with disabilities. This includes not only physical barriers, but also making the affordable basics of daily living available and accessible to low- and moderate-income people.
- ***Affordability*** activities provide affordability for low- and moderate-income people. This can include the creation or maintenance of affordable housing, basic infrastructure hook-ups, or services such as transportation or day care.
- ***Sustainability*** activities improve communities or neighborhoods, making them livable or viable by providing benefit to persons of low- and moderate-incomes or by removing slums or blight.

## SP-10 Geographic Priorities - 91.415, 91.215(a)(1)

### Geographic Area

**Table 12 - Geographic Priority Areas**

1	<b>Area Name:</b>	Citywide
	<b>Area Type:</b>	
	<b>Other Target Area Description:</b>	
	<b>HUD Approval Date:</b>	
	<b>% of Low/ Mod:</b>	
	<b>Revitalization Type:</b>	
	<b>Other Revitalization Description:</b>	
	<b>Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.</b>	
	<b>Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.</b>	
	<b>How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?</b>	
	<b>Identify the needs in this target area.</b>	
	<b>What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?</b>	
	<b>Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?</b>	
2	<b>Area Name:</b>	Target Areas 1 through 4
	<b>Area Type:</b>	Local Target area
	<b>Other Target Area Description:</b>	
	<b>HUD Approval Date:</b>	
	<b>% of Low/ Mod:</b>	
	<b>Revitalization Type:</b>	Comprehensive
	<b>Other Revitalization Description:</b>	Refer to following narratives and maps.
	<b>Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.</b>	
	<b>Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.</b>	
	<b>How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?</b>	
	<b>Identify the needs in this target area.</b>	
	<b>What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?</b>	
	<b>Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?</b>	

### General Allocation Priorities

#### Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the state

The City of Alliance has identified four Priority Areas for allocation of CDBG funds. These “Target Areas” are areas where geographically targeted revitalization efforts are carried out through multiple activities in a concentrated and coordinated manner.

## **Boundaries**

The target areas abut one another and are located in the northeast portion of the city.

## **Neighborhood Characteristics and Needs**

The methodology for the creation of boundaries was a) the percentage of low- and moderate-income individuals in each area, b) the age and condition of housing units, and c) the age and condition of public infrastructure.

Citywide, 57.60% of all persons are low- and moderate-income (HUD, Entitlement Year 2018, CDBG Entitlement Grantees). Although Census block group boundaries do not always match exactly with Target Area boundaries (Census boundaries are sometimes adjusted by the U.S. Census Bureau), overall about 68% of persons in the four Target Areas are low- to moderate-income. The highest percentage of low- and moderate-income residents occurs in Target Area 3 (86%) and Target Area 1 (73%).

The four Target Areas include about 40% of all Alliance residents, but about 49% of all low- and moderate-income persons citywide.

The Target Areas represent older neighborhoods, with a combination of buildings dating from the second half of the 19th century through the early 20th century. Many of the buildings have multiple exterior repair needs.

Finally, because the Target Areas consist of older building stock, infrastructure such as water and sewer lines are also older. This aging infrastructure results in greater repair needs and expensive replacement projects.

## **Opportunities for Improvement**

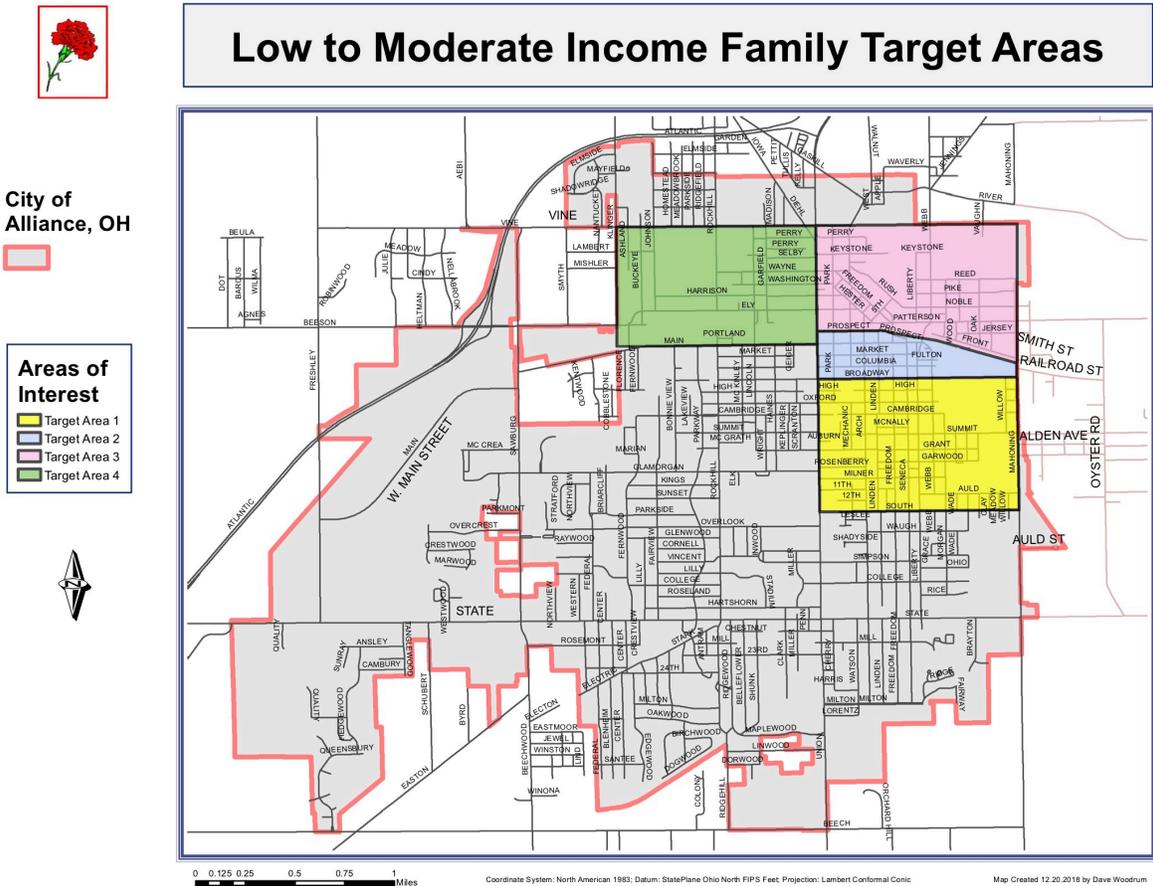
The City's goal is to coordinate funds, such as CDBG funds and municipal money, into planned areas to maximize impact and improvements. For example, housing rehabilitation, code enforcement, and street improvements are coordinated in an effort to build viable neighborhoods. In addition, CDBG public service grant recipients should provide services to residents of one or more of the four Target Areas. Applications for public services are reviewed by a committee and scored on a variety of criteria, including the geographic location of the proposed project.

## **Barriers to Improvement**

The greatest barrier to improvement is insufficient funds, both through CDBG and local sources, to address neighborhood needs.

## Consultation and Citizen Process Tie In

Neighborhood needs are confirmed as updated housing and socio-economic data is available. The Target Areas are discussed at public meetings to solicit citizen input. In addition, public services providers confirm that significant numbers of households from the Target Areas continue to receive services.



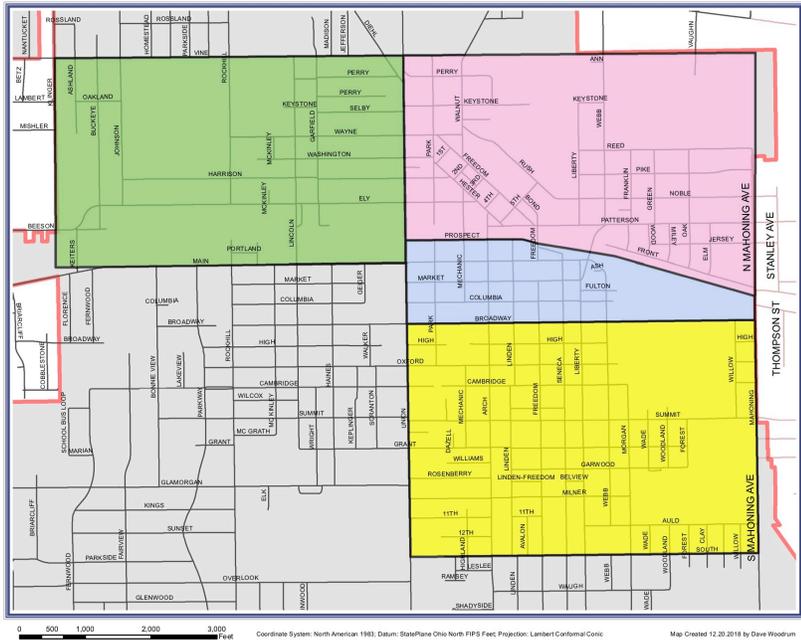
City of Alliance Map with Target Areas



# Low to Moderate Income Family Target Areas

City of Alliance, OH

- Areas of Interest**
- Target Area 1
  - Target Area 2
  - Target Area 3
  - Target Area 4



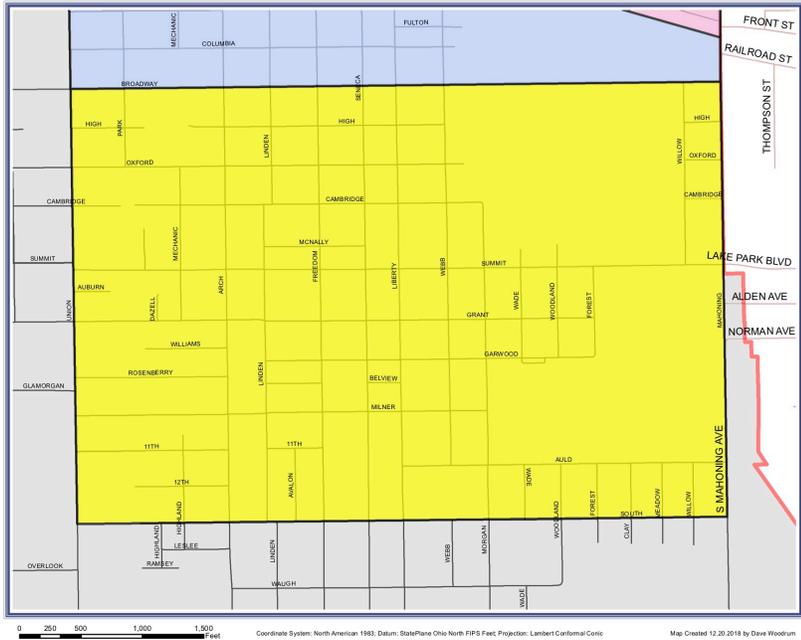
### Target Area Map



# Low to Moderate Income Family Target Areas

City of Alliance, OH

- Areas of Interest**
- Target Area 1
  - Target Area 2
  - Target Area 3
  - Target Area 4



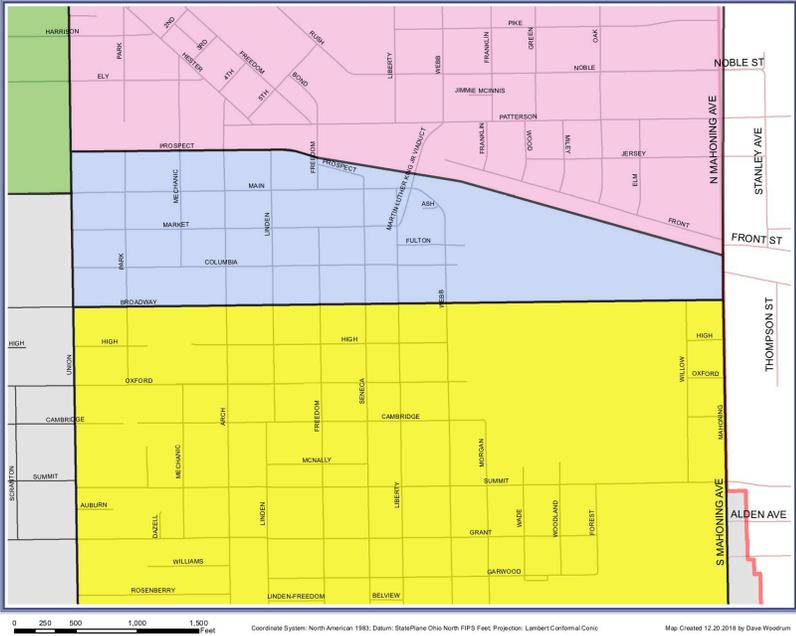
### Target Area 1



# Low to Moderate Income Family Target Areas

City of Alliance, OH

- Areas of Interest**
- Target Area 1
  - Target Area 2
  - Target Area 3
  - Target Area 4



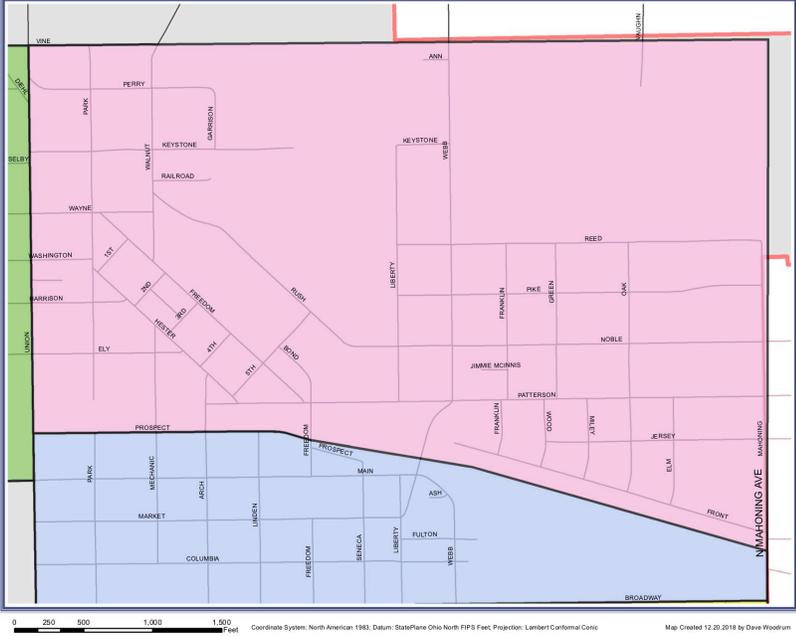
Target Area 2



# Low to Moderate Income Family Target Areas

City of Alliance, OH

- Areas of Interest**
- Target Area 1
  - Target Area 2
  - Target Area 3
  - Target Area 4



Target Area 3



# Low to Moderate Income Family Target Areas

City of Alliance, OH

- Areas of Interest**
- Target Area 1
  - Target Area 2
  - Target Area 3
  - Target Area 4



## Target Area 4

## SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.415, 91.215(a)(2)

### Priority Needs

Table 13 – Priority Needs Summary

1	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Affordable Housing
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Target Areas 1 through 4
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Planning and Administration
	<b>Description</b>	The City of Alliance will prioritize a housing rehabilitation program, which is important for neighborhood stability. Rehabilitation activities ensure that housing is safe, code-compliant, and meets the needs of existing homeowners.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	A High Level priority was chosen for rehabilitation activities in order to maintain and improve neighborhood stability. The recent recession also increased the number of homeowners in need of assistance to maintain and repair their properties. Weatherization work is available for income-eligible owners and renters through the State of Ohio's Home Weatherization Assistance Program, which lowers overall housing costs.
	2	<b>Priority Need Name</b>
<b>Priority Level</b>		High
<b>Population</b>		Extremely Low Low Moderate Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities

	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Citywide
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Provide Needed Public Services Planning and Administration
	<b>Description</b>	The City of Alliance has rated the elderly, frail elderly, and persons with physical disabilities as a priority for housing assistance. The City's housing rehabilitation program improves the condition and energy efficiency of housing, as well as services to assist persons to remain in an independent living situation.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	A High Priority level was chosen because the elderly and persons with physical disabilities are among the most vulnerable segments of the population.  The remaining special populations are not checked because programs and services for these groups originate with other public agencies and nonprofit organizations. The City will consider certifications of consistency for applications by other entities for Federal assistance.
3	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Non-Housing Community Development
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Non-housing Community Development
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Citywide
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Increase Economic Opportunities Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods Planning and Administration
	<b>Description</b>	As opportunities occur, and funding is available, the City of Alliance has rated infrastructure needs and economic development as a priority for funding. As an older community, Alliance must reinvest in its public infrastructure and facilities such as streets, water and sewer lines, and parks/recreation facilities to improve public safety and public services. Alliance must also offer a desirable environment for business employees. The City must work creatively with businesses to maintain and expand the community's employment base.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	Through the city's involvement with the consortium and the CoC the need for rapid re-housing as a tool to fight homelessness within Alliance and the surrounding community.

4	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Homelessness
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Citywide
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness Planning and Administration
	<b>Description</b>	Programs to assist homeless persons are administered on a countywide level through the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC). The City of Alliance is part of the Continuum of Care through public service funding of organizations such as the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter, as well as funding to support the Continuum of Care Homeless Hotline.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	A High Priority level was chosen because persons who are homeless or are at-risk of homelessness are among the most vulnerable segments of the population. The City of Alliance coordinates with the HCCSC and its partner agencies and organizations.
5	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Public Housing
	<b>Priority Level</b>	Low
	<b>Population</b>	Public Housing Residents
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Citywide
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	<b>Description</b>	There are two public housing facilities in Alliance. They are administered by the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA). The City of Alliance does not intend to fund activities directly related to these housing units. Alliance residents can be assisted through the countywide public housing system administered by SMHA.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	A Low Priority level was chosen because this housing need is addressed by the SMHA on a countywide basis.

## **SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.420(b), 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)**

### **Introduction**

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan for 2019-2023 must identify the federal, state, local, and private resources expected to be available to the City of Alliance to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the Strategic Plan (**Table 14**). The City of Alliance is a direct entitlement community for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Alliance receives an annual allocation of Federal funding from the U.S. Department of HUD for CDBG.

Alliance is also a member of a Consortium through which it receives funds from the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program. The Consortium members are the Stark County Urban County and the cities of Alliance and Massillon. Information about the HOME Program and annual funding availability to the Consortium members is contained in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan for 2019-2023 prepared by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission.

Below is a breakdown of the anticipated CDBG funding available to Alliance.

**Anticipated Resources**

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$ 600,083	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 600,083	\$ 2,400,000	Year 1 annual allocation (FY 2019) is the same as the FY 2018 allocation. The Expected Amount Available Remainder of Consolidated Plan is \$600,000 multiplied by four, representing Year 2 (FY 2020) through Year 5 (FY 2023). Annual allocations are a conservative estimate based on recent allocations.

**Table 14 - Anticipated Resources**

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

Public service activities, project-based allocations, and building improvements resulting from code enforcement administration leverage both private dollars and/or volunteer donations of time/sweat equity.

Road, sewer, and right-of-way improvements may receive funding through the CDBG program, which may be supplemented with other local, state, and/or federal funds through project partnerships.

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

The City of Alliance maintains parks and recreation facilities that may be maintained, repaired, or modernized in order to increase the livability and sustainability of particular neighborhoods.

Publicly owned land (roads, rights-of-way, sidewalks) may be improved above and below the surface to remedy infrastructure priorities and to improve public access, safety, and disability accessibility.

The Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) may hold vacant parcels and/or vacant buildings in Alliance. Vacant parcels may be sold or become part of the Side Lot Disposition Program. Properties with buildings may be rehabilitated or demolished, after a case-by-case analysis, in order to improve the sustainability of housing in particular neighborhoods.

**Discussion**

Contingency Statement

On April 15, 2019, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding allocations. In FY 2018 the City of Alliance received HUD CDBG funding in the amount of \$599,873.00. The City's FY 2019 allocation was anticipated to be the same. Based on HUD's CDBG formulas for allocations, the City of Alliance is set to receive \$600,083.00. This is an increase of \$210.00 that will be allocated to the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

## SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure - 91.415, 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
City of Alliance	Government	Economic Development Homelessness Non-homeless special needs Ownership Planning neighborhood improvements public facilities public services	Jurisdiction
Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness	Other
Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation	Regional organization	Ownership Planning	Other
Stark County Regional Planning Commission	Government	Ownership Planning	Other
Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority	PHA	Public Housing	Other
lending institutions	Private Industry	Economic Development Ownership Rental	Other
public service providers	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness public services	Jurisdiction

**Table 15 - Institutional Delivery Structure**

### Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

As stated in the HUD Desk Guide instructions, the entries in **Table 15** represent the lead agency and other entities that will have a major role in administering funding activities currently and potentially during the next five years, rather than a list of all potential sub-recipients that might occur over time.

The institutional structure through which the City of Alliance carries out its affordable and supportive housing strategy consists of public sector agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector.

The City has qualified partners capable of carrying out their activities. There are no major gaps in the institutional delivery system.

Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is the lead jurisdiction in the HOME Consortium that includes Stark County, Massillon, and Alliance. SCRPC has noted in their FY 2019-2023 Five-Year HUD Consolidated Plan the following strengths in the institutional delivery system:

SCRPC has a strong history of administration of the CDBG and HOME Consortium programs, utilizing this agency, as well as other public and private agencies, including Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's).

Stark County has many strengths in its service delivery system. Stark County has a coordinated Intake process in place through the Homeless Hotline with a strong partnership between the Hotline and United Way's 2-1-1 call center. Participants are referred between two call centers based upon need and eligibility for Homeless Services. The hotline is managed by the same staff that run the County's HMIS. This direct connection makes collecting data from callers increasingly beneficial for running reports and tracking trends based upon data. All CoC and ESG funded programs complete the Hotline's "HMIS Intake form" when participants enter their program which serves as a direct cross reference to the HMIS Intake form completed by the Hotline. The hotline operates 24 hours/day and maintains a current listing of available shelter beds. The Hotline also includes an assessment tool in which special service needs are identified and more appropriate referrals are given.

Stark County has in place a Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Policy that applies to all programs that utilize HOME funds in the Consortium. This policy states that the Consortium will not undertake activities that will cause the relocation or displacement of families, individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations or farms. The policy further states that if a displacement or relocation does occur, then the Consortium will prepare an optional relocation plan that will apply to the project and be in conformance with HUD standards and the Uniform Relocation Act.

Stark County also has a Fair Housing Department (SCFHD), which covers all of Stark County except Canton and Massillon (does contract with Alliance to administer their program). The SCFHD provides a variety of services affecting the protected classes, including: counseling in the landlord-tenant law, referrals to other appropriate agencies, and mediation services. The SCFHD receives up to 200 phone calls a month on various issues affecting the rights and responsibilities of both tenants and landlords.

**Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services**

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
<b>Homelessness Prevention Services</b>			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	X
Legal Assistance	X	X	X
Mortgage Assistance	X	X	X
Rental Assistance	X	X	X
Utilities Assistance	X	X	X
<b>Street Outreach Services</b>			
Law Enforcement	X		
Mobile Clinics	X	X	X
Other Street Outreach Services	X	X	X
<b>Supportive Services</b>			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	X
Child Care	X	X	X
Education	X	X	X
Employment and Employment Training	X	X	X
Healthcare	X	X	X
HIV/AIDS	X	X	X
Life Skills	X	X	X
Mental Health Counseling	X	X	X
Transportation	X	X	X
<b>Other</b>			

**Table 16 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary**

**Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)**

In **Table 16**, “Available in the Community,” “Targeted to Homeless,” and “Targeted to People with HIV” have been answered based on a countywide response, rather than a response for a single jurisdiction.

The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County serves all communities in Stark County. The CoC coordinates a network of public, private, and non-profit agencies that facilitate and/or provide, either directly or indirectly, assisted housing, health services, and/or social services to persons in Stark County who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, unaccompanied youth, and persons with HIV.

SCRPC provided additional information in their FY 2019-2023 Five-Year HUD Consolidated Plan concerning the extent of service availability:

The CoC network of partners provides an array of housing from shelter to permanent supportive housing (PSH). Persons who are homeless, at imminent risk of homelessness, and/or victims of domestic violence are served by shelters, rapid re-housing, and transitional housing programs. Homeless persons and victims of domestic violence are also served by PSH programs.

The wrap-around service model with individualized plans focuses on specific needs and issues on a person-by-person basis. Services emphasize both issues identified as contributing to homelessness and to enabling skill development and education in order to improve self-sufficiency. For example, mental health providers offer counseling, group work, and crisis intervention. The education system provides services to school age children, as well as adults working toward skill development and employability. Childcare providers enable parents to work and/or go to school. The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority provides scheduled bus service, along with door-to-door service for persons with physical disabilities.

**Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above**

SCRPC provided additional information in their FY 2019-2023 Five-Year HUD Consolidated Plan concerning the strengths and gaps in the service delivery system:

Stark County has many strengths in its service delivery system. Stark County has a coordinated Intake process in place through the Homeless Hotline with a strong partnership between the Hotline and United Way's 2-1-1 call center. Clients are referred between two call centers based upon need and eligibility for Homeless Services. The hotline is managed by the same staff that run the County's HMIS. This direct connection makes collecting data from callers increasingly beneficial for running reports and tracking trends based upon data. All CoC, ESG and HCRP funded programs complete the Hotline's "HMIS Intake form" when clients enter their program which serves as a direct cross reference to the HMIS Intake form completed by the Hotline. The hotline operates 24 hours/7 days a week and maintains a current listing of available shelter beds. The Hotline was recently expanded to include an assessment tool in which special service needs are identified and more appropriate referrals are given.

United Way's 2-1-1, SCJFS, and StarkMHAR refer all homeless, or persons at-risk of homelessness to the Homeless Hotline for an initial assessment of needs. All CoC and ESG funded programs offer assistance with, or direct linkage to, other agencies that offer support services such as rental, utility and legal assistance, as well as counseling, mental health and drug/alcohol abuse case management, life skills, financial management and employment training.

Representatives from most of the services listed in the table are part of the CoC, and many participate in the HSC. Through the meetings of both groups, providers and stakeholders raise common concerns, consider how to assist each other with their clients' needs, and brainstorm possible solutions. The HSC provides ongoing training through guest speakers from mainstream and non-homeless specific services which are of benefit to homeless persons.

Identified gaps include the need for more affordable rental housing, more subsidized housing, more special needs housing, more homeless-related housing (to help reduce the different waiting lists), and mental health services for persons who are not at the more severe levels of dysfunction or who have stabilized and then are graduated out of case management thereby becoming vulnerable to relapse. The HCCSC is working on a closer relationship with law enforcement, education and employment/employment training programs in order to target services specifically towards homeless persons. While there are limited services in the following areas, services need to be increased for: healthcare including non-traditional delivery sites, child care that is not restricted to TANF regulations, and greater county-wide transportation. These issues will be raised at the CoC meetings to heighten awareness and to foster collaboration.

The CoC has determined that there is a need for stronger collaboration with all agencies providing homeless prevention services and their funders. Early identification of root causes of homelessness will help connect clients to all necessary resources and decrease the occurrences of repeat calls for prevention or homeless services assistance shortly after receiving emergency assistance through the Emergency Assistance Collaborative. There is also an identified need to more quickly transition people from PSH to affordable housing as part of a carefully coordinated move-on program.

**Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs**

SCRPC provided additional information in their FY 2019-2023 Five-Year HUD Consolidated Plan concerning strategies for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system:

**Institutional Structure of Service and Housing Delivery System.** The Stark Housing Network (SHNI) is the collaborative applicant for the Continuum of Care (CoC), and provides staffing, guidance and leadership for the CoC. The CoC serves as the entity that promotes community-wide commitment to employ best practices to end homelessness in Stark County. The SHNI assists in securing funding to prevent homelessness, and to rapidly re-house the homeless. The SHNI attends meetings of the various committees of the CoC; serves as the primary liaison among providers, CoC members, and mainstream providers; facilitates communications; and disseminates information to CoC committees, the CoC Executive Board, and to service providers.

The CoC has various committees and sub-committees that assume responsibilities for the various tasks assigned under the HEARTH Act. For example: the System Performance and Planning Committee oversee an annual gaps analysis; the Coordinated Entry Committee works on expanding our coordinated entry system for the county; the Youth and Veterans Sub-Committees are focused on raising awareness and increasing availability of housing options for veterans and youth.

**Strategy for Overcoming Gaps:** The System Performance Committee has developed sub-committees of providers and others to target specific gaps such as increasing employment and youth homelessness. The work of the sub-committees provides valuable insight on needs and challenges faced by providers.

SCRPC and the CoC work proactively to identify new sources of funding to expand services and/or to address a specific gap, and collaborate on securing identified funds. The CoC offers support to agencies that are either expanding their services or successfully partnering with other agencies to include the types of services identified above through their programs through support letters and higher scoring on the CoC priority listing.

**SP-45 Goals - 91.415, 91.215(a)(4)**

**Goals Summary Information**

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	Target Areas 1 through 4	Affordable Housing Non-Homeless Persons with Special Needs Public Housing	CDBG: \$750,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 40 Household Housing Unit
2	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	Target Areas 1 through 4  Citywide	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$925,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5000 Persons Assisted  Buildings Demolished: 20 Buildings  Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 1000 Household Housing Unit
3	Provide Needed Public Services	2019	2023	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Non-Homeless Persons with Special Needs	CDBG: \$325,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 7500 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Increase Economic Opportunities	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	Target Areas 1 through 4 Citywide	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$275,000	Other: 250 Other
5	Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness	2019	2023	Homeless	Citywide	Homelessness	CDBG: \$125,000	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 30 Persons Assisted  Homelessness Prevention: 100 Persons Assisted
6	Planning and Administration	2019	2023	Planning and Administration	Target Areas 1 through 4 Citywide	Affordable Housing Homelessness Non-Homeless Persons with Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$600,000	Other: 5 Other

**Table 17 – Goals Summary**

## Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City will administer projects to improve the physical condition, health, and safety of residential neighborhoods with activities such as housing rehabilitation.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City will administer activities to improve the physical condition, health, and safety of residential neighborhoods with projects such as improvements to rights-of-way, water and/or sewer lines, and/or public facilities; and building code enforcement. The City will fund activities to demolish abandoned, blighted buildings, as well as buildings that must be demolished due to emergency situations, such as fire damage.
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Provide Needed Public Services
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City will focus on public service activities that maintain and improve neighborhood and household stability, such as - but not limited to - programs related to children, youth, and senior citizens, as well as health and employment. The City will also provide fair housing services for landlords and tenants. The City contracts with the Stark County Fair Housing Department for the implementation of fair housing activities in Alliance.
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Increase Economic Opportunities
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City will provide code enforcement administration for commercial buildings. Note: Commercial building code enforcement activity is listed in Line 23 of Goal Outcome Indicator (inspections).
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City will assist Alliance residents (individuals and families) experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness by funding activities and/or projects that will be administered by the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County.
6	<b>Goal Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City will utilize CDBG funding for administrative activities, including the overall management, coordination, reporting, and record-keeping requirements of the CDBG program. The City will also utilize CDBG funding for the provision of fair housing services and activities.

### **Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)**

It is estimated that the City of Alliance, administered through the HOME Consortium in Stark County, will assist the following number of extremely low-income, low-income, and/or moderate-income households with housing rehabilitation activities: 4 households annually (20 households over five years).

## **SP-65 Lead-based Paint Hazards - 91.415, 91.215(i)**

### **Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards**

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is one of the primary points of contact in Alliance for issues concerning lead-based paint hazards. ODH, through the Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, provides public health lead investigations, case management, local program funding, education, and lead data. The program addresses the needs of lead-poisoned children from birth through six years (72 months) of age. The program assists family members, medical care providers and other community members to reduce and prevent lead poisoning. The program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for childhood lead poisoning prevention efforts in Ohio.

### **How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?**

The age and condition of the housing stock in Alliance is a matter of concern regarding lead-based paint. Most homes built before 1960 contain lead-based paint. According to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, about 65% of the housing stock in Alliance was constructed in 1959 or earlier. In addition, because much of the housing stock is in need of repair, peeling and chipping paint, as well as paint dust, pose a hazard.

To help identify lead paint exposure in children as early as possible, ODH established High Risk Zip Codes. Twenty-one predictive variables were included in the final statistical model, describing housing environment, socio-economic factors, demographic characteristics, housing density, and population density. The Alliance zip code, 44601, is one of the zip codes identified statewide. In a High Risk Zip Code, Ohio law requires blood testing of all children at the ages of one and two for the presence of lead.

For the combined years 2016 and 2017, ODH data showed that 2.81% of all children tested statewide had a blood lead level of 5ug/dl or higher. The rate in Alliance was almost three times higher, at 7.86% (117 of 1,489 children tested).

### **How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?**

Integrating the lead-based paint issue into housing programs occurs several ways. The ODH lead program has funding to remove lead paint hazards from homes built before 1978. This program is available statewide, with the goal to help protect families with Medicaid eligible children and/or Medicaid eligible pregnant women against the dangers of lead paint hazards.

As part of its housing rehabilitation program, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) complies with HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rule. The SCRPC utilizes a Housing Rehabilitation Program Guideline Manual for all housing rehabilitation projects using CDBG or HOME funds, including projects

that occur in Alliance. The manual includes a section regarding lead-based paint that requires a visual inspection for lead paint on all homes built prior to 1978. To be eligible for program funding, the property must be brought up to Residential Rehab Standards. Peeling paint must be included in the work write-up and corrected. SCRPC requires contractors to be licensed in the State of Ohio to address lead-based paint hazards. Once work is completed, a certified lead inspector tests and analyzes the work area and issues a lead clearance. If a unit does not pass inspection, it must be re-cleaned and re-tested until it does pass.

SCRPC also distributes to clients an Environmental Protection Agency brochure on lead-based paint. Created for residents and contractors, the brochure discusses types of lead-based paint hazards and how to improve home safety.

## **SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy - 91.415, 91.215(j)**

### **Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families**

“Poverty level” is defined as an annual income level, adjusted for family size and number of children. In 2019, a 1-person household is considered in poverty if annual income is below \$12,490; a 3-person family is considered in poverty if annual income is below \$21,330 (<https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>)

With such a low level of income, the method to reduce the number of families living below the poverty line is to create additional employment opportunities.

Partnering with other agencies and governments, Alliance has the opportunity to use, or combine, various funding programs for job creation and retention projects, such as CDBG funds from HUD, State of Ohio programs, county funds, private sector financing, and private sector equity. The sources of funds often vary based upon the type, size, and location of the project. Projects can range from large investments with regional impact down to small projects that help revitalize local retail or industrial space and employment in an immediate area.

#### **Education and Training**

A prerequisite for a higher paying job to move families above the poverty level is appropriate education and/or job training. Within the Stark County area there are numerous organizations that provide education, vocational training, and job training, such as Alliance Career Center, Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio, Inc., Kent State University (main campus and Stark campus), OhioMeansJobs – Stark and Tuscarawas Counties (OMJ), and Stark State College.

These entities are described in more detail in MA-45 – Non-Housing Community Development Assets.

The City of Alliance provides public service agencies with funding to increase education services and job and life skill training programs. Through this funding, the City addresses a priority need to establish a skilled workforce with laborers and technical workers to increase economic opportunity for both workers and business owners.

#### **Financial Literacy**

Increasing the ability of low- and moderate-income families to maximize their income is important. A number of local organizations work to improve citizen’s financial literacy and money management skills, as well as inform residents of the Earned Income Tax Credit, a refundable federal income tax credit for low- to moderate-income working households.

## **Public Transportation**

Alliance and other jurisdictions work with the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS), to maintain and increase the supply of convenient, accessible public transportation options essential for people to obtain and retain employment and access educational and training opportunities.

## **How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan**

The City of Alliance has the opportunity to use combinations of its HUD-related funding, State of Ohio funding, local public funds and programs, along with philanthropic and private sector dollars, to provide affordable housing programs to reduce housing cost burden, which is frequent among households whose income is near the poverty line. For example, rehabilitation work, weatherization programs, and utility discounts based on household income reduce overall housing costs and result in having more money for other necessities or to help pay toward educational programs or training.

Administratively, the City enforces applicable federal regulations that create economic opportunity and sustain a living wage, such as Davis-Bacon, minority and women business equal opportunity compliance, and Section 3 of the National Affordable Housing Act. Section 3 sets goals for the participation of qualified low- and moderate-income businesses and workers for HUD-funded construction projects.

More broadly, the City participates in regional efforts that strive to prevent or reduce poverty. The Strengthening Stark report was developed by Stark Community Foundation on behalf of the Stark Civic Group, an informal group of leaders representing all sectors of Stark County. The report examined the demographic and economic trends and projections of Stark County, and the Stark Economic Development Board (SEDB) was asked to lead the creation of a countywide plan. The Strengthening Stark Economic Competitiveness Plan consists of 7 focus areas and 28 initiatives, aimed at transforming Stark County from a smaller, older and poorer community into a larger, younger and more prosperous community. Anti-poverty strategy focus areas include Workforce Talent, Business Growth, Targeted Industry Development, and Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Alliance is also involved in another regional effort, the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium. Objectives in the NEOSCC report, Vibrant NEO 2040, include promoting investment in established communities, developing the regional economy with accessible employment opportunities, and enhancing the regional transportation network.

## **SP-80 Monitoring - 91.230**

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

The City of Alliance's Monitoring Plan is a mechanism to review performance over time and evaluate compliance of sub-recipients receiving CDBG funds with applicable laws and regulations.

Programs and projects have direct oversight by the City of Alliance. Compliance with federal guidelines, achievement of goals and objectives, and data collection is the responsibility of the Department of Planning and Development. Sub-recipients and the City of Alliance sign contracts concerning the implementation of activities, and the document specifies the responsibilities of all parties.

To ensure funds are expended in a timely manner for the CDBG program, the City: 1) considers sub-recipient capacity relative to the proposed activity to assess timely activity completion; 2) Incorporates project mile stones and drawdown schedules into sub-recipient contracts; and 3) works with sub-recipients to take corrective measures if activities are not being implemented in a timely manner.

Activities are monitored on an ongoing basis. Sub-recipients report monthly how CDBG funds were expended and how many clients benefited from the use of the funds. The Planning and Development Department releases funding after verification that the expenditure meets CDBG program and sub-recipient contract requirements. Informal and formal monitoring visits are conducted by the Department of Planning and Development. Performance of all funded agencies is reviewed on an annual basis.

The Monitoring Plan also allows the Planning and Development Department to provide technical assistance to help sub-recipients comply with applicable laws and regulations, improve technical skills, and remain current on relevant CDBG regulations. Additionally, monitoring helps to highlight accomplishments and best practices.

Each Annual Action Plan is also reviewed as part of the City's annual Community Development Block Grant citizen participation process. Citizens are also provided the opportunity to comment on the City's Comprehensive Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) in conjunction with the City's annual Community Development Block Grant program performance.

In terms of minority business outreach, Alliance has equal opportunity programs in place related to both public purchasing and contracts. In addition, Alliance encourages minority-owned businesses to become

registered contractors, as well as seeks qualified minority-owned businesses as applicants for various programs.

In terms of ongoing comprehensive planning, Alliance is a member of the HOME Program consortium that also includes Stark County and Massillon. Alliance can work with agencies such as the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation, and the Stark Economic Development Board for research on community development needs and issues, as well as development of data reports.