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 COVID pandemic impacted the full PY2020 program year. (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021). Some public improvements and public facilities projects were delayed and various public services projects were temporarily suspended, re-adjusted, or slowed down.

There were several major highlights including park improvements, senior services - including food programs, and several different housing improvements. There are others that were completed, but had delayed reporting of accomplishments due to the pandemic. They will be reflected in the 2021 CAPER report.

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
Affordable Housing Low/Mod Rental	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	50	0	0.00%			
Affordable Housing Low/Mod Rental	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	0	0		20	0	0.00%

Code Enforcement	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1000	0	0.00%			
Code Enforcement	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	0	0		2000	0	0.00%
Fair Housing Activities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	250	0	0.00%	5000	0	0.00%
First Time Homebuyer Program	Affordable Housing	HOME:	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	0	0		20	0	0.00%
First Time Homebuyer Program	Affordable Housing	HOME:	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	75	0	0.00%			
General Administration CDBG	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	0	0		200000	0	0.00%
HOME Administration	Affordable Housing	HOME:	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	200	0	0.00%			
HOME Administration	Affordable Housing	HOME:	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	100	0	0.00%			
HOME Administration	Affordable Housing	HOME:	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	100	0	0.00%			

HOME Administration	Affordable Housing	HOME:	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	75	0	0.00%			
HOME Administration	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Other	Other	0	0		2000	0	0.00%
Homelessness Prevention Assistance	Homeless	ESG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	20	0	0.00%			
Homelessness Prevention Assistance	Homeless	ESG: \$	Housing for Homeless added	Household Housing Unit	0	0		10	0	0.00%
Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$181172	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	60	0	0.00%	40	0	0.00%
Parks/Recreational Facilities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5000	0	0.00%	1500	0	0.00%
Permanent Housing for the Homeless	Homeless	ESG: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	15	0	0.00%			
Permanent Housing for the Homeless	Homeless	ESG: \$	Housing for Homeless added	Household Housing Unit	25	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%

Public Facilities and Improvement	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	2500	0	0.00%	10000	0	0.00%
Rental Housing	Affordable Housing	HOME:	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	100	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%
Rental Housing	Affordable Housing	HOME:	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%
Senior Centers	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1500	100	6.67%	30000	100	0.33%
Senior Services	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	2500	100	4.00%	40000	100	0.25%
Services for persons with Disabilities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	200	0	0.00%	1000	0	0.00%
Shelter & Transitional Housing	Homeless	ESG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	4000	0	0.00%	500	0	0.00%

Special Needs Housing	Non- Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	50	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%
Special Needs Housing	Non- Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	20	0	0.00%			
Street Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	7500	0	0.00%	8000	0	0.00%
Tree Planting	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	500	0	0.00%	1000	0	0.00%
Water/Sewer Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	8000	1770	22.13%	2000	1770	88.50%
Youth Services	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	150	0	0.00%			

Youth Services	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0		3000	0	0.00%	
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Table 1 - Accomplishments - Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

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

CDBG funds are 100% utilized for the benefit of low and moderate income populations and households. High priorities are public improvements like street and sewer improvements; park improvements in low income census tracts and/or that address the removal of architectural barriers; improvements to senior centers; and public services that benefit seniors and disabled persons. Multiple municipalities continued park improvements and senior center improvements. Several municipalities operate public senior services including meal/nutrition programs, transportation, and senior center programs and activities.

Housing affordability is addressed with CDBG, HOME, and ESG. CDBG funds are used for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation; HOME funds are used primarily for the acquisition, new construction, and rehabilitation of low income rental housing and a smaller amount used for downpayment assistance to income eligible first time homebuyers. ESG funds are utilized to prevent homelessness and to make sure incidents of homelessness are short term and provide housing stability to make sure individuals and families don't re-enter the homeless system.

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	HOME	ESG
White	1,450	13	0
Black or African American	465	3	0
Asian	275	0	0
American Indian or American Native	15	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Total	2,205	16	0
Hispanic	135	5	0
Not Hispanic	2,070	11	0

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

Narrative

The ethnic and racial breakdowns of families is fairly similar to the census data for our county, when the large cities that operate their own CDBG programs (Edison, New Brunswick, Old Bridge, Perth Amboy, Sayreville and Woodbridge) are factored out.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made	Amount Expended	
		Available	During Program Year	
CDBG	public - federal	1,955,038	887,024	
HOME	public - federal	1,601,469	176,050	
ESG	public - federal	170,997		

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

ESG funds were spent by the subrecipient, but not drawndown until after the end of the program year.

Other funding included COVID CARES Act funding, specifically: \$1,150,260 in CDBG-CV1 and \$589,645 in ESG-CV1. Funds were spent on eligible activities, but not drawndown in IDIS during the program year.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
			Consortia
Countywide	100	100	Municipalities

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The pandemic impacted accomplishment reporting, billing, and drawdowns for the program year, resulting in less funding spent than in typical years.

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.

HOME match is traditionally met primarily through other public funds, such as the state Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, the Federal Home Loan Bank of NY, and municipal affordable housing trust funds; plus private funds such as mortgages and owner's equity. The county also provides funding through its Housing First Capital Fund for the creation of permanent housing for homeless households. Publicly owned land is often used to create affordable rental housing in HOME projects, with the donation or discounted land price enabling developers to keep rents low.

CDBG projects will almost always include a local municipal match. For non-profits that receive CDBG funds, they receive additional program funds through other public sources, like the State of NJ or Middlesex County HSAC funding, in addition to private foundations and individual donors. Many of the CDBG funded Public Services projects, especially for seniors and disabled, take place on municipaly owned facilities. Other CDBG funded projects, help remove barriers or increase access to existing municipal facilities, including parks and senior centers.

ESG is matched with both non-federal public funding and private donations.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match						
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	6,417,042					
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0					
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	6,417,042					
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	0					
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	6,417,042					

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

	Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year										
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match			

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period										
Balance on hand at begin-ning of reporting	Amount received during reporting period	Total amount expended during reporting period	Amount expended for TBRA	Balance on hand at end of reporting period						
period	\$	\$	\$	\$						
\$										
0	0	0	0	0						

Table 7 – Program Income

-	iness Enterprise racts for HOME			-		ariu uullai
value of contr	Total			ess Enterprises	White Non-	
		Alaskan Asian or		Black Non-	Hispanic	Hispanic
		Native or	Pacific	Hispanic	•	•
		American	Islander	•		
		Indian				
Contracts						
Dollar						
Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Contract	s					
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar						
Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business	Male			
		Enterprises				
Contracts		-				
Dollar						
Amount	0	0	0			
Number	0	0	0			
Sub-Contract	s					
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar						
Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted **Total** White Non-**Minority Property Owners** Alaskan Asian or **Black Non-**Hispanic Hispanic Native or **Pacific** Hispanic **American** Islander Indian Number 0 0 0 0 0 0 Dollar

Table 9 - Minority Owners of Rental Property

0

0

0

0

Amount

0

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition

Parcels Acquired	0	0
Businesses Displaced	0	0
Nonprofit Organizations		
Displaced	0	0
Households Temporarily		
Relocated, not Displaced	0	0

Households	Total		Minority Property Enterprises				
Displaced		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non- Hispanic	Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

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	10	5
Number of Non-Homeless households to be		
provided affordable housing units	70	48
Number of Special-Needs households to be		
provided affordable housing units	20	0
Total	100	53

Table 11 - Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through		
Rental Assistance	30	5
Number of households supported through		
The Production of New Units	30	11
Number of households supported through		
Rehab of Existing Units	150	8
Number of households supported through		
Acquisition of Existing Units	5	29
Total	215	53

Table 12 - Number of Households Supported

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

Homebuyer activities exceeded the goal for this time period. Even with the pandemic and increased housing costs, many first time homebuyers were able to utilize HOME funding to close on properties. Rental housing development, both for new construction and rehabilitation, were slowed initially by the pandemic and then challenged with increased development costs and project delays. Some rental assistance provided as part of the Rapid Re-housing program. Others were assisted but were not reflected in this year's reporting.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The additional American Rescue Plan funds and other CARES Act or COVID funding not provided during this program year, will be available in PY2021 and beyond. This will both provide the potential for increasing the goal numbers in the above categories, but also increase greatly the actual number served. This impact will likely continue over the next few programs years, since some funding allows for expenditures into future years.

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	5
Low-income	1	34
Moderate-income	0	14
Total	1	53

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

All rental activities are targeted for those hosueholds at or below 50%, including some in the 30% or extremely low category. Homeless housing is almost always targeted to people at or below 30% AMI or extremely low income, but occassionally there will be households that go up to 50% AMI or low income. All moderate income households served were part of the first time homebuyer program. There first time homebuyer program also does serve people across the income spectrum, including some persons who purchase as part of the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership program using funds for downpayment assistance.

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

Within Middlesex County's Continuum of Care, there are several different outreach teams that work on identifying homeless individuals and families. With ESG-CV funding, there have been two new outreach programs that started during PY2020: Raritan Bay YMCA's program (focused primarily in Perth Amboy area) and Catholic Charities COVID outreach (New Brunswick and throughout the county.) They joined longstanding outreach teams including the HEART program from Elijah's Promise, PATH programs operated by Catholic Charities and by Rutgers UBHC, SSVF programs for homeless veterans operated by Community Hope and Soldier On. They all work collectively together as part of the HOT (Homeless Outreach Team) to ensure that all areas of the county receive outreach coverage and that unsheltered persons are continually engaged and offered housing services. There was an additional focus on engaging with unshelter homeless persons who were at risk of COVID due to age and/or disabilities. The outreach teams worked on connecting them with not only the previously existing services, but with new services funded by ESG-CV, including non-congregate sheltering. Street Outreach programs also made sure to provide access to PPE for homeless persons they encounted.

In addition, Middlesex County continues operation of its Coordinated Entry and Assessment program. Through the use of the county's homeless hotline at NJ 211, homeless or those at imminent risk of homelessness are screened for both shelter and eligibility for programs offered by Board of Social Services and other targeted providers, such as DV programs and veterans programs. In addition to this single point of entry, there is really a "no wrong door" policy in that all social service agencies have agreed to allow clients that show up at their door to use the agency phones to call NJ 211. The Coordinated Assessment tool used assesses their needs and prioritizes for shelter and ultimately, permanent housing on the basis of need as defined by length of homelessness, unsheltered status, and presence of disabilities. Unsheltered persons, especially chronically homeless persons, move to the top of the prioritization list for both shelter and for permanent housing opportunities.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

As stated above, Middlesex County's use of the Coordinated Entry and Assessment system, which was implemented in November, 2015, has prioritized homeless individuals and families for emergency shelter based on need, with chronically homeless, unsheltered and disabling conditions documenting a higher need. This system has replaced individually maintained waiting lists of the different shelters. This has also eliminated the need for clients to constantly check back with multiple shelter providers and helps ensure that those most in need of shelter are prioritized higher for beds as they come available. All shelter programs put in place protections to address COVID, including plans for

clients who needed to quarantine or isolate because of exposure, enhanced cleaning & disinfection, and making PPE available. Through a partnerhsip with the local Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), our Domestic Violence Shelter, was able to establish an on-site COVID vaccination program, that was expanded to include all homeless persons across the jurisdiction and staff working with the homeless population.

ESG-CV provided the opportunity to create non-congregate sheltering opportunities, which helped encourage some unsheltered persons, who may not have engaged with or wanted placement in a traditional emergency shelter, to be placed in a non-congregate setting. This helped expand our shelter capacity. This will continue through at least part of the PY2022.

Middlesex County has seen a decrease in transitional housing programs within the county as the continuum has been focusing on Housing First. The Housing First principle looks to minimize the amount of time a homeless household spends in shelter or unsheltered homeless and working to move them to permanent supportive housing as quickly as possible. Transitional housing only remains for special populations, like formerly incarcerated and homeless youth. Once housed, services that were provided as part of transitional housing program, are instead linked to the individuals while they are housed.

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

There are multiple Homelessness Prevention programs funded within the county. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen (CCDOM) received funding from many different state and local sources to operate its Multi-Services program, which provides rental arrears, security deposits, utility assistance, and short term rental assistance to help keep households from becoming homeless. Other agencies such as PRAHD and PRAB also have prevention programs. Through the 2-1-1 coordinated entry system, households that are at risk of homelessness are divereted from entering the system and are offered case management services through Coming Home to help them stabilize their housing situation and avoid shelter placement. The federal ERAP funding, which became available towards the end of PY2020, was used by the county and the State of NJ to offer rental assistance to those at risk of eviction due to COVID. These programs continued in PY2021.

The CoC, through Coming Home, has engaged with the two largest hospitals in our county on an initiative to identify the most frequent users of those hospitals' Emergency Departments (ED), who are also homeless for referral into a new program that will provide housing vouchers and case management assitance to provide permanent supportive housing and minimize the need to for ED utilitization. While originally a 2 year pilot program, this program has been renewed and continues to serve at least 25

persons wtih 2 case managers.

DCP&P (state foster care) participates with our CoC and coordinates, as needed, with discharge planning on its clients. The CoC is working on expanding opportunities available to homeless youth and in additional to the Homeless Youth Task Force, has established a Homeless Youth Board, made up of currently or formerly homeless youth.

Many CoC participating agencies focus on serving clients with mental health issues. They are all aware of our prevention programs and work with state mental health facilities when clients are discharged.

The CoC continues to work with a local service provided in our county jail on discharge planning. They are aware of available services. Bail reform has likely helped decrease the number of people who would be incarcerated in the county jail before trail, but there continues to be the issue with incarcerated persons being released by the judge without advance warning, which makes discharge planning very difficult. The CoC also works with NJAC, which operates a transitional housing program in our county for persons released from correctional facilities and offers services.

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

The CoC has within its membership or regularly attending meetings, representation from health care facilities, mental health facilities, the state child protention agency (overseeing foster care), a homeless youth provider, and the local jail. These agencies work with the CoC to establish policies and procedures on discharges to minimize or eliminate any discharges into homelessness. The CoC also implemented many specific initiatives, such as a partnership with the local Workforce Development office to set aside specific time when homeless clients can have access to their trainers and receive targeted help in finding employment, resume writing or having access to the job bank. Another initiative is a partnership with the local Medicaid health insurance company social workers so clients can access all available health services offered. The CoC also offers training to all its member agencies and partners on the available mainstream and other resources that are available to clients in the areas of housing, health, social services, employment, education and youth needs. Agencies are also advised that they can also reach out to 2-1-1, which besides providing homeless hotline services, is also a 24/7 information and referral source for all of the previous mentioned needs.

The Coordinated Entry and Assessment system prioritizes chronically homeless individuals and families for both shelter and then for permanent housing opportunities. The three year round shelters operating within the county (Ozanam Men's Shelter, Ozanam Womens Shelter and FISH Hospitality (women & families) all work with their clients to minimize the length of shelter stay and to identify appropriate

permanent housing solutions, which may include permanent supportive housing, vouchers, other dedicated homeless permanent units, rapid re-housing financial assistance, or just housing search assistance. The CoC, through Coming Home, has a Landlord Initiative, to educate landlords about homelessness and getting commitments to offer units to homeless individuals and families, with reduced barriers, such as disregaring evictions on credit checks. The Landlord Initiative works with all homeless sub-populations.

The County also operates a Veterans Housing Assistance Program (VHAP) that provides homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assitance to veterans and their families. This program works in conjunction with two SSFV programs operated by Community Hope and Soldier On. The Homeless Youth Task Force works with agency providers on addressing the needs of unaccompanies youth and is currently identifying any gaps in the system.

The CoC through participating in the Built for Zero initiative is more closely monitoring returns to homelessness and identifying any trends to see if its certain populations or certain types of placement that are becoming homeless again. Overall, the CoC recidivism rate is very low and formerly homeless person who stop engaging in services and find themselves at risk of homelessness mostly know to contact the homeless hotline to access prevention services referrals to help maintain their housing. Through a Built for Zero targeted approach, the numbers of chronically homeless individuals and families has drastically declined from the for this program year.

While these services continued operations, the pandemic has greatly affected these efforts. The length of time someone remained homeless has unfortunately increased as there is difficulty in locating affordable housing for homeless persons. The CoC will be working on some new initiatives, using CDBG-CV funding to enhance some services for homeless individuals and families in the area of housing navigation, housing search, and connection to other mainstream resources.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Middlesex County itself does not own or operate any public housing, although its Public Housing Agency provides Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Rental Assistance to over 600 households living in private market rental units, including over 250 Section 8 "portable" clients who have moved in from other jurisdictions.

For the PHA's that do own public housing, the regularly perform routine maintenance to ensure their units meet housing quality standards.

The Woodbridge PHA finished this past year the last phase of a conversion of their public housing units through HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. This allowed for a public/private partnership and the inflow of new funding sources, such as Low Income Housing Tax Credits. For this RAD project, the end result was an increase in the total number of affordable housing units in this community.

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

Although Middlesex County doesn't own any public housing, clients participating in the Housing Choice Program, are encouraged to participate in programs for first time homebuyers, including the HOME funded Middlesex County American Dream Downpayment program, State of New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency's first time homebuyer program, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York's first time homebuyer program (formerly known as "First Home Club".

Some PHA's within the county, such as the Housing Authority of Perth Amboy and the NJ Department of Community Affairs, offer the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership program, which provide mortgage assistance instead of rental assistance.

All PHA's within the county have a Rental Advisory Board, which provide input at least on an annual basis, plus also have representation from the PHA residents on their boards.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

There are nine PHA's other than the County program and none to our knowledge were troubled, but if one were, we would offer assistance as needed.

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)

The county's Planning Board continued work and is in he process of finalizing it's new Master Plan, which is called "Destination 2040". D2040, as it is known, has both a Housing Plan Element and a Land Use Element and includes recommendations on how to address local public policies that serve as barriers to development. D2040 recommendations include creating some boiler plate policies that can be adopted, providing funding incentives and other strategies to have zoning and land use more friendly towards afforable housign development, including how to repurpose existing, but outdated, non-housing structures. Staff from the Division of Housing and Community Development was very active in all aspects of this process, including attending meetings, helping to identify appropriate stakeholders, and establishing goals and priorities. This process helped identify the above challenges very specifically and then proposed not only potential solutions, but also a time frame to accomplish specific objectives.

Some municipalities continue with their plans for what is known as COAH or Mt. Laurel afforable housing units, which can include an set-aside for affordable units for any new construction of multifamily development or the rehabilitation of existing units. Even if it is not mandated, some municipalities will continue to see value in the development of affordable housing or at least not be opposed to such development, while other communites are not as welcoming, or only want to see development of affordable housing for certain preferred populations, like veterans. There seems to be more discussion and more information nationwide about the need for "smarter" development and getting away from single family only zoning. This is part because of the need to develop affordable housing, but also the trend for city living and access to city amenities (restaurants, theaters, arts, museums, parks, etc.) more desirable. The jurisdiction helps to encourage the development of affordable housing, especially for the most vulnerable, by making some capital funding avaiable to develop affordable housing for homeless populations. The county's Housing First Capital Fund (HFCF) has provided \$1M annually for the past 11 years. Projects funded with HFCF must are reviewed to see that its housing in a desirable area and has access to amenities and services needed for the population targeted.

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

It is well established through national studies that the incomes of the lowest income households have not kept up with the increase in the cost of living and especially the cost of housing over the last twenty years. This is especially true in a state like New Jersey, with some of the highest housing costs in the nation. Consequently, even with subsidies from Federal and State governments, along with locally-generated resources such as municipal affordable housing trust funds (generated only in growing municipalities), little progress has been made in creating additional housing units affordable to

households below 50% of median income. As the above statistics indicate, many needy households including many elderly, have incomes well below the 50% mark. Large numbers of these very low income households are paying disproportionate amounts of income to sustain their housing, whether they rent or own. Data indicating current levels of need are more fully described in the Middlesex County 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, available at the County Department of Housing and Community Development.

In the face of these obstacles, most of Middlesex County's HOME funding since the program began in 1992 has been dedicated to increasing the supply of housing affordable to renters making 50% or less or the area median income, with some HOME projects committed to rents affordable at incomes of 40% of median. The only HOME funding not committed to very low income renters has been used to assist first-time homebuyers and occasionally for low income owner-occupied rehabilitation

As stated above, the county has for the past 11 years, made \$1M available in capital funding for the development of housing specifically for homeless individuals and families. The county also makes available approxmiately \$900,000 in annual support grants to local non-profit agencies to assist in the operation of programs serving those most vulnerable in our jurisdiction. Agencies receiving funding include for project serving basic needs, childcare, special needs, and other vulnerable populations. This is in addition to annual CDBG, HOME, ESG and CoC funding.

The county's receipt of funding through the CARES Act, the December 2020 congressional reconcilitation, and the American Rescue Plan has created an influx of available spending that in addition to immediate pandemic needs, can also be used to assist those populations most impacted or would have the most difficult in recovering from negataive economic impacts from the pandemic.

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

At the local level, the Urban County staff Housing Inspectors work closely with municipal officials and landlords to insure the quality of the approximately 600 units of low income housing receiving subsidized rents from the County Public Housing Agency. The Public Housing Agency provides Section 8 Rental Assistance to very low income families, with priority given to families from the sixteen municipalities in the county which do not have their own housing authorities. Each landlord and tenant are given a brochure and paper to sign with information on lead based paint hazards.

Projects funded by HUD funding also have inspections to make sure households aren't placed in units that have lead-paint hazards.

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

To help reduce the number of poverty-level families, care is given that households at or below the poverty level are accessing mainstream and other resources that can help lift them out of poverty, including food stamps, GA & TANF assistance, applying for SSI, accessing Workforce Development

programs and Vocational Rehab, access to CoC/ESG and other homeless funding, and for health care and insurance.

The Middlesex County PHA prioritizes its Housing Choice Voucher waiting list for elderly, disabled, and families with minor children and are extremely low income to provide housing stability to poverty-level families.

The CDBG funds used for social service programs are also mainly targeted to families at, near or below the poverty level. This includes programs for seniors, disabled adults, and children and youth in low income households.

The biggest actions are around programs that prioritize funding for homeless individuals and families at those at risk of homelessness. For at risk households, there are ESG prioritizations around providing rental assistance/homelessness prevention funds to those at most immenient risk of homelessness. The county has also worked with its various advisory boards, like the CoC, Human Services Advisory Council, Mental Health & Additions Board and varoius subcommittees of same, to publicize available programs and resources and information on resources is cross-shared through various email lists and by reporting and sharing through the various committees. The county has established the newly named REPLENISH agency (formerly MCFOODS) that is the county's coordinating entity and main provider of food assistance to households with food insecurity. It has used this system to provide information and connections to resources, such as rental assistance programs and othe mainstream resources to help families in poverty.

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

The Urban County and HOME consortium staff continued to have much discussion with staff and policy-makers at other governmental levels, with non-profit agencies involved with housing and with homeless housing and service providers. The Urban County's Housing and Community Development Committee provides an active forum for municipal-County contacts on a range of housing and community development issues. Since 1975, the Urban County of eighteen (formerly nineteen) municipalities plus the County has been joined together by intergovernmental cooperation agreements to receive Community Development Block Grant funds. The same holds true for the HOME Investment Partnerships program since 1992. In 1976, Old Bridge joined the Urban County to create a consortium, and in Spring 1998, Edison, Sayreville and Woodbridge signed agreements with the County to join the HOME consortium for FY 1999. Only two Middlesex County municipalities - New Brunswick and Perth Amboy - are not part of the consortium; these municipalities receive their HOME funds directly from HUD. Ongoing communiciation and coordination helps drive policy decisions and provides the opportunity to share information and data with the community.

The jursidictions works diligently on increasing collaboration among not only different county divisions and departments, but with creating partnerships with our non-profit agencies and private industry. The CoC has done this very well and some of their tools for increased collaboration are being shared and

emulated by other divisions or boards in the county. The county has also in the past few years established a new Public and Government Affairs office that works on increased coordination between municipalities, the county, and state officials and agencies. This already established format was very helpful during the past year plus with the pandemic response and sharing pertinent information and resources.

As stated above, the county's new Master Plan "Destination 2040" has many concrete objectives to address not only barriers to affordable housing development, but other quality of life elements, including access to transportation, availability of quality jobs & businesses, access to healthcare, and community amenities . Some have time frames for completion over the next 1-3 years, and others that are more substantial have a longer time frame.

The county CoC has began exploring racial equity and examining if there are racial disparities in access to and provision of services targeting homeless and at risk populations. This work will continue through the next program years.

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

The Middlesex County Housing Continuum of Care Committee (MCHC3) brings together all the homeless housing and service providers in the County to ensure that the Continuum of Care for the homeless or potentially homeless neither has gaps nor is wastefully duplicative. The MCHC3 Committee met monthly during PY2020 and is working actively on reducing homelessness, with Coming Home (the non-profit entity responsible for implementation of the plan to end homelessness.) MCHC3 has continued to encourage collaboration and greater emphasis on performance standards and outcome measures, including in which agencies receive and retain funding. MCHC3 has been operating a Coordinated Entry/Assessment system since PY2015 and an enhanced HMIS system, where agencies are being held more responsible on data quality, completeness, and performance. Additional data is gained through the annual Point in Time Survey. State representatives attend most MCHC3 Committee meetings. Coming Home of Middlesex Inc. continues its work on landlord engagement, to develop more landlords willing to rent to homeless and low income households who would not normally pass their credit checks.

At the local level, the Urban County staff Housing Inspector work closely with municipal officials and landlords to insure the quality of the over 600 units of low income housing receiving subsidized rents from the County Public Housing Agency. The Public Housing Agency provides Section 8 Rental Assistance to very low income families, with priority given to families from the sixteen municipalities in the County which do not have their own housing authorities.

Urban County staff also participate in the county's Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC), which is a committee of both social services providers, government representatives, and community stakeholders. The HSAC evaluates needs for the most vulnerable in our county and also makes

recommendations on funding social service agencies through the county's Support Grant program

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

Middlesex County has taken to following actions to address these impediments. First, all rental housing projects provided with HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds are required to serve households with incomes at or below 50% of median. Many of these funded activities also serve senior citizens and special needs populations, which are particularly vulnerable to high housing costs. Per HOME regulations, projects with more than 5 units must have an affirmative marketing plan.

Middlesex County provides CDBG funding to the Puerto Rican Action Board (PRAB) to be the Urban County/HOME Consortium fair housing agency. This non-profit, a HUD certified housing counseling agency, pursues Fair Housing cases which complainants bring to it, seeking to resolve them without recourse to the Federal government if possible. Each Year PRAB conducts numerous outreach workshops to educate the public on fair housing and housing rights in addition to investigate complaints.

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

Middlesex County has monitored program activities to ensure compliance with applicable HUD regulations and requirements, as follows:

Planning: All proposed activities were reviewed for eligibility under statutory and regulatory requirements, and for meeting a need identified in the Consolidated Plan. Activities were assessed as needed to ensure that there was no negative impact on the environment.

Implementation: Fiscal monitoring included review and approval of budgets, compliance with executed grant agreements and contracts, review and approval of vouchers, monthly review of financial reports from the County Comptroller's office, and review of subrecipient audits as required. Inspections were carried out on construction and rehabilitation projects before payment of vouchers. All files were maintained with required documentation.

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.

Each municipality holds a public hearing to obtain citizens comments and then hold another public hearing at their Council meetings. The notices are posted in the newspaper and also send to local organizations and community partners through email distribution lists.

The County then holds at least one and usually two public meetings that are posted in the newspaper. In addition, the county will also post the CAPER reports on the county website. The county website is capable of being translated to several different languages to assist non-English speaking persons. The county will also have a notice about reasonable accommodation for anyone who may need assistance.

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.

There were no changes in the program objectives for the past year. Municipalities submit projects based on their jurisdictions particular need, but a large focus continues to be on services and activities that benefit senior citizens or other populations that are low income, including disabled adults.

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-50 - HOME 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

Projects inspected this past year include:

Jacob's Landing

Camp Kilmer Phase A

Some other scheduled on-site monitorings were delayed due to the pandemic. There were no issues found in the properties inspected.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 92.351(b)

Middlesex County undertakes the following to ensure compliance with fair housing regulations. Each HOME written agreement contains the affirmative marketing requirements for HOME assisted units, so developers are fully aware of their affirmative marketing obligations. For larger projects (5+ units), an affirmative marketing plan is developed that details outreach and marketing efforts. All marketing materials, whether by PJ or subrecipient contain the Fair Housing logo and are advertised broadly in local newspapers and also on websites. The county's updated website allows for the translation of printed text into approximately 20 different languages. The county continues to look for ways like this to affirmatively further fair housing.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

The only source of HOME program income is for returned funds from the American Dream Downpayment homebuyer program. These funds are used to assist other participants to the American Dream Downpayment program. The majority of the participants usually are moderate income

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 91.320(j)

In an effort to foster and maintain affordable housing, the county prioritizes HOME funding for projects that will create new affordable rental housing or through rehabilitation, extend the term of affordability of that housing, specifically for household at or below 50% area median income. Middlesex County is a high cost area to live and many households are cost burdened with 34% of the county paying over 50% in income towards housing costs, so the addition or maintenance of low-income rental housing is much needed. Large developers are encouraged to apply for HOME funds to provide an overall small amount of gap financing in large projects, many of which are 100% affordable for people between 30-80% area median income (AMI). So while the HOME assisted units are specifically for those at or below 50% AMI, having HOME funds in the project help create affordable rental housing for moderate income households as well. The county almost always funds at least one Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) project a program year, since many LIHTC projects request HOME funds to address gap financing. The competitive nature of the LIHTC application process usually means that not all those developers who are interested in using HOME funds for a LIHTC project receive awards and we've had some developers have to modify their applications and apply in future years.

The county also funded a Housing First Capital Fund, which is specifically for the creation of dedicated homeless units. Some projects have been able to utilize both HOME and Housing First funds to create units specifically for homeless individuals and families.

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 14 – 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.

Table 15 - Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

CR-60 - ESG 91.520(g) (ESG Recipients only)

ESG Supplement to the CAPER in e-snaps

For Paperwork Reduction Act

1. Recipient Information—All Recipients Complete

Basic Grant Information

Recipient Name MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Organizational DUNS Number 073133100

UEI

EIN/TIN Number 226002454
Indentify the Field Office NEWARK

Identify CoC(s) in which the recipient or

subrecipient(s) will provide ESG

assistance

New Brunswick/Middlesex County CoC

ESG Contact Name

Prefix Ms First Name Melissa

Middle Name

Last Name Bellamy

Suffix

Title Division Head

ESG Contact Address

Street Address 1 County Administration Building
Street Address 2 75 Bayard Street, 2nd Floor

City New Brunswick

State NJ ZIP Code -

Phone Number 7327453025

Extension

Fax Number

Email Address melissa.bellamy@co.middlesex.nj.us

ESG Secondary Contact

Prefix

First Name

Last Name

Suffix

Title

Phone Number

Extension

Email Address

2. Reporting Period—All Recipients Complete

Program Year Start Date 07/01/2020 Program Year End Date 06/30/2021

3a. Subrecipient Form - Complete one form for each subrecipient

Subrecipient or Contractor Name

City

State

Zip Code

DUNS Number

UEI

Is subrecipient a vistim services provider

Subrecipient Organization Type

ESG Subgrant or Contract Award Amount

CR-65 - Persons Assisted

4. Persons Served

4a. Complete for Homelessness Prevention Activities

Number of Persons in	Total
Households	
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 16 – Household Information for Homeless Prevention Activities

4b. Complete for Rapid Re-Housing Activities

Number of Persons in	Total
Households	
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 17 – Household Information for Rapid Re-Housing Activities

4c. Complete for Shelter

Number of Persons in	Total
Households	
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 18 – Shelter Information

4d. Street Outreach

Number of Persons in	Total
Households	
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 19 - Household Information for Street Outreach

4e. Totals for all Persons Served with ESG

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 20 – Household Information for Persons Served with ESG

5. Gender—Complete for All Activities

	Total
Male	0
Female	0
Transgender	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 21 – Gender Information

6. Age—Complete for All Activities

	Total
Under 18	0
18-24	0
25 and over	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 22 – Age Information

7. Special Populations Served—Complete for All Activities

Number of Persons in Households

Subpopulation	Total	Total	Total	Total
		Persons	Persons	Persons
		Served –	Served –	Served in
		Prevention	RRH	Emergency
				Shelters
Veterans	0	0	0	0
Victims of Domestic				
Violence	0	0	0	0
Elderly	0	0	0	0
HIV/AIDS	0	0	0	0
Chronically				
Homeless	0	0	0	0
Persons with Disabilit	ies:			
Severely Mentally				
III	0	0	0	0
Chronic Substance				
Abuse	0	0	0	0
Other Disability	0	0	0	0
Total				
(Unduplicated if				
possible)	0	0	0	0

Table 23 – Special Population Served

CR-70 – ESG 91.520(g) - Assistance Provided and Outcomes

10. Shelter Utilization

Number of New Units - Rehabbed	0
Number of New Units - Conversion	0
Total Number of bed-nights available	0
Total Number of bed-nights provided	0
Capacity Utilization	0.00%

Table 24 – Shelter Capacity

11. Project Outcomes Data measured under the performance standards developed in consultation with the CoC(s)

CR-75 – Expenditures

11. Expenditures

11a. ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2018	2019	2020
Expenditures for Rental Assistance	0	0	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation and			
Stabilization Services - Financial Assistance	0	0	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation &			
Stabilization Services - Services	0	0	0
Expenditures for Homeless Prevention under			
Emergency Shelter Grants Program	0	0	0
Subtotal Homelessness Prevention	0	0	0

Table 25 – ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention

11b. ESG Expenditures for Rapid Re-Housing

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2018	2019	2020
Expenditures for Rental Assistance	0	0	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation and			
Stabilization Services - Financial Assistance	0	0	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation &			
Stabilization Services - Services	0	0	0
Expenditures for Homeless Assistance under			
Emergency Shelter Grants Program	0	0	0
Subtotal Rapid Re-Housing	0	0	0

Table 26 - ESG Expenditures for Rapid Re-Housing

11c. ESG Expenditures for Emergency Shelter

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year			
	2018 2019 2020			
Essential Services	0	0	0	
Operations	0	0	0	
Renovation	0	0	0	

Major Rehab	0	0	0
Conversion	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0

Table 27 – ESG Expenditures for Emergency Shelter

11d. Other Grant Expenditures

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year			
	2018 2019 2020			
Street Outreach	0	0	0	
HMIS	0	0	0	
Administration	0	0	0	

Table 28 - Other Grant Expenditures

11e. Total ESG Grant Funds

Total ESG Funds	2018	2019	2020
Expended			
	0	0	0

Table 29 - Total ESG Funds Expended

11f. Match Source

	2018	2019	2020
Other Non-ESG HUD Funds	0	0	0
Other Federal Funds	0	0	0
State Government	0	0	0
Local Government	0	0	0

Private Funds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Fees	0	0	0
Program Income	0	0	0
Total Match Amount	0	0	0

Table 30 - Other Funds Expended on Eligible ESG Activities

11g. Total

Total Amount of Funds Expended on ESG	2018	2019	2020
Activities			
	0	0	0

Table 31 - Total Amount of Funds Expended on ESG Activities