



# Third Program Year Action Plan

The CPMP Third Annual Action Plan includes the [SF 424](#) and Narrative Responses to Action Plan questions that CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG grantees must respond to each year in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations. The Executive Summary narratives are optional.

## Narrative Responses

### GENERAL

#### **Executive Summary**

The Executive Summary is required. Include the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan and an evaluation of past performance.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Executive Summary:

This is the City of Camden's third year Action Plan of a 5-year Strategic Plan that identifies activities that will be undertaken in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 to address priority needs in the community. (Inserted after this page is the *5 Year Plan Priority Needs Summary Table* and *Priority Housing Needs/Investment Plan Table*.)

Our fiscal year runs from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. The Plan describes the resources available, the programs and projects to be funded, and the proposed accomplishments for FY 2007-2008.

A total of \$4,732,709 of our HUD entitlement funds covering four programs (CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA) is available for programming to carry out the Action Plan's 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of the 5 Year Consolidated Plan. The funds are expected to leverage over \$20 million of private and other public resources. (See *Leveraging Chart* in Action Plan Section. The Chart contains basic information on the 29 proposals received for funding and the projects and programs that will be administered in-house. Of the 29 proposals received from sub-recipients, 13 are recommended for FY 2007 funding.) In addition, almost \$800,000 of reprogrammed HOME dollars will augment \$34,429,850 of private and other public resources for housing projects. (See CRA housing development chart on pages 12 to 14.)

The proposed activities include general administration, housing programs and activities, public improvements, employment training, public and human service programs.

The objectives and outcomes identified in the action plan are as follows.

- *DH1. Enhance the Availability/Accessibility of Decent Housing by offering emergency repair assistance to low income residents and by providing qualified rehabilitation services to eligible applicants (City Housing Services), and by renovating 5 affordable rental units for newly-trained and employed low income persons under Camden-based Workforce Development program (City Development and Planning).*
- *DH2. Address the need for affordable decent housing by offering down payment assistance to first time homebuyers (City Housing Services), by substantial rehabilitation assistance to low income owner-occupants(City Housing Services), by rental assistance to persons with AIDS (HOPWA), by new construction of ten affordable housing units for sale (Camden Lutheran Housing), by rehabilitation of 8 vacant houses for sale to low income persons (Heart of Camden), by rehabilitation of a vacant 12-unit apartment for low income persons (St. Joseph Carpenter Society), and by providing housing counseling and credit repair to 25 persons (City Development and Planning).*
  - *SL1. Enhance the availability/accessibility of suitable living environment by reducing gang-related crime through counseling programs (PRUP), by providing life skills training to our youths (Boys and Girls Club), by offering recreational, educational and cultural activities to the youths (City Health and Human Services Dept.), by offering recreational and social services to the seniors (City Health and Human Services), and by providing housing and social services to the homeless and at risk of homelessness via 6 programs (City Health and Human Services).*
  - *SL2. Address the affordability of suitable living environment by providing eye care services to those in need (Camden Eye Center).*
  - *SL3. Improve the sustainability of suitable living environment by continuing to fund a social service program to prevent youth involvement in crime and homelessness ( MALL), by providing new access to 5 fitness and recreation programs (City Health and Human Services), by continuing restoration efforts of the city's only historic house museum, (Camden County Historical Society), by restoring a former church into a maritime museum, by preparing the site at 1514-1526 Federal Street for construction of the new Cathedral Kitchen multi-service center and soup kitchen ( Antrim project), by emergency demolition of 7 unsafe and abandoned buildings (City Dept. Public Works), by street improvements on Martin Luther King Blvd. (City Division of Capital Improvements & Project Management), by restoration of 3 parks(City Dept. of Public Works) , and by partial restoration and stabilization of a historic building (Carnegie Library.)*
- *EO1. Enhance the availability/accessibility of economic opportunity by training youths in video arts production (IDEA), by construction trade training (American Community Partnership), by providing job readiness and employment (Woodland Community Development), by remediation of multiple barriers to achieve economic self sufficiency(Genesis), and by offering an urban science enrichment program to middle school youths (NJ Academy of Aquatic Sciences).*

### Evaluation of Past Performance

We have not completed Fiscal Year 2006 which ends on June 30, 2007. In FY 2005, the City met or exceeded 37 of our 43 individual goals. Two unmet housing development goals were due to incorrect goal setting, i.e. projects in pre-development phase assigned goals of unit production and one unmet homeless goal due to an unrealistic number for permanent housing for the homeless.

There were 3 other unmet goals; 2 concerning job training and 1 concerning completion of neighborhood plans. (See the Performance Measure Chart for July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 and December 2006 Revised FY 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan Chart inserted after this page.)

### **General Questions**

1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed during the next year. Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.
2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) during the next year and the rationale for assigning the priorities.
3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.
4. Identify the federal, state, and local resources expected to be made available to address the needs identified in the plan. Federal resources should include Section 8 funds made available to the jurisdiction, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds expected to be available to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the strategic plan.

Program Year 3 Action Plan General Questions response:

The City of Camden is the county seat and is located in the northwest section of Camden County. The city is located near the city of Philadelphia with waterfronts facing each other. It is a community of approximately 10.38 square miles. Based on the 2000 census, the population is 79,904 which is a decline of -8.7% since 1990. The City has experienced forty years of steady decline. This year's median income fell to \$18,007, making Camden the poorest city in America with a population greater than 65,000. Overall, the City is considered to be 60% low and moderate income households. Eight of our twenty census tracts are areas where more than 80% of the population is of low or moderate income. The highest concentration of low and moderate income households is found in census tracts 1, 5, and 17. However, 18 of the 20 census tracts in the city consist of over 70% low and moderate income households. 35.5% of our residents are living in poverty, 37.7% of households are female-headed, and 9.1% of the total population is children under 5 years old. The City's racial minorities comprise of 90.5%. Blacks make up 51.9% of the total households and Hispanics make up 34% of the total households. The minority populations are concentrated in all 20 census tracts.

The City is committed to funding programs utilizing CDBG and HOME that have a strong emphasis on addressing issues in areas of high concentration of low income and minorities. The programs, particularly housing programs, offer opportunities to help improve the quality of life. Census tracts 6015, 6016, 6017, 6018, and portions of census tracts 6002 and 6003 have been targeted for housing rehabilitation under the Camden Home Improvement Program (CHIP). City HOME funds will augment the CHIP dollars in the 6 areas. Camden Empowerment Zone funding will be committed to augment the CHIP funds in the EZ area (Tracts 6002 and 6003). Additionally, potential lead based paint hazards will be addressed in these areas through rehabilitation programs.

A number of programs for families, youths, and seniors funded by CDBG provide educational, social and recreational support to individuals in low income census tracts throughout the city. In addition, ESG and HOPWA funded programs offer housing and services to the Homeless and Special Needs population, including those with HIV/AIDS.

#### Geographic Allocation of Investments

95% of the census tracts in the city of Camden have a concentration of low income persons. The top 2 priorities of our residents remain:

- HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
- JOB CREATION TARGETED TO RESIDENTS

The City proposes to allocate the majority of its resources on a citywide basis to ensure that all low income persons have the chance to improve their quality of life. The City also proposes to target a portion of its resources to specific areas where other State, federal and private investments are planned to concentrate on enhancing such investments. For instance, \$500,000 of HOME funds and \$1 million of Camden Empowerment Zone funds will be targeted to the CHIP housing rehabilitation neighborhoods listed above. \$168,577 of HOME funds will leverage \$2,948,200 of committed dollars for housing projects in three neighborhoods. In addition, \$800,000 of reprogrammed HOME funds will be offered to eligible housing projects ready for implementation.

The City has also received \$2,285,390 in NJ DOT, ERB, and private funds for sewer and street improvements to complement housing and commercial development activities in the Cooper Grant market rate housing area (Tract 6006) and in the Cramer Hill commercial area (Tract 6010).

The City and Camden Redevelopment Agency are working closely with Campbell Soup Company who wants to build a \$93 million world headquarters on the historic Sears building site at 1300 Admiral Wilson Boulevard. It will result in construction and permanent jobs for city residents. Demolition of the historic building must be approved by state and federal agencies.

#### Meeting Underserved Needs

The City of Camden will continue to work with housing, human service providers, the domestic violence task force of the city police department, United Way of Camden County and advocates in the community to assess the specific housing needs of people with disabilities, the homeless or at risk of homelessness, and victims of domestic violence. Currently, we are pursuing

the feasibility of developing a Housing First program and a Housing Trust fund for our homeless population, with emphasis on the chronically homeless. The City will continue to encourage networking of human service providers through advisory meetings such as the Continuum of Care Planning Process. The City will address obstacles through the Continuum of Care Planning Process by obtaining current data and reviewing community-wide information to identify gaps in the underserved population. Through a coordinated effort of the County Homeless Network Planning Committee and the implementation of the HMIS system, the City will be able to track more efficiently the needs of the underserved population. \$2,100,868 of the total \$2,544,419 of FY 2006 McKinney-Vento funds awarded by HUD to the county in February 2007 will address the needs of the homeless located in Camden City. In addition, 10 of the 73 units under Phase 8 of Baldwin's Run HOPE VI project will be set aside for the homeless. HOME dollars will subsidize the rent. Construction is underway and will be completed in the spring of 2008.

The City Domestic Violence Task Force reported 2,399 actual incidences of domestic violence out of 10,930 calls for service in 2006. Of the 2,399 actual incidences, 116 were sexual assaults and 34 homicides. 481 resulted in arrests. The Task Force estimates that one third of the 2,399 domestic violence victims or about 800 victims are in need of emergency housing up to 90 days. Although there are currently no domestic violence shelters in the city, seven transitional housing facilities in the city and county provide temporary housing to victims of domestic violence. In addition, a State-funded prevention program for domestic violence batterers has been in operation since 2003 in the City. The Family Violence Protection Program is operated by Volunteers of America in conjunction with the County Parole Board and County Prosecutor's office. 160 male perpetrators and their families have been helped by this intensive case management program modeled after a successful program in Canada. FY 2007-2008 goal is to assist 75 male domestic violence abusers and their families.

There is one domestic violence shelter in the county. Last year, 7,274 shelter days were provided to 88 women and 121 children. In addition, 1,758 adult females and 189 adult males received counseling and legal assistance. The City is encouraging transitional housing providers to apply for available FY 2007 funding of \$14,862,000 from U.S. Dept of Justice, Office of Violence against Women. Also the 2007-2008 goals of the Core Community Needs Council of the United Way of Camden County is to invest donor dollars in health and wellness and in assisting people in crisis/basis need. Domestic Violence is one of the funding categories. City staff is a part of the proposal review and evaluation board.

#### Other Resources

The City expects the following resources to be made available to address the needs identified in our annual plan. Federal resources such as HOPE VI, Capital Fund Program, Section 8, competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Federal Highway Administration, and Empowerment Zone funds; State resources such as ERB, Balanced Housing, Demolition loan, MONI, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, HMFA/HIF, Department of Children and Families, Urban Enterprise, NJ Transportation Trust, and Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation funds; County funds such as ESG, SSH & CHSG, Board of Social Services, and Private and Foundation resources.

## Managing the Process

1. Identify the lead agency, entity, and agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.
2. Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.
3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to enhance coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Managing the Process response:

### Lead Agency

Consolidated Plan preparation is the responsibility of City's Department of Development and Planning which is Camden's municipal planning agency.

The preparation of the Plan is closely coordinated with two other City agencies: the Camden Redevelopment Agency (CRA) which serves as the City's center for development policy, development financing, real estate acquisition and site assemblage; and the Bureau of Grants Management (BGM) which manages the process for soliciting and reviewing proposals from sub recipients seeking CDBG, HOME, and ESG funding through an annual competitive Requests for Proposals process as well as monitors all HUD-funded activities. To improve the Consolidated Plan process, the Bureau of Grants Management will be moved from the Department of Finance to the Department of Development and Planning.

Although the City is the lead grantee of the HOPWA funding for the tri-county region of Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties, N J Department of Community Affairs administers the actual distribution of housing vouchers and related monitoring of all activities.

Organizations that carry out certain components of the Plan include, but are not limited to:

- Camden County Homeless Network Planning Committee
- Community Planning and Advocacy Council
- Camden Housing Authority
- Camden Empowerment Zone
- Cooper Ferry Development Corporation

### Significant Aspects of the Process

The process for development of the Consolidated Plan begins with a Federal Information Seminar held on November 16, 2006 at Rutgers University, Camden campus. The Seminar serves as the public notice to inform and discuss the Request for Proposal process with the public, request volunteers to serve on the proposal review panel, and to announce the Consolidated Plan timeframe. In an effort to obtain citizen input into the development of the plan, attending citizens, community groups, economic development agencies, public housing authority, and housing, health, homeless, and human service agencies are asked to review the previous

year's goals, priorities and objectives and recommend any changes. These results, together with information from the U.S. 2000 Census and HUD provided statistical information, were used to develop the Consolidated Plan.

The C-Plan process allows the City to ensure that a comprehensive and coordinated system is in place by on-going meetings and surveys with citizens, service providers, planning committees and city departments. In addition, staff members will serve on many of the housing and human service boards/task force groups in the community and in the region. This allows the City to provide a broad based community development plan with constant updates of goals and objectives.

#### Enhance Coordination

Two exciting initiatives will be occurring among public and private entities. One is the Ray and Joan Kroc Community Center in the Cramer Hill neighborhood of the city which will deal with recreation, health and social service programming. The Camden Salvation Army has been in existence since the 1900s and provides a variety of services to our elderly and low income community. Joan Kroc (wife of McDonald's founder, Ray Kroc) gave one and half billion dollars to the National Salvation Army to be divided equally among the four US Salvation Army Territories for the development of mega-community centers. The local chapter, working together with the City of Camden, Camden Redevelopment Agency, Camden Housing Authority, and local community groups, submitted a proposal to the regional headquarters to develop a mega-community center on a portion of the Harrison Landfill site in the Cramer Hill neighborhood. The proposal was selected and \$54 million dollars awarded to construct a Community Center in a campus like environment. Additional state funding of \$3 million dollars was approved in January 2007 for remedial action at the Harrison landfill site. The Center will enhance the new affordable housing units under construction in the area, and bring together a myriad of recreation, human and public service agencies at this site to offer their services in a centralized setting. Staff of the Camden Redevelopment Agency continues to work closely with the Salvation Army to successfully develop the project.

The second initiative is a Housing First pilot program for the chronically homeless which will deal with housing, health, job development, and social service programming. The program is being developed by the Homeless Network Planning Committee (HNPC), Community Planning and Advocacy Council (CPAC), and the United Way to provide 50 permanent housing units throughout the county to the chronically homeless with comprehensive case management to address their individual needs. 40 permanent housing units have been identified (20 at Sheridan Apartment and 20 at Baldwin Run). Planning meetings started in February 2007. The HNPC will seek 2007 Continuum of Care funding for this pilot program. CPAC has agreed to be the coordinating agency to manage the supportive services portion of the program. We continue the search for supportive services dollars

### **Citizen Participation**

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.
2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.

3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.
4. Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Citizen Participation response:

#### Summary of the Process

Through the preparation of this plan, the City of Camden had the opportunity to build a unified vision for redevelopment of the city, foster new partnership opportunities, and reduce duplication of efforts.

The goals of the City's Citizen Participation process, as it relates to the CDBG and HOME programs are:

- ❖ To increase the involvement of low income persons, residents of public housing, and persons with special needs;
- ❖ To continue to clarify roles and responsibilities thus enabling a variety of organizations to participate in meeting the goals and objectives identified by the community;
- ❖ To ensure that all citizens and organizations have an opportunity to participate in the evaluation of funded activities on a regular basis.

The City utilized the following resources to develop its annual consolidated plan:

- Statistical data available from 2000 Census and HUD provided information;
- Information obtained from the human/public service surveys;
- Information available to staff from local , county, and regional public meetings; and
- Comments made at the public hearings.

#### Citizen Views

The recommendations for the Third Year CDBG/ HOME/ ESG/ HOPWA Budget were made available at a public hearing on March 20, 2007. Two persons spoke at the hearing. One person spoke against the recommended funding of City Dept. of Health and Human Services' recreation activities. He felt there were more important priorities to fund. Another person questioned the denial of funding for an economic opportunity proposal which provides technical assistance to businesses. *(Review one written comment received from Expedient Land Developers Inc. in Appendix.)*

Citizens were also afforded the opportunity to speak at the third and final public hearing on April 13, 2007. 3 persons attended the meeting in addition to staff. One came to express support for the Heart of Camden museum project which is recommended for funding. Another person asked questions about several projects recommended for funding and gave support for them. He also recommended that some of the \$6000 set aside for City Health and Human Services' after-school program is given to a new after-

school program being planned at the 400-unit Crestbury apartments. The funds recommended for Health and Human Services Department are for in-house use only.

The citizen comment period on the final action plan projects is from April 13<sup>th</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup>. (See all letters received from the community in the Appendix.)

#### Efforts to broaden public participation

The City Bureau of Grants Management advertises the availability of funds and invites interested and qualified non-profit organizations to submit proposals for funding. These applications are reviewed by a panel of non-conflicting volunteers for completeness and by city administrative staff, for prior performance and outstanding monitoring issues, who then recommend projects for funding to the Mayor and COO for final approval. Two public hearings are held in city council chambers for citizens to comment on the proposed application prior to submission to HUD. Public hearings are staffed by a bi-lingual person to assure that all are able to understand and express their opinions. In addition, the proposed listing of projects are publicized in a major newspaper and placed at our community centers for public review prior to the scheduled public meetings. The public review sites are handicapped accessible.

Citizens have thirty days to review the first draft and the final draft of the Action Plan and submit written comments. Any written comments received will be included in the Final Plan and forwarded to HUD.

Any substantial amendment to the Final Consolidated Plan will be published in a newspaper of general circulation. A substantial amendment is defined as an activity deletion from or addition to the final statement; a change in the category of beneficiaries; a change in the purpose of the activity; a significant change of location; or a change that results in a HUD activity/ project category change. In addition, any 50% increase or decrease in the dollar amount of a funded activity or project is defined as a substantial amendment. A minimum of 30 days will be provided for public comment in writing. (Changes that do not constitute a substantial amendment will be addressed through public notification with again a minimum of 30 days for public comment in writing.) If no comments are received for either type of amendment, the City will proceed with the adoption of such without further notification.

#### Comments not accepted

All comments were accepted.

### **Institutional Structure**

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to develop institutional structure.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Institutional Structure response:

The City of Camden works with a myriad of agencies, both public and non-profit, to deliver community development and housing services to the residents.

## Economic Development Activities

### *City Government*

The City plays a key role in getting sites ready for redevelopment either through completion of redevelopment area plans/strategies and neighborhood strategic plans, or transferring city owned properties to the Camden Redevelopment Agency for a nominal fee, or targeting funds/special programs to commercial corridors. Also, an aggressive code enforcement program was initiated in the winter of 2007 to support the redevelopment efforts planned and underway and to make absentee landlords accountable for the deteriorating condition of their properties. During FY 2007, the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of our 5 year Consolidated Plan, the City will work to: 1) complete redevelopment studies and plans for the 6 remaining neighborhoods (census tracts 6007, 6008, 6011, 6012, 6015, and 6019); 2) award a construction contract for the Cramer Hill Commercial Core Streetscape Enhancement project, a three-block section of River Road ; 3) seek funding for a project manager to design and implement an "Eye in the sky" program for six business districts in the city to eliminate narcotics and illegal dumping; 4) continue the graffiti removal program in collaboration with the county prosecutor's office; and 5) substantially complete sewer replacements totaling approximately \$8.7 million in 8 neighborhoods and roadway improvements totaling over \$1 million throughout the city.

### *Camden Redevelopment Agency*

CRA plays a key role in getting sites ready for redevelopment either through acquisition/clearance, or environmental remediation. The Economic Development Division of CRA actively seeks and obtains environmental clean up funds through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and New Jersey Economic Development Agency (EDA). During FY 2007, CRA will work to; 1) seek a redeveloper for a portion of the former Harrison Avenue landfill Brownfield site, which was recently awarded \$3 million of state funding for further remedial action, for development of a mega community center; 2) seek NJ DEP approval for preliminary and remedial investigation of 100,000 sf site (Block N) at Broadway and Federal streets for future development of high density mixed-use transit village; 3) seek state approval for remedial investigation of former ABC Barrel Company site to be developed into market rate housing; 4) excavate and close underground tank at "the Terraces" site in the Waterfront South neighborhood to develop an industrial park. All relocation completed; and 5) inventory and plan other suitable sites for redevelopment.

CRA's economic development division is charged with the general planning and implementation of economic development projects within the city. The Division administers the Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) program which provides financial assistance to new and existing businesses. The main purposes of the program are to increase employment and expand businesses. The UEZ program covers most of the city and provides incentives to manufacturers and commercial retailers to locate a new business within the Zone. Incentives include reduced sales taxes, sales tax exemptions, and façade improvement forgivable loans. Low interest loans are also offered to

businesses that create full-time jobs for low to moderate income individuals through the state Economic Recovery Board (ERB) and UEZ funds. The UEZ works collaboratively with the local business associations to develop New Jersey Main Street programs along the City's major commercial corridors. There is currently one fully designated Main Street program in the Fairview neighborhood (census tract 6020). This year's goal is to 1) increase participation of businesses in nine targeted commercial districts and 2) to seek Main Street designation for Broadway (census tract 6003).

#### *Camden Empowerment Zone*

The Camden Empowerment Zone, which is located mainly in the northwestern sections of the city, funds housing and economic development activities within the zone. In FY 2007, Camden Empowerment Zone will 1) implement a new marketing program to attract developers to the city and to the empowerment zone areas; and 2) target for funding projects ready for implementation but in need of capital funds.

#### *Greater Camden Partnership*

The Greater Camden Partnership is a recognized business improvement district whose mission is the administration of the city's downtown area. GCP is charged with implementing the downtown redevelopment plan. Through NJ EDA and ERB funds, the organization operates a special improvement district (SID) in the downtown area. GCP will continue to offer its clean and safe program services to other commercial districts in the city.

#### Housing Activities

*City Government* through the Division of Housing Services operates several housing programs for owner-occupants and first time homebuyers. The Division also administers state-funded as well as our local HOME funded contracts of several non-profit affordable housing developers.

*Camden Redevelopment Agency* issued a special Request for Proposals in March 2007 to qualified non-profit housing developers with projects ready for implementation. Over \$800,000 of the City's FY 2006/2007 reprogrammed HOME funds were offered to eligible projects under way or ready for implementation. Four projects were selected. \$795,500 of reprogrammed HOME funds will leverage \$33,378,850 in other public and private resources. (Refer to the Housing Chart on page 13 and 14 for more details). CRA also assists developers, non-profit and for-profit, with project set-up, site preparation, financial packaging, and acquisition.

*Camden Housing Authority* owns and operates 10 federal housing projects comprising 1586 units. Substantial investments continue in the improvement of public housing residences and facilities, particularly in HOPE VI-funded ventures. Demolition of obsolete public housing complexes and the development of mixed-income communities of renters and homeowners have been completed at 3 sites and are underway at 3 sites (Baldwin's Run and Westfield Towers in East Camden, and Roosevelt Manor in South Camden).

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is responsible for administering the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program in the city as well as the HOPWA rental assistance program in the tri-county area encompassing Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties. New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency administers the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program which expands the opportunity for affordable rental housing developments in the city as well as the MONI program for rental and homeowner developments.

Currently, 659 households are receiving Section 8 rental assistance throughout the city of Camden. The majority of Section 8 households assisted are non-elderly, small family (86% or 564 households). Of the 659 households, 185 are disabled. There are 97 households assisted under the HOPWA program. New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and Housing Mortgage and Finance Agency also continue to be main sources of funding for housing development in the city.

In Fiscal Year 2007, twelve projects funded by the city's HOME entitlement grant and the State's ERB, Balance Housing, HOME, CHOICE, and LIHTC funds as well as federal HOPE VI, Empowerment Zone, and HUD Supportive Housing funds and private funds will add 466 new and rehabilitated affordable and market-rate units for sale and rent to the city. In addition, 45 new affordable and market-rate units will be substantially completed and one 20-market rate project will complete all pre-development activities. (Refer to Housing Development Chart below.)

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>COST &amp; SOURCE</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>
<b>Baldwin's Run , HOPE VI Phase 8: 73 new units of rental housing in the 30<sup>th</sup> &amp; Westfield Avenue area at the former General Color factory, a remediated Superfund Site in the Rosedale section. Penrose Properties is the developer.</b>	<b>\$16,450,000 (\$12,300,000 LIHTC, \$2,000,000 Balanced Housing, \$2,000,000 HMFA, \$150,000 reprogrammed HOME funds)</b>	<b>All low income. (20 units set aside for the Homeless.</b>	<b>Feb. 2008</b>
<b>Nueva Vida Homes: Construction of 14 units for sale on River Road between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> streets by Cramer Hill CDC. First priority to families replaced by redevelopment activity in Cramer Hill section of City.</b>	<b>\$4,117,991 (\$824,501 ERB, \$90,000 HOME, \$95,500 reprogrammed HOME, \$1,655,000 HMFA \$1,452,990 sales proceeds)</b>	<b>2 low; 12 market</b>	<b>End of October 2007</b>
<b>Baldwin's Run Senior Housing, Phase 7: New construction of 74 rental unit apartment building by Penrose Properties at the Westfield Avenue HOPE VI site.</b>	<b>\$12,300,000 (\$9,700,000 tax credits, \$2,600,000 Balanced Housing)</b>	<b>Low Income</b>	<b>End of July 2007</b>
<b>Camden Dreams: 13-unit rental rehabilitation for aging out youths at 554-558 Benson Street in Cooper Plaza</b>	<b>\$4,050,000 (\$2,200,000HMFA, \$50,000 DYFS,</b>	<b>Low Income</b>	<b>End of July 2007</b>

neighborhood. Center for Family Services is the developer.	<b>\$850,000 CRDA, \$100,000 FHLB, \$750,000 HUD McKinney-Vento, \$100,000 reprogrammed HOME)</b>		
<b>Fairview Village II: Rehabilitation of 40 rental units at 1250 Collings &amp; 40 Merrimac Rd. in Fairview neighborhood by RPM Development Group. 8 units set aside for special needs population.</b>	<b>\$10,696,359 (\$6,195,382 HMFA, \$2,193,134 tax credit equity, \$807,843 Balanced Housing, \$450,000 reprogrammed HOME)</b>	Low Income	October 2007
<b>Fairview Village III: Scattered site rehabilitation for sale of 50 vacant HUD-foreclosed properties by RPM Development Group.</b>	<b>\$8,400,000 (\$4,750,000 HMFA, \$3,650,00 sales proceeds)</b>	Market rate	13 homes have sales contracts. Construction completed on 13 by Sept. 2007
<b>River Road Affordable Housing (Site E): New construction of 79 rental units at 1810 River Road by Michaels Dev. Co. in the Cramer Hill neighborhood.</b>	<b>\$18,879,393 (\$1,975,000 DCA, \$3,504,393 ERB, \$13,400,000 Tax Credit Equity)</b>	Low Income	End of December 2007
<b>Cooper Grant Phase I: New construction of 18 units for sale in the No. Front/Penn/2<sup>nd</sup> street area by Penrose Properties and Cooper Grant Neighborhood Assoc.</b>	<b>\$5,781,670 (\$480,000 CEZ, \$1,200,000 ERB, \$260,000 CRA, \$3,841,670 sales proceeds)</b>	Market rate	All lots sold. Construction complete end of December 2007.
<b>Carl Miller Homes: New construction of 88 rental units on Carl Miller Blvd. by Michaels Development Co.. (Off-site HOPE VI project).</b>	<b>\$23,939,801 (\$16,565,335 tax credit equity, \$3,592,450 DCA HOME Express, \$900,000 ERB, \$1,925,016 HOPE VI, \$957,000 private)</b>	Low income family	Construction to begin end of October 2007. Completion date of July 20, 2008.
<b>Grace Housing Phase 2: New construction of 10 units for sale at 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; State St. by Camden Lutheran Housing.</b>	<b>\$1,954,583 (\$373,583 of which \$48,586.35 is '07 HOME, \$370,000 EZ, \$651,000 Balanced Housing, \$560,000 sales proceeds)</b>	Low income family	Construction to begin May 2007. Completion date of May 2008.
<b>Metro Habitat for Humanity: New construction of 12 units for sale in the 6<sup>th</sup> and Line St. area.</b>	<b>\$2,539,600 (\$1,171,600 HMFA CHOICE, \$288,000 FHLB, \$1,080,000 sales proceeds)</b>	Low and moderate income	Construction to begin in the last quarter of 2007.
<b>Cooper's Hill: New construction of 25 units for sale at scattered sites in Cooper Plaza neighborhood by</b>	<b>\$7,399,000 (\$2,500,000 HMFA CHOICE, \$970,000 ERB, \$3,929,000</b>	Market rate	Construction to begin in the last quarter of 2007.

<b>M &amp; M Development.</b>	<i>sales proceeds)</i>		
<b>Broadway West I: Gut rehabilitation of 16 buildings for sale in the Waterfront South neighborhood by Heart of Camden, Inc..</b>	<b>\$3,134,844 (\$69,994 of FY 2007 HOME, \$1,493,479 HMFA, \$788,971 ERB, \$782,400 sales proceeds)</b>	<b>14 market rate and 2 low income.</b>	<b>Construction to begin July 2007. Completion date of July 2008.</b>
<b>Oasis LLC: New construction of 8 units for sale in the Gateway neighborhood by St. Joseph Carpenter Society and Sword of the Spirit Church.</b>	<b>\$2,212,000 (\$127,000 HOME, \$875,000 HMFA CHOICE, \$600,000 ABC, \$610,000 sales proceeds)</b>	<b>Low and moderate income.</b>	<b>Construction to begin in late 2007.</b>
<b>Scattered site moderate rehabilitation of 28 occupied co-op units in North Camden by North Camden Land Trust.</b>	<b>\$330,000 HMFA</b>	<b>Low and moderate income.</b>	<b>Code repairs and transfer of propertied to existing occupants by December 2007.</b>
<b>Walt Whitman Homes: New construction of 20 units for sale at 3<sup>Rd</sup> &amp; Martin Luther King Blvd. by Penrose Properties.</b>	<b>\$7,399,000 (\$2,500,000 CHOICE, \$970,000 ERB, \$3,929,000 sales proceeds)</b>	<b>Market rate</b>	<b>Acquisition &amp; one relocation completed in 2007.</b>

HUD SuperNOFA funds to the Camden County / City Continuum of Care assist agencies which service the homeless. Of the \$3,070,249 applied for in FY 2006, \$2,544,419 was awarded to 15 housing and service providers. Below are the renewal-funded agencies which provide housing to the homeless.

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>HOUSING FACILITY</b>	<b>FY 2006 SUPERNOFA FUNDS</b>	<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>
<b>Camden OEO</b>	<b>13-bed transitional housing for males at 723 Kaighn Ave</b>	<b>\$180,327</b>	<b>\$242,263</b>
<b>Camden OEO</b>	<b>10-bed transitional housing at 900 Broadway</b>	<b>\$233,229</b>	<b>\$69,447</b>
<b>Camden OEO</b>	<b>Transitional housing for 16 persons at 900 Broadway and 341 Kaighn</b>	<b>\$286,004</b>	<b>\$215,630</b>
<b>Volunteers of America</b>	<b>25-bed transitional housing for mentally disabled males at 271 Atlantic</b>	<b>\$258,749</b>	<b>\$279,645</b>
<b>Volunteers of America</b>	<b>74-bed transitional housing for disabled individuals at 271 Atlantic</b>	<b>\$270,750</b>	<b>\$802,028</b>
<b>Volunteers of America</b>	<b>8-bed transitional housing for individuals and families at 408-416 Line</b>	<b>\$171,832</b>	<b>\$103,865</b>
<b>Volunteers of America</b>	<b>16-bed permanent housing for mentally disabled at 4601 High in Pennsauken</b>	<b>\$85,500</b>	<b>\$10,072</b>
<b>AIDS Coalition of So. Jersey</b>	<b>4-bed transitional housing for women at 717 Haddon in Collingswood and 4-bed transitional housing for men at 32 E. Browning in Bellmawr.</b>	<b>\$22,042</b>	<b>\$119,088</b>
<b>Dooley House</b>	<b>Scattered site permanent housing</b>	<b>\$238,301</b>	<b>\$327,748</b>

	<b>for 16 HIV/AIDS in the county.</b>		
<b>Veteran's Haven</b>	<b>54-bed transitional housing for veterans in Winslow Twp. (Ancora State Hospital grounds)</b>	<b>\$330,372</b>	<b>\$1,039,939</b>
<b>Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council</b>	<b>4-unit transitional housing for males in Lawnside. Holistic services provided to 12 screened applicants.</b>	<b>\$25,133</b>	<b>\$196,659</b>
<b>Center for Family Services</b>	<b>Transitional housing and intensive services for 4 youths at 584 Benson</b>	<b>\$91,373</b>	<b>467,410</b>

The Continuum will seek 2007 CoC funding to increase the number of permanent housing units throughout the county. The Continuum is reviewing past performance in providing permanent housing for homeless clients when recommending renewal agencies for funding. The application is due to HUD in the first week of June 2007.

Public and Human Services:

*The Mayor's Youth Council* serves as consultants and advisors on youth recreation gaps and on programs to reduce youth violence and gang issues. In FY 2007, it will a) seek organizational funding for the Families under Construction program targeted for the Whitman Park neighborhood, census tract 6015 and b) organize and conduct an annual Mayor's Youth Expo.

*The Salvation Army* project mention earlier will enable a myriad of public and human services to be available to our low income population in a centralized campus-like setting. The City and Camden Redevelopment Agency will assist the Salvation Army in constructing a Ray and Joan Kroc Community Center in the northeastern section of the city.

The new \$34.6 million *CATTO School/ Boys and Girls Club Demonstration* project is substantially completed in the southeastern section of the city. Phase I of Dudley Grange Park is under construction. Phase I is \$2 million of the total \$43 million parks and greenway portion of the Demonstration project. Acquisition and relocation of Stockton Station apartments completed. Of the \$78.6 million development cost, \$4.6 million is private and \$74.0 million is state (NJSCC).

*City Department of Health and Human Services* provides recreational, educational, and social services through various programs funded by the CDBG and ESG programs. In the last fiscal year, 8,640 units of service were provided utilizing CDBG funds and 870 persons at risk of homelessness were assisted utilizing ESG funds. The City will continue to allocate funds to this department.

The *City* contracts with other public service organizations utilizing CDBG funds. *Camden Eye Center* provides eye care service to low and moderate income, uninsured and underinsured residents. *Boys and Girls Club of Camden County Project Learn* mentors school age children. *Puerto Rican Unity for Progress (PRUP)* provides multiple services to youths. *American Community Partnership* provides construction trade training to residents.

*Camden Housing Authority* utilizes the section 3 program via HOPE VI developments to increase the percentage of employed persons in assisted families.

*Camden City Healthy Futures and Camden County Cancer Coalition* are two groups of health and health-related service providers and consumers working to identify priority health issues and to develop strategic health plans.

*Camden County/City Continuum of Care* agencies provide comprehensive case management and services to the homeless and at risk of homelessness. In addition to the housing providers listed in the previous section, there is a network of approximately 22 non-profit and government agencies that provide human and health services to the homeless. Three agencies (*Project HOPE, Catholic Charities, and COSTAR*) were funded by \$350,807 of FY 2006 SuperNOFA funds and \$1,096,932 of leveraged funds.

*Camden County Board of Social Services* opened their administration building to shelter the homeless during "Code Blue" weather. An average of 70 non-sheltered homeless were provided food and a place to sleep over the 16 days of severely cold weather in February 2007. This is the second "Code Blue" shelter in the city. Respond PATH is the other. In addition, about \$45 million, or 63.5% of the total allocation received by BSS, addresses the over-all needs of low-income city residents.

The City has not identified any significant gaps in the delivery system provided by the institutions. There is a lack of a centralized service point to provide a vast array of services that may result in some citizens not receiving all the assistance they need. Cathedral Kitchen's planned multi-service center for the homeless will provide such a model. Given the budget restraints of all organizations, the City feels that it is meeting the identified high priority needs of its citizens.

## **Monitoring**

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Monitoring response:

Many of the programs and activities funded under the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs are implemented by qualified sub-grantees who enter into a contract with the City. The process for determining whether or not a sub-grantee will be funded is as follows:

- In early December, the City will advertise the amount of funds it anticipates receiving from HUD for the following program year (July 1 to June 30) and notify eligible applicants that the applications are available at the Bureau of Grants Management or on-line at the City's website;
- Applicants will be given a minimum of thirty days to complete and return their applications to the City's Department of Finance, Bureau of Grants Management;

- Applications will detail the funding priorities established by the City in its HUD approved Five Year Plan and other program requirements for Sub-grantees;
- Staff will review the applications and make recommendation to the Mayor and Chief Operating Officer on the programs and projects to be funded.

Once the required public hearings are held and the governing body makes a final determination, the Annual Plan containing the projects and activities to be funded is finalized and submitted to HUD. Simultaneous with the HUD review of the application, Planning staff will prepare the Environmental Review Record, publicize it for a thirty day comment period, and request a Release of Funds.

Once HUD approves the City's use of funds, contracts are prepared with each of the funded sub-grantees. Prior to issuing payment for any good or service funded under the various programs, the city administrative staff verifies that the good or service has been provided and that the various program requirements have been met. Funds are paid out upon receipt of reports from the sub-grantees showing 1) costs incurred; 2) activities conducted; 3) accomplishments achieved; and 4) any other statistical information the City may require.

These reports are reviewed by staff to evaluate whether the program is being carried out in a timely manner and is meeting the goals and objectives initially established. Sub-grantees are also responsible for providing the City with a timely annual report which will be used by the City in preparing its final CAPER (Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report) to HUD. This report will also be used to evaluate the City and the sub-grantees' capacity and effectiveness in carrying out HUD-funded programs during subsequent funding cycles.

In addition, BGM staff monitors all sub-grantees at least bi-annually or more frequently if they are a new grantee or had concerns and findings in prior monitoring.

## **Lead-based Paint**

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards in order to increase the inventory of lead-safe housing available to extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Lead-based Paint response:

Lead poisoning remains a serious problem in areas which have a concentration of older homes. The City of Camden has over 29,000 housing units. According to the 2000 Census, 9,831 or 33.9% of Camden's housing stock was built prior to 1940. According to HUD's 1991 report to U.S. Congress, an estimated 80% of housing built between 1940 and 1959 and 90% of the housing built prior to 1940 contains lead-based paint.

The City will continue to educate our residents on the hazards of lead based paint and utilize lead-safe practices in the provision of its housing improvement programs.

## HOUSING

### Specific Housing Objectives

\*Please also refer to the Housing Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve during the next year.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

The City of Camden is committed to the on-going goal of providing decent, safe, and affordable housing and improving the quality of life for all residents.

During the next year the City will:

1. In conjunction with Cooper Ferry Development Corporation assist 50 low income owner occupants make substantial improvements to their property through the use of \$500,000 of HOME funds leveraged by State DCA and ERB funds. This is Phase I of a \$9.3 million effort to renovate 300 homes in three years;
2. In conjunction with Camden Empowerment Zone, assist low income owner occupants located in the CHIP EZ area to raise the rehabilitation bar, above the CHIP maximum of \$20,000 per unit, utilizing \$1 million in Federal Empowerment Zone funds;
3. In conjunction with housing developers, substantially complete 401 new affordable and market rate units and rehabilitate 110 vacant units for sale and rent. *(See Housing Development Chart on pages 12 to 14.)*
4. Assist 50 low income owner-occupants make emergency repairs to their homes with CDBG funds of \$50,000 leveraged by required contributions for applicants under the age of 72.
5. Demolish 57 properties that are economically infeasible to rehabilitate and that are causing a slum and blight effect on the neighborhoods with CDBG and State loan funds;
6. Implement an aggressive block by block survey to check for code violations, eliminate absentee landlords and exact accountability for their properties;

- 7 Work with the Camden Housing Authority in their effort to make substantial improvements to 3 housing projects (Roosevelt Manor - demolition of 268 units and new construction of 74 rental and homeowner units; Antioch- completion of 64-unit senior complex; and Phase 8 Baldwin Run – completion of 73 new rental and homeowner units of which 20 will be set aside for the homeless.
8. Assist 115 first time homebuyers to purchase decent, safe and affordable housing with \$342,886.75 of HOME funds to be leveraged by the fair market purchase price of the properties, estimated at \$7,734,670.
9. Assist 25 individuals to achieve credit repair, suitable home improvement financing, and/or resolve landlord/tenant problems with \$35,000 of CDBG funds.
10. Renovate 5 rental housing units for occupancy by graduates of the Camden-based Workforce Development Training program with \$65,000 of CDBG funds.
11. Provide HOME funding to 2 CHDOs for pre-development activities/gap financing and 1 CHDO to complete construction of 10 new units.

## **Needs of Public Housing**

1. Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake during the next year to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.
2. If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation during the next year.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Public Housing Strategy response:

The Camden Housing Authority will use its Capital Funds leveraged by proceeds from Bonds and HOPE VI funds leveraged by State and private dollars to perform the following improvements in its developments to be completed by June 30, 2008:

- Build new units at Roosevelt Manor, Baldwin's Run, and Westfield Towers.
- Mix homeownership into the two HOPE VI developments at Baldwin's Run and Roosevelt Manor.
- Increase employment by 10% at Roosevelt Manor.
- Use secured bonds to upgrade Kennedy Towers to accommodate Assisted Living Program and increase participants.
- Use Capital funds for unit redevelopment at 3 towers (\$150,000), resident training (\$20,000), and a youth program (\$10,000).

- Continue to implement Housing Choice Section 8 Voucher Homeownership Program with the goal of assisting 5 eligible first time homebuyers by paying 70% of their mortgage for half the term of the mortgage.
- Construct a new community center at Branch Village and Baldwin's Run.
- Apply for additional Section 8 vouchers and maintain a list of available housing for section 8 voucher holders.
- Continue to implement Section 3 resident work preference regulations at HOPE VI Sites.

The Camden Housing Authority is no longer classified as a "troubled authority" nor is its performance ranked as poor. Continued effective management and community involvement is anticipated to maintain a high level of performance at the housing sites.

## **Barriers to Affordable Housing**

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to remove barriers to affordable housing.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Barriers to Affordable Housing response:

Although Camden's housing costs are low compared to other parts of the State, affordable, decent and safe housing is still extremely difficult for low income households. While some low income residents can afford the monthly mortgage payments, they are not able to attain homeownership because they cannot save sufficient funds to cover the down payment and closing costs required. The City and the Housing Authority will continue to provide First Time Homebuyer Grants to low income residents. However, this funding is insufficient to meet the demand. NJHMFA offers 100% financing programs for low income homebuyers. There are also several non-profit agencies which offer dollar for dollar savings incentives and credit repair/homeownership workshops.

Another major local issue that has been identified as a barrier to affordable housing development in past year is the time-consuming process for City acquisition and disposition of real estate and processing of applications for funding. The barrier continues to be addressed through several actions.

- Centralization of responsibility for real estate acquisition/disposition and development financing at the Camden Redevelopment Agency.
- Assignment of New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) staff to assist in property acquisition, demolition, and site assemblage activities.
- Assignment of CRA staff to coordinate CRA development proposal underwriting with underwriting by other funding sources, including NJHMFA and ERB.
- Acceleration of timetable for Consolidated Plan preparation and submission so HUD funding can be obtained earlier and made available earlier to support implementation activities.

## HOME/ American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI)

1. If the participating jurisdiction (PJ) will use HOME or ADDI funds for homebuyers, it must state the guidelines for resale or recapture, as required in § 92.254 of the HOME rule.

Program Year 3 Action Plan HOME/ADDI response:  
The City does not receive ADDI funding.

The HOME resale/recapture guidelines are as follows.

### **First Time Homebuyers Program (FTHP) Private Transactions**

Using a recapture mechanism under a Share Net Proceeds Model, the City will record a formal lien against the property evidencing the Program subsidy ( recently raised to \$3,500) that will require the owner to retain title to the subject property for a five-year period term. Any voluntary sale or transfer of the property prior to the expiration of this term will require the full repayment of this subsidy to be returned to the FTHP account. In the event of an involuntary sale (i.e. foreclosure) the City will pursue the recovery of any proceeds remaining from the subsequent sale minus the costs associated with the sale. NOTE: The City will revise its security documents and submit them for HUD approval to insure the security of the HOME investment.

### **FTHP – Public Sales (CHDO & Non-profits)**

Under this mechanism, the City will adopt a resale restriction that encumbers the total amount of the HOME investment (development and direct FTHP subsidy) to impose a restriction on the resale of the property to eligible low income families who will use the property as their primary residence during the Affordability period. Also in an effort to insure the affordability of the unit to a subsequent purchaser in the event of a (voluntary) resale, it will be required that the new owner evidence the financial capacity to support the costs associated with the mortgage, taxes, and insurance. The City will adopt a debt/income ratio not to exceed 40% of their monthly gross income. Again involuntary sales will be controlled by additional language within the security document under a Shared Net Proceeds Model. Any property exposed to foreclosure with a remaining term under the recorded lien shall be immediately referred to the Law Dept. to initiate the recovery of any net proceeds.

**Housing Assistance Program (HAP)** is direct assistance to owner-occupied residences up to \$25,000 in a targeted area that deliver a rehabilitation component addressing repairs to essential systems, weatherization, and health and safety violations necessary to satisfy local code standards. The program uses the same form of security as FTHP with the following Shared Appreciation Schedule governing the amount of repayment in accordance with the resale date:

<b>Period (Years)</b>	<b>Funds to: Borrower</b>	<b>City of Camden</b>
1-5	0%	100%
6	20	80
7	40	60
8	60	40
9	80	20
10	100	0

## HOMELESS

### Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

\*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction's plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.
2. Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.
3. Chronic homelessness—The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.
4. Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
5. Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Special Needs response:

#### Source of Funds

The provision of assistance to the homeless is developed in conjunction with the Homeless Network Planning Committee (HNPC), the lead agency for the Camden City/County Continuum of Care Planning process. HNPC is Camden County's Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Strategy (CEAS) Committee. It is a coalition of 40 State and local government agencies, community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, business associations, advocates, faith based organizations, medical institutions, and homeless persons that develops and implements a comprehensive plan in the fight against homelessness.

The HNPC elected a chair and co-chair from the public (Camden City Division of Planning and Zoning) and the private (Cathedral Kitchen) sectors. The HNPC meets monthly to discuss issues in detail and to hear reports from the various sub-planning committees formed to address priority issues. Together, the executive committee, Community Planning and Advocacy Council (CPAC) staff, and the HNPC provide year round coordination for

planning, program development, funding information, program/housing support and technical assistance to the community.

During the next year, the Continuum will receive \$2,544,419 of 2006 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funds to support existing transitional and permanent housing facilities and social services organizations. (Refer to chart on pages 14 & 15 for more details.) In addition, we anticipate continuance of County ESG, SSH, and CHSG as well as State and private funding opportunities for homeless prevention, essential services, operations, and rehabilitation.

#### Homeless priority needs

The comprehensive needs of the homeless continue to be a high priority in our annual strategic plan. The City in conjunction with the Homeless Network Planning Committee hosted our first Homeless Summit in October 2006, bringing together leaders and key stakeholders, to discuss "best practices" in the fight against homelessness. Several strategies were discussed in the focus group break-out sessions and have been incorporated in the latest draft of our Ten Year Plan and further developed by ad hoc committees. Major projects underway are the Housing First Pilot program for the chronically homeless, creation of a County Homeless Trust fund , a landlord breakfast to identify sites for housing placement throughout the region, identifying obstacles to accessing mainstream resources , and a presentation at the May 2007 Council of Mayors' Dinner meeting hosted by the County Freeholder Board to network with other towns in the County and to advocate better use of emergency shelter dollars. (Refer to the Ten Year Plan *Proposed Plan of Work (PPOW) Chart* inserted after this page for more details.)

Our Continuum of Care recruited volunteers from throughout the local community to conduct a point in time survey at over 25 sites on January 25, 2007. 799 surveys were completed, an increase of 199 or 25% since the 2006 survey. 385 or 49% of the homeless surveyed resided outside of the city of Camden prior to becoming homeless. Of the 385, 143 or 38% originated in other towns in Camden County and 169 or 44% originated in other counties in the region. (73 persons did not identify their prior place of residence.) The adults surveyed indicated that they were responsible for 102 children under the age of 18 years. 68% of the homeless surveyed were adult males.

Project Homeless Connect was held on the same day at the current Cathedral Kitchen feeding site in the downtown area. 110 of the 799 surveys were completed there. 45 volunteers helped to make this first event successful. 360 homeless clients were provided medical services and referrals, legal assistance, and giveaways of food and clothing. This was our Continuum's first attempt to provide comprehensive and coordinated services to our homeless in one location.

Cathedral Kitchen's planned new multi-service center in the 1500 block of Federal Street in Census Tract 6013 will provide a central location for case management services while feeding the homeless and at risk population. 2007 CDBG funds have been recommended to complete the site preparation for construction.

As a result of continued meetings with Freeholder Carmen Rodriguez, the County Board of Social Services, and the HNPC executive committee, a

second "Code Blue" shelter was created in the downtown area. During the extremely bitter weather in the month of February 2007, the County opened their Board of Social Services building to shelter and feed as many as 100 persons per night. Donations of food, cots, blankets, and warm clothing were provided by towns in the county. A commitment was made to open the building including weekends whenever a "Code Blue" is called.

The main potential obstacles to completing the action steps are lack of adequate funding for supportive services and the fragmentation of existing services.

#### Chronic Homelessness

The January 25, 2007 point in time survey identified 29% of homeless individuals and 19% of the homeless families as being chronically homeless. Increasing permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless is a high local and HUD priority. In addition to the Housing First Pilot program which will be a part of the 2007 SuperNOFA funding application, the Continuum has agreed to cut supportive services dollars by 20% for all renewal agencies to potentially add 30 permanent housing units for the chronically homeless by the summer of 2008. Also, one of the HNPC's ad hoc committees is charged with identifying the gaps in the homeless applying for mainstream resources to assure all available resources reach this population.

The major potential obstacle is the lack of coordinating mainstream benefits for the chronically homeless. Although the HMIS system for the Continuum has improved, it is not fully operational. When we reach 100% participation by service providers, the City will have a better tool to identify private and public resources needed to address homeless needs, to serve the homeless, to implement prevention programs, and to coordinate a discharge policy.

#### Homelessness Prevention

The City operates three homelessness prevention programs with our Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds. Continued funding of these programs is recommended for the 2007 fiscal year. Assistance is provided for back rent, utilities, and heating oil. In addition, at risks clients are referred to other community action and social services programs.

#### Discharge Coordination Policy

The City in conjunction with the HNPC is assessing current discharge protocols of local hospitals, jails, psychiatric facilities, and aging out youth programs serving the County. The charge of the ad-hoc committee formed is to recommend proper discharge planning from all public systems of care, including family reconnection.

### **Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)**

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

Program Year 3 Action Plan ESG response:

The City does not receive ESG funding from the State. Our HUD entitlement ESG funds continue to be administered in-house by the Department of Health and Human Services. 35% of Office of Aging's staff time or \$89,600 is required to operate the programs. The funds continue to be recommended for the categories of essential services, homeless prevention, and operation funds for emergency housing. (*Refer to the Action Plan section for more details.*)

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Community Development

\*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.
2. Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.  
\*Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Community Development response:

#### PUBLIC FACILITIES

##### Homeless Facilities:

There are 162 transitional housing beds available for the city's homeless. 7 of the 8 facilities are located within the city. FY 2006 HUD SuperNOFA funding of \$1,517,396 was awarded for the continued operation of these 8 facilities. \$2,376,947 of other funding was leveraged. Most of the existing 40 permanent housing beds are located outside of the city. FY 2006 HUD SuperNOFA funds of \$345,843 were awarded to the three agencies operating the permanent housing. \$456,908 of other funding was leveraged.

In FY 2007, 20 rental units are set aside for permanent housing for the homeless in the Baldwin's Run Phase 8 project currently under construction on Westfield Avenue in East Camden (Rosedale/Dudley neighborhood). In addition, FY 2007 HUD SuperNOFA funding is being sought for the renovation of 20 permanent housing units for the homeless at the Sheridan Apartment Complex on Jackson Street in South Camden (Centerville neighborhood).

Of the 799 homeless surveyed in January 2007, 414 originated from the city. Our current facilities (about 154 beds) located in the city can house only 38% of the population originating from the city.

During this fiscal year, the City will:

- Complete site preparation for Cathedral Kitchen’s planned multi-service center and feeding site for the homeless and at risk of homelessness.
- Apply for permanent housing funding.
- Continue to develop partnerships in the region to address the needs of the homeless.

Youth Centers:

The City of Camden has a large youth population. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 11,198 persons or 39% 19 years and younger.

The need for community centers is being addressed by the city, non-profit organizations (Boys and Girls Club) and neighborhood groups (United Neighborhoods of Whitman Park and Morgan Village). These 10 facilities alone do not meet the needs of all the youth in our community. A 25,000 sq. ft. pre-school and community learning center is planned by Neighborhood Housing Services and Shalom Baptist Church. The two-story facility will be constructed at Broadway and Mt. Vernon street. Pre-development funding of \$162,295 (\$100,000 ERB and \$62,295 private) is committed. The second Boys and Girls Club currently under construction and the proposed Salvation Army project are two large centers that could assist the City in addressing this need.

During this fiscal year, the City will:

- Complete construction of the new Boys and Girls Club and Catto School Demonstration project.
- Continue environmental remediation activities on the planned Salvation Army project site.

Parks and Recreation Facilities:

The need for parks and recreation facilities is being addressed by the City Department of Public Works and the County Parks Department. A comprehensive maintenance system for city-owned open space has not been fully developed. Adequate funding and staffing remain the major obstacles.

During this fiscal year, the City will:

- Continue rehabilitation of three community parks at 5<sup>th</sup> & York and Point St. area in North Camden and Rev. Evers Park on Morgan Blvd. in South Camden using \$440,000 of CDBG funds.
- Assist Heart of Camden in the roof restoration of a former church for a planned maritime museum with \$100,000 of CDBG funds.
- Complete Phase I of Dudley Grange Park with \$2 million of State Parks and Greenway funds. The \$43 million endeavor is part of the \$34.6 million Catto School/Boys and Girls Club Demonstration Project.

Historic Preservation:

Camden is a community rich in history. A survey of all the historic sites in the city was completed in 2005. The City is planning to put the survey on a DVD to increase public pride in our rich history and to improve oversight of restoration efforts.

There are two residential historic districts in the city, the entire Fairview neighborhood and a portion of the Lanning Square neighborhood called Cooper Plaza. The City has an active Historic Preservation Commission which acts on the majority of all exterior building permits for properties located within our Historic Districts as well as all locally and nationally-designated historic buildings.

During this fiscal year, the City will:

- Will partially restore and stabilize Carnegie Library, built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with \$300,000 of CDBG funds and \$1,210,000 of other funds.
- Continue restoration of Camden County Historic Society, the City's only historic house museum, with \$106,000 of CDBG funds and \$25,000 of other funds.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

##### Street Improvements:

In this fiscal year, the City Division of Capital Improvements will award a construction contract by the summer of 2007 for streetscape improvements to three blocks of River Road. The Cramer Hill Commercial Core Streetscape Enhancement project will be funded by \$1,181,745 (\$659,145 of ERB, \$500,000 of NJ DOT, and \$22,600 of private funds). Construction is estimated to begin in the spring of 2008. In addition, construction contracts will be awarded for two large roadway improvement projects: Construction will begin in the spring of 2007 for the milling and resurfacing of 9 streets in 2 neighborhoods with \$99,052.50 of FY 2005 CDBG funds leveraged by \$590,000 of FY 2005 State DOT funds. Construction should be completed by August 2007. Construction contracts will be awarded in the spring of 2007 for milling and resurfacing of 16 streets in 7 neighborhoods with \$400,000 of FY 2007 CDBG funds leveraged by \$1,158,000 of FY 2006 and 2007 State DOT funds. Actual construction will begin in September 2007.

##### Water Improvements:

In this fiscal year, the City Division of Capital Improvements will award a construction contract in the summer of 2007 to clean and line 26,500 linear feet of water mains at various locations in 6 neighborhoods. \$4,020,500 of NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust funds is committed for the 7 mains.

##### Sewer Improvements:

In this fiscal year, the City Division of Capital Improvements will replace sewers systematically on 6 streets with \$2,000,000 of NJEIT funds. In addition, construction contracts will be awarded in the summer of 2007 for two large sewer replacement projects: \$6,697,128 of NJEIT funds is committed for sewer replacements in 7 neighborhoods and \$2,864,459 of NJEIT and USEPA funds is committed for a joint project with CCMUA for sewer replacements in 7 neighborhoods. (*Refer to CAPER report forms inserted after this page for more details*).

## PUBLIC SERVICE NEEDS

### Senior Services:

The City of Camden has an aging population. According to the 2000 US Census, 11,198 residents or 14% are 55 years and over. There are six senior day care centers in the city in addition to 2 non-profit agencies (Lourdes and PRUP) that provide social and employment services to our seniors. Also, our Public Housing Authority is expanding the assisted living program at one of the Senior Housing Towers.

In this fiscal year, the City will:

- Continue to fund 15 programs administered by the City Department of Health and Human Services for our seniors with \$50,000 of CDBG funds.

### Youth Services:

There are over 27 non-profit organizations in the city which offer recreation, cultural and educational activities to our youths. For the last 33 years, Campbell Soup donates \$375,000 annually to organizations for summer youth programs. In addition, the City Department of Health and Human Services operated programs for our youth population and the City Office of Youth Services provides social services to at-risk youths referred by the DYFS. In April 2007, the State Department of Children and Families awarded \$2.4 million for a Differential Response Pilot Initiative in response to a "20/20" Diane Sawyer program aired on January 26, 2007 which spotlighted poverty in the city. The Community Planning & Advocacy Council (CPAC) of Camden County in partnership with the So. Jersey Behavioral Resources, Center for Family Services and Hispanic Family Center will respond to voluntary requests for services by families experiencing a current or developing need that threatens family stability. The state grant is for three years at \$2.4 million for each year.

In this fiscal year, the City will:

- Continue to fund 13 programs administered by the City Department of Health and Human Services for our youths with \$51,151.30 of CDBG funds.
- Provide \$95,000 in CDBG funds to three agencies (PRUP Youth Cultural Arts Program; Boys & Girls Club Project Learn; and M.A.L.L. Safe Haven).

### Employment Training:

The creation of jobs and economic development continues to be one of the top priorities identified by citizens. Respond, Inc. has received funding commitments of \$2,550,000 (\$1,000,000 ERB and the balance private) to rehabilitate two commercial properties to house automotive, culinary arts, banking, child care, and nursing training programs. A RFP to select a construction management firm for the 23,000 sq. ft. facility was released in March 2007.

In this fiscal year, the City will:

- Provide \$111,000 in CDBG funds to five agencies (American Community Partnership, Woodland CDC, Genesis Center for Self Sufficiency, IDEA Teen Video Arts Training, and NJ Academy of Aquatic Science).

Health Services:

The hospital institution is one of the largest employers in the city of Camden. \$17,850,000 of State ERB funding is committed towards the total improvement cost of \$86,028,930 for three health institutions. The \$23 million expansion of Cooper Hospital is still underway. \$2.5 million of the \$12,350,000 ERB funds have been disbursed.

In this fiscal year, the City will:

- Provide \$25,000 in CDBG funds to Camden Eye Center for free or reduced-fee eye care services.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Obstacles to economic development in the city continue to be crime, workforce development, site/building availability, and the cost of doing business.

The Urban Enterprise Zone, Empowerment Zone, Greater Camden Partnership, Main Street and Eye in the Sky programs are the current efforts in conjunction with Brownfield development to bolster economic development in our commercial districts and throughout the city.

“Eye In the Sky” is a public and private closed circuit television surveillance system to create safe corridors. The project is proposed in six of our business districts. The districts are Yorkship Square, Mt. Ephraim Avenue, Haddon Avenue, Federal St in East Camden, Westfield Ave., and Broadway. The city has been working on the concept since 2002. UEZ funding is being sought for Phase I activities.

Commercial/Industrial Infrastructure Development Projects:

In this fiscal year, the City will:

- Complete the analysis and marketing strategy for the Haddon and Kaighn area based on a study funded by Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.
- Seek NJ DEP approval for remedial investigations of Block N, 100,000sf Brownfield site planned for high density mixed-use development in the downtown area.

OTHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS:

Code Enforcement:

In this fiscal year, the City Department of Code Enforcement plans to initiate an aggressive block by block survey of all properties.

In addition, \$122,322.30 of CDBG funds is recommended for emergency demolition of 7 buildings. \$850,000 of State loan funds will pay for the demolition of an additional 50 buildings.

PLANNING

In this fiscal year, redevelopment studies and plans for Dudley, Stockton, Whitman Park, Morgan Village, and North Camden neighborhoods will be completed using \$165,000 of ERB funds.

## LONG TERM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The City's specific objectives are listed on the *FY 2007-2008 Annual Objectives Outcome Chart* in the Action Plan section of this plan.

As a result of the Consolidated Planning participatory process, the City's major objectives for Fiscal year 2007-2008 are:

- 1) to enhance accessibility of affordable decent housing for 305 low income residents by offering rehabilitation services, emergency repair grants, and affordable rental units using \$365,000 of FY 2007 CDBG funds;
- 2) to address the need for affordable decent housing by offering substantial rehabilitation deferred loans and first time homebuyer grants to 137 low and moderate income homeowners using \$842,886.75 of FY 2007 HOME funds, by the rehabilitation of 24 vacant units for sale and rent to low income persons using \$168,580.35 of FY 2007 HOME funds and other public and private resources, by completing the new construction and rehabilitation of 397 affordable units using reprogrammed HOME funds and other public and private resources, by offering housing counseling and credit repair to 25 low income persons using \$35,000 of FY 2007 CDBG funds, by providing rental subsidies to 90 HIV/AIDS low income residents using \$610,000 of FY 2007 HOWA grant, and by applying for FY 2007 McKinney/Vento funds to add 26 permanent housing units for the chronically homeless;
- 3) to enhance the accessibility of the suitable living environment by assisting 4445 homeless and at risk of homelessness via referrals, prevention aid and emergency housing using \$118,292.10 of FY 2007 ESG funds, by providing recreation and social services to over 8482 duplicated low -income youths using \$115,151 of FY 2007 CDBG funds, by providing recreation and social services to 21,950 duplicated low-income senior citizens using \$50,000 of FY 2007 CDBG funds, by supporting the \$2.4 million county application for a State-funded Differential Response program to aid "at risk" abused children, by continuing to work in collaboration with the Homeless Network Planning Committee and Community Planning and Advocacy Council to implement a Housing First program with comprehensive supportive services for the chronically homeless, and by applying for FY 2007 McKinney/Vento funds to continue the housing and supportive services provided by our existing homeless providers;
- 4) to address the affordability of the suitable living environment by providing free eye care services to 230 low income residents using \$25,000 of FY 2007 CDBG funds;
- 5) to improve the sustainability of the suitable living environment by restoration and improvements to five public facilities and parks using \$846,000 of FY 2007 CDBG funds, by conversion of a church into a museum using \$100,000 of FY 2007 CDBG funds, by site preparation for construction of a new multi-service center and feeding site for our homeless and at risk population using \$100,000 of FY 2007 CDBG funds, by roadway improvement projects using \$400,000 of FY 2007 CDBG funds, and by providing social services to at risk low income youths using \$30,000 of FY 2007 CDBG funds; and 6) to enhance accessibility to economic opportunities by funding five job training programs using \$111,000 in FY 2007 CDBG funds, by continued efforts to expand our Urban Enterprise Zone program, by the continued remediation and development of our brownfield sites, and by completion of redevelopment plans and studies for the remaining city

neighborhoods.

The housing and community development activities will be carried out by the City Division of Housing Services, City Department of Development and Planning, City Department of Health and Human Services, Camden Redevelopment Agency, and qualified non-profit developers. The Bureau of Grants Management will monitor and track the success of the activities contracted with our HUD entitlement dollars via site visits and quarterly reports. The housing and economic development projects coordinated by the Camden Redevelopment Agency will be monitored by their respective divisions and their progress reported for inclusion in our Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The activities for our homeless population will be monitored and their progress tracked by the City and Homeless Network Planning Committee of Camden County via the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and site visits.

### **Antipoverty Strategy**

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Antipoverty Strategy response:

The City's anti-poverty strategy will continue to focus on programs and services to enable residents to qualify for good jobs in the regional market. CDBG funding is recommended for five job training programs administered by small non-profit organizations. The larger workforce development agencies assisting our residents are the Camden County Workforce Investment Board, Camden County Resource Center, and our local Housing Authority. Housing, as well as jobs, is also a major concern for our low income residents. The City will continue to increase our decent, safe and affordable housing supply through new construction and rehabilitation efforts.

In addition to economic development and housing, the City contracts with other human service providers to implement programs for families, youths, seniors, abused and neglected children, the hungry, and the homeless.

The City of Camden will continue to participate in meetings with human service providers in the community and in the county to better coordinate our efforts to champion the plight of our lowest income and most vulnerable population.

## **NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING**

### **Non-homeless Special Needs (91.220 (c) and (e))**

\*Please also refer to the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve for the period covered by the Action Plan.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

The City will continue to work with the county through the Community Planning and Advocacy Council and the Human Services Advisory Council to implement a successful Differential Response pilot program to address the needs of families at risk for child abuse. The \$2.4 million state grant was approved in April 2007. It will be for a three year period at \$2.4 million each year.

## **Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS**

\*Please also refer to the HOPWA Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

Program Year 3 Action Plan HOPWA response:

1. Provide a Brief description of the organization, the area of service, the name of the program contacts, and a broad overview of the range/ type of housing activities to be done during the next year.

The City of Camden is the lead agency in the tri-county HOPWA MSA consisting of Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties. The administration of the HOPWA grant is a joint effort of the City and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. The funds will be used to provide housing assistance vouchers to eligible clients under a DCA rental assistance program for HIV/AIDS individuals and their families. The program contact for the City of Camden is Alfred Dansbury, Department of Development and Planning and Kelly Mobley, Bureau of Grants Management.

2. Report on the actions taken during the year that addressed the special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, and assistance for persons who are homeless.

Assistance was provided to 97 eligible clients through a rental assistance program sponsored by New Jersey Dept. of Community Affairs. There was one client classified as chronically homeless.

3. Evaluate the progress in meeting its specific objective of providing affordable housing, including a comparison of actual outputs and outcomes to proposed goals and progress made on the other planned actions indicated in the strategic and action plans. The evaluation can address any related program adjustments or future plans.

The City met its objective for providing affordable housing to eligible clients under the HOPWA program. We estimated assisting approximately 90 clients but the final number assisted was 97.

4. Report on annual HOPWA output goals for the number of households assisted during the year in: (1) short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to avoid homelessness; (2) rental assistance programs; and (3) in housing facilities, such as community residences and SRO dwellings, where funds are used to develop and/or operate these facilities. Include any assessment of client outcomes for achieving housing stability, reduced risks of homelessness and improved access to care.

The City of Camden did not provide assistance in (1) short-term rent or mortgage and utility payment programs or (2) in house facilities, such as community residences and SRO swellings. Camden MSA HOPWA was strictly used only for the rental assistance program through NJ DCA. The program provides a significant benefit to improving access to safe and affordable housing and reducing the risks of homelessness.

5. Report on the use of committed leveraging from other public and private resources that helped to address needs identified in the plan.

The City of Camden HOPWA housing assistance program did not use any leveraged funds to address the needs of these clients. However, 30% of the individual clients' income paid for the rent.

6. Provide an analysis of the extent to which HOPWA funds were distributed among different categories of housing needs consistent with the geographic distribution plans identified in its approved Consolidated Plan.

The County of Camden has the greatest number of HIV/AIDS cases in the Camden HOPWA MSA therefore Camden County receives the largest number of rental assistance vouchers. Burlington County has the next largest population and receives the second number of vouchers and Gloucester County has the lowest HIV/AIDS population and receives the lowest number of vouchers.

7. Describe any barriers (including non-regulatory) encountered, actions in response to barriers, and recommendations for program improvement.

There were no barriers encountered in the administration of the rental assistance program with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

8. Please describe the expected trends facing the community in meeting the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and provide additional information regarding the administration of services to people with HIV/AIDS.

The demand for decent, affordable housing for the HIV/AIDS population far exceeds the availability of resources for the Camden MSA. Other sources of funding should be acquired to leverage the current HOPWA funds and increase our level of service.

9. Please note any evaluations, studies or other assessments that will be conducted on the local HOPWA program during the next year.

The annual HOPWA Progress Report will be prepared and submitted this year.

### **Specific HOPWA Objectives**

Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the Action Plan.

Program Year 3 Specific HOPWA Objectives response:

The City of Camden will continue to administer the housing assistance program for HIV/AIDS clients in coordination with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. We expect to serve at least 95 clients over the next year.

### Other Narrative

Include any Action Plan information that was not covered by a narrative in any other section.

The City's Emergency Shelter Grant for FY 2007-2008 is matched by \$89,600 of in-kind services. This represents 35% of staff time required to administer 6 programs for the homeless and at risk of homelessness. In addition, the Winter Shelter "code blue" program is matched by Respond, Inc.'s PATH program which is valued at \$49,000.

The HOME program is administered by the city Division of Housing Services. A description of the affirmative marketing and resale/recapture provisions of the program can be found In the Appendix.