

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-2024 CDBG funds were used to complete seven full rehabs and six 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	13	162.50%
Increase Economic Opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	250	248	99.20%	15	15	100.00%
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	1	100.00%
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	500	100.00%

Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	30	110	366.67%	25	25	100.00%
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	15	100.00%
Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	17		0	1	
Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	20	20	100.00%	7	9	128.57%
Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	1000	1344	134.40%	200	200	100.00%

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.

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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	11,331
Black or African American	2,322
Asian	4
American Indian or American Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	13,657
Hispanic	95
Not Hispanic	2,227

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	655,510	

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The total amount of HUD CDBG funding allocated during FY-2024 was \$633,510.00. 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	20	20	ADMINISTRATION
Target Areas 1 through 4	80	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-2024 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 \$47,881.00; non-local committed \$0.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$20,000.00.

YWCA of Alliance Employment Program - Locally committed \$8,500.00; non-local committed \$2,000.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$12,952.00.

SPARK Alliance –Locally committed \$72,500.00; non-local committed \$153,992.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$40,500.00.

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy – Locally committed \$20,000.00; non-local committed \$20,000.00; Additional funding applied for but not yet awarded \$5,000.00.

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

StarkFresh Mobile Grocery Market – Locally committed \$35,000.00; non-local committed \$2,000.00; Additional funding applied for \$10,000.00.

Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity (2) Homes – Locally committed \$23,750.00; non-local committed \$11,250.00; Additional funding applied for \$110,000.00.

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CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

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

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	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
Total	0	13

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-2024 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 seven homes in Priority Target Area 1, one home in Priority Target Area 3, three homes in Priority Target Area 4, one home within census tract 7105, one home within census tract 7106, and the demolition of vacant and abandoned blighted properties.

Rehabilitation Relocation Assistance Programming: For the FY-2024 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	0	0
Low-income	13	0
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	13	0

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.

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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-2024 \$13,000.00 in CDBG funds were allocated to the shelter. During the period from 7/1/24 to 6/30/25, there were 258 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-2024, 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 subrecipients 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-2024, the program assisted 132 women of which fifty-nine were White, thirty-nine were Black or African American, twenty-five were Black or African American and White.

In FY-2024 the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter provided outreach and educational services to victims of domestic violence. The total number of recipients assisted was 258. Of the recipients' assisted, 164 were White, fifty-one were Black or African American, thirty-four were Black or African American & White, three were Hispanic or Latino, and the remaining six were classified as mixed race. 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).

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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 subrecipient. Monitoring visits with subrecipients 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 subrecipients 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 subrecipient’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 subrecipients 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)

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-2024 C.A.P.E.R. was published in the Alliance Review on September 12, 2025. 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.

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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.

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

No

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

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CR-58 – Section 3

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

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
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

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
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.

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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-2024 funds for program year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. 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-2024 year.

FY-2024 CDBG Program	
Funds Received	\$633,510.00
Program Income	\$ 0.00
<u>Recaptured Funds</u>	<u>\$ 22,000.00</u>
Total	\$655,510.00

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Housing Rehab - The City of Alliance utilized \$100,042.43 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 six contracts signed for emergency repairs (CDBG Funds) through the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab Program totaling \$100,042.43. Stark Regional Planning Commission completed seven projects using the HOME program in the amount of \$172,941.90. 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-2024, \$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-2024, 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 \$89,180.95 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025, 924 properties were inspected. These inspections resulted in 449 grass violations and 475 violations for property maintenance issues. Twenty-three properties were registered as vacant for FY-2024. During FY-24, most property owners that were cited complied with the local code while twenty-six cases were turned over to the City of Alliance Law Director's Office, which were then continued or resolved.

Demolition Program - The City of Alliance used \$123,785.00 in FY-2024 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 nine properties in low/moderate areas of the City. At the present time, there are twenty-six 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-2024 (FEMI). This project will fund repairing and replacing shingles and patching holes in the roof. The overhang area of the entrance will be repaired and shingled to stop water from running into the building through the overhead lights eliminating a safety concern.

Program Accomplishments: This funding was a vitale step in the conservation of the building as the overhang area is the entrance for handicapped and disabled individuals. The repair allows the building to remain open and continue to serve the low to moderate individuals in the area.

PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Alliance Community Food Pantry – The City Alliance allocated \$12,000.00 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 and continuing by COVID 19, including supply chain breakdown and higher prices, the anticipated cost of food is steadily increasing.

Program Accomplishments: During the FY-2024, the Alliance Community Pantry assisted 13,882 low to moderate income households consisting of 40,890 individuals. Information was provided that detailed the race of individuals showing 106 were American Indian or Alaska Native, 1,844 were Black or African American, 9,748 were White and the remainder preferred not to answer.

Stark Fresh – The City Alliance allocated \$9,000.00 to the Stark Fresh Mobile Grocery. Now in its ninth 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-2024, the Stark Fresh Mobile Grocery continued to be a great success for the City of Alliance and its residents. Because of the achievements of the Mobile Grocery Market, Stark Fresh has opened 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.

YWCA (Navigators) Program - The City of Alliance allocated \$13,000.00 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 126 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, thirty-two were black or African American, sixty-seven were white and twenty-seven were black or African American and white.

YWCA (Employment) Program - The City of Alliance allocated \$7,322.20 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 132 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-2024 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, all were low income.

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy - The City of Alliance allocated \$13,000.00 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-two years and has operated a pharmacy for fifteen years.

Program Accomplishments –The Beacon Charitable Pharmacy program reported that ninety people were served. Of these individuals, twenty-nine were of moderate income, forty-three were non-moderate/low income, five were low income and the remaining thirteen were extremely low income. The ninety individuals consisted of seventy-eight white and twelve black or African American residents. A total of eleven households were female led.

Domestic Violence Educational Services Project - The City of Alliance allocated \$13,000.00 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-2024, crisis counseling, support, information, and referrals were given through support calls. A total of 258 individuals from 115 households were assisted with 115 households being female led. The income information provided was that all 115 people were extremely low income. The 258 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 \$14,500.00 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 2,042 children were assisted using FY-2024 CDBG funds. There were 497 students from moderate income households and 524 from low-income households. Out of 2,042 individuals, 515 came from female led head of households. The individuals consist of ninety-one black or African American, 754 white, ninety-nine black or African American and white and sixty-nine other mixed races.

Fair Housing Services – In FY-2024 \$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-2024, 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 \$750.00 in FY-2024 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-2024, 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.

Family Empowerment Ministries – The City of Alliance allocated \$5,000.00 in FY-2024 of CDBG funds to the Infant/Youth supplies and training incentive program run by Family Empowerment Ministries (FEMI). This program is designed to provide educational and nutrition classes for women of poverty who are pregnant or have a child up to the age of two. Evidence based training in areas of safe sleep, education, home training, CPR classes, second-hand smoke dangers, and understanding brain development.

Program Accomplishments: The program was a success for the City and all of the funding was expensed by FEMI. An incentive program was created to remove barriers that could hinder attendance that included childcare, meals, transportation, wet wipes and pull ups for toddlers.

Program Administration and Other Activities

The City of Alliance CDBG Program Administration for the FY-2024 included an allocation of \$126,429.60 in CDBG funds for the planning, administration, and overall management of the CDBG program. Of this \$75,000.00 was allocated for payroll and \$25,265.00 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 \$26,164.60 in funds were set aside to cover the cost of office, advertising, legal, and other expenses.

The following Target Area Map is in reference to CR-20 – Affordable Housing for Clients assisted.



Low to Moderate Income Family Target Areas

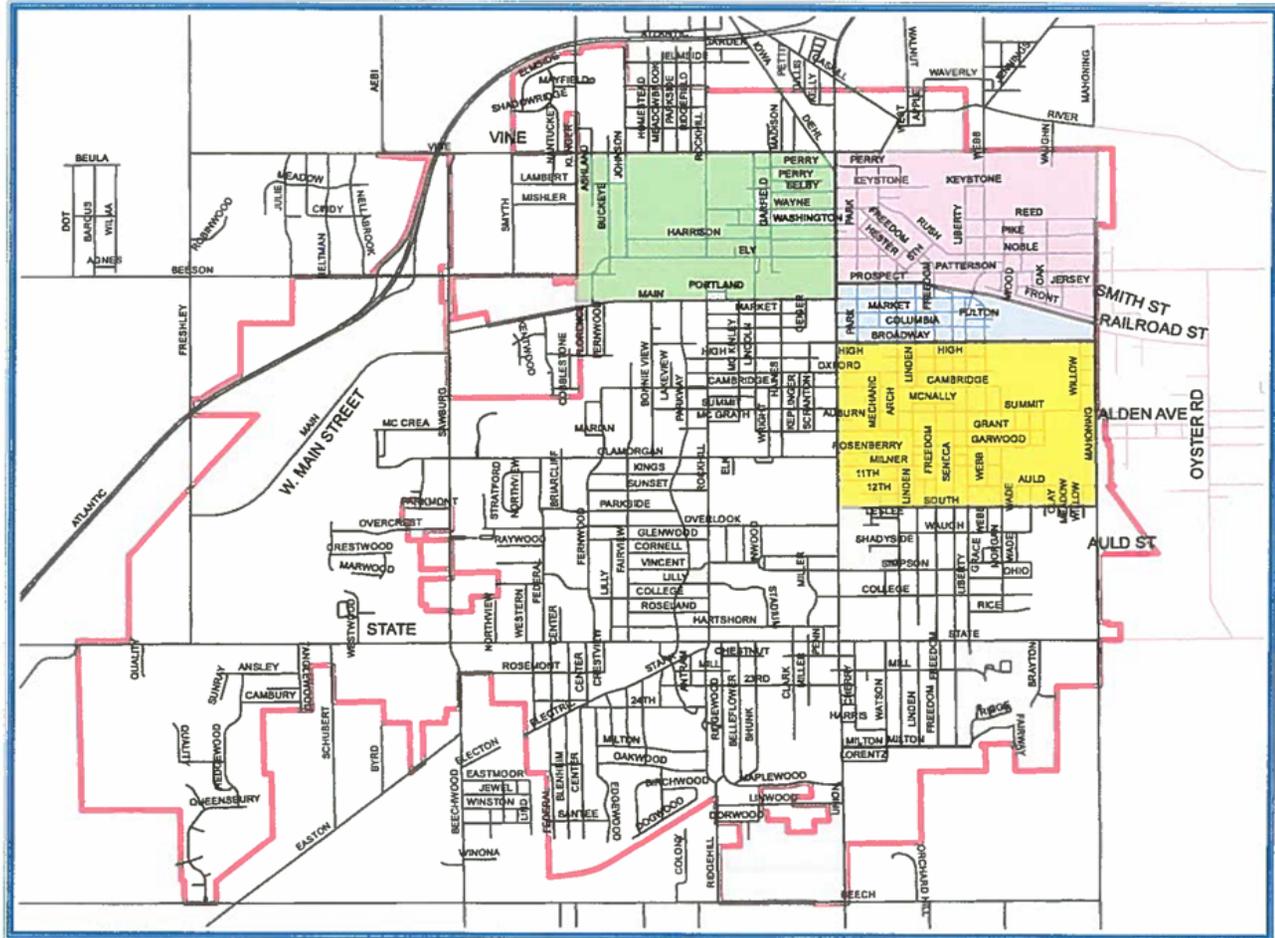
Areas of Interest

- Target Area 1
- Target Area 2
- Target Area 3
- Target Area 4

City of Alliance, OH



0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet
1 inch = 3,000 feet

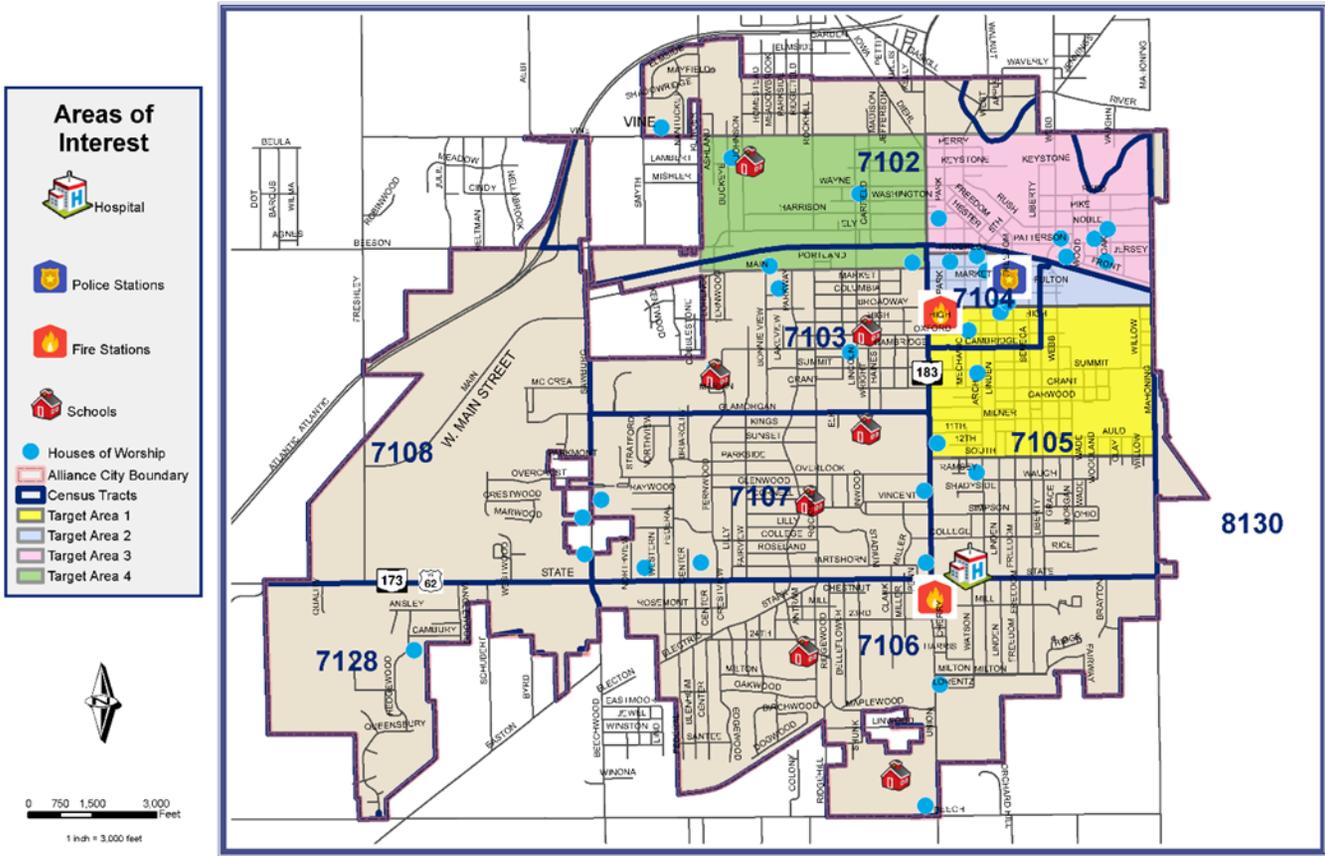


Coordinate System: North American 1983, Datum: StatePlane Ohio North FIPS Feet; Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Map Created August 19, 2021 by Dave Woodrum

Map of Public Facilities by Target Area



Public Facilities - Alliance, Ohio



Coordinate System: North American 1983; Datum: StatePlane Ohio North FIPS Feet; Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Map Created August 19, 2021 by Dave Woodrum

Citizen Participation Plan

PROPOSED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

The Department of Planning & Development is the responsible entity in the City of Alliance to administer the HUD funded Community Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Citizen Participation Plan Development Process

Prior to the adoption of the Community Development Department's Citizen Participation Plan, citizens were given the opportunity to comment. The draft plan is presented to the Community Development Committee at its March meeting at the same time as the CDBG proposed program. The plan is then made accessible to the residents of the City of Alliance through its website and a copy is available in the Rodman Public Library for a 30-day citizen comment period. As needed, the plan can be made into a format accessible to persons with disabilities, upon request. Any comments made by the public during the 30-comment period will be addressed by staff prior to the adoption of the final citizen participation plan. Furthermore, comments made may not always result in changes in the plan.

Community Development

Public Participation General Information

One of the main goals of the City of Alliance's Planning & Development Department is to provide the community with an opportunity to participate in an advisory role in the planning, implementation and assessment of its programs and projects. There are four main programs or plans that the Community Development Department undertakes and two main programs that the Stark County Regional Planning Commission's Community Development Department administers for the City. These programs are the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Consolidated Plan (5- Year Plan), the Annual Action Plan, the Consolidated Annual Performance Plan (CAPER), and the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), respectively. Please see the list below outlining basic practices and policies utilized by the City of Alliance to ensure the public has access and knowledge to programs in their community:

Holding a “public meeting” entail:

- Not being required by law.
- Not making the discussion between the interested parties and comments public record.
- Attendees being able to ask questions and make comments, with the aid of a moderator to keep the meeting focused.

All meetings held by the Community Development Department are normally during the day and held at the City Administration Office located at 504 E. Main Street, Alliance, Ohio 44601. If necessary, meetings may be held in the evening. By holding meetings or hearings at the City Administration office building, they are accessible to the community through the following ways:

- The City Administration Building is ADA accessible.
- The City Administration Building is accessible to public transportation, including the location of a SARTA bus stop directly in front of the Administration Building.
- Meetings or hearings being held are advertised in the local newspaper and the City of Alliance’s website, when applicable.
- Any documents created by the Department of Community Planning & Development that require public comment are made available on the City’s website as well as a copy being available at the office, and local library.
- If a non-English speaking community member attends a meeting, they are encouraged to bring a translator (1.08% non-English speaking households in Stark County, Ohio, according to the 2013 American Community Survey). If an interpreter is needed, advance arrangements will need to be made. The plan is intended to facilitate persons with mobility, visual or that are hearing impaired.

Community Development Programs / Plans

1. Community Development Block Grant Program

The City of Alliance is the recipient of the federally funded CDBG program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Department of Planning and Development does all the overall planning and administration of the CDBG Program. The CDBG Program aims at developing viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, along with expanding economic opportunities, for persons of low-and moderate incomes.

Citizen participation is a vital role in the CDBG Program process. As established by Section 104(a)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Act and by the regulations at 24 CFR 570.486, there are key actions that need to be taken to ensure that citizens of a community where CDBG funded activities will take place, have an opportunity to participate in an advisory role in the planning,

implementation and assessment of the program and projects. Therefore, the City of Alliance's Planning & Development Department includes the local community in the CDBG Program implementation by taking the following actions:

- Providing 2 public meetings each at different stages of the program.
- Providing citizens with reasonable advance notice of and the opportunity to comment on proposed activities.
- Providing citizens with contact information for submitting complaints and then responding to complaints in a timely manner.

Each program year the Planning & Development Department is responsible for:

- Publishing notices for the CDBG application workshop in the local newspaper.
- Sending invitations to non-profit agencies that have applied in the past or expressed an interest in applying.
- Posting notices on the City of Alliance's website.

A public meeting is held to present the upcoming proposed funding plan and encourage discussion with attendees. The funding plan is also presented at the January CDBG Committee meeting for voting approval and updates to the Citizen Participation Plan. Once the Plan is approved by the CDBG Committee the public comment period commences on the proposed program.

At the end of the comment period and after the comments have been reviewed and considered by the Department of Planning & Development staff, the Plan is presented to City Council for final approval. The final CDBG Funding Program is sent for submission to HUD no later than 45 days prior to the start of the City's federal fiscal year (July 1).

CDBG Substantial Amendments:

An amendment is deemed "substantial" when:

- A program is added or cancelled; or
- A considerable amount of money is being reallocated from one project to another, as determined by the Community Development Department; or
- There is a change to the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity (24 CFR Part 91.505).

Public participation is required when a substantial amendment is needed. The proposed substantial amendment is presented to the Community Development Committee at an emergency meeting. A public notice of the proposed amendment is published allowing for a 30-comment period. If comments are received by citizens, they will be considered prior to finalizing the amendment. The Planning & Development Committee votes

to approve the amendment which is then published as the final amendment. Then the amendment is presented to the City Council for approval. In cases where urgency is a consideration, the comment period may be reduced to 15 days or less.

2. Consolidated 5 Year Plan (CP) and Annual Action Plan (AAP)

The consolidated plan is a five-year plan, updated every five years, in accordance with HUD regulations. The plan provides an assessment of needs in the community, including housing and homeless needs, a housing market analysis, and a strategic plan for the allocation of housing resources. The plan also includes the City's priority community development needs that qualify under the CDBG program. Additionally, there is an assessment of the needs for infrastructure improvement, public facilities, public services, accessibility, economic development, fair housing, and planning needs.

The submission of the CP also contains the first year AAP. During the next four years only, the AAP is submitted.

Citizen Participation for the AAP is as outlined in the CDBG section of this document. The AAP summarizes the activities that the City will undertake utilizing CDBG funding during the fiscal year.

Citizen participation is critical during the preparation of the CP. Residents are encouraged to participate through the following ways:

- Completing a survey that is made available to groups targeted as able to provide input in terms of homeless, housing, planning, and non-housing community development needs to gather information and comments.
- Attendance of public meetings.
- Public comments are received at public meetings held throughout the preparation of the CP.
- All comments and views are considered prior to submission of the CP.

As a result of the public meetings held, objectives and goals of the community are established, and public comments are accepted. The CP is presented to the Community Development Committee and then there is a 30-day public comment period. Any comments or views taken into consideration by the staff are made note of in the final CP. The Plan is then presented to the City Council for approval and sent to HUD.

Consolidated Plan and Action Plan "Substantial" Amendments:

An amendment is deemed "substantial" when:

- There is a change to the allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds; or

- To carry out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the CP not previously described in the action plan; or
- To change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity (24 CFR Part 91.505).

Public participation is required when a substantial amendment is needed. The proposed substantial amendment is presented to the Community Development Committee in a special meeting. A public notice of the proposed amendment is published allowing for a 30-day comment period. If comments are received by the citizens, they will be considered prior to finalizing the amendment. In cases where urgency is a consideration, the comment period may be reduced to 15 days or less. The Plan is then presented to the City Council for approval and sent to HUD and published as the final Plan.

Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) is completed annually by the Community Development Department staff and submitted to HUD within 90 days after the end of the City's program year (June 30). Once the draft is completed the actions are as follows to encourage citizen participation:

- The draft CAPER is made available on the City's website and the Rodman Public Library for a 30-day comment period.
- A copy is available at the Department of Planning & Development
- All comments are reviewed by the staff of Planning & Development and included in the final CAPER.

At the end of the comment period, the CAPER is submitted to HUD.

HOME Program and Fair Housing Program

The Home and Fair Housing Program is administrated by Stark County Regional Planning Commission for the City of Alliance. All public meetings and hearings for these programs are held by the County and information for these meetings is available on the Commissions website at <http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/regional-planning>. Information on both programs can be found on their website as well. For more information on the processes and procedures please visit their website or call the Stark County Community Development Department at (330) 451-7399.

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)
Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
City of Alliance
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 (FY 2024)

This year commemorates the 56th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act, the landmark civil rights law signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on April 11, 1968 that made discrimination in housing transactions unlawful. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability and familial status in the sale or rental of homes and other housing-related activities. This year's Fair Housing Month theme is "Fair Housing: The 'Act' in Action." The Act furthers the belief advocated by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the other heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. We All need to Act to Make A Change! The number of housing discrimination complaints continue to rise 56 years after the Fair Housing Act passed. We must continue to be proactive in our fight against housing discrimination.

The Fair Housing Act not only prohibits discrimination in housing-related activities but also imposes a duty to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH). The AFFH rule sets out a framework for local governments. As recipients of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds, the City of Alliance is required to take meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics. This duty to affirmatively further fair housing extends to all of a program participant's activities and programs relating to housing and urban development. The Fair Housing Department certifies to affirmatively further fair housing. To satisfy the requirements to affirmatively further fair housing, Stark County Regional Planning Commission's Fair Housing Department (SCFHD) conducts an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) on a five-year interval as mandated by HUD. The cities of Alliance, Canton, Massillon, and Stark County, for the Board of Stark County Commissioners, collaborated to conduct the most recent Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. On January 19, 2023, HUD published a new proposed "affirmatively furthering fair housing" rule for public comment. The comment period closed in April 2023 after receiving over 500 public comments. In April 2024, nearly 300 leading civil rights, housing, faith, environmental, industry organizations and a local elected official from throughout the nation wrote to President Biden, urging his administration to immediately release the final "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" (AFFH) rule because it is one of the strongest tools to address the fair and

affordable housing crisis and can boost the economy in a way that benefits all communities. Under the proposed rule, program participants will need to submit to HUD for review and acceptance an Equity Plan every five years. The Equity Plan will replace the AI. Until the AFFH is finalized, program participants may choose to continue to implement a completed AI. The City of Alliance will continue to implement our most recent completed Analysis of Impediments.

Below are the Potential Impediments, Recommended Action Plans and Subsequent Actions Undertaken for the City of Alliance:

1. *Potential Impediment:* The City's regulation of group homes places restrictions that are not consistent with fair housing standards.
Recommended Action Plan: Amend the ordinance to allow group homes in the same residential districts as single-family dwelling units for non-disabled persons and permit them by right without any conditions.
Action Undertaken: Conversations have taken place with city officials to amend the ordinance to allow group homes in the same residential districts as single-family dwelling units and not solely through conditional use.
2. *Potential Impediment:* The City's definition of family is narrow and could discriminate against a variety of nontraditional family types.
Recommended Action Plan: Amend the definition of family so that it does not have a numerical limit and instead emphasizes the functioning of the individuals as a single housekeeping unit.
Action Undertaken: Conversations have taken place with city officials to broaden the definition of family in order to include groups of individuals functioning as a single housekeeping unit.
3. *Potential Impediment:* The City's appointed public boards relating to housing issues are not demographically representative of the community at large.
Recommended Action Plan: Consider the composition of race, gender, and disability when appointing new members to the City's boards and commissions that could influence housing issues.
Action Undertaken: The staff will speak with the new administration in regards to actively seeking qualified members of protected classes to sit on the Zoning Board and other housing-related boards and committees so they may be better equipped to represent and serve the community at large.

4. *Potential Impediment:* The Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the City's zoning ordinance discourage the development of multi-family rental housing.
Recommended Action Plan: Update the City's land use plan to include a statement to encompass its fair housing aims and ensure that the intent and effect of the housing policies established are consistent with that statement.
Action Undertaken: Staff plans to initiate a conversation with the new administration regarding the zoning ordinance and Comprehensive Land Use Plan. We will encourage a review of the aforementioned with the goal of amending statements that do not discourage the development of multi-family rental housing and with the goal of removing obstacles to the creation of affordable housing.
5. *Potential Impediment:* The City has no Language Access Plan.
Recommended Action Plan: Conduct a four-factor analysis and create a Language Access Plan.
Action Undertaken: Conversations have taken place with City Administration to conduct the four-factor analysis to determine the extent to which the translation of vital documents is necessary to assist persons with limited English proficiency in accessing city programs and services.
6. *Potential Impediment:* Some landlords are not making investments to improve and maintain their properties, leaving low-income tenants living in unhealthy environments.
Recommended Action Plan: Create a landlord registry that includes unit inspections and fair housing training.
Recommended Action Plan: Create a database of complaints against landlords. Share database with SCRPC in order to fight noncompliance with fair housing across the County.
Action Undertaken: The City is working on creating a landlord registry. The registry regulations will include a landlord annual registry fee and inspections. The proposed fee is \$100 per unit and a 1-year license to operate rental properties. This will encourage landlords to maintain units in a healthy and safe place for tenants to live.
7. *Potential Impediment:* The City has areas consisting of concentrated LMI persons and racial and ethnic minorities.
Recommended Action Plan: Allocate CDBG funding to enhance and revitalize LMI areas and improve the existing housing stock.
Action Undertaken: The staff will continue to encourage the City Administration to allocate CDBG funding to non-profit organizations to rehab units, as well as other things, in order to improve the existing housing stock.

Potential impediments were identified in the AI for the entire Region/County. Below are the Potential Impediments, Recommended Action Plans and Subsequent Actions Undertaken for the Region:

- Potential Impediment:* Coordination between SARTA and local development departments could be improved from a fair housing standpoint.

Recommended Action Plan: Add a review by SARTA to SCRPC's review process for new development projects.

Recommended Action Plan: Incorporate public transportation staff in the development planning process through periodic group meetings with County and local planning staff and SARTA officials.

Recommended Action Plan: Add language to future comprehensive plans that describes how current and future public transportation projects will affect impacted areas.

Action Undertaken: The staff plans to speak with county planning department to see how to incorporate the recommended action plans to improve coordination between SARTA.

Strategies for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

The following section addresses the efforts to further fair housing for all Alliance residents.

Housing Discrimination

Although it has been 56 years since the passage of the Fair Housing Act, work is still needed to address the systemic barriers that prevent equal access to housing. Although persons around the country, county and city have benefitted from the protections of the fair housing laws, housing discrimination continues. Housing discrimination significantly affects the neighborhood families can live in; the schools children attend; and their access to transportation, jobs, grocery stores and public services. Housing discrimination even affects the amount of wealth people are able to build from the equity in their homes. Identifying issues and solutions can be extremely complex. According to the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), there were 34,150 fair housing complaints received by private non-profit fair housing organizations, HUD, Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) agencies and the U.S. Department of Justice in 2023. This is the highest number of fair housing complaints recorded by the NFHA. This number is not a representative of public fair housing groups and other agencies that do not report to the NFHA. In addition, reported cases only tell part of the story of housing discrimination. There are millions of housing discrimination incidents each year that go unreported because they are difficult to identify or document. In other cases, individuals might fear retaliation or eviction if they file a complaint. The NFHA estimates that 4 million acts of housing discrimination occur per year in the rental market alone. It is estimated that less than one percent of housing discrimination complaints are reported.

The Stark County Fair Housing Department (SCFHD) for the City of Alliance operates at the forefront of the housing crisis by educating the community and the housing industry and by enforcing the laws intended to protect all against housing discrimination. The SCFHD receives, processes, tests, investigates, and files complaints of housing discrimination with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. Because Ohio's fair housing law has been designated substantially equivalent to the federal statute, virtually all housing discrimination complaints filed with HUD involving property in Ohio are referred to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) for investigation and potential resolution. The SCFHD staff files administrative complaints, resolve complaints through conciliation, and litigate fair housing cases, where necessary.

Below highlights the most notable case during this reporting period:

Disability Discrimination

- The staff investigated allegations of race discrimination. The Complainant has a Section 8 voucher. She completed an application to port from Atlanta, Georgia to Abbington at the Park Senior Housing in Alliance. Complainant sent a money order for rent and deposit after Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (Section 8) forwarded documents to Abbington so she could port from Georgia to Ohio. Manager returned the money order check stating the date was written incorrectly. The date on the money order read 02/01/2023. Manager wanted the date to read 2/1/2023. Manager then asked Complainant to make the payment online, but refused to return Complainant's calls to provide the link needed. Complainant finally spoke with the manager three weeks later who allegedly said, *"We are sorry, but we had to rent your apartment because we didn't have any money on hand."*

Manager made it impossible for Complainant to make the initial payment because she returned her money order check for unjustified reasons, neglected to return her calls and did not provide the link for online payments. It appears Manager gave Complainant the runaround. After the apartment was rented to another tenant, Manager did not offer Complainant another unit.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race in the sale or rental of housing. Race discrimination involves treating someone unfavorably because he/she is of a certain race. Also race discrimination is refusing to negotiate with someone because of their race.

During this fiscal year, the SCFHD staff investigated and processed one (1) complaint of housing discrimination in Alliance. The case is pending further investigation by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. Other cases were determined to

fall within the guidelines of the Landlord-Tenant Law and not the Fair Housing Law. Therefore, clients were counseled on their rights and obligations under the Landlord-Tenant Law.

Education, Workshops, Trainings and Outreach

The staff continues its ongoing process to educate the public on the fair housing law through counseling, workshops, presentations, and training in an attempt to increase the awareness of discrimination. Educational materials are distributed to various agencies and residents of Alliance. The staff distributed 100 brochures to property owners, managers, tenants, Alliance Municipal Court, City of Alliance Community Development Department, Alliance Water Department, Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association, and Stark County Regional Planning Commission.

The following events and activities were conducted by SCFHD to educate and reach out to the community:

- News releases were provided to Alliance Review newspaper on discrimination.
- Ads and press releases were placed on Facebook.
- Emailed the Fair Housing newsletter on a quarterly basis to the City of Alliance to educate them on housing discrimination.
- A presentation on Fair Housing and Disability Rights Regarding ESA's was conducted to the Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association. There were approximately 75 people in attendance.
- Spoke to countless individuals from community-based organizations to help them identify residents' right to fair housing and to increase the awareness of discrimination.
- Disseminated 100 educational brochures to educate them on the fair housing law.

Monitoring

During this period, 3 housing providers were monitored. The owners and managers were monitored on a quarterly basis due to some questionable illegal rental practices in the past.

Landlord and Tenant Relations

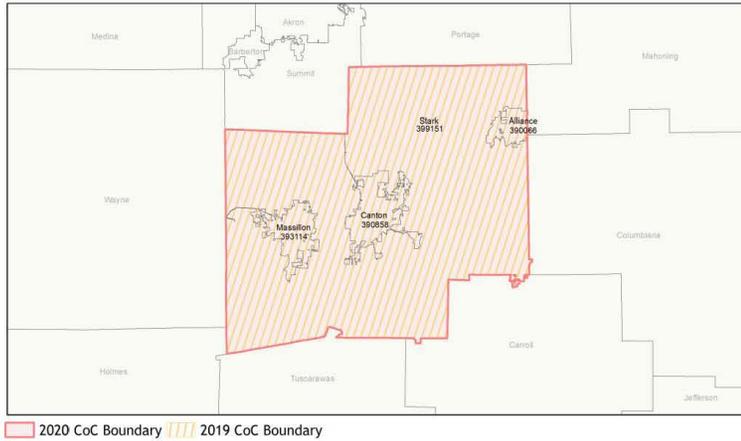
In addition to counseling home seekers on the laws that govern discrimination, the staff counsels on landlord and tenant issues to the citizens of Alliance. Property owners, managers, tenants and representatives from social service agencies are counseled on their rights, obligations, and responsibilities under the Ohio Landlord Tenant Law. Many landlord-tenant and discrimination calls are resolved through counseling and mediation.

Conclusion

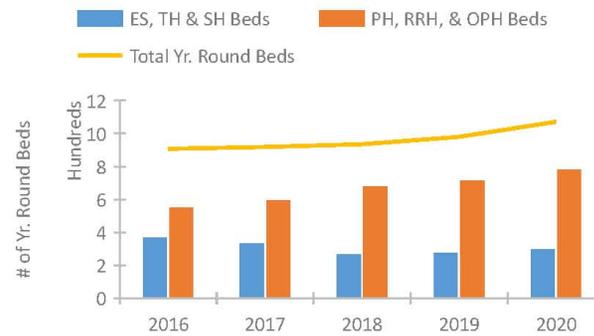
Fifty-six years after President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act into law, housing discrimination still persists across the nation. Housing discrimination occurs in many different types of housing transactions, including rental, real estate sales, mortgage lending, insurance, zoning, and appraisals. Housing discrimination also occurs when developers build units that are inaccessible to people with disabilities and when housing providers deny requests for reasonable accommodations and/or modifications which impedes the ability of a person with a disability to use and enjoy their home. The need to address housing discrimination is undeniable. There are additional barriers in housing-related activities including using overbroad criminal history-related bans, denying individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and unwelcomed and uninvited sexual advances by a landlord towards a tenant. We must continue our efforts to address discrimination and bias as we undertake the next 50 years of the Fair Housing Act.

For the City of Alliance, the Stark County Fair Housing Department has fought to fulfill its mission of eliminating housing discrimination and ensuring equal housing opportunity for all people. The SCFHD will continue its goals to eliminate housing discrimination and fight for victims of such discrimination. The fair housing office will continue to identify barriers to fair housing in order to help counteract and eliminate discriminatory housing practices. Necessary actions will be taken to ensure that the fair housing law is properly and fairly enforced throughout the city of Alliance. The SCFHD will continue to take the appropriate steps necessary to eliminate the potential impediments and work towards rededicating all efforts with intensity and determination to make fair housing a reality for all people.

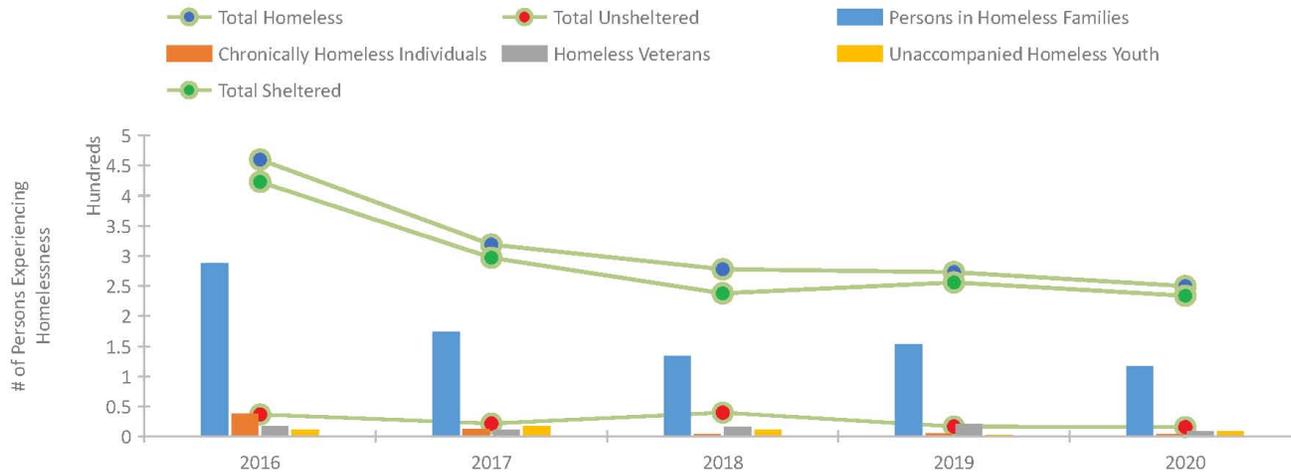
CoC Performance Profile OH-508
Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC



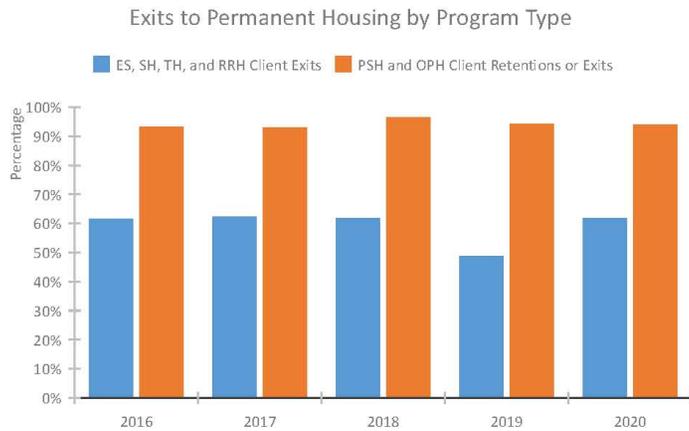
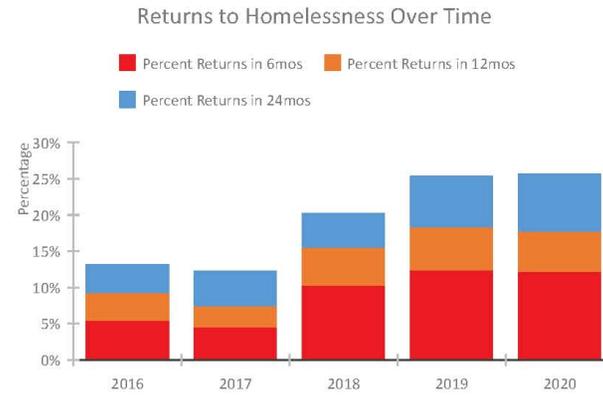
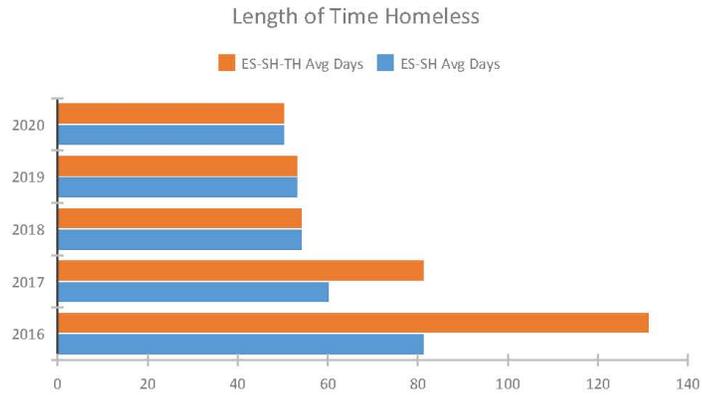
Housing Inventory Count by Program Type



Homeless Population – Point-in-Time (PIT) Count



**CoC Performance Profile OH-508
Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC**



*In 2020 HUD awarded renewal projects noncompetitively, therefore no new data was collected and Housing First data remains the same from 2019 to 2020.

Data Summary: OH-508 Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC

Point-In-Time Count Summary

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019-20 Change	% Change
Number of Sheltered Persons in Families	286	172	133	152	115	-37	-24%
Number of Unsheltered Persons in Families	0	0	0	0	0	0	--
Number of Sheltered Individuals	137	125	105	104	119	15	14%
Number of Unsheltered Individuals	37	22	40	17	16	-1	-6%
Total Homeless Persons	460	319	278	273	250	-23	-8%
Number of Sheltered Families	92	52	43	46	38	-8	-17%
Number of Unsheltered Families	0	0	0	0	0	0	--
Number of Total Families	92	52	43	46	38	-8	-17%
Sheltered Chronically Homeless Individuals	20	3	0	3	2	-1	-33%
Unsheltered Chronically Homeless Individuals	17	8	3	1	1	0	-0%
Total Chronically Homeless Individuals	37	11	3	4	3	-1	-25%
Sheltered Veterans	14	8	10	16	6	-10	-62%
Unsheltered Veterans	2	2	5	4	2	-2	-50%
Total Veterans	16	10	15	20	8	-12	-60%
Sheltered Unaccompanied Youth (up to 24)	8	14	6	0	7	7	100%
Unsheltered Unaccompanied Youth (up to 24)	2	2	4	2	1	-1	-50%
Total Unaccompanied Youth (up to 24)	10	16	10	2	8	6	300%

System Performance Measures Summary

	2016	2017	2018	2018	2020	2019-20 Change	% Change
Average Length of Time Homeless (days)	131	81	54	53	50	-3	-5.7%
Rate People Return to Homelessness in 6 Months	5.5%	4.6%	10.4%	12.5%	12.3%	-0.2%	N/A
Number of People who are Homeless for the First Time	968	998	901	920	830	-90	-9.8%
Rate People Exit from ES, SH, TH, and RRH to PH	61.2%	62.1%	61.4%	48.5%	61.6%	13.1%	N/A
Rate People in PSH and OPH Retain or Exit to PH	93.1%	92.6%	96.2%	93.9%	93.7%	-0.2%	N/A

Housing Inventory Count Summary

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019-20 Change	% Change
Emergency Shelter (ES)	232	243	246	257	271	14	5%
Transitional Housing (TH)	110	85	14	13	23	10	77%
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	458	499	566	549	563	14	3%
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	87	91	109	147	200	53	36%
Other Permanent Housing (OPH)	--	--	--	14	14	0	-0%

Award Summary

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019-20 Change	% Change
Continuum of Care (CoC)	\$2,696,040	\$3,021,970	\$2,965,295	\$3,128,202	\$3,106,639	(\$21,563)	-1%
Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)	\$212,400	\$213,203	\$212,944	\$219,197	\$227,312	\$8,115	4%

SELF EVALUATION

- A. Describe the effect programs have in solving neighborhood and community problems.
- B. Describe progress in meeting priority needs and specific objectives and help make community's vision of the future a reality.
- C. Describe how you provided decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunity principally for low and moderate-income people.
- D. Indicate any activities falling behind schedule.
- E. Describe how activities and strategies made an impact on identified needs.
- F. Identify indicators that would best describe the results.
- G. Identify the barriers that had a negative impact on fulfilling the strategies and overall vision.
- H. Identify whether major goals are on target and discuss reasons for those that are not on target.
- I. Identify any adjustments or improvements to strategies and activities that might meet your needs more effectively.

DRAFT