

2021 Annual Action Plan  
**Substantial Amendment for Public Review**

**11/12/2024-12/11/2024**

Community Development Block Grant Program



City of Staunton, Virginia

December 2024 amendment reallocates funding from Habitat for Humanity to an HVAC replacement project at the Staunton Housing Authority. Screens updated include AP12 AP20 AP35.

## **Executive Summary**

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

#### **1. Introduction**

The City of Staunton is a federal entitlement community under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a HUD entitlement community, the City is required to prepare Annual Action Plans related to the most recent Five-Year Consolidated Plan (CP) in order to implement any federal programs that fund housing, community development and economic development within the community. The Staunton Annual Action Plan covers the period from FY 2021 (October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022).

This Annual Action Plan outlines the planning and project requirements for the following federal program:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Funds are provided under the following program:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): The primary objective of the CDBG Program is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income levels. Funds can be used for a wide array of activities, including: housing rehabilitation, acquisition of existing housing or land, homeownership assistance, lead-based paint detection and removal, construction or rehabilitation of public facilities and infrastructure, removal of architectural barriers, water and efficiency improvements, abatement of hazards such as lead based paint or asbestos, public services, rehabilitation of commercial or industrial buildings, and loans or grants to businesses.

#### **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.

The Strategic Plan provides a framework to address the needs of the City for the next four years. The Three overarching objectives guiding the proposed activities are:

- Providing Decent Affordable Housing
- Creating Suitable Living Environments
- Creating Economic Opportunities

Outcomes show how programs and activities benefit low- and moderate- income areas of a community or the people served. The three outcomes that will illustrate the benefits of each activity funded by the CDBG programs are:

- Improve Availability/Accessibility
- Improve Affordability
- Improve Sustainability

All future activities funding in the next four years will support at least one objective and one outcome. The City’s framework for realizing the objectives and outcomes include the following goals:

- Provide Decent, Affordable Housing
- Provide a Suitable Living Environment
- Increase Homeownership

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

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

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

The following evaluation of past performance is from the Program Year 2019 (October1, 2019 – September 30, 2020) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation (CAPER) report.

CDBG funds were used to fund public services that are directed to seniors, youth, disabled populations and persons who are homeless and are presumed to serve low-income people.

During FY 2019 the City of Staunton completed the following activities that were considered high priority

- Persons benefiting from Public Services: 197 persons served: Of those 119 were seniors or persons with disabilities who benefited from the Meals on Wheels program, 840 one-way rides were provided to 37 Staunton residents age 62 or older who did not have access to other forms of transportation; 12 individuals experiencing homelessness were assisted with security deposits or first month’s rent to move into permanent housing, and 29 youth were assisted with advocacy services.

- Housing Units identified for rehabilitation: 6 homes identified 3 homes pending crew scheduling 1 home pending roof assessment 2 homes pending application

During 2019, the City of Staunton received CARES Act funding for the prevention of, preparation for and response to coronavirus. The City of Staunton allocated CARES Act funds to address 4 main objectives:

- Providing emergency payments for rental, mortgage, and utility assistance to low-to-moderate income households.
- Provide funding for additional emergency shelter staffing due to the increased shelter space needs resulting from social distancing.
- Provide food assistance to low to moderate income households.
- Increase outreach and education to underserved populations to provide prevention messaging in socially vulnerable areas, as identified by CDC social vulnerability index maps, of the City.

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

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Public Hearings—A public hearing was held on June 7, 2021 in Council Chambers 116 W Beverley St, Staunton VA 24401 at 2:00pm to solicit feedback on the Annual Action Plan development. This hearing was to solicit input from the public on the needs and priorities for the City.

A second public hearing was held on July 12, 2021. This hearing allowed for the public to review the proposed projects in the 2021 Annual Action Plan. Both hearings were advertised in the *News Leader* and on the City’s website in accordance with the City’s Citizen Participation Plan.

#### **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.

A complete summary of comments received is included in the Citizen Participation Appendix.

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

All comments were accepted. A complete summary of comments received is included in the Citizen Participation Appendix.

#### **7. Summary**

**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	STAUNTON	Department of Community and Economic Development

**Table 1 – Responsible Agencies**

**Narrative (optional)**

The City, a relatively new designated HUD entitlement grantee, is required by HUD to prepare an Annual Action Plan that meets the Consolidated Plan regulations in order to receive grant program funds. The lead agency responsible for overseeing the development of these plans and reports is the City’s Community and Economic Development Departments.

**Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

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

### **1. Introduction**

**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(I))**

As a new Entitlement grantee, the City encouraged a high level of public communication and agency consultation when developing the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan to demonstrate its commitment to identifying priority needs and engaging the participation of citizens, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations in a positive and collaborative manner. A list of stakeholders was developed for the purpose of developing the Plan, and included affordable housing providers, public agencies and private nonprofit organizations whose missions include the provision of affordable housing and human services to LMI households and persons. In line with the process during the Consolidated Plan, these stakeholders were invited to participate in public meetings held to develop the 2021 Annual Action Plan.

**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.**

The City participates in the Virginia Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) and is a member of one of twelve local planning groups. This group encompasses the City of Staunton, Augusta County, the City of Waynesboro, Highland County, the City of Lexington, the City of Buena Vista, and Rockbridge County. Members of the CoC were consulted during the development of the Con Plan to understand how to best address the needs of homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness. Through its cooperation with the CoC, the City will seek to identify ways to enhance coordination among the assisted housing providers and governmental health, mental health, and service agencies.

The City anticipates continuing its coordination of human service funding with other social service agencies and charitable organizations to better target the limited amount of human service dollars available in the community.

The City continues to fund non-profit organizations that provide services to person’s experiencing homelessness.

**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 does not receive ESG funds.

City staff will continue to work with the local planning group of the Balance of State CoC to undertake the establishment of performance measurements for homeless programs. Members of the CoC provided valuable input during public outreach, plan drafting, and project selection process of the Con Plan. The CoC administers the local HMIS.

The City's Citizen Participation Plan allows for citizens, community agencies, and the local CoC to provide input on the use of all funding. Notifications of the public hearings are published in Staunton's newspaper of largest distribution, the *News Leader*. Information is also made available at the City's office of Community Development and is displayed on the City's website.

**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**

**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Renewing Homes Greater Augusta
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	United Way Greater Augusta
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Health Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Staunton Redevelopment & Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Public Housing Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	City of Staunton
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Public Works-Engineering Office was consulted through a one-on one meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan. The Community & Economic Development Department was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Valley Program for Aging Services
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Staunton Augusta Waynesboro Habitat for Humanity
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Low-income Households

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Community Foundation of Central Blue Ridge
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Community Foundation
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Valley Supportive Housing
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.

9	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Blue Ridge CASA
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This organization was consulted through a stakeholder meeting and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.
10	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Blue Ridge legal Services, Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This organization was consulted through public meetings and brought several community needs to the attention of City staff that have been incorporated into the plan.

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

All entities were considered for consultation. The City of Staunton attempted to reach out to broadband providers. Data was collected using Federal Communications Commission data and the Brookings Institute *Closing the digital and economic divides in rural America*. Hazard mitigation information was collected from the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission’s website.

**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		
ALICE Report	United Way Greater Augusta	The ALICE Report was developed to identify challenges faced by the "working poor," those who are employed and/or have income, are above the federal poverty guidelines, but still have difficulty achieving basic needs. The goals of the Strategic Plan are aligned with the goals of ALICE, to improve access to opportunity for Staunton residents.
Capital Improvement Plan	City of Staunton	The City's Capital Improvement Plan, updated in 2018, informed the Strategic Plan sections aimed at public infrastructure improvements.

**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**

During April 2020, the City of Staunton updated the Citizen Participation Plan to include information on how the City will collect citizen participation in the event of an emergency. During the development of the Annual Action Plan, the state of Virginia was under stay at home orders and could not hold public hearings. The City of Staunton conducted public hearings virtually, utilizing video conferencing software that had the ability to allow live questions to be asked and comments in real time

Public Hearings—A public hearing was held on June 7, 2021 to solicit feedback on the Annual Action Plan development. This hearing was to solicit input from the public on the needs and priorities for the City. No one from the public was in attendance and no comments were made.

A second public hearing was held on July 12, 2021. This hearing presented the draft Annual Action Plan for public comment. Both hearings were advertised in the *News Leader* and on the City’s website in accordance with the City’s Citizen Participation Plan.

The City underwent extensive citizen participation in the development of the Consolidated Plan in 2019, which included stakeholder meetings, public hearings and an online survey. Results from this process outlined the five-year strategic goals for the City of Staunton. These were used in the creation of the 2021 Annual Action Plan.

**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	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	0	n/a	All comments accepted.	
2	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Annual Action Plan was uploaded on the City's website during the 30-day public comment period.	n/a	n/a	<a href="https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/home/showpublisheddocument/10216/637596171006330000">https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/home/showpublisheddocument/10216/637596171006330000</a>
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	0	See appendix.	All comments accepted.	

**Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach**

## Expected Resources

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

#### Introduction

The City of Staunton will utilize the CDBG allocation for Program Year 2021 for Admin and Planning, Housing, Public Infrastructure Improvements, and/or Public Services

#### 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	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	344,362	0	0	344,362	688,724	The estimated expected amount available for the remainder of the Con Plan is two times the 2021 annual allocation
Other	public - federal	Other	0	0	0	0	0	

**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**

Over the next three years, Staunton will attempt to leverage its CDBG allocations with federal and other public resources, as well as private sector funding sources, to address the City's housing and community development needs. The City will continue to partner with other public agencies and non-profit organizations, when feasible, to leverage resources and maximize outcomes in providing the housing and supportive services needs of the community.

The City annually provides general fund dollars to organizations that provide housing and/or supportive services to area residents, including LMI households. The City will continue this practice to maximize its CDBG investments.

The non-profit organizations funded through the CDBG program have additional financial capacity through foundations, fundraising campaigns, and other grants. The City's allocation of federal funds provides these organizations with the opportunity to expand their services to benefit more low- and moderate-income persons.

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

The Staunton Crossing redevelopment site is publicly owned and could potentially be used to address economic development and infrastructure needs identified in the Plan. Some of the needs identified that are needs of this particular site, but also the City as a whole, that can be addressed by the continued development of the site include infrastructure improvements and workforce development needs/middle-high paying jobs.

**Discussion**

## 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	Improve Access to and Quality of Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing Public Housing	City-Wide	Increase Access to Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$183,836	Rental units rehabilitated: 150 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 3 Household Housing Unit
2	Provide Public Services	2019	2023	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	City-Wide	Provide Public Services	CDBG: \$51,654	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 197 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5 Households Assisted
3	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$40,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 541 Persons Assisted
5	Planning and Administration	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide	Planning and Administration	CDBG: \$68,872	Other: 1 Other

**Table 6 – Goals Summary**

**Goal Descriptions**

<b>1</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Improve Access to and Quality of Housing
	<b>Goal Description</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Goal Description</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Goal Description</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	

# Projects

## AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

### Introduction

The following project information for the FY2021 provides a comprehensive overview of CDBG activities.

### Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Program Administration
2	Valley Mission Inc., Initial Housing Support Program
3	VPAS Senior Transportation Program (STP)
4	VPAS Meals on Wheels
5	Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.
6	Blue Ridge CASA
7	A Street Aging in Place Project-Canceled
8	Public Facility Improvements-West Beverly St Sidewalk
9	Re-Roofing Staunton
10	SRHA-HVAC Replacement

**Table 7 - Project Information**

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

**AP-38 Project Summary**  
**Project Summary Information**

1	<b>Project Name</b>	CDBG Program Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	City-Wide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$68,872
	<b>Description</b>	This funding will be used to support the general administration and planning activities for the Community Development Block Grant Program.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2022
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Other
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	This funding is used to support the general administration and planning activities for the Community Development Block Grant Program.
2	<b>Project Name</b>	Valley Mission Inc., Initial Housing Support Program
	<b>Target Area</b>	City-Wide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$5,000
	<b>Description</b>	Formally homeless individuals who move into housing within Staunton City limits after exiting Valley Mission will be assisted with approximately \$500 to \$1,000 each initial housing support or other funds necessary to facilitate moving into safe, affordable, permanent, and appropriate housing.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2022
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	5 persons
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide

	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Subsistence payments to assist formally homeless individuals more into safe housing. Payments will be made to the landlord or utility company directly.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	VPAS Senior Transportation Program (STP)
	<b>Target Area</b>	City-Wide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$10,000
	<b>Description</b>	VPAS's Senior Transportation Program (STP) provides elderly Staunton residents and those under 60 with a disability transportation services to medical and other life necessary destinations when there is no other reliable or affordable transportation option available to them.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2022
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	30 people
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Funding will pay for outreach activities and develop multi-passenger ride scheduling.
<b>4</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	VPAS Meals on Wheels
	<b>Target Area</b>	City-Wide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$10,000
	<b>Description</b>	Meals on Wheels (MOW) program provides a nutritious hot meal five days per week to frail, older Staunton residents who are at nutritional risk.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2022
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	95 people

	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Provides nutritious hot meal five days per week to elderly (62 or older) Staunton residents who are at nutritional risk.
5	<b>Project Name</b>	Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.
	<b>Target Area</b>	City-Wide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$11,654
	<b>Description</b>	BRLS will use CDBG funding for FY21 to provide free legal assistance to low-income Staunton residents facing civil legal issues as a result of the pandemic and subsequent economic crisis.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2022
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	12 people
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Funds will cover the costs of providing free civil legal assistance to approximately 12 residents of Staunton facing critical legal issues, with a special focus on those facing eviction or foreclosure.
6	<b>Project Name</b>	Blue Ridge CASA
	<b>Target Area</b>	City-Wide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Provide Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$15,000
	<b>Description</b>	Provide advocacy for abused and neglected children. The proposed activities will directly benefit at least 60 low-income children living in unstable and inadequate housing conditions who have been victims of abuse or neglect and have special needs.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2022
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	60 people

	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Funding for Program Engagement Manager.
<b>7</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	A Street Aging in Place Project-Canceled
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	:
	<b>Description</b>	Funding will be used to develop streets, gutters, sidewalks and water lines for no less than 23 new homes at the end of A Street in Staunton, Virginia. Funding from multiple years being redirected to a new project which will replace HVAC units at Staunton Public Housing.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2022
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
	<b>Location Description</b>	
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Facility Improvements-West Beverly St Sidewalk
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$40,000
	<b>Description</b>	Project involves replacing 500 linear feet of sidewalk along W. Beverley Street from Grubert to Dollar General to improve ADA accessibility. Requesting additional funding for an existing project previously funded by CDBG in FY20.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2022
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Approximately 518 low-income households will benefit from proposed project.

	<b>Location Description</b>	West Beverley from Grubert Westward to Dollar General
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Project involves replacing 500 linear feet of sidewalk along W. Beverley Street from Grubert to Dollar General to improve ADA accessibility.
<b>9</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Re-Roofing Staunton
	<b>Target Area</b>	City-Wide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Improve Access to and Quality of Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Increase Access to Affordable Housing
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$30,000
	<b>Description</b>	The scope of this project would include roof replacement for low-income homeowners (primarily seniors).
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2022
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Approximately 3 homeowners
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The scope of this project would include roof replacement for low-income homeowners (primarily seniors).
<b>10</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	SRHA-HVAC Replacement
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Improve Access to and Quality of Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Increase Access to Affordable Housing
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$153,836 CDBG-CV: \$46,221
	<b>Description</b>	Project involves replacement of HVAC units at public housing units owned and operated by Staunton Housing and Redevelopment Authorities.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	300 public housing residents will benefit from the proposed activity

	<b>Location Description</b>	Elizabeth Miller Gardens; Farrier Court
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Public Housing Modernization Matrix Code 14C

## **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**

The City will use CDBG funds throughout the jurisdiction to serve low and moderate-income persons.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
City-Wide	100

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

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

Staunton does not allocate funds by target areas. Rather, the City allocates funds based upon the priorities that have been identified by citizens participating in the public input process and through the regular planning contacts made with elected officials and staff. The City will use CDBG funds throughout the jurisdiction to serve low and moderate-income persons.

### **Discussion**

## Affordable Housing

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

#### Introduction

The City will use its federal funds to provide affordable housing by providing funds to rehabilitation existing units.

The special needs population will be served through grants to local service providers. The homeless population will be served through assistance grants to local service providers.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	5
Non-Homeless	3
Special-Needs	0
Total	8

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	5
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	3
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	8

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

#### Discussion

Valley Mission will receive \$5,000 to provide subsistence payments to assist 5 formally homeless individuals more into safe housing. Re-Roofing Staunton will receive \$30,000 to provide roof replacement for approximately 3 low-income homeowners.

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

### **Introduction**

As of 2016, Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (SR&HA) converted all of its public housing units into project-based Section 8 units under the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program. SR&HA currently owns and manages a total of 150 residential units including 50 units for elderly and disabled. The units range from one bedroom to five-bedroom townhouses. Rent is based on income and utilities are included.

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

SR&HA converted all of its public housing units into Section 8 units under the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program.

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

Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (SR&HA) has a resident council that participates in meetings and events. The Council was particularly active during the conversion of the units to project-based vouchers under the Rental Assistance Demonstration program in 2016.

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

SR&HA is not designated as troubled.

### **Discussion**

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

### **Introduction**

As a participant in the Virginia Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC), the City is a partner in addressing homelessness and the priority needs of homeless individuals and families, including homeless subpopulations.

### **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**

The Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) has an established Coordinated Entry System, which offers a central point of entry for households experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. During an initial phone call, a housing counselor asks questions that will help determine eligibility for services with local agencies. The BoS CoC uses two assessment tools for prioritization of services. Prevention assessment: The BoS created a prevention prioritization tool that includes both homeless vulnerability and housing barriers. Once a household's housing crisis is triaged and it is determined that the household is at imminent risk of homeless (14 days or less), then the coordinated entry staff will conduct the prevention prioritization assessment. Based on eligibility and assessment score prevention providers are guided on service needs of households. The BoS CoC uses the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) as the common standardized assessment tool for those who are literally homeless. This assessment is conducted no more than 3 to 5 days after the household has been referred to shelter or once an outreach worker is able to establish rapport with an unsheltered or un-engaged household.

Each January, the CoC conducts a Point-in-Time (PIT) count of the City's sheltered and unsheltered homeless to ascertain the number and characteristics of the homeless population and to assess their needs. Staunton's continued participation in the PIT study will give the City the ability to collect information to be used in setting priorities, written standards, and performance measures for the area.

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

During 2021, the City's federal funds will support Valley Mission, which offers emergency shelter and services for homeless individuals and families. Valley Mission will receive \$5,000 to provide subsistence payments to assist 5 formally homeless individuals more into safe housing.

#### **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 City will maintain coordination and collaboration with local non-profit agencies serving the homeless population. The City will continue will use its entitlement grant funds to assist non-profit organizations that serve homeless individuals and families in Staunton.

During PY2021, Valley Mission will be awarded funds to assist formally homeless households' transition into safe, permanent housing. Blue Ridge Legal Services will also receive funding to assist households with free legal services to reduce the threat of homelessness in the City by using the courts to prevent evictions or foreclosures and keep City residents in their homes.

**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.**

The City will maintain coordination and collaboration with local non-profit agencies serving the homeless population. The City will continue will use its entitlement grant funds to assist non-profit organizations that serve homeless individuals and families in Staunton.

The City utilized federal CARES Act funds support the following homeless shelter and prevention programs:

- Valley Mission
- Salvation Army Homeless Prevention
- Community Foundation of Blue Ridge Homeless Prevention

**Discussion**

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

### **Introduction:**

The City of Staunton has prepared an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice to satisfy requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, in 2020. This act requires that any community receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds affirmatively further fair housing.

A summary of the impediments to fair housing choice that emerged from the data analysis, public engagement initiatives, and policy review were identified. They are the results of primary and secondary research that define the underlying conditions, trends, and context for fair housing planning in Staunton. The impediments were assigned three priority levels based on the amount and strength of the supporting evidence that initially identified the factor:

- High – factors that limit or deny fair housing choice or access to opportunity, as well as other factors that are urgent or establish a foundation for future actions
- Medium – moderately urgent or building on prior actions
- Low – limited impact on fair housing issue

(See unique appendix for chart)

**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**

### **Impediment: Location and type of affordable housing**

The City and other local organizations should address the diverse housing needs for the City's various subpopulations, including low-and moderate-income households, persons with disabilities, and large families. They will do so by Continuing to invest in housing in a wide geographic area throughout the City. This will be measured by the number of affordable units created/rehabilitated by location and unit type. The City should expand affordable housing in areas of higher opportunities.

During FY2020, the City's federal funds supported A Street Aging In Place to develop infrastructure that benefited 25 households. The City will continue to fund this project in FY2021 and develop infrastructure for a minimum of 23 new homes. The A Street project is located in Census Tract 3, which is within one of the Lowest Opportunity tracks, however it is directly bordering Census Track 4, which is

the only “Higher Opportunity” track in the City.

**Impediment: Lack of policies and procedures related to fair housing.**

During FY2020, the City created an Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan in accordance with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and HUD regulations at 24 CFR 42.325.

**Impediment: Fair housing education, outreach, and enforcement**

During FY2021, the City will work toward designating a Fair Housing liaison and adding a new fair housing page to the City’s website.

**Discussion:**

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

### **Introduction:**

The following information illustrates other actions that Staunton will take to address its priority needs.

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

The primary impediment to the City's ability to meet underserved needs is the limited amount of funding to address identified priorities. The City will continue to seek public and private resources to leverage its entitlement funds in assisting with implementation of policies and programs.

Programs funded through the CDBG program will assist the elderly and children living in unstable and inadequate housing conditions, who have been victims of abuse or neglect.

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

The City will continue to support its goals of maintaining and expanding affordable housing. In FY 2021, the City will allocate CDBG funds to increase access to and the creation of affordable housing.

The City will utilize CDBG funds to complete the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the construction of a minimum of 23 ADA units for elderly in the community. As part of a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, DHCD and VHDA.

In 2021, the Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (SRHA) is accepting proposals from developers to provide affordable, permanent new construction housing for families within the City of Staunton. SRHA anticipates awarding a maximum of 23 projects to one or more developers under this RFP.

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

The City will work with other parties to achieve cost effective methods for controlling these hazards through the following:

- As part of its code enforcement efforts, Staunton's building code department will continue to educate City residents about lead paint hazards.
- Properties will be made lead safe during renovation of older residential units.
- The City will continue to monitor Virginia Department of Health reports regarding Staunton children with elevated blood lead levels.

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

The City will collaborate with human service, social service, and economic development agencies and

organizations to facilitate their efforts and maximize their resources to provide quality services to low-income residents to help them improve their incomes.

The Community Action Partnership of Staunton, Augusta, and Waynesboro (CAPSAW) is the community action agency designated in July 2009 by Virginia's governor to serve the citizens of Augusta County, the City of Staunton, and the City of Waynesboro. CAPSAW administers funds made available annually to designated community action agencies through the Federal Community Services Block Grant, the State Community Services Block Grant, and Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds, along with required match funds provided by each of three localities. In 2020, CAPSAW worked across all three communities to provide financial and technical support to partner agencies directly responding to the devastating impact of the pandemic and will continue to do so moving forward. In 2020, 64% of the 4,036 families served were low-income families.

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

Although the City feels that the existing institutional structure is sufficient for carrying out activities to address identified community development needs, the City Manager's Office plans to continue to strengthen its working relationships with local social service agencies. Public and non-profit agencies that are critical to the institutional structure must work cooperatively, and agency staff have the ability and expertise to deliver services efficiently and effectively, often with years of expertise in their respective fields.

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

The City plans to improve coordination among its partners to promote a broadly shared understanding of community needs, collaborative, and complementary approaches to addressing needs, and responsiveness to changes in conditions.

The City anticipates coordination of human service funding with other social service agencies and charitable organizations to better target the limited amount of human service dollars available in the community. The City will also continue to coordinate its housing efforts with the Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (SR&HA).

In January 2020, the Staunton City Schools received a donation of 200 hotspots to help improve internet access for families during the school year. There are now a total of 400 hotspots that are in the area to help reduce the digital divide.

### **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
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	70.00%



