



**City of Meriden, Connecticut
Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan
Year Five of Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019)**

Prepared by the Economic Development Department

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 45 Annual Action Plan (the "Plan") is the fifth 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 Economic Development Department 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 Community Development Manager and 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 45 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, 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 shelters, 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 more than 30% and 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 the five year American Community Survey data from 2011 - 2015, of Meriden’s total households, approximately 34 % were very-low or low income and approximately 16% were moderate-income. Indeed, on a city-wide basis, 51.26% of all households in Meriden are considered Low and Moderate Income Households. 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. This phenomenon is particularly acute in the inner-city/downtown area of Meriden. Indeed, In Census tract 1702, which comprises much of the Colony Street and West Main Street downtown core, 46.34% of households are considered cost burdened.

3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

The City of Meriden made significant progress toward meeting its strategic plan objectives during Program Year 43 (Program Year 44 is still ongoing at the time of publication of this Plan). During Program Year 43, the City spent approximately \$206,000 on public services and facilities, \$326,000 on housing related activities, and \$116,000 on administration. 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 Program Year 43 (and in the ongoing Program Year 44)

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

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

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 6, 2019, March 27, 2019 and tentatively scheduled for April 24, 2019 allowing citizens and community stakeholders to comment of the allocation of funding and the CDBG process in Program Year 45; a 30-day public comment period on the PY45 Action Plan; City Council testimony on and approval of the proposed program of activities and the final budget for PY45; 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.

There have been no comments received as of April 4, 2019.

Any written comments that are received are sent to the City Council for their review prior to their action on the Program Year 45 Annual Plan.

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

There have been no comments received as of April 4, 2019.

Any written comments that are received are sent to the City Council for their review prior to their action on the Program Year 45 Annual Plan.

7. Summary

The City of Meriden, through its City Council, public participation process, and non-profit community partners, has crafted an Annual Action Plan for Program Year 45 that seeks to provide residents of the City of Meriden – especially those who are the most vulnerable – with access to services and

programming that offer a better quality of life, and that will build capacity in the programs being funded.

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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
CDBG Administrator	MERIDEN	Economic Development Department

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 Economic Development Department. The Community Development Manager and 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 Community Development Manager and 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. The Economic Development Director also assists with administration of specific CDBG funded activities and overall program compliance issues as necessary. As administrator of the CDBG funds, the Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator ensures compliance with Federal regulations through 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 are 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(I)

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(I))

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 details the planning process to enhance coordination amongst agencies and the City:

- The Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator met with sub-recipients in person during the program year. Sub-recipients are required to attend the initial CDBG public hearing at which all sub-recipients present a summary of their programs and activities, thereby providing a forum for organizations and City stakeholders to be informed as to programs and activities carried out by non-profit applicants/service providers.
- The Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator 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.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

Through its applicant organizations, the City aims to provide social and supportive services that address the needs of persons at risk of homelessness. Specifically, the Women and Families Center's "Project REACH" program targets runaway, homeless and at-risk youth throughout the City of Meriden and offers services aimed to get them off the streets and into safe, stable living environments. The Meriden Soup Kitchen also addresses immediate needs of the homeless and those at-risk of homelessness by connecting them with critical services. Programs like the Change the Play Meals, New Opportunities Security Deposit Program, and the Salvation Army Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program aim

to assist low- and moderate-income persons and families who are one financial setback away from homelessness.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS

Not applicable.

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 Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan is provided in AP-35. In addition to those organizations, the City consulted with the City Manager, City Council, and the Meriden Housing Authority.

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Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Meriden City Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Economic Development Department relies heavily on the City Council, through its Human Services Committee, to guide the annual allocation process. Through public meetings and hearings, the Human Services Committee directs resources to the areas of greatest need.

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

Not applicable.

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 Neighborhood Plan.
City of Meriden Plan of Conservation & Development	City of Meriden	Goals are more comprehensive in scope as they address the entire City, but there are many common themes, including promoting economic/transit oriented development and preserving and enhancing existing housing. CDBG staff are also involved in the required update of this plan that is currently ongoing.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Come Home to Downtown, Act II	City of Meriden & CT Main Street Center	The Come Home to Downtown plan is focused primarily on attracting and supporting businesses to a key corridor in the City's downtown. This planning effort informed the public facilities portion of the Strategic Plan.
CTNext Innovation Places Program	Midstate Chamber of Commerce	The Innovation Places Program is focused primarily on attracting and supporting businesses to the City of Meriden. This planning effort informed the public facilities/economic development portions of the Strategic Plan.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

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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**

The City followed its Citizen Participation Plan (included in the Action Plan as "Appendix B") in soliciting citizen input for its Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan. Three public hearings were/will be conducted so that the applicant organizations and members of the public could offer input into how proposed programming fit with the City's Consolidated Plan. A 30-day Comment period will also be held during which citizens are able to submit written comments on the draft Annual Action Plan. Members of the public were also invited to share their thoughts and ideas as to how Meriden's CDBG funding could best serve the community and its needs.

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)
1	Newspaper Ad	Interested potential applicants and City residents interested in participating in planning process	39 total applications received.	No comments received.	No comments received.	http://www.meridenbiz.com/resources/community-development-block-grant/

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)
2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Mandatory public hearing for all CDBG applicants held at the Meriden Senior Center on March 6, 2019. 31 applicant speakers; 5 City Council members; 4 City staff present.	Applicants explained their proposals for PY 45; No other comments were received.	Not Applicable.	http://www.meriden2020.com/news/cdbg-public-hearing-on-march-6-2019/

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)
3	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Public Hearing held on March 27, 2019 at Meriden City Hall with City staff and City Council members and City residents interested in offering input PY45 AAP; 3 City Council members, 3 City staff, and 5 members of the public attended.	The comments received were in favor of specific applications submitted by Franciscan Home Care, Joy Unlimited Ministries, Meriden Children First, Meriden Farmers Market, and Springwall Learning Solutions.	Not Applicable.	
4	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	30 day comment period on Draft Annual Plan.	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)
5	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Public Hearing anticipated to be held on April 24, 2019 at Meriden City Hall with City staff and City Council members and City residents interested in offering input PY45 AAP.	TBD	TBD	
6	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Public Meeting of the Meriden City Council on May 6, 2019 to approve the Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan.	TBD	TBD	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Expected annual allocations for Program Year 45 have not been confirmed, as HUD has not made available municipal entitlement award amounts as of April 4, 2019. The City assumes level funding when it begins its Annual Action Plan Public process. Any changes in funding levels after City Council Adoption as a result of learning the actual entitlement from HUD are done so in accordance with the Allocation Contingency Plan (included as an appendix).

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 5				Expected Amount Available Remainder 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	1,053,112	0	98,064.65	1,151,176.65	0	Annual Allocation amount is based on the assumption of level funding from program year 44 as the City has not been told the amount of its entitlement allocation. Expected amount available for the remainder of ConPlan is estimated to be zero as program year 45 is the 5 th year of the City current Five Year Consolidated Plan.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 5				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
Other	public - federal	Housing	0	0	216,756	216,756	0	This is our Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The amount listed is the amount that is in the RLF as of April 4, 2019. The actual amount in the account is 216,756.39. See Discussion for more information. The amount expected for the remainder of the Consolidated Plan is estimated to be zero as program year 45 is the 5 th year of the City current Five Year Consolidated Plan.

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 Meriden Green, Meriden Transit Center, and Factory H areas are 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 Program Year 37 and activities are underway in support of the TOD and Meriden Green project implementation. Additionally, the City has received a \$2,000,000 grant and \$2,000,000 loan from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, and a \$200,000 EPA Brownfields Grant for the remediation of the vacant Meriden Wallingford Hospital at 1 King Place. This structure is slated to be turned into mixed-use market rate development, with funds for the conceptual site reuse plan coming from a

\$100,000 DECD Brownfield Area-wide Revitalization Planning Grant. The City also received a \$2,000,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for demolition of the Mills Public Housing Project in downtown Meriden so that it can be turned into an extension of the Meriden Green. The relocation of Mills residents, as part of the overall housing and development plans for the TOD district in Meriden, has also resulted in millions of dollars of private investment in mixed use projects such as 24 Colony Street, Meriden Commons 1 & 2, and 11 Crown Street.

Several activities, including the Rental Assistance/Security Deposit Program run by New Opportunities, have also been able to leverage additional grant funds as a result of the CDBG funds allocated to them in the past.

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

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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. Brownfield sites and vacant buildings – including 116 Cook Avenue, 1 King Place, 69 East Main Street, and 11 Crown Street – are being assessed for environmental contaminants, remediated, repurposed and transferred to private partner organizations to be developed into usable, mixed-used developments with housing and economic development opportunities. The City is also assisting in completing site re-use planning projects by working with landowners of vacant or underutilized parcels in the downtown area.

Discussion

The "other funding source" is our Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The amount listed is the amount that is in the RLF as of submission of this annual plan. It is funding that is used solely for NPP, which provides low-interest, forbearance loans for single family rehabilitation projects. This fund is administered by the Rehabilitation Administration activity, as well as the general CDBG administration activity. The amount in the account is subject to change unexpectedly based on when new applications for loans are approved or when properties that received loans are transferred, hence triggering repayment. The RLF was initially capitalized with CDBG funds. All accomplishments are reported under IDIS Activity 622, NPP Loans 2011.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

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: TBD Revolving Loan Fund: \$216,756	Rental units rehabilitated: Household Housing Unit Homelessness Prevention: -- Persons Assisted Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care:
2	Create Suitable Living Environment	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide	Public Facilities Community Services Infrastructure Special Needs Services Business and Job Support	CDBG: TBD	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: ---- - Persons Assisted - TBD
3	Provide Economic Opportunity	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide	Special Needs Services Business and Job Support	CDBG: TBD	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: Jobs created/retained:

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: TBD	Other:

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Increase supply of decent and affordable housing
	Goal Description	
2	Goal Name	Create Suitable Living Environment
	Goal Description	
3	Goal Name	Provide Economic Opportunity
	Goal Description	
4	Goal Name	Administration/Other/Loan Repayment
	Goal Description	

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Projects to be carried out in Program Year 45 are listed below. Please see Appendix A for list of funded activities associated with Program Year 45 projects.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Public Service
2	Public Facilities
3	Housing
4	Administration
5	Section 108 Repayment

Table 7 - Project Information

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

All funding allocations have been made consistent with priority needs in the City of Meriden pursuant to the Consolidated Plan, Citizen Participation Plan, Annual Plan Allocation Process, and the Allocation Contingency Plan. The Citizen Participation Plan and the Allocation Contingency Plan can be found in the Appendices. Every effort was made to ensure that the most vulnerable residents of Meriden (youth, elderly, disabled, homeless/at-risk of homelessness, non-English speakers, individuals and families battling substance abuse, individuals/families experiencing domestic abuse) are the beneficiaries of Program Year 45 CDBG funding. Unfortunately, the amount of funds requested for activities significantly exceeds the amount of funds available.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

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1	Project Name	Public Service
	Target Area	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide
	Goals Supported	Create Suitable Living Environment Provide Economic Opportunity
	Needs Addressed	Community Services Special Needs Services Business and Job Support
	Funding	CDBG: \$TBD
	Description	Public Service activities carried out in Program Year 45, include, but are not limited to: arts/culture; youth programming; literacy training; employment services; programming for non-English speakers; homelessness prevention/outreach; nutrition; service referrals; and mentoring. Full list of activities can be found in Appendix A.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Citywide, with a focus on downtown/Choice Neighborhood area.
	Planned Activities	Public Service activities carried out in Program Year 45, include, but are not limited to: arts/culture; youth programming; literacy training; employment services; programming for non-English speakers; homelessness prevention/outreach; nutrition; service referrals; educational opportunities; and mentoring. Full list of activities can be found in Appendix A.
2	Project Name	Public Facilities
	Target Area	Central Downtown Area
	Goals Supported	Create Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: TBD

	Description	Public facility activities carried out in Program Year 45 will consist of sidewalk construction carried out by the City of Meriden; The commercial facade rehabilitation program will also be carried out but is being funded with previous allocations.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Downtown TOD target area/Choice Neighborhoods Area and CDBG-eligible census tracts identified in Consolidated Plan.
	Planned Activities	Public facility activities carried out in Program Year 45 will consist of sidewalk construction carried out by the City of Meriden; The commercial facade rehabilitation program will also be carried out but is being funded with previous allocations.
3	Project Name	Housing
	Target Area	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide
	Goals Supported	Increase supply of decent and affordable housing
	Needs Addressed	Housing
	Funding	CDBG: TBD Revolving Loan Fund: \$216,756
	Description	Housing activities carried out in Program Year 45 include code enforcement and the administration of the Neighborhood Preservation Program, including the issuance of forbearance loans to qualifying households.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Citywide, with a focus on downtown, Choice Neighborhood area, and qualifying low/mod census tracts.

	Planned Activities	Housing activities carried out in Program Year 45 include code enforcement and the administration of the Neighborhood Preservation Program, including the issuance of forbearance loans to qualifying households.
4	Project Name	Administration
	Target Area	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide
	Goals Supported	Administration/Other/Loan Repayment
	Needs Addressed	Administration/Other
	Funding	CDBG: TBD
	Description	Administrative costs related to carrying out Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Citywide.
	Planned Activities	<p>Administrative costs covering three (3) staff members and all other related expenses connected to planning and implementing Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan. Costs include covering 75% of the salary of the Community Development Manager and 10% of the salary of the Administrative Secretary, as well as supplies, professional subscriptions/memberships, costs affiliated with training, advertising and other administrative costs, as applicable. It will also cover 10% of the Economic Development Director's salary for purposes of general CDBG program oversight and participation in certain CDBG funded tasks, such as the Meriden Match program.</p> <p>Additionally, funds will be used to pay for a consultant to complete the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan. This plan will need to be adopted prior to the end of Program Year 45 as it will be the basis for the City's CDBG program and the individual Annual Action Plans for Program Years 46 – 50.</p>
	Project Name	Section 108 Repayment

5	Target Area	Central Downtown Area
	Goals Supported	Administration/Other/Loan Repayment
	Needs Addressed	Administration/Other
	Funding	CDBG:
	Description	Repayment of the Section 108 loan in connection with demolition/remediation at Factory H site.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Downtown
	Planned Activities	Repayment of Section 108 loan in connection with demolition/remediation at Factory H site. The amount to actually be repaid, and hence the amount allocated to this project, is \$102,821.25. The amount was rounded in the "expected resources" field to account for IDIS whole number entry.

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

CDBG investment in Meriden is targeted primarily in 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 Plan, the Connecticut Main Street Center “Come Home to Downtown, Act II” program, portions of the Meriden Plan of Conservation and Development, and the cooperative efforts of the Meriden Economic Development Corporation, the Midstate Chamber of Commerce, City Staff, and other local funders as expressed through the “Making Meriden Business Center”. This joint venture provides a visible presence in the downtown and seeks to link prospective businesses to available business development programs and potential properties. This Consolidated Plan supports these goals to revitalize the downtown neighborhoods and the local economy while also allowing for services to be provided to income-eligible recipients in other parts of the City as needed.

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, 1702, 1703, 1706, 1707 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1713, 1714, and 1715. These areas comprise a large portion of the central downtown area. Eligible census tracts have been determined as those having greater than 51% of households with an income less than 80% of HAMFI. This data is based on the 2011-2015 American Community Survey information compiled by HUD on the HUD exchange website as part of CPD Notice 19-02.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Central Downtown Area	TBD
Meriden - Citywide	TBD

Table 8 - 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. Moreover, the Rehabilitation Administration activity administers the NPP program which provides low-interest loans to qualifying low income individuals/households, with funding targeted at the central downtown area & low-income census tracts. Additionally, 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 critical target area. Such investment includes the Meriden

Match Façade Improvement Program and the Inner City Sidewalks activity.

Discussion

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Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

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

In addition to direct assistance to homeowners and renters, the City plans to allocate critically needed funding to organizations working to address homelessness, and support those in the community who are at risk of homelessness.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	0
Special-Needs	0
Total	0

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	0

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Housing Authority of the City of Meriden (MHA) is responsible for providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for individuals residing in Meriden who have low- and moderate-incomes. MHA is an autonomous corporation which is allowed to act as a municipal entity and participate in municipal benefits. The City's Economic Development Department and the MHA operate independently, and therefore the Economic Development Department's direct role in providing public housing is very limited.

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

Need: Shortage of affordable housing for all eligible populations

Strategy #1: Maximize the number of affordable units available to the MHA within its current resources by:

- Reducing turnover time for vacated public housing units;
- Seeking replacement of public housing units lost to the inventory through mixed-finance development;
- Maintaining or increasing Section 8 lease-up rates by establishing payment standards that will enable families to rent throughout the jurisdiction;
- Undertaking measures to ensure access to affordable housing among families assisted by MHA, regardless of unit size required;
- Maintaining or increasing Section 8 lease-up rates by marketing the program to owners, particularly those outside of areas of minority and poverty concentration; and
- Participating in the Consolidated Plan development process to ensure coordination with broader community development strategies.

Strategy #2: Increase the number of affordable housing units by:

- Applying for additional Section 8 units should they become available;
- Leveraging affordable housing resources in the community through the creation of mixed - finance housing;
- Pursuing housing resources other than public housing or Section 8 tenant-based assistance;
- Implementing project-based Section 8 voucher program consistent with revised statutes; and
- Amending Section 8 Administrative Plan to allow and promote use of project-based vouchers in neighborhoods that are under a comprehensive revitalization and at other mixed-finance

developments.

Need: Specific Family Types: Families at or below 50% of Median Area Income

- Adopt rent policies to support and encourage work

Other Housing Needs & Strategies:

The MHA will continue to implement a project-based Section 8 Program (PBV) track designed to work in tandem with other sources of affordable housing finance.

Given the historic under-funding of modernization, the MHA will be looking at ways to leverage resources to redevelop its public housing portfolio. Re-establishing a stable and viable housing portfolio is a major priority for the MHA over the development of incremental units but will not preclude supporting opportunities to assist other entities in the expansion of affordable housing in Meriden.

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

MHA conducted a series of meetings with residents and management staff. These meetings brought up two main areas of concern voiced by residents: safety and security, and major repairs or replacement. With a list of specific resident concerns, the MHA can continue to work with residents to address concerns.

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

Not applicable.

Discussion

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

Introduction

The City intends to allocate \$30,000 in Program Year 45 funds to two separate organizations (New Opportunities and the Women and Families Center) that provide services to homeless individuals and families, as well as youth that are at risk of homelessness. Through its public services grants, the City supports the operations of several private non-profit organizations whose mission is to provide temporary housing and other related counseling services for the homeless in Meriden. During the 2019-2020 program year the City of Meriden will implement projects that impact homelessness and relieve the cost burden on special needs populations. The City also intends to allocate \$15,000 for security deposit and rent assistance that is intended to keep families and individuals who cannot afford to make an initial security deposit or who run into temporary difficulty making a rent payment from falling into homelessness.

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. The Women and Families Center's "Project Reach" directly benefits runaway, homeless and at-risk youth ages 12-24 by seeking out youth where they congregate and providing supportive services to build self-sufficiency and identify stable, long-term housing. The program also provides transitional housing services to young adults, economic training, and independence through job readiness programs and education.

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 Program
- New Opportunities Shelter Now Program
- Meriden Soup Kitchen
- Child Guidance Clinic
- Women and Families Center – Project Reach
- The Salvation Army Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program

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 and Project Reach, which provide 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. Project Reach will also play a critical role in identifying youth who are in unstable living environments and are at risk of becoming homeless in order to divert them from the shelter system. Advocacy Academy will also receive support for its programming to provide necessary services to Spanish-speaking families, with a focus on families and children with mental health disabilities. The Salvation Army Emergency Assistance Program and the

New Opportunities Rental Assistance/Security Deposit Program can also provide payments directly to landlords or utility companies to assist renters in jeopardy of becoming homeless due to a financial emergency.

Discussion

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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 acquired, rehabilitated and resold homes to low and moderate income households, including minority households, in the downtown area. Although the funding for this program has been exhausted, the City will continue to monitor the properties for program compliance, including affordability restrictions and the submission of required reporting.

Similarly, the objective of the Meriden Neighborhood Preservation Program is the recovery of the downtown neighborhoods through housing rehabilitation. Using its NPP Revolving Loan Fund 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. These loans are aimed specifically at helping fund emergency repairs, such as sewer line replacements or roof repairs that would otherwise be a danger to occupants of a given household. Other necessary household repairs are also considered, depending on the project. The administration of this program is paid in part

by the Housing Rehab Administration activity.

The City also undertakes Code Enforcement activities targeted at the downtown area and surrounding low/moderate income households. This activity help maintain properties in a livable condition. Often, it is through the work of the City's code enforcement officers that potential projects for the NPP program are identified.

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 crease additional housing opportunities." Toward 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 included in the Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan were chosen for the range and quality of services and programs geared toward the most vulnerable Meriden residents, and for their alignment with the priorities detailed in the City's Consolidated Plan. These projects will address a number of the planning objectives of 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 Program Year 45 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. Examples include:

- Youth sports, arts, after school, and empowerment activities.
- Literacy training and translation services for residents who do not speak English as their first language, including those needing mental health counseling.
- Employment and entrepreneurship training.
- Employment opportunities for mentally disabled adults.
- Homelessness prevention and outreach.
- Emergency shelter and referral services.
- Homecare for the elderly.
- Outreach, education and treatment related to the opioid crisis.

Program Year 45 will also include funding to continue the City's Inner City Sidewalk program. This project will remove deteriorated sidewalks and provide a safer walking environment for the residents of the targeted neighborhoods in the qualifying census tracts in Meriden. The City has seen improvements in these neighborhoods where the City has invested in new sidewalks

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Meriden will provide low-interest forbearance loans for single-unit and multi-unit residential rehabilitation projects within the target area. This includes continuation of the Neighborhood Preservation Program to increase affordable, decent housing in the City center. This program is administered as part of the Rehabilitation Administration Activity, with the loans to be funded by the NPP program's Revolving Loan Fund. The New Opportunities Security Deposit Program will also provide residents who otherwise would not be able to afford an apartment with the assistance needed to gain

entry to the rental market. Salvation Army's Emergency Assistance Program will also aid renters who may otherwise have to make the nearly impossible choice of whether to pay rent or buy food/pay bills.

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. Homes issued CDBG-backed loans through the Neighborhood Preservation Program with children younger than six years old residing in them will be tested for lead based paint hazards if any work is to be performed that would pose a potential hazard to occupants.

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. Further, employment training, entrepreneurship programming, literacy training for both children and non-English speakers are all designed to provide residents with the skills and knowledge to improve the quality of their life as well as their families.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

CDBG administrative funds will contribute to the administration of the CDBG Program and help ensure that the City meets the statutory and regulatory objectives outlined as a condition of participation in the program. The Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator will take the following actions to ensure that needed services are coordinated between the City, subrecipient organizations carrying out CDBG activities, and the public who benefit from the CDBG-funded 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 and overall programming, as needed.
- Provide referrals to appropriate City departments and local organizations, such as the Neighborhood Preservation Program and the Meriden Housing Authority.

The Community Development Manager/Grants Administrator will also begin working on the required update to the City's 5 year Consolidated Plan. The current Consolidated Plan will expire at the end of Program Year 45. Thus, a new plan with all required outreach will need to place for adoption by the City

for Program Year 46, which begins July 1, 2020.

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. The Economic Development Department will work with developers of new rental housing construction in the targeted TOD area to ensure that historic tax credits and other state and federal programs leverage adequate affordable housing opportunities for residents.

Discussion:

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Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

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.

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 | 0 |
| 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 | 0 |
| 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 | 0 |
| Total Program Income: | 0 |

Other CDBG Requirements

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. The amount of urgent need activities | 0 |
| 2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan. | TBD |

Discussion:

For the purposes of this PY 45 Annual Action Plan, the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for the Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) was not entered as program income. The rationale behind this is that since the RLF was set up specifically for the NPP program, and since the funds are held in a separate account, the funds are designated for use in the NPP program only. The RLF and its associated funds were not set up to be used to fund different activities. Thus it does not have the same flexibility of use that traditional program income does. Additionally, the fund doesn't need to be spent entirely prior to spending money on other activities.

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Appendix A

Activities Proposed for Funding in Program Year 45 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

A. Public Services	
Advocacy Academy - Center for Students with Disabilities	\$ 6,000.00
Augusta Curtis Cultural Center - Summer Music Program	\$ 3,000.00
Beat the Street Community Center, Inc. - Beat the Street After School Program	\$ 11,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Meriden - Club Kids Membership Assistance	\$ 10,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Meriden - Summer Basketball League	\$ 3,000.00
Casa Boricua de Meriden, Inc - Program Services	\$ 4,500.00
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford - Meriden Family Center	\$ 5,000.00
Change the Play - Change the Play Summer Meals	\$ 11,000.00
Change the Play – CTP Clubhouse	\$ 4,250.00
Change the Play - Job Training, Life Skills, Dropout/Failure Intervention	\$ 6,000.00
Child Guidance Clinic for Central CT Inc. - Child/Adolescent Psychiatric Access Coordination & Resource Guide	\$ 10,650.00
Construction Workforce Initiative 2, Inc. - COMET	\$ 6,000.00
Franciscan Home Care & Hospice Care - Mental Health Social Services	\$ 9,000.00
Gallery 53 - Mosaic for TOD	\$ 3,800.00
Girls, Inc of Meriden - National Identity Programming for Girls	\$ 8,000.00
Joy Unlimited Outreach Ministries - Breaking of Bread	\$ 4,000.00
Kuhn Employment Opportunities - City Parks Litter Patrol	\$ 8,000.00
Literacy Volunteers - Empowering Meriden Adults with Basic Literacy & ESOL	\$ 4,000.00
Meriden Children First - Family Zone Parent Engagement	\$ 7,000.00
Meriden Children First - Summer Discovery Program	\$ 10,000.00
Meriden Farmers Market - Doubling Dollars Program	\$ 4,000.00
Meriden Soup Kitchen, Inc. - Feed the Hungry	\$ 3,400.00
Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis Domestic Violence Self-Sufficiency Program	\$ 7,000.00
Middlesex Community College - Academic Success & Job Readiness Initiative	\$ 6,000.00
MVP ORG - MVP Tea Time	\$ -
New Opportunities, Inc - Rental Assistance/ Security Deposit Program	\$ 10,000.00
New Opportunities, Inc. - Shelter NOW	\$ 13,000.00

Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters - Community Based Mentoring	\$ 5,000.00
Our House Meriden - Our House Phase One	\$ 2,900.00
Rushford Meriden Youth Coalition - Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)	\$ 6,500.00
Salvation Army - Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program	\$ 5,000.00
Springwall Learning Solutions - STAR RISE STEM Innovation Outreach	\$ 6,000.00
Women and Families Center - Open DOHR Employment Training Program	\$ 7,000.00
Women and Families Center - Project Reach: Robyn's House	\$ 10,000.00
PY 45 Public Services Total Allocations	\$ 220,000.00

B. Public Facilities	
Department of Public Works – Replacement of Deteriorated Sidewalks	\$ 300,605.40
PY45 Public Facilities Total Allocations	\$ 300,605.40

C. Housing	
Department of Development & Enforcement - Code Enforcement Staff	\$ 331,650.00
Department of Economic Development - Rehabilitation Administration	\$ 46,100.00
PY45 Housing Total Allocations	\$ 377,750.00

D. Administration & Planning	
Department of Economic Development - Administration	\$ 150,000.00
PY45 Administration Total Allocations	\$ 150,000.00

E. Section 108 Loan for Demolition of Factory H	\$ 102,821.25
PY45 Section 108 Total Allocations	\$ 102,821.25

TOTAL CDBG FUNDING AVAILABLE	\$ 1,053,112.00
REPROGRAMMED FUNDS	\$ 98,064.65
TOTAL CDBG FUNDING AVAILABLE DURING PROGRAM YEAR 45	\$ 1,151,176.65

Appendix B
City of Meriden Citizen Participation Plan
Citizen Participation Plan

ANNUAL HUD CDBG ALLOCATION

Introduction

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 in accordance with 24 CFR §91.105. 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 (HUD). 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 Hearings

The City of Meriden will hold three (3) public hearings annually to obtain citizens' views and to respond to proposals and questions. These public hearings will be held in locations convenient to residents of low/moderate income areas where program funds are proposed to be used. Two (2) public hearings will be held before the proposed Annual Plan and/or Consolidated Plan is published for comment. At these public hearings, the City will:

- review program performance
- obtain citizen views on housing and community development needs, including priority non-housing 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 (1) public hearing 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 Request for Proposal and 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 hearing 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 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, or included as part of, the Final Consolidated Plan and/or 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 to HUD an annual performance report on the progress it has made in carrying out its Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. This document is the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The City will submit its CAPER to HUD no later than ninety (90) days after the end of each program year. Availability of the CAPER for public review and comment will be made via a display advertisement in the *Record Journal* at least fifteen (15) days before it is submitted to HUD. A copy of the CAPER will be available for review in the Community Development Office and online at the Economic Development Department website. A summary of comments or views and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefore, will be attached to the CAPER upon submission to HUD.

Complaints

The City of Meriden will respond to all written complaints or grievances regarding the CDBG program. The City of Meriden will provide a timely, substantive written response to every written citizen complaint within 15 working days of receipt of the complaint, where practicable. Written complaints or grievances must be sent to the Grants Administrator via standard mail or email, at the contact information provided below.

Contact Information

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

Matthew Sarcione, Grants Administrator
City of Meriden
142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450

P. 203 630 4105 | F. 203 630 4274
msarcione@meridenct.gov

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Appendix C

Contingency Plan for Annual Action Plan Allocation

ANNUAL HUD CDBG ALLOCATION

Introduction

Pursuant to 24 CFR 91.15(a)(1), each CDBG entitlement community is to submit its consolidated plan and annual action plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at least 45 days before the beginning of its program year. The earliest date on which HUD will accept a consolidated plan or annual action plan submission is November 15th and the latest date it will accept a submission is August 16th. However, in most years HUD does not receive its annual appropriation until several months into the federal fiscal year (between December and April). In order to comply with citizen participation requirements with respect to the annual action plan, entitlement communities were submitting their plans to HUD prior to the start of their program year, and then revising/amending/resubmitting them to HUD after entitlement allocations were published. Because of the burden this practice created for both HUD and Community Planning and Development grantees, HUD issued revised procedures governing the submission and review of consolidated plans and annual action plans (CPD-19-01: *Guidance on Submitting Consolidated Plans and Annual Action Plans for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019*).

To comply with Section IV of CPD-19-01, the City of Meriden (the City) has updated its Contingency Plan for Annual Action Plan Allocation detailing how it will adjust its proposed consolidated plan/annual action plan to match its actual allocation amount once said amount becomes known to the City's Economic Development Department. This plan is applicable to all consolidated plan and annual action plan submissions to HUD until it is superseded by updated HUD guidance.

Procedures

The City of Meriden begins each program year on July 1st. The annual local CDBG allocation process typically begins in February and concludes in mid-May so that the annual action plan can be submitted to HUD for its 45-day review period, allowing, under ideal circumstances, the action plan to be approved on or around the start of the program year. As the City typically has not been informed of its annual CDBG entitlement allocation by February, the allocation process is to commence assuming level funding from the prior program year.

Should the City's annual CDBG allocation be decreased from the prior funding year, all City proposals, including program administration and Housing Division staffing, will be funded at the levels approved by the City Council during the local allocation process. The funding decrease will be divided among approved public service activities, with each approved activity receiving a percentage decrease equal to that of the City's decrease from the prior program year. If a funding decrease is significant enough to put the City's approved administration request over the twenty percent (20%) HUD-mandated cap, the administration request will be adjusted so that it is in compliance with HUD regulations.

Should the City's annual CDBG allocation be increased from the prior funding year, all City program administration and Housing Division staffing proposals will be funded at the levels approved by the City Council during the local allocation process. The funding increase will be divided among approved public service activities, with each approved activity receiving a percentage increase equal to that of the City's

increase from the prior program year. Public service activities that have been awarded the entire amount of their initial request by City Council will not see an increase in funding, unless the City's increase in CDBG funding is great enough to fund all approved activities at their requested amount. Should the CDBG allocation be great enough to fund all public service activities at the amount requested, or should the public services cap be reached, remaining funds will be divided, proportional to the percentage increase from the prior year, among public facility activities that do not include a fixed cost for the activity (i.e. façade improvement program, inner city sidewalk repair).

In either a decrease or increase funding scenario, decimals will be rounded to the nearest whole dollar as required to completely and accurately allocate all available funding.

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