

City of North Little Rock Community Development Agency



Substantial Amendment to the 2015 Annual Action Plan



Community Development Agency
500 West 13th Street
North Little Rock AR 72114
501-340-5342

**SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FY2015**

AMENDMENT SUMMARY:

HOME FUNDS

FY2015 HOME unexpended funds in the amount of \$61,905.48 will be reallocated from the completed Homeowner Rehabilitation activity to the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) program for new construction of affordable housing.

The City reached the end of its HOME major rehabilitation waiting list earlier than anticipated and the program ended, leaving an unspent balance of \$61,905.48 to be reallocated.

The FY2015 Action Plan allocated 50 percent of HOME funds received to its Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) to build new affordable housing. This substantial amendment will increase the current FY2015 CHDO allocation by \$61,905.48.

<u>Allocation Amount</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>	<u>Amended</u>
Single Family Rehabilitation	\$113,731	-\$61,905.48	\$51,825.52
CHDO	\$113,730	+\$61,905.48	\$175,635.48

Executive Summary

The City of North Little Rock's 2015 Annual Action Plan executes specific actions to implement the goals of the 2011-2015 City of North Little Rock Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan.

The City of North Little Rock strives to identify service delivery methods that are meaningful to our diverse community, and work with other public and private organizations to provide guidance in this area. Our partnerships with neighborhood organizations and nonprofit organizations are important to our success, and we appreciate their contribution to this community.

The City of North Little Rock is the 6th largest city in the state of Arkansas with a population of 60,433 according to the latest US Census. North Little Rock has an approximate area of 53½ square miles.

The 2015 Annual Action Plan projects are funded with the City's Community Development Block Grant funds, as well as HOME funds. The City of North Little Rock has made a concerted effort in providing our citizens with the best service we can and utilizing the dollars we have, both Federal and local, in providing those services.

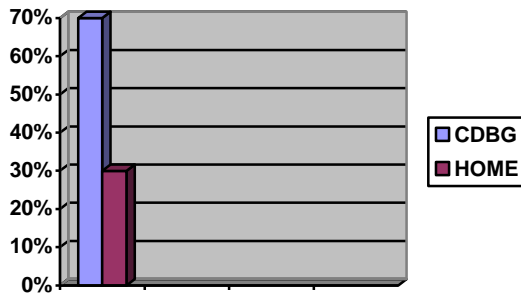
The Annual Action Plan will report what activities the City of North Little Rock plans to undertake during the upcoming year. We will identify HUD-funded activities, as well as other actions that will be taken to meet the objectives of the Consolidated Plan.

The City continues to strive toward the implementation of a well-conceived Community Development Program that maximizes benefits to low and moderate-income persons and/or eliminates slums and blight and prevents the recurrence of blighting influences.

Sources of Funds

The City of North Little Rock receives two entitlement grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address local housing and community development needs: the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) grant. These grants are allocated for specific activities to be carried out over each program year. The City's 2015 (41st Year) CDBG entitlement is \$543,094. The City's 2015 HOME entitlement is \$227,461.

Community Development Block Grant Entitlement	\$ 543,094
HOME	<u>227,461</u>
Total Available Funds	\$770,555



Other Resources

Match fund requirements for the HOME Program will be provided through partnerships with its CHDOs and non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

The City allocates funds each year per Ward for the Aldermen to spend on drainage and street improvement in their elected area. Additionally, the City allocates additional funds for drainage and street improvement where needed in the city.

In addition, for all applications for funding, the City will require an equity investment in the projects by applicants and some projects will also require funding from local financial institutions.

Housing Resources

The City of North Little Rock has one approved Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH).

Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH)

Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH) is a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) that is active in the development of low-income, affordable housing in its role as a supporting organization of Habitat for Humanity of Pulaski County (Habitat). At present, PCNAH's target area includes all of Pulaski County, with the majority of its projects over the last year taking place in North Little Rock. PCNAH targets residents who fall between 30 and 60 percent of the area median income. 100 percent of the projects are for homebuyers; PCNAH does not work on any rental properties.

PCNAH was awarded 2012 HOME CHDO funds from the City of North Little Rock for the development of two new residential properties. Both construction projects were completed in less than a year's time, and were sold to low-income, qualified families in 2014. PCNAH also took possession of a HOME CHDO house from Argenta CDC and was able to sell the property in one month. They also were allocated the remainder of 2011 HOME CHDO funds, which was originally allocated to Argenta CDC, to develop 2 more homes for people in need. Both lots have already been purchased and plans are being made to begin construction. In 2013, PCNAH was awarded CHDO status from the Arkansas Development Finance Authority and the Executive Director passed their HOME course as an ADFA HOME Certified Consultant in 2014.

PCNAH was developed as a supporting organization for Habitat, and relies on their extensive experience in housing development to ensure the timely completion of projects. Habitat has an established office and construction staff who have, over the last 24 years, completed over 125 homes in Pulaski County. Recently, as part of the consortium for NSP2 money, Habitat built and sold 26 houses in North Little Rock. In partnership, PCNAH and Habitat hope to continue in their common goal of eliminating poverty housing.

North Little Rock Housing Authority's mission is to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination. Our goals are to:

1. **Goal:** Reduce public housing vacancy by maintaining a minimum 97 percent lease-up for public housing and 99 percent lease-up for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP).

Status:

NLRHA has 200 Veterans Administration Supportive Housing VASH vouchers. Currently, 172 of the vouchers are in use as of 6/30/2014. The HCVP staff works collaboratively with the Veterans Administration staff to house eligible veterans.

An objective under this goal is to improve the time it takes to make public housing apartments ready for lease-up. Due to strategic planning and monitoring, turnaround time improved dramatically thus improving the availability of units for occupancy. The targeted lease-up rate was met for public housing.

2. **Goal:** Improve the quality of public housing and voucher management by implementing management and service practices consistent with High Performer Status in both programs, and by renovating, modernizing or replacing the housing stock.

Status:

Through the annual Capital Fund Program, the Housing Authority continued to improve the quality of the public housing stock by modernizing units internally and externally. In 2010, funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided additional funds and opportunities to make capital repairs and enhance the properties.

In 2013 the HCVP was a Low Performer with an overall score of 66% through the HUD Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP). The rating indicates below proficiency in the overall management of the program.

However, the PHA has implemented a strategy to bring the program back to a standard performer in 2014.

To broaden the strategy to create and maintain quality public housing, NLRHA utilizes a Risk Control Program and a United Physical Conditions Standards (UPCS) inspection protocol. Under

the Risk Control Program, a committee monitors facility conditions and identify situations that threaten the quality of housing. A team conducting UPCS inspections also focus on housing quality in an effort to avoid deferred maintenance.

3. **Goal:** Increase assisted housing choices through voucher mobility counseling and landlord outreach.

Status:

The Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Homeownership has been a successful program. As of June 30, 2014 the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Homeownership has 49 active homeowners. In the last fiscal year, families were directed to various community resources including: fair housing assistance, home inspectors, credit counseling services, required first-time homebuyer training, Money Smart Classes, IDA programs, Credit Report Request Services, Homestead Tax Services, Energy Assistance, Federal Home Loan Bank down payment assistance, ADFA down-payment assistance, CADC weatherization assistance and NLR CDC emergency home repair.

The HCVP manager participates in landlord and other community meetings to provide information about the voucher program.

4. **Goal:** Promote self-sufficiency of assisted families through the HCVP and Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Programs.

Status:

The Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) continues to flourish. We do not have any mandatory FSS slots and as of June 30, 2014, 28 participants were receiving services. There were two FSS graduates for this fiscal year.

5. **Goal:** Improve community quality of life and economic vitality by implementing security improvements and marketing to attract higher income residents.

Status:

Viable security measures improve the perception of and actual quality of life for residents and potential residents in any community. Currently, NLRHA provides on-site guards, gated

parking, and video monitoring at high-rise communities. Implementing security measures at family sites proved to be more challenging. The North Little Rock Police Department has assigned officers to specifically monitor the family sites and be first responders. This partnership has proved to be very valuable. Nevertheless, the goal remains a part of the NLRHA 5-year plan. While results from a Request for Proposals to address security at the family site were indeed cost prohibitive, NLRHA will continue to investigate feasible security strategies. Each tenant agrees to an extensive background screening in an effort for the North Little Rock Housing Authority to reduce criminal activity by not approving housing for repeated criminal activity including violent crimes and drug activity.

To market and attract higher income residents, NLRHA continues to explore options that fall within Fair Housing and HUD guidelines to attract higher income residents.

6. **Goal:** Ensure equal housing opportunities by undertaking affirmative measures to provide access to our housing for all persons applying.

Status:

NLRHA is committed to affirmatively furthering fair housing opportunities. In keeping with the commitment to provide equal housing opportunities for all person, in 2008 NLRHA made the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Plan an official part of the HCVP Administration Plan. To provide access to persons with disabilities, NLRHA installed a myriad of accommodations for persons with disabilities including the installation of strobe doorbells, strobe smoke alarms, accessible walkways and ramps, parking spaces, and building entrances. Funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided resources for further modernization.

Needs of Public Housing

The Public Housing Program identified needs by considering the number of families waiting for the availability of public housing, the condition and marketability of the current housing stock, and by resident input. The waiting list for public housing and Section 8 program provides a glimpse into the community's needs. As of June 2014, there were 105 applicants on the waiting list for public housing. The Section 8 waiting list was exhausted in April, 2014

and will open for new applications in September, 2014. Elderly and disabled individuals will once again be given a preference. Online applications for NON_ELDERLY AND NONDISABLED will be taken on September 9, 2014. ELDERLY AND DISABLED applications will be taken in person at the Verizon Arena on September 10, 2014.

The Housing Authority utilizes management tools and input from residents to assess the condition and marketability of current housing. Based on the result of that assessment results and the demand indicated by the waiting list, it was determined the needs are to: 1) increase the supply of affordable housing stock for all eligible populations; and, 2) to target specific family types to address specific needs based on economic or other characteristics.

TABLE A
North Little Rock Housing Authority
Low-Income and Section 8 Assisted Housing Inventory

	Total	0 to 1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 or More Bedrooms
Public Housing	1023	579	234	210
Section 8	1192 Total	198 leased	413 leased	458 leased
Section 8 VASH	200 Total	145 leased	17 leased	8 leased

Table A lists the total housing inventory, number of bedrooms and type of assistance provided by the North Little Rock Housing Authority only as of 6/30/2013.

Strategies to Address the Needs

The Housing Authority executes a variety of strategies to address the housing needs in its jurisdiction. To increase the supply of affordable housing stock, the first strategy is to maximize the number of affordable units within current housing resources. The Housing Authority employs effective maintenance and management policies to minimize the number of public housing units “off-line” due to modernization and other factors.

The Neighborhood Stabilization grant was funded in 2010. While the grant amount was less than anticipated, the Housing Authority was awarded funding to develop ten additional housing opportunities. Three homeownership opportunities and seven rental opportunities were created.

Specific strategies must be implemented to address the needs of families having certain demographic characteristics. For families at or below 30 percent of the median income level, the strategy is to adopt rent policies to support and encourage work. The FSS programs are greatly beneficial in this strategy. For families at or below 50 percent of the median, the strategy of supporting and encouraging work will be enhanced by implementing admissions preferences aimed at families who are already working. The North Little Rock Housing Authority is currently exploring implementing a work requirement for all tenants, with the exception of elderly and disabled tenants. The elderly population and disabled applicants are given preference in the application process. For non-elderly and non-disabled families, NLRHA will continue to target those considered extremely low income (less than 30 percent of the median income), as HUD requires at least 74 percent of new participants to be in this income category.

To address the disproportionate housing needs of families of certain racial and ethnic groups, the Housing Authority will counsel Section 8 tenants as to location of units outside of areas of poverty or minority concentration and assist them to locate those units. In addition, program-marketing efforts will include marketing to owners outside of poverty/minority concentrations.

The Housing Authority's needs and strategies were developed by utilizing tools that monitor and track Housing Authority activities, by obtaining input from residents, and with awareness of the funding constraints.

The CDBG Housing Rehabilitation program will provide decent and sanitary housing for low to moderate income residents of the City of North Little Rock by providing handicapped ramps to renters and owner-occupied units, emergency grants and housing assistance grants for owner-occupied units. The City also has a weatherization program to assist persons with weatherizing their homes to help in lowering utility bills and reducing the energy burden on their homes.

The City's Housing Rehabilitation Program has two purposes: 1) the elimination of slum and blight and influences thereof, and 2) the elimination of health and safety hazards in private residential structure, including the elimination of handicapped barriers.

HOME Program will provide assistance to homeowners in the target area to alleviate the deteriorating housing stock. HOME assistance is targeted to ensure that the program serves the affordable housing needs of the families who most urgently need it - the low and very low-income residents. The City of North Little Rock is, again, setting aside 50 percent of its HOME funds for community housing development organizations. CDA will initially take the applications from the list they currently have on file before advertising for new applications.

Amendment: FY2015 HOME unexpended funds in the amount of \$61,905.48 will be reallocated from the completed Homeowner Rehabilitation activity to the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) program for new construction of affordable housing.

The City reached the end of its HOME major rehabilitation waiting list and the program ended, leaving an unspent balance of \$61,905.48 to be reallocated.

The FY2015 Action Plan originally allocated 50 percent of HOME funds received to CHDO activities. This substantial amendment will increase the current FY2015 CHDO allocation by \$61,905.48.

The City of North Little Rock will use recapture provisions in the event of a failure of a program beneficiary to satisfactorily adhere to all applicable affordability requirements.

Recapture Restrictions

Recapture that portion of CDBG or HOME Program investment unforgiven by the elapsed affordability period or recapture the maximum net proceeds from sale of property (whether recapture is effected through foreclosure or no foreclosure action).

Net proceeds recovered will be used to 1) reimburse the CDBG or HOME Program (Approved Activity) for the outstanding balance of CDBG or HOME funds not repaid or forgiven during the applicable affordability at the time of recapture, and 2) reimburse the CDBG or HOME Program for "holding costs" or other costs associated with the recapture action (legal fees, insurance, taxes, realtor fees, appraisals, etc.).

If net proceeds recaptured are less than the outstanding balance of HOME or CDBG funds invested in the property (for all approved activities and holding costs incurred), the loss will be absorbed by the CDBG or HOME Program and all CDBG or HOME Program requirements would be considered to have been satisfied.

If net proceeds recaptured are greater than the outstanding balance of CDBG or HOME funds invested in the property (for all approved activities and holding costs incurred), the balance of net proceeds would be distributed to the homeowner (or his/her estate). If the recapture of proceeds is effectuated through a completed foreclosure action, and the property is legally owned by the City of North Little Rock, the balance of net proceeds recaptured will inure to the City of North Little Rock.

Furthering Fair Housing

Community outreach education is one of the integral components of Fair Housing Education. Education is the most significant process for reducing racial discrimination. In many communities, government organizations or fair housing organizations have instituted educational programs in the public schools and/or public meetings. These efforts take a variety of forms but have as their aim the teaching of positive values concerning race relations. Housing discrimination is one of the primary activity areas.

In compliance with the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, the City of North Little Rock is continually making progress in maintaining programs that further fair housing.

The City's standard forms of assistance in furthering fair housing include non-discriminatory administration of CDBG and HOME Programs. Affirmatively furthering fair housing is accomplished by design and implementation of housing programs intended to promote fair housing choices for low-income citizens.

Projected Use of Funds

The City proposes to undertake and/or complete the following projects and activities in its 2015 program year:

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Ward I - Schaer Street from 15 th to 19 th – Street and Drainage Improvements	\$ 75,000
Ward II - Poe Street from Alma to Glenview – Street and Drainage Improvements	75,000
Ward III – 39 th Street from Pike to Hayes (approximately) – Street and Drainage Improvements	75,000
Rehabilitation – CDBG - Owner-Occupied Rehab/Emergency Repairs	129,476
North Little Rock Boys & Girls Club - The Positive Place for Kids Program	45,000
CareLink - Meals on Wheels Program	30,000
Recovery Centers of Arkansas – Recovery Park Project -	5,000
Administration	<u>108,618</u>
Subtotal	\$543,094
HOME Program	<u>227,461</u>
TOTAL	\$770,555

Description of Activities

This section briefly describes the *2015 Action Plan's* activities to be undertaken using 2015 CDBG and HOME entitlement funds. Each activity is grouped according to the housing and community development related needs it aims to address.

HOUSING

Goal: Low-Moderate income citizens will have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing.

Single-Family Rehabilitation - \$113,731 HOME

This program provides moderate or substantial rehabilitation of existing owner-occupied single family residential properties by providing grants/loans to low and moderate income homeowners.

Amendment: Single-Family Rehabilitation - \$ 51,825.52 HOME

The City reached the end of its rehabilitation waiting list earlier than anticipated and the program ended, leaving an unspent balance of \$61,905.48 to be reallocated.

Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) - \$113,730 HOME

The City has set aside fifty percent of its Program year 2015 HOME entitlement for use by Community Housing Development Organizations. The CHDOs are responsible for developing, sponsoring, and/or owning HOME assisted housing to be made available to low and very low income families.

Amendment: Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)- \$175,635.48 HOME

The FY2015 Action Plan allocated 50 percent of HOME funds received to CHDO activities. The substantial amendment will increase the current FY2015 CHDO allocation by \$61,905.48.

Single-Family Rehabilitation/ Emergency Repairs - \$129,476 CDBG

Emergency repair is designed to provide immediate assistance to low-income homeowners when emergency conditions exist which threatens the safety and health of the occupants. Examples of assistance include, but not limited to, repair of gas leaks, leaking roofs, unsafe electrical wiring systems, water leaks and other hazardous problems.

Housing Assistance Grants are designed to provide non-emergency assistance to low-income homeowners with repairs to their homes. Examples of assistance include, but not limited to, repairs to roofs, floors, and handicap accessibility items.

Handicap Ramp Project

This program provides funds to purchase building materials to construct handicap ramps. A group of retired telephone company employees, the Telephone Pioneers, provide the necessary labor to build the ramps. No funds are being set aside for the Handicap Ramp Project this program year. The Program will continue to be available, however, utilizing previous years' funds.

Weatherization Program

The Weatherization Program provides assistance to low-income homeowners to help with weatherizing their homes. Assistance may be in the form of weather-stripping, caulking and sealing, insulation and other energy saving repairs. While no funds are being set aside for this in the 2015 Program Year, the program will continue to be available utilizing previous years' funds.

Habitat for Humanity – “Building Communities” Project

This project was funded in the 2013 Program Year. However, due to the delay in receiving the 2013 funds the project got a late start. CDBG funds of \$20,000 was allocated to this project to be utilized for homebuyer assistance for low-income families. Future homeowners contribute sweat equity working with Habitat staff, board members, and volunteers in the construction of their home. Fourteen thousand (\$14,000) of the \$20,000 allocated has been utilized by a low-income person to assist in the purchase of a new home, leaving \$6,000 to be used for further assistance to other potential homebuyers.

Recapture Restrictions

In the event of a failure of a CDBG or HOME Program beneficiary to satisfactorily adhere to all applicable affordability requirements the City of North Little Rock will use the recapture provision to ensure that the intent of the CDBG or HOME funded activity is accomplished or that the unforgiven portion of the funds are recaptured and used for other eligible activities.

The City will recapture that portion of CDBG or HOME Program investment unforgiven by the elapsed affordability period or recapture the maximum net proceeds from sale of property (whether recapture is effected through foreclosure or no foreclosure action).

Net proceeds recovered will be used to 1) reimburse the CDBG or HOME Program (Approved Activity) for the outstanding balance of CDBG or HOME funds not repaid or forgiven during the applicable affordability at the time of recapture, and 2) reimburse the CDBG or HOME Program for “holding costs” or other costs associated with the recapture action (legal fees, insurance, taxes, realtor fees, appraisals, etc.).

If net proceeds recaptured are less than the outstanding balance of HOME or CDBG funds invested in the property (for all approved activities and holding costs incurred), the loss will be absorbed by the CDBG or HOME Program and all CDBG or HOME Program requirements would be considered to have been satisfied.

If net proceeds recaptured are greater than the outstanding balance of CDBG or HOME funds invested in the property (for all approved activities and holding costs incurred), the balance of net proceeds would be distributed to the homeowner (or his/her estate). If the recapture of proceeds is effectuated through a completed foreclosure action, and the property is legally owned by the City of North Little Rock, the balance of net proceeds recaptured will inure to the City of North Little Rock.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Goal: To improve the quality of programs and facilities for health, information and recreational services.

North Little Rock Boys and Girls Club – The Positive Place for Kids Program - \$45,000 CDBG

This activity will provide funds to hire teachers for the Boys and Girls Club's Positive Place for Kids Program. The Positive Place for Kids Program will provide teachers at three locations – Jim Wetherington, Hamilton, and Rose City. The Boys and Girls Club's Positive Place for Kids Program will provide educational, recreational, and life skills programs during out of school hours to children and youth ages 6 – 18. The program will provide a safe place to learn for those students at risk of experiencing school failure and associated problems such as violence and drug use. The long-term goal is to improve each student's academic performance, improve student behavior, and provide a low student/teacher ratio to students that need extra learning assistance.

CareLink - \$30,000 CDBG

This activity will provide funds for approximately 6,329 meals to 28 residents of North Little Rock who qualify for their Meals on Wheels Program.

River City Ministry – Emergency Services – (Previous year funding - \$3,000 CDBG)

This activity will provide funding for walk-in emergency services for the homeless. Examples of such services include transportation, purchase of medication and other types of medical services. Approximately fifty (50) homeless persons will benefit from this activity.

River City Ministry – Rehabilitation – (Previous year funding - \$8,888 CDBG)

This project will provide funds for the rehabilitation of the public restroom facilities. Due to the high volume of traffic on a daily basis the current facilities are in need of repair and upgrades to more substantial commercial type facilities. The Community Development Agency staff is working with River City Ministry staff to get this project underway.

Recovery Centers of Arkansas – “Recovery Park” Project - \$5,000 CDBG

Recovery Centers of Arkansas is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide low-mod income persons with treatment programming and other professional services in order for them to live free from the abuse of alcohol and/or drugs. The Recover Park will consist of outdoor exercise equipment permanently affixed on the property of Recovery Centers of Arkansas to benefit the low/mod persons they serve.

Police Athletic League (PAL) – Ball Park Facility Improvements – (Previous year funding - \$7,736 CDBG)

This project will provide funding for improvements to three (3) community facilities, North Heights, Vestal and Rose City Ball Parks. The funds will be utilized for restroom renovation and flooring. All of the facilities are located in low-income areas of the City. PAL is a non-profit program that provides various sports and other physically active programs to youth in the community that could not otherwise afford to play sports in other leagues in the City. All of the activities are free to participants. The Community Development Agency staff is working with PAL staff in order to get the project underway.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: To eliminate slum, blight, and flooding in low income areas of the City.

Ward I – 36th Street from Marion to the old railroad tracks (approximately 260 ft.) – (Previous year funding - CDBG)

This project is now complete. The project was a street improvement project including sidewalks.

Ward 1 – Schaer Street from 15th to 19th Streets – (Previous year funding - \$80,000 CDBG) \$75,000 CDBG

This project began in previous years and was partially constructed, this will be a continuation of that project. It consists of street and drainage improvements on Schaer from approximately 15th to 19th Street. Additional funds from this program year are needed in order for this project to move forward.

Ward II – Douglas Walking Trail – (Previous years funding - \$169,580 CDBG)

This project was originally for drainage and street improvements, plus sidewalks beginning at Dixie to C Street. However, the 2012 Annual Action Plan was amended to delete that project and reallocate the funds to the new project, Ward II – Douglas Walking Trail, which will include converting Douglas Avenue from Sam Evans (Dixie) to C Street into a walking trail.

The 2013 CDBG funds were also allocated to this project. To date there is a signed agreement between the City of North Little Rock and Clements & Associates/Architecture, Inc., to provide architectural services for the design and construction of two entryways into the park. The City is partnering with the Community Development Agency on this project in the fact they will be providing the engineering plans for the trail, which is underway and nearing completion. In addition the City will also be performing stabilization work on the ditch that runs adjacent to the trail. The Community Development Agency has been working with the City engineers and Wastewater on a force main issue with that ditch. This issue is being worked on and is expected to be completed soon so that construction of the trail can begin in the near future.

Ward II – Poe Street from Alma to Glenview – (Previous year funding - \$80,000 CDBG) \$75,000 CDBG

This is a street and drainage project that was designed in previous years. The 2015 funds in addition to the 2014 funds will be applied toward the construction phase of the project.

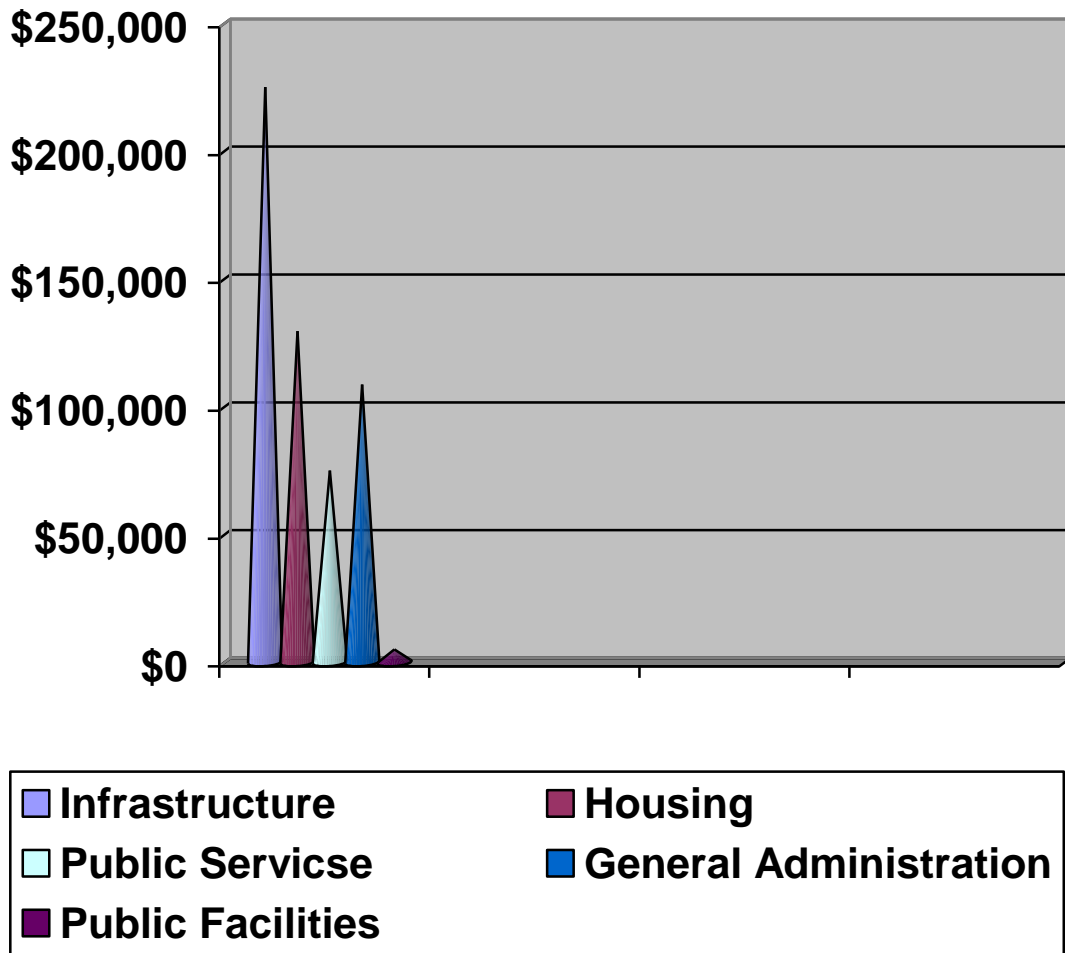
Ward III – Parkway Drainage- (Previous years funding - \$209,580 CDBG)

This is a street and drainage project located in Ward III of the City, on Parkway between Pike and Burks. The design of the project has been completed and funds from previous years are available for the construction. Construction on the project is slated to being in September 2014. Any funds remaining from this project will be applied to the pending Ward III 39th Street Project described below.

Ward III – 39th Street from Pike to Hayes (approximately) – (Previous year funding - \$40,000 CDBG) \$75,000 CDBG

This is a street and drainage project also located in Ward III. The 2014 and 2015 funds will go toward the engineering of the project with remaining funds going toward the actual construction. In addition, any funds remaining from the Parkway Project will go toward this project. The engineering will be accomplished in the 2014 Program Year.

CDBG Funds Allocated by Percentages for 2015



Geographic Distribution

The geographic distribution of activities and funding to accomplish identified objectives will be on a city-wide basis, however, the City plans to target certain areas with high minority and low-income concentrations in an effort to trigger reinvestment and spur new development.

Activities of the City's CHDO, Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat, will focus on their respective neighborhood target area.

Infrastructure projects are located in three wards of the City and are in different phases of construction.

Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities

The City of North Little Rock is an active member and participant of the Central Arkansas Team Care for the Homeless (CATCH) Continuum of Care. The Community Development Agency Director serves on the Proposal Review/Ranking Committee of CATCH.

The new Day Resource Center located in Little Rock opened in May of 2013. This facility, which was funded by the City of North Little Rock and Little Rock provides a place for persons who are homeless to go during the day and receive assistance and information about all the supportive services available to them in Central Arkansas. The City of North Little Rock continues to provide funding for yearly operations of the Center.

The City of North Little Rock allocated 2014 Program Year CDBG funds to River City Ministry in order to improve and update the restroom facilities at their day shelter and also funds for emergency services such as prescription assistance, medical assistance, transportation assistance, etc., to the homeless population.

Other activities to be undertaken which will help prevent homelessness include the Homeowner Rehabilitation Program, which allows low-income persons to remain in their homes once renovated. CDBG and HOME funds will be utilized to implement this program.

Amendment: HOME funds were utilized to implement the Homeowner Rehabilitation Program until the City reached the end of its HOME rehabilitation waiting list and the program ended.

Addressing Lead-Based Paint Hazards

The City of North Little Rock continues to adhere to all the Lead-Based Paint requirements and test for lead based paint at every home built before 1978 that receives work in its HOME rehabilitation program. Before a house is rehabilitated with HOME funds, the house is tested for lead-based paint. The cost of implementing the lead-based paint program is expensive and we continue to request that HUD will provide additional funding in the future.

Monitoring Standards and Procedures

The City's Community Development Agency will report annually monitoring of all CDBG funded projects. There are three monitoring tools to ensure compliance requirements of all projects. These are policies, contract requirements and on-site monitoring. All projects requesting CDBG funds are evaluated to determine program eligibility and priority based on policies, local, state and federal regulations, consolidated plans and local needs.

During the project year, the Community Development Agency schedules monitoring visits with subrecipients. As part of the annual reporting of the program accomplishments, CAPER data is collected from recipients.

The City of North Little Rock's Community Development Agency ensures that all records are complete and agencies comply with applicable rules and regulations including requirements; Political Activity, Davis-Bacon and Related Acts; Civil Rights, Cash Management, Federal Financial Reports, Allowable Costs and Cost Principles, Drug Free Workplace Act and other administrative requirements.

Citizen Participation Plan

The City of North Little Rock encourages citizen participation in its program and, in particular, those citizens who are residing in low-income and/or slum or blight areas.

The City held four public hearings – July 15, July 16, July 17 and September 22, 2014. One Public Hearing in Ward I, one Public Hearing in Ward II, the Public Hearing for Ward III and Ward IV was consolidated into one and one

Public Hearing during the City Council Meeting which approves the Plan. Additionally, the City published the notice of the public hearings in the North Little Rock *The Times*, as well as notifying neighborhood associations. These neighborhood meetings were held in close proximity to the areas where assistance is needed.

All citizen, including low-and moderate-income people, people living in low-and moderate-income neighborhoods, minority populations, non-English speaking people, people with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, homeless persons/agencies and residents of public assisted housing developments were encouraged to participate in the development and review.

Public hearings were held in locations accessible to the mobility impaired. Accommodations would be made for hearing impaired and persons with disabilities upon request. Arrangements for access to visual or hearing impaired persons would be made by contacting the North Little Rock Community Development Agency, 501-340-5342, at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting for which assistance was desired. Should non-English speaking residents attend the meetings or need assistance, the CDBG Director would have made arrangements to have information made available in said language. Requests needed to be made at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting for which assistance was desired.

Anyone wishing to request funds for 2015 had to complete a Project Application Form and return the completed form to the Community Development Agency no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 11, 2014 for their proposed project to be considered for the 2015 funding cycle. Proposing projects related to Drainage and Street Improvement and sidewalks did not require an application to be submitted to the Community Development Agency to be considered for the 2015 Funding Year.

The public hearings were used to inform the public about the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Program, and the Citizen Participation Plan, to disseminate information about the programs and to provide the public with a forum for obtaining information about these programs. The Project Application Form was made available to any person or organization who was interested in requesting funds for a project as well as they had the opportunity to discuss the project during the public hearing. They were informed at the public hearing that the Project Application Forms had to be submitted to the Community Development Agency by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 11, 2014 for their proposed project to be considered for the 2015 funding cycle.

Any assistance requested of the staff for information, explanation, or development of a project request that was within the parameters of the program was afforded to the citizens. Any and all written complaints would be answered promptly (within 15 days).

The City of North Little Rock's proposed plan was published in the North Little Rock *The Times* on Thursday, October 2, 2014, and made available for review and comment during a thirty-day comment period from October 2, 2014 through October 31, 2014 prior to submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development on November 15, 2014. The City did not receive any citizen comments during the 30-day comment period.

Amendment: Notice of a 30-day comment period for the City of North Little Rock's proposed substantial amendment to the FY2015 Annual Action Plan was published in The Times on Thursday, April 27, 2017.