

PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER
APRIL 20, 2026

A photograph of a person blowing bubbles in front of a building with flags. The bubbles are in the foreground, and the building and flags are in the background. The person is seen from behind, wearing a dark shirt.

ROME

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN DRAFT

2026

A Public Hearing will be held Tuesday,
April 7th at Rome City Hall at 12 noon.
Comments may also be submitted to
cmatwijec-walda@romeny.gov.

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

2026 marks the second year of the City of Rome's 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan. This 2026 Annual Action Plan outlines the how the City will continue use their CDBG funding to address the National Objectives within this entitlement community. The objectives of this action plan are based not only on the Consolidated Plan, but also a number of locally adopted planning studies and community input.

By utilizing community input alongside these existing plans and studies, the City of Rome is able to thoughtfully assemble goals for CDBG entitlement funding, adapting to community circumstances while remaining mindful of long-term planning. In program year 2026, the City of Rome will rely on the strong basis of legacy programming to address existing need while also developing and expanding newer programming that seeks to alleviate new or growing need within Rome's low- to moderate-income community. By balancing trusted legacy programming with newer models of support, the City of Rome aims to make as broad an impact as possible with PY2026 Entitlement Funding.

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.

Goal #1 – Improve Public Facilities: Public facilities within the CDBG target area will be improved to address accessibility and quality of life, with an emphasis on parks that serve low/mod target areas. Such activities will increase quality of life within low- and moderate-income neighborhoods while promoting health, wellness, and community building.

Goal #2 – Support Economic Activity: The City will continue its legacy Commercial Façade program and continue developing its RISE business assistance grant program. Both programs foster low/mod job creation while stimulating local business growth.

Goal #3 – Support Public Services: The City will also continue to award public services funding via a request for application process. Grants are awarded to qualified organizations that deliver services such as educational achievement; local arts, tourism, and culture; improved access to health and wellness; and health and safety needs.

Goal #4 – Address Slum & Blight: Real property activities will continue in PY 2026, addressing vacant, unsafe, unfit, and abandoned buildings that are a source of slum and blight in target area neighborhoods.

Goal #5 – Support Fair, Affordable Housing: The City will continue to partner with local organizations to address not only fair housing outreach and education, but the continued development of the Down Payment and Closing Costs grant program.

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’s 2017 Community Needs Assessment [CNA] continues to guide how the City administers their CDBG program. This comprehensive community study identified key areas of need within the City, which in turn are transformed to goals set within the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans. These goals are reviewed and refined annually based on the outcomes of previous years’ activities and the input of Rome’s community, including public surveys, the Community Development Advisory Committee, and other knowledgeable stakeholders in the community.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

First, the City developed a series of community surveys which included requests for information on both general and specific issues, and citizens’ feedback about improving the community and quality of life in the City of Rome. Social media, including Facebook, was used to disseminate the online surveys, posters with a QR code to the survey were posted around the city, and a hard copy drop box was provided for City Hall. Next, the City advertised a Public Hearing regarding the Annual Action Plan and Spending plan, followed by a meeting of the Community Development Advisory Committee to make final recommendations on the spending plan and PY2025 Public Spending funding. Lastly, 30-day public comment periods allowed the community to review the plans and comment formally, including at a Public Hearing held during this 30-day comment period. Finally, the local Common Council was tasked with publicly advertising the intent to submit the Action Plan to HUD through local legislation. The Common Council meetings were advertised and open to the public and the Council allows for public comments on the meeting’s agenda.

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.

Survey Responses: The City received a healthy array of responses to their community survey. Overall, the responses indicated that the City of Rome’s CDBG entitlement program should continue its current projects and activities, while also outlining specific areas of need. Specific public service needs include childcare options and support for unhoused persons. Public facilities responses suggested upgrades that would make Rome a more walkable community, building connections between existing parks and trails to enhance health and safety, particularly in low/mod areas. There were many suggested parks upgrades that tie into the City’s Parks, Open Spaces & Trails (POST) Plan, currently under development. These suggestions highlight the community’s desire for safe, healthy, accessible, and year-round outdoor spaces that welcome and accommodate persons of all ages and abilities.

30-Day Public Comment Period Responses: [brief summary of public comments]

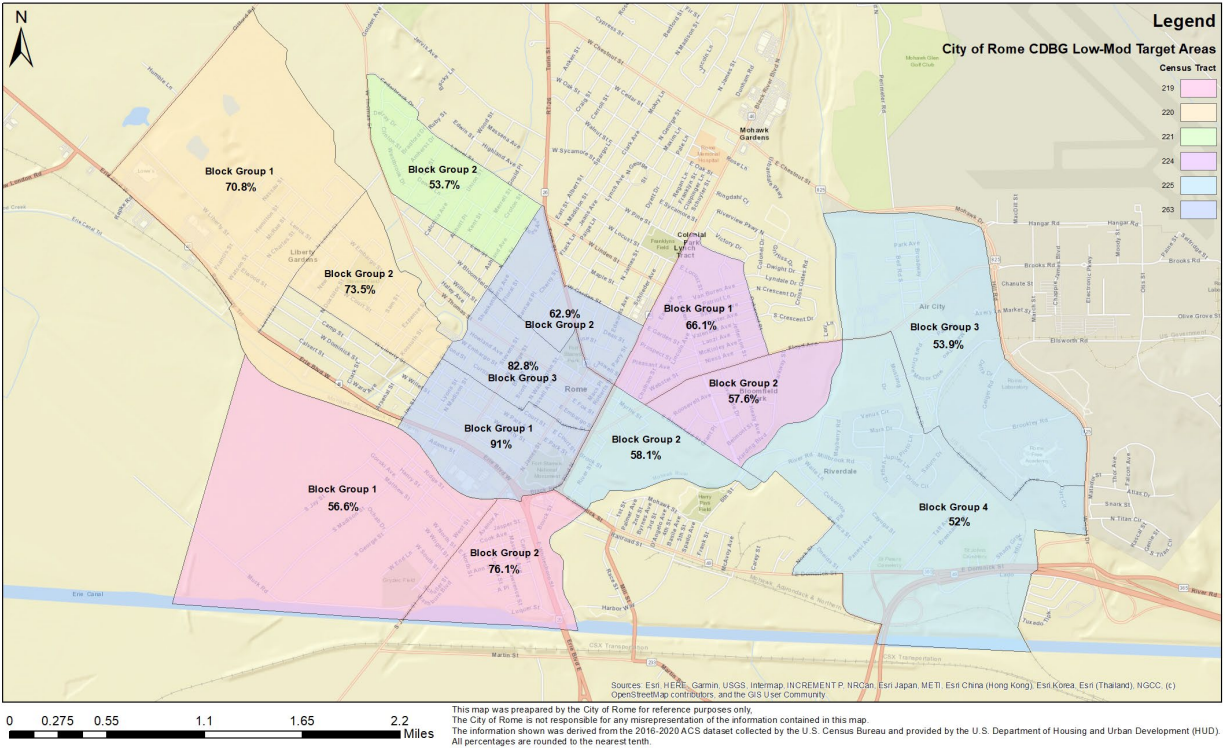
6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

All comments were accepted; no comments were knowingly omitted from this process.

7. Summary

The attached image is a map of the CDBG target area of the City of Rome, developed from the ACS census data collection for HUD.

City of Rome, NY CDBG Target Area 2024 by Low-Mod Income Population Percentage (Prepared 10/3/2024)



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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	ROME	Caitlin Matwijec-Walda

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 2025-2029 Five Year Consolidated Plan along with the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER). This 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 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, including gap funding resources.

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, and 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 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. This jurisdiction participates in quarterly board meetings and the 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 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 funds 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.

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Agency/Group/Organization	Agency/Group/Organization Type	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?
City of Rome	Other government - Local	All of the above	All City departments were consulted during this process, as well as the Common Council members, to address various departmental and city-wide needs.
Community Development Advisory Committee	Planning organization	2026 Spending Plan	The CDAC committee meets periodically throughout the program year; for the purpose of this plan, they meet to go over the prior year's spending plans to make the 2026 spending plan recommendations to the Mayor.
Rome Housing Authority	PHA	Public Housing Needs Citizen Participation Plan	The RHA was consulted for updates on current and proposed housing projects as well as other pertinent updates.
Mohawk Valley Continuum of Care	Services-homeless	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	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.

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
2025-2029 CDBG Consolidated Plan	City of Rome	Goals as part of projects and objectives
Parks, Outdoor Spaces, and Trails Master Plan	City of Rome	Accessibility upgrades/ADA improvement

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**

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Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted, broad community	There were 62 responses to the online survey.	The City received a healthy array of responses to their community survey. Overall, the responses indicated that the City of Rome’s CDBG entitlement program should continue its current projects and activities, while also outlining specific areas of need.	There were no comments that were not accepted.	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/35RG9H9
2	Legal Notice	Non-targeted, broad community	Ran 01/13/2026. No comments received.	No comments received.	There were no comments that were not accepted.	N/A
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted, broad community	03/10/2026, 12 p.m.; no attendees	No comments received.	There were no comments that were not accepted.	N/A
4	30-Day Comment Period	Non-targeted, broad community	Ran from 03/17/2026 – 04/19/2026			N/A
5	Public Hearing	Non-targeted, broad community	04/07/2026, 12 p.m.			N/A

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Funds obligated in PY2026 for Administration, Public Services, Economic Development activities, Public Facilities and Real Property activities are expected to be used within 2026, along with prior years’ funding. It is expected that the City of Rome will receive approximately the same dollar amount of the previous annual CDBG allocation throughout the 2025-2029 Consolidated 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 Facilities, Public Services, Economic Development, Real Property Site Clearance, Housing Services		0	0		0	Funds obligated in PY2026 for Administration, Public Services, Economic Development activities, Public Facilities and Real Property activities are expected to be used within 2026, along with prior years' funding. It is expected that the City of Rome will receive approximately the same dollar amount of the previous annual CDBG allocation throughout the 2025-2029 Consolidated Period.
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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. These combined funds will progress community development initiatives and related projects, culminating in an improved and well-rounded community. Public service dollars will be leveraged with local private and public organizational funding for programs that benefit low- to moderate-income residents, including domestic violence shelters, 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 could include pedestrian accessibility and streetscape enhancements throughout the Main Streets areas, Brownfield Opportunity Areas, and Woodhaven Redevelopment Area. Public facilities could also include targeted improvements to target area parks which will be leveraged with local and state dollars as necessary. Economic Development dollars will leverage the funding of private businesses to create jobs and enhance community business opportunity, especially for low- to moderate-income individuals. CDBG funding will provide important gap funding for many projects, enhancing the transformative work being performed.

If appropriate, describe publicly 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 under the Woodhaven Redevelopment Plan. 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 Griffiss Air Force Base housing, which was decommissioned in 1995. The City has demolished 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. Streetscape improvements are currently underway, bringing greater accessibility to the tract. Phase 2 will include construction of a new sports & community 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.

Discussion

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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	2026	2026	Administration	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Planning and Administration		
2	Public Services	2026	2026	Public Services	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Public Services		Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted
3	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	2026	2026	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Public Facilities and Infrastructure		Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2,500 Persons Assisted
4	Economic Development	2026	2026	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Economic Development		Jobs created/retained: 2 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted
5	Real Property	2026	2026	Site Clearance	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	Real Property		Buildings Demolished: 4 Buildings

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Planning & Administration
	Goal Description	The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has allocated PY2026 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	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	Activities typically funded include but are not limited to: youth educational development, domestic violence shelters, health services, homeless prevention and creative development.
3	Goal Name	Public Facilities & Infrastructure
	Goal Description	The Community Development Advisory Committee and the City of Rome routinely allocate a significant portion of their entitlement funding award to support public facilities or related improvements. PY2026 CDBG funding is planned for target area park enhancements at Guyer Field, updating amenities and increasing usability, particularly for younger families or persons with disabilities.
4	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	The City will continue to support its legacy program of Commercial Façade rehabilitations as well as the RISE small business assistance grant program.
5	Goal Name	Real Property
	Goal Description	The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2025 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

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) and public comments received throughout this process, have chosen to allocate funding as stated in the project summaries. The allocation also reflects goals and objectives indicated in the BOA, DRI and other neighborhood redevelopment plans.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Planning and Administration
	Target Area	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	Goals Supported	Planning and Administration
	Needs Addressed	Planning and Administration
	Funding	CDBG:
	Description	The Community Development Advisory Committee [CDAC] has allocated funds for program administration. These funds will be used for staff salaries, supplies, equipment, and any housing/environmental study-related costs that aid the City's Community & Economic Development Department in the administration of CDBG program. This amount is consistent with CDAC allocations to program administration in prior years.
	Target Date	03/31/2027
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	N/A
2	Project Name	Public Services
	Target Area	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG:
	Description	The city will have an open RFP period for public service organizations to submit funding proposals.
	Target Date	03/31/2027
	Estimate the number and type of families	Typically, our public service organizations submit proposals for programmatic activities that benefit approximately 100-1000 persons per year in aggregate. These programs serve a wide range of needs within the low/mod

	that will benefit from the proposed activities	communities of Rome.
	Location Description	The public service organization applying for funding must be locally operated with funding going towards the benefit of Rome citizens exclusively.
	Planned Activities	Activities typically funded include but are not limited to: youth educational development, domestic violence shelters, health services, and creative development.
3	Project Name	Public Facilities
	Target Area	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG:
	Description	The Community Development Advisory Committee and the City of Rome routinely allocate a significant portion of their entitlement funding award to support public facilities or related improvements. PY2026 CDBG funding is planned for target area park enhancements at Guyer Field, updating amenities and increasing usability, particularly for younger families or persons with disabilities.
	Target Date	03/31/2027
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is expected that this project will benefit the entire City of Rome, with special emphasis on those who live, work, and travel in the targeted area.
	Location Description	Target area parks
	Planned Activities	Upgrades to public street and pedestrian areas, target area parks, and connecting neighborhoods.
4	Project Name	Economic Development
	Target Area	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	Goals Supported	Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG:
	Description	This funding allocation will continue the City's successful Commercial Façade program, which is a 25% owner match/75% CDBG program to create or retain low/moderate-income jobs while reducing slum and blight in the

		main street corridors. This funding also supports the RISE small business grant program, which helps to create low/moderate-income jobs within the City.
	Target Date	03/31/2027
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	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 & blight in the surrounding area.
	Location Description	The City is soliciting businesses within the main street and downtown areas to participate in these programs.
	Planned Activities	Commercial Façade Rehabilitation in the CDBG target area and small business development grants.
5	Project Name	Slum and Blight
	Target Area	CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK
	Goals Supported	Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Slum and Blight
	Funding	CDBG:
	Description	The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2026 PY funding. However, any demolished buildings will 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.
	Target Date	03/31/2027
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The entire City of Rome will benefit from a reduction in abandoned unsafe, and dilapidated buildings.
	Location Description	The City has not identified specific addresses to be demolished using the 2026 PY funding. However, any demolished buildings will 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.
	Planned Activities	Slum & blight reduction through targeted demolitions.

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

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
CITY OF ROME, NEW YORK	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The Community Needs Assessment emphasized 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

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

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

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

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

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The City of Rome works closely not only with the Rome Housing Authority, but also with new developers working in the area to provide affordable housing in our area. The City of Rome does not provide housing as a function of government.

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

While the RHA has no ongoing capital improvement projects, they are in the planning stages of a complete renovation of the Valentine Apartment complex. The City of Rome is also actively working with Penrose and Human Technologies to create an affordable housing complex on waterfront property in the CDBG target area; this project is still in planning stages.

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.

The Liberty Garden Apartments are no longer considered Public Housing; however, they are covered under the Housing Choice Project Based Voucher Program for a period of 15 years. They are establishing a Family Self Sufficiency Program which will encourage the tenants to not only obtain schooling and better jobs, but also supply them with the possibility of an escrow account that can be used to help purchase a home.

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

Our CoC has outlined the following goals and actions for the coming year:

- Decrease average length of time people experience homelessness.
- Prevent at-risk individuals and families from experiencing homelessness.
- Increase the rate of permanent housing placement and retention.
- Reduce the rate of returns to homelessness.
- Increase employment and non-employment income for people experiencing homelessness.

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

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

Our Continuum of Care determines risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time through data available in HMIS, the New York State Unified Court System, the Cornell ILR Eviction Filings Dashboard, HUD's CoC Analysis Tool: Race and Ethnicity, and The New York State Department of Education. The CoC identifies trends in characteristics of those who are experiencing homelessness for the first time, such as race and ethnicity, disability status, household composition, substance use history, domestic violence history, income, and last known zip code. Additionally, our CoC tracks eviction rate and rental cost burden trends in the City of Rome. Our CoC also determines risk factors through qualitative information collected via ongoing consultation and case conferencing with a wide range of health and human service partners throughout the CoC's geography.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Our CoC's strategy is to effectively meet the needs of people utilizing shelter and transitional housing, and includes the following objectives:

- Data Collection & Analysis
- Establish Clear Goals & Objectives
- Strengthen Coordination of Services
- Expand/Strengthen Housing Programs
- Expand/Strengthen Supportive Services
- Utilize Housing Inventory Effectively
- Lived Experience Community Engagement
- activities and actions that do not violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws,

including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Furthermore, the City of Rome agrees that its compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the U.S. Government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of title 31, United States Code. The City of Rome will not operate any programs that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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

Our CoC developed several strategies to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless. They have incorporated problem-solving approaches at the front doors of the coordinated entry system to prevent homelessness for people who are facing an imminent housing crisis through the use of existing supports and household strengths. Our CoC also actively urges our local jurisdictions to solicit funding opportunities such as ESG homeless prevention programs and flexible funding sources that can prevent housing crises from escalating further and resulting in homelessness. Further, our CoC has strengthened our cross-sector collaborations with community partners to ensure that individuals who are engaged with or are transitioning from systems are linked quickly and effectively to mainstream resources, including employment and health care, to reduce the risk of homelessness upon discharge or following the end of service provision. Finally, our CoC actively collaborates with our community partners to achieve an adequate supply of affordable housing through the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing stock, the development of new housing units, and a stronger focus on developing and maintaining trusting relationships with local landlords.

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.

Our CoC developed several strategies to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless. They have incorporated problem-solving approaches at the front doors of our coordinated entry system to prevent homelessness for people who are facing an imminent housing crisis through the use of existing supports and household strengths. Our CoC also actively urges our local jurisdictions to solicit funding opportunities such as ESG homeless prevention programs and flexible funding sources that can prevent housing crises from escalating further and resulting in homelessness. Further, our CoC has

strengthened our cross-sector collaborations with community partners to ensure that individuals who are engaged with or are transitioning from systems are linked quickly and effectively to mainstream resources, including employment and health care, to reduce the risk of homelessness upon discharge or following the end of service provision. Finally, our CoC actively collaborates with our community partners to achieve an adequate supply of affordable housing through the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing stock, the development of new housing units, and a stronger focus on developing and maintaining trusting relationships with local landlords.

Discussion

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

Introduction:

Compared to the US average, home prices within the City of Rome are generally within an affordable range. However, the local taxing system and building codes of NYS could be having a negative impact on homeownership. In the last few years, several housing options have been constructed or remodeled at a mix of market rate, mid-market rate, and affordable housing options; this construction is expected to continue as projects move into later development phases. Broadening the existing housing supply could make the housing market less competitive, and overall pricing could level out based on supply and demand. However, with uncertain economic trends on the rise, the impact of new/improved housing is hard to pinpoint at this stage. In the meantime, agencies such as the Rome Housing Authority will continue to upgrade and maintain their recently renovated facilities, providing a good stock of affordable options to this area, and the City of Rome continues to work with developers looking at adding new units to the local housing supply.

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

Within the last few years, the City of Rome has undertaken two studies to understand root issues and barriers within its community, and consequently determine corrective actions. With support from HUD, the Community Needs Assessment [CNA] was undertaken in 2016/17; in 2020, Rome partnered with the City of Utica to complete an Analysis of Impediment to Fair Housing Choice. Despite global tumult in the ensuing years, the City has made significant progress to reduce tax burden, update zoning codes, and improve the economic situation of the City and its residents. We continue to partner with the Rome Housing Authority and other developers to increase the availability of modern, affordable housing in the City of Rome's CBDG target area.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Over the course of the next five years, the City of Rome is planning to provide more focused attention to the following underserved needs: business development, housing, and connection to public services. Business and economic development is being championed through a partnership with Mohawk Valley Edge, which will manage recipients of the RISE business development grants, funded through CDBG. More housing—affordable and market rate—is being actively pursued through a variety of avenues, including partnerships with developers working in CDBG target areas. Finally, the City of Rome is committed to our public services funding, and actively works with recipients to leverage additional funding sources and develop programs that will serve unmet needs in the city of Rome.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

For the last couple of years, our CoC has been actively working and advocating for affordable units with supportive housing developers to invest in our county. The City of Rome, specifically, is working with Penrose & Human Technologies to realize a 250+ unit affordable housing project on waterfront property called The Copper Village. For there to be true access to housing for this population, there must be enough units that are both affordable and available to households at the lowest income levels and there must be concerted efforts to connect people experiencing homelessness to those units and to identify and remove barriers to such access. The CoC continues to support agencies in expanding programs that increase the housing stock and give access to low-income persons and homeless individuals to affordable housing.

Further, housing can be made more readily available to those with poor or no credit history, criminal records, and poor rental history through the implementation of Housing First practices and principles. Such access is often not realized even within communities' existing affordable housing. Increased access is promoted through ongoing education of housing, as well as through requirements attached to state and local funding. The CoC continues to educate and train on Housing First practice and principles to help aid access to affordable housing.

Overall, the CoC continues to inform, educate, and improve access and eliminate barriers to affordable housing in Oneida County.

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 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 (managed by four full-time staff dedicated to reducing LBP hazards) include 1.) a public awareness campaign, such as the 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; 4.) 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; 5.) 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 6.) 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 within the City and we are actively involved in a number of specific initiatives in both these general areas.

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 to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies

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Overall, the CoC continues to inform, educate, and improve access and eliminate barriers to affordable housing in Oneida County.

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	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan.	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income	0

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
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