

## CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

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

**Priority Goal 1: Increase Affordable Housing:** Currently, the City has made progress in carrying out this portion of the strategic plan and continue to work towards meeting the identified five-year goal by providing safe and decent affordable housing through the owner-occupied housing rehab program. In FY-2023 CDBG funds were used to complete 4 full rehabs and 9 emergency housing rehabs.

**Priority Goal 2: Improve Living Conditions of Distressed Neighborhoods:** The City's Code Enforcement Administrator continues to work on property maintenance issues throughout the community. Target areas were developed by the City for the housing rehabilitation program. These are in areas with the greatest amount of low to moderate individuals. The City's housing strategy includes elimination of the most blighted structures in the target areas beginning with achievable goals for the homeowners and building on those successes.

**Priority Goal 3: Fair Housing Education and Outreach:** The City of Alliance funded activities, programs, and public marketing that raised awareness and knowledge of fair housing rights. The City established an Affirmative Marketing Policy in which the staff monitors its progress. The Fair Housing office continued to accomplish the goal of fair housing education and outreach by sponsoring training, presentations, and workshops. In addition, the staff continued to counsel tenants, landlords, students, and representatives from social service agencies to increase their knowledge on the fair housing and landlord-tenant laws.

**Priority Goal 4: Create and Preserve Economic Opportunities:** Several programs continued to be sponsored by the City through its CDBG program that work towards creating and preserving Economic Opportunities. The YWCA assists dislocated workers with transportation and other assistance; the Educational Services project at the Domestic Violence Shelter works with victims through outreach programs which offer counseling, GED preparation training, and lifestyle classes including financial literacy, employment training and how to disengage from the cycle of long-term abuse.

**Priority Goal 5: Strengthen Neighborhoods:** Full and emergency rehabilitations provided safe, affordable, and decent living conditions for low to moderate income households within the City's specified target areas. The HOME Program brought qualified home owners into code enforcement compliance in the target area. Demolitions, tree removal and greening of the lots have reduced the number of blighted structures and raised property values of contiguous structures.

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

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

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	40	32	80.00%	8	0	0.00%
Increase Economic Opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	250	248	99.20%	15	0	0.00%
Planning and Administration	Planning and Administration	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0				
Planning and Administration	Planning and Administration	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	5	6	120.00%	1	0	0.00%
Provide Needed Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	7500	1069	14.25%	500	0	0.00%

Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	30	110	366.67%	25	0	0.00%
Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	100	0	0.00%			
Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5000	845	16.90%	15	0	0.00%
Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	16		0	1	
Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	20	20	100.00%	7	0	0.00%
Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	1000	1344	134.40%	200	0	0.00%

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

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

To date, there have been no changes to program objectives in the planning and administration of the City of Alliance’s Consolidated Plan and

CDBG program. The City will continue to provide decent housing, safe living environments and help provide job assistance for low to moderate income individuals. Alliance will continue to find ways to increase awareness of the issues and programs that are offered to serve the needy as it begins focusing on a more aggressive public participation program.

The Domestic Violence Shelter located within the City of Alliance has assisted victims of domestic violence and their families who may find themselves without a place of residence, funds, and the skills necessary to change their lives for the better. Also, the City of Alliance has provided required employment materials and shelter through the YWCA Employment Assistance Program and transitional housing.

## CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	9,184
Black or African American	2,056
Asian	4
American Indian or American Native	60
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,304</b>
Hispanic	25
Not Hispanic	1,725

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

### Narrative

The tracking of client racial and ethnic data is reported to the City of Alliance by CDBG subrecipients via monitoring. Data is reported to City administration monthly, quarterly, and yearly.

## CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

### Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	632,148	

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

### Narrative

The total amount of HUD CDBG funding allocated during FY-2023 was \$632,148.00. CDBG revenue and program income information can also be found in the Revenue/Program Income Report, located in the Appendix.

The City of Alliance has developed priority areas for allocation of CDBG funds. The rationale for the creation of the boundaries was based on the percentage of low to moderate income individuals in each area, the age and condition of housing structures and the age and condition of the public infrastructure. The goal was to coordinate funds into planned areas to match housing rehabilitation with street improvements in an effort to build viable neighborhoods. Recipients of CDBG funds should provide benefits to residents of at least one of the four priority/target areas in the City of Alliance.

Applications from subrecipients are scored on a diversity of measures and assigned numerical values. If the project is not located in one of the priority areas, it receives a zero in the geographic location category. The City of Alliance would estimate that approximately 80 percent of CDBG funds will be dedicated to the target areas. The remaining balance, but not more than the 20% of the cap, will be used for administrative purposes.

### Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Citywide	80	20	Administration
Target Areas 1 through 4	20	80	Target Areas

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

### Narrative

The majority of the City's minority and low-income households are clustered in the priority or target areas. Some of the individual census tracts in these target areas exceed the 75 percent low to moderate income levels. All CDBG funding received for FY-2023 is used in the designated target areas. Funding was not broken down by percentages for the individual areas because all of the designated areas qualify.

**Target Area 1:** Target Area Number 1 is a 73 percent low to moderate income area which is bound on the north by East Broadway Street, on the south by South Street, on the west by South Union Avenue and on the east by Mahoning Avenue. Census Tracts 7104 and 7105 are the foundations of this target area. Projects in this target area receive 20 points.

**Target Area 2:** Target Area Number 2 is a 65 percent low to moderate income area which is bound on the north by a rail line, on the south by East Broadway Street, on the west by East Union and on the east by Mahoning Avenue. Census Tracts 7014 and 7105 are the foundations of this target area. Projects in this target area receive 15 points.

**Target Area 3:** Target Area Number 3 is a 86 percent low to moderate income area which is bound on the north by Vine Street and the City border, on the south by a rail line, on the west by North Union Avenue and on the east by Mahoning Avenue. This target area is the eastern section of Census Tract 7102. Projects in this target area receive 10 points.

**Target Area 4:** Target Area Number 4 is a 46 percent low to moderate income area which is bound on the north by West Vine Street, on the south by West Main Street, on the west by Klinger Avenue and Lexington Township and on the east by North Union Avenue. This target area is the central and western portion of Census Tract 7102. Projects in this target area receive 5 points.

## Leveraging

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

The City of Alliance utilizes CDBG entitlement funds which it receives directly from HUD and HOME funding, made possible through participation in the Stark County Consortium. To ensure that the projects funded with CDBG funds are eligible, the project applications are ranked and scored on a variety of topics. One of those topics is the availability of matching/leveraging funds.

Federal CDBG resources from HUD permitted local non-profit organizations and other service providers to leverage with other public and private partners to better utilize a variety of federal, state and local funding to carry out their activities can be seen as follows:

**Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter**- Locally committed \$3,788.00 non-local committed \$15,153.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$0.00.

**Alliance Community Pantry** – Locally committed \$0.00; non-local committed \$0.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$0.00.

**YWCA of Alliance Navigators Program** – Locally committed \$63,000.00; non-local committed \$64,900.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$64,900.00.

**YWCA of Alliance Employment Program** - Locally committed \$6,000.00; non-local committed \$1,500.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$10,952.00.

**SPARK Alliance** –Locally committed \$77,500.00; non-local committed \$73,884.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$77,500.00.

**Stark County CoC** – Locally committed \$9,488.96; non-local committed \$189,523.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$30,000.00.

**Beacon Charitable Pharmacy** – Locally committed \$30,000.00; non-local committed \$4,000.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded with the United Way of Greater Stark County.

**Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity 3 Homes** – Locally committed \$102,296.00; non-local committed \$27,000.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$130,000.00.

**Family Empowerment Ministries** – Locally committed \$0.00; non-local committed \$0.00; Additional funding applied for \$0.00.

**Tri-County Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates** – Locally committed \$30,000.00; non-local committed \$20,000.00; Additional funding applied for \$14,077.00.

**StarkFresh Mobile Grocery Market** – Locally committed \$32,500.00; non-local committed \$10,000.00; Additional funding applied for \$40,000.00.

## CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	0	13
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

**Preserving existing housing stock (single family home repair);** During FY-2023 CDBG funds were used to help with the construction of two permanent affordable houses for a low to moderate income family. Activities that were supported with CDBG funds included the rehabilitation of owner-occupied single-family housing of low to moderate income individuals. The three major goals and objectives of the program are: neighborhood revitalization, decent, safe, and sanitary housing, and being in compliance with the property maintenance code of Alliance. Improvements to low to moderate neighborhoods continue to be made that will result in the provision of quality affordable housing as homeowners take more pride and interest in their properties and surroundings. Rehabs included six homes in Priority Target Area 1, one home in Priority Target Area 3, one home in Priority Target Area 4, three homes within census tract 7105, one home within census tract 7106, one home within census tract 7107, and the demolition of vacant and abandoned blighted properties.

**Rehabilitation Relocation Assistance Programming:** For the FY-2023 program, relocation was not being funded, impacting progress towards this goal. The City currently has more than adequate affordable housing stock and will work toward preserving existing housing stock (single family home repair).

**Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.**

**Preserve Existing Housing Stock (Single Family Home Repair):** The single-family rehab program not only assists low to moderate families with maintaining affordable housing but also works to improve the conditions of the housing stock for all of Alliance’s residents. Future Annual Action Plans will provide updates on program changes that are currently in development. The City of Alliance Department of Planning and Development has maximized all available funding for the benefit of low to moderate income individuals and has worked to increase the supply of, or access to, affordable housing. The affordable housing activity assisted thirteen families with the Single-Family Emergency Home Rehabilitation and Repair Program. Homebuyer Assistance and Multifamily Housing Programs are on the horizon to be developed into active programs.

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

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	2	0
Low-income	10	0
Moderate-income	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 7 – Number of Households Served**

**Narrative Information**

**Rehab:** CDBG and HOME funds are being used for the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab Program for qualifying single-family residents. The (CRA) Community Reinvestment Area enables property owners to rehab or build additions to existing units without real estate taxes increasing. The three main goals and objectives of the program are neighborhood revitalization, decent, safe, and sanitary housing and remaining in compliance with the property maintenance codes for the City of Alliance.

**Housing:** The Alliance Domestic Violence Shelter provided affordable, safe, transitional housing to low to moderate income residents suffering from acts of domestic violence.

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

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

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

The City of Alliance has a domestic violence shelter for those in need. The domestic violence shelter has been in operation since January 1989 and in FY-2023 \$11,500.00 in CDBG funds were allocated to the shelter. During the period from 7/1/23 to 6/30/24, there were 334 men, women and children were served. Often, the shelter can reduce the impact of possible temporary housing displacement for many individuals in the City and surrounding areas by providing them with multiple nights of shelter.

Homeless activities for the City of Alliance and Stark County are handled through the Continuum of Care (CoC). The CoC is housed at the Stark County Resource Planning Commission (SCRPC) in Canton.

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

The City of Alliance is a member of the Stark County Interagency Council on Homelessness. Its purpose is to develop and implement strategies and solutions to address the problem of homelessness and include the development of supportive housing options. Goals are to prevent and end chronic homelessness in Stark County, ensure a coordinated safety net of emergency services for those in short term housing crisis and coordinate and consolidate local efforts to provide a cost effective and streamlined system for addressing homelessness.

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

The City of Alliance continues to watch for opportunities for establishing activities that promote job training, education programs and homeless services that offer transportation, expanded outreach, and shelter. In FY-2023, the City continued to support agencies such as the YWCA to provide low to moderate income individuals with job training and education and to provide other homeless services programs. The City's

Department of Planning & Development will continue to support and partner with organizations that provide education, job training and placement, supported employment, transportation, and day shelter for persons with and without disabilities.

**Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again**

The City's Mayor attended meetings for the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) interagency council. This membership allowed the Mayor to assist in the creation of innovative strategies and solutions to address the problem of homelessness and the development of supportive housing options. The HCCSC's goals are to prevent and end chronic homelessness in Stark County, to ensure a coordinated safety net of emergency services for individuals in short term and chronic housing crisis, and to coordinate and consolidate local efforts to provide a cost effective and streamlined system for addressing homelessness. With each meeting the City comes closer to the end goal as the Mayor stays informed on the topics of homelessness and housing opportunities for at risk Alliance residents. Working with subrecipients, the City is in a position to help minimize the trauma and dislocation that homelessness causes to individuals, families, and communities.

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

### **Actions taken to address the needs of public housing**

The City of Alliance Administration and Planning and Development Department does not operate a public housing program. This is operated by the Stark County Metropolitan Housing Authority.

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

The City of Alliance CDBG Program does not operate the local public housing program and its resident's initiatives. This is administered by the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA), the local public housing authority.

### **Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs**

The Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority has not been designated as a troubled PHA.

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

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

The City of Alliance's Code Enforcement Administrator attends the Zoning Inspectors Task Force meetings. This is a group comprised of local zoning inspectors, code enforcement officials and housing specialists. These individuals have been educated on how the effects of zoning ordinances may affect fair housing in a negative manner. City of Alliance representatives have made presentations to the Zoning Inspectors Task Force.

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

All of the objectives set forth in the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans are designed to address the needs of the underserved in the City of Alliance. Actions can be identified with both the City's and the sub recipients CDBG activities which include housing rehabilitation (both CDBG & HOME) which assist homeowners in improving their homes by making them safe, sanitary, and cost effective. The CDBG funds provided to the City's subrecipients provide public services that are geared toward low to moderate income residents within the City of Alliance.

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

The age and condition of the housing stock in the City of Alliance is a matter of concern in regard to lead-based paint. Most homes built before 1980 are at risk of lead contamination. Because of age and the poor condition of the housing stock, the City of Alliance Health Department conducts environmental assessments on all children reported with elevated blood lead levels in the City of Alliance. This program is coordinated with the nursing division of the Health Department. The nurses conduct home visits to assess the environment. During the visits they provide information for preventative measures regarding proper cleaning of surfaces or abatement procedures and other helpful information to assist in lowering exposure to lead. The Health Department has educational information available to the clients that they serve and to the public.

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

In order to reduce the number of poverty level families within the City of Alliance, the YWCA Employment Assistance Program helps low to moderate income women by eliminating barriers to work through aid with transportation, clothing, personal care and other work-related items.

In FY-2023, the program assisted four women of which two were White, two were Black or African American.

In FY-2023 the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter provided outreach and educational services to victims of domestic violence. The total number of recipients assisted was 334. Of the recipients' assisted, 180 were White, ninety-five were Black or African American, forty-four were Black or African American & White, three were Hispanic or Latino two were Asian, and two were Asian & White. The Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter is an advocate to those who fear homelessness and the ability to start or maintain employment. This program is necessary to reduce the number of poverty-level families.

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

The City of Alliance works directly with City departments, County and State agencies, local business partners, public service agencies and faith-based organizations to carry out the objectives in the strategic plan. Below is the list of institutional structures that the City collaborates with:

- The Homeless CoC of Stark County
- The Stark County Regional Planning Commission
- The Planning & Development Committee
- Alliance for Children & Families
- The Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter
- Beacon Pharmacy
- The YWCA of Alliance
- Ohio Means Jobs
- Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- SARTA
- The Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce
- Ohio Housing Finance Agency
- The Alliance Mission Encounter
- Hammer & Nails
- StarkFresh Mobile Grocery

The City of Alliance's Mayor has been an active member of the Homeless CoC of Stark County for many years. The Homeless CoC of Stark County

has been in operation since 2013. The Director of Planning & Development is on the Stark County Housing Network Board which is a part of the Homeless CoC of Stark County.

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

In the future, the City of Alliance and The Stark County Regional Planning Commission will look for efficient ways to acquire properties for low to moderate income family housing and minimize delays. This has been extremely difficult to achieve during the pandemic. Property transfers are slowed due to backups and shutdowns during COVID-19.

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

Please note the section on action plans and subsequent actions undertaken for the City of Alliance for the response to 91.520(a).

## **CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230**

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

Monitoring: Programs and projects have direct oversight by the Department of Planning and Development. Compliance with federal guidelines, achievement of goals and objectives and the collection of data is completed by the department.

To ensure compliance with timeliness for the CDBG program, the City of Alliance Department of Planning and Development followed these actions:

- Screening and selecting subrecipients and activities that will meet timeliness standards.
- Incorporating project milestones and drawdown schedules into subrecipient contracts.
- Implementing sanctions for untimely subrecipients.
- Reallocating funds for untimely subrecipients.

Funding provided to sub-recipients requires monthly-based activity monitoring forms. The activity monitoring forms must report how CDBG funds were expended and how many clients benefited from the use of these funds. The Planning and Development Department does not release funding until it is verified that the expenditure meets all requirements included in the contract including the budget line items between the City of Alliance and the sub-recipient. Monitoring visits with sub-recipients were conducted and no documentable concerns were noted.

The purpose of this monitoring plan is to provide an internal control mechanism to review performance over a period of time and to evaluate compliance of non-profit sub recipients funded with CDBG funds pursuant to 24 CFR 570.502, Applicability of uniform administrative requirement, (a) (14) and with 24 CFR Section 5, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to states and local governments, 24 CFR Section 85.40 “monitoring and reporting program performance”, and other laws and regulations based on the funding source.

The monitoring plan positions the City of Alliance Planning & Development Department to make informed judgments about sub recipient’s program effectiveness, efficiency, ability to prevent fraud, and waste and abuse of public funds. Monitoring also allows the City of Alliance to provide technical assistance to help sub recipients comply with applicable laws and regulations, improve technical skills, increase and stay updated on regulations relevant to CDBG or other funding agencies. Additionally, monitoring helps to identify deficiencies, and highlight

accomplishments and best practices that can be duplicated.

In addition, the Building Official completes inspections on work being done by contractors for homes for the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab Program. A "Work Progress Report "is completed for each inspection visit. Communication between the homeowner, contractor and inspector is key to achieving a successful rehab.

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

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

The public notice for the City of Alliance’s FY-2023 C.A.P.E.R. was published in the Alliance Review on September 16, 2024. A copy was made available at the Office of Planning and Development and online at the City’s website at Cityofalliance.com. For each formula grant program, the grantee shall identify the total amount of funds available (including estimated program income), the total amount of funds committed during the reporting period, the total amount expended during the reporting period, and the geographic distribution and location of expenditures. Jurisdictions are encouraged to include maps in describing the geographic distribution and location of investment (including areas of minority concentration). The geographic distribution and expenditure requirement may also be satisfied by specifying the census tracts where expenditures were concentrated.

**CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)**

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

The City of Alliance continues to review the reporting process for the subrecipients to ensure the most accurate demographic information.

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

No

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

**CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)**

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

The City of Alliance continues to review the reporting process for the subrecipients to ensure the most accurate demographic information.

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

No

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

**CR-58 – Section 3**

**Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided**

<b>Total Labor Hours</b>	<b>CDBG</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ESG</b>	<b>HOPWA</b>	<b>HTF</b>
Total Number of Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours					
Total Section 3 Worker Hours					
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours					

**Table 8 – Total Labor Hours**

<b>Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program</b>	<b>CDBG</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ESG</b>	<b>HOPWA</b>	<b>HTF</b>
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					

Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					
Other.					

**Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program**

**Narrative**

The City of Alliance does not have any projects awarded that would trigger Section 3 requirements.

Activity	Funds Committed	Funds Expended	Balance
Administration Planning & Development	\$126,429.60	\$81,460.43	\$44,969.17
Emergency Board Up	\$3,000.00	\$1,185.00	\$1,815.00
Housing Rehab & Repair	\$150,000.00	\$100,042.43	\$49,957.57
Code Enforcement Administration	\$110,000.00	\$89,180.95	\$20,819.05
Demolition	\$74,000.20	\$123,785.00	(\$49,784.80)
YWCA – Navigators After School	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$0.00
YWCA – Employment	\$7,322.20	\$7,322.20	\$0.00
ECEA – SPARK Alliance	\$14,500.00	\$14,500.00	\$0.00
Domestic Violence Shelter (AADVS)	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$0.00
Stark Fresh	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00
Historic Preservation Capacity Building	\$500.00	\$750.00	(\$250.00)
Beacon Charitable Pharmacy	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$0.00
Fair Housing	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Alliance Community Pantry	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Family Empowerment Ministries	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity - Project	\$44,000.00	\$44,000.00	\$0.00
Stark Fresh - Project	\$44,000.00	\$44,000.00	\$0.00
YWCA of Alliance - Project	\$18,500.00	\$16,296.62	\$2,203.38
Family Empowerment Ministries - Project	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$0.00
FY-2023 Totals	\$671,752.00	\$602,022.63	\$69,729.37

### FY-2023 Activity Funding Table

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

The overall purpose of the CAPER is to describe in detail all CDBG funded activities the City of Alliance undertook with FY-2023 funds for program year July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. It includes information on how the City addressed housing, homelessness, community, neighborhood public facilities, infrastructure, public social services, economic development, and elimination of slum, blight, and fair housing issues. Housing rehabilitation, public facility assistance and demolition are some of the specific projects that were funded. Public Services include support for organizations serving adult and youth education, prescription assistance, domestic violence affected families, homelessness, and employment assistance.

The City of Alliance is an entitlement community under the HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. As an entitlement community the City of Alliance’s Department of Planning and Development, is awarded annual funding allocations from the Federal government to fund selected activities to address the HUD National Objectives. In addition, Alliance is a member of the HOME Consortium with Stark County and the City of Massillon. Through this membership, the City collaborates with these local government entities to perform a variety of tasks, including the Consortium’s Consolidated Plan.

As a recipient of federal funds, the City of Alliance and the Consortium are required to submit to HUD each year an Annual Action Plan and at the conclusion of the year, a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. These reports define the work that was accomplished during the program year and the end results the City utilized to address the national objectives in a manner that will produce the greatest measurable impact on our community. This CAPER provides an in-depth explanation of the projects and organizations which worked towards fulfilling the goals of the FY-2023 year.

FY-2023 CDBG Program	
Funds Received	\$632,148.00
Program Income	\$ 0.00
<u>Recaptured Funds</u>	<u>\$ 39,604.00</u>
Total	\$671,752.00

## NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

**Housing Rehab** - The City of Alliance utilized \$150,000.00 in CDBG funding and additional funds from the HOME program to provide housing rehabilitation and emergency home repair through the Stark County Regional Planning Commission Housing Program.

**Program Accomplishments:** There were nine contracts signed for emergency repairs (CDBG Funds) through the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab Program totaling \$132,269.83. Stark Regional Planning Commission completed four projects using the HOME program in the amount of \$95,377.00. These emergency and fully rehabbed homes are now a sustainable structure for these families without the financial burden falling on their shoulders.

**Emergency Board Up** – In FY-2023, \$3,000.00 was allocated to the emergency board ups of doors, windows, and other access points of the vacant, abandoned structures in low to moderate income areas for the health and safety of the public.

**Program Accomplishments:** During FY-2023, the City boarded up four separate vacant, abandoned structures that were deemed unsafe by the City of Alliance Health Department and Police Department.

**Code Enforcement** - The City of Alliance utilized \$100,113.81 in CDBG funds for City wide code enforcement to assist with property maintenance and zoning code related problems.

The Planning and Development department continues to require a homeowner to clean up their property of clutter both indoor and outdoor prior to signing a contract for either a home rehab or repair loan. This regulation allows the City to use the CDBG grants as just another tool in promoting economic development and enhancing the aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight. The Vacant Property Ordinance and the enforcement of the cleanup standards of the housing rehabilitation guidelines are prime examples of the Code Enforcement department working in conjunction with the Department of Planning and Development to create and maintain the City's existing neighborhoods and promote sustainability.

**Program Accomplishments:** During the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, 1,012 properties were inspected. These inspections resulted in 405 grass violations and 607 violations for property maintenance issues. Twenty-seven properties were registered as vacant for FY-2023. During FY-23, most property owners that were cited complied with the local code while only eleven cases were turned over to the City of Alliance Law Director's Office, which were then resolved.

**Demolition Program** - The City of Alliance reserved \$74,000.00 in FY-2023 CDBG funds for the demolition of vacant, dilapidated structures that blight high priority neighborhoods.

**Program Accomplishments:** The demolition program for the City of Alliance is spearheaded by the Alliance City Health Department and the Department of Planning and Development. During FY-2023 the Alliance City Health Department condemned and demolished six properties in low/moderate areas of the City. At the present time, there are thirty-two condemned properties in the City.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES ACTIVITIES

**Family Empowerment Ministries** – The City of Alliance allocated \$6,500.00 to the Family Empowerment Ministries in FY-2023 (FEMI). This project will fund the replacement of all lights inside and outside the facility to LED fixtures and lamps, allowing the maximum energy efficiency and savings for organization. The cost savings from replacing these lights will save the organization over \$350.00 per month, allowing them to fund other projects that run out of the facility.

**Program Accomplishments:** The replacement of the lights to LED fixtures was completed and FEMI has begun to see savings in the cost of electricity. Some of the old lights on the outside of the building have been illuminated for safety and security of the building.

**Habitat for Humanity** – The City of Alliance allocated \$54,000 to the Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity in FY-2023. These funds will benefit two low to moderate income families. Of the \$54,000 that was originally allocated, \$32,000 was expensed, but the remaining \$22,000 will be recaptured in FY-2023. These funds were specifically allocated to assist low to moderate income families with critical home repairs. Unfortunately, Habitat was unable to complete any repairs during FY-2023 so the funds will be reallocated for future projects.

**Program Accomplishments:** The construction of two new homes during FY-2023 provides for an affordable and sustainable place for low to moderate income families. The allocation of \$32,000.00 helped to cover some of the material costs for constructing these new homes. With current-day pricing on materials and supplies, families find it difficult to afford day to day necessities, and these new houses provide a safe, stable living environment.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

**Alliance Community Food Pantry** – The City Alliance allocated \$9,500.00 to the Alliance Community Food Pantry. The Pantry strives to provide nutritional food choices for those who are in need and meet the requirements. The bulk of the food purchases are made through the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank, but due to the problems presented by COVID 19, including supply chain breakdown and higher prices, the anticipated cost of food is steadily increasing.

**Program Accomplishments:** During the FY-2023, the Alliance Community Pantry assisted 10,562 low to moderate income households consisting of 29,792 individuals. These households were made up of 6,066 seniors (over 60), 15,577 adults ages 18-59 and 8,149 children ages newborn to 17.

**Stark Fresh** – The City Alliance allocated \$9,000.00 to the Stark Fresh Mobile Grocery. Now in its eighth year, the Mobile Grocery Market brings a grocery store on wheels to low-income individuals living with mobility challenges. The Market travels through Stark County to provide affordable groceries to residents of senior complexes, public housing authority properties, public service centers, and neighborhoods where affordable healthy eating options are limited.

**Program Accomplishments:** During FY-2023, the Stark Fresh Mobile Grocery was a great success for the City of Alliance and its residents. Because of the achievements of the Mobile Grocery Market, Stark Fresh will be opening a permanent structure in the City to continue helping and supporting the low income seniors, public housing residents, public service centers and the neighborhoods where affordable, healthy foods are not readily available.

**Tri-County Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates** – The City Alliance allocated \$7,500.00 to Tri-County Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates (JOG). JOG will expand its dropout prevention/recovery services and career pathway programming for youth who are residents of Alliance. This program helps youth at risk of dropping out of high school, and those who have already done so, complete their education and successfully transition to employment at a livable wage or post-secondary job training.

**Program Accomplishments:** During FY-2023, JOG assisted over one hundred low-income households consisting of one hundred and four individuals. The funding provided allows for a full-time professional staff person to expand the opportunity to serve an additional thirty-five to forty young adults that are facing significant barriers to graduation. This program is open to any resident of the City of Alliance between the ages of fourteen and twenty-four years of age in need of a high school diploma.

**YWCA (Navigators) Program** - The City of Alliance allocated \$11,500.00 in CDBG funds for the Navigators After School Program. The Navigator program is for grades 6 through 8 and the Pilot program for grades 9 through 12. The mission of the after-school program is to provide enrichment activities which support the ideas and curriculum taught in the classroom. Students benefiting from the program are seen in grade promotions and improved social interactions with parents, friends, and community members. Services include transportation, snacks, academic intervention, homework assistance and enrichment activities that built youth assets and competency in support of academic and life success.

**Program Accomplishments:** The YWCA tracked the successes of sixty-one students in grades 6 through 8 who participated in the YWCA Navigators program. The YWCA Navigators program reported that all students assisted came from households that were low income. Of the children attending the program, eleven were black or African American, forty-two were white and eight were black or African American and white.

**YWCA (Employment) Program** - The City of Alliance allocated \$5,650.70 in CDBG funds for the Employment program. This activity is considered an effective program that meets the National Objectives for employment services. The services provided include fuel cards, bus passes, background checks, clothing, and other necessities for low to moderate income women that help to lessen the struggles that come between working and finances.

**Program Accomplishments:** During the program, it was reported that four individuals were assisted with transitional housing, gas cards, and bus passes. These tools helped to aid in employment and pre-employment transportation costs, assistance with specific work-related needs, and mentoring opportunities. One hundred percent of recipients in FY-2023 identified transportation as their greatest barrier to work and one hundred percent reported a recent crisis that impacted their income. Of the recipients, one hundred percent were female head of household. Of the individuals assisted, three were low income, and one was non-moderate to low income.

**Beacon Charitable Pharmacy** - The City of Alliance allocated \$11,500.00 in CDBG funds for Beacon Charitable Pharmacy. The program is considered effective in providing access to pharmacy services for low to moderate income Alliance residents. Beacon Charitable Pharmacy has provided access to pharmaceuticals for low to moderate income persons and families for twenty-one years and has operated a pharmacy for fourteen years.

**Program Accomplishments** –The Beacon Charitable Pharmacy program reported that 180 people were served. Of these individuals, twelve were of moderate income, 125 were low income and the remaining forty-three were extremely low income. The 180 individuals consisted of 150 white and thirty black or African American residents. A total of twenty-three households were female led.

**Domestic Violence Educational Services Project** - The City of Alliance allocated \$11,500.00 in CDBG funds to provide victims of domestic violence with emergency shelter as well as education, teacher-tutor, and abuse prevention community programs. The Education Services Coordinator assisted with child development, tutoring, and recreational activities. She acted as a liaison between shelter clients and the school systems. She held financial literacy classes and provided individual case management to assist clients with budgeting and reviewing their credit report and score. She represented the Shelter’s various events and implemented Teen Dating Violence Awareness Education at local schools and colleges. In addition, she assisted adults with finding and establishing employment as well as with assistance in obtaining a GED. This program is of high importance because it is an unduplicated program within the City of Alliance.

**Program Accomplishments:** During FY-2023, crisis counseling, support, information, and referrals were given through support calls. A total of 334 individuals from 139 households were assisted with 134 households being female led. The income information provided was that 208 people were extremely low, and one was of low income. The 334 individuals were made up of mostly white, black, or African American and black or African American and white.

**SPARK Alliance** – The City of Alliance allocated \$11,500.00 in CDBG funds to help three- and four-year-old children of low-income families prepare for kindergarten. Services offered to individuals and families include parent- partner meetings to assist in the enrollment of new students in kindergarten, home and group visits, developmental screenings, and various educational programs. When needed, the SPARK organization provides referrals to students’ families who show signs of learning disabilities. This is a service to the student and their families, so the learning process does not become a struggle later in the child’s education. Services are advertised through word of mouth and publications through the Alliance school system.

**Program Accomplishments:** A total of 2,140 children were assisted using FY-2023 CDBG funds. There were 246 students from moderate income households, 513 from low-income households, seventy from non-moderate households and 136 were extremely low income. Out of 2,140 individuals, 630 came from female led head of households. The individuals consist of 118 black or African American, 826 white, ninety-one black or African American and white and twenty-eight other mixed races.

**Stark County Mental Health** – During FY-2023 the City of Alliance allocated \$8,000.00 in CDBG funds to assist persons seeking assistance with housing and social service needs. This program has utilized a process for centralized intake and a coordinated assessment to assist in the support of rapid rehousing, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and other housing programs. Homeless Navigation Specialists gather data from callers who are homeless or precariously housed, providing them referral and service information. This program works with area agencies to provide shelter. Specialists collect information during the initial contact utilizing a diversion tool which allows them to pre-screen callers to ascertain if additional assessment is needed. Data is then entered in the Homeless Management Information system (HMIS) for individuals who have not been diverted. All eligible individuals are placed on the Central Prioritization List for emergency shelter and/or housing (if not immediately available).

**Program Accomplishments:** CDBG funding for FY-2023 allowed the City to assist 212 households of which 157 were low income and nineteen were moderate income. The individuals consisted of forty-seven black or African American, 105 white, fourteen black or African American and white, three American Indian or Alaska Native, two Asian and white, and two American Indian or Alaskan Native & White.

**Fair Housing Services** – In FY-2023 \$8,000.00 of CDBG funds was allocated to further engage the City of Alliance in fair housing activities. The fair housing practices include making individuals aware of the range of housing options, enforcement, education, and outreach, avoidance of concentrations of individuals with low to moderate income, testing, and any other appropriate activities deemed necessary to provide fair housing to residents in the City of Alliance.

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission administers the City's Fair Housing Program. The Stark County Fair Housing Department (SCFHD) works to secure the rights of individuals and to eliminate policies and practices that deny housing opportunity. The persistence of racial segregation, residential preferences in zoning, blatant discrimination against people of color, treating persons with disabilities differently, steering families with children to certain units, and sexual harassment continue to limit opportunities to fair and equal access to housing.

The Stark County Fair Housing Department will continue to root out discrimination and represent victims of housing discrimination. Necessary actions will be taken to ensure that the fair housing law is properly and fairly enforced throughout the City of Alliance. The Department of Planning & Development will continue to take the appropriate steps necessary to eliminate potential impediments and to set goals for improving fair housing choices and access to opportunity.

**Program Accomplishments:** During FY-2023, the staff at SCFHD set a focus on advertising and promotions to continue educating the public on fair housing to increase the awareness of discrimination. News releases and advertisements were provided in the newspaper as well as a quarterly newsletter distributed to communities throughout Stark County.

**Alliance Historic Preservation –** The City of Alliance allocated \$500.00 in FY-2023 of CDBG funds to the continued effort in preserving the City’s historic landmarks. The funds will be utilized for public education materials and consultation fees for a historic preservationist to develop a plan for a National Historic District. The goal would be for the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Historic District on the Main Street Commercial Corridor in the City’s downtown area.

**Program Accomplishments:** During FY-2023, funds were used from the Historical Preservation allotment for a City of Alliance membership to Heritage Ohio. The Heritage Ohio membership allows for the City of Alliance to stay current on Historic Preservation guidelines, attend educational workshops and assist with consultations regarding historic preservations.

## Program Administration and Other Activities

The City of Alliance CDBG Program Administration for the FY-2023 included an allocation of \$126,867.60 in CDBG funds for the planning, administration, and overall management of the CDBG program. Of this \$70,000.00 was allocated for payroll and \$40,900.00 was allocated for fringe benefits such as monies to be set aside for the Public Employees Retirement system, workers compensation, and other benefits. An additional \$13,967.60 in funds were set aside to cover the cost of office, advertising, legal, and other expenses.