

Community Development Block Grant

# 2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN



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**ROME**  
the copper city

## Executive Summary

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

#### 1. Introduction

The 2024 Action Plan will mark the 5<sup>th</sup> program year of the 2020-2024 five year consolidated plan, made possible through the HUD CDBG annual entitlement funding. Objectives of this action plan include expanding employment opportunities, increasing economic activity, supporting parks and recreation facilities, improving access to health and wellness programs, and supporting and enhancing low to moderate income individuals enter the homeownership market. These goals are directly related to the Community Needs Assessment of 2017, and are identified within the current Consolidated Plan adopted in 2020. The City will also progress neighborhood improvement projects related to the Brownfield Opportunity Areas and Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan including street and sidewalk and accessibility upgrades to public facilities, and address slums and blight throughout the target area. The City will continue to support its public service organizations to meet critical community needs, and continue its legacy program known as the Commercial Façade Improvement Program. As a recommended action within the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, this action plan includes continuing the First Time Homebuyer Assistance program. The program supplies income qualified applicants with financial assistance for down payment and closing costs associated with the purchase of their first home within the City of Rome. Lastly, the City of Rome will continue to contract with CNY Fair Housing Office to offer support in investigating fair housing complaints, providing legal representation to victims of discrimination, conducting fair housing education and outreach, and providing research and technical assistance to the City of Rome with best practices on affirmatively further fair housing.

#### 2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

- **Objective #1: Improve public facilities.**
  - Public facilities such as street and park improvements, within the CDBG target area will be designed and constructed to address accessibility and quality of life

in and around target neighborhoods to promote quality communities and health and wellness with an emphasis on the City's passive and active parks.

- **Objective #2: Support economic activity.**
  - Economic development activity will include continued funding for the commercial façade improvement program. An economic development strategy was undertaken previously and identifies opportunities for small business grants focused around job retention and growth.
- **Objective #3: Support public services.**
  - Public Services organizations that deliver services to raise educational achievement, support local arts, culture and tourism, improve access to health and wellness programs, and who directly deal with health and safety needs of the community will be supported through a request for application process.
- **Objective #4: Address slums and blight and brownfields within the target area.**
  - The City will continue to support Real Property activities that address vacant and abandoned structures considered unfit and unsafe which are also considered blighted properties.
- **Objective #5: Support affordable housing.**
  - The City will continue to utilize prior funding into a first-time homebuyer down payment assistance program as well as conducting fair housing education and outreach through partnerships with regional housing agencies to address identified fair housing goals contained within the 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

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

The City of Rome continues to use the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) which was undertaken in collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and other federal, state, and local partners published in 2017. The CNA will and has served as the basis for the local operating plan that allows the City to have long term goals, as well as an executed 2-year action plan on the most immediate needs stated within the plan. 6 goals were stated that can be used over many years to continue to help the city grow, create jobs, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, enhance local arts, cultural and tourism opportunities, improve access to health and wellness programs, and provide enhanced housing opportunities. Since adoption, the City has used this plan as a guide when

identifying needs from year to year. The City continues to use this plan as a road map to further meet the goals set forth year to year, with adapting priorities and views for specific Annual Action Plans. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing was recently updated in 2020. This update has been a key tool in developing housing initiatives that are currently being undertaken as part of the AAP and will continue to serve as a guide each year as we strive to meet our goals outlined in the plan.

#### **4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

*This section will be completed once all community outreach efforts are collected.*

#### **5. Summary of public comments**

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

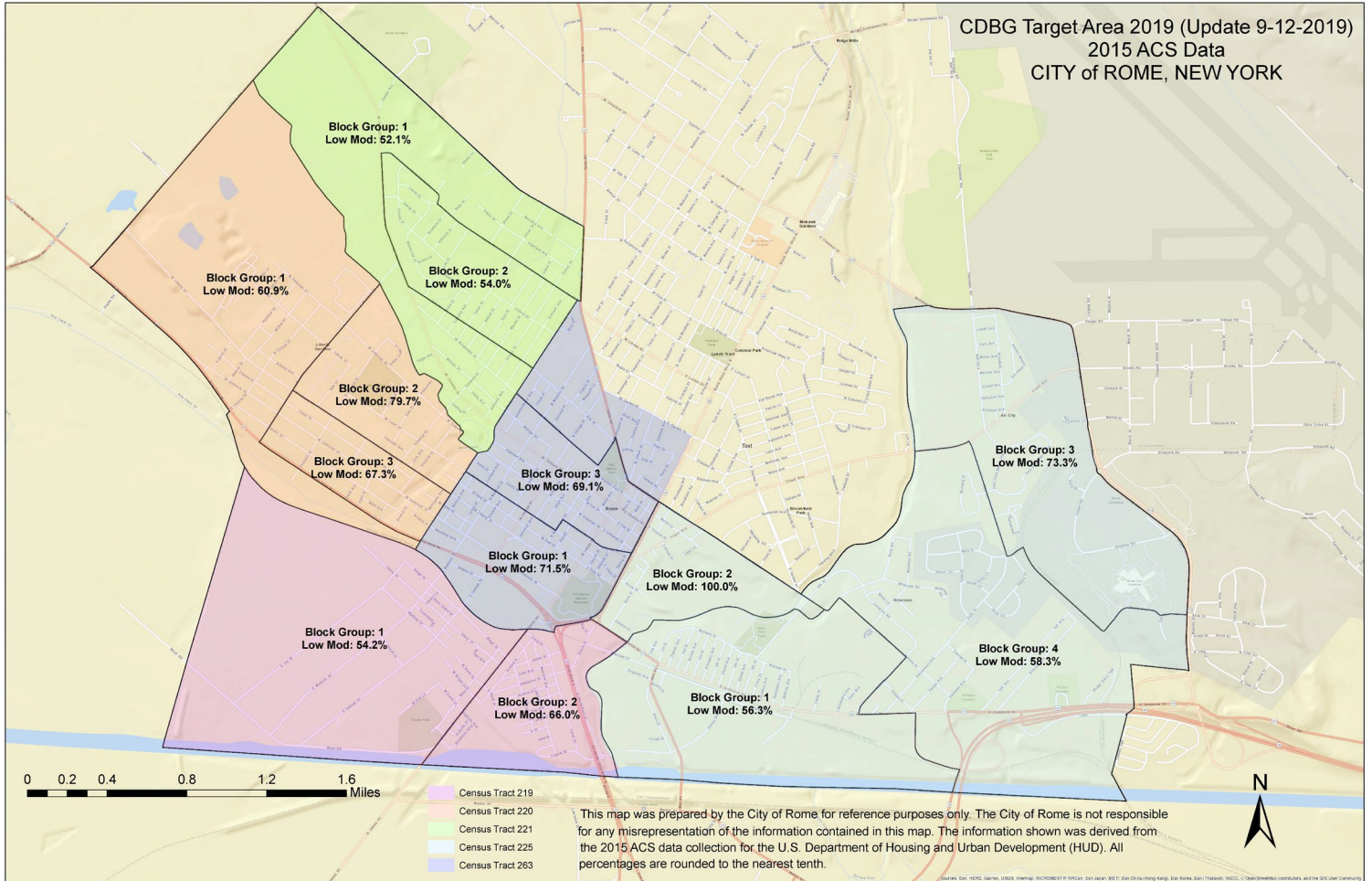
*This section will be completed once all community outreach efforts are collected.*

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

There were no comments or views not accepted from the public during the citizen participation process.

#### **7. Summary**

See below for CDBG target area map.



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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	ROME	Ashley D’Amore

**Table 1 – Responsible Agencies**

**Narrative (optional)**

**Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

The City of Rome’s Community and Economic Development staff is responsible for the preparation of the Annual Action Plans (AAP) as well as the 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan along with the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER). Such staff is responsible for administering the CDBG grant program each year.

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

### **1. Introduction**

The City of Rome continues to have close working relationships with local organizations and agencies whose goals and initiatives align with those of the community and the CDBG program. Through sitting on multiple committees, the City is committed to staying involved with different community problems and initiatives to help make strides in determining positive outcomes, but also as a resource for possible funding gaps as well.

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

The City of Rome has been a long-time active member of the Utica/Rome Oneida and Madison Counties Continuum of Care (CoC NY-518 also known as the *Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition*) to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers (including the Rome Municipal Housing Authority and supportive housing providers with units in Rome including ACR health, YWCA of the Mohawk Valley, Catholic Charities of Oneida and Madison County, ICAN, Helio Health) and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (including the Oneida County Department of Mental Health, Rome Community Hospital and the Community Recovery Center Behavioral Health Clinic located there and a myriad of additional behavioral health and supportive housing providers). The City of Rome and Rome Municipal Housing Authority have also been actively involved in a county-wide coalition to reduce the level of childhood lead poisoning from sub-standard housing with lead paint.

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

Over the past 17 years, the City of Rome has been a key partner in the Utica/Rome, Oneida and Madison Counties Continuum of Care (CoC NY-518). Locally known as the Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition, this region has a comprehensive set of emergency and supportive housing resources available to the residents of the City of Rome, which makes up the second largest city in the two-county CoC. The City of Rome is represented on the CoC’s Board and is active in strategic planning to end homelessness for the CoC in general and the City of Rome in particular. The center of the jurisdiction’s activities to provide and enhance this coordination is as a Board member of CoC which meets quarterly in addition to participating in 7 plenary CoC meetings each year. City of Rome representatives and Rome service providers are also actively involved in numerous additional CoC Committee meetings to coordinate activities for domestic violence victims, homeless youth, homeless veterans, and persons in recovery. See [www.mvhomeless.org](http://www.mvhomeless.org) for meeting agendas and additional details.

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

The City of Rome does not receive ESG funding at this time.

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

See table below.

<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	City of Rome		
<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local		
<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	All of the above		
<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	All City Departments were consulted during this process to make sure all individual needs within the City as well as the Common Council members.		
<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	ROME HOUSING AUTHORITY		
<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA		
<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Public Housing Needs		
<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The RHA was consulted for some updates on current housing projects and any new updates they felt applicable.		
<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Mohawk Valley Continuum of Care		
<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless		

<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy		
<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Coc helped in updates with point in time data, as well as detailed narratives on certain homelessness sections of the plan that incorporated new projects and updates to programs.		
<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC)		
<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Planning organization		
<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	2024 Spending Plan		
<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The CDAC committee meets periodically throughout the program year, for the purpose of this plan they met to go over prior year's spending plans to make the 2024 spending plan recommendations to the Mayor.		

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

The City of Rome welcomes and encourages input from any agency type, and no agency type was knowingly excluded from the process.

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Coc	Elimination/awareness of Homelessness
Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Plan	MVRED Council	Job creation/capacity building
Downtown Rome Brownfield Opportunity Area Plan	City of Rome	Accessibility upgrades/Brownfield redevelopment
Erie Blvd Brownfield Opportunity Area Plan	City of Rome	Accessibility upgrades/Brownfield redevelopment
Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)	NYS Department of State	Job creation/retention/ADA improvement/blight removal/ strategic plan
Comprehensive Plan	City of Rome	Accessibility upgrades/Brownfield redevelopment
Woodhaven Redevelopment Strategy	City of Rome	Job creation/retention/ADA improvement/blight removal/ strategic plan
2020-2024 CDBG Consolidated Plan	City of Rome	Goals as part of projects and objectives

**Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts**

**Narrative (optional)**

**AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)**

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

*This section will be completed once all community outreach efforts are collected.*

**Citizen Participation Outreach**

<b>Sort Order</b>	<b>Mode of Outreach</b>	<b>Target of Outreach</b>	<b>Summary of response/attendance</b>	<b>Summary of comments received</b>	<b>Summary of comments not accepted and reasons</b>	<b>URL (if applicable)</b>

**Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach**

## Expected Resources

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

#### **Introduction**

Funds obligated in PY2024 for Commercial facade program, Public Services, Economic Development Activities, and Public Facilities Projects are expected to be used in 2024 along with and prior years funding. It is expected that the City of Rome will receive approximately the same dollar

amount of annual CDBG funding allocation throughout the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan period.

**Anticipated Resources**

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	Public-Federal	Planning & Admin, Public Facility Improvements, Public Services, Economic Development, Real Property Site Clearance, and Housing Services		0	0		0	Funds obligated in PY2024 for Commercial facade program, Public Services, Economic Development Activities, and Public Street Projects are expected to be used in 2024 along with and prior years funding. It is expected that the City of Rome will receive approximately the same dollar amount of CDBG funding into the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

Federal funds will be used to leverage local, state, private and other sources of funding to progress community development initiatives and implement related projects to culminate in an improved well-rounded quality community. Public service dollars will be used to leverage local

private and public organizational funding for programs aimed to benefit low to moderate income residents including domestic violence shelters, and youth education and at-risk preventative programs. Public facility dollars will be used to leverage a combination of New York State, private developers, and federal funding to support and enhance community development and housing projects. These projects will include pedestrian accessibility and streetscape enhancements throughout the Main Streets areas, Brownfield Opportunity Areas, Woodhaven Redevelopment Area, and the Downtown Revitalization Initiative area. Funding will leverage projects which include job creation, low to moderate income individual benefits, and elimination of slums and blight. Public facilities will also include targeted improvements to target area parks which will be leveraged with local and state dollars as necessary. Housing and mixed-use development projects will be supported through public facility and economic development funding as appropriate. CDBG funding will provide the important gap funding for these projects to make each project complete and transformational. CDBG funds will further leverage FEMA disaster relief funding to begin to reconstruction of Pinti Field that was badly damaged during Tropical Storm Fred.

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

The City has been working diligently on repurposing a significant tract of land within the CDBG low/mod target area. As noted in previous Action Plans, the City acquired approximately 100 acres of land within the inside district as part of a bankruptcy settlement with the former owners. This land was formerly used as Air Force Base housing, which was decommissioned in 1995. The City recently completed demolition of the hazardous structures and completed a redevelopment strategy for the land, including a new zoning district and associated zoning code. Through responses to a request for proposals, the selected developer has completed phase 1 of the redevelopment which includes a new residential housing, which are currently marketed for sale. Phase 2 will include construction of a new YMCA facility and implementation of mixed-use and other housing options which will support the growth of the Griffiss Business and Technology Park and the City of Rome in the coming decades. The City was also a recent recipient of the Community Project Fund (CPF) grant funded through HUD. This grant was awarded for redevelopment of the a portion of the site for access improvements from Floyd Avenue to Vega Drive. Vega Drive was formerly a military housing subdivision that supported the now closed Griffiss Air Force Base, but has been undergoing redevelopment to support the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) and the United States Department of Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) workforce. The awarded project will construct a public right of way including roadway, sidewalks, recreation paths, utility connections, tree plantings, lighting, and public open space with an emphasis on ADA compliance and complete street designs. Additionally, a second CPF award was issued to undertake complete streets improvements to Park Drive, a public right of way that bisects this low/mod income development area.

## **Discussion**

In conjunction with newly allocated funding, the City is making a continued effort to progress and close out prior years funds to continue to be up to date on the current years allocation projects and activities within the CDBG program.

## Annual Goals and Objectives

### AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

#### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Planning and Administration	2020	2024	Administration	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Planning and Administration	CDBG: \$170,000.00	Other: 175000 Other
2	Public Services	2020	2024	Public Services	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Public Services	CDBG: \$130,000.00	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 150 Persons Assisted
3	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$500,000.00	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2500 Persons Assisted
4	Economic Development	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Economic Development	CDBG: \$100,000.00	Businesses Assisted: 2
5	Real Property	2020	2024	Site Clearance	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Real Property	CDBG: \$100,000.00	Buildings Demolished: 5 Buildings

Table 6 – Goals Summary

## Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has allocated \$ 170,000.00 in PY2024 funds for program administration; these funds will be used for staff salaries, supplies, equipment, and any housing/environmental study related costs which will aid the City's Department of Community & Economic Development in the administration of its CDBG program. This amount is consistent with CDAC allocations to program administration in prior years.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Activities typically funded include but are not limited to: youth educational development, domestic violence shelters, health services, and creative development.
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Goal Description</b>	For the 2024 funding, its intended to utilize \$500,000.00 in CDBG funding for ADA pedestrian improvements for sidewalks, and safety measures on the streets, and target area park enhancements.
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Goal Description</b>	For 2024 funding, the City will continue to support its legacy program of Commercial Façade rehabilitations as well as small business development assistance.
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Real Property
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2024 PY funding, however all buildings have been returned to city control via foreclosure on back-taxes. All buildings demolished are deemed condemned and uninhabitable by the City Codes Department according to NYS Uniform Building Code and local/county ordinances.

# Projects

## AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

### Introduction

The City of Rome proposes to undertake the following projects to fulfill the 2024 Annual Action Plan.

### Projects

#	Project Name
1	Planning and Administration
2	Public Services
3	Public Facilities
4	Economic Development
5	Real Property

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The City in conjunction with the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) as well as the public comments received throughout this process have chosen to allocate funding as stated in section AP-38 Project Summary. The allocation also reflects goals and objectives indicated in the BOA, DRI and other neighborhood redevelopment plan.

## AP-38 Project Summary

### Project Summary Information

1	<b>Project Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Funding</b>	: \$170,000
	<b>Description</b>	The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has allocated \$ 170,000 in PY2024 funds for program administration; these funds will be used for staff salaries, supplies, equipment, and any housing/environmental study related costs which will aid the City's Department of Community & Economic Development in the administration of its CDBG program. This amount is consistent with CDAC allocations to program administration in prior years.
	<b>Target Date</b>	3/31/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	N/A
	<b>Location Description</b>	N/A
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	N/A
2	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Target Area</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Services

	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	: \$130,000
	<b>Description</b>	The City will have an open RFP period for public service organizations to submit funding proposals.
	<b>Target Date</b>	3/31/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Typically our public service organizations submit proposals for programmatic activities that benefit approximately 100-1000 persons per year in aggregate.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The public service organization applying for funding must be locally operated with funding going towards the benefit of Rome citizens exclusively.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Activities typically funded include but are not limited to: youth educational development, domestic violence shelters, health services, and creative development.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Facilities
	<b>Target Area</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	: \$500,000
	<b>Description</b>	The Community Development Advisory Committee, and City of Rome routinely allocate significant portions of their entitlement funding award to support of public facilities or improvements. For the 2024 funding, its intended to utilize \$500,000 in CDBG funding for ADA pedestrian improvements for not only sidewalks, and safety measures on the streets, but as well as target area park enhancements.
	<b>Target Date</b>	3/31/2025

	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The City expects that this project will benefit the entire City of Rome, with special emphasis on those who live, work, and travel in the targeted area. This project will allow the local parks to be more accessible by all as well as pedestrian improvements to sidewalks and streets located in the CDBG target area.
	<b>Location Description</b>	James Street Parks Improvements, Pinti Field Improvements, Throns Park court resurfacing, Guyer Field Park Improvements, and other areas within the CDBG target area.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Upgrades to public street and pedestrian areas, target area parks, and connecting neighborhoods.
4	<b>Project Name</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Target Area</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Funding</b>	: \$100,000
	<b>Description</b>	This funding allocation is for a continuation of the City existing, and successful, Commercial Façade program intended to create or retain low/moderate income jobs and reduce slum and blight in the main street corridors. This funding is also supporting small business development in the City of Rome.
	<b>Target Date</b>	3/31/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Those families who live in, work in, or travel in the neighborhoods improved by the façade or small business grant program are benefitted by job creation/retention, and a reduction in slum and blight in the surrounding area.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The City is soliciting businesses within the main street and downtown areas to participate in these programs as a priority area.
5	<b>Project Name</b>	Real Property
	<b>Target Area</b>	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK

<b>Goals Supported</b>	Real Property
<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Real Property
<b>Funding</b>	: \$100,000
<b>Description</b>	The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2024 PY funding, however all buildings have been returned to city control via foreclosure on back-taxes. All buildings demolished are deemed condemned and uninhabitable by the City Codes Department according to NYS Uniform Building Code and local/county ordinances.
<b>Target Date</b>	3/31/2025
<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The entire City of Rome will benefit from a reduction in abandoned unsafe, and dilapidated buildings.
<b>Location Description</b>	The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2024 PY funding, however all buildings have been returned to city control via foreclosure on back-taxes. All buildings demolished are deemed condemned and uninhabitable by the City Codes Department according to NYS Uniform Building Code and local/county ordinances.

## **AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)**

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

Public Facilities, Economic Development and Real Property projects will be strategically selected each year in targeted areas throughout the low/moderate income target area map. These areas will be selected through a collaboration of city departments working together to address the highest priority needs each year. The projects used to leverage funding in the Downtown Rome BOA, Erie BOA, Downtown Revitalization Initiative target area, and Woodhaven Area will take priority, focusing around accessibility and sustainability. Strategic demolitions within the target area will help pave the way for neighborhood revitalization and reinvestment. Public services will be city wide but benefitting majority of low to moderate income individuals.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	100

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

Within the CNA, emphasis has been placed on implementing community projects within these target areas and funding will be tied to implementation projects identified within the BOA, DRI, and Woodhaven plans. The Downtown Revitalization Initiative area is now included as a targeted planning area within the City of Rome.

### **Discussion**

# Affordable Housing

## AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

### Introduction

The City of Rome continues to affirmatively further fair housing through encouraging the development of affordable housing in the community and through several new CDBG projects. To address items of concern contained within the 2020 Analysis to Impediments of Fair Housing (AI), the City has undertaken the following actions in Program Year 2024. The City has contracted with CNY Fair Housing, Inc. to spread fair housing awareness to renters and landlords with trainings and informational sessions. The City will also be working with a community organization to continue to deliver the homebuyer assistance program within the City of Rome. The Down Payment Assistance program launched early 2023 and had its first successfully participant close on their home in the summer of 2023. The City will continue to promote tenants’ rights by supplying citizens with the Tenants’ Rights Guide, which is produced by the NYS Attorney General. Each of these actions take meaningful steps to address housing related concerns that were documented in the 2020 AI report.

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

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

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

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

### Discussion

## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

### **Introduction**

The Rome Housing Authority has four properties located within the City of Rome, New York. These properties are for low income seniors, disabled and families. We currently have one Public Housing Building, Valentine Apartments, as one of these properties. The remaining three properties, Liberty Garden Apartments, Colonial I and now Colonial II have all undergone a conversion from Public Housing to Low Income Housing Tax Credits with Project Based Housing Assistance. The Rome Housing Authority strides to provide all of our tenants with decent, safe and affordable housing. The conversions of Liberty Garden Apartments, Colonial I and Colonial II have allowed the Rome Housing Authority to update all of the property from the infrastructures to the apartments, allowing full ADA units for not just seniors/disabled but also for families.

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

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

The Rome Housing Authority has a tenant advisory board for the Colonial I, Colonial II and Valentine Apartments. They meet with the tenants on a monthly basis for coffee hour, to discuss their concerns and get their input on upcoming projects. There are also two “tenant elect” commissioners who are elected to the Rome Housing Authority Board for a two-year period. These commissioners, along with the five appointed by the Mayor oversee the Rome Housing Authority.

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

The Rome Housing Authority has not been designated as a troubled entity.

### **Discussion**

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

### **Introduction**

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

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

**Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

**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**

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

### **Discussion**

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

### **Introduction:**

As overall home prices within the City of Rome are generally within the affordable range as compared to the US average, the local taxing system and building codes of New York State could be having a negative overall effect on home-ownership. Over the next decade, its anticipated that a mix of both market rate, mid-market, and affordable housing options will be constructed within the City of Rome. This could lead to the existing housing market to be less competitive and overall pricing to level out based on supply and demand assumptions. However, with economic development trending in a positive direction and population loss expected to decline, the overall effect from the new housing options on the existing housing stock could be negligible. Agencies such as the Rome Housing Authority will continue to upgrade their existing facilities into updated modern units and continue to provide a high level of supply to the affordable availability of the area.

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

Assisted by HUD, the City had undergone a Community Needs Assessment which we have continued to use to better eliminate barriers to affordable housing by identifying ways to reduce the tax burden and improve the economic situation of the City and its residents. The City has undergone a complete zoning code update including subdivisions regulations. The City also recognized that its last housing study was completed in 2008 in conjunction with the City of Utica. The City had undertook partnering with the City of Utica once again to update these Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. This was completed in the beginning of 2021. This has given the city an updated look at barriers that no longer are a major concern, new unknown barriers, or other approaches to undertake the barriers found within this study.

### **Discussion:**

## **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction:**

#### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs include research work to better identify the barriers to the development of the affordable housing inventory in Rome including in-depth interviews with street homeless persons conducted by the CoC to more effectively bring the perspectives and ideas of those with lived experience into the community planning process and to better identify these obstacles. The CoC Planning Office also developed a Landlord Initiative in 2020 with the goal of expanding the inventory of affordable and supportive housing units in Rome and throughout the CoC region by better engaging private property owners and supporting their efforts to maintain and develop more affordable and supportive units.

#### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing include the above mentioned CoC Landlord Initiative with the goal of expanding the inventory of affordable and supportive housing units in Rome and throughout the CoC region by better engaging private property owners and supporting their efforts to maintain and develop more affordable. The CoC is now working to develop and new Landlord Support Office to provide a wide range supports to the private property owners who own and manage the vast proportion of rental housing stock in Rome and elsewhere in the CoC. Over the past two years, the CoC actively engaged area landlords through a comprehensive menu of strategies to promote retainment and expansion of safe and affordable rental stock. These efforts included a quarterly landlord newsletter and a landlord recognition event. Our ability to foster and maintain affordable housing in Rome was strained in the wake of the COVID crisis, both federal and state eviction moratoriums, and the delay in getting Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funding to landlords who had not received rent from many of their low-income tenants. In the past two years many landlords sold their properties and many others raised the rent beyond the Fair Market Rent standard reducing the inventory of affordable units to the point where the Rome Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8.) Households qualified and enrolled in the HCV Program are often unable to find rental units in Rome that meet HUD standards. The key action to address this is the new Landlord Support Office that is designed to encourage local investment in rental unit properties by supporting rental property owners with tenant mediation services, damage repair funding, and information on how to access and navigate government programs like ERAP

to maintain their affordable rental units.

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

Actions to address LBP hazards are centered on the City of Rome's active participation in a regional initiative to raise awareness and to effectively address LBP hazards in Oneida and Herkimer Counties, including in the City of Rome. This regional initiative was developed in 2018 and is coordinated by the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties and involves multiple partners including the HomeOwnership Center, the Oneida County Department of Health, the Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition (CoC NY-518) and the Cities of Utica and Rome in Oneida County, NY. Actions taken by this group that is managed by four full-time staff dedicated to reducing LBP hazards include 1.) a public awareness campaign, production and dissemination of both print and video materials; 2.) providing funding for and facilitating the introduction of lead testing of children at local health clinics and schools; 3.) Supporting Lead-Free MV Coalition member organizations to provide information to the community about lead poisoning prevention at home shows in both Utica & Rome; 3.) Holding Lead Compliance Workshops in Oneida County in which HUD & EPA staff provide information and materials to improve understanding and increase compliance of current lead regulations by landlords, agencies, housing authority staff, and government officials; 4.) Targeted outreach to Rome's CDBG target area to increase lead testing and awareness in Rome involving the Rome Community Schools staff who worked through their existing venues (Rome Summer Program, Parent University and Kid's Farmer Market) to distribute childhood lead poisoning prevention information to parents with young children, and 5.) Development and implementation of a Community Cost Sharing Window Replacement Project that provides incentives and education for landlords who are willing to correct lead paint housing conditions specifically related to deteriorating windows. This incentive based, cost sharing approach requires applicants to comply with local ordinances and utilize interim controls for remediation of lead hazards in order to receiving financial assistance for window replacement.

### **Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

Poverty reduction goals, programs, and policies in general have two main objectives: to increase income from employment and other sources and to keep housing costs at an affordable level for the City. Affordable housing initiatives to both maintain and upgrade the existing stock of affordable housing and to add new affordable housing unit within the City are at the center of the intersection of poverty and affordable housing availability here and the City of Rome is actively involved in a number of specific initiatives in both these general areas including the development of the Rome downtown area, the Griffiss Technology Park that includes dozens of both new and existing businesses providing new living-wage employment opportunities to Rome residents. The Orgill and Cold Point Corp. facilities in Rome expanded living-wage employment opportunities allowing families to move beyond the poverty level and the City of Rome is actively engaged with attracting new business to the City to create even

more employment opportunities for families to move beyond poverty.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

The City of Rome's Department of Community and Economic Development (CED) is currently responsible for the administration of its CDBG program. CDBG projects are carried out by city staff, contractors, and other subrecipients. The City supplements the efforts of CED through general fund contracts with professional service providers as well as Mohawk Valley Edge, a local economic development agency, and will continue to rely on other City Departments and private agencies to help carry out actions identified in the Consolidated and Annual Plans. Actions planned include the development of a Landlord Support Office as outlined above.

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

The City of Rome will continue to serve on the board of the Utica/Rome, Oneida-Madison County Continuum of Care and is encouraging the commitment of more Rome-based organizations to play an active role in the CoC. In 2016, the City took an active role as part of the steering committee for the Lead-Free Mohawk Valley Initiative, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida County and has continued as it hit its 5 year mark with an extended funding award from the Community Foundation for an additional 10 years of funding. The City's active involvement in this effort will significantly increase CED's understanding of the lead hazard issue and will hopefully allow for more work to be done within the City on increasing lead hazard awareness, and exercising lead abatement.

### **Discussion:**

## **Program Specific Requirements**

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

#### **Introduction:**

#### **Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**

#### **Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)**

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

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

Total Program Income

#### **Other CDBG Requirements**

1. The amount of urgent need activities