

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

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

The Program Year 2022 CAPER evaluates the progress towards achieving the goals and strategies established in the City's 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and Program Year 2022 Annual Action Plan. It also addresses the affordable housing, human service, and employment needs of low and moderate-income households in our community, as outlined in CR-05-Goals and Outcomes identifying the adopted Priority Needs, Housing Strategies, and Community Development Strategies, including specific measures of progress and numeric five-year goals as established for each strategy. The CDBG funded activities covered in this report primarily benefited low- and moderate-income residents and lower income communities within the jurisdiction and addressed affordable housing development needs.

A notice regarding the CAPER was published on the City of Ocala website on Tuesday November 21, 2023. A notice regarding this CAPER was published in the Ocala Gazette newspaper on Friday, November 24, 2023, for the required 15-day comment period. The comment period was open from November 27th to December 15th, exceeding the required fifteen (15) days.

The City of Ocala's CDBG goals for program year 2022 included the rehabilitation of three (3) low-to- moderate income housing units; the demolishing two (2) low-to-moderate income housing units and doing a public facility rehabilitation.

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 |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| CV - Economic Development | Non-Housing Community Development Economic Development | Public - Federal CDBG CV 1: \$ | Businesses assisted | Businesses Assisted | 8 | 8 | 100.00% | | | |
| CV - Public Service | Non-Housing Community Development Public Service | Public - Federal CDBG CV 1: \$ | Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 254 | 7286 | 2,868.50% | | | |
| Housing Improvements | Affordable Housing | CDBG: \$ | Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated | Household Housing Unit | 25 | 8 | 32.00% | 3 | 4 | 133.33% |
| Planning and Administration | Non-Housing Community Development Planning and Administration | CDBG: \$ | Other | Other | 1 | 1 | 100.00% | 1 | 1 | 100.00% |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------|--|---------------------|-----|---|--------|----|---|-------|
| Public Facilities/Infrastructure | Non-Housing Community Development | CDBG: \$ | Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Households Assisted | 250 | 0 | 0.00% | 50 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Quality of Life | Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development | CDBG: \$ | Buildings Demolished | Buildings | 10 | 2 | 20.00% | 2 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Quality of Life | Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development | CDBG: \$ | Other | Other | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 0 | 0.00% |

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

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

Funds were allocated in alignment with the priorities identified in the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan. CDBG or HOME funds were used in these projects to support our efforts to meet HUD’s mandate and improve housing accessibility and affordability, and the overall quality of life for the low-to-moderate income residents.

The City of Ocala allocated CDBG, SHIP, HOME and Affordable Housing Grant funds based on a first come, first qualified basis to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to nine (9) low to moderate income families which addresses its priority of renovating existing housing of low-to-

moderate income persons. Four (4) of the nine homes were assisted with CDBG funds. Because of market conditions, the City did not carry out any public facility projects nor did it demolish any homes for reconstruction.

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CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

| | CDBG |
|---|----------|
| White | 3 |
| Black or African American | 1 |
| Asian | 0 |
| American Indian or American Native | 0 |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 0 |
| Total | 4 |
| Hispanic | 0 |
| Not Hispanic | 4 |

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

Narrative

The majority of the City's most unsuitable living conditions are found in its low-income neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are the focus of the programs spending in an effort to stabilize and revitalize these neighborhoods and preserve the low-income housing stock that exist in these areas. Three (3) of the lowest income census tracts exist in neighborhoods that are predominantly African American. The City has identified the Tucker Hill Community, which is 75% African American, as a target area in one of such census tracts in which it looks to devote resources in an effort to rehabilitate, preserve, and develop low-income housing units. However, the City's housing program is a city-wide program that operates on a first come first qualified basis and assistance is provided to all citizens that qualify regardless of the community in which they live

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 | 493,411 | 63,536 |

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The allocation of CDBG resources is targeted to best meet the priority needs of low- and moderate-income persons based on a variety of planning studies and community input in the preceding years. Considering the small amount of federal funding received and a change in management, the City is again primarily focusing the majority of its efforts in housing rehabilitation activities in an effort to preserve its affordable housing stock. Ocala has a great need for affordable housing units but also we must focus on maintaining the current houses occupied by low- and moderate-income persons. This strategy also bolsters the local economy in that it provides construction jobs that otherwise would not exist because the persons that are assisted with this funding do not have the means to contract for these repairs themselves.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

| Target Area | Planned Percentage of Allocation | Actual Percentage of Allocation | Narrative Description |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| City of Ocala | 100 | 100 | City of Ocala |

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

During this time period, 100% of the homes rehabilitated were located in the City of Ocala, with one (1) home rehabilitated in the local target area of the Tucker Hill community.

Leveraging

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

The City of Ocala Housing Rehabilitation program is funded using a combination of its CDBG, HOME Grant, State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Grant, Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) funds and the City's Affordable Housing Fund. This leveraging of federals, state and local funding enables the City to maximize the number of families it can assist on annual basis.

In addition, the City works closely with the Community Action Agency to maximize the amount of assistance provided to housing rehabilitation applicants reducing the rehabilitation costs and allowing the programs to assist more families. This local agency, when funds are available, provides additional funding to City rehab projects by paying for the weatherization aspect of the project.

No publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction was used to address the needs identified in the plan. All property that was rehabbed during this time period was privately owned by the homeowners.

To meet the HOME grant match requirements, the City uses its annual allocation of SHIP funding.

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 | 3 | 8 |
| Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 3 | 8 |

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 | 3 | 8 |
| Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 3 | 8 |

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

The City was able to meet its housing goal for the 2021 Program Year. The City was able to bring three (3) homes from sub-standard to standard conditions.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

With the change in management, the City will return to a high focus of investing its allocation primarily towards affordable housing projects. There will be a high premium on rehabilitating sub standard housing conditions in order to keep units from leaving the affordable housing inventory. The City will also continue to look for ways to leverage funds to increase its abilities to create and preserve affordable housing in its service area. The City will look to increase the number of housing rehabilitation projects in the next performance period by thirty percent (30%).

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 | 5 | 0 |
| Low-income | 2 | 0 |
| Moderate-income | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 8 | 0 |

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

The City of Ocala has engaged in additional activities and partnerships to address worse case housing needs in its community. Through its Office of Homeless Prevention, the City has partnered with the Ocala Housing Authority in issuing and administering Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) for homeless families and individuals in Marion County. The City functions as the lead in distributing the applications and entering the applicants into the Marion County Continuum of Care (CoC) through its coordinated entry process. City staff performs a vulnerability assessment of the residents and maintains the CoC By Name List to ensure the most vulnerable citizens are offered housing first. To date, 50% of the vouchers have been used to house previously homeless families and individuals.

The City has also included in its Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP), provisions and funding to assist renters who face eviction and/or in need of rental subsidies because they are expending 50% or greater of their gross income on rent. The City’s LHAP allows for up to twelve (12) months of rental assistance.

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

Through its Office of Homeless Prevention, the City of Ocala provides outreach to and identifies persons who are experiencing homelessness. The Outreach Specialist performs a housing assessment to determine appropriate housing and services options for the residents. Once the household is assessed, the City facilitates a By Name List and prioritizes the contacted residents for housing services. The City then refers those residents to organizations in the community best able to serve the resident's needs.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Needs that have been identified in the community, such as Permanent Supported Housing (PSH), are highlighted at grant workshops, and agencies providing that service are encouraged to apply for grant funds. Identified needs and grant applications supporting the identified need are ranked during the annual funding recommendation meetings by the review committee in an attempt to bridge an identified gap in services. The Joint Office on Homelessness is working with non-profit organizations to produce additional PSH units. In this reporting period six (6) PSH units were added to the community's inventory. There are also on-going conversations with non-profit organizations, law enforcement, and local political leaders, to create, fund, and operate a low-barrier shelter. This has been identified by the Marion County Continuum of Care as its highest priority. A low-barrier shelter when enabled the community to provide needed sheltering opportunities for individuals who currently don't meet the guidelines of other shelters in the community.

During this reporting period the City also partnered with the Ocala Housing Authority (OHA) to implement an Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program. OHA received 51 vouchers designed to assist the County's most vulnerable citizens in attaining housing.

The housing needs of the homeless in the City of Ocala/Marion County cannot be met entirely by emergency shelters and transitional housing due to the lack of capacity. The Marion County CoC receives funds to provide homeless prevention, rapid rehousing, and emergency shelter using the Housing First Program to assist homeless persons/families.

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 following list of public and private agencies provide assistance to address housing, health, social services, employment, education, and youth needs:

Faith based organizations and churches provide emergency food and financial assistance.

- Community Legal Services provides representation in eviction, foreclosures, and public housing proceedings.
- Ocala Housing Authority (OHA) provides consumer credit counseling and housing re-modification to existing mortgages, as well as emergency housing vouchers for the County's most vulnerable residents.
- Phoenix House Florida Addiction Treatment Center for men and women for substance abuse and mental health problems. The center is often used as a transitional housing from prison facilities after discharge with medical and mental health issues.
- CareerSource of Citrus, Levy, Marion provides job development and counseling; assists with employment searches; identifies job skills and provides education and guidance with writing resumes and interviewing.
- Kids Central and its partners provide Independent living services to youth and young adults in the foster care system after being discharged. These services prepare the youth for adulthood and life after foster care. For youth aging-out of the system (those turning 18 years old without returning to the care of their parents or being adopted) it is a requirement to have the basic life skills to function successfully on their own. Training includes but is not limited to: financial literacy training, household management, educational and career planning. They help youth and young adults build a strong foundation for their lives and provides Independent living and extended foster care work to help youth and young adults build a strong foundation for their lives. Their Independent Living and Extended Foster Care provide young adults with the life skills and services that they need to make a successful transition to the responsibilities of adulthood.
- Interfaith Emergency Services provides funding for outreach staff, diversion costs, and needs of the unsheltered homeless (medical, mental health, identification, and transportation).

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 Ocala has access to rapid rehousing and homeless prevention programs administered through the Joint Office on Homelessness and Marion County Community Services, which are funded through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). There are two local veteran assistance programs with Supportive Services for Veteran Families Funds (SSVF). Marion County helps fund rapid rehousing and homeless prevention programs through Shepherds Lighthouse, and Interfaith Emergency Services to assist the chronically homeless to transition into permanent housing.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Ocala Housing Authority:

- Continued its evaluation of HUD's Public Housing Repositioning initiative for converting its public housing units to project-based or tenant-based vouchers. Continued to administer the Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) grant to increase its focus on individual case management and providing more resources to aid low to moderate income families achieve self-sufficiency. Received additional Family Self Sufficiency Grant (FSS) funding the focus is to assist Housing Choice Voucher families to be free of government assistance. Received two duplexes from the Continuum of Care to providing housing and supportive services to four eligible families that are homeless with minor child(ren) and at least one family member is disabled. Continued to partner with the City of Ocala and Marion County Community Services to acquire vacant lots and grant funding to produce the most needed affordable housing units (1 and 2-bedroom units). Implemented recruitment strategies designed to increase the number of families participating in the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program and ROSS programs In FY2020-2021, OHA assisted seven (7) low-moderate income families achieve homeownership, five (5) families via Sec 8 Homeownership program, two (2) of which achieved income levels that no longer required HCV assistance, and two (2) families by the OHA Homeownership club achieved their goal of homeownership. Received 51 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) to assist individuals or families who are homeless, victims of domestic violence, or families fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, sexual assault or human trafficking, individuals or families who are at-risk of being homelessness and individuals or families who are recently homeless. Received additional Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers to assist homeless veterans. In addition, consistent discussion and planning for problematic cases were identified and addressed with local Continuum of Care (CoC) membership and committee meetings, monthly and biweekly for VASH.

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

Ocala Housing Authority (OHA) is a HUD certified housing counseling agency with two HUD Certified Housing Counselors on staff. OHA provides homeownership, foreclosure, credit repair, and rental housing counseling. The agency also provides information on how to become a homeowner, fair housing rights, credit counseling, and foreclosure prevention. OHA also provides the following counseling services:

- Homebuyer Education Programs
- Loss Mitigation
- Money Debt Management

- Mortgage Delinquency and Default Resolution Counseling
- Post-Purchase Counseling
- Pre-Purchase Counseling
- Renter's Assistance

OHA also offers the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency Program, Homebuyer's Club and Homeownership counseling programs. These programs assist Section 8 participants and residents of the public housing communities with becoming economically self-sufficient and attaining homeownership.

OHA has an increased focus on case management and provide classes that center on becoming employable through education and job skills training, obtaining employment, homeownership, credit rebuilding, safety, voter awareness, and budgeting. OHA is working on partnerships that will aid staff with helping residents remove barriers to transportation, education, and employment.

OHA maintains ongoing resident initiatives. The Ocala Housing Authority has been working diligently to promote activity and interested in Resident Council/Resident Advisory Board in each of the OHA's Public Housing communities to include guest speakers keep residents informed of new programs and opportunities. A representative from the Ocala Police Department will be invited to attend meetings to assist with Neighborhood Watch Programs and other questions or concerns the residents may have.

Residents receive a monthly newsletter/calendar that includes vital OHA information, updates from HUD and local community information. OHA staff walks through each community several times a month to maintain a visible presence on-site and to increase customer service.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

OHA is designated as a High Performer, as documented through HUD's Public and Indian Housing Information Center.

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

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

The City of Ocala has established public policy regarding affordable housing. The City continually evaluates policies to ensure they do not interfere with affordable housing efforts. In addition, the City of Ocala's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) meets to update and review barriers that may affect affordable housing. The AHAC committee has developed a reporting matrix that helps with accountability of completing the tasks that will eliminate or reduce the barriers to affordable housing.

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

In the reporting period, the City undertook activities to address the obstacles to meeting undeserved housing needs. The City worked toward bettering its expedited permitting process. The Community Programs Division and Growth Management Department implemented weekly meetings to discuss the permitting process. The departments are also working on an affordable housing application that will help identify and fast track the permitting of affordable housing projects. Another action taken to address obstacles is the marketing of the City's Affordable Housing Fund. The Community Programs Division worked with the City's Public Relations Department to develop literature to distribute in the community to bring greater awareness of funding that can be used to offset impact fees when developing affordable housing units.

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

The City has implemented a housing rehabilitation program and continues to operate the program within the HUD Lead-Safe Housing regulations. The rehabilitation program offered through the City is reducing lead hazards by focusing on code compliance. The City also ensured that staff is appropriately trained in lead-based paint, pamphlets are distributed, inspections and assessments are conducted when required, and that contractors trained in lead safe practices are used. All rehabilitation activities constructed prior to 1978 are inspected for lead-based paint (LBP). The first step is counseling, informing the rehabilitation client of the danger of lead-based paint, providing the requisite brochure, and signing an acknowledgement of receipt of the brochure when clients apply for assistance. CDBG staff determines at this interview whether there is heightened risk due to young children in the household. If LBP is found, and funding is available to effectively mitigate, the City will hire the appropriate professionals to do the work. The City does not perform LBP inspections. The City hires certified environmental inspectors to provide inspection and documentation services. Certified contractors performing remediation work must do so in accordance with industry standards including posting of appropriate warning signs, restricting occupants from work areas, containing work areas to prevent dust and debris from spreading, conducting thorough cleanup, and verifying that cleanup was effective.

The City has guidelines that are written for lead-based paint policies and procedures. All contracts/agreements with contractors/inspectors include the required regulatory language enforcing the requirements that must be met and followed. The City also monitors lead-based paint projects to ensure the provisions are being applied.

The City also tests all of its projects for asbestos and test for mold as needed.

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

The City of Ocala has an aging housing stock in several low-income neighborhoods. Through the use of CDBG, HOME, SHIP, and the local Affordable Housing Fund, the City's strategy is to continue to revitalize these neighborhoods to provide a better quality of life to the residents, while preserving the housing through rehabilitation. The City continues to attempt to reduce the poverty level by providing funds to reduce the blighted conditions city wide. In addition, the City commits funding for business improvement grants in low-income areas. The City, along with the local Chamber and Economic Partnership, continues to work with local business to provide job opportunities for all residents and attract new business to the area. The City continually works with local organizations such as the Marion County Continuum of Care, CareerSource, and Governor's West Ocala Neighborhood Revitalization Council to resolve social issues that may contribute to high poverty levels.

The City of Ocala has established sufficient public policy regarding affordable housing. However, the City continually re-evaluates policies to ensure they do not interfere with affordable housing efforts. In addition, the City of Ocala's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) meets to update and review barriers that may affect affordable housing.

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

City of Ocala staff participates with community organizations specializing in homelessness (Interfaith, St. Theresa), children's issues (Kimberly's Center, ELC), mental health (SMA Healthcare and FREEdom Clinic), veterans services (Veterans of America, Vets Helping Vets), senior services, and community issues (Community with a Heart). The Community Programs Division consulted with Ocala Housing Authority concerning public housing needs and any planned program activities. Consultation helped ensure that all proposed activities directed towards increasing affordable housing, neighborhood improvement, and/or any resident programs and/or services funded by Ocala Housing Authority will increase the quality of life of all participating parties.

The City of Ocala Community Programs Division coordinates with various public, private, and nonprofit agencies. Collaboration between local, county, and state agencies is important in successfully carrying out the goals and objectives identified in the Consolidated Plan and addressing community needs. Areas of coordination included broadband and Wi-Fi access to underserved areas; evaluation of flood prone areas; emergency evacuation routes; availability of fire/rescue services; and determination of effect on natural and environmental resources

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

The City uses a Coordinated Entry (CE) model to coordinate housing activities among social agencies. The office of Homeless Prevention serves as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) lead agency for the Marion County Continuum of Care. They are the point of contact with the community's most vulnerable citizens, and they initiate the process of routing those individuals to available services.

The City also works with private sector developers to produce affordable housing projects. These projects are both rental and homeownership and are designed to create more affordable and suitable units to the community's housing stock. In the reporting period, the city committed \$460,000 of its Affordable Housing Fund in the form of a loan, that enabled a partnering developer to secure a 9% tax credit from the State of Florida that will lead to the production of 36 affordable units in the first phase.

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

The 2019 AI identified four (4) impediments to fair housing that affect the citizens of Marion County. The first being an insufficient supply of affordable rental housing. To help eliminate this barrier the City of Ocala collaborates with the Marion County Housing Finance Authority, Ocala Housing Authority (OHA), and private sector developers to develop affordable rental housing units. The City has also worked with OHA in locating and recruiting new landlords who will assist in bringing affordable units online in the community. To strengthen relationships with private landlords, OHA has hired a Housing Locator that works with community housing providers and the City to actively recruit, retain, and incentivize landlords. The collaboration also works to educate landlords to some of the benefits of renting too low to moderate income persons and families.

Insufficient support of affordable home ownership was the second identified impediment. To help eliminate this barrier the City of Ocala collaborates with the Marion County Housing Finance Authority, Ocala Housing Authority (OHA), Marion County Habitat for Humanity, and private sector developers to develop affordable housing units for home ownership. The City is currently working to develop a revolving loan program that will be geared to facilitate the development of affordable housing units throughout the City but particularly in historically low/mod income neighborhoods. The City has also increased its promotion of its down payment assistance program and has again made that a high priority in its efforts to assist low/mod income citizens in becoming homeowners. The City has worked with OHA in assisting participants of the Sec 8 Homeownership Program with assistance in purchasing homes with their HUD issued vouchers. OHA has had over a dozen voucher holders become homeowners in the past two years. OHA and the City also partner in providing home buyers education classes to prospective homeowners. These classes help low/mod citizens prepare for homeownership and help give them the skills to be successful long-term homeowners.

The next impediment identified in the 2019 AI was a lack of awareness by residents of Fair Housing laws.

The City continues to collaborate with Marion County, OHA, and Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida – Ocala to provide training material, resources, and events to educate the housing community on fair housing laws. The City prominently advertises on their website and other publications during fair housing month and makes presentations to local community groups to help spread fair housing knowledge throughout the community.

The final identified impediment in the AI is poor credit history and inadequate access to employment opportunities. The City does not have a program to address the impediment of poor credit. Instead, it collaborates with OHA and the local United Way to recommend citizens to the OHA's Family Self Sufficiency Program and United Way's Strong Families initiative. The City is one of the largest employers in Marion County. The City has been pro-active in developing various programs to attract low/mod income employees, minority employees, and small business. The City collaborates with the County and the Ocala/Marion Chamber & Economic Partners to attract national and regional business. This collaboration has been effective in attracting new community partners who have brought in new and higher paying employment opportunities.

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CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

The City of Ocala provides direct benefit to low-income households through housing rehabilitation and direct financial assistance to first time homebuyers. Progress and compliance with program requirements are monitored throughout the entire process and all households are income qualified prior to services rendered. Files are maintained for each household for five years after the liens are released.

The City ensures long term compliance with applicable program requirements as follows:

- Collaboration between departments occurs to keep expenditure of CDBG funds within the City's vision.
- Minority Business Enterprise and Women Business Enterprise (MBE-WBE) outreach is made available through the city's procurement process and this data is entered through the city's Trakit system. MBE-WBE reports are submitted to HUD.
- The City solicits for Section 3 business through the procurement process.
- The SF425 is reported quarterly by the City of Ocala to HUD.
- Timely expenditure of grant funding

Additionally, the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan program goals and objectives are monitored at least quarterly through the review of IDIS comprehensive data reports. The City analyzes expenditures and determines if adjustments are needed based on results. The City has a written monitoring policy in place outlining the standards to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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

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

The Program Year 2021 CAPER was advertised November 28, 2022, in the local newspaper noticing a comment period of November 29, 2022, to December 16, 2022. A community meeting was held

December 13, 2022, during the monthly Governor’s West Ocala Neighborhood Revitalization Inc. meeting and a public hearing was held on December 20, 2022, at the City of Ocala’s regularly scheduled City Council meeting at City Hall. A draft of the CAPER was also made available on the City of Ocala website and was also made available for review at the City of Ocala Community Development Services Department and placed on the City Council agenda for December 20, 2022. No comments were received.

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 were no changes to the program objectives in the 2021 program year.

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

No

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

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CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

There were no changes to the program objectives in the 2021 program year.

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

No

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

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CR-58 – Section 3

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

| Total Labor Hours | CDBG | HOME | ESG | HOPWA | HTF |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Total Number of Activities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Labor Hours | | | | | |
| Total Section 3 Worker Hours | 0 | | | | |
| Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours | 0 | | | | |

Table 8 – Total Labor Hours

| Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program | CDBG | HOME | ESG | HOPWA | HTF |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers | | | | | |
| Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers. | | | | | |
| Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships). | | | | | |
| Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training. | | | | | |
| Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching). | | | | | |
| Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns. | | | | | |
| Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts. | 1 | | | | |
| Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns. | | | | | |
| Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services. | | | | | |
| Held one or more job fairs. | | | | | |
| Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals. | 1 | | | | |
| Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation. | | | | | |
| Assisted residents with finding child care. | | | | | |
| Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution. | | | | | |
| Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training. | | | | | |
| Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching. | | | | | |
| Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns. | | | | | |
| Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies. | | | | | |
| Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses. | | | | | |
| Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. | | | | | |

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|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Other. | | | | | |
|--------|--|--|--|--|--|

Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

The City didn't do any projects over the \$200,000 threshold that would trigger Sec 3 for municipalities. However, through its procurement department Small and Minority Business Program, the City actively seeks Sec 3 business concerns. Also, through its Office of Homeless Prevention, City Staff refers and connects potential Sec 3 workers with supportive services and provides direct referrals to the local Career Source Agency.

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