



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

### 2020 ACTION PLAN

*Greg Hines, Mayor*

*CITY COUNCIL*

Ward I, Position 1, Mandy Brashear

Ward III, Position 1, Clay Kendall

Ward I, Position 2, Mark Kruger

Ward III, Position 2, Jerry Carmichael

Ward II, Position 1, Gary Townzen

Ward IV, Position 1, Barney Hayes

Ward II, Position 2, Marge Wolf

Ward IV, Position 2, Betsy Reithemeyer

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Casey Wilhelm

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

Donna Johnston

Annual Action Plan  
2020

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# **Executive Summary**

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

### **1. Introduction**

The Action Plan is designed to be a collaborative process whereby a community establishes a unified vision for community development actions. It offers local jurisdictions the opportunity to shape the various housing and community development programs into effective, coordinated neighborhood and community development strategies. It also creates the opportunity for strategic planning and a resident participation to take place in a comprehensive contest and reduce duplication of effort at the local level. The strategic plan is a specific course of action for revitalization. It builds on local asset and coordinate a response to the needs of the community. It integrates economic, physical, environmental, community and human development in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion so that families and communities can work together and thrive. A strategic plan also sets forth program goals, specific objectives, annual goals, and benchmarks for measuring progress. It helps local government and residents keep track of results and learn what works. The Action Plan is a requirement of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that cities must prepare in order to receive Federal monetary assistance from HUD Programs. Ultimately, the Plan will be used to implement the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). This document is the Action Plan for Program Year 2020, year three of the five year Consolidated Plan submitted for years 2018-2022. The City will receive \$459,015 in the 2020 Program Year.

### **2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan**

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) will continue to partner with the City of Rogers and other agencies to meet the objectives set by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These objectives are: DECENT HOUSING - Assisting homeless persons obtain affordable housing; assisting persons at risk of becoming homeless; retention of affordable housing stock; increasing the availability of affordable permanent housing in standard condition to low-income and low-moderate income families particularly to members of disadvantaged minorities without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability; increasing the supply of supportive housing which includes structural features and services to enable persons with special needs (including persons with HIV/AIDS to live in dignity and independence); and providing affordable housing that is accessible to job opportunities. The City will provide housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs for low to low-moderate income persons. The City's goals are to provide rehabilitation and repair to at least six owner-occupied homes each program year. The City will continue to look for suitable land to purchase, provide infrastructure to lots within the City limits, and work with the Department of Community

Development for the construction of affordable housing. A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT - Improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods; increasing access to quality public and private facilities and services; reducing the isolation of income groups within areas through spatial de-concentration of housing opportunities to low income persons and the revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods; restoring and preserving properties of special historic, architectural, or aesthetic value, and conserving of energy resources. The City will assist public service agencies who serve all categories of very low to low-moderate income persons. These services include transportation assistance programs, helping physically and mentally disabled children and adults, provide help for children removed from abusive homes, and assist with child care to help parents stay at work and reduce their child-care expense. The City will also look to improve public facilities that will address the needs of the homeless, disabled, elderly, children, or low-income residents. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES - Job creation and retention; establishment, stabilization and expansion of small businesses (including macro-businesses); provision of public services concerned with employment; provisions of jobs to low-income persons living in areas affected by those programs and activities, or jobs resulting from carrying out activities under programs covered by the plan; availability of mortgage financing for low-income persons at reasonable rates using non-discriminatory lending practices; access to capital and credit for development activities that promote the long-term, economic and social viability of the community, generational poverty in Federally assisted housing and public housing. The three outcomes for these objectives are availability/accessibility, affordability, and sustainability.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

Previous activities implemented have met the goals and needs established by the Consolidated Plan. These activities have been very successful. Funds were spent in a timely manner in accordance with Department of Urban and Housing Development (HUD) regulations. The City was below the statutory timeliness expenditure ratio of 1.5 on November 1, 2019. The City has complied with their Resident Participation Plan and submitted their 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). Activities completed are as follows: HOUSING REHABILITATION - The City of Rogers rehabilitated or provided emergency repair to ten homes in 2019. TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE - The City provided free rides each month for 122 low-income individuals who are either elderly and/or disabled and provided transportation services to Open Avenues, Sunshine School and Development Center, and Community Clinic. Open Avenues provides a sheltered workshop where clients actively learn new skills, build close relationships and provide business and industry with a reliable off-line production workforce. Sunshine School and Development Center provides therapy and learning to physically and mentally disabled children helping them to transition into public schools. Community Clinic provides free or discounted medical and dental services to the low-income. Transportation services was provided to 300 individuals through these three agencies. ONE CHILD, ONE ADVOCATE - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to enable CASA of Northwest Arkansas to recruit and train volunteer

Court Appointed Special Advocates who in turn provide volunteer child advocacy to 91 children and their families who live in Rogers.

The City continues to be committed to Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH). During 2018, the CDBG Administrator worked with the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission Office to schedule a Town Hall meeting in Rogers. Originally scheduled in summer of 2018, the Town Hall meeting was moved to 2019 because of a scheduling conflict with the Commission Director. In 2019, the Director resigned her position and moved out of state. We are working with the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission to schedule a Town Hall meeting in the near future with the new Director.

The City stayed within their 15% cap for public services and 20% cap for administration. All financial reports were submitted.

#### **4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City followed its Resident Participation Plan when conducting the 2020 Action Plan process. We use many individuals and agencies in the development of the Consolidated Plan as well as the Annual Action Plan. We take all input we receive to help us analyze, measure and determine housing, facility and service needs with an emphasis on low-mod, elderly, disabled, and homelessness. We look at resources in the City to meet these needs as well as gaps that might not be met by other resources. A Public Hearing is held in the planning process and the public is notified of this Public Hearing by a display ad placed in the local paper and on the City's website. The display ad meets the requirements of CDBG Regulation 24 CFR 91.105. The City encourages the residents of Rogers to provide input into both the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans by attending the Public Hearing or sending in their comments. Once the plans are completed, a Public Hearing display d will be published to allow our residents to comment on the finalized plan before it is submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A comment period is also held to allow those who cannot attend the Public Hearing to comment on the final plan. The final plan will consider and/or implement concerns and suggestions from citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties. Final review and stamp of approval to these plans will be made by the Mayor or Rogers and the Rogers City Council. The public is also given the opportunity to review the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The CAPER contains a summary of accomplishments and evaluation of progress made during the year. All Public Hearings and meetings will be held in buildings that have access for persons with disabilities. The Hearings will be scheduled during the evening to provide working individual and families a greater opportunity to attend. Because Rogers has a large Spanish speaking population, a bilingual (English/Spanish) person will be made available to non-English speaking persons. Technical assistance will also be provided to those requesting assistance in developing a proposal under the plan submissions. The Resident Participation process is also involved on any impacts to the environment with a CDBG project as well as any amendment to an approved plan.

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

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

No comments were received during the pre-planning resident participation section of the Annual Action Plan or the resident participation section of the final plan review held prior to submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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

There were no comments not accepted for the 2020 Annual Action Plan; therefore, no comments for reasons for not accepting will be required.

#### **7. Summary**

The City of Rogers has been an entitlement City for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program since 1994. During that time we have utilized over \$9,000,000 in CDBG funding to improve the quality of life for our low to moderate-income families, seniors and persons with special needs by providing affordable homeownership opportunities, repairing and conserving existing housing, financing public facilities and infrastructure improvements, creating and retaining jobs, and funding public services that stabilize and enhance living conditions.

## PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

### 1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	ROGERS	
CDBG Administrator	ROGERS	Department of Finance
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator		
HOPWA-C Administrator		

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

### Narrative (optional)

The City of Rogers is governed by a Mayor and City Council. All contractual matters concerning the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program are approved by the Rogers City Council prior to signature by the Mayor.

The CDBG Program is administered through the Department of Finance and the CDBG Administrator. The CDBG Administrator is responsible for administering the programs covered in the Consolidated Plan as well as the Annual Action Plan. This includes the development, implementation, monitoring and activities reporting. While the CDBG Administrator does the drawdowns, the City's Finance Director does the approval of the drawdowns. All checks are then written by Accounts Payable in the Department of Finance. The CDBG Administrator uses City Staff, residents, community and neighborhood organizations and non-profits for their insight and expertise on housing, service, and facility projects. The CDBG Administrator also conducts meetings and public hearings to encourage public comments and to receive residents' views to establish priorities. The City consulted with the following agencies in preparing the 2020 Action Plan: Boys and Girls Club, Ozark Regional Transit, NWA Taxi, LLC, Ambassador Transportation Services, CASA of Northwest Arkansas, Sunshine School for Development, Open Avenues, Teen Action Support Center (TASC), Life Skills Program, Credit Counseling, Adult Daycare NWA, and Micah House. The CDBG Administrator also participated in the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care comprised of numerous agencies in Northwest Arkansas who provide a wide range of continuum

care in this area. Through the Continuum of Care the City attends meetings and training provided by these agencies in meeting the needs of our low income residents. The CDBG Administrator attends bi-yearly meetings of the Arkansas Community Development Association for additional training and participates in webinars and other training provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the National Community Development Association to include Region VI.

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

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Information can also be found on the City's website at: [www.rogersar.gov](http://www.rogersar.gov)

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

### **1. Introduction**

The City of Rogers is the lead agency that oversees the City's Annual Action Plan. The City's Action Plan was developed in accordance with its adopted Resident Participation Plan, which is included in the attachments. The City reached out to persons with limited English capacity by having bilingual translators available at public meetings.

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

The City encourages all citizens, especially minorities, persons with disabilities, residents of public and assisted housing developments, residents living in slum and blight areas, residents in predominately low-to-moderate income neighborhoods to participate in the development of the Plan. We worked closely with local organizations that provide services to sharing grant opportunities, training opportunities and information. The City also holds an open application process for applying for funding. The City has participated in construction/renovation of public facilities which serve our community. Public Hearings were held July 31, 2019 and April 14, 2020 for planning and finalizing the 2020 Annual Action Plan.

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

As a member of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care the City coordinates and works with other agencies to address the needs of the homeless. Northwest Arkansas has made some significant investments in shelter expansions and support programs designed to reduce the number and plight of homeless people. We are continuing to coordinate gaps by addressing capacity, occupancy, future housing needs, support services received, chronic homelessness, numbers turned away from shelter/services, and the number of homeless on waiting lists for housing/services. In Year 2020, the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care has designated homeless youth as a priority and to get veterans homelessness down to 0%.

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

The City receives no ESG funds.



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

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

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Boys & Girls Club of Benton County
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Child care for low income children in Rogers.
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Boys and Girls Club is contacted by phone, emails, and meetings and is one of the best sources of information on child care needs within the City to enable parents to continue their employment. Boys and Girls Club have been funded in the past with both service and facility projects.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Ozark Regional Transit
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Transportation
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) is a good source of information concerning the needs for transportation assistance for the low income individuals and families in the City. Through consulting with this agency by phone and email we are able to address a lot of the needs of those needing transportation, especially those who qualify as low-income.

3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	NWA Taxi, LLC
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Transportation
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Northwest Arkansas Taxi, like Ozark Regional Transit, provides the City valuable information on the needs of our residents to get to their medical appointments and help with quality of life. Information such as this is gained from calls, emails, and trip logs to the City each month by the agency.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Ambassador Transportation Services
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Transportation

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Ambassador Transportation Services, like Northwest Arkansas Taxi and Ozark Regional Transit, provides the City valuable information on the needs of our residents to get to their medical appointments and help with quality of life. Information such as this is gained from calls, emails, and trip logs to the City each month by the agency.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	CASA of Northwest Arkansas
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-Children Child Welfare Agency
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	CASA keeps the City informed of children who have been taken out of their homes because their parents are in need of rehabilitation of some kind to be able to be a parent. By working with CASA we are able to meet needs of children who are going through a very difficult situation and meet their educational and health needs as well as provide a need of being wanted and loved until that adult/adults can step back into being a parent.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Open Avenues
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Employment Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Services for mentally and physically disabled adults

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Open Avenues is consulted because of their help with special needs people in Rogers. As a result of visiting with the agency director, we were able to see some specific needs of this agency that could be funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Benton County Sunshine School
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Services-Education Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Services for Children
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Sunshine School and Development Center was contacted as they are the lead agency for disabled children in Rogers. They provide a place where children can learn to mainstream into public schools. They provide valuable information as to the needs of developmentally challenged children.
8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Samaritan House Community Center
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Regional organization

<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Food and Clothing Services
<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	They are in the process of building a new facility. We will continue to stay in contact with them on needs that could be met with CDBG funding.

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

The City of Rogers did not exclude any agency from the consultation process that would have been able to provide input on the development of the City's 2020 Annual Action Plan.

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

<b>Name of Plan</b>	<b>Lead Organization</b>	<b>How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?</b>
Continuum of Care	Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care	Coordinating a community response to end homelessness in Northwest Arkansas which is also a goal of the City of Rogers.

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

### Narrative (optional)

City Staff and Rogers elected officials are all involved in the planning of the City's Annual Action Plan. They provide a key role in the formulation of the projects and integrating the City's goals and objectives into the program development. The Community Development Block Grant Administrator attends meetings which enables the City to build relationships with State and local agencies that support the CDBG Program. Rogers is a member of the Arkansas Community Development Association (ACDA) comprised of entitlement cities and state agencies which gives the City another opportunity to coordinate with other local and state governments in the implementation of their Annual Action Plan. The CDBG Administrator also participates in the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care meeting and training.

## **AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)**

### **1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting**

The City of Rogers conducted the Action Plan process in accordance with their adopted Resident Participation Plan to formulate the 2020 Action Plan. Discussion of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program process started in July 2019. Applications were accepted between July 30, 2019 and October 1, 2019. The City encouraged participation by low and moderate-income persons particularly those living in slum and blighted areas of the City, as defined by HUD, and in areas where CDBG funds are proposed to be used. The City took steps to encourage participation of all its residents, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities. The City is able to provide translation for our Spanish speaking population. All meetings were conducted in buildings and that were accessible to persons with disabilities. The City, on an annual basis, will make available to residents, public agencies and other interested parties, information that includes the amount of assistance the City expects to receive, including specific grant funds and available unspent prior year funds. The City will also disclose the range of activities undertaken and the amount of funding for each activity. The City has posted the Resident Participation Plan as well as the current Consolidated and Action Plans on the City's website in hopes of generating more participation. All information received in this process is used to help develop all City plans associated with CDBG.

A Public Hearing was held July 30, 2019 for the purpose of obtaining view of residents, public agencies and other interested parties that will or may be affected by the 2020 Program Year Action Plan. Another Public Hearing was held April 14, 2020 to allow public review and comments on the 2020 Draft Action Plan and a comment period was held from April 15, 2020 to May 14, 2020. The draft was also available on the City of Rogers' website and at City Hall. A notice was published in the Northwest Arkansas Democrat/Gazette and on the City's website on April 7, 2020.

## Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Hearing	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p> <p>Low income individuals and families</p>	No one attended the Hearing held July 30, 2019 or attended the Hearing held April 14, 2020.	No comments were received at the Public Hearing or at the four locations the draft plan was on display for comments.	Since no comments were received, there were no comments not accepted.	



Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Newspaper Ad	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p> <p>Low income individuals and families</p>	Ad was placed in the newspaper for the April 14, 2020 Public Hearing.	No comments were received.	Since no comments were received, no comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Internet Outreach	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p> <p>Low income individuals and families</p>	<p>Public Hearings were placed on the City's website on July 23, 2019 and April 7, 2020. The draft Action Plan was also posted on the City's website on April 15, 2020.</p>	<p>No comments were received.</p>	<p>Since no comments were received, no comments were not accepted.</p>	

**Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach**

## Expected Resources

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

#### Introduction

The following table shows the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program resources expected to be available in Year Three of the Consolidated Plan to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the Strategic Plan. Expected amount available during the remainder of the Consolidated Plan are future estimates that will be amended as those years' funding are known.

#### Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	459,015	0	0	459,015	917,409	All funds will be used to rehab single family housing and provide services to low income individuals and families. All expected Community Development Block Grant funds in the Consolidated Plan will come from Community Development Block Grant funding and program income.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

Many of the non-profits applying for CDBG funding receive funding from other areas to make their programs work. The City and its partners leverage local, state, foundation and private resources. The City will use its \$459,015 from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's CDBG Program to address the needs listed in the Action Plan. The City will continue to partner with Habitat for Humanity, Office of Human Concern, faith-based organizations, businesses and individuals on the City's housing rehabilitation projects. The City will also partner with local organization and non-profits on its service and facility projects.

The City does not require funded projects provide "matching" funds; however, if funding from other sources other than CDBG will be used, we require our applicants to list those mounts and the source of that funding being used.

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

There is no publically owned land available for acquisition or use in the 2020 Action Plan. The City will continue to look at public property available for affordable housing, economic development, and open space use.

**Discussion**

The amount of available funding through CDBG will not be adequate to meet the housing and/or public service needs in Rogers. We will use all resources available to address the needs of the community and continue to work with our partners to leverage all available resources.

## Annual Goals and Objectives

### AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

#### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Decent Housing	2018	2022	Affordable Housing	Low Income Individuals or Families	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$211,909	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit
2	Public Service - Transportation Assistance	2018	2022	Transportation Assistance for Elderly and Disabled	Low Income Individuals or Families	Public Services	CDBG: \$23,550	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted
3	Public Service - Sunshine School & Development	2018	2022	Public Service - Sunshine School & Development Center	Low Income Individuals or Families	Public Services	CDBG: \$11,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 81 Persons Assisted
4	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas	2018	2022	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas	Low Income Individuals or Families	Public Services	CDBG: \$10,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 55 Persons Assisted
5	Public Service - Open Avenues	2018	2022	Public Service - Open Avenues	Low Income Individuals or Families	Public Services	CDBG: \$12,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 72 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Public Facility - Souls Harbor	2018	2019	Homeless	Low Income Individuals or Families	Public Facilities	CDBG: \$112,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 197 Persons Assisted
7	Administration	2018	2022	Administration	Low Income Individuals or Families	Administration	CDBG: \$78,556	Other: 525 Other
8	Provide Fair Housing Outreach and Education	2018	2020	Public Service, Fair Housing	Low Income Individuals or Families	AFFH - Provide Fair Housing Outreach and Education	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 10 Persons Assisted

**Table 6 – Goals Summary**

## Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Decent Housing
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This activity will provide decent housing by doing housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs needed to keep individuals and families warm, safe, and dry as well as keeping the City's housing stock up to code. This will preserve, improve and expand the City's supply of affordable housing for homeowners.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Service - Transportation Assistance
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This activity will improve the mobility of income eligible elderly and disabled residents by providing transportation assistance through Ozark Regional Transit (ORT), Ambassador Transportation Services, and Northwest Arkansas Taxi, LLC.

<b>3</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Service - Sunshine School & Development
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Sunshine School and Development provides an early childhood education for children with a setting designed for children with developmental disabilities (DD). This activity will provide transportation assistance to help these children get from their homes to the facility each day and returned home in the evening.
<b>4</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This activity will provide volunteer child advocacy to Rogers' children who have been removed from their homes for various reasons and are now living in foster homes or children's shelters. This program ensures these children are safe, happy and receiving the appropriate medical, psychological, and educational services they need. CASA is dedicated to helping neglected and abused children, birth to 18 as well as their parents.
<b>5</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Service - Open Avenues
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This activity will provide services for disabled adults who are taken from their homes to Open Avenues each day where they have opportunities for job training, life skills training, onsite employment and job placement services. Of the 120 clients of this facility, 85% need transportation services to get them to Open Avenues where they can take advantage of these programs. Not only does this allow the clients to work, learn, and grow, but also frees up caregivers, providing them an opportunity to work as well. Open Avenues provides a place for disabled adults to achieve a sense of pride, belonging, and purpose. All of this starts with their ability to get to Open Avenues each day.
<b>6</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Facility - Souls Harbor
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This activity is actually for the Teen Action and Support Center (TASC) which operates out of two different locations in Rogers. Due to the increase of number of teens they serve and the need for additional programming space, TASC is seeking to move into a new space at the Center for Non-Profits. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding will actually be used for renovating the space at the Center for Non-Profits. Not only will this allow these teens the opportunity to be under one roof, it will allow the students in this program to receive services from other providers and agencies at the Center for Non-Profits. At the present time the TASC is providing service to 42 teen moms and 34 babies. There are 208 students served in community service learning programs, 197 students received clothes/Christmas gifts/housing support/and other physical resources, and 156 teens and parents received low/no cost counseling support.



<b>7</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This activity provides funding for administration costs to administer the CDDBG Program through Program Year 2020 and until Program Year 2021 funding is received. These costs include salaries, office supplies, travel expenses, training and publications.
<b>8</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Provide Fair Housing Outreach and Education
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City will consider contracting for fair housing outreach and education and credit counseling and financial literacy services to be provided to low-income residents and minorities, particularly Hispanic residents.

## Projects

### AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

#### Introduction

The City of Rogers makes their funding allocation decisions based on an open application process in accordance with their Resident Participation Plan. All applications are reviewed for completeness and eligibility by Staff. On-site visits are made to discuss the application and eligibility for each program for which funds were sought. Once projects are determined, this information is given to City Council for their approval prior to submitting to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Funds are awarded to eligible activities that support the goals as well as address the priority needs stated in the Consolidated Plan. All allocations awarded to activities are contingent upon the City's receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for that Program Year.

Projects for 2020 and reasons for allocation priorities and obstacles addressing these needs are listed below:

#### Projects

#	Project Name
1	Housing Rehabilitation and Emergency Repair
2	Public Service - Transportation Assistance
3	Public Service - Sunshine School & Development
4	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas
5	Public Service - Open Avenues
6	Public Facility - Teen Action Support Center
7	Administration
8	AFFH - Fair Housing Outreach

**Table 7 - Project Information**

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

The allocation of funds for those activities listed in the 2020 Action Plan are closely aligned with the needs identified in the needs assessment and housing market analysis in the City's 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and through input contributed by stakeholders and residents who participated in the development of the 2020 Action Plan.

Because the primary national objective of the CDBG Program is to benefit low-income residents, CDBG Program funds will be targeted to individuals and families that low and moderate-income. Funds will also be targeted to include special needs population as well as the elderly and the homeless. By targeting

these groups, we not only provide a benefit to these individuals and families, but we benefit the City as well. While not all of the housing applications are located in low mod census tracts, they are all low income. The transportation assistance riders are located throughout Rogers, but are all low income. The rationale for assigning funding priorities is consistent with the evaluation criteria set forth in the Consolidated Plan. The City of Rogers administers a competitive application process for all CDBG funded programs on an annual basis. The City's objectives are to fund programs and services to the greatest extent possible, keeping in mind that service projects are subject to a 15% cap. The major obstacle to meeting all of the identified needs is the lack of funding resources. The City sometimes receives application requests that are higher than the entitlement funding or we receive more applications than we can fund. Most of these applications fall into the service category. With our 15% cap, we are really limited to the amount we can fund. To illustrate this point, the City received funding applications in the amount of \$128,635. With the 15% cap, the City will only be allotted \$68,852. The City does partner, when feasible, with other non-profits to leverage the City's funding allocation.

**AP-38 Project Summary**  
**Project Summary Information**

1	<b>Project Name</b>	Housing Rehabilitation and Emergency Repair
	<b>Target Area</b>	Census Tracts Low Income Individuals or Families
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Decent Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$211,905
	<b>Description</b>	This Activity will provide decent housing by undergoing housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs needed to keep individuals and families warm, safe, and dry as well as keeping the City's housing stock up to code. This will preserve, improve and expand the City's supply of affordable housing for homeowners.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	We propose to rehabilitate ten houses in Program Year 2020. The total number in the houses will not be known until applications are approved, however, based on average family size, we anticipate touching at least 30 family members with this project. All individuals or families will be low-income and meet HUD income guideline requirements.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Addresses are not known at this time. Those will be added to IDIS once applications are received and selections are made. Some will be located in low census tracts, but those will not be known until addresses are known.
2	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Work will consist of weatherization, plumbing, electrical, structural, HVAC, roofing and correcting code violations. Work will also include building ramps, installing grab bars and home modifications to allow the elderly and disabled to safely use their homes.
	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Service - Transportation Assistance
	<b>Target Area</b>	Low Income Individuals or Families
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Service - Transportation Assistance
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$23,550
	<b>Description</b>	This project will improve the mobility of income eligible elderly and disabled citizens by providing transportation assistance through Ozark Regional Transit, Northwest Arkansas Taxi, and Ambassador Transportation Services.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2020

	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	This project will provide transportation assistance for 100 individuals in Rogers.
	<b>Location Description</b>	We have the present addresses for those on the program today; however, turnovers occur each month and we bring new riders onboard when that happens. New addresses are not known at this time. It would take a lot of room to list the 100 addresses in this plan, but those addresses can be obtained by contacting the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator for the City of Rogers.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	We provide transportation for normal needs of these individuals. They can use the passes for medical and dental appointments, trips to the pharmacy, shopping, banks, social security office, post office, church, movie theaters, grocery stores, etc. The only places we do not provide transportation services to would be liquor stores, smoke shops, and night clubs. Several of our riders are taking chemo and are on dialysis. Without this service, they would have difficulty making these appointments.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Service - Sunshine School & Development
	<b>Target Area</b>	Low Income Individuals or Families
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Service - Sunshine School & Development
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$11,000
	<b>Description</b>	This project will provide funding for transportation for low income children who need to be picked up from their homes and taken to Sunshine School and Development to participate in their enrichment program to enable these students to have the opportunity to be mainstreamed into public schools at some point.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	We anticipate that 81 people will be impacted by this project.
	<b>Location Description</b>	3400 Woods Lane, Rogers, AR 72756 is the address of Sunshine School and Development Center. Addresses of the children and their families are not known at this time.

	<b>Planned Activities</b>	These funds will provide transportation from home to school and back home each day providing them an education suited to their development needs and many times through this training, these children can be mainstreamed into public school. For parents who could not work due to the care of these children, they are given the opportunity to seek employment knowing their children are in a high quality childcare and education program to help them overcome their disabilities.
<b>4</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas
	<b>Target Area</b>	Low Income Individuals or Families
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$10,000
	<b>Description</b>	This project will provide advocacy to Rogers' residents who have been taken out of their homes because of abuse or their parents can no longer parent because of addictions. This program ensures the child is safe, happy, and receiving the appropriate medical treatment, educational services, and psychological counseling. Parents will also be helped to overcome their abusive ways and to get them to a place where their children can come back and live with them.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	We are anticipating 55 lives will benefit from this activity. All families are low income and are families where physical and mental abuse has become the norm in the household.
	<b>Location Description</b>	No addresses will be provided in IDIS or the CDBG Office for record keeping. These children are minors and awards of the courts. The CDBG Administrator will be able to verify incomes to meet HUD guidelines and that addresses are in the City limits of Rogers, but all of the verification will have to be done in the CASA Office.
<b>5</b>	<b>Planned Activities</b>	In-depth training with licensed therapists and the Benton County Court System. The CASA Advocates will speak for the best interest of the abused and neglected children in court and will ensure each child a safe home.
	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Service - Open Avenues
	<b>Target Area</b>	Low Income Individuals or Families
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Service - Open Avenues

	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$12,000
	<b>Description</b>	This project will provide funding for disabled adults to have opportunities for job training, life skills training, on-site employment, and job placement services.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	There are 120 disabled adults using this facility. We anticipate providing transportation services to 72 of these adults providing them transportation from their homes and to the facility each day. They will also be taken back to their homes at the conclusion of their work day. These adults come from low to moderate-income homes.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Addresses not known at this time but once the project is funded, addresses will be available i the CDBG Office at the City of Rogers.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Transportation services will be provided to pick up clients at their homes and transport them to Open Avenues where they can work, learn, and grow. At the end of the day, they will be transported back to their homes. This frees up their caregiver providing them an opportunity to work as well. Clients are able to achieve a sense of pride, belonging, and purpose and all that starts with the ability to get them to Open Avenues.
6	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Facility - Teen Action Support Center
	<b>Target Area</b>	Low Income Individuals or Families
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Facility - Souls Harbor
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Facilities
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$112,000
	<b>Description</b>	Teen Action Support Center (TASC) actually is located at two locations in Rogers. They have the opportunity to move everything under one roof at the Center for Non-Profits located near downtown Rogers. Funding will provide financial support for the renovation of the space to make this a teen friendly environment.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	At present TASC provides support to 42 teen moms and 34 babies. Community service learning programs are offered to 208 students, 197 students received clothes/Christmas gifts/housing support/and other physical resources. Low to no cost counseling support was given to 156 teens and parents. With the new space the Center for Non-Profits, the numbers will be able to be increased.



	<b>Location Description</b>	The Non-Profit Center is located on West Walnut Street near downtown Rogers. Addresses of the teens receiving these services will be kept in the TASC Office, however, pertinent information needed by the CDBG Office will be available to the CDBG Administrator.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Funding will be used to complete the renovation of the space provided to TASC by the Center for Non-Profits. Private counseling offices will be made available and areas will be made for the different activities going on each day at TASC. Since everything will be under one roof, teens will also have access to the other agencies and services available at the Center for Non-Profits.
<b>7</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	Low Income Individuals or Families
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Administration
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Administration
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$78,560
	<b>Description</b>	Administration costs to administer the Community Development Block Grant Program.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	With the ongoing programs we will be administering in 2020, we anticipate the lives of 525 Rogers' residents will be touched through the CDBG Program.
	<b>Location Description</b>	City Hall is located at 301 West Chestnut. No addresses will be involved with this project since it is administration only.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The project funding will be used to pay the salary of the CDBG Administrator, purchase office supplies needed, travel expenses for meetings and training, display ads for the City's Action Plan, Capex, and Consolidated Plan. It will also cover any membership fees associated with the CDBG Program.
<b>8</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	AFFH - Fair Housing Outreach
	<b>Target Area</b>	Low Income Individuals or Families
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Provide Fair Housing Outreach and Education
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	AFFH - Provide Fair Housing Outreach and Education
	<b>Funding</b>	:

	<b>Description</b>	This project is set up for possibly being able to help with fair housing outreach, education, credit counseling, and financial literacy services to be provided to low-income residents and minorities, particularly Hispanic residents.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	We would anticipate to reach 10 of our residents with fair housing services.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Addresses are unknown at this time.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	We had provided an application to credit counseling for 2020 funding to provide these services, however, no application for funding was returned. We will continue to see what we are able to do by reaching out to additional agencies that can provide these services.

## **AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)**

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

The City of Rogers is part of one of the fastest growing regions in America, Northwest Arkansas. Northwest Arkansas is headquarters for three Fortune 500 companies--Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods, and JB Hunt Trucking. It is also home to the University of Arkansas, a recognized research institution and academic excellence. Beaver Lake provides swimming, boating, kayaking/canoeing, fishing, water sports, and hunting amenities with 487 miles of shoreline. Northwest Arkansas is also home to the Ozark Mountains.

The City is a well-developed community providing affordable housing, expanding employment opportunities, supporting new and existing businesses, and enhancing neighborhood vitality. The City also has neighborhoods with poverty. There are 12 census tracts within the City limits of Rogers with seven of those tracts having low-mod areas (LNMA) where lot to low-moderate income of the residents range from 51% to 71%.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects proposed for 2020 will have an impact on many residents of Rogers. The housing projects will benefit low and moderate-income persons and prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions. The service and facility projects will benefit low to low-moderate-income persons and special populations to include the elderly and physically and disabled/handicapped persons.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
Census Tracts	
Low Income Individuals or Families	100

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

The rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically is to meet the primary objective of the CDBG Program which is to benefit low-income and moderate-income residents per the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) standards.

### **Discussion**

The City strives to improve low-income residential neighborhoods, especially those with high concentrations of minorities and other protected classes. These improvements bring the areas up to standards equal to other areas of the City and make the neighborhoods safer and more desirable to live. We also strive to make sure our low-income residents with special needs have the services and the

facilities they need to improve their quality of life.

## Affordable Housing

### AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

#### Introduction

One of the biggest needs is affordable housing. The City is committed to provide affordable housing of choice to our low-to-moderate-income families. We make educating the public on fair housing issues and rights and affirmatively furthering fair housing a priority. In the height of the housing construction, the new construction approach was the high-end market homes. Land prices had escalated to a point that the cost of land precluded the building of affordable housing. When the housing market crashed, most of the available homes in the City were not considered affordable housing. As we have moved through the housing boom we saw developers start to building smaller homes to meet the needs of our families who needed affordable housing. An area near downtown Rogers has also become a tiny home neighborhood that have homes ranging in prices from \$35,000 to \$55,000. Another subdivision of tiny homes is scheduled for development in 2020. The building boom has come back to Northwest Arkansas, but our City government is still committed to making affordable housing in Rogers a priority.

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

**Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement**

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	10
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	10

**Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type**

#### Discussion

The City of Rogers does not receive funds that can be used for new construction and cannot really make a difference in providing affordable housing through new construction. However, we can continue to bring our affordable housing stock to good condition through our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) rehabilitation program and implement ordinances that allow for affordable housing in Rogers. We are also working with our Community Development Department to see if there are ways we can partner with affordable home builders by using our CDBG funding to provide infrastructure in affordable housing subdivisions. Over the past years, we have consistently used a lot of our CDBG funding to rehab existing

houses to preserve the housing stock, and help keep our low income residents in structurally sound homes that are warm, safe, and dry. This program has also allowed our elderly and disabled to remain in their homes by providing rehabilitation activities that improve accessibility as needed, remove dangerous code deficiencies, remove lead-based paint hazards and mold remediation, and improve the quality of life and property values for those residents.

## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

### **Introduction**

There is no public housing authority in Rogers, Arkansas. Rogers falls under the Siloam Springs Housing Authority. The City has no representation on this Housing Authority Board of Directors. The Siloam Springs Housing Authority is a Section 8 agency serving Benton County. According to the most recent VMS Report that I could get, the Siloam Springs Housing Authority manages 379 active housing choice vouchers. The voucher program has an annual turnover of 29%. The average voucher holder has received housing benefits for five years and has been on the waiting list an average of 22 months. The average voucher household contains 1.9 persons and has a household income of \$12,812 per year. The biggest percentage age group was 25 to 49 years. This group made 38% with 33% headed by a person 62 years or older, 27% were headed by a person 51 to 60 years old, 3% headed by a person 85 years or older and 2% headed by a person 24 or under. Children were in 36% of the households with 32% of those households headed by a female. Of all the households, 85% were headed by female. Minorities made up 14% of voucher households, and 33% had at least one person with a disability. The average monthly tenant contribution to rent was \$307 with the average Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) expenditure at \$411.

The PHA's policy is to serve customers without regard to race color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, having AIDS, physical handicap, or disability.

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

The City of Rogers does not have a Public Housing office. All Section 8 vouchers are handled out of the Siloam Springs Housing Authority. The City does have 1,176 units of low income housing available with at least 62 of those units designated for elderly only. Another 72 senior units are scheduled for future construction when Federal funding is available. We have one 60-unit complex for elderly that is not all qualified as low income, but will lease to someone qualified as low income as long as they are next on their waiting list. These units are all energy star rated. In checking with the Siloam Springs Housing Authority, there are 130 people living in Rogers in Section 8 housing. The City will continue to work in any endeavor it can to assure availability of affordable housing. We will continue to stay connected with the Siloam Springs office and provide any assistance to them that we can.

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

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator attends and is involved in any meetings and workshops to encourage involvement in management and participation in homeownership. The Housing Authority that oversees Section 8 housing is the Siloam Springs Housing Authority. This PHA covers all of Benton County. The City works with this agency in helping people find housing in Rogers. We have also offered to provide the agency space in City Hall for any town hall meetings they might wish to

have with the residents of Rogers who live in low-income housing or needing low-income housing.

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

The Siloam Springs Housing Authority is not designated as troubled.

**Discussion**

Ongoing communication with the public housing authority and agencies will continue in order to identify needs and opportunities to further address preservation of existing affordable housing units and to assist Section 8 residents who live in Rogers.



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

### **Introduction**

The City of Rogers does not anticipate receiving any private or public funding resources in 2020 that specifically targets homeless needs and/or prevention. We will, however, continue to partnership with the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care to address the needs of the homeless. The purpose of this coalition is to reduce and/or end homelessness in Northwest Arkansas. There are several organizations in this area that serve families or persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The City is involved with those agencies. The City has been involved in the point-in-time count conducted by HARK at the end of January each year. This headcount provided specific information regarding the various services and programs, a listing of the number of beds available, and the number of beds available, and the number of persons needing housing, reasons, and costs involved in housing the homeless as well as placement of the homeless. Specific subpopulations targeted include individuals and families who are chronically homeless, individuals and families at risk of homelessness, veterans and their families, individuals and families who are experiencing domestic violence, individuals living with HIV-AIDS, and unaccompanied youth 18-24 years old.

Currently, the Continuum of Care provides emergency shelters, transitional shelters and safe havens in Northwest Arkansas to meet the needs of our homeless. The Continuum of Care provides the leadership, coordination, planning, and mobilization of resources to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring in Northwest Arkansas. They will provide homelessness prevention and diversion, emergency, transitional and rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, case management, supportive services, and emergency response. The Continuum of Care has adopted a Coordinated Entry and Assessment-Based Housing Referral System that will maximize the housing resources by matching people to housing based on needs. They will continue to locate and engage individuals living on the streets and encourage them to accept services, treatment, and housing.

The Continuum of Care will expand its rapid rehousing focus, providing housing stabilization counseling, rental assistance, security and utility deposits, and/or payments for rent or utilities to enable our individuals and families to move from homelessness into stable housing.

The City of Rogers worked with a non-profit to secure a home in Rogers to be used for individuals and families coming out of homelessness. They will live in this home up to 18 months giving them time to get back on their feet and move out completely on their own. A donor gave this group a brand new 1,400 square foot house in Rogers. It has been named Tapestry House. This non-profit has worked with the Continuum of Care to find this family/individual to move into this house. With the gift of this new home, they no longer need Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) resources to help make Tapestry House a reality. From the perspective of the CDBG Administrator, it was a privilege to work with this group and learn more about finding the resources needed in this area to end homelessness.

### **Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness**

**including**

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

Rogers coordinates street outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness through the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care and in collaboration with local nonprofit organizations. One of the key strategies is to address chronic homelessness and provide outreach in this prevention. The Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care is represented by agencies that specifically target the homeless and assist individuals with accessing mainstream mental health and chemical dependency services. Part of this outreach is education of both the service providers and the communities to assist in eradicating homelessness.

The City and the CDBG Administrator has participated in past homeless counts. The counts were conducted in conjunction with Hark at the Center for Collaborative Care and the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care. During this count, individuals and families in need of assistance were able to fill out forms explaining the help they would need to get out of their situation of being without a home. Outreach teams were trained to be sensitive and to ensure there was an outreach presence on the streets and walk-in services. We engaged with people and encouraged them to accept services treatment, and housing. The Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care has put in place a system that approaches a more uniform response, increased effectiveness with engagement, increased focus on housing placements. They know there must be visibility in places where populations experience homelessness to have an effective outreach. They know you can either engage the community or you can ignore the problem. They have chosen to engage the community.

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

The largest cap in meeting the needs of the homeless is the need for additional emergency shelters and transitional housing with support services. Safe havens are also needed in this area. The City will continue to be involved with agencies that provide this service and help in any way we can to help facilitate the construction of these facilities and/or provide services. We want to make sure the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, including women and families fleeing domestic violence and unaccompanied youth. The City receives no emergency shelter grants, but we are aware that emergency housing provides short-term accommodations for individuals and families who have immediate housing needs, assess level of need, and provide case management assistance in obtaining appropriate housing. Transitional housing helps households move toward self-sufficiency by providing supported semi-independent living for a period of up to 24 months.

Northwest Arkansas has emergency and transitional housing programs specifically designated for survivors of domestic violence as well as housing programs dedicated to youth experiencing homelessness. Veterans also have options for emergency shelters and transitional housing. CDBG

funding has been used in the past to help meet needs of the homeless.

**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 of Rogers is not an agency who has the resources or staff to take on this project. We can be involved and provide support in areas that we are able to lend our CDBG funding to assist in making the transition to permanent housing and independent living. We will continue to support and be involved with the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care to meet the goals of moving homelessness to permanent housing with rapid re-housing assistance, see that our veterans and their families fall into permanent housing and do whatever we can to end the homelessness cycle. The Continuum of Care is committed to identifying and prioritizing the most vulnerable for housing placement, however, it should be noted that the major need for the homeless is resources.

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

Families living below the poverty level and those on fixed income are often unable to afford to maintain their homes, which puts them at risk of becoming homeless. The City will continue to use CDBG funds to support housing rehabilitation. We will also continue our ongoing efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units in Rogers. We feel it is imperative to keep our housing stock in good shape and to prevent anyone from becoming homeless due to the condition of their home. We don't have a large problem with youth living in existing foster care and residential facilities being discharged with no housing in place; however, we need to make sure that adults being discharged from jails and other systems of care are not homeless upon release. We are seeing an increase of youth homelessness that are not in foster care or in residential facilities. They are just living wherever they can find a place to lay their heads, in their cars, or in the woods. Our Continuum of Care has made this a priority and working with agencies and churches to not have any of our youth in these situations. They have also developed and implemented policies around discharge planning from healthcare institutions to keep anyone being

discharged from becoming homeless.

## **Discussion**

The Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care is the agency for homelessness. The mission of the Continuum of Care is to coordinate resources to build a collaborative system that addresses core issues of homelessness and poverty. The Continuum of Care is designed to assist individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families experiencing homelessness and to provide the services needed to help such individuals move into transitional and permanent housing, with the goal of long-term stability. More broadly, the program is designed to promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness; improve coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness; improve data collection and performance measurement tailoring its program to the particular strengths and challenges within the community. Membership in the organization is open to homeless persons or formerly homeless persons, service providers, governmental representatives, civic organizations, and others committed to increasing the availability and quality of services to persons or families who are experiencing or who are near homelessness. The Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care is governed by a Board of Directors that formulates, implements, and monitors the policies of the organization in order to carry out its purpose. It is the policy of the Board to comply with all municipal, state, and Federal regulations regarding the operations of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care and the Board.

The City continues to assist persons with special needs who are not homeless through several programs in the 2020 Action Plan. We provide funding to provide child care and recreation programs for our low-income families and individuals. We also provide transportation assistance for our elderly and disabled children and adults. We also provide support for our youth who are no longer able to live with their parent/parents because of abuse and drug dependency in their homes. We also assist those parents with breaking that cycle of abuse and dependency in order to get their children restored back into their homes.

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

### **Introduction:**

Rogers maintains its commitment to preserve, maintain, and increase the stock of affordable housing. Housing affordability is a key component to the quality of life of Rogers' residents. Barriers to affordable housing can lie in several things, displacement of residents due to economic pressures, lack of public investment in specific neighborhoods, including services and amenities, deteriorated vacant structures and land, location and type of affordable housing, inability to access existing housing, location and access to proficient schools, lack of income, availability of affordable units in a range of sizes, lack of communication between residents and those who develop, residential foreclosures, residential evictions, age and condition of housing, and lack of fair housing outreach and enforcement. All of these things are due to banking, finance and industry regulations, socio-economic situations, neighborhood conditions, and policy legislation and enforcement. A barrier can also mean that more than 30% of household gross income is spent on housing, including utilities.

### **Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment**

Housing prices in Rogers seem to go up and down along with the economy. At one time it was difficult to find new affordable housing and once more affordable housing was being built within reach for the low to moderate-income families and individuals, getting qualified became a barrier to the prospective low-income home owner. Home loan requirements are difficult for the low-income individual or family because many of the banks now require a 20% down payment. That can be difficult for many.

The City, through its Community Development Department, is working on a plan to increase the amount of affordable housing in Rogers over the next 10 to 20 years. The Rogers Municipal Code will be amended to require inclusion of a specific number of affordable units in a range of sizes in the new downtown Rogers' housing development. Tiny homes are seeing a rise in the City with development approved by the City for a "tiny home" subdivision near downtown. These homes are selling between \$40,000 and \$70,000. Another "tiny home" subdivision will start development in 2020. The City will look for incentives for affordable housing developments. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Office is looking at ways CDBG funding can be used to help with those incentives and/or assist with new affordable housing. The City will continue with their housing rehabilitation program using CDBG funds with hopes to increase the number of houses we do in this Five Year Consolidated Plan Year, 2018-2022. This supports our low income families/individuals maintain their homes.

### **Discussion:**

The City of Rogers supports provisions for affordable housing. Our goal is to maintain an affordable

housing inventory for low- and moderate-income persons and households. We also look at providing housing needs for seniors and persons living with disabilities, and we work with agencies that provide supportive housing.

Additional information about the City's efforts to eliminate barriers to affordable housing can be found in the Strategic Plan, SP-55, of the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan.

The City's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) is also available to the public.

## **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction:**

The Assessment of Furthering Fair Housing identified goals and priorities for the City of Rogers. The City will implement strategies to meet underserved needs, foster and maintain affordable housing, reduce lead-based paint hazards on older housing rehabilitation projects, reduce the number of poverty-level families, develop institutional structure, and enhance coordination between public and private housing. The City will partner with other City agencies, regional and State agencies fair housing advocates, housing developers, service providers, lenders, funders, and investors.

### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

The major obstacle to meeting all of the identified needs is the lack of funding resources and timeliness of receiving the funding. Sometimes we have projects ready to go, but we have to delay them while we wait on funding. Because of that we try to carry forward funding from each year to allow our service projects that are relied upon by so many to continue operating and we try to make sure the projects that will have the most impact are done first. One of the biggest obstacles to meeting underserved needs is the 15% cap on service projects. We have to be very careful on who we can provide a service to as our cap eliminates us from helping everyone that applies and qualifies for help. Applicant request amounts are generally much higher than the entitlement amount because of the 15% service cap. Even raising the cap to 20% would give us the additional funds we need to meet the underserved needs of our community. The City does partner when feasible, with area non-profits to leverage the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. We also know where other agencies might have funds available where we can send people to those agencies to seek help when funding is not available through the city of Rogers.

### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

The City of Rogers has a housing rehabilitation program to foster and maintain affordable housing. In this program we do basic systems repair, provide energy efficient windows and doors to include storm doors, energy efficient HVAC units, insulation, any electrical or plumbing work needed to bring house to code, and any work needed that is a health or safety hazard. We make homes handicap accessible for our elderly to allow them to be able to stay in their homes. We do mold and lead based paint testing when needed. The City will also take action to foster new affordable rental and homeownership housing opportunities in Rogers. The CDBG Administrator is working with the City's Community Development Department on ways we can make it easier for the development of affordable homes through partnerships and offering incentives for the developer to be profitable in building affordable housing.

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

The City of Rogers uses a large portion of the CDBG allocation for housing rehabilitation. Any housing unit

we rehabilitate that has been identified as lead hazard, we will remediate. All Federal Regulations will be followed, and we will comply with all lead-based paint hazard reduction requirements including risk assessment, notifications, using the appropriate level of control/mitigation measures, and obtaining clearance for houses found to contain lead paint that will be disturbed by the rehabilitation program. The Renovation, Repair and Painting Laws were enacted in 2008. Since April 2009, this law as required contractors to attend training for certification regarding the potential lead-paint or lead dust. Companies and individuals working on renovations that disturb paint in homes built before 1978 must be certified by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. All persons conducting the lead hazard control work must successfully complete an approved eight hour "Lead Safe Work Practices: (LSWP) class. This class will provide workers with information they need to understand that lead-based paint can create health hazards and that using proper work practices can control hazards. Proof of LWSP training will be required prior to commencement of lead-hazard control work. Testing for lead-based paint will be done prior to any bidding or rehabilitation. Testing will be done by a qualified firm. Applicants for housing rehabilitation found to have lead-based paint will receive priority funding status for the cost of the remediation.

### **Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

The City of Rogers believes education and job opportunities are paths that lead families out of poverty. We are aware that to reduce the number of poverty-level individuals and families we must increase the opportunities for the low-income by creating jobs and workforce development as well as providing essential services, educational outcomes, housing security and affordability, and economic security. Using our CDBG funding we will continue existing programs that promote a stable living environment and reduce dependency. We know housing is a significant financial burden. We will continue providing housing rehabilitation and home repairs to help the low-income remain in their homes. This program not only promotes a stable living environment and reduce dependency, but prevents homelessness, financial hardships and possible institutionalization. The City will continue to work to maximize program dollars and opportunities in neighborhoods, with the greatest number of low-income residents. The City will also continue to provide services such as transportation assistance and child care to our low-income individuals and families.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

The City will provide sub-recipient training prior to the execution of sub-recipient agreements. Staff will participate in HUD-sponsored training opportunities as they become available. When appropriate, the City will include sub-recipients to attend training to strengthen their understanding of the rules and regulations applicable to the CDBG Program. The City will maintain its webpage with up-to-date information as a resource for our sub-recipients as well as our residents.

The City of Rogers is the lead administrative agency for the CDBG Program. The Mayor, Finance Director, and CDBG Administrator provide fiscal and regulatory oversight of all CDBG funding sources and their



Federal grant. The Administrator is responsible to see that all reports are submitted timely. These reports include HUD-272, Federal Cash Transaction Report, HUD-2516 and 2516-A, Contract and Subcontract Activity, HUD-471, Semi-Annual Labor Standards Enforcement Report, and Section 3, Summary Report. The Section 3 report is submitted with the Consolidated Annual Performance Review (CAPER) each year. The City of Rogers also acts as the final authority for the appropriation of funds for Annual Action Plan activities following recommendations to the Rogers City Council. Within each of the funding areas where the City is partnered with a non-profit agency, all activities will be completed and managed with those agencies involved.

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

The public and private agencies are collaborated with in developing the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans. City department heads, Mayor and City Council are also involved in all plan development. The City of Rogers does have limited resources to address the many priorities identified in making collaboration a key success to meeting the needs of our residents. The City will continue to seek cooperative working partnerships to leverage the City's 2020 Program Year allocation.

City Staff and representatives of the local public housing authority, private housing resources, health service providers, social service agencies, as well as agencies that deal with youth and homeless communicate and work well together to the benefit of the residents of Rogers. The City shares timely news announcements through press releases. Notices of special interest to social service agencies are forwarded to agency representatives by the CDBG Administrator.

### **Discussion:**

The City is committed to continuing its participation with Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as profit and non-profit sector, to reach the needs of target income individuals and families in the City of Rogers. The City will continue to work on improvements and services for our low-income residents.

## Program Specific Requirements

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

#### Introduction:

This is the third Action Plan for the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan period.

#### Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

##### Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income .Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100.00%

The City of Rogers strives to use their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds on the extremely low to low-income individuals and families. The City has no activities deemed "Urgent Need" in the 2020 Action Plan. The CDBG funding housing rehabilitation program are grants to the homeowner. Only way program income is generated is through a later sell of the property and rebates received by utilities for using energy efficient HVAC and windows in the rehabilitation. We also get rebates with installing new insulation. All housing rehabilitation houses have a Deferred Loan Agreement (DLA) filed at the Benton County courthouse which keeps the property from being sold until the DLA has been released. The DLA is pro-rated each year until the DLA is released.

