



2024 Draft Annual Action Plan Executive Summary

Introduction

The City of Albany receives an annual formula grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Every five years the city prepares a five-year strategic plan, called the Consolidated Plan, to identify housing, community, and economic development needs and priorities. The 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan identifies community needs and goals for the City to try to achieve between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2028, “to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons.” The goals and strategies outlined in the 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan were identified through agency consultations, research, data analysis, a community survey, and other local input.

The City’s 2024 Action Plan describes how the City will target program year 2024 CDBG funds to address needs and goals identified in the 2013-2027 Consolidated Plan. The City will receive \$349,123 from HUD for program year 2024.

2024 Plan Goals and Objectives

The 2024 Annual Action Plan (2024 Plan) objectives and outcomes were developed by assessing data and needs through requests for proposals and agency consultations. The need for affordable housing remains substantial. Emergency shelters and domestic violence shelters are often at capacity as the insufficient amount of affordable housing presents a barrier to those working to transition out of these shelters. Further, public services are continually needed to support Albany’s most vulnerable residents including low-income families, seniors, homeless youth, and unsheltered homeless adults. The 2024 Action Plan activities will benefit Albany’s low- and moderate-income residents, with funding allocated to activities that work to prevent and reduce homelessness, maintain quality affordable housing, provide needed services, and expand economic opportunities. Housing stability and overall wellbeing will be improved by services that support homebound seniors and their ability to remain living independently, maintaining low-income housing through the low-income homeowner housing rehabilitation program, and shelter to help survivors of domestic violence and youth find shelter and ultimately stable housing.

The following summarizes how the City will allocate 2024 CDBG program funds to activities that address 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan goals and objectives.

Reduce and prevent homelessness.

- Funding will be used to support Jackson Street Youth Services which provides emergency shelter for homeless youth. Jackson Street Youth Services has been tentatively allocated \$26,000 and is projected to serve 70 youth.

- Funds are also dedicated to the Community Outreach Assistance Team (COAT) through Creating Housing Coalition. This outreach arm of the organization helps unsheltered adults or adults at risk of losing housing access resources and services, and ultimately, find housing. COAT has been tentatively allocated \$10,000 and is projected to serve 400 residents.

Increase affordable housing options.

- Funds will go toward providing adequate security and privacy at a new confidential shelter for survivors of domestic violence, operated by Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV). This expands access to temporary housing that allows survivors to stabilize their lives and seek permanent stable housing. CARDV has been tentatively allocated \$40,900 and the shelter is projected to serve 30 residents.

Maintain existing affordable housing.

- Continue to support the housing rehabilitation loan program provided by DevNW to improve the safety, sustainability, and livability of owner-occupied by low- and moderate income (LMI) residents. DevNW has been tentatively allocated \$125,000 and is projected to serve 3 Albany homeowners.

Support Economic Opportunities for low- income residents.

- The City will partner with Family Connections to provide grants to small in-home childcare businesses to support job creation and retention as well as grow the availability of childcare services in Albany. Family Connections has been tentatively allocated \$51,900 which will provide small business grants to 5 low- or moderate- income residents to start, expand or stabilize their in-home childcare business.

Support public services for special needs and low-income residents.

- In addition to the services for homeless and at-risk youth and unsheltered adults described above, funds will support after school and summer enrichment for youth which also serves as vital childcare for low- and moderate- income families. The Boys and Girls Club has been tentatively allocated \$10,000 to provide scholarships for 19 low- and moderate- income households.
- Funding will also support the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (OCWCOG) senior companion program for elderly home-bound adults. OCWCOG has been tentatively allocated \$4,000 to provide assistance to 15 seniors allowing them to continue living independently in their homes.

Evaluation of past performance

In the first year of the 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan period, the CDBG resources helped to maintain and improve affordable housing, prevent homelessness, support homebound seniors, provide case management and shelter to youth, provide resource navigation and case management to unsheltered adults, provide childcare and youth enrichment. These outcomes are aligned with the goals of the CDBG plan and showcase the myriad of ways CDBG funds have been used to support low- and moderate-income residents in Albany over the years. Funds have also been used to support economic development through grants to in-home childcare businesses and low- and moderate-income neighborhood improvements through investments to Lehigh Park.

Summary

The 2024 Action Plan describes the activities the City of Albany will support or carry out to address the community needs identified through public participation and consultation to further the goals and objectives identified in the 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan. In 2024, the CDBG funds will help to improve the livability and sustainability of existing affordable housing, create economic opportunities and expand the availability of childcare, and provide ongoing support to agencies that are working to reduce homelessness, serve seniors, support survivors of domestic violence, and enrichment for youth from low-income households.

Public Hearing and Comment Period

A public hearing on the 2024 Action Plan is scheduled for the June 26th, 2024 City Council meeting at 6pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Members of the public are also welcome to provide comment at the Community Development Commission on May 21st at 6pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Written comments can be submitted between May 27th and June 26th, 2024. The 2024 Action Plan in its entirety will be posted on the city website and available at the Albany Library and Albany City Hall on May 24th.