

City of Schenectady 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report Overview				
	CDBG	HOME	ESG	Totals
Goal #1: Enhance Housing Opportunities	\$ 1,075,500.64	\$ 239,003.74	\$ 225,796.74	\$ 1,540,301.12
Goal #2: Expand Economic & Workforce Development	\$ 707,039.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 707,039.22
Goal #3: Strengthen Local Neighborhoods	\$ 186,488.39	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 186,488.39
Administrative Expenses	\$ 210,370.72	\$ 15,587.93	\$ 11,415.49	\$ 237,374.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,179,398.97</b>	<b>\$ 254,591.67</b>	<b>\$ 237,212.23</b>	<b>\$ 2,671,202.87</b>

The City of Schenectady’s 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan identified three overriding goals for the next five years in relation to entitlement funding: 1) Enhance Housing Opportunities, 2) Expand Economic & Workforce Development, and 3) Strengthen Local Neighborhoods.

This 2020 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) addresses the implementation of the three goals established in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The report reflects the first year of the plan, 2020-2021.

In the 2020-2021 program year, the City received \$2,320,099 for CDBG, \$1,117,501 for the HOME Consortium in partnership with Troy + Colonie (\$558,852 COS), and \$194,820 in ESG funding. These funds were used for many projects while the City dealt with COVID-19 and disbursement of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. The city offices were closed from March 2020 to June 2020 and the staff worked remote during this time. There were many virtual meetings held about how to address the most urgent needs in the city, from economic recovery, to addressing the needs of the City's youth, and implementing the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. In addition, the Department of Development staff worked with community partners and planned for the use of CARES Act funding throughout the city.

**Enhancing Housing Opportunities:** Funding was provided to 10 new homeowners in the city to assist with the purchase of their first home. The City also worked in coordination with Habitat for Humanity to fund the construction of 7 new homes. Although they are not closed during this this fiscal period, all 7 are expected to close by June of 2022. The Bureau of Code Enforcement began a new initiative to combat blight in the city. Working in coordination with Better Community Neighborhoods Inc. (BCNI) to guide homeowners to the appropriate resources for home repairs. In addition, 18 blighted properties were demolished, many of the lots were sold to adjacent property owners, increased both yard space and property values.

## **Expand Economic & Workforce Development:**

In response to COVID-19, the City was still able to implement the goals laid out in the Consolidated Plan by assisting over 60 small businesses with COVID-19 relief through the CARES Act CDBG-CV funds. Small businesses received \$376,000.00 in grants ranging from \$2,500.00 - \$10,000.00 to help with the purchase of PPE supplies, payroll, insurance, training, etc. The grants helped many businesses to remain operational and to continue employment.

The Schenectady Economic Empowerment Center (SEEC) was developed in 2020 and is part of the City's Affirmative Action Office. The SEEC is included in the plans for the 2020-2024 Consolidated plan to increase economic opportunities in the city. *Per Consolidated Plan: "Support "Community Hubs" - Support the development and enhancement of community centers in challenged neighborhoods to help nurture talent, build leadership capacity, and highlight diversity."* The SEEC assist small businesses with training, MWBE certifications, and various webinars. Most recently, a Section 3 training webinar that was partnered with Empire State Development (ESD). The Section 3 training included sub-recipients that had received HUD funds.

The SEEC worked with the Capital Region Community Loan Fund to qualify small businesses for grants. The SEEC provides various trainings to city residents, who are mostly low-income, to increase their skills and provides a plethora of business opportunities to increase economic development. SEEC is partnered with non-profits, the local community college, the school district, and many construction contractors in the city.

A number of key infrastructure projects were completed which assisted to support the economic viability of the City in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Over 1 mile of streets were paved with CDBG funds, along with the installation of sidewalks around Jerry Burrell Park and Orchard Park. The installation of these sidewalks is key to continued investments and improvements to these parks.

The Craig-Main Connection complete streets project is expected to begin the first phase of construction during the next fiscal period. There are several ongoing community development initiatives within the corridor that will increase density, create new transportation demands – and with proximity to local schools and community organizations, will intensify existing bicycle and pedestrian needs. The Craig Street Complete Streets design will better serve the neighborhood through the creation of a safer, more efficient, and more inviting corridor that takes into consideration the needs of all travelers, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and motorists.

**Strengthen Local Neighborhoods:** Organizations that serve youth in the city formed a Coalition to better engage the City's youth in a coordinated manner. More than 15 programs and organizations joined forces to provide programming including arts/culture, urban farming, mentoring, academic support, volunteer opportunities, catering, and entrepreneurial skills to more than 1,000 youth located in the City.