



**City of Meriden, Connecticut
Program Year 42 Annual Action Plan
Year Two of Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019)**

Prepared by the Community Development Office

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Meriden's (the "City") Program Year 42 Annual Action Plan (the "Plan") is the second plan created under its 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development, and offers strategies and anticipated outcome indicators to address housing and non-housing community development needs, principally of low- and moderate-income persons. The goal of the Consolidated Plan and subsequent Annual Action Plans is to achieve viable community development by providing decent housing; a suitable living environment; and expanded economic opportunities for primarily low- and moderate-income persons. The Consolidated Plan promotes citizen participation and collaboration while consolidating planning, application and reporting requirements for the City's U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") entitlement programs.

The Office of Community Development, housed within the City's Manager's office, is the lead agency in Meriden's consolidated planning process and is also responsible for the formulation, preparation and development of each year's Annual Action Plan. Meriden's City Council has the ultimate responsibility for the allocation of Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Program funds. Overseeing the implementation of projects related to housing and community development are two committees of the Meriden City Council: 1) Economic Development, Housing and Zoning, and 2) Human Services. The Meriden Housing Authority has the authority and responsibility for coordinating and implementing Public Housing projects referenced in this plan. The Council of Neighborhoods coordinates various neighborhood association activities referenced in this plan. The Grant Administrator is responsible for coordinating the CDBG activities and gathering information and data from all of the organizations and City departments involved in the City's housing and community development activities.

Low- and moderate-income definitions used in this Plan are determined by HUD and are subject to change from program year to program year. Households with income less than 80% of the area median income ("AMI") fall within the "target income" for purposes of the goals, objectives, and strategies of the Plan. In addition, Census block groups where 51% or more of the households have income less than 80% of AMI are referred to as CDBG target areas for purposes of the CDBG program.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

The City's Program Year 42 Annual Action Plan was developed through collaboration with housing, health and social service providers and public agencies, and other entities, including those focusing on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, homeless and chronically homeless persons, as well as businesses, developers and community organizations. A local survey conducted as part of the Consolidated Plan process provided insight into community priorities. Overall, youth services, economic development, quality of life improvement and poverty reduction were identified as priority issues. Priority needs related to housing included single family housing, homeless emergency shelter, energy assistance and first time homebuyer assistance. For economic development, job retention or creation and employment training were rated as important. For community service needs, youth, poverty reduction and anti-crime programs were rated the highest. In terms of infrastructure, flood control and street improvements were the key issues. Lastly, for special needs services, neglected/abused children, the mentally disabled, domestic violence victims and substance abusers were identified as target populations. These issues and needs, along with others, are discussed below.

In this Plan, "very low-income" refers to households earning 0% - 30% of the median family income; "low-income" refers to households earning less than 50% of the median family income; and "moderate-income" refers to households earning between 50% and 80% of the median family income. Based on U.S. Census data, of Meriden's total households in 2011, 31% were low-income, and approximately 17% were moderate-income. The City will direct its Community Development Block Grant funding to implement and support programs that serve the moderate-, low- and very low-income households and areas in the City, as well as its other most vulnerable citizens.

Meriden continues to experience a number of housing problems, notably "cost burdened" households. Households with "moderate" cost burden pay between 30% and 50% of their income for housing costs, and households with "severe" cost burden pay over 50% of their income. In Meriden, 76% of very low-income households were cost burdened, and close to 64% were severely cost burdened. For low-income households (earning 30%-50% of median income), 50% spent between 30% and 50% of their income on housing costs, and 32% paid more than 50%.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The City of Meriden made significant progress toward meeting its strategic plan objectives during the CD 40 program year (CD 41 is still ongoing at the time of publication of this Plan). The City expended approximately 90% of its CDBG allocation on activities benefiting low- and moderate-income persons.

During CD 40, Meriden expended just under \$629,049 for activities meeting its strategic plan objectives of providing decent housing, providing a suitable living environment, and creating economic opportunity. The City also expended near \$111,352 for planning and administrative activities in support of the management and oversight of the various programs and activities implemented throughout the year. Limited financial resources make it difficult to address all community needs and strategic plan objectives in one program year. In allocating its CDBG resources, the City of Meriden prioritizes its funding to support projects that benefit its low- and moderate-income target areas; low- and moderate-income households most in need of public services; and its youth and elderly populations. During CD 40 (and in CD 41) Meriden funded projects that directly addressed several specific strategic plan objectives, including housing, suitable living environment, and economic opportunity.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The City met citizen participation requirements in drafting its Annual Action Plan by conducting public outreach and encouraging citizen comment, including: a request for funding proposals document published on the City's website detailing key dates, past use of CDBG funds by the City of Meriden, and Consolidated Plan goals/outcome indicators; offering scheduled technical assistance sessions (as needed and requested by applicants) during the CDBG application process; the provision of public hearings, held on March 8, 2016, April 14, 2016 and April 27, 2016 allowing citizens and community stakeholders to comment on the allocation of funding and the CDBG process in CD 42; a 30-day public comment period on the 2016 Action Plan; council testimony on and approval of the proposed program of activities and the final budget for FY16; and public comment on the City's program performance. As part of the Plan development process and as part of on-going housing and community development efforts, the City coordinates with local non-profits, state agencies and other organizations in the implementation of its programs to ensure the greatest impact in addressing community needs.

5. Summary of public comments

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

The only comment received to date from a member of the public was at the April 14, 2016 hearing hosted by the Human Services Committee of the City Council, at which a citizen thanked the Human Services Committee for their work in the CD 42 allocation process.

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

7. Summary

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The designated lead agency for overseeing the development and implementation of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans is the City’s Office of Community Development, which is housed within the City Manager’s office. The Grants Administrator is primarily responsible for coordinating services of public, private, and non-profit entities, and activities related to housing and community development.

Meriden’s City Council has responsibilities for the administration and allocation of CDBG funds. Two committees of the Meriden City Council oversee the implementation of projects related to housing and community development: Economic Development, Housing, and Zoning; and Human Services. The Meriden Housing Authority has the authority and responsibility for coordinating and implementing public housing projects referenced in this Plan. The Council of Neighborhoods coordinates various neighborhood association activities.

The Grants Administrator of the City of Meriden is responsible for the coordination, oversight and general monitoring of all activities funded with CDBG. In addition, the CDBG program is staffed with an Administrative Secretary who assists in application intake, contract management, financial management and general file maintenance. As administrator of the CDBG funds, the Grants Administrator ensures compliance with Federal regulations through its review of grant application funding requests, recipient contracts, quarterly performance reports, and subgrantee monitoring. All financial transactions are conducted through the City’s Finance Department, and subject to the annual audit of the City’s municipal finances.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

The Citizen Participation Plan (included in the Appendix) sets forth the City's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the development of Meriden's Consolidated Plan and Annual Plan documents.

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

Several steps were taken to ensure coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies during the current program year. Each of these steps helped facilitate the exchange of information between the City and those providing critical services. The following steps were taken to enhance coordination amongst agencies and the City:

- The Grants Administrator met with each sub-recipient in person during the program year. Sub-recipients are required to attend a grantee orientation meeting, which is held at the beginning of the program year. Mid- year project review meetings are also held.
- The Grants Administrator and the City's Director of Health & Human Services participated in and monitored several ongoing activities resulting in enhanced cooperation and coordination between the City and private and non-profit entities working to promote and develop affordable and special needs housing.
- City staff and members of the City Council review, assess and make funding determinations based on need, as determined by the community, and allocate funds in a manner that aims to avoid duplication and connect eligible individuals and households with the specific services they need.

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

The list of organizations consulted with in the development of the City of Meriden’s CD 42 Annual Action Plan is attached as an Appendix. In addition to those organizations the City consulted with the City Manager and the City Council.

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Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

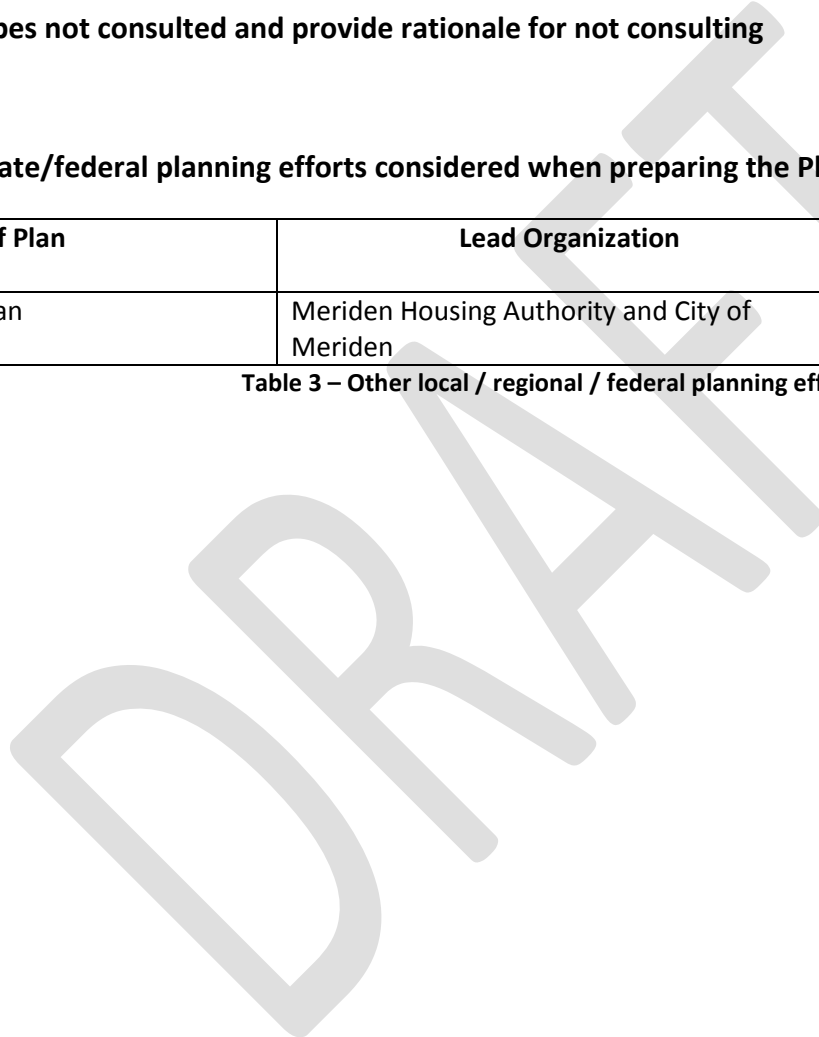
Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Choice Neighborhood Plan	Meriden Housing Authority and City of Meriden	Similar goals, only with a limited geographic scope in the Choice Plan

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)



AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

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Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
	Online notice of funding availability/request for proposals	All interested potential applicants and City residents interested in participating in planning process	36 total applications received	N/A	N/A	http://www.cityofmeriden.org/Customer-Content/WWW/CMS/files/Community_Development/CDBG42RFP.pdf
	Public hearing - March 8, 2016	All applicants and City residents interested in offering input into CD 42 AAP	23 applicant speakers; 5 City Council members; 2 City staff	N/A	N/A	
	Public meeting – March 31, 2016	City staff and Human Services Committee members; City residents interested in offering input into CD 42 AAP	5 City Council members; 2 City staff	N/A	N/A	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
	Public meeting – April 11, 2016	City staff and Human Services Committee members; City residents interested in offering input into CD 42 AAP	5 City Council members; 2 City staff	N/A	N/A	
	Public hearing – April 14, 2016	All applicants and City residents interested in offering input into CD 42 AAP	TBD	A member of the public thanked the Human Services Committee for their work in the allocation process.	TBD	
	Thirty-day public comment period on draft Annual Action Plan – April 15, 2016 – May 15, 2016	City residents interested in offering input into CD 42 AAP	TBD	TBD	TBD	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
	Public hearing – April 27, 2016	All applicants and City residents interested in offering input into CD 42 AAP	TBD	TBD	TBD	
	Public meeting – May 16, 2016 (anticipated)	City staff and Human Services Committee members; City residents interested in offering input into CD 42 AAP	TBD	TBD	TBD	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Priority Table

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 2				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	Public-federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	892,364	0	9,559.81	901,923.81	3,049,046	Amount expected available for the next three years is based on the subtraction of “CD 42 available” from anticipated resources for remainder of Con Plan in the CD 41 AAP

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The City makes efforts to leverage federal and state agency resources to meet the needs identified in its Consolidated Plan. The City has secured a Section 108 Loan of \$1,500,000 to leverage a \$300,000 DECD Brownfields Pilot grant and \$400,000 in U.S. EPA Brownfields funds to complete demolition and environmental remediation of the former Insilco Factory H building at 77 Cooper and 104 Butler Streets. Redevelopment of the HUB, Meriden Transit Center, and Factory H areas is currently being facilitated with HUD Challenge Grant funding. The Challenge Grant is funding a Transit Oriented Design plan for these areas and the acquisition of buildings for redevelopment into mixed commercial and residential

uses. The TOD plan was completed in CD 37 and activities are underway in support of the TOD and HUB project implementation. The City intends to leverage CDBG funds (among other funding) in a Choice Implementation grant during CD 42.

The City leverages other sources of funding when possible to supplement CDBG projects and provide maximum assistance in meeting community needs.

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

The City has limited developable land, thus greatly affecting the ability to construct new affordable housing units. The City is actively involved in redevelopment efforts in its downtown that will provide new affordable housing as part of mixed-use development centered on an updated transit hub.

Discussion

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Increase supply of decent and affordable housing	2015	2019	Affordable Housing Homeless	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide	Housing	CDBG: \$-----	Rental units rehabilitated: 4 Household Housing Unit Homelessness Prevention: --- Persons Assisted Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 5000 Household Housing Unit
2	Create Suitable Living Environment	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide	Community Services Infrastructure Public Facilities Special Needs Services	CDBG: \$-----	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: ----- Persons Assisted
3	Provide Economic Opportunity	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide	Business and Job Support	CDBG: \$-----	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: ---- Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Administration/Other/Loan Repayment	2015	2019	Administration	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide	Administration/Other	CDBG: \$----	Other: 1 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

Table 7 – Goal Descriptions

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.215(b):

TBD

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Proposed projects to received funding in CD 42 are listed below:

#	Project Name
	Augusta Curtis Cultural Center - Summer Music Program
	Beat the Street Community Center, Inc.
	Big Brothers/Big Sisters
	Boys and Girls Club of Meriden-Project "Club Kids"
	Casa Boricua de Meriden, Inc. Operations
	Catholic Charities - Early Childhood Success
	Change The Play - Career Options
	Child Guidance Clinic for Central CT, Inc.- Crisis Intervention
	Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care
	Girls, Inc. - National Identity Programming
	Kuhn Employment Opportunities - City Parks Litter Patrol
	Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven/Meriden-Literacy Tutoring
	Meriden Children First Summer Learning
	Meriden Children's First-Meriden Family Zone Parent Engagement
	Meriden Wallingford Chrysalis: Self Sufficiency Program
	Meriden Soup Kitchen
	Meriden Youth Services - Support Services for Youth
	My City Kitchen-Healthy Cooking Classes for Meriden Youth
	Open DOHR Employment and Training
	Project Reach (Reaching Every Adolescent to Create Hope)
	Salvation Army Emergency Assistance

	Save a Life: Addressing the Opioid Crisis (Rushford)
	Shelter NOW - New Opportunities, Inc.
	Summer Basketball League - New Opportunities, Inc.
	Summer Food Program New Opportunities, Inc.
	Yoga 4 Change
	Casa Boricua - Public Facility Improvements
	Inner City Sidewalks
	Meriden Junior Football League
	Security Deposit Program - New Opportunities, Inc.
	Rehabilitation Administration
	Code Enforcement Staff
	Administration
	Section 108 Loan Repayment

Table 8 – Project Information

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

Funding for CD 42 programs was allocated based on need, as identified in the Consolidated Plan and as evaluated through the annual allocation process. Funding has been targeted at those members of the Meriden community who are most vulnerable, including low-income residents; children; the elderly; and those with physical and mental disabilities.

Projects

AP-38 Projects Summary

Project Summary Information

Table 9 – Project Summary

TBD following final allocation decision

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AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

Geographic Distribution

Investment in Meriden is specifically targeted to its downtown neighborhoods, which contain low- to moderate-income households, sub-standard housing conditions, and a concentration of vacant or underutilized properties. The City recognizes that the revitalization of its downtown neighborhoods is linked to the revitalization of its economy as a whole. This is also the area of focus for the Meriden Choice Neighborhood Planning efforts to redevelop areas of the downtown. This Consolidated Plan supports these goals to revitalize the downtown neighborhoods and the local economy.

CDBG allocations provide support for activities that benefit low- to moderate-income households, as well as the City’s minority population, concentrated in the following Census tracts: 1701, 1703, 1706-1710 and 1714, 1715. These areas comprise a large portion of the central downtown area. Concentrations are based on the 2010 U.S. Census.

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
	TBD

Table 10 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City has several mechanisms in place to ensure that funds go to the neediest individuals. First, City Code Enforcement activities funded by CDBG are limited to the low-income census tracts outlined above. Second, all sub-grantees under the Public Services category must provide documentation that the service is going to low-income and minority families. Finally, geographic investment in the downtown area helps to leverage much need public and private funding as Meriden revitalizes this strategic area.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

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

Table 11 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

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

Table 12 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

TBD following final allocation decision. Applications supporting affordable housing include New Opportunities security deposit program; housing rehabilitation administration; and City code enforcement staff.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

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

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

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

Discussion

Above information to be determined prior to final Annual Action Plan approval.

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

Introduction

The City will allocate \$----- in CD 42 funds to provide services to homeless individuals and families. Specifically, through its public services grants, the City supports the operations of several private non-profit organizations whose mission is to provide temporary and transitional housing and other related counseling services for the homeless in Meriden. During the 2016-2017 program year, the City of Meriden will implement projects that impact homelessness and relieve the cost burden on special needs populations.

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

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

To address its homelessness objectives, the City will allocate resources towards the provision of housing and counseling services to individuals who are either homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. *(organization(s) and funding TBD)*

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The following organizations specifically address the homeless needs identified in the Consolidated Plan:

- Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Self Sufficiency Program
- New Opportunities Security Deposit/First Month Program
- New Opportunities Shelter NOW Program
- Child Guidance Clinic
- Women and Families Center – Project Reach

The Meriden Housing Authority (MHA) also works to address homelessness in the City of Meriden. MHA is responsible for providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for individuals residing in Meriden with low and moderate incomes. The Meriden Housing Authority has the following goals to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness:

- “Expand the supply of assisted housing”
- “Increase assisted housing choices”
- “Promote self-sufficiency and asset development of families and individuals”
- “Ensure equal opportunity in housing for all Americans”

The Meriden Housing Authority will address homelessness by providing Section 8 vouchers and to provide first time homeowner loan assistance aimed at transitioning residents from public housing into the private housing market. The Meriden Housing Authority will apply if funds are available for new Section 8 Certificates or vouchers for households experience severe cost burden.

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

To end chronic homelessness, the City intends to support public service projects that provide counseling and support services to the homeless. These programs include the Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Self Sufficiency Program, Shelter NOW, and Women and Family Center - Project Reach. In addition, the City will support the Child Guidance Clinic, which provides counseling to at-risk youth in order to alleviate future behavioral and other developmental problems that could lead to chronic homelessness.

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

The Meriden Housing Authority has found that providing rental subsidies to households below 80% of the median income level for the area is the most cost effective and practical means to address pending homelessness. The Meriden Housing Authority will secure additional Section 8 Housing Assistance vouchers as they become available so that more individuals can be served.

Discussion

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family
Tenant-based rental assistance
Units provided in housing facilities (transitional or permanent) that are being developed, leased, or operated
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds: N/A
Total

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

Introduction

Meriden’s downtown area contains high concentrations of low- and moderate-income and minority households and much of its older housing stock. In Meriden’s downtown neighborhoods, many residents frequently experience cost burden problems and homeowners struggle to maintain their properties.

An Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) is required by HUD from jurisdictions receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The overall goal of the AI is to review and assess impediments to fair housing within Meriden. According to HUD, impediments to fair housing choice are:

- Any actions, omissions, or decisions taken because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin that restrict housing choice or the availability of housing choices.
- Any actions, omissions, or decisions that have the effect of restricting housing choices or the availability of housing choices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.

The AI report was developed in conjunction with this Consolidated Plan. It evaluates Meriden’s current fair housing legal status, and its and public and private fair housing programs and activities, and provides recommendations for fair housing initiatives critical to ensuring equal housing opportunity within the City.

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

With Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) program funds, the City will acquire, rehabilitate and resell homes to low and moderate income households, including minority households, in the downtown area. Similarly, the objective of the Meriden Neighborhood Preservation Program is the recovery of the downtown neighborhoods through housing rehabilitation. Using a portion of its CDBG funds and other public subsidies, the City provides below market interest rate loans to low to moderate income property owners (living within designated “Neighborhood Strategy Areas”) for housing rehabilitation.

In addition to the activities undertaken by the City, the Meriden Housing Authority addresses barriers to affordable housing by providing economic subsidies. The Meriden Housing Authority states the following goal related to the removal of barriers to affordable housing: “Increase the availability of decent, safe

and affordable housing by applying for additional rental vouchers, reducing public housing vacancies, and leveraging private or other public funds to create additional housing opportunities.” Towards this end, the Meriden Housing Authority will continue to reduce the barriers to affordable housing by providing Section 8 vouchers and to provide first-time homeowner loan assistance aimed at transitioning residents from public housing into the private housing market.

Discussion

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AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction

The projects outlined in the Annual Action Plan were chosen for their fit in achieving the priorities of the Consolidated Plan. These projects will constitute the actions taken by the City of Meriden to: address obstacles to meeting underserved needs; foster and maintain affordable housing; reduce lead-based paint hazards; reduce the number of poverty-level families; develop institutional structure; and enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The allocation of funding in CD 42 aims to provide Meriden's special needs populations, including elderly, the poor, and the handicapped, access to services used by the public at large. Projects will provide a suitable living environment by making services accessible to needy individuals.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Provide low-interest forbearance loans for single unit and multi-unit residential rehabilitation projects within the target area. Includes continuation of the Neighborhood Preservation Program to increase affordable, decent housing in the City center.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Funding provided to City staff through the Housing category will in part cover housing inspections throughout targeted geographic areas in Meriden, and will address lead paint hazards as needed.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Provide those in need of temporary housing and counseling services, including adults and children who are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, access to needed services in Meriden. Projects will provide a suitable living environment by making services accessible to needy individuals.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

CDBG funds will contribute to the administration of the CDBG program, and help ensure the City meets the statutory and regulatory objectives outlined as a condition of participation in the program. The Grants administrator will take the following actions to ensure that needed services are coordinated between the City, sub-recipient organizations carrying out CDBG activities, and the public who benefit from the CDBG activities:

- Post CDBG Program materials and announcements, such as the availability of the

Environmental Review Record, Annual Plan, CAPER, and RFP documents in the local newspaper and on the City's website www.cityofmeriden.org. Distribute copies of all materials to the general public, non-profit organizations, and elected officials when available.

- Hold one-on-one meetings with sub-recipients to discuss quarterly report accomplishments.
- Provide referrals to appropriate City departments and local organizations, such as Community Action, NPP, and the Meriden Housing Authority.

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

The Meriden Housing Authority will continue to reduce the barriers to affordable housing by providing Section 8 vouchers and to provide first-time homeowner loan assistance aimed at transitioning residents from public housing into the private housing market.

Discussion

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Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities

Discussion

APPENDICES

CONSOLIDATED PLAN - CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

The City of Meriden shall follow this Citizen Participation Plan that sets forth the City's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the development of Meriden's Consolidated Plan and Annual Plan documents. The Annual Plan and Consolidated Plan are planning documents that the City of Meriden submits to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Consolidated Plan includes Meriden's housing strategy and its community development plan. The Annual Plan serves as an application for Community Development Block Grant funding. This Citizen Participation Plan provides for and encourages citizens to participate in the development of any substantial amendments to the Annual Plan and/or Consolidated Plan and review of performance reports.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The City of Meriden will hold two public meetings annually to obtain citizens' views and to respond to proposals and questions. These public meetings will be held in locations convenient to residents of low/moderate income areas where program funds are proposed to be used. One public meeting will be held before the proposed Annual Plan and/or Consolidated Plan is published for comment. At this public meeting, the City will:

- review program performance
- obtain citizen views on housing and community development needs, including priority nonhousing community development needs
- discuss the process/timeline for development of the Consolidated and/or Annual Plan
- discuss requirements/criteria for development of proposed activities to be funded under the Annual and/or Consolidated Plan

The City will also provide the following information to citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties:

- the amount of annual assistance the City expects to receive (including grant funds and program income)
- the range of activities that may be undertaken
- the estimated amount of funds that will benefit persons of low and moderate income

One public meeting and a 30-day public comment period will be held after the proposed Annual Plan and/or Consolidated Plan is published for comment.

ANNUAL PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING

The City will accept written proposals for CDBG funding in the manner prescribed by the City of Meriden in the Public Information Document. The City will consider funding eligible activities that are consistent with the City's housing and community development objectives. Proposals must be submitted on the City of Meriden CDBG Proposal Forms. Only complete proposals will be considered.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The City will provide technical assistance to groups and representatives of persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in developing proposals for funding assistance under programs covered by the Consolidated Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

One public meeting and a 30-day public comment period will be held after the proposed Annual Plan and/or Consolidated Plan is published for comment. Prior to the public comment period, the City of

Meriden will publish a summary of its Proposed Consolidated Plan and Annual Plan in the *Record Journal Newspaper* and on the City of Meriden website. The summary will describe the contents and purpose of the Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Plan and will include a list of locations where copies are available. Once approved, copies of the final allocation of funds and annual plan will be made available to the public.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

The City of Meriden will consider all comments and/or views of citizens received in writing or orally at public meetings or hearings, in preparing the Final Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Plan. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefore, will be attached to the Final Consolidated Plan and to the Annual Action Plan.

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN

The City of Meriden will provide citizens with the opportunity to comment on substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan. The City of Meriden will amend its approved Consolidated Plan whenever it makes one of the following decisions:

- to make a change in its allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds
- to carry out an activity using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan (includes program income) not previously described in its Annual Action Plan, or
- to significantly change the scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity

Prior to implementing any substantial change, the City of Meriden will provide citizens with information on any proposed amendment(s) by publishing a public notice of the proposed amendments as a display advertisement in the *Record Journal* and by posting a description of the proposed amendment(s) to the City of Meriden website. The City will provide at least 30 days for citizens to submit written or oral comments or views on the proposed amendment(s). The City will consider these comments or views of citizens in preparing the substantial amendment of the Consolidated Plan. A summary of these comments

or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefore, will be attached to the substantial amendment of the Consolidated Plan. The City will also comply with any additional actions required by local law.

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNUAL PLAN

A substantial change to the allocation of funds in the Annual Plan requiring an amendment will be defined as the use of funds for an activity not previously identified, or the increase/ decrease by transfer/ reallocation of funds in excess of 20% of the original allocation between existing projects and programs. If such an amendment is required, a notice stating the reason, amounts and projects to be effected will be published at least 15 days prior to a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed amendment.

PERFORMANCE REPORTS

The City of Meriden must submit an annual performance report on the progress it has made in carrying out its Annual Action Plan. This document is the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The City will submit an annual performance report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by **September 28 following the end of each program year**. The

CAPER will be posted on the City website for public review.

CONTACT INFORMATION

All correspondence, comments, questions or requests for information regarding the Consolidated Plan and/or the CDBG programs should be directed to:

Florence Villano, Grants Administrator

City of Meriden

142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06426

P. 203 630 4015 | F. 203 630 4274

fvillano@ci.meriden.ct.us

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<u>Annual Plan of Community Development Projected Use of Funds and Program Activities for CD 42</u>	
A. Public Services	
Augusta Curtis Cultural Center - Summer Music Program	\$ 2,000.00
Beat the Street Community Center, Inc.	\$ 10,000.00
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	\$ 2,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of Meriden-Project "Club Kids"	\$ 10,000.00
Casa Boricua de Meriden, Inc. Operations	\$ 5,000.00
Catholic Charities - Early Childhood Success	\$ 2,500.00
Change The Play - Career Options	\$ 5,000.00
Change The Play - Intro to Business of Fashion (IBF)	\$ -
Child Guidance Clinic for Central CT, Inc.- Crisis Intervention	\$ 10,000.00
Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care	\$ 9,000.00
Girls, Inc. - National Identity Programming	\$ 5,200.00
Kuhn Employment Opportunities - City Parks Litter Patrol	\$ 8,000.00
Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven/Meriden-Literacy Tutoring	\$ 3,000.00
Meriden Children First Summer Learning	\$ 10,000.00
Meriden Children's First-Meriden Family Zone Parent Engagement	\$ 5,000.00
Meriden Housing Authority - Mobile Computer Learning Center	\$ -
Meriden Wallingford Chrysalis: Self Sufficiency Program	\$ 7,000.00
Meriden Soup Kitchen	\$ 3,500.00
Meriden Youth Services - Support Services for Youth	\$ 12,000.00
My City Kitchen-Healthy Cooking Classes for Meriden Youth	\$ 4,000.00
Open DOHR Employment and Training	\$ 6,000.00
Project Reach (Reaching Every Adolescent to Create Hope)	\$ 7,000.00
Salvation Army Emergency Assistance	\$ 4,654.60
Save a Life: Addressing the Opioid Crisis (Rushford)	\$ 5,000.00
Shelter NOW - New Opportunities, Inc.	\$ 2,500.00
Summer Basketball League - New Opportunities, Inc.	\$ 1,500.00
Summer Food Program New Opportunities, Inc.	\$ 3,000.00
Yoga 4 Change	\$ 2,000.00
CD 42 Public Services Total Requests	\$ 144,854.60
B. Public Facilities	
Casa Boricua - Public Facility Improvements	\$ 4,100.00
Inner City Sidewalks	\$ 130,258.81
Meriden Junior Football League	\$ 6,000.00
CD 42 Public Facilities Total Requests	\$ 140,358.81

C. Housing	
Connecticut Legal Services	\$ -
Security Deposit Program - New Opportunities, Inc.	\$ 7,500.00
Rehabilitation Administration	\$ 64,188.61
Code Enforcement Staff	\$ 264,887.50
CD 42 Housing Total Requests	\$ 336,576.11
D. Administration & Planning	
Administration	\$ 173,604.00
CD 42 Administration Total Requests	
E. Section 108 Loan for Demolition of Factory H	\$ 106,530.00
CD 42 Section 108 Total	\$ 106,530.00
TOTAL CD FUNDING AVAILABLE	\$ 892,364.00
REPROGRAMMED FUNDS (disbursement to TBD at 4/14/16 hearing)	\$ 9,559.81
TOTAL CDBG FUNDING AVAILABLE DURING PROGRAM YEAR	\$ 901,923.81