

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

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

The City of Round Rock's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2019 Program Year was the First Year in the City's CDBG Five Year Consolidated Plan (2019-2023). In this program year, the city was awarded \$686,770 in CDBG funds. In the 2019-2020 program year the City of Round Rock continued to deliver programs and implement activities to achieve the goals and objectives described in the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and the 2019 Annual Action Plan. A total of \$686,610.15 in CDBG funds were expended during the 2019 Program Year. Per the Table 1 Accomplishments below the City is making progress towards meeting the goals identified but it is more important to remember that they are prone to some degree of uncertainty, particularly in the number of units of measure and outcomes. Round Rock's plan outlines three overarching goals: 1) To provide decent housing by preserving housing stock, increasing the availability of affordable housing and reducing discriminatory barriers 2) To provide a suitable living environment through safer, more livable neighborhoods 3) To expand opportunities through homeownership opportunities. Funding priorities, highlights and an assessment for carrying out the 2019 CDBG Program and prior year activities are listed below:

- Round Rock Area Serving Center 2019 Food Pantry Program expended \$25,000 and assisted 804 low income residents, 78 of which were Female Head of Household
- Round Rock Area Serving Center 2019 Housing Assistance Program expended \$25,000 and assisted 250 low income residents, 54 of which were Female Head of Household
- Meals on Wheels 2019 expended the \$5,000 and assisted 145 Seniors
- CASA 2019 Child Advocacy Program expended \$25,000 and assisted 69 children
- Sacred Heart Community Clinic 2019 expended \$12,500 and assisted 105 low income residents with health care services
- Code enforcement 2019 expended \$13,581.19
- 7 low to moderate income residents received Minor Home Repair Program during the 2019 expended \$115,687
- Frontier Park was completed in Program Year 2019 and a total of \$29,180.25 in CDBG funds were expended
- Program Administration expended \$126,098.36 in CDBG 2019 funds
- Greenhill Sidewalks were completed in Program Year 2019 and a total of \$50,859.40 were expended during the program year
- Hope Alliance Shelter Playground Project was completed during the 2019 Program Year and a total of \$32,700 in CDBG funds were

expended

- Chisholm Valley Sidewalks were started in Program Year 2019 and will continue into Program Year 2020. A total of \$208,003.95 in CDBG funds were expended in 2019

Some of the activities surpassed their proposed goals such as Meals on Wheels and Sacred Heart Community Clinic.

One public service activity did not come to fruition. Council on At-Risk Youth did not expend any of the CDBG funds awarded to them. Funding for this activity will be re-allocated to an infrastructure activity in early Spring 2021. A substantial amendment will be conducted that will include the funding for Council for At-Risk Youth and other prior year funds from projects that had balances. The proposed infrastructure activity is yet to be determined. CDBG staff is working with city departments to find an eligible activity that also meets the high priority needs as identified in the five year consolidated plan.

Minor Home Repair Program had proposed assisting 8 homeowners with minor home repair in the 2019 program year but due to COVID this project had some delays. The program will continue into the 2020 Program Year.

The 2019 Frontier Park Improvements Project had some delays during the 2019 program year. This project will be started in late 2020 during program year 2020 and is estimated to be completed in late Spring 2021.

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

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

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Code Enforcement	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$27,999	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	200	146	73.00%	200	146	73.00%

Increase Access to Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$172,001	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	40	7	17.50%	8	7	87.50%
Neighborhood Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$25,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	500	0	0.00%	100	100	100%
Neighborhood Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$10,500	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	500	0	0.00%	100	0	0%
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$137,354	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%	1	1	100.00%
Public Facility and Infrastructure Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$246,416	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1750	0	0.00%	700	0	0.00%
Public Service for Special Needs Populations	Non-Housing Community Development Public services	CDBG: \$5000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1075	145	13.49%	215	145	67.44%
Public Services for Low- and Moderate-Income Popul	Non-Housing Community Development Public services	CDBG: \$12,500	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1000	100	10.00%	200	200	100.00%

Public Services for Low- and Moderate-Income Popul	Non-Housing Community Development Public services	CDBG: \$50,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	2000	100	5.00%	400	400	100.00%
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Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

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

All of the funds expended during the program year directly addressed the priorities and objectives identified in the City of Round Rock Five Year Consolidated Plan (2019-2023) and the 2019 Annual Action Plan. Funding decisions were based on the following process:

Citizen Participation: During the development of the CDBG 2019 plan, the City held two public hearings to solicit input from residents and social service providers in Round Rock. The public hearings were advertised in the local newspaper in English and Spanish as well as posted on the city hall bulletin and the City website. The public hearings were held at the Round Rock City Hall Council Chambers which is accessible to persons with disabilities. The City is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request for the public hearings. City staff was present at all public hearings and was available to translate for persons with Limited English Proficiency.

Funding caps: The City obligated and expended the full 20% for program administration and the full 15% for public services.

In addition to funding caps and meeting a High Priority Need, the City considered other federal requirements in order to fund an activity. Activities had to meet a National Objective: 1) Benefit low to moderate income persons; 2) Prevent slum or blight or 3) Meet an urgent Need.

Utilizing these needs and objectives, a CDBG application process was undertaken to identify non-profit groups and city departments that could address objectives. Successful applicants were awarded CDBG grant funding to undertake programs and projects that addressed the needs, priorities and specific needs identified in the plan. A detailed breakdown of the CDBG funds awarded and accomplishments reported for each activity funded is available in the PR03 Activity Summary Report available as Attachment 3 to this document.

A public hearing was held to give residents an opportunity to comment on the CAPER. The public hearing was held before city council on December 17, 2020. The public comment period was December 1, 2020-December 18, 2020. The public hearing notice was published in English and Spanish in the Round Rock Leader, posted at city hall and at other locations around the city as well as the city website.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	983
Black or African American	292
Asian	24
American Indian or American Native	9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3
Total	1,311
Hispanic	300
Not Hispanic	1,011

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

Narrative

The table above does not include all the race categories that are available to select in IDIS when reporting per activity that assists low income clientele therefore the total of 1311 is not accurate. The total number that of beneficiaries assisted is 1373 and the breakdown is as follows:

White: 983

Black: 292

Asian: 24

American Indian: 10

Other: 55

Asian and White: 4

Black and White: 2

Native Hawaiian: 3

Of the 1373 households, a total of 132 assisted were Female head of household and 300 reported as Hispanic.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	686,770	668,610
Other	public - federal	397,375	382,008

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The City of Round Rock received \$686,700 in CDBG 2019 funds and also received an additional \$397,375 in CDBG-CV funds due to the Corona Virus. The table above shows the amount expended during the year for CDBG 2019 funds as well as how much of the CDBG-CV funds were expended during the 2019 program year.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Citywide		44	public service, hm rpr, code
Qualified Census Tracts		36	infrastructure (park)

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The 2019 action plan proposed to fund 44% of the CDBG 2019 \$686,770 allocation to Citywide activities and those goals were met. The following describes the breakdown of the 44% or \$303,000 that was allocated to Citywide activities:

- 15%(\$103,000) for public services (mortgage/rent assistance, child advocacy, food pantry, health services and senior services)
- 27% (\$186,418.81) on minor home repair
- 2% (\$13,581.19) on code enforcement

Code enforcement was not originally in the 2019 Annual Action Plan. A substantial amendment was done during the program year to include the CDBG-CV funds in the amount of \$397,375 and in that amendment code enforcement was added as well. The minor home repair program was decreased and code enforcement was funded with regular CDBG 2019 funds.

The 2019 action plan proposed to fund 36% or \$246,416 in CDBG funds for Qualified Census Tract activities. All \$246,416 in CDBG 2019 funds were allocated for the Frontier Park Project. The remaining 20% was allocated to Program Administration. All projects funded were identified as "High Priority" needs in the City of Round Rock CDBG Five Year Consolidated Plan (2019-2023). All CDBG funds were obligated to projects that benefit low to moderate income residents and all projects met a national objective. During the 2019-2020 Program Year, the City of Round Rock did not fund any activities that did not meet a National Objective or that required anti-displacement or relocation.

Leveraging

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

In an effort to leverage funds, the City has combined the CDBG and General Fund Social Service Funding process. By combining these two processes, we can make sure to fund agencies providing high priority needs with General Funds that could not be funded with CDBG funds due to the 15% funding cap. This process also eliminates the duplication of services. The process of funding social service agencies is as follows: A team consisting of council members, city neighborhood services staff and CDBG staff review agency applications using a set criteria and performance measurements. Funding recommendations are presented to the city council through the budget process. Awarded agencies are contracted to deliver the specific services to residents of Round Rock. In 2019-2020 in addition to the full 15% in public services, the City of Round Rock also funded the following agencies with General Funds to provide services for a total amount of \$182,000:

- Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center-Child Abuse Intervention \$32,000
- Literacy Council of Williamson County-Project Moving Up \$8,400
- Foundation Communities-Community Tax Center (Free tax preparation) \$15,000
- YMCA of Greater Williamson County-Afterschool Care \$10,000
- Round Rock Area Serving Center-Volunteer Center \$35,000
- Senior Access-Transportation for Senior Adults \$31,600
- Hope Alliance-Safety & Recovery for Family Violence and Sexual Assault Victims \$35,000
- Texas Baptist Children's Home-Trust Based Relational Intervention Specialist \$10,000
- ROCK Ride on Center for Kids-Therapy for Underserved Children & Adults with Disabilities/Disorders \$5,000

During the 2019-2020 Program Year the City of Round Rock did not fund any city owned facilities. No publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction was used to address the needs that are identified in the plan.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	250	257
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	250	257

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	250	250
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	8	7
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	258	257

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

During the CDBG 2019 Program Year, two-hundred and fifty (250) households were assisted with rental assistance and seven (7) with the CDBG Minor Home Repair totaling 257 households served. The rental assistance program proposed providing assistance to 250 households and met the goal. The minor home repair program proposed assisting eight (8) households but only provided repairs for seven (7). The Minor Home Repair Program was about to assist a few more homes right before COVID-19 and planned to surpass the goal of assisting eight homes. Because COVID-19 caused delays in the

implementation of this program, the goal was not met. The CDBG staff worked with other city staff to revise the process for providing home repairs during COVID-19 so that the program could continue and not be delayed further.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Moving forward, the delays that prevented staff from meeting the goals, will not be an issue due to revisions to the programs and should not impact future action plans.

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

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	211	0
Low-income	44	0
Moderate-income	2	0
Total	257	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Of the 257 households that were served 59 were Female Head of Household.

The number of extremely low, low and moderate income households listed in the table above are only for the minor home repair and the housing/rental assistance program. The PR03 IDIS Report in Attachment 3 goes into detail on the income of households/persons served for every activity including public services where information by family size is required to determine eligibility.

In the efforts to address "worst case needs and persons with disabilities" the City funds the Round Rock Area Serving Center (RRASC) with CDBG funds and general funds. The RRASC assists the very low income, persons with disabilities and homeless or people that are stranded in the city with food and/or rent or temporary shelter and gas.

The City of Round Rock recognizes that the very low income, and persons with disabilities may have difficulty paying their utility bills when facing financial difficulties. In addition to funding the RRASC to provide rent and food assistance the city works with the RRASC to offer the Friendly Rock Program. The Friendly Rock Program helps Round Rock residents facing financial difficulties pay their essential water utility services. This program is funded with resident donations and is administered for the City by the RRASC. Water customers that want to contribute to this program simply complete the Contribution Form in their utility bill that authorizes the city to add \$1 or more to their utility bill payment each month.

In order to foster and maintain affordable housing, the City of Round Rock supports low income housing tax credit developers by providing a City Council Letter of Support that will accompany their application to the state for LIHTC funds. Although the City of Round Rock does not invest CDBG funds to assist non-homeless but very low income residents with affordable housing units, there are several Low Income Housing Tax Credit multi family housing units available to very low income families in Round Rock. The Red Villas, Townhomes at Double Creek and Waters at Sunrise are affordable multi family developments constructed by residential developers or investors with tax credits through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Using the Housing Tax Credit Program these developers were able to construct affordable housing units that are decent, safe and sanitary to low and very low income residents.

The City is making progress towards meeting the needs of persons with disabilities by funding park improvements for the addition of ADA transition ramp into the playground, replacing deficient paths and walkways and deficient curb ramps; construction of new sidewalks to include new ADA accessible curb ramps, driveway modifications to existing driveways that currently exceed a 2% cross-slope where the travel path is located, and new sidewalk connections where none previously existed.

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

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

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

The City CDBG staff participated in forming a Williamson County Homeless group that started meeting in 2019. The group consists of local non-profits, public housing agencies, and neighboring jurisdictions meeting to network and discuss specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness. The group invited representatives from the Texas Homeless Network to participate in the meetings as well and serve as a guide for eventually forming the group into a homeless coalition. The group continued to meet monthly during the CDBG 2019-2020 Program Year until COVID-19 brought everything to a halt. COVID-19 prevented the group from meeting for about 6 months. The group started meeting again virtually in September 2020 and will continue to meet virtually until it's safe to meet again in person. In discussing the resources each agency provides, the group is able to network and find resources they didn't know existed and go back and pass this information on to their clients that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Ideas are shared and goals are being set to try and reduce homelessness. Because the Texas Homeless Network has been involved in the meetings, they asked if the group wanted to participate in the Balance of State Summer Point in Time Count for Williamson County but this count was not done because of COVID-19. The Williamson County Homeless group may participate in the Texas Homeless Balance of State Winter Point in Time Count in January 2021.

The City of Round Rock will continue its efforts to prevent homelessness by referring citizens to organizations who address the homeless issue that affect their quality of life and also the continued funding of public service agencies that provide services to assist low-income households to improve their abilities for self-sufficiency.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Round Rock does not receive any Emergency Solutions Grant funds and although CDBG did not fund any agencies to provide emergency shelter or transitional housing, the following agencies did provide these services in Round Rock during the CDBG 2019 program year with non-CDBG funds:

Hope Alliance Crisis Shelter provides emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence. Last program year they assisted 300 victims of domestic violence. Hope Alliance was provided general funds in the amount of \$35,000 to pay for the salary of a counselor during the 2019 program year.

Bluebonnet Trails Supportive Housing program provides a safe and supportive program for adults in transition from crisis to stability while the individual resides in the program. The expected length of stay in the Supported Housing Program is up to 90 days. At the end of the three month stay, participants will

have increased resources for income, employment and sustainable residential stability.

The Bluebonnet Trails Supportive Housing Program accepts applications from interested individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Each application is reviewed by the housing committee to determine enrollment into the program. The transitional homes are tobacco, alcohol, and drug free and encourage spiritual, mental and emotional growth.

The goal of the Supportive Housing Program is to facilitate the change process for individuals with substantial mental illness through skills building, self-awareness, self-advocacy, and providing supports necessary for stable lives in a community setting. While in the home setting, individuals will receive the following services:

- Skills Building
- Peer Support
- Supported Employment
- Referrals and Education

The City does not fund BlueBonnet Trails MHMR with CDBG dollars but the City does work to maintain a relationship with BlueBonnet Trails MHMR by networking with staff. Bluebonnet Trails MHMR is invited to all the CDBG public hearings, stakeholder meetings and is invited to attend the fair housing workshop that is held in April.

Bluebonnet Trails participates in the Williamson County Homeless Group meetings and continues to be a key player and possibly a lead agency in this effort.

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

In an effort to help low income residents of Round Rock including those that are likely to become homeless or are currently homeless, the City of Round Rock 2019 CDBG funding was awarded to the Round Rock Area Serving Center for the purchase of food to stock their food pantry and also funds to assist residents with rent and mortgage payments. Because the Round Rock Area Serving Center does not turn anyone away they are probably the main source of assistance in the city for all extremely low income families and individuals at-risk of becoming homeless including those likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care.

In addition to assisting low-income individuals and families with CDBG funded rent/mortgage payments and food the City of Round Rock has recently become involved with a Central Texas program called Jail

to Jobs. Jail to Jobs provides jobs with the City of Round Rock to teenagers and young adults who've spent time in jail. This program gives young offenders a second chance to start something positive for their future. Working with the City of Round Rock is the first time Jail to Jobs has worked directly with a local government. The City has employed fifteen (15) former jail inmates with part-time, temporary positions with the city. Jobs range from working in the recycling center to picking up unauthorized signs from the side of the road to small engine maintenance, all under the supervision of full-time city employees. This program has worked out so well that the City is looking at how to expand to bring more former inmates into city departments.

The City funds the following agencies with CDBG and non-CDBG funds to provide services to help these families and individuals avoid becoming homeless:

- Texas Baptist Children's Home with \$10,000 in general fund social service grant for partial salary for a Trust Based Relational Intervention Specialist
- Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center with \$32,000 in general funds for Child Abuse Intervention
- CASA of Williamson County with \$25,000 in CDBG 2019 funds for the partial salary for a volunteer recruiter and trainer for volunteers that advocate for children taken out of their home in court
- Literacy Council with \$7,500 for self sufficiency education to include GED, basic literacy and ESL

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

In an effort to assist homeless persons and families with children the following agencies provided services or housing with non-CDBG funded programs:

The Texas Baptist Children's Home

The Texas Baptist Children's Home (TBCH) provides transitional housing to mothers and their children. Some of these mothers are entirely homeless when they arrive, while others are considered at risk of becoming homeless. Family Care is a place for motivated mothers and their children to live while they transition into successful, independent futures. The average length of stay is nine months; however, there is no specific time limit as long as the family is working toward their Plan of Service goals.

The ministry has nine cottages, housing up to five families in each cottage, with live-in Family Life Coordinators. Each unit has a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen areas, and families share large dining, living, laundry and play space.

A staff therapist offers individual, group and family therapy for every mother and child, as needed.

Assistance is provided in goal setting, education, budgeting, parenting, effective communication, relationship building and spiritual growth. As the residents buy-in, they must commit to being gainfully employed and saving toward future stability. City staff networks with the TBCH and the city always includes the TBCH to participate in needs assessment during the development of action plans.

Opportunities for Williamson-Burnet Counties

During the program year, Opportunities provided childcare for children from several families that were homeless with the Head Start Program. During the program year the families were able to acquire housing.

During the 2019 program year city CDBG staff did not network or know of any agencies in Round Rock that assisted homeless veterans and unaccompanied youth. CDBG staff will continue to network with non-profits and report on the resources that are available in Round Rock for the homeless population.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Public housing is administered and managed by the Round Rock Housing Authority. The Round Rock Housing Authority was established in 1966, with the first development built in 1972. Today the Housing Authority owns 100 units at the following three locations: 1505 Lance Lane, 1100 Westwood and 1007 Cushing Drive. The housing authority also administers Section 8 Housing Vouchers as well as absorbed port-ins from other housing authorities.

The Round Rock Housing Authority (RRHA) received approximately \$173,000 in Capital Grant Funds that were used for operations during the 2019 program year.

In order to be aware of and address the needs of public housing, the Round Rock CDBG staff actively networks and attends the RRHA monthly board meetings.

The RRHA is aware that in order for their residents to be able to be self sufficient and move on and out of public housing they need to provide case management and resources that will help them succeed. Up until March of this year the RRHA was providing ESL and GED classes on Mondays and Thursdays to residents but due to COVID this has stopped. RRHA is working to find ways to provide needed services to residents virtually to keep them safe.

Due to COVID-19, the RRHA has made many changes in hopes to assist the residents as best they can while keeping them safe too. RRHA has started automating the way they do business. This makes it easier to provide services to the residents and program participants. Some of the changes include:

- Updating the website so the public can access applications online.
- Trying to go paperless by using their HAPPY software provider to set up a program that will allow program participants/applicants to access their personal information online as well as submit their information for interim or annual recertifications.

The greatest need is the need for more affordable housing. The waiting lists for public housing and section 8 are long and continue to grow as more and more people walk in and call to get added to the list daily. The lack of affordable housing is also making it difficult for voucher participants to find affordable units to lease. Currently there are 200 people on the Section 8 waiting list and 125 on the public housing waiting list. The RRHA is currently about to house a few applicants on the public housing list and is planning to house 5-10 voucher families in January 2021.

The housing authority is working to find solutions with the help of the city CDBG staff to address these needs. The housing authority is discussing possibly redeveloping their properties to increase the number of affordable housing units. A neighboring housing authority is currently redeveloping a 70 unit property. Plans are to demolish and bring back 120-130 new units in its place. The Round Rock Housing Authority is hoping to duplicate this in the near future in order to increase the number of affordable

units that will help meet the demand for more affordable housing.

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

The Round Rock Housing Authority continued the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program in the 2019-2020 program year. The FSS program was created to help public housing residents become more involved in management and participate in homeownership. Through the FSS Program families received supportive case management to help them reach their individual goals towards self-sufficiency. Some of the classes that the FSS program provides are:

- Banking Basics
- Budgeting Workshops
- Wellness
- Financial Literacy
- Financial Recovery
- Pay Yourself First
- Own Your Own Home

The Round Rock Housing Authority currently has three residents working to meet their goals and graduate from the Family Self Sufficiency Program. This program came to a minor halt due to COVID-19 in early March 2020. Since COVID has administrative offices closed to public and to keep residents safe the RRHA has only been able to provide a few credit counseling and homeownership counseling classes to the participants since March. The RRHA has started to create ways to provide the resources needed to the Family Self Sufficiency Program participants virtually. They will begin to meet with participants quarterly with the first quarterly meeting in December 2020.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The Round Rock Housing Authority continues to hold a "High Performer" status under HUD's Section Management Assessment Program (SEMAP); therefore, it is not designated as a "troubled" agency.

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

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

In order to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing the City of Round Rock has adopted a housing policy in the Round Rock 2030 Comprehensive Plan. This policy enables a mixture of housing types within the city to meet all residents' needs and preferences through all stages of life.

Policy Description:

The vast majority of the city's housing stock exists in a conventional suburban form with separate residential subdivisions containing single-family homes or standalone apartment complexes. Currently, low-density single-use neighborhoods occupy significant amounts of land in the city and require the use of a personal vehicle to access employment and services. Based on public input received, housing affordability was a main concern of stakeholders. Certain housing types in the city have been identified as missing in Round Rock, such as smaller-scale multifamily developments. Other types of housing, such as senior living, were identified to address the changing needs of residents over their lifetimes so they can continue to live in Round Rock.

Implementation Strategies:

- Strive to limit two and three story walk-up multifamily units to 20% of the housing stock to the extent feasible, except when located in mixed- and multi-use areas.
- Examine tools to provide incentives for specific dwelling types that do not currently exist in Round Rock or where more units are desired.
- Provide information regarding affordable housing initiatives and programs available to Round Rock residents.
- Examine parking and garage requirements for all residential types.
- Consider amendments to the small lot requirements of the Round Rock Development Code or the creation of a new zoning district to facilitate more affordable single-family homes
- Research best planning practices concerning tiny homes and other housing trends to consider integration into the Round Rock Development Code.
- Explore policies for allowing accessory dwelling units in neighborhoods including specific criteria and design features except where prohibited by homeowners associations.
- Consider rezoning proposals that facilitate the development of missing middle housing. Examples might include low-density townhome and multifamily integrated into neighborhoods, multiple units on one lot, identification of corridors where condominium arrangements are small detached or attached units, high rise multifamily in mixed-use developments, and small lot

single-family neighborhoods with special parking requirements.

Meeting Housing Demands

A new SF-3 (Single Family - Mixed) zoning district was created to encourage a variety of single-family lot sizes and price points within a single development. Up to 30% of the lots may be smaller (5,000 sq. ft.) than was previously permitted in Round Rock, if at least 40% are large lots (minimum 10,000 sq. ft.) and at least 30% are medium lots (minimum 6, 500 sq. ft.). Recently, the City of Round Rock has approved a Single Family Mixed Lot (SF-3) amendment which allows for a separate unit within the single family footprint that has its own kitchen. It's called Next Gen housing and most likely for elderly parents. The SF-3 zoning district has proved a popular option with developers. Between May 2018 and July 2019, almost 700 undeveloped acres were zoned SF-3. Since 2015, eight condominium projects consisting of single-family houses on a common lot have been approved as Planned Unit Developments (PUDs). These projects have demonstrated demand for a new type of housing for Round Rock which are smaller owner-occupied single-family units with exterior maintenance performed by a condominium association. Increased density and less land consumed by public infrastructure results in lower development costs. With this housing product, developers have been able to deliver new housing units at a more affordable price than houses in conventional subdivisions. In addition to a continuing concern for greater housing unit variety, public input for Round Rock 2030 also revealed significant concerns about housing affordability, referring to the price point of market rate housing rather than subsidized housing. This is a change from the concern expressed in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan that too much of the city's housing stock consisted of inexpensive starter homes. Concerns about housing affordability and lack of availability of certain housing types are often common in high-growth areas. The need for intermediately-sized and priced housing that falls between single-family houses and large apartment complexes is frequently referred to as the missing middle. Planning policy experts are currently experimenting with ways to encourage more missing middle housing. The popularity of single-family garden style residential in Round Rock indicates a demand for smaller, lower maintenance, and affordable housing. Challenges in the next decade include both expanding the range of housing forms constructed and widening the mix of unit types within a subdivision. For example, a new zoning district similar to SF-3 might also allow duplexes and bungalow courts. The city should investigate ways to diversify housing types in existing subdivisions, such as allowing accessory dwelling units. With an increased demand for smaller single-family homes, best practices should also be investigated for single-family houses with shared parking, tiny houses, row houses, and bungalow courts.

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

Despite efforts, there remain a number of significant obstacles to meeting underserved needs. The following obstacles to meeting these needs in Round Rock are: Population growth; High cost of housing; Cut backs in state and federal funding for basic needs and the need for transportation to existing services and childcare exceed available resources to meet these needs. To address the population

growth and the high cost of housing, the Round Rock Area Serving Center provides rent/mortgage, food pantry and utility assistance. The City funded the RRASC for these programs with CDBG program year 19 funds.

The following programs also help address the cut backs in state and federal funding and the need for childcare and transportation to existing services:

Senior Access was provided \$30,000 in General Fund money in the 2019 program year to provide door to door transportation to seniors to doctors appointments, pharmacies, grocery stores, to pay bills, and to social service agencies for services.

Foundation Community was awarded \$15,000 General Fund grant money in program year 2019 to provide free tax preparation to low to moderate income families.

Meals on Wheels was funded with \$5,000 in CDBG 2019 funds to provide warm meals to homebound and congregate seniors year round.

Head Start is not funded with CDBG funds but provides affordable childcare to low income and homeless families in Round Rock.

In order to meet transportation demand, the city developed a fix route bus service that was designed and focused on access to employment services to meet the needs of the low income and minority populations to jobs, education and employment. This service offers ADA paratransit services as well for anyone with a disability that prevents them from being able to ride any fixed route vehicle, disembark from any fixed route vehicle or travel independently all or some of the time on any fixed route vehicle.

Council has also passed an ordinance that allows Round Rock Transit to sell discount bus passes to non-profit and government agencies for the purpose of distributing the passes to low income persons and families that meet the participation requirements.

The City also provides residents with the Guide to Affordable Housing in the Greater Austin Area. This guide is a tool for people seeking affordable rental housing in the Austin area that includes Round Rock. The guide contains general information on housing programs funded on the local, county, state and federal levels, as well as specific information about complexes participating in these programs. It contains lists and explanations of rental housing with rent restrictions, income based rents and tenant income limits. The Guide to Affordable Housing is available at City hall and also a link to the guide is provided on the CDBG webpage on the City website.

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

Most of the housing stock in Round Rock was built post 1978. The City funded minor home repair in the 2019 program year which has lead based policies and procedures in place to comply with the Residential

Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X) and subsequent changes in September 1999. These procedures include notification, identification, and treatment (if necessary). Although most of the housing developments in Round Rock occurred after the use of the lead based paint was banned, it is practice to include the Acknowledgement of Lead Based Paint Testing of Property Built Before 1978 form and the Protect your Family from Lead pamphlet as part of the minor home repair packet regardless if the homeowner lives in a home built prior to 1978 or not.

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

During the 2019 program year the City of Round Rock took the following actions to reduce the number of poverty level families:

- City of Round Rock Community Development Division (CDBG) was funded with CDBG funds to provide minor home repair for the low and very low income residents in Round Rock. A total of 7 households were assisted during the program year with repairs to include fence, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, weatherization, and ADA improvements. This is an on-going project that will continue into program year 2020.
- Round Rock Area Serving Center was funded with CDBG program year 2019 to provide rent and mortgage assistance and access to their food pantry. A total of 1054 unduplicated low to moderate income Round Rock households received services with CDBG funds at the Serving Center.

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

Executive implementation of the Consolidated Plan involves a variety of agencies. Collaboration and coordination between agencies is important to ensuring that the needs in the community are addressed. The key agencies involved are described below:

- Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD)-offers a variety of a services including alcohol and drug testing, WIC, family assistance, public health services, senior services, emergency services, and HIV testing and counseling.
- Round Rock Housing Authority (RRHA) administers the Housing Choice (Section 8) Voucher program. The City works closely with the RRHA regarding public housing issues.
- Opportunities for Williamson-Burnet Counties provides meals to seniors.
- Senior Access provides door to door as needed transportation to seniors.
- United Way continues working with people and organizations throughout Williamson County to build stronger communities and improve lives.

In addition to meeting with these agencies during the development of the consolidated plan the City CDBG staff networks with these agencies and others by attending the Williamson County Non Profit Networking Meetings the first Tuesday of every month at the Alan R. Baca Center. By attending these meetings CDBG staff can keep up and strengthen existing relationships with agencies and also get to

know new agencies that are providing needed services in the area. This monthly meeting has allowed the development of institutional structure among social service agencies and will make it easy for the CDBG staff to promote CDBG public hearings and stakeholder meetings.

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

In order to increase the coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies the CDBG staff attends the following:

- Monthly Round Rock Housing Authority board meetings where the needs of public housing residents are discussed and addressed.
- Monthly Williamson County Non Profit Networking Meetings where public and private housing providers and social service agencies attend to discuss the needs of the residents and how to close the gaps in Round Rock.
- Quarterly Homeless Coalition Meetings where agencies that provide services to homeless and those at-risk of becoming homeless come to discuss how to meet the needs and how to work together to provide the resources to this population.
- Meet with the neighboring grantees and public housing agencies to discuss the goals identified in the joint Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing.
- Meet with local realtors, public housing agencies, apartment managers and management companies to educate them on Fair Housing during Fair Housing Month in April.

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

The City of Round Rock was part of the Central Texas Joint Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) study and is also a member of the Central Texas Fair Housing Working Group. The working group is made up of staff from each of the entities that participated in the Joint AI. The group meets to collaborate and coordinate on the implementation of regional fair housing goals and affordable housing interests. The group was about to meet for the first time in early March but had to postpone the in-person meeting due to COVID-19. The group eventually met for the first time virtually in the fall and will continue to meet virtually quarterly.

Primary findings in Round Rock:

Segregation and integration: Segregation and lack of access to economic opportunity persists in many areas of the region. Some residents still face barriers to reaching their economic potential and residents of certain races, ethnicities, disability status, and household characteristics are more affected than others. The good news is that these barriers are lowest in Round Rock than the other entities that participated in the Central Texas AI study.

- **Resident diversity.** Of all the jurisdictions represented in the AI, the city of Round Rock best represents resident diversity in race, ethnicity and national origin.
- **Family poverty.** Overall, in the region, African American and Hispanic families have much higher rates of poverty than Non-Hispanic White and Asian families.
- **Segregation.** Round Rock also has relatively low segregation of residents by race, ethnicity and disability.

Disproportionate housing needs. Housing access differs among the jurisdictions in the Central Texas region, within jurisdictions, and among household groups. Where the differences appear to create negative outcome for households, these are identified as disproportionate needs. The largest concerns in Round Rock include:

- **Homeownership gap.** The homeownership rate for Black/African American households in round rock is 42 percent compared to 68 percent for Non-Hispanic White households. The rate is 50 percent for Hispanic households. According to the resident survey, many more residents in Round Rock could become homeowners if they had down payment assistance.

Access to opportunity. Access to opportunity-good jobs and skill development, quality school, healthy food and access to the outdoors, supportive services, and affordable transportation-are a significant factor in the ability of residents to grow economically. According to residents, Round Rock stands out in this area: Round Rock residents are less likely than survey respondents regionally to live in neighborhoods with inadequate sidewalks, streetlights, drainage or other infrastructure. They are likely to live in neighborhoods with quality schools and access to the community amenities that residents value-shopping entertainment, recreational opportunities. the one exception is transportation: as the region grows and traffic becomes more congested-and travel become less predictable-Round Rock and its surrounding communities will need to address public transportation challenges.

Fair Housing

Summary: In summary, compared to the region, the City of Round Rock stands out for relatively low segregation and high racial and ethnic diversity of residents, as well as rising incomes of African American households relative to housing costs. In addition, Round Rock renters are less likely to worry about rent increases.

Where the City could improve: The City will need to work to expand affordability options as the Central Texas region grows and Round Rock absorbs more of the demand for affordable housing. The City will work to regionally improve and expand affordable public transportation options.

Actions taken to overcome the effects of impediments identified and future actions are as follows:

- A Joint AI Working Group has been created and City staff will attend meetings.
- Provide Fair Housing Workshops and work with Fair Housing Agencies to provide outreach and

education to build renters' fair housing rights knowledge, with a focus on reaching vulnerable residents including persons with disabilities and families with children.

- Foster a culture of inclusion for residents with disabilities, reviewing websites and other communications for ease of finding information pertinent to residents with disabilities, increasing resources at jurisdiction festivals and events (i.e., accessible parking spaces, shuttles, other accommodations), and other efforts to signal that people with disabilities are a valued part of the community.
- Fund a Bus Stops Project that will install ADA accessible bus stops.
- Continue to fund park projects that include ADA accessible play grounds and amenities.
- Continue to fund sidewalk project that include ADA curb and ramps.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

The City of Round Rock has developed a monitoring system that includes monitoring policies, procedures and standards to ensure that all activities carried out with the CDBG funds are done so in a timely manner in accordance with federal monitoring requirements, and all other applicable laws, regulations, policies and sound management and accounting practices including all the requirements of 24 CFR 570.502, 2 CFR 200.238, 2 CFR 200.331 (d) and any other applicable federal requirements.

Subrecipients are monitored to ensure that they have implemented and administered their CDBG funded activities according to applicable Federal Requirements. Particular attention is paid to compliance with eligible and national objective requirements. Other areas emphasized are the financial management systems , internal controls, procurement practices and compliance with civil rights requirements.

When applicable, subrecipients are required to submit copies of paid receipts, timesheets, income documentation, client data and self-certification forms with their monthly requests for reimbursement. This information is used to determine the number of unduplicated beneficiaries. Monthly reports were submitted by each subrecipient so staff could monitor the progress of each activity, provide technical assistance or consultation when needed to ensure that all objectives are met.

Subrecipients are evaluated and scored for risk level with a risk assessment yearly before the on-site monitoring visits are conducted. On-site monitoring consists of a 5 step process:

1. Notification Letter
2. Entrance Conference
3. Documentation, Data Acquisition and Analysis
4. Exit Conference
5. Follow-up Monitoring Letter and Report

The on-site monitoring will evaluate program administration and regulatory compliance to include the following:

- Conformance to Subrecipient Agreement
- Record Keeping Systems
- Financial Management Systems
- Insurance

- Procurement Procedures
- Equipment
- Non-Discrimination and Actions to Further Fair Housing

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

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

In order to provide citizens with a reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on the CAPER, a Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Round Rock Leader on November 28, 2020 in English and Spanish. The notices were also posted on the City bulletin at city hall on November 20, 2020 as well as on the city website, CDBG webpage, Next Door, Round Rock Housing Authority and Library. The public hearing on the CAPER was held on December 17, 2020 before city council. The public was given 18 days to comment either in person or in writing from December 1 to December 18, 2020. _____ comment was received and is attached in attachment #5. The public hearing was held at council chambers which is accessible to persons with disabilities. The city is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications can always be provided upon request and is noted in the notices. City staff was present and available at the public hearing to translate for persons with limited english proficiency.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

During the 2019-2020 program year there were no changes in the jurisdictions program objectives. The City of Round Rock did not have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiatives Grants (BEDI) during this program year therefore there are no BEDI accomplishments or pgoram outcomes to report in this CAPER report. Currently the City of Round Rock does not have any Section 108 loans.

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

grants?

No

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

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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