



CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK

**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT**

**2023
CONSOLIDATED
ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE
EVALUATION
REPORT**

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ROME
the copper city

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's Department of Community & Economic Development regularly prepares three major plans and reports related to its CDBG entitlement program. Every 5 years a Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) is developed which covers a 5-year implementation period and provides details related to demographics, housing data, economic data, and outlines ways to address identified issues or concerns locally. This Plan is intended to serve as a roadmap for annual grant administration and programming of CDBG funds.

Each year within the Con Plan period, an annual Action Plan is prepared to address the Con Plan priorities. The Action Plan provides information on specific programs or activities to be carried out utilizing the CDBG dollars and resources. The Action Plan is required to be submitted to HUD each year within 60 days of the end of the program year, or depending on the funding allocation release date, 60 days after that date. The Action Plan must be submitted to HUD no later than August 16 of any given year.

After the conclusion of each program year, the City prepares a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to report on progress and expenditures for CDBG in the prior year. The CAPER is a requirement by HUD and must be completed to continue receiving CDBG assistance.

This CAPER covers the third year of the 5-year period covered by the 2020 Con Plan. It contains information on all CDBG projects that were funded, underway or completed during the program year beginning April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024 (Program Year 2023).

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
Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	10	0	0.00%		8	
Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	10	0	0.00%		4	
Planning and Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	850000	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%
Public Facilities and Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	25000	0	0.00%	2500	2500	0.00%
Public Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1000	0	0.00%	150	2075	0.00%
Slum and Blight	Demolition	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	20	0	0.00%	4	0	0.00%

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.

Highlights of Activities (Entitlement Grant)

Fair Housing and Housing programming was a continued focus in the 2023 program year, we had our first Downpayment Assistance program success in program year 2023 and hope to continue to assist LMI individuals with the reality of becoming a homeowner in the City of Rome. The City in collaboration with CNY Fair Housing, hosted another Fair Housing Training for Landlords in and around the City of Rome. Also in collaboration with CNY Fair Housing, we held a Understanding Section 3: Opportunities and Compliance training for local businesses and contractors with the resources necessary to better understand what Section 3 is, and how to comply when bidding on HUD funded projects in the City of Rome. Public Facility programming was another continued priority as the James St Parks project highlighted 2 very under utilized historic passive parks in the City's Downtown Brownfield Opportunity Area. Some of the upgrades included improved lighting and accessibility within and surrounding the parks as well as upgraded ADA crosswalks with detectable warnings. Although no funds were allocated in 2023 for economic development, the City completed 3 Commercial Façade projects utilizing prior years funding to continue the legacy program that has continued to be a need in the City of Rome. The 2023 public service program also awarded funding to 10 organizations who will perform the activities they have outlined in the City's Request for Applications for the CDBG program.

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	1608
Black or African American	256
Asian	35
American Indian or American Native	6
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	1905
Hispanic	95
Not Hispanic	0

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

Narrative

The City's public service program, the totals in the above chart are representative of the entitlement funding, as well as the CV funds. Not all racial and ethnic populations served by the City are shown in the above chart. In total the City assisted 2500 low-moderate income individuals through the public services program in program year 2023. Some funding still has yet to be reported on for the program year 2023 such as the current public services, as the City just awarded those contracts earlier this year

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	984,141	1,047,598.30
Other	public - federal	0	

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	100	100	

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

All CDBG investments were made within the target area above. The target area includes local identified geographic areas such as Main Streets, Woodhaven, Brownfield Opportunity Areas, and the Downtown Revitalization Area as well as the CDBG target area.

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.

The City has been very successful in leveraging funding to support the City's CDBG program. For public facilities, the Waterfront Village CDBG & CV funding leveraged Local Waterfront Revitalization Program & BOA Planning & Design funding with plans and concepts adopted by the City to then create actionable items that CDBG funds could assist with. The outdoor public space project known as the Copper City Commons leveraged DRI capital improvement funding related to the Liberty/George Parking Garage revitalization project. Also, several new businesses opened their doors and expanded by way of business grants made available through the business assistance funding as part of the DRI. NYS Touring Routes funding through NYSDOT were also used in leveraging the initial CDBG project investment. The Continued support for Pinti Field CDBG improvements will be leveraged through a FEMA disaster recovery project that will restore the parks riverbanks that were compromised during Superstorm Fred in 2021. As well as the Community Project Funding (CPF) through HUD will be leveraging the City's CDBG program for the Woodhaven and Park Drive redevelopment.

The Commercial Façade Improvement Program was able to leverage Downtown Revitalization Initiative funding through the Business Assistance Program for several key Main Street District properties. Also, the CDAC Committee has requested that all public service organizations that seek funding through the annual RFA also continue to seek other sources of funding that can be used as leverage from local foundation and charitable organizations.

The City's Real Property CDBG funding leveraged local municipal funding through the Real Property Committee involving removal of blighted properties and their impacts to the surrounding neighborhood. This committee is also involved in getting vacant properties back on the City's tax roll by facilitating sales of specific land and/or properties that had since been foreclosed on by the City.

The City continues to make best efforts in stretching public dollars when possible/feasible to see that more agencies and organization are engaged in revitalizing and developing the community through targeted improvements.

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	0	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 5 – Number of Households

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

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

The City of Rome launched its Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance program during program year 2023 which supports income qualified, first time homebuyers who are looking to buy a home in the City of Rome with downpayment assistance and closing cost attributed to buying a home. The City also continues to work with agencies to develop and deliver a housing rehabilitation program within the City limits. In continuing to reach our fair housing goals, the City held multiple Fair housing awareness trainings for landlords as well as a training for service providers to help raise awareness and education on the importance of Fair housing rule in the

City of Rome.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

With anticipation of a successful first-time homebuyer and once launched housing rehabilitation program, future spending plans will allocate additional funding resources to housing related goals specified within the annual action plans. The City will also continue to host Fair housing trainings and work with CNY Fair housing to educate individuals in the community on the importance of fair housing in the City of Rome.

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	0	0
Low-income	0	0
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

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

Our Street Outreach Program serves all Oneida County and is funded through NY State Solutions to End and Prevent Homelessness Program. Street outreach workers regularly respond to reports of unsheltered homeless persons and families in the Rome area and serve as the initial contact for unsheltered persons. Street Outreach workers deliver food, clothing, and emergency supplies to areas where people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are known to congregate. Additionally, Street Outreach workers offer culturally relevant support through a harm reduction model while building the trust necessary to ultimately engage people experiencing street homelessness in housing related services. Street outreach workers collaborate with community partners including law enforcement and crisis response teams to best reach people that might not otherwise have access to or engage in supportive services. Street Outreach workers are trained to offer coordinated entry assessments to people experiencing street homelessness on-site to immediately help determine what type of housing project such as Rapid Re-Housing or Permanent Supportive Housing best suits the individual based on their level of need.

Outreach to homeless persons and assessment of their individual needs within the CoC's geography, and in Rome in particular, is conducted at multiple locations including the Rome office of the Oneida County Department of Social Services, Rome Rescue Mission's Welcome Hall soup kitchen, the Mohawk Valley Community Action's Rome office, Catholic Charities Rome office, and the Salvation Army who recently added a drop-in center for at risk youth population, all located in central Rome.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The Continuum of Care in Oneida County, NY was established in 2002. At that time, the City of Rome, located in the western region of the county, had only 6 shelter beds dedicated to people fleeing from domestic violence.

The 2022 Point-in-Time census revealed an unprecedented increase in the number of people in emergency housing in Rome. There were 61 total persons residing in emergency housing, which included 46 single adults and 15 children. A total of 31 households were served on the night of the Point-in-Time count. Among the 31 households served, 21 were single households and 10 were families with children.

To address the emergency and transitional housing needs of for homeless persons and families in Rome, the CoC has expanded the number of rapid rehousing programs and units in the past three years, adding a faster path from shelter and TH stays to permanent supportive housing thereby freeing up EH and TH beds serving Rome residents. The CoC utilized HUD ESG-CV funds for both rapid rehousing and prevention services for Rome residents to help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless.

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

Help and assistance for those who are the most likely to become homeless after discharge from publicly funded institutions and systems of care is provided through the Oneida County Department of Mental Health (for those discharged from mental health facilities), the Oneida County Department of Social Services (for youth aging out of foster care), and the Oneida County Prison Reentry Task Force (a program managed by the Oneida County Probation Department that provides reentry services including housing to persons discharged from NYS prisons).

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

When Rome residents who become homeless are unable to secure a temporary place to stay or an emergency housing bed, the Department of Social Services utilizes motel vouchers within the city of Rome for individual/families who are displaced during the code blue period. The County Department of Social Services (DSS) also has a contracted homeless street outreach program funded via NY State and is diligent in keeping families in the Rome area where children and youth can continue attending schools without any disruptions.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

In 2023 the Rome Housing Authority finalized the conversion of Colonial II and is the first Housing Authority in New York State to have a net zero carbon system. The Housing Authority, along with partners, have converted the heating and cooling system from the old gas boiler system to Geothermal, Solar and Electric systems. This, along with the upgrade in unit sizes, ADA compliance units, and new apartments fixtures, appliances, flooring, camera/security system, etc. will make the Colonial II Apts. a great opportunity for the tenants and the City of Rome.

In 2023 the Rome Housing Authority added a new Camera/Security System to our Valentine Apartments, completely overhaul the parking lot, replace old carpeting in the hallways on several floors to the new snap laminate flooring as well as giving the Community Room a face lift to include new tables, chairs and extras to help make this a more welcoming place for the tenants.

The Liberty Garden Apartments will also saw some changes in 2023. With finalizing plans to change the current outdoor lighting from regular lighting to LED lighting. This will not only help to save on cost, but also allow a better lighting system for the property. They are also looking to add more security cameras in order to help keep the residents safer.

Actions taken 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.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

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

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)

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

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting undeserved 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 taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

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

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.

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

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

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.

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 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 undertook the following actions in Program Year 2023. The City contracted with CNY Fair Housing, Inc. to spread fair housing awareness to renters and landlords. The City has also launched its Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance program in collaboration with the HomeOwnership Center and had its first successful applicant go through this program. The City will continue to promote tenants' rights by supplying citizens with the Tenants' Rights Guide, which is produced by the NYS Attorney General. Along with continuing to host Fair housing trainings in the community to help bring awareness, and any updates to the Fair Housing law. Each of these actions take meaningful steps to address housing related concerns that were documented in the 2020 AI report.

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 Rome will continue to monitor all subrecipients in accordance with the newly adopted uniform guidance procedures. It will also be following its local program policies and procedures for monitoring as periodically updated. Subrecipients are required to submit program and financial reports to facilitate monitoring. Monitoring includes ensuring that the grantees comply with the terms of their local agreement's income, client eligibility, reporting requirements and timeliness. Staff will utilize both desk-monitoring and on-site monitoring to assess the quality of each program's performance over the duration of the agreement. An annual single local audit will provide further monitoring of local programs and activities including programmatic and financial reviews.

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.

The CDBG 2023 CAPER public hearing was held at Mohawk Valley Community College, on Thursday May 30th, 2024. In compliance with our Citizen participation plan, the City gave 7 days' notice of the Public Hearing that was held, and allowed for written comments to be submitted before the meeting, to be read into the public record during the public comment period of the hearing. For both the 15-day public comment period, and public hearing we submitted separate legal notices to the paper with reasonable notice, as stated in our Citizen Participation Plan, with information on where the plan was located on the City's website.

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.

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-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours					
Total Section 3 Worker Hours					
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours					

Table 8 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					

Other.					
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Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

The City has since updated its Section 3 policies and procedures and hosted a Section 3 training for local organizations and contractors, as well as maintain a list of recourses for best efforts for Section 3 individuals as well as organizations to comply with the federal requirements.