



# Second Program Year Action Plan

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

## Narrative Responses

### GENERAL

#### **Executive Summary**

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Executive Summary:

This Action Plan provides a basis and strategy for the use of Federal funds granted to the City of Rogers by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. In order to remain compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations, which covers Federal allocations, the City of Rogers is required to complete an Annual Action Plan for the 2009 Program Year. This plan will address projects funded on an annual basis.

The City of Rogers Consolidated Plan covers the period beginning January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2012. This will include five program years. The purpose of this Action Plan is to make a clear presentation of the projects to be funded during the second program year, 2009. The plan will show the availability of Federal funding to complete these programs, and is a tool used to encourage public commentary on the use of this Federal funding. The Action Plan also serves as a reporting mechanism to HUD on the planning and evaluation of the programs.

This is the second Action Plan the City has developed using the CPMP tool. It is intended the CPMP will provide an improved method of tracking project and program goals .

The City of Rogers is aware of the need of the many and various community development activities, both housing and non-housing needs. Funding limitations will not allow all of the City's needs and requests to be met in 2009, however, the City hopes to continue carrying out the CDBG Program in future years to meet the needs of the extremely low to low-moderate individuals and families. The 2009 needs for the City have been identified through the citizen participation process, non-profit and service agencies throughout the City, and City Management's input.

The Community Development Block Grant Program will continue to partner with the City and other agencies to accomplish the City's goals and the goals set by HUD. These goals include:

- Decent Housing – Providing decent housing includes assisting homeless persons obtain affordable housing, assisting individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless, retention of affordable housing stock, increasing the availability of affordable permanent housing in standard condition to low income and moderate income individuals and families, particularly to members of disadvantaged minorities without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability, increasing the supply of supportive housing which includes structural features and services to enable persons with special needs (including persons with HIV/AIDS) to live in dignity and independence, and providing affordable housing that is accessible to job opportunities.

- Suitable Living Environment – Improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods, increasing access to quality public and private facilities and services, reducing the isolation of income groups within areas through spatial de-concentration of housing opportunities for lower income persons and the revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods, restoring and preserving properties of special historic, architectural, or aesthetic value, and conserving of energy resources.

- Expanded Economic Opportunities – Providing job creation and retention, establishment, stabilization and expansion of small businesses (including micro-businesses), provision of public services concerned with employment, provision of jobs to low income persons living in areas affected by those programs and activities, or job resulting from carrying out activities under programs covered by the plan, availability of mortgage financing for low income persons at reasonable rates using non-discriminatory lending practices, access to capital and credit for development activities that promote the long-term economic and social viability of the community, and empowerment and self-sufficiency for low income persons to reduce generational poverty in Federally assisted housing and public housing.

Although the city saw a decline in CDBG funding in 2008 (\$412,983) from 2007 funding (\$420,698), the city is asking to receive an allocation of \$487,000 in 2009 in order to fund the 2009 projects and activities. Prior to funding cuts starting in the 2006 Program Year, the City had been receiving an allocation of \$487,000. The City anticipates having \$380,000 left in previous funding years to complete ongoing projects that have already been addressed in previous plans.

The City has developed their own programs, funding priorities, and partnerships based on local needs. HUD has established guidelines to define the types of projects/activities that may be taken to meet CDBG criteria. The City of Rogers follows these guidelines to ensure each project/activity meets one of the following national objectives. Listed below are examples of eligible projects/activities:

- Acquisition and disposition of real property.
- Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of public facilities such as community, senior and health center. Public facilities also include streets, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, and infrastructure (water and sewer or flood and drainage improvements).

- Provisions of public services such as child care, health care, recreation or education programs for senior citizens and services for homeless persons.
- Residential housing rehabilitation.

HUD guidelines have been followed to ensure each project/activity meets one of the following national objectives of the CDBG Program:

- Benefiting low and moderate income persons either individually, such as housing rehabilitation, or area wide, such as improvements to streets, sidewalks, and parks, activities that benefit special populations that are presumed to be low and moderate income such as elderly persons, abused spouses or children, homeless persons, and developmentally or physically disabled/handicapped persons.
- Preventing or eliminating slum or blight conditions.
- Meeting a particularly urgent community development need that poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

The items listed below represent the activities that the City of Rogers will pursue in the 2009 Program Year:

**Housing Services Projects:**

1. Partnership with Habitat for Humanity. The City of Rogers will continue to partner with Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to build/provide simple, decent and efficient/affordable housing for low-income families/persons. The City has partnered with Habitat for Humanity for several years in building an environmentally friendly eco-subdivision on Old Wire Road in the City of Rogers. The entire subdivision will be dedicated to preserving the environment and will include a wetland conservation area, community area, park, and is within walking distance to several Rogers Public Schools. Habitat currently has 25 families living in Habitat homes in Rogers providing decent housing for 37 adults and 39 children. The City has helped with the purchase of land and infrastructure costs for this subdivision known as Habitat Trails. Construction on this project began in 2007 and when completed will provide 12 to 15 homes. At present there are five homes completed with another new home to start in fourth quarter 2008. All families/individuals selected are in the extremely-low to low-income range and have been screened through a family selection committee and approved by the Habitat Board of Directors. Habitat has direct contact with the homeowner each month when they come in to make their payment and continuously evaluates the homeowner to assure that payments will be made and the property is well kept. The house to be built in 2008 will go to a single woman who for all practical purposes is homeless. At present she is living in a back room with friends, but at one time her vehicle was her only means of shelter. CDBG funds have been requested to help reimburse lot and infrastructure costs. The City will use these funds to continue providing decent and affordable homes for low-income families/individuals.

2. Partnership with Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas. The City of Rogers will continue to partner with Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas to provide funding to assist homeowners with home rehabilitation and emergency repairs in the Rogers City limits. Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve and revitalize houses assuring that low-

income homeowners, particularly those who are elderly, disabled, and families with children, live in warmth, safety and independence. All homeowners must be low-income and unable to financially pay for the work. Some of the rehabilitation projects will include the building of ramps, installing grab bars, and other home modifications to allow our elderly and disabled to safely use their homes. Rehab work will also include weatherization, plumbing and electrical work. Some painting and flooring replacement will be done, if needed, because of damages from plumbing and electrical problems. In addition to housing rehabilitation, emergency year-round services and/or repairs are made to qualified individuals. Selection process for 2009 rehabilitation work will start in November 2008 and continue through early 2009. Site visits will be made with each applicant to ensure applicants meet all income criteria. The visits will also allow the City to meet with the homeowners and determine the scope of work needed in making their home safe and dry. No locations for rehab work in 2009 are known at this time. Funds requested should cover three homes as well as five emergency repairs.

3. Partnership with Office of Human Concern. The Office of Human Concern constructs low-maintenance and energy efficient houses for HUD eligible families as well as operates a housing rehab and weatherization program. In 2009, their plans are to rehab and weatherize five homes with the City's CDBG funding and/or purchase one lot for new construction if there are not enough rehab applications for the 2009 Program year.

4. Emergency Funds. With the economy at the lowest we have seen it in recent years the City has established an emergency fund to be used for paying heating bills in the winter months. The City will work with the local utility companies on this project. Any funds will be paid directly to the utility company. There is a possibility that none of these funds will be needed.

### **Public Service Programs:**

1. The City of Rogers Transportation Assistance Program. The objective of the City is to improve the mobility of income eligible citizens as determined by the Consolidated Plan criteria. All the participants are approved residents of the City of Rogers and are elderly or disabled. Although they do not all live in the low to moderate areas as determined by Census Block Groups, their incomes do not exceed HUD guidelines. The City's approved transportation systems are Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) headquartered in Springdale, Arkansas, and Northwest Arkansas Taxi, LLC located in Rogers, Arkansas. The taxi service is of great importance to our elderly and disabled riders who are unable to walk to the ORT bus stop. ORT provides several fixed routes in Rogers as well as door to door service for the disabled; however, door to door service reservations must be made seven days in advance. This does not always work for some of the clients leaving them unable to get transportation to the doctor on short notice. Northwest Arkansas Taxi provides transportation service as soon as the need arrives. The City uses a coupon system and identification card for the City sponsored riders. Each approved rider is furnished coupons valued at \$48 each month. No additional coupons are provided until existing coupons have been used and no client will be allowed more than \$48 per month. ORT and Northwest Arkansas Taxi provides a monthly breakdown on each rider to include dates picked up, where taken, when returned home, and cost of the trip. An invoice is also provided with the breakdown. The City and these

transportation companies have implemented procedures to safeguard against program abuse. The City conducted a survey in 2006 to see how the City's assisted riders viewed this service. Many commented it was their only way to get out of their homes and to places they needed to go. Several of our riders are cancer patients who were missing treatments because of lack of transportation and/or means to afford the cost of a ride to and from the treatment facility. The survey was affirmation of how valuable this service is to these citizens of Rogers.

2. Rogers Community Clinic – Pediatric Service. This project will provide pediatric services to low income children in Rogers, Arkansas. Services will include well-child checkups, sick-child care, nutrition, consultation and immunizations. CDBG funding will be used for expenses in the way of consumable supplies and medications necessary for pediatric care. It is anticipated this clinic will see 4,000 pediatric visits during the year. Within the Rogers, Arkansas elementary schools up to 48% of students enrolled are eligible for free and reduced lunch programs. Community Clinic or Rogers has worked closely with the Rogers School systems to insure a seamless continuum of care for the needy children and will be the medical home for pediatric care for low income families in Rogers. Low-income children are more likely to be in fair or poor health. Health care is vital to children's health status as a means of preventing and mitigating health problems and educating families about health issues.

3. Boys and Girls Club. This program will enable low-income families to continue working or seek employment and/or obtain employment skills by providing after school and summer care for their children. This program will provide a safe and developmentally appropriate place for children of low income working parents, prevent antisocial behavior in children that will help children remain in school, and enable working parents to maintain their employment. The programs will provide character education, physical fitness, financial education, leadership and community service training as well as field trips and special events.

4. English as Second Language program. The City has fully funded this project in previous years; however, in the 2009 Program Year the City will only be funding a small part of this program. Any funding issued in 2009 will come from monies already committed to the program in 2008. The City does have many immigrant needs. The City's goal is to foster trust and provide a bridge between cultures while maintaining the present quality of life. The ESL classes are free to students in grades K-12 and their families for developing math and literacy skills in order to improve English skills, strengthen family relationships, and increase community involvement. Childcare for children younger than school age will be provided. The main persons or groups benefiting from this project will include minority families who need support in learning the English language to help their children succeed academically in school, and to become active participants in the Rogers community. It is projected that over 75% of the participants in this program will come from the low-to-moderate income family.

5. Public Service Announcements. The City will spend a small amount of their CDBG service funding to provide public service announcements concerning the 2010 census. The U. S. census defines who we are as a nation. It will be used to direct the allocation of billions of dollars in Government funding. Rogers wants to ensure that everyone in our community is counted as census data is also used to determine the most need for additional social services including who receives community development block grants and other grant programs essential to our community.

It is important that we get across to our citizens and especially our Hispanic citizens that the Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their households and the importance of every individual in our City being counted.

**Public Facilities Programs:**

1. Revitalization Area Infrastructure Improvements. This revitalization area the City will work on will be Persimmon Street, a low income target area. The design for this project was funded with 2008 CDBG dollars. The construction phase will consist of curb and gutter on portions of the street where curb and gutter have not been placed. This will allow water to not flow into the yards and especially be beneficial in heavy rains when parts of this street are nearly impassable. Sidewalks with handicap ramps will be placed along one side of the street.

2. Adult Development Center of Benton County, Inc. The Adult Development Center serves over 100 adults living with emotional, mental and physical imitations. The Center operates a sheltered workshop where clients actively learn news skills, build close relationships, and provides business and industry with a reliable off-line production workforce. The workshop provides vocational training, productive sheltered employment and competitive job placement for disabled adults. The Adult Development Center has built a strong reputation of excellence and professionalism in the community. Industrial partners look to the Adult Development Center time and time again for timely, high-quality results. The goals of the Center are to foster independent living through the development of life, work, and social skills, prepare clients to become a part of, rather than apart from the community, and provide opportunities for a more fulfilling and productive life. The Adult Development Center's current facility is not longer adequate to serve its clients. The workshop is cramped, the building is not configured well, there are not enough ADA accessible restrooms, and there is inadequate storage. The Center requested funding in 2008 to provide the infrastructure for the facility's new site to provide a new training facility and campus for adults with disabilities. Prior to construction starting on this facility the Adult Development Center was given some land along Hudson Road in Rogers. This donated land provided more acreage, better visibility, and easier access than the original parcel of land, however, with the change in land, additional engineering and design was needed prior to starting construction. This delayed the project into the year 2009. The City will provide infrastructure funding in 2009 with the 2008 monies designated for this project. In addition, additional infrastructure funding will be provided with the City's 2009 funding.

3. Community Clinic Build Out in new Non-Profit Center. The Old St. Mary's Hospital building in Rogers, a 13-acre campus, has been donated to the Jones Trust of Springdale to operate as a non-profit center. This vision and commitment will revitalize this section of Rogers as community development brings economic development and educational opportunities through public-private partnerships. This facility is located at the gateway of downtown Rogers, the heart of our community. The key beneficiaries of this facility will be those families in need. Some of the City's 2009 funding will go to the Community Clinic to help with their remodeling of space in the new non-profit center. The move to this facility will enable the clinic to have more exam rooms and expansion of services improving access to care for low income residents in Rogers.

4. Non-Profit Center. As stated above, the old St. Mary's Hospital building in Rogers, a 13-acre campus, has been donated to the Jones Trust of Springdale to operate as a non-profit center. The City will provide the non-profit center with funding to be used for changing out the lighting in this facility to conserve energy and reduce the per month operating expenses.

5. Veteran's Park. The City will spend some of the facility funding to provide equipment for the ball fields located in Veterans Park. This park is located in one of the City's low/mod census tract. Two items are needed in this park—score boards and fencing. The City is hoping to pay for most of the score boards through sponsorship and pick up any additional funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program. Any funding not uses on score boards will be used on fencing to provide a greater security for the park at night when the park is not in use.

### General Questions

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan General Questions response:

With a population of 48,666 (based on 2006 Special Census), Rogers is now the eighth largest city in the State of Arkansas and is located in one of America's fastest growing regions, Northwest Arkansas. This region is a national leader in employment of its citizens, jobs, as well as overall growth. A number of factors are attributable to this growth in Northwest Arkansas—some of the largest corporations in America (Wal-Mart – to include major vendors who provide their product to Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods, J.B. Hunt Trucking), jobs, natural scenic beauty, great schools, state-of-the-art health care, etc.-but clearly the single most important resource is PEOPLE. The leadership, vision and diversity of the citizens of Rogers uniquely distinguish this community from many others. In 2007, Business Week Magazine ranked Rogers 18<sup>th</sup> in the 25 best affordable suburbs in the South. Based on Business Week's data, the population increased to over 50,000 in 2007. The City showed a 34.3% population growth since 2000. The City of Rogers is located in Benton County and covers an area of approximately 38.306 square miles.

The city of Rogers is an urban community and part of the Northwest Arkansas MSA. Based on 2007 figures, this MSA had a population of 420,876 with a 21% population growth since 2000. The City has seen tremendous commercial, retail, and housing growth over the past four years. The City is a solid, working middle class diverse community. The City has a Hispanic population of 30.9% (based on the 2006 Special Census figures).

In some cases, the 2000 Census numbers will be used as the 2006 Special Census did not capture all the pertinent information needed for this Plan. According to the 2000 Census, 5,983 households in the City of Rogers earned less than the median income.

There are 13 census tracts within the city limits of Rogers with five of those tracts considered as low-mod area (LMAS) where low to moderate-income residents range from 35.5% to 58.9%. Some of the actual block groups within these census tracts have low to moderate-income residents ranging from 55.2% to 65.7%. See tab "City's Boundaries" to see the Rogers City limits boundaries to include the census tracts and the areas deemed as "target areas" for the 2009 CDBG funding.

The CDBG projects proposed for 2009 will have an impact on many citizens of Rogers. The housing projects will benefit low and moderate income persons and prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions. The service projects will benefit low and moderate income persons and special populations to include the elderly, and the physically and disabled/handicapped persons. The facility projects will benefit low and moderate income persons and special populations to include the developmentally and/or physically disabled/handicapped persons. Listed below are the proposed 2009 projects, proposed accomplishments, and proposed number of people to be impacted by these projects:

Project	Accomplishment	Goal
Habitat for Humanity	Housing	40
Rebuilding Together	Housing	22
Office of Human Concern	Housing	34
Transportation Assistance	Public Service	67
Rogers Community Clinic	Public Service	1,800
Boys & Girls Club	Public Service	82
English/Second Language	Public Service	150
Service Announcements	Public Service	50,000
Revitalization Area	Public Facilities	3,349
Adult Development Center	Public Facilities	125
Community Clinic	Public Facilities	3,800
Non-Profit Center	Public Facilities	15,000
Veterans Park	Public Facilities	3,000

The number listed for Habitat represents the total number of low income people who will live in these new homes once the project is completed. The numbers listed for Rebuilding Together and Office of Human concern represent the number of people that will be served if enough applications meeting the criteria are received. The Care Rider program number represents elderly and disabled/handicapped people who will receive free transportation during the Program Year. The Boys and Girls Club number represents the number of proposed children to be served in the after school and summer program in 2009. The English as Second Language number represents

the number of children and adults who will be taught the English language through the 2009-2010 school year. The revitalization area project represents the number of people who live in this area or nearby who will not only use this street for transportation, but will use the new sidewalks to get from their homes to numerous retail businesses as well as banks, restaurants, and the Adult Wellness Center. The Adult Development Center number is based on the number of disabled/handicapped people the center will serve in 2009. It does not include the number of employees who benefit by the services offered in the ADC's work shop or the number of people who benefit by the product made in the ADC's work shop. The Community Clinic represents the number of low income children who will be seen for medical treatment in their new location at the non-profit center. The non-profit center number represents the number of people who will be served in 2009 through relocating non-profit agencies to this facility. Once all the relocations have been made, we should see that number greatly increase in the year 2010. The number associated with Veterans Park represents the number of children and adults who will visit the park after the improvements are made in 2009.

### 2. Basis for Allocation of Funding

Because the primary national objective of the CDBG Program are to benefit low-income and moderate-income residents, the City of Rogers block grant program funds will be targeted to low-income and moderate-income neighborhoods and activities, to include special needs population, that benefit the City as a whole.

The Habitat Trails Subdivision is located in Census Tract 202.02, Block Group 3. It is unknown at this time where the selected houses for rehabilitation will be located, but will most likely be located in identified low mod census tracts. The same goes for Office of Human Concern. The Care riders are located throughout Rogers, but all are low income. The ESL students and parents are also located through the City of Rogers. According to final reports from last year, 75% of those attending were in the extremely low income group. The Community Dental Clinic will only provide dental services to the low income and those with no insurance and no ability to pay for dental services for their children. The Community Clinic will provide the City addresses of children served during the 2009 Program Year. Although the proposed new Adult Development Center is not located in a low mod area, the facility will serve a special needs people, the developmentally or physically disabled/handicapped persons. Although Veteran's Park is open to anyone, because of its location, it will serve many of the City's low-income families. The revitalization project is located in an area where many of the City's low to moderate income people live. The non-profit center provides services to those individuals and families who can not afford to pay for these services.

The rationale for assigning funding priorities is consistent with the evaluation criteria set forth in the Strategic Plan. The City of Rogers administers a competitive application process for all CDBG funded programs on an annual basis. The City's objective is to fund programs and services to the greatest extent possible keeping in mind that service projects are subject to a 15% cap of total funding received.

### 3. Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs

The major obstacle to meeting all of the identified needs is the lack of funding resources. Because of diminishing resources, funding amounts have been greatly

reduced from the amounts requested in the City's competitive application process. Budgetary constraints and increased applications have made it difficult for the City to make decisions regarding allocation of funding for programs in the community. The City does partner with other non-profit agencies with existing programs in the community to leverage the City's funding allocation. Partnerships in 2009 will allow the City to accomplish more than we could with just our CDBG funding.

### **Managing the Process**

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Managing the Process response:

#### 1. Lead Agency and Public/Private Agencies Administering Programs

The City of Rogers' Planning and Transportation Department has a CDBG Administrator who is responsible for overseeing the CDBG Program and the development of the City's Annual Action Plan. The CDBG Administrator is responsible for administering the programs covered by the Action Plan, including its development, implementation, monitoring and reporting activities. The CDBG Administrator works with the citizens of Rogers, community and neighborhood organizations, non-profit agencies as well as housing agencies and the private housing industry. The CDBG Administrator gathers data from citizens, meetings, and public hearings to encourage public comment and to use these views to establish priorities for housing and community development needs.

The CDBG Administrator communicated with the several agencies in the development of the 2009 Action Plan. Among those were Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas, Ozark Regional Transit System, Northwest Taxi, LLC, Community Clinic, Adult Development Center, and the Rogers School District Migrant Program. The CDBG Administrator also visited with City Staff including the Mayor, Director of Planning and Transportation, and Director of Parks and Recreation.

#### 2. Plan Development Process

The City of Rogers has developed a five-year Consolidated Plan that covers 2008-2012. This Plan was developed addressing the needs of the City with input from other community agencies. Many of the applications for 2009 funding received by the City not only included requests for the 2009, but also provided the City a breakdown of funding needs beyond 2009. At each step in the development process, care has been taken to ensure that each need met the funding criteria and that low-income and moderate-income residents, representation of the Hispanic population, service agencies, and anyone directly impacted by the CDBG projects supported by the Consolidated Plan were involved in the planning process.

### 3. Actions to Enhance Coordination

As stated earlier, the City of Rogers has limited resources to address the priorities identified. As such, the city has created and will continue to create partnerships to leverage the City's 2009 allocation. The partnerships that have been created are cooperative working relationships.

### **Citizen Participation**

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

\*Please note that Citizen Comments and Responses may be included as additional files within the CPMP Tool.

Program Year 2 Action Plan Citizen Participation response:

#### 1. Citizen Participation Process

The City of Rogers followed its established Citizen Participation Process to formulate the 2009 Action Plan. The City encouraged participation by low and moderate-income persons, particularly those living in slum and blighted areas of the City, as defined by HUD, and in areas where CDBG funds are proposed to be used. The City took steps to encourage participation of all its citizens, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities. The City provided translation for our Spanish speaking population. All meetings were conducted in buildings that are accessible to persons with disabilities. The City, on an annual basis, will make available to citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties, information that includes the amount of assistance the City expects to receive, including specific grant funds, and available unspent prior year funds. The City will also disclose the range of activities to be undertaken and the amount of funding for each activity.

The City held the first Public Hearing on July 8, 2008 in the Board Room of the Adult Wellness Center, 2001 West Persimmon Street with three people in attendance. A second Public Hearing was held on October 20, 2008 in the Board Room of the Adult Wellness Center. There was one person who attended this meeting. The public was also notified that the Action Plan would be available for view at City Hall, 301 West Chestnut; Rogers Public Library, 711 South Dixieland; and the Rogers Activity Center, 315 West Olive. The Plan will also be available for review on the City of Rogers website, [www.rogersarkansas.com](http://www.rogersarkansas.com). Publications of the Public Hearings were in *The Rogers Morning News* and affidavit of publications will be provided to HUD. The City will consider any comments or views of citizens received during the comment period. All comments will be submitted to HUD and made available at the CDBG Administrator's Office located in City Hall.

The City will amend its approved plan whenever it makes one of the following decisions:

- a. To make a change in the goal, priority, or activity of the Consolidated Plan.
- b. To carry out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan not previously covered in the Action Plan.
- c. To change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity included in the annual Action Plan.

Any amendments will be authorized by the Mayor or his designee, and submitted to HUD. All amendments will also be made public by posting at city Hall and on the City's website ([www.rogersarkansas.com](http://www.rogersarkansas.com)). Amendments involving at least \$50,000 will also be advertised in the local newspaper. A substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan or Action Plan is defined as a transfer between two or more plan activities that is greater than 30% of the CDBG Program funds. Any substantial amendments to the Plan will be presented to the Rogers City Council for their review and approval. The public will also be notified by advertising the amendment in The Rogers Morning News. The advertising of the substantial amendment will begin a thirty day citizen review and comment period. The City will consider any comments or views of citizens received during the comment period. All comments will be submitted to HUD and made available at City Hall. The Mayor will submit to HUD, a letter authorizing the amendment after the thirty-day comment period.

At the end of each Program Year, a Comprehensive Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) will be submitted to HUD. The CAPER gives an actual account of the activities that occurred during the previous program year, and how the city maintained and expended the funds outline in the annual Action Plan for that program year. Upon completion of the CAPER and at least 15 days prior to its submission to HUD, the City will make the report available to the general public for a review and comment period. Any comments received from the general public will be included in the CAPER submitted to HUD. The City will hold a Public Hearing to adopt the CAPER. The Public Hearing will be advertised in The Rogers Morning News prior to the public review period. An interpreter will be available for the City's Hispanic population and the Public Hearing will be held in a building that is handicapped accessible.

The City will provide citizens, public agencies and other interested parties access to information and records relating to the City's plans and the City's use of CDBG funds. The CDBG Administrator will provide technical assistance to group representatives of persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in developing proposals for funding assistance.

## 2. Summary of Citizen Comments

Two Public Hearings were held to obtain citizen input on the 2009 Action Plan. The Public Hearings were held in the Board Room of the Rogers Adult Wellness Center. The 2009 HUD allocation is estimated at \$487,000. There is no program income expected. All funds will be used to continue existing projects as well as two new projects. All funds benefit low-moderate income persons.

In accordance with Federal regulations, a Notice of Funding Availability will be published in The Rogers Morning News. An affidavit of publication will be provided to HUD.

Three people attended the first Public Hearing held on July 8, 2008 and one person attended the second Public Hearing held on October 20, 2008. One of the citizens who did come to the July meeting stated she came to see if it would be possible for her to obtain some CDBG funding to rehab her rental houses. She was explained the process for requesting funds and given a guideline to see the qualifications for obtaining grants. No comments were received at the Public Hearing held in October.

3. Efforts to Broaden Participation

The Citizen Participation Plan was written to encourage participation by low and moderate-income residents, residents of low and moderate income neighborhoods, members of minority groups, and persons with disabilities. The City has posted the Citizen Participation Plan as well as the current Consolidated Plan and Action Plan on the City's website in hopes of generating more participation.

4. Comments not Accepted.

There were none.

**Institutional Structure**

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Institutional Structure response:

1. Institutional Structure

The City of Rogers is the lead administrative agency for the Community Development Block Grant Program. The Mayor, Director of Planning and Transportation, Chief Financial Officer, and CDBG Administrator provides fiscal and regulatory oversight of all CDBG funding sources and their Federal grant. The City of Rogers also acts as the final authority for the appropriation of funds for Annual Action Plan activities under the Consolidated and Action Plans following recommendations of the Rogers City Council. Within each of the funding areas where the City has partnered with a non-profit agency, all activities will be completed and managed with those agencies involved.

**Monitoring**

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Monitoring response:

### 1. CDBG Project Monitoring

The City of Rogers will conduct on-site monitoring visits for each project during the Program Year. The number of visits will be determined by the extent of the project and length of time the project is underway. On-site visits report will be made part of the project files.

The CDBG Program will be monitored using City of Rogers financial practices and Federal program regulations to measure performance and compliance of all activities with Local, State, and Federal regulations. Policies establish project eligibility compliance with primary and national objectives. All partnerships will provide the City vouchers, invoices, progress reports, and any statistical data required by the City to obtain reimbursement. All materials must be project specific to include invoices for materials purchases, labor records, scope of the work performed and data to evidence project costs. Documentation will also include program status reports, a description of the services performed and a breakdown of project beneficiaries by income, age, residence ethnic background, and disability. Any project undertaken using City manpower will also be required to furnish this information. All invoicing will be through the CDBG Administrator with reimbursement approval coming from both the CDBG Administrator and the Director of Planning and Transportation.

The City will have 14 Housing Projects in 2009. These will include rehabs and emergency repairs. In-house reviews will be conducted to evaluate contracts, progress reports, and financial materials. Monitoring visits will be conducted to insure all housing projects are provided in compliance with Federal regulations.

The City will undertake five Service Projects in 2009. As stated earlier, in-house reviews will be conducted to evaluate contracts, progress reports, and financial materials. Monitoring visits will be conducted to insure all service projects are provided in compliance with Federal regulations.

The City has five Facility Projects in 2009. All construction projects will be evaluated to insure that proper HUD procurement methods are used. Any construction project will be publically bid. CDBG Administrator will work with project engineers and managers to ensure that contract agreements, bid documents, and public bid notices comply with Federal regulations and labor standards. Labor standards must be in accordance with Davis Bacon Wage Rates, EEO, M/WBE plan, section 3 provisions, and applicable Federal, State, and local certifications. All contractors will be reviewed against the Federal lists of suspended and debarred contractors. The CDBG Administrator will attend pre-bid and bid openings, pre-construction conferences and progress meetings. Projects will be monitored with an initial inspection to verify that Federal notices are posted to verify the site prior to construction. Progress inspections will be conducted to verify that work billed to the City has been completed. Final inspections will be performed to verify the satisfactory completion of the project.

During monitoring visits, a thorough review will be done to make sure all regulations governing administrative and financial are met. The City will also make sure performance objectives are also met. If any non-profit experiences problems or fails to comply with regulations, these issues will be specifically outlined with recommendations and/or requirements to address and rectify the problems. Any issues addressed must be corrected. Any non-profit who does not make corrective

actions will not be considered for future funding until the corrections are made and Federal regulations and grant agreement compliance have been met.

No files will be archived until inspected by the Arkansas HUD office. Any citizen complaints will be addressed by the Mayor or CDBG Administrator within 30 days of receipt of the complaint.

### **Lead-based Paint**

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Lead-based Paint response:

The City of Rogers will use a portion of the CDBG allocation for housing rehabilitation. As a part of the basic inspection for housing rehabilitation, testing for lead based paint will be done. Applicants for housing rehabilitation found to have lead based paint will receive priority funding status for the cost of remediation.

All persons conducting the lead hazard control work must successfully complete an approved eight hour "Lead Safe Work Practices" (LSWP) class. The purpose of this class is to provide workers with information they need to understand that lead-based paint can create health hazards and that using proper work practices can control hazards. Proof of LSWP training will be required prior to commencement of lead hazard control work. The City of Rogers has two building inspectors that have completed the LSWP class.

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## HOUSING

### **Specific Housing Objectives**

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

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

1. Priorities and Objectives

The City of Rogers considers housing a priority and plans the continuation and enhancement of programs to assist low to moderate-income families, including the elderly and disabled homeowners, to repair and maintain their homes. Accessibility Improvements for those with disabilities are a priority of the City. The City will also

work with Habitat for Humanity to assist with infrastructure and lot costs on another lot in Habitat Trails.

2. Use of Resources to Address Housing Needs

The City of Rogers only receives Community Development Block Grant funding. The City partners with non-profits to determine the level of funding that can be pooled with CDBG dollars to maximize our housing program opportunities. In 2009, \$40,000 will be used from CDBG for rehabilitation of substandard, single-family owner-occupied homes and to provide repairs, accessibility improvements as well as energy conservation improvements to low to moderate-income homeowners. Acquisition of land can also allow homes to be built for the low income individual and/or families in need of a house.

**Needs of Public Housing**

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Public Housing Strategy response:

1. Addressing Needs of Public Housing

The City of Rogers does not have Public Housing, however, the following low-income housing units are available:

Autumnwood Point Apartments	48 Units
Indian Creek Apartments	8 Units
Meadow Park Apartments	70 Units
Olivewood Apartments, LTD.	52 Units
Rogers Apartments	72 Units
Miller Place Senior Complex	24 Units – Elderly Only
Dixieland Gardens	32 Units – Elderly Only

Another 72 units are scheduled for future construction in a second phase of Dixieland Gardens. Units will be for elderly only.

All of the above have waiting lists of at least one year. To be eligible for low-income housing, an applicant must meet the income criteria. Selections are based on the date the application was received and the availability of a unit appropriate for the applicant's household size. All low-income housing units in Rogers have on-site management. Based on waiting lists, it is apparent the City needs more housing for the low income. None of the occupied units are classified as substandard.

2. Trouble Designation

N/A

**Barriers to Affordable Housing**

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Barriers to Affordable Housing response:

1. Barriers to Affordable Housing

The City of Rogers experienced a tremendous increase in housing prices from 2005 to 2007. For several years, the new construction approach has been hindered by the existence of a strong high-end market and lack of affordable builders in the residential market. Land prices at one time escalated to a point that the cost of land precluded being able to build affordable housing to meet the low end housing. At the present the city is overbuilt as a result of massive housing construction. These houses, though, range in the \$130,000 to \$350,000 category and do not fall into the affordable housing category. It would not be surprising to see some of these \$130,000 homes drop to \$110,000 or possibly lower in the near future, but with the nationwide loan situation, getting qualified might be a huge barrier to the prospective low income home owner.

With Northwest Arkansas rated as one of the top places in the United States to live and rapid growth that occurred in the years 2004, 2005 and part of 2006, we didn't see a deceleration in housing values until this year. It is still too early to see the full impact of the slowed down economy especially where housing is concerned, but we are starting to see a big impact on rental property. Houses that were once for sale are now bank owned and are listed both "for sale" and "for rent". We are even seeing rental prices decrease and individuals and/or families are able to rent larger and new homes at a much reduced price. The economy, though, is still making it hard for the low-income renter to save for a down payment to purchase a home. The City has seen the median value of new homes under construction drop from \$173,632 to \$134,087 in a three year period. The median value of a new home under construction in 2007 rose to \$143,396. This was mostly attributable to homes being built either falling in the \$110,000 to \$120,000 price range or the custom home exceeding \$400,000.

Economists predict that it will take at least two to three years for the City to absorb the vacant housing. With the slow down housing market, the City is seeing developers begin to look at smaller parcels of land for building homes in the \$90,000 to \$110,000 price range. This kind of development is a big housing help for the City to provide much needed affordable housing for the low income. The City has adopted land development regulations and zoning codes which allow decreased setbacks and the building of houses on smaller lots which allows the developer to build more houses on his land.

The City will continue to encourage the development of housing for low-income by being flexible as possible with the developer to ensure profitability which allows the developer and contractor to stay in business. In 2009, the City will again partner

with Habit for Humanity to continue the development of Habitat Trails, a habitat neighborhood that will consist of 12 to 15 new homes. The City will also partner with Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas and Office of Human Concern to provide rehabilitation work and weatherization work on existing housing stock.

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

1. Describe other forms of investment not described in § 92.205(b).
2. If the participating jurisdiction (PJ) will use HOME or ADDI funds for homebuyers, it must state the guidelines for resale or recapture, as required in § 92.254 of the HOME rule.
3. If the PJ will use HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is that is being rehabilitated with HOME funds, it must state its refinancing guidelines required under § 92.206(b). The guidelines shall describe the conditions under which the PJ will refinance existing debt. At a minimum these guidelines must:
  - a. Demonstrate that rehabilitation is the primary eligible activity and ensure that this requirement is met by establishing a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing.
  - b. Require a review of management practices to demonstrate that disinvestments in the property has not occurred; that the long-term needs of the project can be met; and that the feasibility of serving the targeted population over an extended affordability period can be demonstrated.
  - c. State whether the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units, create additional affordable units, or both.
  - d. Specify the required period of affordability, whether it is the minimum 15 years or longer.
  - e. Specify whether the investment of HOME funds may be jurisdiction-wide or limited to a specific geographic area, such as a neighborhood identified in a neighborhood revitalization strategy under 24 CFR 91.215(e)(2) or a Federally designated Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.
  - f. State that HOME funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG.
4. If the PJ is going to receive American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI) funds, please complete the following narratives:
  - a. Describe the planned use of the ADDI funds.
  - b. Describe the PJ's plan for conducting targeted outreach to residents and tenants of public housing and manufactured housing and to other families assisted by public housing agencies, for the purposes of ensuring that the ADDI funds are used to provide down payment assistance for such residents, tenants, and families.
  - c. Describe the actions to be taken to ensure the suitability of families receiving ADDI funds to undertake and maintain homeownership, such as provision of housing counseling to homebuyers.

Program Year 2 Action Plan HOME/ADDI response:

The City of Rogers does not receive HOME funds.

## HOMELESS

### Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

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

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Special Needs response:

#### 1. Source of Funds

The City of Rogers along with other Northwest Arkansas cities have joined in partnership as the Northwest Arkansas Housing Coalition to address the needs of the homeless in Northwest Arkansas. There are several organizations that exist in Northwest Arkansas that serve families or persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The chief homeless providers in the City of Rogers are Souls Harbor, a private organization located in the City's low income area and the Salvation Army. No funding has been requested by these organizations in 2009, however, the City will provide transportation assistance on an as needed basis for individuals staying with these agencies. The City will keep abreast of any homeless situation.

2. The City of Rogers entered into a contract with the University of Arkansas to provide a Needs Assessment of the Homeless in 2007. This needs assessment provided specific information regarding the various services and programs provided in Northwest Arkansas, a listing of the number of beds available at the various homeless facilities, and the number, reasons and costs involved in housing the homeless as well as placement of the homeless.

Approximately 1,170 persons were estimated to be homeless in the Northwest Arkansas (Washington and Benton Counties) area. Of this amount, 361 are homeless persons projected to be living in inaccessible places, such as abandoned buildings and/or doubling up with friends and relatives. Sixty percent of the homeless are men. Seventy-eight percent are Caucasian/White, 9% African-American, with the remaining 13% other race/ethnic categories (12% being Hispanic). Approximately 68% of the homeless have a high school education. Of that 68%, 7% have a trade school or business school certificate, and 20% have taken some college courses. Thirty two percent have less than a high school diploma. Median income was approximately \$200 with sixteen percent of the homeless reporting no income. The median time spent homeless is 4.5 months. Twenty-eight percent have been homeless less than one month, 63% have been homeless eight months or less, and 90% have been homeless less than two years. Fifty-nine percent were in a shelter, 17% were staying with friends, and 34% were staying on the streets and sleeping outdoors or in a car. Forty-seven percent have lived most of their lives in Arkansas. Thirty percent were born in Arkansas and the median time spent in Northwest Arkansas was about four years.

Several organizations exist that serve families or individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. These organizations provide a range of services to these individuals and families. Listed below are several agencies located in Northwest Arkansas who provide supportive housing:

Children's House in Fayetteville and NWA Children's Shelter in Bentonville serves abused or neglected children. Children's House has a capacity for 22 children, while the Children's Shelter can house 21 children.

Peace at Home Family Shelter in Fayetteville serves physically, sexually, or emotionally abused women and children. This facility can handle 20 people. Placement is strictly voluntary.

Lifestyles, Inc., in Fayetteville and the Richardson Center in Springdale, serves the developmentally disabled. There is no restriction on the age of service for Lifestyles, however, the Richardson Center only serves children. Ozark Guidance Center in Fayetteville serves only emotionally disturbed children. Lifestyles have 11 rent-assisted dwellings, 8 single apartments, and 4 double apartments. The Richardson Center can serve as many as 86 children while the Ozark Guidance Center has a maximum capacity of 26 children.

Youth Bridge, located in Fayetteville and Centerton, serves as an emergency shelter for children between the ages of 12 and 18. The two facilities can house 34 children.

Vista Health in Fayetteville serves people with acute or sub-acute mental illness. One must be referred to be accepted by this facility. Maximum capacity for this facility is 16 in the children's unit and 28 in the adolescent unit.

Salvation Army in Fayetteville, Bentonville and Rogers, Souls Harbor in Rogers, and Seven Hills Homeless Shelter in Fayetteville serves the homeless. These four facilities can house approximately 125 people, however, no one will be refused admittance in the Salvation Army facilities.

Decision Point, Inc., located in Springdale serves adults with drug and alcohol abuse problems. Maximum length of stay at this facility is 30 days. The facility is staffed to handle 25 men and 15 women.

Bread of Life in Springdale, St. Paul's and Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, and Samaritan House in Rogers also provides supportive services for the homeless to include meals.

Research over the past several decades show clearly that homelessness is more complicated than just being without a house or physical structure to live in. The most frequent cause of homelessness is financial (could not afford to live there, lost my job, left to look for work) with personal reasons (divorce, separation, breakup, couldn't get along) the second most frequent cause. Another cause was spatial change (lease ran out, evicted, place too crowded). The variety of responses to the homelessness survey made it apparent that homelessness is a complex social and personal problem requiring multiple and coordinated services to offer a reasonable probability of promoting a stable residential future. Interpersonal and substance abuse problems, or problems beyond the control of an individual, such as an unstable environment, are commonly cited factors in the loss of a secure private residence. For many respondents, several factors intertwined to create an especially complex set of problems leading to their homelessness.

Another important dimension of residential history is the time individuals spend homeless. The median duration of homelessness reported in the interviews was three months. There doesn't appear to be a large number who have been homeless for very long. Persons over 40, males, and veterans were homeless considerably longer than others surveyed. Persons with disabilities such as alcohol abuse, mental, or physical illness, etc. are faced with unique challenges that when compounded with the difficult circumstances of homelessness can intensify the homeless experience and make it harder to resolve. Such people may, without significant professional and personal assistance, remain homeless indefinitely.

The City is aware that homelessness does involve children. As stated earlier, Northwest Arkansas does provide shelters for children and youth who are unable to reside with their parents. Another area of concern is children and youth who are in homes with no space to call their own. In discussions with the Rogers School District, there are children who have no bed and rely each night in finding a place where they can lay down to sleep. Many of these children sleep on the floor, on a piece of furniture other than a bed, in a car, and some have even resorted to sleeping outside in order to find space.

### 3. Chronic Homelessness

HUD strongly encourages communities to develop a ten year plan to end chronic homelessness. Such plans are expected to not simply propose better ways to manage the problem, but to make serious attempts to end it. The City of Rogers in

partnership with the Northwest Arkansas Housing Coalition is currently working on a plan to end chronic homelessness. One of the key strategies to address chronic homelessness would be in outreach efforts. To accomplish this, agencies who specifically target the homeless as well as those who assist individuals with accessing mainstream mental health and chemical dependency services, have been invited to join the Coalition. Education of both the service providers and the communities in general is needed to assist in eradicating chronic homelessness.

The largest gap in meeting the needs of the chronic homeless continues to be the need for additional permanent, affordable housing with support services. The city will continue its ongoing efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units in Rogers.

Expanding safe havens as well as services provided by safe havens is another need for this area. Interviews conducted by the Homeless Study shows 14% of those interviewed reported problems with personal safety at where they were staying and 25% reported problems with theft. The astonishing number, 65%, felt that Northwest Arkansas was a dangerous place to be out alone at night. Another need would be to improve discharge planning from systems most impacted by chronic homelessness, such as local jails, crisis units and hospitals. In the interviews, 68% of the respondents said they would be happier if they had more people or places to turn to for help.

#### 4. Homelessness Prevention

Homelessness cannot be seriously addressed without developing a comprehensive strategy to prevent homelessness. In spite of dramatic improvements in the continuum of care in the Northwest Arkansas area, homelessness has grown substantially. Likely no significant reductions to the population can be expected unless homelessness programs are implemented. The work being done by the Northwest Arkansas Housing Coalition is the right step for this region in the area of homelessness prevention.

#### 5. Discharge Coordination Policy

There is not a large problem with youth existing foster care and residential facilities. Being discharged with no housing in place, however, we need to make sure that adults discharged from jails or other systems of care are not homeless upon release. This will require good coordination from all agencies involved with homelessness.

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

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan ESG response:

N/A.

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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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## Community Development

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

1. Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.
2. Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

\*Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

Program Year 2 Action Plan Community Development response:

### 1. Priority Community Development Needs

Some of the City's community development needs are those activities that enhance the quality of life through public service projects. The City will use their 2009 CDBG entitlement funds to support the following programs:

1. Repair and conserve housing stock.
2. Develop homeownership opportunities for low to moderate-income residents through land acquisition and infrastructure projects to enable affordable housing to be built.
3. Provide public facilities for special needs people and low income families.
4. Provide infrastructure in lower income areas.
5. Provide essential public services.
6. Revitalize deteriorated neighborhoods.

The City of Rogers defines, analyzes and assigns priority to community needs using many methods to retrieve data from reliable sources and input from the community. In determining the priority of a project, the City looks at the need, available of funding through other sources, as well as spending cap. The City also uses the current census tract data and quartile ranking of low/mod income persons compiled by HUD. Neighborhoods targeted for public improvements are located in eligible census tracts and block groups where the highest percentage of low/mod income residents are located. These statistics geographically define a concentration of residents in need of programs and services. The CDBG Administrator works closely with several agencies that provide health and social services. These working relationships provide valuable assistance in identifying the needs of City residents, Gaps in services and needs of special population groups. Public commentary

provided through the Citizen Participation Process also provides valuable insight into community needs.

The City reviews all submitted applications for CDBG funding provided the request is an eligible CDBG activity.

## 2. Specific Long Term and Short Term Objectives

The greatest challenge to meeting long and short-term goals is resources. The City has seen decreases in funding for every year except 2007. In 2004 and previous years prior to 2004, the City was receiving CDBG entitlement grants of \$487,000 each year. In 2005, that amount was decreased to \$456,888. In 2006, the amount was decreased to \$414,719 and increased to \$420,698 in 2007. In 2008, the City again saw a decrease in funding receiving \$412,983. Requests for funds have significantly increased each year. For the 2009 funding year, applications totaled over \$1,400,000. Based on our total requests, the City will not be able to fund every request received in 2009.

### 1. Provide Decent Housing

- a. Rehabilitation
- b. Emergency Repairs and Funding
- c. Land and Infrastructure Costs

### 2. Provide Public Facilities

- a. Street Improvements
- b. Infrastructure
- c. Non-Profit Build-Outs
- d. Park Improvements

### 3. Provide Public Services

- a. Transportation Assistance
- b. English as Second Language
- c. Health Care
- d. After School Programs
- e. Census Public Service Announcements

The housing projects will provide rehabilitation work to be completed on the City's existing housing stock and will provide land for new houses to be built increasing the affordable housing stock in the City of Rogers. The City will also provide funding for emergency repairs and utility payments needed for dire situations.

CDBG funds used for street improvements will provide sidewalks and handicap ramps for streets located in areas where the low income population exceeds 50%. Many of the houses in this area are occupied by the elderly and mobility impaired. Sidewalks with handicap ramps are greatly needed in this area. CDBG funds will also be used to provide infrastructure to the site of the proposed new Adult Development Center, a facility meeting the needs of the City's developmentally challenged residents. Funding will also be provided for park improvements.

Public services are necessary to provide a suitable living environment, particularly for low to moderate-income families, seniors, and disabled persons. Activities this year will improve the quality of life and foster self-sufficiency and independence for the low to moderate-income, elderly and disabled populations. Projects funded will provide transportation assistance to the elderly and disabled, English as a Second Language will be provided the City's Hispanic population, free dental care will be provided to low-income children, and after school programs will be provided to children of low income families. The City will also provide some public service announcements concerning the 2010 census and the importance of being counted. Most of this funding will target the City's Hispanic population.

### **Antipoverty Strategy**

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Antipoverty Strategy response:

1. Actions to Reduce the Number of Poverty Level Families

Strategies in 2009 include continuation of existing programs that promote a stable living environment and reduce dependency. The City will continue providing housing rehabilitation and home repairs to help the low to moderate-income remain in their homes. This program not only promotes a stable living environment and reduces dependency, but prevents homelessness, financial hardships, and possibly institutionalization. The City will continue to work to maximize program dollars and opportunities in neighborhoods with the greatest number of low to moderate-income residents.

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

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

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

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

Program Year 2 Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

1. Priorities and Objectives of Non-Homeless Special Needs

Data available indicates that the need for affordable housing will continue to grow in 2009. The need for supportive services for the elderly and disabled will also continue to grow. It is important to provide the appropriate services and programs which will allow the elderly and disabled homeowners to age in place in their homes. The City is committed to facilitate the expansion of affordable supportive housing opportunities for these special needs. The City will continue to provide housing

rehabilitation improvements and accessibility accommodations to support this goal. We are also aware of the need to increase the likelihood that the elderly will be able to remain independent to include being financially independent.

## 2. Resources to Address Needs

The City will use CDBG funding to meet these needs as well as partnerships with non-profits to provide these special needs. Public service projects will be subjected to a 15% cap.

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

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

1. Provide a Brief description of the organization, the area of service, the name of the program contacts, and a broad overview of the range/ type of housing activities to be done during the next year.
2. Report on the actions taken during the year that addressed the special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, and assistance for persons who are homeless.
3. Evaluate the progress in meeting its specific objective of providing affordable housing, including a comparison of actual outputs and outcomes to proposed goals and progress made on the other planned actions indicated in the strategic and action plans. The evaluation can address any related program adjustments or future plans.
4. Report on annual HOPWA output goals for the number of households assisted during the year in: (1) short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to avoid homelessness; (2) rental assistance programs; and (3) in housing facilities, such as community residences and SRO dwellings, where funds are used to develop and/or operate these facilities. Include any assessment of client outcomes for achieving housing stability, reduced risks of homelessness and improved access to care.
5. Report on the use of committed leveraging from other public and private resources that helped to address needs identified in the plan.
6. Provide an analysis of the extent to which HOPWA funds were distributed among different categories of housing needs consistent with the geographic distribution plans identified in its approved Consolidated Plan.
7. Describe any barriers (including non-regulatory) encountered, actions in response to barriers, and recommendations for program improvement.
8. Please describe the expected trends facing the community in meeting the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and provide additional information regarding the administration of services to people with HIV/AIDS.
9. Please note any evaluations, studies or other assessments that will be conducted on the local HOPWA program during the next year.

Program Year 2 Action Plan HOPWA response:

N/A

### Specific HOPWA Objectives

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

Program Year 2 Specific HOPWA Objectives response:

N/A

### Other Narrative

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

CDBG Funding Request for 2009:

Listed below are the 2009 projects with funding dollars needed to complete the project:

Housing:

Infrastructure and Land Costs for Habitat for Humanity	\$ 50,000.00
Rehabilitation and Emergency Services	20,000.00
Rehabilitation and Weatherization Projects	20,000.00
Emergency Funding for Utility Bills	5,000.00

Public Service:

Transportation Assistance Program	10,000.00 *
English as Second Language	4,202.13 **
After School and Summer Program	15,000.00
Community Clinic Dental Clinic	10,000.00
2010 Census Public Service Announcements	2,000.00

Public Facility:

Infrastructure for Adult Development Center	234,000.00 ***
Persimmon Street	323,930.31 ****
Community Clinic Build-Out – Non-Profit Building	10,000.00
Non-Profit Building Lighting	50,000.00
Park Improvements	50,000.00

Administration:

Salaries, Continuing Education, Supplies, Dues, Postage	55,000.00 *****
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## Jurisdiction

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\*\$7,677.36 will come from previous funding and \$2,322.64 will come from 2009 funding.

\*\*This will be funded entirely with previous year funding.

\*\*\*\$174,000 will come from previous year funding and \$60,000 will come from 2009 funding.

\*\*\*\*\$136,252.95 will come from previous year funding and \$187,677.36 will come from 2009 funding.

\*\*\*\*\*\$50,000 will come from previous year funding and \$5,000 will come from 2009 funding.

### Percentages of the 2009 Grant Commitments by Program to Include Funding from Previous Years:

Housing Projects	11%
Public Service Projects	5%
Public Facilities Projects	78%
Administration	6%