

2014-2015
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
(CAPER)

Table of Contents

(1)	Narratives	<u>Page Number</u>
	<i>Introduction</i>	2
	<i>Executive Summary</i>	3
	<i>Fair Housing</i>	6
	<i>Continuum of Care</i>	7
	<i>Other Actions</i>	13
	<i>2014 Action Plan Funding Analysis</i>	16
	<i>Program Objective Changes</i>	21
	<i>Other Public/Private Funding Sources</i>	21
	<i>HOME Status Report</i>	21
	<i>Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area</i>	26
	<i>Geographic Distribution</i>	32
	<i>Public Documents</i>	32
	<i>Assessment of the Implementation of Planned Actions</i>	32
	<i>Citizens' Comments</i>	34
(2)	CDBG Financial Summary	
(3)	Summary of CD Accomplishments	
(4)	Grantee Performance Report (GPR) on CDBG Assistance	
(5)	Housing Performance Report	
(6)	HOME Match Report	
(7)	Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program	
(8)	Summary of Consolidated Plan Projects	
(9)	M/WBE Participation/Section 3 Summary Report	
(10)	Other Attachments	

**CITY OF SCHENECTADY
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
(CAPER)
FY 2014-2015**

INTRODUCTION

Every five years, the City of Schenectady is required by law to prepare a Consolidated Plan in order to receive federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The five-year Consolidated Plan combines in one report important information about City of Schenectady demographics and economic activity as well as detailed information on the housing and employment needs of its residents. The City of Schenectady's 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan guides the allocation of federal resources received by the City of Schenectady from HUD.

For each succeeding year, the City of Schenectady is required to prepare a one-year annual Action Plan to notify citizens and HUD of the City's intended actions during that particular fiscal year. This plan includes citizen input and is due to the HUD Field Office in Buffalo, New York no later than the middle of May. The one-year Action Plan relates to the five-year Consolidated Plan's goals and objectives.

At the end of each fiscal year, the City must also prepare a Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) to provide information to HUD and citizens about that year's accomplishments. This information allows HUD, City officials, and the public to evaluate the City's performance and determine whether the activities undertaken during the fiscal year helped to meet the City's five-year goals and to address priority needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. This annual performance report, prepared with public review and comment, must be submitted to HUD annually no later than the end of September.

The Department of Development is designated by the City as the single point of contact with HUD and lead agency for grant administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. As the single point of contact with HUD, the Department of Development is responsible for coordinating the development of the FY 2014-2015 CAPER, including reporting for the Schenectady-Colonie-Troy Consortium.

The citizen participation process for the CAPER involves a public review and comment period, followed by a public hearing scheduled for September 24, 2015 in Room #110 of City Hall at 6:00 p.m. to allow City of Schenectady residents the opportunity to evaluate the CAPER. The draft report is available for public review and comment beginning September 9 through September 23, 2015. Copies are placed at the Schenectady County Public Library (intersection of Liberty and Clinton Streets), in the City Clerk's Office, Room 107, and the Department of Development, Room 14, City Hall, at Hamilton Hill Arts Center, 409 Schenectady Street and at the Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority, 375 Broadway. A 2014 CAPER summary is also available at www.cityofschenectady.com.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Schenectady has made substantial progress in the 2014-2015 fiscal year (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) to provide decent, affordable housing, to provide suitable living environments, and to create economic opportunities for citizens of the City of Schenectady.

Through funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Schenectady expended Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding.

The City of Schenectady has continued to follow previously implemented performance measurements to aggregate performance data at the national level as prescribed by HUD. All activities funded address one of the three primary objectives and all of the three outcomes benefit low and moderate income people. They are as follows:

Objectives	Outcomes
1. Suitable Living Environment	1. Availability/Accessibility
2. Decent Housing	2. Affordability
3. Creating Economic Opportunity	3. Sustainability/Promoting Livable or Viable Communities

\$2,654,854 in **CDBG** funds were expended in 2014 for the following types of activities:

Activity	Expenditures	Percent
Public Infrastructure Projects	\$1,122,332	43%
Housing Activities	\$ 762,691	29%
Public Service Activities	\$ 407,479	15%
Program Administration	\$ 333,202	12%
Acquisition/Demolition	\$ 409	0.2%
Economic Development	\$ 28,741	1%

\$1,136,161 in **HOME** funds were expended in 2014 for the following types of activities:

Activity	Expenditures	Percent
Homebuyer Program Activities including Housing Rehabilitation and New Construction for Affordable Housing Development	\$ 1,136,161	100%

\$155,462 in **ESG** funds were expended in 2014 for the following type of activity:

Activity	Expenditures	Percent
Operations Support and Essential Services	\$155,462	100%

For all CDBG expenditures made during the 2014 FY (\$2,654,854), the City of Schenectady:

- Expended \$407,479 on Public Services activities. This is exactly on par with HUD's requirement that not more than 15% of funds be expended on Public Service activities.
- Expended \$333,202 on Planning and Administration. This is less than HUD's requirement that not more than 20% of funds be spent on Planning and Administration.
- Expended 95% of its annual CDBG funding to benefit low-and moderate-income persons. This exceeds HUD's requirement that a grantee spend at least 70% of its annual CDBG funding (excluding planning and administration expenses) to benefit low-and moderate-income persons over a one-year period. The City has met and exceeded this standard since the inception of the CDBG program.

2014-2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Summary is designated to provide residents and HUD with a quick overview of project goals and accomplishments during the 2014-2015 program year and shows the relationship between these projects and the priorities and the strategies established by the City and HUD.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

A major emphasis in the CAPER continues to be on the City's overall housing strategy as presented in the City's 2014 Action Plan. In 2014, the City funded a diverse group of affordable housing programs.

Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) Activity

In 2014, funding was continued for three, successful, long-term certified CHDO's: Better Neighborhoods, Inc., Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Inc. and the City of Troy funded Troy Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (TRIP).

During the 2014-2015 program year, this program has funded and completed fifteen units of homeowner occupied housing rehabilitation, one unit of green housing rehabilitation for homebuyer programs, three units of new construction of green, energy efficient homes, seventeen homes assisted with down payment and closing cost and homebuyer counseling.

The City of Schenectady funded the Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Inc. to provide homeowner occupied housing rehabilitation and Better Neighborhoods, Inc. to provide homeowner occupied housing rehabilitation to homeowners with disabilities.

Two City of Schenectady Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) provide housing counseling services. Both CHDOs combined provided 200 individuals (BNI-160; CLT-40) with housing counseling services.

Sub-recipient Activities

The City continued funding a successful, long-term non-profit sub-recipient, the Schenectady Housing Development Fund Corporation (SHDFC) to provide first-time homebuyers with down payment and closing cost assistance through HOME funding. During the 2014 FY, SHDFC assisted eight low and moderate income persons who purchased their first homes in the City of Schenectady.

The City funded Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County, Inc. to provide substantial housing rehabilitation and conversion of two unit structures into single-family homes for sale to low and moderate income families.

Homeless/Special Needs Assistance

There were nineteen chronically homeless persons indicated as “sheltered” in the 2015 Point in Time Count and eight identified as “unsheltered.” In addition, the number of chronically unsheltered families increased from zero in 2014 to three in 2015.

The City funded two sub-recipients, Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc. (SCAP) and Bethesda House to provide rapid re-housing and eviction subsidy funding to individuals or families that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The City also funded SAFE, Inc. where 82 homeless at-risk youth were placed in suitable safe and secure housing.

PUBLIC SERVICES

CDBG funds continued to be focused on a strategy of achieving individual and family self-sufficiency during the 2014-2015 reporting period. Public safety also continued to be a high priority for CDBG public service funding. The City of Schenectady expended \$407,479 in CDBG funds for public service activities (including NRSA activities), amounting to 15% of total CDBG expenditures.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CDBG funds were used to start up a satellite office of the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region in the Hamilton Hill neighborhood of the City of Schenectady. The City of Schenectady expended \$28,741 to provide lending products, training and technical assistance services to residents and community-based groups. During its start-up year, four loans were made.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Attention continued to be paid to targeting of CDBG funds for the funding of public infrastructure projects located in low and moderate income areas. The City of Schenectady expended \$1,122,332 to fund street paving, code enforcement activities relative to the improvement of housing, and blight management and removal.

FAIR HOUSING

The City of Schenectady continues to fund the position of Fair Housing Coordinator who acts as a contact person for individuals in need of fair housing and/or general housing assistance and landlord and tenant issues. The Fair Housing Coordinator refers all relevant complaints to the appropriate local, state and federal agencies and works to resolve them to the extent of their legal capability.

The Fair Housing Coordinator also oversees the City's Office of Disability Services, its staff activities and all related ADA functions. The City of Schenectady's Office of Disabilities Services office serves city residents with special needs five days a week.

The City of Schenectady's second mortgage assistance program for first time homebuyers is overseen by the Fair Housing Coordinator. Throughout the years this program has made it possible for many to achieve their American dream of becoming new homeowners for the first time. This program is currently using HOME funds.

The City continues to administer its direct and indirect housing programs to make sure that no discrimination exists in the marketing of rental and ownership units for which City funds are provided. Advertisements for City funded housing programs shown in the community newspaper and other media sources (internet, TV) are also monitored to ensure non-discriminatory marketing.

The City of Schenectady along with HUD and NYS DHCR held an annual Fair Housing Luncheon on April 29, 2015 at the Stockade Inn in Schenectady. Attendees included representatives from HUD, NYS agencies, local municipalities, real estate groups, banks/financial institutions, nonprofit groups, neighborhood associations, religious organizations, housing organizations and CHDOs. Attendance was over 100 individuals including Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy, City Council President Peggy King, and HUD Albany Field Office Director, Jaime Forero.

At the Fair Housing Luncheon current housing trends and City of Schenectady initiatives were discussed. Keynote speakers included Mayor Gary McCarthy, Jaime Forero representing HUD, Lorraine Collins representing NYS Homes and Community Renewal, Richard Homenick Executive Director of Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority and Angelica Morris, Executive Director of the Schenectady County Human Rights Commission.

During the Luncheon, the following individuals were awarded for assisting tenants, homebuyers and homeless individuals within the City of Schenectady:

- Donna Gonzalez, Program Coordinator from SCAP
- Ed August, Executive Director of Better Neighborhoods, Inc.
- Kimarie Sheppard, Executive Director of Bethesda House

Throughout the years the City of Schenectady has achieved a good working relationship with HUD FHEO Offices and with the NYS Division of Human Rights and other civil rights and housing organizations.

The Fair Housing Coordinator continues to distribute fair housing materials to the general public. Over 1,100 informational packets and booklets concerning fair housing and tenancy issues were mailed and handed out to persons who called or stopped in for assistance. During the year, an average of 45 phone calls per week were answered by this office regarding tenant, landlord and other housing related questions.

The Fair Housing Coordinator has worked in conjunction with Code Enforcement Officers in the distribution of literature while conducting permits and code enforcement inspections. Officers have been instructed in fair housing and landlord/tenant laws and regulations and make referrals when appropriate. SCAP also assists in handing out landlord and tenant materials.

The Fair Housing Office is actively involved in collaborative ventures with the Schenectady Community Action Program, Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority and other agencies, groups and task forces.

CONTINUUM OF CARE

The statistical data, the process, the needs, goals, and the gap analysis for this section are compiled in regards to the Continuum of Care.

Current Chronic Homelessness Strategy

The Schenectady County Homeless Services Planning Board is addressing the needs of the chronically homeless through:

- The development of low demand housing
- Increasing outreach efforts
- Identifying needs through the HMIS, and
- Coordination of services through the implementation of a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Development of Low-Demand Housing

Schenectady County has made a firm commitment to addressing the needs of chronically homeless persons primarily through the development of low-demand housing. Bethesda House currently operates 23 units of permanent supported housing for chronically homeless persons based on a “Housing First” Model and Mohawk Opportunities has eight units of chronically homeless persons. In addition, other housing providers including Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority, Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc. (SCAP) and the YWCA of Schenectady have initiated a process of giving housing priority to chronically homeless persons within their existing housing programs for homeless persons with disabilities. On its 2015 Homeless Housing Inventory Chart, the Schenectady Continuum of Care identified 56 units of permanent supportive housing specifically dedicated to chronically homeless persons. This number increased from 49 noted in 2014.

Outreach

Bethesda House has continued to strengthen its street outreach efforts, using its extensive connection with chronically homeless persons to identify places where other chronically homeless persons congregate. Bethesda House continues to expand the type and scope of services it offers at its Community Center/Day Shelter, which is located at the agency’s facility on State Street in Schenectady. SAFE, Inc. also has a street outreach worker, assisting at-risk youth in the City of Schenectady with finding suitable, safe and secure housing opportunities.

HMIS

In order to adequately serve chronically homeless persons in Schenectady County, there must be an in-depth knowledge and understanding about the characteristics of this population. Therefore the development of an HMIS is an integral part of Schenectady County’s strategy for ending chronic homelessness. Schenectady County participates in the 23-county CARES Regional HMIS and has actively participated in the HMIS since it was first implemented in 2004. The HMIS now incorporates information from a broad range of homeless housing providers and provides valuable information about the extent of homelessness in Schenectady County. Some limitations on the data provided by the HMIS include non-participation by Schenectady County Department of Social Services (SCDSS), the Salvation Army Booth Home and the Schenectady City Mission, which are not mandated to submit data, and by Domestic Violence service providers, who are prohibited by law from doing so over concerns regarding victims’ safety. This is being addressed by the CoC and HMIS lead agency through training and systems change at SCDSS and data integration with the City Mission. Due to these collaborations, the community expects to have a much broader understanding of homelessness within the next year.

Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Implementation of the Schenectady County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, released in November of 2007 has continued during the past year. The Plan's implementation is coordinated by the Schenectady County Homeless Services Planning Board (HSPB), which includes representatives of both government and non-for profit agencies. The HSPB meetings include discussion of the systemic issues that affect the housing and services for homeless in a manner that allows for significant changes to benefit this population. These meetings also focus on the development of more effective discharge plans for persons leaving psychiatric facilities, correctional facilities, hospitals and foster care.

The Plan itself was developed using information about the needs and characteristics of the homeless as gathered through the HMIS and other sources, including input from the Schenectady County Department of Social Services and the Schenectady City Mission. This Plan calls for the use of both private and public resources to create additional housing and services for all of Schenectady County's homeless residents, including families and the chronically homeless. Included in its goals are to increase efforts on homelessness prevention and emergency services, as well as increasing the availability of supportive and affordable housing.

Number of Sheltered and Unsheltered Chronically Homeless Persons

There were nineteen chronically homeless persons indicated as "sheltered" in the 2015 Point in Time Count, and eight identified as "unsheltered". There were three "sheltered" families identified as chronic; there were no chronically "unsheltered" families.

Causes of Homelessness

The following information collected through the HMIS is for the period covering July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015. The responses represent contributing factors reported by clients for their homelessness upon initial intake to a homeless housing/service provider. As mentioned above, un-mandated and voluntary participation from Schenectady County DSS, the Schenectady City Mission and Domestic Violence Shelters may have led to undercounts in certain categories.

- ***Substance Abuse:*** 11.5% - This number represents persons with known "Alcohol Dependence" or "Drug Abuse" as a primary disability. The number is not entirely representative of persons who demonstrate periodic "substance abuse". In reality, the alcohol/drug percentage is probably higher.
- ***Mental Health Disorder/Co-Occurring Disorders:*** 24.3% - All persons in this group have a diagnosed mental illness. However, this group is further subdivided with approximately 29.5% diagnosed with co-occurring substance use disorders.
- ***HIV/AIDS:*** 2% - This percent may be closer to 8%, the national average of homeless persons with HIV/AIDS, due to the reluctance of this population to disclose their HIV/AIDS status upon initial intake.

- Chronic Health Condition: 17.3% - Persons who have health conditions (physical) lasting at least three months and is either not-curable or has lasting residual effects limiting daily living and may require adaptations in function or special assistance.

In addition to the above noted factors, other significant causes of homelessness reported within the HMIS include:

- A history of domestic violence
- Discharge from an institution including jail, prison, a hospital or nursing home
- Developmental Disability/Delay
- Unaccompanied youth status

NY-507 Schenectady City and County Continuum of Care

2014 Funded Projects

1. CARES, Inc. (Corporation for AIDS Research, Education and Services, Inc.)

a. Schenectady CoC Planning

Program Description: This grant funds the Collaborative Applicant for coordination and facilitation of the CoC's processes; including strengthening the current CoC system, assisting with the development and implementation of a coordinated assessment system, project evaluation and monitoring, conducting an annual gaps analysis and Point-in-Time Count, participating in the Consolidated Plan, and preparing and submitting the CoC's application to HUD.

2. NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

a. New Choices, 34 Unit

Project Description: This Shelter Plus Care project provides rental assistance and case management services for permanent housing for individuals/families with disabilities. Our primary target population is individuals with substance abuse histories.

b. New Choices, 25 Unit

Project Description: Expands the above program by 25 units.

3. CARES, Inc. (Corporation for AIDS Research, Education and Services, Inc.)

a. Schenectady County Portion of the Capital Region HMIS

Project Description: This is a data collection program which holds client level data. Participation in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a requirement for all recipients of CoC and Emergency Solutions Grant funds.

4. Bethesda House of Schenectady, Inc.

a. Pathways to the Future

Project Description: This project provides leasing, operating, and support services for residents in permanent supportive housing. The project follows the housing first model with a

number of supportive services available upon client request. The project includes some units designated for chronically homeless disabled adults.

b. Liberty Consolidated

Project Description: This project provides leasing, operating, and support services for residents in permanent supportive housing. The project follows the housing first model with a number of supportive services available upon client's request. The project includes some units designated for chronically homeless disabled adults.

c. Day Shelter

Project Description: The Day Shelter Drop-in Center for the homeless provides the primary point of contact and entry into the Continuum of Care for the Chronically Homeless in Schenectady. It provides a variety of unique support services for this sub-population including: showers, laundry, phone/fax/copier, mailboxes, daily meal, and clothing.

d. The Lighthouse

Project Description: The Lighthouse residence provides permanent supportive housing for ten formerly chronically homeless disabled adults. The Lighthouse is a housing first model with a ninety-five percent success rate of participants remaining continuously housed for more than three years.

5. Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

a. Legal Aid Society Homelessness Project for Schenectady

Project Description: The Legal Aid Society Homelessness (LASH) Unit provides free civil legal services including advice, brief service, full representation, and community legal education to homeless individuals (including chronically homeless individuals and homeless families) in Schenectady. The population served is homeless individuals and families. The grant funds access to civil legal services to the homeless in locations in Schenectady.

6. Mohawk Opportunities, Inc.

a. Permanent + Supported Housing

Project Description: This project provides rental subsidies to six formerly homeless individuals with disabilities related to mental illness.

b. Supported Housing Program

Project Description: This program provides rental subsidies to thirteen formerly homeless individuals with disabilities related to mental illness.

c. Permanent Housing for Chronically Homeless

Project Description: In the past year, this program served eight individuals with histories of chronic homelessness and diagnoses of severe mental illness through the provision of rental subsidies and supportive services.

7. SAFE Inc., of Schenectady

a. Project SAFE/Life Skills Program

Project Description: This program serves 115 individuals annually who have a dual diagnosis of homelessness and substance abuse or mental health disorders. The individuals in the program are provided with advocacy to ensure that they find and remain in safe permanent housing. These individuals are also provided with supportive services to ensure that they are able to increase their skills and/or income to help them become more self-sufficient.

8. City of Schenectady

a. Schenectady YMCA Shelter Plus Care (20 Bed)

Project Description: This project serves men ages eighteen and up who are Schenectady County Residents and are currently homeless with a disability. Each YMCA resident receives a room and a case manager in addition to other personal effects. All the men of the Shelter plus Care program are connected to an outpatient provider to address their disability. The case managers at the YMCA have weekly conferences with the clinical provider to ensure attendance and the follow through of the clinical requirements at the Residence Program.

b. Schenectady YMCA Shelter Plus Care (10 Bed)

Project Description: This project expands the above program by 10 units.

9. YWCA of Schenectady

a. Rosa's House

Project Description: Rosa's House is permanent supportive housing for sixteen formerly homeless women with disabilities. Case management services are provided to assist the residents with skills necessary to maintain permanent housing, obtain employment, and continue treatment for mental health and addiction issues.

b. Rosa's House Expansion

Project Description: Rosa's House Expansion is permanent supportive housing for 4 households (women with disabilities and their children). Case management services are provided to assist the residents with skills necessary to maintain permanent housing, obtain employment, and continue treatment for mental health and addiction issues.

10. Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority

a. SMHA Shelter Plus Care

Project Description: This program provides permanent housing to Schenectady County Residents who are homeless and disabled due to serious mental illness, chronic substance abuse, and/or HIV/AIDS. The program is funded to provide 46 units of housing.

11. Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.

a. Sojourn House

Project Description: This is a transitional housing program for homeless pregnant and/or parenting women and their children--the only program of its kind in Schenectady County.

Sojourn is a congregate care facility that provides comprehensive services including meals, transportation, case management, housing location, and supportive services.

b. *PHP (Consolidated PHP 16, PHP 7, PHP 4)*

Project Description: This project provides 27 units of housing on the Housing First Model and comprehensive support services to homeless families with a diagnosed mental illness, substance abuse, or HIV/AIDS condition who live in scattered site apartments. HUD funding pays for rental subsidies, case management, and other operating costs. One unit is dedicated to families who are chronically homeless.

Within the HMIS there were 6,672 unduplicated records recorded for persons in Schenectady County during the reporting period. Of those, 43.7% were male, 56% were female and 0.1% were transgender Male to Female. 34.2% reported a disabling condition, 14.9% of these individuals were Hispanic, 43.9% were Black, 49.2% were White, the remaining percentage was split among other races and multi-racial, none exceeding 1.7%.

OTHER ACTIONS

The City of Schenectady has taken the following steps to address issues discussed in the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and 2014 Action Plan.

Under Served Needs

To address under-served populations' needs this year, the City of Schenectady once again provided space and administrative support via the CDBG program for the "Office of Disability Services." Located at City Hall, this office provides persons with disabilities disability expertise and assistance with housing, employment, and advocacy services.

The City of Schenectady Office of Disability Services is contracted to provide services to City residents with disabilities for five days per week. It is open Monday through Friday from 9:00A.M. to 5:00 P.M., staffed with two full-time and one part-time employees.

During the year, 304 individuals with disabilities were provided assistance with advocacy, benefits advisement, information and referrals, peer counseling, independent living skills training and housing.

From the above, 175 were male and 129 were female disabled individuals. Twenty-three of these individuals were Hispanic while 281 were non-Hispanic. Ninety-nine were Black, 169 were White, 4 American Indian, 21 Asian, and 11 Other.

Affordable Housing

In regard to fostering and maintaining affordable housing, the City of Schenectady has partnered with two certified CHDOS (Better Neighborhoods, Inc. and the Community Land Trust of Schenectady) through both HOME and CDBG funding to match funds received

from other sources as well as providing direct funding for projects proposed for rehabilitation and/or acquisition. The City provides technical assistance in project development, design and management and pass-through capabilities for the CHDOs to receive funds from other sources.

The City of Schenectady provided \$22,170 in HOME/CDBG operating and administrative funding to two CHDOs in 2014. The continued support of CHDO administrative capacity illustrates the City's partnership with our two CHDOs for the provision of affordable housing.

The City continues to provide affordable housing to eligible first-time homeowners through the second mortgage assistance program. Eight households were able to purchase a home through City assistance. Properties were located in CDBG target areas and recipients were of low and moderate income. This assistance was provided through the Schenectady Housing Development Fund Corporation (SHDFC), funded by HOME monies.

One non-CHDO certified housing provider in the City also had access to project financing, technical assistance and properties. During 2014, Habitat for Humanity received \$197,505 for rehabilitation of properties to create affordable housing and \$120,750 for new construction.

Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction (Lead Safe Housing Program)

In October 2014 the City closed out its \$3.2 million 2011-2014 Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration (LHRD) grant. Between April 2011 and October 2014 the LHRD assisted 178 units (more than 90% in the highest risk areas) in becoming lead safe, protecting more than 150 children under age 6 and pregnant women residents from exposure to this dangerous environmental hazard.

In November 2014, the City of Schenectady was awarded \$3.19 Million by HUD for its third Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant. This funding will assist the City in producing 225 additional lead safe housing units over a three-year period. The grant targets low and moderate income households containing children less than six years of age. The City of Schenectady continues to partner and subcontract with Schenectady County Public Health Services for program delivery and administrative support. During the November 2014 through June 2015 period, thirteen units have been made lead safe, with approximately forty five more units in progress. Program benchmarks are on target in the areas of units assessed for lead hazards – thirty five through June 2015 – as well as units completed.

Ensuring Compliance and Monitoring

The City of Schenectady ensures that all Consolidated Plan-funded activities are monitored for compliance with the applicable program requirements including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements. This is accomplished using the City's current monitoring/contract compliance process for Federal programs including

quarterly reporting and on-site monitoring. FY 2013 monitoring was completed on seventeen projects with no concerns/findings. FY 2014 monitoring has not begun as of this publication.

Affirmative and Outreach Monitoring

During 2014, the City of Schenectady contracted with Schenectady County by using \$51,000 in CDBG monies to fund an Affirmative Action Manager. The Affirmative Action Manager is responsible for ensuring city affirmative marketing and minority outreach including Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) compliance and Section 3 compliance by using existing standards and procedures as prescribed under the CDBG, ESG and HOME programs.

General Monitoring Standards

The City of Schenectady's Consolidated Plan application RFP requires upfront performance standard information per proposed activity. If funded, the specific RFP performance standards are incorporated as part of all contracts, providing a quantifiable gauge for measurement purposes. Based on the City's outcome funding model RFP, project performance targets and Federal compliance requirements are assessed. In addition, technical assistance regarding all Federal regulation requirements is provided to all funded entities prior to contract execution by the Consolidated Plan Program Monitor.

General Monitoring Procedures

The City of Schenectady relies upon all Consolidated Plan-funded entities to complete a "Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) Form" to assess project progress. Accomplishments for the quarter are identified including measurable outcomes, client information, time frames and quarterly costs. Projects/program objectives for the next quarter are stated.

An on-site review of the Consolidated Plan-funded projects is undertaken as needed if a concern is noted, but is not less than one time every two years. The Consolidated Plan Program Monitor completes a "Federal Consolidated Plan Subrecipient Monitoring Site Visitation Form" including comparison of QPR information and supporting on site information. All deficiencies are noted by the monitor. Technical assistance is provided by the Consolidated Plan Program Monitor, if necessary. Recommendations are made on the form to correct deficiencies.

Upon completion, the "Federal Consolidated Plan Subrecipient Monitoring Site Visitation Form" is provided to the Program Supervisor, the Program/Project Liaison and to the monitored Consolidated Plan-funded entity.

Through the efforts of Contract Compliance Officer and the Consolidated Plan Program Monitor, the City of Schenectady believes that the current Federal Consolidated Plan monitoring standards and procedures will ensure long term program compliance.

Compliance to regulations is also ensured by staff attending HUD-sponsored trainings and conferences, subscriptions to several community development publications, regular use of HUD's informational resource website and consultation with local HUD Buffalo representatives.

Reducing the Number of Persons Living Below the Poverty Level

Most programs funded by the City target persons with incomes below poverty level. As explained under the Continuum of Care (CoC) section, an extensive network of service providers is in place to deliver services aimed at homeless or at-risk of homelessness populations in the community. A variety of human service programs address economic independence and target efforts to increase self-sufficiency. The City of Schenectady, primarily through its funding of Emergency Shelter Grant programs and the Continuum of Care (\$10,000 is provided as the City's share for the CoC application via Cares, Inc.) continues to support the reduction in persons living below the poverty level.

Gaps in Institutional Structures

There are an inadequate number of code compliant affordable housing units for both homeowners and renters in the City of Schenectady. The 2014 Consolidated Plan addresses this affordable housing issue by funding code enforcement, new housing construction, housing rehabilitation, downpayment assistance and housing counseling initiatives.

Development staff also provides technical assistance to private and nonprofit developers for the development of affordable housing projects as well as being a member of the Schenectady County Homelessness Services Planning Board, the coordinating body for the Continuum of Care.

2014 ACTION PLAN FUNDING ANALYSIS

For the 2014-2015 program year, the City of Schenectady continued its commitment to the use of the "Outcome Funding" model for the allocation of Federal resources. Using updated investor and implementor targets, the City of Schenectady required all funded projects/programs to meet one or more investor and implementor targets for the 2014 Action Plan. Additionally, all projects funded were identified as high priorities by the plan. Ninety five percent of all expenditures during this period benefited low/moderate income persons.

For the 2014 Action Plan, the City of Schenectady utilized five outcome statements as the investment portfolio for the allocation of Consolidated Plan funds. The five outcome statements were "Families and Youth," "Housing," "Infrastructure," "Jobs and Employment" and "Neighborhoods."

Projects/programs that did not receive Action Plan monies were due to a lack of available funding, exceeding regulatory caps (i.e. for public services), and/or differing funding priorities from the City of Schenectady's priorities.

The following provides a performance analysis for each of the five outcome statements.

FAMILIES AND YOUTH

A. Outcome Sought:

Every person in Schenectady's CDBG target neighborhoods has access to comprehensive educational, recreational, health and social programs, and uses these programs as needed to grow and thrive.

B. Investor Result Targets:

- 500 homeless individuals having secured a place to live (100 persons per year)
2014 Result = 230 Persons
- 10 capital repairs and/or new construction projects that improve facilities utilized by community-based service providers (2 projects per year) **2014 Result = 0 Projects**
- Neighborhood-based activities for 500 youth provided through investments in programming, equipment and/or capital needs (100 youth per year)
2014 Result = 2,091 Youth
- 500 youth prevented from becoming involved in gang violence or substance abuse, and/or prevented from becoming victims of bullying, suicide, and other youth violence (100 youth per year) **2014 Result = 0 Youth**

C. Implementor Target Areas:

- Services and programs addressing the needs of homeless persons
- Capital repairs, new construction or facility improvements that reduce operational costs and promote self-sufficiency among community-based public service providers
- Recreational youth programs, and related equipment and capital investments
- Services that provide youth with the tools they need to prevent violent, self-destructive, criminal or delinquent behavior, and/or the tools they need to avoid becoming a victim of youth related violence or suicide

HOUSING

A. Outcome Sought:

The City will have a viable housing supply adequate to the needs of the population, with homes that are safe, attractive and maintainable.

B. Investor Result Targets:

- 50 units of single family owner-occupied housing met Housing Quality Standards by 2014 (10 units per year) **2014 Result = 71 Units**
- Code Enforcement inspections conducted on a minimum of 500 units with a compliance rate of 70% (1000 units per year inspected) **2014 Result = 1,685 Units**
- 250 persons will become eligible for homeownership and/or prevent foreclosure on their home (50 persons per year) **2014 Result = 200 Persons**
- 50 units of newly constructed energy efficient affordable housing (10 units per year)
2014 Result = 0 Units
- A feasibility study on the creation of a rental rehabilitation program
2014 Result = Not Addressed

C. Implementor Target Areas:

- Housing rehabilitation, including conversion of units to decrease density
- Targeting of code enforcement in coordination with housing rehabilitation to provide homeowners with options for achieving code compliance
- Targeted services that reduce barriers to new and continued homeownership including housing outreach, counseling, technical assistance and innovative programs promoting homeownership
- Development and construction of green, affordable housing

INFRASTRUCTURE

A. Outcome Sought:

All streets, curbs and sidewalks will be continuously in good condition. All water, sanitary and storm sewer systems will be continuously in good working order.

B. Investor Result Targets:

- 2.5 miles of streets will be paved including repair to missing and defective curbs and sidewalks, in low and moderate income areas of the City (0.5 miles per year)
2014 Result = 1.76 Miles
- A feasibility study of the creation of a residential/commercial sidewalk program.
2014 Result = not addressed
- Sidewalks installed at 20 sites in coordination with rehabilitation and new construction efforts (5 sites per year) **2014 Result = 0 feet of Sidewalk and Curbing**

C. Implementor Target Areas:

- Street paving, road, curb and sidewalk repair and/or installation

JOBS AND EMPLOYMENT

A. Outcome Sought:

Anyone who is able to work is employed or engaged in other productive activity. All job seekers who require it have access to adequate job training, transportation, daycare (sick, well, elder) and job preparation training. All who are working have jobs consistent with their abilities and have opportunities for long-term employment, and workplace advancement.

B. Investor Result Targets:

- Twenty jobs with professional growth opportunities for low and moderate income residents created through public (CDBG)/private investment partnerships with local businesses (5 per year @ 1 FTE per 35K CDBG investment) **2014 Result = 0 FTE**
- Job retention for at least 6 months for 250 low and moderate income individuals who live in the City at jobs that have opportunities for long term employment and/or workplace and advancement (50 per year) **2014 Result = 0**

- Transportation to interviews and/or employment for 250 low to moderate income individuals to enable acquisition and retention of jobs (50 per year) **2014 Result = 0**

C. Implementor Target Areas:

- Job readiness, training, placement and retention programs
- Employment opportunities that provide growth and potential for advancement and are consistent with the abilities of perspective employees
- Employment programs for low to moderate-income youth
- Employers who make specific efforts to attract, train and keep low and moderate-income City/neighborhood residents employed
- Transportation programs that provide or subsidize consistent, easily accessible transportation for jobs that are not on regular bus routes, or that take place at times when public transportation is not available.

NEIGHBORHOODS

A. Outcome Sought:

Schenectady will become a community in which all of its neighborhoods are safe, secure, pleasant, clean, and provide economic opportunity and stability for their residents.

B. Investor Target Results:

- 100 new homeowners in the City (20 per year) **2014 Result = 8 Homeowners**
- 7 community officers on patrol in CDBG target neighborhoods (7 each year) **2014 Result = 7 Community Police Officers**
- 5 successful “Weed and Seed” initiatives involving public safety, housing, economic development, and public service programs (1 per year) **2014 Result = 0 Initiatives**

C. Implementor Target Areas:

- Programs and services that reduce and/or mitigate barriers to new and continued homeownership
- Neighborhood and local small business development
- Redevelopment of vacant/underutilized properties
- Community policy and/or support programs
- Increased security street lighting

- Demolition and/or clean up of foreclosed, abandoned properties
- Development of revitalization plans for neighborhoods and neighborhood commercial areas, and the targeting of resources to address deficiencies or fund improvements

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE CHANGES

The City of Schenectady is utilizing the same five outcome statements for 2010-2014 as it did previously, however, with updated implementor and investor target areas. Please note that the 2014 program year addressed current housing and community development needs, consistent with the City's 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan.

During the 2014-2015 program year, one amendment was made to the Consolidated Plan as presented in the "Action Plan."

OTHER PUBLIC/PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCES

The City did not indicate that it would pursue any other funding resources in last year's Action Plan. 2014 Action Plan CDBG funding leveraged an additional \$4 million in private and public funding. The Schenectady Consortium's HOME match of \$4,008,392 contributed toward the development of affordable housing. Also, \$691,973 in additional funding was received to match the City's ESG allocation of \$171,342.

HOME STATUS REPORT

The Schenectady-Colonie-Troy HOME Consortium has earned the following match credits for the period from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

The Community Land Trust of Schenectady contributed \$47,800 in private funds, in-kind contributions and NYS grant funds for CHDO projects. Better Neighborhoods, Inc. contributed \$150,897 in cash donations and NYS grant funds in HOME program assisted homebuyer units. Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County contributed \$542,498 in cash/non-federal sources, \$89,183 in donated labor and materials, and \$48,700 in donated property. The Schenectady Housing Development Fund Corporation (SHDFC) contributed \$1,285,797 in mortgages and cash/non-Federal contributions in HOME program assisted homebuyer units. Bethesda House contributed \$26,532 in in-kind contributions and donated labor. The Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP) contributed \$5,000 in cash/non-Federal sources.

The Town of Colonie contributed \$470,940 in mortgages and in cash contributions in HOME program assisted homebuyer units and the City of Troy contributed \$1,332,605 in mortgages and in homeowner cash contributions in HOME program assisted homebuyer units.

This is a total match pool of \$4,008,392 earned in 2014-2015 by the Schenectady-Colonie-Troy HOME Consortium.

Town of Colonie, NY

2014 HOME Program CAPER Information

Using HOME funds received through the Colonie Schenectady Troy consortium, the Town of Colonie assisted three low-and moderate-income households in purchasing their first home. In the 2014 program year, Colonie expended \$94,258 in HOME funds. These funds were leveraged by \$427,730 in private mortgages, \$27,710 in homebuyer contributions, and \$21,013 in private grants and public resources.

Five Year Summary of Annual Objectives – HOME Program

	Performance Indicator	Program Year	Expected Number	Actual Number
Affordability of Decent Housing				
First Time Homebuyer Program (FTH)	Low- and Moderate-Income Homebuyers Assisted	2010	5	9
		2011	5	5
		2012	5	5
		2013	5	5
		2014	5	3

During the program year, 173 program applications were mailed and 61 of those applications were returned. Ninety six households were screened, 16 households were certified, and 10 households were interviewed. Since the end of the program year, two first time homebuyers have purchased homes. There are currently seven applicants in various stages of the homebuyer process including one homebuyer who is waiting for the closing to be scheduled and another who has found a home and is waiting for final mortgage approval. There are 58 applicants on the waiting list. To keep the waiting list as up-to-date as possible and to prevent program delays by minimizing the number of “no shows” and ineligible determinations, the current waiting list was purged.

The Town continues to closely examine the FTH program to insure that the program design is effectively addressing changing economic and market conditions and continues to work with local lending institutions and housing providers to encourage the creation of loan products that will serve the needs of low-and moderate-income households. All program participants are urged to attend a HUD-approved homebuyer education workshop. In addition to complying with HUD’s requirement that every homebuyer who receives HOME assistance to purchase a home receive housing counseling, participants who attend homebuyer counseling learn how they can quadruple their savings for future home purchase through the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York’s First Home Club Matched Savings Program. By enrolling in this program, participants can earn up to \$4 for every \$1 saved in a qualified account – up to \$7,500.

The HOME Investment Partnership program (HOME) final rule released on July 23, 2013, encourages grantees to move away from the types of programs where every applicant receives the same amount of downpayment assistance irrespective of their need. HUD suggests that grantees develop underwriting policies so that homebuyers are given downpayment assistance that will ensure that it is a sustainable situation but at the same time not over-subsidize people who have more assets to contribute to a sale than maybe some others do. Although Community Development Department program personnel agree that homebuyer subsidies should be based on need, it can be argued that linking the amount of subsidy to a homebuyer's assets will ultimately act a deterrent to savings. It is not the program's intent to discourage applicants from developing sound savings habits but rather to promote personal, economic, and financial self-sufficiency by the creation of wealth through asset building, reducing debt, promoting savings, improving credit, and development of economic literacy skills. Hopefully, participation in the Town's program will change the mindsets of clients from spending and consumption to the goals of saving, investment, and accumulating assets. Therefore, going forward the subsidies in the Town's FTH will range from \$14,000 to \$25,000 with the amount each homebuyer is eligible to receive not being determined by their accumulated assets but rather by their household size and income.

HUD's new prohibition against PJs using the FHA 302(b) limit in place of the 95 percent of area median purchase price has had a significant impact on the Town's homebuyer program. Prior to the final rule taking effect, the maximum purchase price for participants in the Town's program was \$200,000 (FHA 302(b) limit). When the 2013 Rule took effect on August 24, 2013, the maximum purchase price for those same participants dropped to \$169,000 (95 percent of the medium purchase price as determined by HUD). Although PJs continue to have the option to determine their own 95 percent of area median value limit using the methodology in the regulation, this is not an option for the Town since as a member of the Schenectady, Troy, Colonie Consortium, the Town would need to include housing data from both Schenectady and Troy in determining the 95 percent area median. The maximum purchase price has since been increased twice to \$181,000 (effective January 1, 2014) and to \$194,000 (effective April 13, 2015) which has somewhat helped homebuyers in Colonie's program.

City of Troy, NY

2014 HOME Program CAPER Information

Program Narrative:

The City of Troy's Department of Housing and Community Development continues to accomplish the goals of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) by providing decent, affordable housing to low/moderate income city residents.

The overarching housing goal of the City's Consolidated 5-year strategic plan reflects that of the HOME program goal, which is to provide homeownership opportunities that bridge the gap to affordable, decent housing.

The HOME Housing Program, together with the 5-Year Strategic Plan returns the City of Troy to a plan of strategic reinvestment in its neighborhood housing stock for the benefit of low-moderate income residents.

2014 Program Accomplishments:

City of Troy Homebuyers Incentive Program (HIP): \$243,857.42

- ❖ *Direct Grant Expense: \$220,000.00*
- ❖ *Delivery Expense: \$23,857.42*

Outcome: there were a total of 15 new homeowners for LMI city residents assisted. **(12 Complete)** (*We had 15 closings but only 12 projects had the funds fully drawn during the timeframe.*)

Participants are targeted from low or moderate-income households in the City of Troy. All aspects, including the application requirements, workshop development, personal counseling, administering of grant funds, and marketing of the program are overseen by TRIP Housing agency. The goals of the program will allow for an increase in homeownership opportunities in the City of Troy. The program is designed to overcome the various obstacles created by the down payment and closing cost requirements that are faced by low/moderate income families when purchasing a home.

The city leveraged a total private mortgage amount of: **\$1,291,288.00**
Total homeowner leveraged a cash contribution of: **\$41,317.33**

HOME Administration: \$58,416.30

Outcome: Administrative staff hours for the implementation of the HOME Program and Homebuyers Incentive Program and related project soft-costs.

The Home Administrative Cost allocation will be utilized for activities associated with administering the HOME program including general management, oversight, coordination, and evaluation. The City of Troy has had great success thus far with administering the HOME programs “in-house” and anticipates continuing this success in the next budget year. Again, these costs will be generated as a result of the necessity of having dedicated City of Troy staff assigned to the full administrative responsibilities for ensuring the successful implementation of the various HOME projects.

Community Housing Development Organization, (CHDO): \$267,781.88

TRIP: CHDO Housing Project Rehab/New Construction

Maintaining vacant CHDO Project home, gas & electric during winter months to prevent damage.

- ❖ 3349 6th Avenue: \$1,242.44
- ❖ 391 1st Street: \$1,236.14

Outcome: We had two homes which were gut rehabbed and rebuilt to provide affordable housing to low or moderate income individuals. Both homes have been sold and are being used to provide housing to low income and or homeless Veterans and their families. There are a total of four units available and as of date, three have been occupied.

Habitat for Humanity: CHDO Housing Project Rehab/New Construction

Fox Hollow New Construction – Underway

- ❖ Phase I: \$27,107.46
- ❖ Phase II: \$238,195.84

Outcome: Habitat for Humanity is constructing 13 new affordable single family homes in South Troy. Project is underway and expected to be completed once the properties are sold to a low or moderate income homebuyer. Over the 14/15 program year, five homes have been completed, where four have been occupied and the fifth is ready to be occupied.

The city leveraged a total Developer Match of: **\$187,186.39**

2014-2015 HOME Accomplishments

Program	Number of LMI Households	Funds Expended	Notes
<i>Homebuyers Incentive</i>	<i>15 Home Closings (12 fully drawn within the Program Year)</i>	<i>\$220,000.00</i>	
	<i>Direct Delivery Expense</i>	<i>\$23,857.42</i>	
<i>HOME Admin</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$58,416.30</i>	
<i>CHDO Projects TRIP:</i>	<i>3349 6th Avenue: Rehabilitation (Project completed and sold during program year)</i>	<i>\$1,242.44</i>	<i>Completed</i>
	<i>391 1st Street: Rehabilitation (Project completed and sold during program year)</i>	<i>\$1,236.14</i>	<i>Completed</i>
<i>CHDO Projects Habitat for Humanity</i>	<i>Fox Hollow: Phase I</i>	<i>\$27,107.46</i>	<i>Completed Underway</i>
	<i>Phase II (5 homes completed during Program Year)</i>	<i>\$238,195.84</i>	

Total HOME Funds Expended in 2014 Program Year: \$570,055.60

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION STRATEGY AREA (NRSA)

Evidence of Need for NRSA Activities: NRSA Neighborhood Statistics

The City of Schenectady's Enterprise Community designation included U.S. Census tracts 209 and 210.02, the Hamilton Hill/ Vale Neighborhoods, and tract 217 the Central Ave Neighborhood. These Neighborhoods were selected due to alarming data pertaining to: high poverty and unemployment rates, inadequate and substandard housing, reduced commercial activity and property values, neglected streets and parks, and high crime rate statistics. The vacant store fronts have led to decreased property value but also are some of the causes of the neglected streets, sidewalks, and parks, in turn leading to the high rate of crimes committed.

The Hamilton Hill/Vale Neighborhoods were designated as distressed through inclusion in the New York State Empire Zone and the Federal Renewal Community programs. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates, the median household income for Hamilton Hill/Vale was \$18,325. These neighborhoods continued to have the lowest median household income in the City of Schenectady, where the

median income citywide is reported at \$38,381. The City of Schenectady's median income is also low compared to the region at \$58,789, and also compared to the State of New York at \$57,369.

Within Census Tracts 209 and 210.02, the households living below poverty were 44.4% and 42.4%, respectively. These numbers are very high compared to the City of Schenectady's households living below poverty at 19.4%. This number is high when compared to the region as a whole with 9.8% households living below poverty. The Hamilton Hill/ Vale Neighborhoods continue to contain the City's highest percentage of low/moderate income households.

Census Tract 217, the Central State Street Neighborhood, has many of the same statistics as the Hamilton Hill/Vale Neighborhoods. State Street is a major roadway that also runs through what has been identified as the "Downtown Neighborhood" of the City of Schenectady, however, the census tract does not include that part of the city. The median income for this neighborhood is \$27,617, making it higher than the Hamilton Hill/Vale Neighborhood's \$18,325 but still significantly below the City's \$38,381. The Central State Street Neighborhood has the highest unemployment rate of all three tracts at 10.7%. This is high compared to the region (9.0%) and the State (9.1%). This neighborhood has the lowest percentage of those living below poverty compared to the others; however those living below poverty (33.4%) are still a significantly higher percentage than the region (9.8%) and the State (12.2%).

Crime rates in the City of Schenectady are historically high, particularly within the NRSA. Compared to the U.S. overall average crime index of 286.6 (<http://www.city-data.com>), the City of Schenectady's 2013 crime index was 483.4. The rate of property crime for the City is 420.2 compared to the national property crime rate of 267.3. The City's violent crime rate is reported at 506.5 compared to New York State's rate of 481.1 and the national rate of 203.3. According to City Data, the violent crime rate in Schenectady has been decreasing since 2008 when it was 588.2 and in 2013 it was 506.5. However even with the decrease Schenectady still has the highest crime rate in the region. This high crime rate affects residents' quality of life, both outside of and within the NRSA.

CDBG Investment in Neighborhood Revitalization Service Area (NRSA) Related Activities

As a HUD-designated Enterprise Community and with a HUD-approved CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area in 1996, the City of Schenectady has continued to fund NRSA activities. The 2014-2015 program year allocated for three NRSA-related projects.

Improvements, projects, programs and services paid for with CDBG funding are targeted in areas of the City where at least 51% of the residents are considered low to moderate-income persons. NRSA activities are carried out by the community-based development organizations and other eligible organizations that primarily serve customers within the boundaries of the Enterprise Community (CTS 209, 210.02-Hamilton Hill/Vale Neighborhoods; CT 217-Central State Street Neighborhood). The City of Schenectady utilizes CDBG funding to pay

for costs directly related to neighborhood revitalization strategy activities including community policing and community-based support services.

Correlation of Activities with the City of Schenectady 2020 Comprehensive Plan

In 2008, the City of Schenectady 2020 Comprehensive Plan was adopted, following a three year intensive outreach effort that included residents, business owners and community leaders as active participants in planning. Community feedback included support for allocating funding to address significant neighborhood revitalization-based public safety and public service issues including:

- Community center support
- Transition programs
- Nonprofit support/faith based organization support
- City wide code and law enforcement sweeps
- Economic Development and Jobs
- Programs focused on preventing homelessness especially among families
- Community facilities or programs dedicated towards family and youth

Specific goals and tasks outlined in the 2020 Plan, funded (where allowable) with CDBG monies are:

GOAL: PROVIDE STRONG FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP, VISIONARY MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP AND PROACTIVE MUNICIPAL SERVICES.

Tasks:

- Aggressively enforce all quality of life ordinances
- Assign a community police officer to each neighborhood

GOAL: PROTECT THE INTEGRITY AND LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS AND STRIVE TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF DISINVESTMENT

Tasks:

- Emphasize the maintenance of safe neighborhoods through expansion of community-based policing and civil enforcement
- Assertively enforce nuisance abatement laws

GOAL: OFFER DIVERSE, HIGH QUALITY HOMEOWNERSHIP TO MEET ALL PHASES OF A FAMILY LIFE-CYCLE INCLUDING STARTER HOUSES, FAMILY RESIDENCES, AND RETIREMENT HOMES

Tasks:

- Implement incentives to encourage homeownership

Correlation of Activities with the City of Schenectady Consolidated Plan

As illustrated in the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan, the City of Schenectady is continuing to utilize the “outcome funding” approach to allocating Consolidated Plan funds; focus is placed on defining results that the City, as an investor, wishes to achieve. Four out of five of the City’s Outcome Areas have been and continue to be specifically targeted through the funded NRSA activities. These Outcome Areas are, specifically:

Families and Youth

Outcome Sought

Every person in Schenectady’s CDBG target neighborhoods has access to comprehensive educational, recreational, health and social programs, and uses these programs as needed to grow and thrive.

Implementor Target Areas

- Services and programs addressing the needs of homeless persons
- Capital repairs, new construction or facility improvements that reduce operational costs and promote self-sufficiency among community-based public service providers
- Recreational youth programs, and related equipment and capital investments
- Services that provide youth with the tools they need to prevent violent, self-destructive, criminal or delinquent behavior, and/or the tools they need to avoid becoming a victim of youth related violence or suicide

Jobs and Employment

Outcome Sought

Anyone who is able to work is employed or engaged in other productive activity. All job seekers who require help have access to adequate job training, transportation, daycare (sick, well, elder) and job preparation training. All who are working have jobs consistent with their abilities and have opportunities for long-term employment and workplace advancement.

Implementor Target Areas

- Job readiness, training, placement and retention programs
- Employment opportunities that provide growth and potential for advancement and are consistent with the abilities of perspective employees
- Employment programs for low to moderate-income youth
- Employers that make specific efforts to attract, train and keep low and moderate-income City/neighborhood residents employed
- Transportation programs that provide or subsidize consistent, easily accessible transportation for jobs that are not on regular bus routes, or that take place at times when public transportation is not available

Housing

Outcome Sought

The City will have a viable housing supply adequate to the needs of the population, with homes that are safe, attractive and maintainable.

Implementor Target Areas

- Housing rehabilitation, including conversion of units to decrease density
- Targeting of code enforcement in coordination with housing rehabilitation to provide homeowners with options for achieving code compliance
- Targeted services that reduce barriers to new and continued homeownership including housing outreach, counseling, technical assistance and innovative programs promoting homeownership
- Development and construction of green, affordable housing

Neighborhoods

Outcome Sought

Schenectady will become a community in which all of its neighborhoods are safe, secure, pleasant, clean, and provide economic opportunity and stability for their residents.

Implementor Target Areas

- Programs and services that reduce and/or mitigate barriers to new and continued homeownership
- Neighborhood and local small business development
- Redevelopment of vacant and/or underutilized properties
- Community policing and/or support programs
- Increased security street lighting
- Demolition and/or clean-up of foreclosed, abandoned properties
- Development of revitalization plans for neighborhoods and neighborhood commercial areas, and the targeting of resources to address deficiencies or fund improvement.

CITY OF SCHENECTADY

**NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION STRATEGY (NRSA)
2014-15 Funding Allocations**

The 2014 Action Plan funded the following public service activities for the NRSA:

PUBLIC SERVICE/NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION STRATEGY = \$55,362

Better Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI)

Homebuyer Education and Foreclosure Prevention Program

CDBG 2014 \$9,188

Funds for personnel and non-personnel costs for a Homebuyer Education and Foreclosure Prevention Program, providing pre-purchase and default counseling, intervention and assistance to low and moderate income potential homebuyers/homeowners in maintaining decent affordable housing, primarily serving the Hamilton Hill and Central State Street neighborhoods.

Hamilton Hill Arts Center Project ArtReach

CDBG 2014 \$17,247

Funds will be used for the Executive Director’s salary for Project ArtReach, providing educational and cultural programming for primarily low and moderate income youths in the Hamilton Hill neighborhood.

Minority Contractors’ Technical Assistance Program (MCTAP)

CDBG 2014 \$28,927

Funds will be used for technical support services including business counseling/education for MCTAP in increase participation in construction activities primarily in the Hamilton Hill and Central State Street neighborhoods. Funds will be used for staff and non- personnel costs.

2014 NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION RELATED ACTIVITIES

Entity Funded	Activity Description	Community Impact (Outcomes)
Better Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI) Total Funding: \$9,188	First time homebuyers, foreclosure prevention and home repair counseling and assistance	84 new beneficiaries received one on one counseling
Hamilton Hill Arts Center-Project ArtReach Total Funding: \$17,247	Education/cultural programming for low-moderate income youth in Hamilton Hill	30 youth attended after school and 28 youth attended summer session of Project ArtReach
Minority Contractors’ Technical Assistance Program (MCTAP) Total Funding: \$28,927	Counseling/education for increased participation in construction activities.	8 individuals received OSHA Certification training; 3 individuals received asbestos/lead certification; 31 attended professional development training/seminars

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the City of Schenectady's population is considered of low and moderate income (2010 Census). By definition, all Consolidated Plan funding assistance, using the national objectives of benefit to low and moderate income persons, is targeted toward this income group. Approximately, seventy percent (70%) of the City of Schenectady's area is considered to be CDBG- eligible target areas.

The concentration of Action Plan funding assistance is located in the CDBG target areas, including the Hamilton Hill, Central State Street, Eastern Ave, Mont Pleasant, Downtown, Bellevue and portions of the Northside neighborhoods.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

Documents made available to the public include, but are not limited to:

- The Citizen Participation Plan;
- The Environmental Review Record (ERR), upon request;
- The draft and final 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan;
- The draft and final 2014 Action Plan;
- The Consolidated Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER); and,
- HUD Consolidated Plan Regulations, upon request.

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNED ACTIONS

The City of Schenectady continues to improve its overall compliance with HUD guidelines on expenditures and drawdowns from the letters of credit. It has continued to implement compliance with the IDIS system and submitted the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and 2015 Action Plan into the system for the first time this year. Next year's CAPER will be submitted via IDIS as well, fully utilizing IDIS as a management and reporting tool as it is intended to be used.

The City of Schenectady measures Consolidated Plan recipient performance as specifically stated in all Consolidated Plan contracts by required quarterly reports and an on-site monitoring visit every two years.

Pursuant to HUD CPD Notice #03-09, since 1998, the City of Schenectady has used an "Outcome Funding" model as a performance measurement system. The model is based on five (5) outcomes including neighborhoods, jobs and employment, families and youth, infrastructure, and housing. For each outcome, there are specific "investor result targets", illustrating areas of City investment, and "implementor result targets" that a recipient of Consolidated Plan funding will address to specify performance targets/results. All outcomes and related targets are outlined in the 2014 Action Plan.

The City regularly reviews the status of projects to determine whether a project needs assistance in meeting its objectives. Staff is specifically assigned to assist any agency or project that is not meeting its objectives. Objectives are developed by the applying agency and reviewed by City

staff, not developed by City staff. Barriers are reviewed to see if City action can assist in removing or eliminating the barrier. In most cases, delay is caused by the time it takes to comply with various local, state and federal regulations that apply to the project. Capacity building among local agency staff is an important component in resolving such delays. As a result of these reviews, City staff feels in general that programs are meeting their stated goals within a reasonable time frame.

For the 2014-2015 program year, the City of Schenectady's progress has been generally positive, with some mixed results in certain areas of investment. In general, the City has successfully addressed each outcome, with the exception of jobs and employment and some identified outcomes in infrastructure. Many investor result targets have been met. The City has provided consistency statements to all agencies that have applied for them after reviewing the proposed projects to ensure that they are consistent with the Consolidated Plan. The City is not aware of any actions that have hindered Consolidated Plan implementation either on the part of the City or any recipient agencies.

The 2014-2015 program year has brought about many changes to the City of Schenectady Department of Development. A Director of Development was hired in September 2014 bringing to the department a level of management and oversight, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and an enhanced focus on collaborative and creative thinking to balance current funding challenges. A new Homeownership Coordinator was hired as well in the beginning of 2015. This staff member is in charge of the HOME program. It is anticipated that this change will assist to better leverage additional grant funding to supplement HOME-funded programs and provide a well-rounded engagement between HOME and additional housing-related initiatives throughout the city.

Throughout the years following the creation of the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan, some policy changes were enacted to better serve the residents of the City of Schenectady. Due to escalating costs related to installing curbs and sidewalks the Mayor's office and the Department of Engineering agreed that CDBG money allocated for neighborhood improvements should go primarily to road rehabilitation. By focusing on the roads themselves and not curbs and sidewalks the City has been able to pave over twice as many miles each year thus affecting twice as many eligible districts in the City. In addition all roads paved with Federal money are mandated to have ADA compliant curbs ramps at every intersection in accordance with Federal regulations. This has been a shift in the mechanism to continue to fund a portion street improvements and thus, the listed target to install sidewalks in *Infrastructure* has not been completed this year. Carver Community Center also closed very abruptly at the end of 2013, without another agency or organization in the community to pick up filling the target of youth prevention of gang violence or substance abuse. This has left a void in the outcome for that particular investor result target under *Families and Youth*. In addition, the Weed and Seed initiative is no longer a program in our community, so the target under *Neighborhoods* to have one successful Weed and Seed initiative per year is unattainable. Finally, all job creation and employment activities are directly connected to the Schenectady Job Training Agency and/or Metroplex and are no longer directly funded through HUD programs, rendering the *Jobs and Employment* outcome negligible to report on through the HUD regulation process. The creation of the next five year consolidated plan (2015-2019) allowed for changes to be made to better reflect the current resources and needs of the community without the identification of program/project-specific goals that could create a similar unattainable situation.

While not sponsored through CDBG, HOME, or ESG, the Schenectady Metroplex Development Authority has enhanced the long-term economic vitality and quality of life in Schenectady County, with a profound focus on the downtown area. Since Metroplex was established in 1998, the Authority has sparked a significant renaissance in the surrounding area, spurring new businesses, redeveloping vacant property, renovating existing businesses, and making other re-investments in the community.

The Authority has invested more than \$160 million since 2000, added 2,700 jobs and leveraged additional investments of over \$700 million. In downtown Schenectady, Authority-sponsored projects have resulted in 1.3 million square feet of new and renovated commercial space, three (3) hotels, conversion of the historic Proctor's Theatre to a year-round performing arts center, and a six screen movie theater complete with 1,359 seats.

In collaboration with the City of Schenectady, there has been nearly \$58 million in aboveground and sub-surface infrastructure projects to rebuild the City's aging infrastructure in support of downtown revitalization. The Authority also owns, operates and manages parking facilities comprising about 2,300 parking spaces and invested nearly \$5 million to upgrade and improve the downtown parking infrastructure.

From July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, Metroplex has approved an additional \$3.6 million which is expected to generate an additional \$103 million of investment in the City of Schenectady. Among these initiatives includes the 60-acre Mohawk Harbor site in preparation for \$480 million riverfront development project; support for the 105-unit market rate residential project on lower State Street (Robinson Block); and renovation of the DoubleTree Hotel.

The City of Schenectady is pleased with the progress it has made in creating safe, healthy, and suitable living environments for its residents and in the provision of affordable housing and renovation programs for existing homeowners.

With the continued reduction of HOME and CDBG funding, projects and programs previously funded by the City will be negatively impacted and no new projects and programs will be able to be funded.

SUMMARY OF CITIZENS' COMMENTS

A public hearing on the 2014 CAPER and on the performance of Consolidated Plan programs was held on September 24, 2015 at 6 p.m. in Room 110 (Board and Meeting Room) of City Hall. There were no attendees at the public hearing. We also received no written comments during the open public comment period.

END OF 2014 CAPER NARRATIVE