



## Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

*Prepared by*

*The Rogers Community Development Block Grant Office*

*For Submission to*

*The Department of Housing and Urban Development*

**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.

Each five-year Consolidated Plan has five program years. Program Year 2023 is the first year of the current Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2023-2027). Communities develop their own programs and funding priorities based on local needs using HUD's established guidelines to define projects/activities that may be undertaken to ensure each project/activity meets one of the national objectives of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This report describes the use of \$503,572 CDBG funds received in 2023.

Housing rehabilitation continues to be a focus for using CDBG grant money to meet the City's housing goals of decent housing and objective of benefiting low and moderate-income persons by improving the quality of owner housing which will increase the availability of permanent in good standard condition at an affordable cost, and retain affordable housing stock. The City spent \$285,564.50 on housing rehabilitation. This cost also included funds spent on rehab administration and the City's paint program and some of this funding came from previous program years. The homes that we rehabilitated this year included families and individuals whose annual income fell between extremely low and low-income. Two of the homes we rehabilitated in Program Year 2023 had female heads of households, six were disabled or had someone living in the home that were disabled, two were married with children, and three were single. Three of our homeowners were elderly. Work completed on these homes included getting violations to code, energy efficient windows, doors and storm doors, energy efficient HVAC, roof, and flooring. Smoke/carbon monoxide detectors (hard-wired) were installed where needed. All homes with water damage and leaks were tested for mold and safe practices were used to clean and remediate those areas. Follow-up testing was done when work completed to make sure all mold was remediated. We had two houses that were built before 1978 this year. Both were tested for lead based paint. Neither of the homes tested positive. No remediation was needed on these homes.

The City funded seven public service projects meeting the City's goals of suitable living environments and benefiting low and moderate-income persons by improving and increasing access to services. We partnered with Community Clinic to provide transportation. We partnered with Boys and Girls Club (Rogers Unit) to continue providing scholarships to low-income families. CASA received a grant to provide advocacy to Rogers' children. We partnered with Sunshine School and Development Center to provide transportation. Nicole's House received a grant to provide rental assistance for women coming out of addiction and/or incarceration. The City also continued their transportation assistance program for our extremely low to low-income residents to maintain their quality of life. This public service is still being funded with previous year's funds.

The City completed four public facility projects in 2023 that were funded with 2022 and 2034 funds. We completed the facility rehab at the Boys and Girls Club of Benton County (Rogers Unit). Souls Harbor was given a grant to replace all exterior doors with new doors that provided better security for not only the staff but the residents. Restoration Village used their grant to rehab the living/kitchen building for their clients. The Center for Non-Profits used their grant to replace the boilers in the building.

**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
Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	7452	0	0.00%	6256	0	0.00%
Decent Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	6	8	133.33%	30	8	26.67%
Public Facilities	Public Facilities	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5699	0	0.00%	5000	0	0.00%
Public Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1143	843	73.75%	1226	843	68.76%
Public Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	0		0	0	

**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.**

The City spent \$258,820 on housing rehabilitation projects and \$26,745 on housing administration costs. Service projects accounted for \$65,745, public facilities accounted for \$354,157, and administration accounted for \$65,308. It should be noted that most of the funds spent on facility projects came from 2022 funding.

The City met their 15% cap for public services in Program Year 2023 with almost 12% of their funding going to public services. All service projects other than transportation assistance was completed. We always carry over money each year for transportation assistance to keep that program running until we receive new funding. Because of how Covid-19 impacted our people from getting out, we have enough funds to carry that program through 2025 and possibly into 2026. Impacts of the service projects are as follows: CASA, 54; Boys & Girls Club 169; Sunshine School and Development Center 42; Community Clinic, 470; Nicole's House, 19; Open Avenues 89; and transportation assistance, 51.

## 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	7,236
Black or African American	140
Asian	30
American Indian or American Native	27
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	499
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,932</b>
Hispanic	3,059
Not Hispanic	4,873

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

### Narrative

According to the 2022 Census Quick Facts, 58% of Rogers' population is a minority race. Hispanics make up 33% of that population. As the table above indicates, 47% of the 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) participants (including Hispanics) were part of the minority population assisted.

## 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	503,572	898,815

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

### Narrative

The \$503,572 were 2023 CDBG funds. The \$898,815 expended in 2023 included 2022 funding that was not spent in 2022. The \$15,319 amount represents program income the City received from energy rebates and payoff of deferred loan agreements. That income was dispersed immediately with our housing rehabilitation program. In 2024, we will not receive any energy rebates as the energy corporation has changed the way rebates will be given and we will no longer qualify.

### Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Low Income Individuals or Families	100	100	Meet all criteria for CDBG funding regardless of where they live

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

### Narrative

The City of Rogers does not geographically distribute or assign use of its CDBG funds to targeted areas. Instead, we plan and develop CDBG eligible projects to help address community needs identified in the City's Consolidated Plan. The City also considers the number of eligible residents who will benefit from implementation of the project. Our intent is to provide suitable living environments for the highest number of LMI households possible.

In Program Year 2023, the City of Rogers supported core service activities that addressed community-wide concerns and needs, facility projects that provided services to our low-income individuals and families, and housing rehabilitation projects to keep our low-income residents in their homes by making them warm, safe, and dry.

All of our 2022 facility projects except one were completed in 2023. One project that remained on hold until a decision could be made on what to do with an existing building made that decision in 2023. As a result of their desire to tear down the existing building, rebuild a new building which would require an Environmental Assessment if CDBG funding were involved, they turned down the 2022 CDBG grant. We

will reallocate those funds to housing rehabilitation through the amendment process when we have our public hearing for the 2024 Action Plan.

## 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 only receives CDBG funding as well as some program income from energy rebates and payoff of deferred loan agreements. As stated earlier, the energy rebates will not be available in 2024. The amount the City receives makes it difficult to leverage our funding, but we continue to look for ways to make that work. This year a portion of CDBG funds were used to offset the cost of the boilers in The Center for Non-Profits. Restoration Village's receipt of CDBG funds enabled them to completely finish their kitchen/living area for their residents who live at Restoration Village. In the past we have purchased land for the development of the first Habitat for Humanity Subdivision in the State of Arkansas, partnered with Open Avenues to help open a new facility that provides employment and care for disabled adults, partnered with the City to build sidewalks in our census tracts where over 51% of the population were low-income, partnered with Souls Harbor to rehabilitate a building that houses men with addictions, many who are homeless. We have also partnered with Teen Action Support Center to assist in the renovation of space at The Center for Non-Profits in Rogers to allow this agency to move all their programs into one building which will allow teens to get all their needs met in one location. We also renovated a facility for women coming out of incarceration. The facility was a single-family home located in a single-family subdivision. Permission by the City through conditional use permitting was giving to this organization to operate in this neighborhood.



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

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

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

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	6	11
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to support the rehab of low-income owner-occupied single-family housing units. The number of assisted houses we complete each year depends upon the number of applications we receive. Although the supply chain is better than COVID years, we are still seeing delays in getting windows and doors shipped which slows down the time from bid opening until construction starts on many of our projects.

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

The City of Rogers will continue to make housing rehabilitation a priority in their future Annual Action Plans. The City would like to see a more realistic timeline for completing applications in the year they were received; however, we don't always receive the application in time to process, inspect, bid and complete construction within the funding year nor do we always have all the funds available to do all the work requested. Some years we have to wait on program funding to be dispersed before we can start our projects. This year release of funding did not impact our housing rehabilitation program as we carried over funds from previous years.

### 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	1	0
Low-income	10	0
Moderate-income	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

### Narrative Information

Safe, warm and dry houses will continue to be the factor in the City of Rogers' efforts to earmark funding for housing rehabilitation each Program Year. We also look to make the house more energy efficient by installing energy efficient HVAC units, windows, doors, and add additional insulation, when needed.

On January 23, 2024, the City Council at Rogers consented to the City selling land to the Northwest Arkansas Council Foundation for the development of affordable homes. They plan to build 3D-printed concrete housing for community members whose annual income does not exceed 80% of the area median income. This housing would be available for purchase and is scheduled to start late spring, early summer hoping to have buyers in these homes by end of 2024. This is a very innovative project, and the City is excited to be chosen and work with this construction.

## **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 Rogers continues their commitment to decent and affordable housing to address the homelessness situation and those at risk of becoming homeless. The City has worked with the HARK Collaboration Group and the University of Arkansas in their point-in-time count which is done in January of each year. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator also worked with a group called Tapestry House. This group purchased a house, with a donation by an individual, in Rogers for the sole purpose of housing a homeless individual, couple, or family to help them get on their feet by providing a very low rent house for occupancy. They are on their third family in this house. As one family leaves, they become mentors to the new family coming in. Tapestry House works with many agencies in the selection process of the individual, couple, or family that lives in Tapestry House. The City is also a member of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care, a coalition of Northwest Arkansas cities and individuals with accessing mainstream mental health and chemical dependence services as well as many other needs, which include assessments of individuals, chronically homeless as well as veterans living on the street who typically do not access shelter or other homeless services. Part of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care is education of both the service providers and the communities to assist in eradicating homelessness. The CDBG Administrator attends those meetings and the City will do whatever it can to help this group meet their goals. The City's CDBG Administrator also serves on the Youth Council Board to address youth homelessness in Northwest Arkansas. By funding the rehabilitation of Souls Harbor and Pearl facility, some of our CDBG funding directly supported homeless men and women. Funding given to Nicole's House also met the needs of homeless women, some who are mothers. You can either choose to engage the community or you can ignore the problem. The City of Rogers does not want to ignore the problem.

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

There are several organizations that exist in Northwest Arkansas that serve families or persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Four of these agencies have received funding in the past as well as 2023 CDBG funding. These agencies are Seven Hills Homeless Shelter, Salvation Army, CASA, Souls Harbor, Pearl, and Nicole's House. CASA and Nicole's House received 2023 funding. CASA provides children, taken from their homes, a foster home where they receive care and advocacy. Souls Harbor is a transitional living facility for men who are in addiction and in most cases homeless. Pearl provides a place for women coming out of jail and/or prison to live while trying to get their lives back on track and have a safe place to reside where there is accountability. Nicole's House also provides a place for women coming out of incarceration to live until they can get through a 12-month program or rehabilitation. Without these two facilities, most of these women would end up homeless. Seven Hills Homeless Shelter is a

transitional living center for homeless. Salvation Army provides a place where homeless can come for meals and to sleep at night especially when the temperatures outside are freezing or below.

There are different kinds of shelters to address shelter and transitional housing needs for homeless individuals and households in Northwest Arkansas. We have overnight shelters that can somewhat meet food needs and be a place to find out if they would be willing to participate in case management or receive more intensive services that ultimately could lead to interim housing. Interim housing helps to reduce the amount of time people spend homeless with a goal to get into permanent housing as soon as possible. Permanent supportive housing helps clients to maintain residential stability. Many of these clients may have serious and persistent disabilities such as mental illness, substance abuse disorders, HIV-AIDS, all of which can contribute to chronic homelessness. Safe Havens are housing programs for individuals who are difficult to engage in services. We know the ultimate solution to ending homelessness is permanent housing closely aligned with supportive services that endure housing.

The Homeless Needs Assessment and Point-In-Time Count has been a tool to better prepare the City to assist the homeless, and help them make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. The City of Rogers has met with organizations interested in bringing additional transitional facilities to Rogers; however, those organizations have not move forward with any projects.

**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 Rogers is not an agency that can take this on. We do know the circumstances that cause homelessness include eviction, loss of income, insufficient income disability, housing cost increases, being discharged from an institution, irreparable damage or deterioration of housing, and family violence. All we can do is to 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 and preventing these individuals and families from becoming homeless again.

**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 continues its ongoing efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units in Rogers to help rehabilitate homes that would otherwise be destined for condemnation or in need of major repairs. We feel it is imperative to keep our housing stock in good shape and prevent anyone from being homeless due to the condition of their home. We are seeing more youth homelessness. We are also seeing families with increased medical bills due to the COVID pandemic and hardships that were put on these individuals and families due to quarantines in 2020 and 2021. We want to make sure our people in residential facilities can be discharged with housing in place. We also need to make sure adults being discharged from jails and other systems of care are not homeless upon release. We need to make sure that we can continue to meet the needs of our youth as the population increases each year in the Northwest Arkansas Metro Area. This will require good coordination from all agencies involved with homelessness. Our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan provided CDBG funding to support activities that provide services and/or eliminate homelessness.

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

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

The City of Rogers does not have a Public Housing Office. All of Benton County falls under the Public Housing Authority located in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. All Section 8 vouchers are handled out of the Siloam Springs Office. The City has 755 units of low-income housing available. Fifty-six of those units are for elderly. Another 72 units for elderly are planned at Dixieland Gardens when Federal funding becomes available. Some of the newer complexes built for low-income are energy-star rated. The City continues to work in any endeavor it can to assure there is affordable housing in Rogers. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator tries to stay in contact with the Siloam Springs Housing Authority and refers any residents who contact us for low-income housing or Section 8 vouchers to the Siloam Springs office. We do get complaints from time to time about the distance from Rogers to Siloam Springs which is difficult for our low-income residents in need of assistance. It is 33.36 miles from Rogers to Siloam Springs and depending upon the traffic, it could take as long as one hour to make the trip as well as gas costs.

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

The CDBG Administrator attends and stays involved in any meetings and workshops to encourage involvement in management and participation in homeownership.

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

Siloam Springs Public Housing Authority is not designated as trouble.

## **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 primary barriers to affordable housing are housing affordability and lack of developers interested in developing affordable housing. The growth in Northwest Arkansas, particularly Rogers, has only pushed housing costs higher putting more homes out of reach for the low to moderate-income individuals and families. The economy is thriving in Northwest Arkansas and one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. The City has encouraged development of housing for low-income by being as flexible as they can be with zoning laws to encourage the developer to look at developing lower price homes for many of our residents seeking homeownership. We are starting to see that kind of development. We have had visits with the Community Development Department to see how we can partner with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and the developer to make affordable subdivisions more appealing. We are looking at amenities that could be paid with CDBG funding such as street lights, curb and gutter, etc. We are also looking at bringing affordable housing in our downtown area with new construction. The City has two areas developed for tiny homes that sell in the \$35,000 to \$125,000 range. The developer of these two areas is also planning to develop another area in the City once the second development has been completed.

The City will look at land and zoning changes to increase density in planned developments earmarking some of the development to be affordable. We will look at any vacant properties that might be sold at a low price to be used for the creation of affordable housing.

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

The major obstacle to meeting all of the identified needs is the lack of funding resources to meet undeserved needs of low-and-moderate-income people. Applicant request amounts are generally much higher than the entitlement amount especially when it comes to the public service 15% cap. The City, when feasible, partners with other non-profits to leverage their funding applications. We continually review our policies to make sure we know our changing market conditions and service needs in our community. In the past two years, the City has shifted greater resources towards our housing rehabilitation program to keep our existing older housing stock in good condition. This keeps these homes from falling into disrepair and presenting hazards to the residents.

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

The Residential Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X) emphasizes prevention of childhood lead poisoning through housing-based approaches. To reduce lead-based paint hazards, the rehabilitation of housing units built prior to January 1, 1978 includes a lead-based paint testing and risk

assessment. Where lead-based paint is identified, the City ensures that developers and contractors incorporate safe work practices or abate the lead-based paint as part of the scope of work to effectively reduce lead-based paint hazards to children in accordance with 24 CFR Part 35.

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

The City continues with their existing programs that promote a stable living environment and helps to reduce dependency. The City did eleven housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs to help the low-income remain in their homes. Our housing program promotes a stable living environment and reduces dependence and also prevents homelessness, financial hardships and possibly institutionalization. We will continue to work to maximize program dollars and opportunities in neighborhoods with the greatest number of low-to-moderate-income residents. The partnerships that the City has with its non-profit agencies helps to provide services that could go a long way in providing needed services to our low-income residents. Transportation assistance impacts our low-income elderly and disabled residents in that it allows them to use the money they need for transportation on other needs of their lives. The City works to promote the independence and well-being of individuals, support families and strengthen neighborhoods. We use CDBG funding to provide services for low-income residents with the objective of providing basic needs and improving their quality of life as well as the quality of life for all residents in the City. We support agencies that address critical and emergency human service needs of low-income persons and families. We support programs that support positive outcomes that promote and help maintain self-sufficiency and meet short-term and long-term needs.

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

The Mayor, Finance Director, and CDBG Administrator provide fiscal and regulatory oversight of all CDBG funding sources and Federal grants. All reports in 2023 were submitted timely. Funds were drawn down and checks written in a timely manner. The City met their drawdown percentages prior to the November 1, 2023 deadline and were considered timely. We will have one project funded in 2022 that will not happen. We will move those funds to another project through an Amendment to the 2022 Action Plan. We will do all this at the same time we have our final Public Hearing for the 2024 Action Plan.

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

The City sought partnerships to leverage 2023 funding. If the cap on public service could be lifted, we would have been able to see more partnerships. Much of our needs in Northwest Arkansas are service needs and the cap makes it very difficult to provide these services. The CDBG Administrator is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care. The membership of this organization consists of the majority of the housing and social service providers in Northwest Arkansas. The City is definitely involved with non-profits and organizations that are working to address poverty through community engagement.



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

For many households, low or no income is a major factor in preventing their exercise of housing choice. Households experiencing a severe lack of income and those unemployed typically face limitations in fair housing choice. The City and local Chamber of Commerce are continuing work on expanding job opportunities through the recruitment of corporations, the provision of incentives for local corporations seeking expansion opportunities, and other activities aimed at reducing unemployment and expanding the base of high income plus provide jobs that support persons with high school educations, GED's, community colleges and technical schools. Recruiting such industries can assist in increasing the local tax base while serving to provide necessary income for more persons to earn a living wage and improve their ability to qualify for home ownership. The City is also working to increase public awareness of fair housing rights and legislation.

As part of the 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan process, the City selected a professional to do the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. In developing the report, the City and professional convened focus groups with fair housing and community organizations along with the real estate industry. The professional and CDBG Administrator also met with key City department heads and sister agencies to learn about their efforts to further fair housing. The professional developed recommendations for action items which serves as the Fair Housing Plan for the City. The Analysis of Impediments report was completed in November 2022 and is located on the City's website. The City uses that report to set goals within our 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan.

The City stays in touch with the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission. We have hosted some town hall meetings in the past and will look at that possibility in the future.

## **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**

The City of Rogers established procedures to monitor the use of Federal grant funds. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Office administered all activities in compliance with Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. All agencies receiving funding entered into an agreement with the City of Rogers and were monitored by the CDBG Administrator. All housing rehabilitation activities followed bidding requirements except those that were deemed emergency and required immediate attention. An emergency is when a health and/or safety issue is at hand. Work was permitted through the City's Risk Reduction Department. Inspections were held prior to the start of the work, during the work, and at the end of the work before final payment was made. Any code violations found at initial inspection were added to the scope of work. The City's transportation assistance program was monitored to make sure all recipients of free rides in 2023 met all the income requirements established by HUD. A file was set up for each activity and documentation for that activity was made a part of the completed file used for HUD monitoring. All other City service projects were also monitored. Three City employees--Accounts Payable, Finance Director, and CDBG Administrator--oversaw the handling of the City's CDBG funds. This provides a good check and balance for these funds. The City's public facility projects were also bid projects, inspected by the Risk Reduction Department and monitored by the CDBG Office. The CDBG Office was also part of the City's annual audit and all paperwork concerning the audit was filed in accordance with Federal guidelines. Project files can be destroyed in five years unless a Deferred Loan Agreement (DLA) has been filed on the property. The file will not be eligible for destroying until the DLA has been released from the property. The City makes sure all grantees that performed services for the City complied with all applicable Federal regulations governing their administrative, financial and program operations. To ensure this, technical assistance was provided to all subrecipients and monitoring was done. The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) and IDIS continue to be used as effective monitoring resource documents. They serve as accurate measures of performance in terms of eligible beneficiaries served, program target areas, and dollars identified for the project. The City also submits an annual Section 3 Compliance Report with each CAPER.

Throughout Program Year 2023, the City complied with existing policies and procedures to help monitor CDBG program administration and regulatory compliance. The CDBG Administrator stays in communication with the HUD Little Rock Field Office. The HUD website is reviewed for new resources, guidelines and program compliance updates. As part of the City's annual performance assessment, the City conducts a Public Hearing to keep the public informed about our CDBG Program and how our funding is spent completing CDBG-funded projects and activities.

## **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.**

To ensure our residents' priorities and needs are addressed in the Action Plan, the City holds at least two Public Hearings each year. An initial Public Hearing was held on the 2023 Action Plan on August 22, 2022 and a final Public Hearing was held on March 27, 2023. We also held an initial Public Hearing for the 2024 Action Plan on August 22, 2023. This gave us two public hearings in the 2023 Program Year. The 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) was ready for public review and comments on February 5, 2024. We make sure our residents are fully informed concerning the City's CDBG grants and how that grant money is appropriated. The Public Hearings were held in a building that had access for persons with disabilities. The Hearing was scheduled after work to provide working individuals and families a greater opportunity to attend. Because Rogers has a large Spanish speaking population, a bilingual (English/Spanish) person was made available to non-English speaking persons. Copies of these plans were placed in four locations in Rogers to be viewed as well as online making accessibility to the plans easy for our residents. The CAPER for the 2023 Program Year was also placed at four locations as well as online and a 15-day comment period was given to our residents prior to submitting the CAPER to HUD.

## **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.**

There have been no significant changes to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program objectives. The City does not plan to change its programs as a result of any experiences we have encountered. We will continue to provide services to our low-income residents, promote fair housing, help with homeless prevention, provide funding for facility and infrastructure needs, and continue our housing rehabilitation program.

As a result of successful implementation of past projects and activities, the City plans to continue developing its Annual Action Plan with input from residents and fund projects and activities that address high-priority needs identified in the City's 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan.

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

No

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

## CR-58 – Section 3

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

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPW A	HTF
Total Number of Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours	0				
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	0				
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0				

**Table 8 – Total Labor Hours**

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPW A	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers	0				
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.	0				
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).	0				
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.	0				
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).	0				
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.	0				
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.	0				
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.	0				
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.	0				
Held one or more job fairs.	0				
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.	0				
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.	0				
Assisted residents with finding child care.	0				
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.	0				
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.	0				
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.	0				
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.	0				
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.	0				
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.	0				
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.	0				

Other.	0				
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**Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program**

## Narrative

Nothing we did was over the threshold of requiring Section 3. On all our advertisements for bids, we added a paragraph that stated "The City of Rogers encourages participation of (Sec 3) low-income/small, minority, and woman owned business enterprises in the procurement of goods, services, and construction, either as a general contractor or subcontractor. It is further requested that, whenever possible, majority contractors who require subcontractors seek small, minority, and woman owned businesses to partner with them." All bids at opening required all contractors to answer the following question, "Is the general contractor or any of the above subcontractors participating in Section 3 low-income, small minority, and woman owned business enterprise in the procurement of goods, services, and construction". If answer was yes, contractor is required to list those contractors. We make every effort to give Section 3 businesses the opportunity to bid, however, there is only one Section 3 contractor in Northwest Arkansas and that business was in drywall. We rarely have drywall needs in any of our projects.