



MAYOR VICTOR CARSTARPHEN

2023 CAPER

CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT

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CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

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

Comprehensive Overview of Accomplishments

As we conclude the third year of our Consolidated Plan, we are proud to present a detailed overview of our accomplishments across HUD entitlement programs, including CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA. Our efforts this year have been centered around our core priorities: addressing homelessness, expanding affordable housing, fostering economic development, infrastructure improvements, supporting first-time homebuyers, and providing vital services to youth and seniors.

Homelessness and Affordable Housing:

This year, our ESG Program successfully overcame long-standing obstacles, meeting expenditure deadlines and delivering critical services to individuals at risk of homelessness in Camden. This achievement marks a significant milestone, demonstrating our commitment to addressing homelessness effectively.

We have made notable progress in our HOPWA Program, which continues to provide housing vouchers to qualifying residents throughout the Tri-County Area. Despite challenges with client non-compliance, including some clients disengaging altogether, and background or credit issues among potential clients, our dedicated efforts have enabled us to support clients in securing stable housing.

The initiation of our HOME TBRA Program and CDBG funded Utility Program have been instrumental in assisting individuals whose incomes exceed ESG income eligibility, ensuring that our approach to affordable housing is inclusive and comprehensive.

Utilizing Federal State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, we were able to allocate funding to a community service provider to assist residents across the City of Camden who required rent and utility support due to the ongoing repercussions of COVID-19.

Economic Development:

Throughout the 2023 Program Year, the City's CDBG allocation has been instrumental in strengthening our community's infrastructure and services. We successfully equipped our fire department with updated uniforms and safety equipment, enhancing public safety. Additionally, the City made critical improvements to our aging firehouses and procured a new fire truck, reinforcing our ongoing commitment to effective emergency response.

Furthermore, through the strategic use of the City's Federal Award of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, we were able to substantially enhance our CDBG programs. This included the expansion of community services for our youth, comprehensive renovations of three city community centers, and the implementation of a facade improvement program that benefited our business community. These efforts were

complemented by the city-wide Neighborhood Improvement Plan, which provided critical home repairs to residents, ensuring safer and more comfortable living conditions.

As part of our efforts to foster community revitalization and economic growth, the City successfully implemented a Clean Neighborhood Program, funded through ARP, which employed over 50 individuals to maintain cleanliness in our parks and business corridors. This initiative played a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for residents while creating job opportunities for those in need.

Additionally, we effectively leveraged resources from the Camden Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) Program, which offers significant tax incentives to participating businesses. These resources were directed towards key initiatives such as the façade improvement project and the provision of both micro and macro revolving loans. These loans were designed to stimulate economic growth and revitalization within our business corridors. This comprehensive approach not only bolstered the local economy but also fostered long-term sustainability for businesses and residents, ensuring that Camden continues to thrive.

Housing Counseling and First-Time Homebuyer Programs:

Our first-time homebuyer program has seen positive developments, thanks to improved staff capacity and targeted interventions. Newly assigned staff have been assigned to assist which has freed up our HOPWA Coordinator to ramp up this program; re-engage our HUD certified sub-recipient who provides housing counseling; while providing down payment assistance and helping clients navigate the challenges of finding affordable housing.

Youth and Senior Services:

Renovations to city parks have enhanced our ability to provide engaging activities for both youth and seniors. The success of our youth employment program is a testament to our commitment to fostering opportunities for young people in our community.

Our Senior Services program has been a vibrant hub of community engagement, offering a wide range of activities designed to promote wellness and social connection. Seniors have enjoyed field trips, recreational activities, billiards, exercise classes, bowling, meditation sessions, and even a juicing class, all aimed at enhancing their quality of life.

Similarly, our Youth Services have provided dynamic opportunities for young people to engage in educational and recreational activities. These include science workshops, bowling, gaming, swimming, and field trips that offer both fun and learning experiences. These programs have been instrumental in fostering a sense of community and providing enriching experiences for both seniors and youth in our city

Future Directions and Compliance:

We continue to address the impact of COVID-19 by working to identify grassroots agencies for expending prior year funding and adapting to evolving guidelines. The guidance provided by regional representatives has been invaluable, offering clarity and improving our implementation

strategies.

Despite some challenges, our progress in meeting CDBG Timeliness Test Date and the successful execution of various initiatives underscore our commitment to advancing our community’s well-being and achieving our HUD program priorities.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee’s program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Clearance and Demolition (Code Enf. & Demo)	Non-Housing Community Development		Buildings Demolished	Buildings	0	0				
Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	250	26	10.40%			
Homeless Prevention & Support Activities	Homeless	ESG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	500	13	2.60%	90	0	0.00%
Infrastructure Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0				

Lead Based Paint Abatement & Energy Efficiency	Non-Housing Community Development		Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	0				
Owner Occupied Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	10	2	20.00%			
Owner Occupied Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	40	35	87.50%	2	0	0.00%
Owner Occupied Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	20	0	0.00%	75	0	0.00%
Owner Occupied Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	0	0		20	0	0.00%
Permanent Supportive Housing Program	Affordable Housing Homeless	HOPWA: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	0	0				
Permanent Supportive Housing Program	Affordable Housing Homeless	HOPWA: \$	Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			

Planning and Administration	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development Planning and Administration	CDBG: \$ / HOPWA: \$ / HOME: \$ / ESG: \$16362.53	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%	1	0	0.00%
Public Facility Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	18000	77795	432.19%	18000	74195	412.19%
Public Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5600	2730	48.75%	1379	260	18.85%
Public Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	0	0				

Rental Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	50	0	0.00%			
Tenant Based Rental Assistance	Affordable Housing Homeless	CDBG: \$ / HOPWA: \$ / HOME: \$496214.6	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	90	73	81.11%	90	0	0.00%

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

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

The City has strategically leveraged Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to effectively address the highest priority activities identified in our Consolidated Plan. These priorities encompass affordable housing, homelessness prevention and supportive services, non-housing community development (public safety, improvements, and infrastructure), public services for the frail and elderly, youth and elderly activities, HIV services, public housing, job creation, job training, and commercial revitalization.

Public Safety:

CDBG funds were instrumental in bolstering public safety, one of our top priorities. We utilized these funds for the acquisition of a new fire truck, the rehabilitation of three firehouses, and the procurement of new protective gear for our officers. These enhancements ensure that our emergency response teams are well-equipped to serve the community efficiently.

Community Development and Public Services:

The City also prioritized the rehabilitation of three community centers and two parks, significantly improving the infrastructure and recreational opportunities available to residents. CDBG funding supported an array of youth and senior service activities, including recreational programs and field trips, which are crucial for community engagement and well-being. Additionally, utility services were provided to clients in need, ensuring the continuity of essential services for vulnerable populations.

Furthermore, we enhanced our public service activities by partnering with three community service providers who, with the support of CDBG funds utilized through our Department of Human Services, offered a wide range of programs for youth and delivered essential services to residents impacted by the economic and social challenges of COVID-19.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention:

In the area of affordable housing, the City made significant strides by providing home repairs to 50 clients. This effort, was fully funded and supported by City’s Award of State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds which was essential in preserving homeownership and maintaining safe living

conditions.

As we approached the close of FY 2023, the City also took decisive action to revitalize our First-Time Homebuyer Program, which had experienced a decline due to potential homeowners finding alternative sources of support that did not mandate counseling services. Recognizing the importance of this program in promoting homeownership and stability, we have ramped up our efforts to attract and support first-time homebuyers, ensuring they receive the necessary guidance and resources to make informed decisions.

Health and COVID-19 Response:

In response to the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has outsourced CDBG COVID Funding to a Health Community Coordinator. This strategic move aims to address the underlying health needs within our community that contribute to vulnerability to COVID-19. By partnering with health experts, we are ensuring that our residents receive targeted support, reducing their risk of severe outcomes and enhancing overall public health resilience. The City anticipates implementing this activity during the FY 24 program year.

Economic Development:

Finally, the City utilized its award of Urban Enterprise Zone funds to drive economic development. We facilitated infrastructure improvements along key business corridors, which are vital for commercial revitalization and job creation. These efforts, coupled with our support of community service providers, are laying the groundwork for sustained economic growth and stability in our community.

In conclusion, through the judicious use of CDBG funds, along with strategic partnerships and supplementary financial resources, the City has made substantial progress in addressing its highest priority activities. These efforts are not only meeting the objectives outlined in our Consolidated Plan but are also contributing to the long-term resilience and well-being of our community.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

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

Narrative

A detailed breakdown of the racial and ethnic status of families assisted is provided in the attached tables. The demographics of the families served by the City's programs reflect Camden's diverse population, which is predominantly composed of racial and ethnic minorities. According to the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) data, 42% of Camden's population identifies as Black or African American, 52.8% as Hispanic or Latino, 15.7% as White, and 1.8% as Asian.

As indicated in the PR23 for the CDBG program, a total of 19,039 individuals were assisted. Of those, 1,071 were White, 5,768 were Black or African American, 6,839 were Black/African American & White, and 299 identified as multi-racial. Additionally, 2,894 of the persons assisted identified as Hispanic.

For the HOME program, PR23 reports that six households were assisted, with the racial breakdown as follows: 3 White households, 2 Black/African American households, and 1 Hispanic (Multi-Racial) household.

These figures demonstrate the City's commitment to serving a diverse cross-section of its population and addressing the housing needs of all racial and ethnic groups within the community.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	2,510,343	961,089.64
HOME	public - federal	1,005,353	100,535.30
HOPWA	public - federal	1,193,996	662,593
ESG	public - federal	223,382	183,789.72

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Grant resources for the four entitlement grants (CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG) as described in the City's FY2023 Action Plan, totaled **\$4,949,585** for the fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024). The grant funds were used to address obstacles to meet underserved needs, foster decent housing, provide public service initiatives, housing vouchers, upgrade public facilities, public safety activities, reduce the number of persons below the poverty line, and enhance coordination between the public and private housing and social service agencies.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Choice Program Neighborhood	30	30	
City-Wide	70	70	

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

A large majority of the city's federal funds (CDBG) were dispersed on a citywide basis with the exception of funds dedicated to assisting the Housing Authority with its Public Housing Authority activities. It is important to note that neighborhoods that account for the geographic distribution of funds include, but not limited to Whitman Park, Fairview, Cramer Hill, Parkside, Dudley, and Marlton. The Centerville, the host of the CHOICE program continues a planned percentage of the CDBG allocation as part of the city's commitment to continue the development of housing units through Housing Authority development sites.

Leveraging

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

The City has effectively leveraged federal funds to attract and utilize additional resources from private, state, and local sources, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing the priorities identified in our Consolidated Plan. This strategic leveraging has allowed us to maximize the impact of federal funding and meet critical community needs, even in areas where direct federal allocations were limited.

Leveraging of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARP):

One of our key strategies involved the use of State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds to supplement CDBG allocations. These funds were pivotal in filling gaps where federal funding alone was insufficient. Specifically, they enabled us to meet our housing priorities by providing critical home repairs. Additionally, these funds were instrumental in expanding homeless prevention services, ensuring that residents at risk due to the economic fallout from COVID-19 received the necessary support to maintain stable housing. Furthermore, we were able to enhance community service activities, particularly those aimed at youth engagement, by using these resources to support a variety of recreational and educational programs.

Finally, as part of our comprehensive approach to community revitalization and economic development, the City successfully implemented a Clean Neighborhood Program, with the State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds, which employed over 50 individuals to maintain the cleanliness of our parks and business corridors. This initiative not only enhanced the overall quality of life for residents but also created meaningful employment opportunities.

Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) Funds for Economic Development:

To spur economic development, we utilized Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) funds alongside federal resources (ARP). These funds were directed toward infrastructure improvements along our business corridors, attracting private investment and revitalizing commercial areas. This strategic use of UEZ funds not only supported job creation and retention but also bolstered the local economy by improving the business environment in key areas of the city.

JAG Funding for Public Safety Initiatives:

The City also leveraged Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds to support our public safety priorities, particularly in the area of gang abatement. These funds allowed us to implement targeted interventions aimed at reducing gang-related activities, thereby improving overall community safety and contributing to the broader goal of creating a secure and stable environment for all residents.

State Grants for Infrastructure Improvements:

In addition to federal and local funds, the City successfully secured state grants that were critical in addressing essential infrastructure needs. These grants funded water and sewer improvements, ensuring that our public utilities are capable of meeting current and future demands. We also utilized state resources to upgrade broadband infrastructure, a vital component of our strategy to enhance digital connectivity and support economic growth in our community.

Publicly Owned Land and Property Utilization:

Finally, the City strategically utilized publicly owned land and property to address various needs identified in our plan. These assets were deployed to support community centers, and public parks, aligning with our goals of enhancing public spaces, and providing accessible services to residents. By integrating these publicly owned resources into our broader development strategy, we were able to amplify the impact of our federal and non-federal funds, ensuring a cohesive and effective response to the community’s needs.

Conclusion:

Through the strategic leveraging of federal funds with additional resources from state, local, and private sources, the City has been able to meet and exceed many of the objectives outlined in our Consolidated Plan. This integrated approach has ensured that our community’s most pressing needs—ranging from housing and homelessness prevention to economic development and public safety—are being addressed in a comprehensive and sustainable manner.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	0
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	0
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	0
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	0

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at beginning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
93,865	0	75,000	0	18,865

Table 7 – Program Income

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			
Number	0	0	0			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0		0		
Businesses Displaced		0		0		
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0		0		
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0		0		
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

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CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	23	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	35	5
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	58	5

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	40	7
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	40	7

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

A review of the PR 23 reports reveals that, for non-homeless households, we were able to provide assistance to five households, which falls short of our annual goal of 35. Unfortunately, no housing units were provided to special needs or homeless households during this reporting period, resulting in us not meeting our overall housing goals.

During this period, five units received assistance through the HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program. However, there were no acquisitions of existing units or production of new units reported. It is important to acknowledge that the efforts of non-profit community development

organizations have continued to lag behind expectations, largely due to the ongoing economic downturn and the challenges posed by national and global supply chain disruptions. Additionally, staffing delays and the need for staff to be thoroughly trained in understanding and applying HUD regulations further impacted our ability to meet housing targets.

Despite these setbacks, there has been notable progress in the construction sector following approvals by the city's development review boards. This progress is expected to materialize in the early summer of 2024, with construction activities set to begin, signaling an improvement in our capacity to meet future housing goals.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The outcomes from this reporting period will significantly inform and shape our future Annual Action Plans. Recognizing the shortfalls in meeting our housing assistance goals, particularly for non-homeless and special needs households, we are taking proactive measures to address these gaps and ensure more robust outcomes in the coming years.

Coordinator for HOME TBRA Program:

One of our immediate priorities is to streamline and enhance the administration of our HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program. To this end, we are developing a solicitation to hire a specialized sub-contractor who will serve as the Coordinator for the HOME TBRA program. This Coordinator will focus on managing the program more efficiently, ensuring that staffing levels are adequate and that staff members are properly trained to meet regulatory requirements. We anticipate that this change will lead to a more effective deployment of resources, allowing us to serve a higher number of clients and meet our established goals.

Anticipation of Housing Development:

The delays in housing development, particularly those experienced by our Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), have been a setback. However, with the approvals now secured from the city's development review boards, we anticipate significant progress in housing development in the near future. These projects, once underway, will contribute to meeting our housing goals and will be reflected in the upcoming Annual Action Plans. We are optimistic that these developments will positively impact our ability to provide much-needed affordable housing units to our community.

Ramping Up the First-Time Homebuyer Program:

Additionally, we are planning to ramp up our First-Time Homebuyer Program in 2024. The previous decline in program participation, due to alternative funding sources that did not require counseling services, highlighted the need for renewed efforts in this area. Moving forward, we will intensify our outreach and support mechanisms to attract and assist more first-time homebuyers, ensuring they receive the necessary guidance and resources to achieve homeownership. This revitalized focus will be a key component of our future plans, aiming to increase homeownership rates and contribute to community stability.

Conclusion:

These strategic adjustments, including the hiring of a dedicated Coordinator for the HOME TBRA program, the anticipated housing developments, and the revitalization of our First-Time Homebuyer Program, will be central to our future Annual Action Plans. By addressing the challenges identified in the current period and capitalizing on new opportunities, we are committed to improving our outcomes and better serving our community in the years ahead.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	814	1
Low-income	1,698	2
Moderate-income	1,625	2
Total	4,137	5

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

The PR 23 report indicates that a total of 4,137 individuals (non-housing) were served during the reporting period, with income data categorized by family size. Of these, approximately 814 individuals fell into the extremely low-income category, 1,698 into the low-income category, and 1,625 into the moderate-income category.

During the program year, expenditures were allocated as follows: \$22,563.66 for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and \$17,270.00 for First-Time Homebuyer activities, resulting in a total expenditure of \$39,833.66 for FY 2023. Additionally, HOME funds were utilized to serve a total of 5 individuals.

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CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

The City continues to use the annual Point in Time (PIT) count to reach out to homeless persons and assess their individual needs. The PIT, conducted on January 24, 2023, is a comprehensive survey used to count the number of homeless persons living in Camden on the streets or areas not meant for human habitation in shelters, safe havens, transitional housing. In addition to collecting demographic data, the survey includes questions related to the needs of those being surveyed, including questions on topics such as housing, job training/placement, medical/dental services, Social Security Disability Insurance, Food Stamps, medical health services, education, clothing, transportation, TANF, legal assistance, Veteran's benefits, childcare, substance abuse services, and HIV/AIDS assistance. The information collected was analyzed and compiled into a report in order to provide a thorough assessment of the needs of the local homeless population. According to the PIT, a total of 613 persons were determined to be experiencing homelessness in the County of Camden. Of this amount, approximately, a total of 166 persons were identified as chronically homeless, and 141 were unsheltered on the night of the count. Of this amount, approximately 420 persons were from the City of Camden. Approximately 116 persons were "unsheltered" and 304 persons were "sheltered." An important subset of the total homeless population includes 148 persons as "chronically homeless."

The 2023 goal was to assist 90 very low- and low-income persons and or families via Homelessness supportive activities, and 90 very low-, low- and moderate-income persons and families in non-housing/community development activities.

The Homeless Network Planning Committee (HNPC) is Camden County's Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System (CEAS) Committee, and is a coalition of over 45 housing providers, advocates, and consumers that develops and implements a comprehensive plan providing for a continuum of services to decrease homelessness and maximize self-sufficiency for the City and Camden County Continuum of Care.

The HNPC is part of the regional Southern NJ Continuum of Care (SNJCoC) which includes Camden, Cape May, Cumberland and Gloucester Counties. The SNJCoC does regional planning and applies as a continuum to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for funding under the HUD NOFA process.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The high incidence of domestic violence in Camden is addressed by the special taskforce of County Police and prosecutors. The City has only one shelter in the City exclusively for domestic violence victims, but residents have access to the existing transitional housing shelters in the City and the County that also provide temporary housing and services for victims of domestic violence. The presence of domestic violence agencies on HNPC's PASH committee ensure the inclusion of domestic violence issues on an as needed basis.

Ending Have Beginnings, A Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Camden City/Camden County is the working document that guides the Continuum of Care efforts to address and resolve the issues of homelessness, particularly chronic homelessness. Within this plan, the highest importance includes the identification of suitable housing sites for the homeless throughout Camden County, obtaining additional funding for permanent housing/supportive services and improving the service delivery system. Subsequent annual plan updates will contain updates to this plan.

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

The Community Planning and Advocacy Council, through its Homeless Network Committee works with numerous social service organizations to coordinate Homeless Policy and Services for the region, including but not limited to the Housing Authority (Foster Care Transition Program via Section 8 Vouchers), State of New Jersey (Department of Children and Families Adolescent HUB), Cathedral Soup Kitchen (Homeless Information Forum), Center for Family Services (Youth Homeless Assistance Prevention Program), County of Camden (Department of Community Development Homeless Resource HUB Semi Annual Meeting are held through Camden County to provide information and referral services for homeless individuals and families), Delaware Valley Veterans Consortium Veterans Resource HUB) and Volunteers of America to develop and implement services to assist extremely low income individuals, who without these services, will likely to become homeless. Foster Care NJ, as part of a statewide discharge policy works with youth who are gaining out of the foster care system to identify available housing. The NJ Department of Corrections, the Division of Developmental Disabilities work with City and County agencies to prevent discharges without identifying available housing. In addition, the Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Finance, Bureau of Grants Management are in informal discussions with potential health care organizations to develop programs to provide health related and housing referral services to extremely low individuals who are very likely to becoming homeless, and who are underrepresented due to sexual orientation.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

In partnership with the County and nonprofit organizations, the City of Camden remains dedicated to assisting homeless individuals and families, particularly chronically homeless individuals, veterans, families with children, and unaccompanied youth, in transitioning to permanent housing and independent living. A critical focus of the City's efforts is to shorten the period of homelessness, ensure access to affordable housing units, and prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless again after being housed.

The City leverages its Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) to support these efforts by funding Relocation and Stabilization Services. These services provide homeless individuals living on the streets or in emergency shelters with essential support, including case management, security deposits, and utility deposits. Stabilization efforts are also extended to those at risk of becoming homeless, ensuring their transition to safe housing.

In addition to these services, ESG funds are used for Homeless Prevention Services, offering rental assistance, security deposits, and utility support to extremely low-income families and individuals at risk of eviction. These preventive measures are key to reducing the incidence of homelessness in Camden by ensuring that at-risk households can maintain stable housing.

Despite these ongoing efforts, the City has encountered challenges in expending prior year ESG funds. An RFP was issued to secure a social service provider to administer the grant, but no responses were received. This lack of response is partially attributed to the match requirement and changes in management at key service agencies such as the **Community Planning & Advocacy Council**. In response, the Department of Finance – Bureau of Grants Management and the Department of Planning and Development have engaged with our HUD Representative to explore alternative strategies to effectively utilize the funds.

The City remains committed to working with local partners and refining its homeless services framework, continuing to prioritize coordination and targeted interventions to address homelessness and foster long-term housing stability for Camden's most vulnerable populations.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Housing Authority of the City of Camden (HACC) and the City continue to prioritize its annual Entitlement Grants (CDBG and HOME) in 2023 to subsidize the housing proposals identified in the CHOICE Implementation Plan. Projects targeted in the implementation application will include an owner-occupied rehabilitation component and the new construction/gut rehab and sale of single-family homes. Any subsequent awards will underwrite the neighborhood and housing proposals represented in the plan, will be given priority and support by the City over the five-year term of the Implementation Grant.

CHOICE Neighborhoods remains an important project to the city in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2023 Annual Action Plan. The plan served as the basis for a \$30 million Choice Implementation Grant application that was funded at \$13.2 million. The City and HACC decided to focus its efforts to revitalize the Branch Village. The award allowed the city to build; 147-units townhouses; 50-unit low-rise family building, and a 58-unit low-rise building, which were all, connected to the city-street grid with small parks. The project would replace existing units with 255 mixed- income rental units and produced 10 single-family homes for sale.

In 2019, the Housing Authority of the City of Camden (HACC) and the City applied for a \$35 million Choice Grant for the redevelopment of Ablett Village in the Cramer Hill section of the City. The application was unsuccessful, but the HACC reapplied for the next HUD funding round opportunity in 2020. That application proposes to reduce the density of that complex by adding mix-income units. There will be both on-site and off-site units in the Cramer Hill neighborhood: 306 replacements units; 177-unit onsite townhouses and 10 single-family homes for sale offsite and 112 affordable non- replacement units and 7 market rate units for a total of 425 units for the entire project. Up to 25 single family homes will be rehabilitated or newly constructed for sale-property offsite.

The Housing Authority in partnership with the City, The Michaels Organization and the CRA received \$35 Million Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant from HUD in 2021 to focus their efforts in transforming the Ablett Village housing development site for low to moderate income residents and families. The City approved applications for PILOT — "Payment in lieu of Taxes" agreement in order to maximize its community contribution agreement for the Cramer Hill community for each phase.

As part of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative — Implementation Grant was awarded to Branch and Ablett Village and the City will seek to prioritize a set aside from its annual Entitlement Grants (CDBG) to subsidize the neighborhood proposals identified in the Choice Implementation Plans. Projects targeted in the implementation application included park renovations, street, and lighting improvements. The neighborhood and housing proposals represented in the Plans were given priority and support by the City over the 5-year term of the Implementation Grant. Efforts continue regarding the proposed rehabilitation of Elijah Park within the Centerville neighborhood using \$400,000.00 of CDBG funds. The environmental work is nearing completion. Construction is planned the Spring of 2024. Other Michael's developments

include Ablett Village Phase 1. This 75 townhouse development is complete. Located on 3 sites throughout the Cramer Hill neighborhoods. This community is fully occupied. This development represent a \$27 million dollar investment.

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

The City is committed to empowering public housing residents by supporting the Housing Authority of the City of Camden (HACC) in promoting resident involvement in management and facilitating their transition to homeownership. Some of their comprehensive approach includes taking key actions during the 2023 program year:

1. **Outreach and Education Initiatives:** They have implemented targeted outreach and educational programs to inform public housing residents about opportunities for involvement and homeownership. This includes hosting workshops and distributing informational materials that outline the benefits and processes associated with the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program and other related initiatives.
2. **Resident Involvement in Management:** To foster greater resident participation in the management of their communities, they have established resident councils and advisory boards. These platforms provide residents with a meaningful role in decision-making and ensure their feedback is integrated into the management of public housing.
3. **Support Services for Homeownership:** They offer a range of support services designed to assist residents in preparing for homeownership. These services include financial literacy classes, homebuyer counseling, and guidance on navigating the application process for both the Local Initiative Program (LIPH) Homeownership and Section 8 Homeownership Programs.
4. **Collaborations and Partnerships:** The HACC and City collaborate with local non-profits, community organizations, and other stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of our homeownership and management programs. These partnerships help provide additional resources and support to residents seeking to become more involved and achieve homeownership.

By continuing to implement and expand these strategies, the City aims to assist the HACC in increasing resident engagement in management and support their journey toward homeownership, ultimately contributing to their overall stability and success.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

Although the Housing Authority of the City of Camden (HACC) has been designated as a troubled Public Housing Authority (PHA), significant efforts are underway to address this status and transition to a standard status. The City is committed to providing comprehensive support to HACC to facilitate this transition and are proposing the following initiatives:

1. **Establishment of a Dedicated Oversight Committee:** Recognizing the need for targeted assistance, the Departments of Planning and Development and Finance have initiated a series of informal meetings to review the information pertinent to the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). These discussions have highlighted specific areas where

additional support is required. In response, both departments are in the process of establishing a dedicated committee. This committee will convene on a quarterly basis, or more frequently if necessary, to evaluate the nature and extent of technical assistance needed by HACC officials. The goal is to ensure that HACC receives tailored and effective support to address the challenges contributing to its troubled status.

2. **Ongoing Technical Assistance:** The City remains actively involved in providing technical assistance to HACC, particularly in areas critical to the advancement of their housing development projects. This includes support related to land development and review processes, as well as assistance with Section 106 and Environmental Reviews. By expediting these aspects of project development, the City aims to remove barriers and facilitate the successful implementation of HACC's housing initiatives.
3. **Enhanced Collaboration and Resource Allocation:** The City is committed to enhancing collaboration with HACC to ensure that all necessary resources and expertise are available to address identified challenges. This includes not only direct technical support but also leveraging partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders to provide a holistic approach to problem-solving.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** To ensure that the assistance provided is effective and responsive to HACC's needs, the City will implement a monitoring and evaluation framework. This framework will track progress, identify areas of improvement, and adjust strategies as needed to achieve the desired outcomes.

Through these robust measures, the City aims to support HACC in overcoming its troubled status and achieving improved operational and programmatic performance. Our commitment to providing targeted assistance and facilitating effective solutions reflects our dedication to enhancing housing opportunities and management within the community.

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

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

The City remains steadfast in its commitment to overcoming barriers to affordable housing and has undertaken a series of strategic actions aimed at ameliorating the negative effects of public policies and regulations that hinder affordable housing development. These actions are focused on addressing various challenges, including land use controls, tax policies, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting residential investment returns.

1. **Redevelopment Plans and Initiatives:** Affordable housing production and preservation are central to the City's redevelopment strategies. Notably, the CHOICE application for the Whitman Park neighborhood exemplifies our commitment. In 2023, the City advanced redevelopment studies and initiatives, with ongoing efforts to evaluate and potentially extend the expiration of existing redevelopment plans. These plans are designed to address barriers by incorporating strategies to enhance affordable housing opportunities within the community.
2. **Annual Request for Proposals (RFP):** The Bureau of Grants Management (BGM), in collaboration with the Department of Planning and Development, issues an annual RFP to allocate HUD funding. This funding supports nonprofit organizations involved in affordable housing production and housing services. By providing financial resources through this mechanism, the City helps to mitigate barriers related to funding and incentivizes the development of affordable housing.
3. **Camden Redevelopment Agency's Efforts:** The Camden Redevelopment Agency plays a crucial role in mobilizing resources for affordable housing. In program year 2023, the Agency focused on land assembly, financing for affordable housing development, relocation services, and replacement housing activities. These efforts are aimed at overcoming barriers related to land acquisition and project financing, thereby facilitating the development of affordable housing.
4. **Streamlined Processes for Real Estate Transactions:** To address inefficiencies and barriers related to real estate transactions, the City has developed a policy to streamline the acquisition and disposition of real estate. This policy also expedites the processing of funding applications, thereby reducing administrative delays and improving the efficiency of affordable housing projects.
5. **Revised Housing Transformation Plan:** The Camden Housing Authority revised its transformation plan to concentrate efforts on the Branch Village Housing Development in the Centerville neighborhood. This development includes 245 family units across 20 two-story buildings, along with the demolition of 34 outdated units and the construction of a new community center. The ongoing construction efforts, supported by the City, aim to provide quality affordable housing and address existing barriers to housing availability.

Through these comprehensive actions, the City is actively working to remove or mitigate the impact of policies and regulations that serve as barriers to affordable housing. Our multifaceted approach reflects a commitment to creating an environment conducive to the development and preservation of affordable housing for our community.

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

The City of Camden faces significant challenges in meeting the needs of its underserved populations, primarily due to insufficient State and Federal funding and the gradual recovery of economic conditions. Despite the substantial funding that the City receives, the scale of need remains vast, and each year the City strives to sustain and, where possible, enhance services and housing opportunities for all residents.

Under the leadership of the Mayor's office, City staff continuously review policies and refine program delivery to ensure that resources are used as effectively as possible to benefit low-income populations. This ongoing effort is aimed at maximizing the impact of community development funding.

A key initiative in addressing these obstacles is the City's application for the CHOICE program, specifically designed to target underserved needs in a large neighborhood. This program focuses on comprehensive solutions, including economic development, energy-efficient and cost-effective housing, transportation, employment, education, and promoting healthy living conditions. Through these efforts, the City is committed to overcoming barriers and improving the quality of life for its most vulnerable residents.

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

The City's Department of Code Enforcement (DCF) is actively engaged in reducing lead-based paint hazards through a collaborative partnership with the Southern Regional Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (SRCLPP) Coalition. This coalition, coordinated by the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative and funded by the NJ Department of Community Affairs and the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, brings together a diverse membership, including health institutions, human service providers, churches, affordable housing developers, and community action groups. Together, they strengthen the City's response and prevention efforts against lead poisoning.

The Coalition's Action Plan primarily focuses on expanding the number of participating agencies and supporting members in conducting lead poisoning prevention activities within their communities. Throughout the year, the Coalition organizes events to disseminate public education materials about the dangers of lead poisoning, offer lead testing services, and educate the community and landlords on lead-safe building maintenance practices. These efforts also highlight available state funding for lead removal.

Within the City, the Housing Bureau conducts property maintenance inspections, while the Building Bureau is responsible for inspections related to uniform construction and fire code compliance in existing structures and various development projects. When lead-based paint hazards are identified in multi-family dwellings, all residents are promptly notified. The Department has enhanced its oversight of final clearance inspections and takes corrective action, including the suspension or revocation of licenses, against negligent abaters and clearance inspectors.

In alignment with the State mandate to reduce lead-based paint hazards, the City is committed to ensuring that all rental dwellings undergo initial inspections by the July 1, 2024 deadline. The Department of Planning and Development will continue to collaborate closely with the DCF to meet this compliance goal. Additionally, this partnership aims to develop strategies to target owner-occupied

dwelling within key redevelopment areas, ensuring code compliance and exploring opportunities to provide property improvement funds.

Looking ahead, the Department of Code Enforcement intends to apply for additional funds in the upcoming year to further address lead-based paint hazards in the City's housing units. To meet the NJ statutory deadline, the Department is also in the process of seeking a consultant firm to conduct inspections of all rental properties.

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

The City of Camden's anti-poverty strategy is centered on providing comprehensive case management, access to affordable and quality housing, and employment training and opportunities tailored to support our most vulnerable populations. The Homeless Network Planning Committee (HNPC) and the Camden County Partnership for the Homeless (CPAC) are two primary networks that work in tandem with the County Continuum of Care (CoC) to address the multifaceted needs of poverty-level families within Camden City.

Key workforce development agencies, including the Camden Community Partnership and the "One Stop" Career Center, play a crucial role in assisting our extremely low-income residents. Operated through the Camden County Workforce Board, the "One Stop" Career Center offers a range of employment training and job placement services specifically for Camden County residents, helping them secure meaningful employment and achieve economic stability.

The City of Camden undertakes various initiatives funded by CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA to combat poverty and enhance the quality of life for its residents. Programs that have a direct impact on reducing poverty include placement services, housing repair assistance, housing vouchers and affordable housing opportunities through tenant based rental assistance, first-time homebuyer's program. These efforts are integral to the City's broader strategy to uplift families out of poverty and provide them with the resources and opportunities needed for long-term success.

Specific anti-poverty projects receiving financial support during the 2023 program year include:

- HS Tenant Based Rental Assistance (HOME)
- DHS First Time Homebuyer Grants (HOME)
- HS Senior Health Workshop (CDBG)
- HS Senior Camden Wellness Program (CDBG)
- HS Intake/Referral Services (ESG)
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance for HIV/AIDS afflicted (HOPWA)

In addition to the programs supported through the City's entitlement funds, the Homeless Network Planning Committee (HNPC) and the Community Planning and Advocacy Council (CPAC) serve as the primary networks addressing the needs of homeless and vulnerable populations in Camden City and

Camden County under the Continuum of Care (CoC). These networks play a critical role in coordinating services that span housing, human services, and employment.

The City's extremely low-income residents benefit from the support of key workforce development agencies, including the Housing Authority of the City of Camden, the Camden County Workforce Investment Board, and the Camden County One Stop Resource Center. These agencies are instrumental in providing employment training and opportunities that empower residents to achieve greater economic stability.

The City of Camden remains actively engaged with these networks by participating in regular meetings and task forces focused on homelessness and human services. This ongoing collaboration with community and county providers is essential for improving and aligning housing, social services, and employment resources to better serve our most vulnerable populations.

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

While the City has made progress in enhancing its institutional structure, there is an ongoing need to further strengthen and streamline our coordination efforts to create a more responsive and effective system. This will not only improve the organization and execution of City activities but also contribute to the development of a more comprehensive and inclusive Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

The Camden Community Partnership, Camden Promise Zone, Camden Housing Authority, City Departments and other local organizations provide a strong foundation for these efforts. However, to build a more cohesive and integrated consortium, additional steps must be taken. This includes improving collaboration across agencies and establishing a robust information-sharing system that ensures all stakeholders are aligned in their efforts to meet the City's housing and community development goals.

Moving forward, our focus will be on enhancing these institutional structures to better support our strategic objectives and ensure that our programs are effectively addressing the needs of our community.

Camden Community Partnership is a private, non-profit corporation dedicated to creating and carrying out economic development projects within the City of Camden. CCP's mission is to coherently plan and implement high quality urban redevelopment projects in order to help replenish Camden's depleted tax base and to create a significant number of jobs for city residents. CCP also works with the City government and other institutional stakeholders to improve Camden's environment as a place in which to live, to work, to visit, and to reinvest. CCP primary area of development has been the Camden Waterfront area but has since partnered with City government to tackle parks planning, neighborhood planning, and infrastructure projects.

Camden Promise Zone – this designation, as part of the institutional structure, is helpful in streamlining and expediting key grant proposals promulgated by community development organizations in partnership with key government agencies.

Camden Housing Authority play a crucial in partnering with the City government, Cooper Ferry Partnership, key community development organizations and key stakeholders in building, redeveloping public housing across multiple PHA sites throughout the city. The City government is often a co-applicant in driving many of the CHA's major grant application submissions.

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

Recognizing the critical need for stronger coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies, the City has prioritized efforts to bridge this gap. To this end, the City will engage in a series of strategic meetings with the Camden Housing Authority, Camden County, and private developers. These collaborative sessions are aimed at developing comprehensive strategies to enhance engagement and ensure that housing and social services are delivered more effectively and efficiently across our community.

By fostering closer partnerships and aligning the efforts of all stakeholders, the City seeks to create a more unified approach to addressing housing needs and delivering social services. This enhanced coordination will be vital in meeting the diverse needs of our residents and achieving our long-term community development goals.

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

The City's analysis of impediments to fair housing choice has highlighted significant challenges related to the availability of safe, affordable, and accessible housing stock. In response, the City has undertaken several initiatives to address these barriers and promote fair housing opportunities for all residents.

One of the key actions has been the ramping up of our First-Time Homebuyer Program, which aims to increase access to homeownership for low- and moderate-income families. This program provides financial assistance and counseling services to help potential homeowners navigate the complexities of purchasing a home, thereby reducing barriers to homeownership.

In addition to the services currently provided, the City recognizes the need for broader strategies to further mitigate these impediments. Moving forward, we will explore opportunities to:

- **Increase Affordable Housing Production:** Partner with private developers and leverage state and federal resources to incentivize the construction of affordable housing units. This could include utilizing tax credits, offering land at reduced costs, or providing other financial incentives to developers who commit to building affordable housing.
- **Enhance Housing Rehabilitation Programs:** Expand efforts to rehabilitate existing housing stock, particularly in areas where housing conditions pose safety concerns. By improving the quality of older homes, we can increase the availability of safe and affordable housing options.
- **Strengthen Housing Counseling and Education:** Beyond first-time homebuyer programs, there is a need to enhance housing counseling services to include education on tenant rights, fair

housing laws, and resources available for addressing housing discrimination. This will empower residents to make informed decisions and advocate for their housing rights.

- **Expand Partnerships:** Develop stronger collaborations with local financial institutions to create more flexible lending programs for low-income buyers and explore innovative financing solutions that can reduce upfront costs and ongoing expenses for homeowners.

By implementing these additional strategies, the City aims to more effectively overcome the identified impediments and ensure that all residents have access to safe, affordable, and fair housing options.

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CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

The City of Camden, through its Bureau of Grants Management (BGM), employs a rigorous and multi-faceted approach to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of our Consolidated Plan. Our monitoring process is designed to ensure long-term compliance with the requirements of all HUD programs involved, including those under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA).

1. Increased Staffing and Training

To enhance our monitoring capabilities, we have prioritized increasing our staffing levels and investing in comprehensive training for our monitoring team. The additional staff members are trained in HUD regulations, data analysis, and compliance review, ensuring that our team has the capacity and expertise to conduct thorough reviews. Training also includes specific focus areas such as minority business outreach and comprehensive planning requirements, aligning with the objectives set forth in 24 CFR 91.220 and 91.230.

2. Regular In-Person and Virtual Monitoring Meetings

To maintain a consistent and effective monitoring process, the BGM is in the process of instituting more frequent in-person and virtual meetings with sub-recipients, city departments, and other stakeholders. These meetings are crucial for assessing progress, addressing challenges, and ensuring compliance with HUD regulations. Virtual meetings have been particularly effective in maintaining engagement with all parties, especially during periods when in-person meetings may be impractical. These sessions include detailed discussions on project performance, adherence to timelines, and compliance with federal regulations, particularly those related to minority business outreach.

3. Long-Term Monitoring for HOME-Assisted Projects

The City conducts ongoing monitoring of HOME-assisted rental and homeownership housing throughout the affordability period, as mandated by HUD regulations. This includes annual site visits, review of tenant files, and verification of income eligibility. The City has established standards and procedures to ensure that properties remain compliant with HOME requirements for the duration of the affordability period, thereby safeguarding the long-term affordability of these housing units.

4. Comprehensive Planning and Minority Business Outreach

The BGM adheres to comprehensive planning requirements by ensuring that all activities funded through HUD programs are aligned with the goals and priorities outlined in the City's Consolidated Plan. As part of this process, the City actively engages in outreach to minority-owned businesses (MBEs) to

encourage their participation in federally funded projects. This outreach includes prioritizing MBEs when HUD-funded contracts are awarded.

5. Enhanced Data Collection and Reporting

The City has strengthened its data collection and reporting systems to provide more accurate and timely information on project performance and compliance. This includes the use of advanced software tools to track the progress of each project, monitor expenditures, and ensure that all activities comply with HUD regulations. Regular reports are generated and reviewed to identify any potential issues early on, allowing for prompt corrective action.

6. Collaboration with Internal and External Partners

To ensure a coordinated approach to monitoring and compliance, the City collaborates closely with internal departments such as the Department of Planning and Development, Fire Department, Human Services and Public Works. This collaborative approach ensures that all parties are aligned in their efforts to meet HUD requirements and achieve the objectives of the Consolidated Plan.

Through these enhanced monitoring standards and procedures, the City is committed to ensuring the long-term success of our HUD-funded programs, promoting sustainable development, and fostering inclusive economic growth.

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

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

In accordance with the City's Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) and HUD regulations, we ensured that residents were provided with reasonable notice and ample opportunity to review and comment on the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The public review and comment period lasted 21 days, from September 5, 2024, to September 27, 2024.

To inform the community, a public notice was placed in the City's official newspaper, *The Courier Post*. In addition, copies of the CAPER were made available at public libraries and government offices, as outlined in the CPP. This ensured that the document was easily accessible to all citizens, facilitating transparency and participation.

A public hearing was held on September 5, 2024, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to provide a forum for community members to voice their input. Although only staff members were present, this opportunity for public engagement was in full compliance with HUD's citizen participation requirements. The sign-in sheet for this hearing is included in the appendix of the CAPER. During the entire public comment period, no comments were received from the public. Despite the lack of direct feedback, the City remains committed to ensuring open communication channels and will continue to actively engage the community in future performance reporting processes.

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CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

During the 2023 program year, the City completed its third year of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan without altering its core program objectives. However, reflecting on the experiences of the past year, the City recognizes that improvements in program delivery and expenditure expectations could enhance overall outcomes.

In the future, adjustments may be made to better align funding decisions with realistic timelines and measurable goals. These adjustments would be informed by a more robust approach to project planning, including enhanced stakeholder collaboration, increased monitoring of sub-recipient and departmental activities, and refined reporting mechanisms to ensure timely accomplishment of program objectives.

Additionally, the City could strengthen its technical assistance efforts, providing more guidance to departments and sub-recipients to improve their capacity in implementing projects effectively. This would also include more frequent evaluations of performance and spending, ensuring that the City stays on track to meet its Consolidated Plan goals.

By incorporating these lessons learned, the City is committed to ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently, and program objectives are met in a timely and impactful manner.

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

No

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

CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

During the program year, our City's Housing Bureau conducted inspections on all the projects listed: Pearlye Parkview, Galindez Court, 301 Market, Ferry Senior Housing, NSP2, Broadway Housing, Riverview, North 32nd Street, and 847 Bailey, in accordance with the schedule outlined in 24 CFR §92.504(d).

Inspection Results:

- **Pearlye Parkview, Galindez Court, 301 Market, NSP2, Broadway Housing, Riverview, North 32nd Street, and 847 Bailey:** All units were inspected and were found to be up to code. The rent compliance reports were reviewed and confirmed that all units were in compliance with eligibility requirements. No violations were reported from the housing inspection reports for these properties.
- **Ferry Senior Housing:** The inspection identified several issues requiring attention:
 - **Minor Repairs:** Kitchen faucets needed replacement, smoke detectors required updating, and the dishwasher was either inoperable or needed replacement.
 - **Maintenance Issues:** There were repairs needed for ceiling damage, carpet wear, tub drain issues, and cooking stove burners that were not functioning properly.
 - **Vacant Unit:** One of the units was found to be vacant during the inspection.

Plan for Addressing Uninspected Issues:

All identified issues at Ferry Senior Housing are being addressed as follows:

- **Repairs and Replacements:** Immediate plans are in place to repair the ceiling, replace carpets, fix the tub drain, and repair or replace the stove burners.
- **Vacant Unit:** Efforts are underway to address the vacancy and ensure the unit meets all compliance standards before re-occupancy.

We are committed to maintaining high standards for all housing projects and will continue to

monitor and address any issues promptly. The next steps involve coordinating repairs and verifying that all units remain compliant with housing regulations.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

During the FY 2023 program year, no HOME program income was utilized. However, the City remained committed to ensuring affirmative marketing actions were in place for all HOME-assisted units, in compliance with HUD regulations. These actions are aimed at providing equal housing opportunities and outreach to those least likely to apply, including minority groups and other underrepresented populations.

Funds during this period were allocated to the rehabilitation of a property located at 206 Morse Street, a project led by St. Joseph's Carpenter Society. The rehabilitated unit was successfully sold to a two-person household identifying as Black/African American, reflecting the City's commitment to serving diverse communities.

The City continues to monitor and assess its affirmative marketing efforts to ensure that a broad and inclusive range of potential homeowners and tenants are reached, with a focus on creating access to affordable housing opportunities across various demographics. Future program income will be similarly allocated with an emphasis on inclusive and equitable housing outcomes.

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)

The City remains committed to fostering and maintaining affordable housing through strategic partnerships with key stakeholders such as the City of Camden Housing Authority, the Camden Redevelopment Agency, and local nonprofit organizations. These collaborations focus on providing programs that assist residents in achieving self-sufficiency while expanding affordable housing opportunities.

Additionally, the City actively pursues funding from various grant sources, including HUD's Lead Hazard Reduction Program and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program, to support housing rehabilitation and development efforts. The City also continues to explore opportunities for mixed-income developments that leverage private investment to increase affordable housing stock and Housing Authority resources. These combined efforts aim to address the critical need for safe and affordable housing while promoting long-term sustainability in the housing market.

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CR-55 - HOPWA 91.520(e)

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

Table for report on the one-year goals for the number of households provided housing through the use of HOPWA activities for: short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance payments to prevent homelessness of the individual or family; tenant-based rental assistance; and units provided in housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds.

Number of Households Served Through:	One-year Goal	Actual
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	0	0
Tenant-based rental assistance	90	73
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0	0
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0	0

Table 14 – HOPWA Number of Households Served

Narrative

The City of Camden is the lead agency in the Camden Tri-County Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Camden County, Burlington County, and Gloucester County. As indicated in 2023 (currently, there is no recent statistical data beyond what has been previously provided), the most recent report from the New Jersey Department of Health, the cases of persons living with HIV / AIDS reported as of June 30, 2021 for the tri-county region totaled 6,101. Out of the three counties, Camden County has the largest HIV/AIDS population with 3,680 (60%) of reported cases. Burlington County has the second largest population with 1,630 (27%) of cases and Gloucester County reported 791 (12.9%) of cases. During the FY 23 Year, the City of Camden administered a HOPWA tenant-based rental assistance housing program to provide safe, decent, affordable housing to 66 clients with HIV/AIDS and their families from the Camden MSA who were housed in townhomes, apartments and/or houses. The City continues to sub-contract with Lewis Inspections to perform all housing inspections. Through the joint efforts of our current staff and this sub-contractor, all housing units in the program were inspected and met state housing quality standards. The TBRA program is administered through the Division of Housing Services by Tina Piliro, Coordinator of Monitoring and Evaluation.

HOPWA Narrative Addition

During the current reporting period, the clients in our rental assistance program received medical and supportive services primarily from two local medical facilities. These agencies include Cooper Hospital EIP program and Jefferson Health Infectious Disease Voorhees. These agencies provide medical, nutritional and psychological assistance as well as case management and transportation services to our clients.

The availability of safe and decent affordable housing for individuals with HIV/AIDS continues to be a major priority of the City of Camden, which is essential for the overall health of this vulnerable population. During the program year, the City was able to continue its effort in supplying housing vouchers to all eligible clients and although the City maintained the majority of its client portfolio from last year, we have faced difficulties in expanding the number of households we assist in the Tri-County area. These challenges stem from applicant background and credit issues, as well as a lack of follow-through once vouchers are issued.

More specifically, during the program year, some clients did not complete the re-certification process in a timely manner, and in some instances, clients became unresponsive. Further, adding new clients to our portfolio was problematic due to negative background checks and low credit scores, as well as insufficient follow-through once vouchers were issued.

Additionally, private landlords are now requiring higher credit scores and imposing minimum income requirements that would disqualify our fixed income population. This increased scrutiny and stringent criteria have made it particularly challenging for applicants to secure housing.

Unfortunately, we recently lost two clients who passed away and had to remove six others due to non-compliance. However, on a positive note, we've welcomed three new clients from our waitlist. While we're committed to expanding our client base, as mentioned above we're encountering obstacles, particularly with applicants facing background and credit challenges, as well as some who are not fully engaging with the process. We continue to address these issues and explore ways to support potential clients more effectively.

Despite these setbacks, we have remained diligent in our efforts, ensuring that all funds were allocated according to the proposed plan. We continue to seek solutions to overcome these barriers and better serve our community.

CR-58 – Section 3

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

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	0	1	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours					
Total Section 3 Worker Hours					
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours					

Table 15 – Total Labor Hours

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

Other.					
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Table 16 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

CR-60 - ESG 91.520(g) (ESG Recipients only)

ESG Supplement to the CAPER in *e-snaps*

For Paperwork Reduction Act

1. Recipient Information—All Recipients Complete

Basic Grant Information

Recipient Name	CAMDEN
Organizational DUNS Number	077069581
UEI	
EIN/TIN Number	216000418
Identify the Field Office	NEWARK
Identify CoC(s) in which the recipient or subrecipient(s) will provide ESG assistance	Camden City & County CoC

ESG Contact Name

Prefix	Mr
First Name	Gerald
Middle Name	C
Last Name	Seneski
Suffix	
Title	Director of Finance

ESG Contact Address

Street Address 1	520 Market Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 213
Street Address 2	
City	Camden
State	NJ
ZIP Code	-
Phone Number	8567577582
Extension	
Fax Number	
Email Address	gesenesk@ci.camden.nj.us

ESG Secondary Contact

Prefix
First Name
Last Name
Suffix
Title
Phone Number
Extension
Email Address

2. Reporting Period—All Recipients Complete

Program Year Start Date 07/01/2022
Program Year End Date 06/30/2023

3a. Subrecipient Form – Complete one form for each subrecipient

Subrecipient or Contractor Name
City
State
Zip Code
DUNS Number
UEI
Is subrecipient a victim services provider
Subrecipient Organization Type
ESG Subgrant or Contract Award Amount

CR-65 - Persons Assisted

4. Persons Served

4a. Complete for Homelessness Prevention Activities

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 16 – Household Information for Homeless Prevention Activities

4b. Complete for Rapid Re-Housing Activities

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 17 – Household Information for Rapid Re-Housing Activities

4c. Complete for Shelter

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 18 – Shelter Information

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4d. Street Outreach

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 19 – Household Information for Street Outreach

4e. Totals for all Persons Served with ESG

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 20 – Household Information for Persons Served with ESG

5. Gender—Complete for All Activities

	Total
Male	0
Female	0
Transgender	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 21 – Gender Information

6. Age—Complete for All Activities

	Total
Under 18	0
18-24	0
25 and over	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 22 – Age Information

7. Special Populations Served—Complete for All Activities

Number of Persons in Households

Subpopulation	Total	Total Persons Served – Prevention	Total Persons Served – RRH	Total Persons Served in Emergency Shelters
Veterans	0	0	0	0
Victims of Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0
Elderly	0	0	0	0
HIV/AIDS	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless	0	0	0	0
Persons with Disabilities:				
Severely Mentally Ill	0	0	0	0
Chronic Substance Abuse	0	0	0	0
Other Disability	0	0	0	0
Total (Unduplicated if possible)	0	0	0	0

Table 23 – Special Population Served

CR-70 – ESG 91.520(g) - Assistance Provided and Outcomes

10. Shelter Utilization

Number of New Units - Rehabbed	0
Number of New Units - Conversion	0
Total Number of bed-nights available	0
Total Number of bed-nights provided	0
Capacity Utilization	0.00%

Table 24 – Shelter Capacity

11. Project Outcomes Data measured under the performance standards developed in consultation with the CoC(s)

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CR-75 – Expenditures

11. Expenditures

11a. ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2020	2021	2022
Expenditures for Rental Assistance	0	0	31,966
Expenditures for Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services - Financial Assistance	0	0	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services - Services	0	0	0
Expenditures for Homeless Prevention under Emergency Shelter Grants Program	0	0	0
Subtotal Homelessness Prevention	0	0	31,966

Table 25 – ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention

11b. ESG Expenditures for Rapid Re-Housing

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2020	2021	2022
Expenditures for Rental Assistance	0	0	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services - Financial Assistance	0	0	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services - Services	0	0	0
Expenditures for Homeless Assistance under Emergency Shelter Grants Program	0	0	0
Subtotal Rapid Re-Housing	0	0	0

Table 26 – ESG Expenditures for Rapid Re-Housing

11c. ESG Expenditures for Emergency Shelter

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2020	2021	2022
Essential Services	0	0	93,781
Operations	0	0	0
Renovation	0	0	0

Major Rehab	0	0	0
Conversion	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	93,781

Table 27 – ESG Expenditures for Emergency Shelter

11d. Other Grant Expenditures

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2020	2021	2022
Street Outreach	0	0	0
HMIS	0	0	11,409
Administration	0	0	13,209

Table 28 - Other Grant Expenditures

11e. Total ESG Grant Funds

Total ESG Funds Expended	2020	2021	2022
365	0	0	150,365

Table 29 - Total ESG Funds Expended

11f. Match Source

	2020	2021	2022
Other Non-ESG HUD Funds	0	0	0
Other Federal Funds	0	0	0
State Government	0	0	0
Local Government	0	0	0

Private Funds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Fees	0	0	0
Program Income	0	0	0
Total Match Amount	0	0	0

Table 30 - Other Funds Expended on Eligible ESG Activities

11g. Total

Total Amount of Funds Expended on ESG Activities	2020	2021	2022
15	0	0	150,365

Table 31 - Total Amount of Funds Expended on ESG Activities

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