

City of North Little Rock



Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

FY2019 Program Year



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Executive Summary

Eligible local governments may receive annual grants for community development and affordable housing through application to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As an entitlement City, the City of North Little Rock applies yearly for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds.

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is an annual report required by HUD. This CAPER covers Program Year 2019 (January 1 through December 31, 2019). The performance report must include a description of the resources made available, the investment of available resources, the geographic distribution and location of investments, the families and persons assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of persons assisted), and actions taken to affirmatively further fair housing. The CAPER identifies the level of progress made towards addressing the priority needs and goals established in the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan for FY2016-2020 and Annual Action Plan for FY2019. The City's Five Year goals were based on quantitative estimates of desired accomplishments given anticipated monetary resources. These estimates were not given as benchmarks for success or failure of specific programs, but used as a guide in the allocations of resources to address priority needs.

The City received \$666,055 in CDBG funds and \$279,664 in HOME funds for Program Year 2019. The CDBG funds were allocated for infrastructure improvements in low to moderate income areas of the City and allotted to nonprofit organizations which provide essential services for low to moderate income persons. Likewise, strategic investments of HOME funds were allocated to improve the quality of life for some of North Little Rock's needy citizens by providing affordable housing development activities. The City continued to meet the goal of Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing through efforts to address issues identified in its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing report.

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan.

91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

In FY2019, the City assisted low to moderate income persons and families through a variety of public facility, affordable housing, and public service activities funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) funds.

An identified high priority need was public infrastructure improvements in low to moderate income areas of the City. In Ward 1, funds have been allocated annually since 2016 to a street, drainage, and sidewalk improvements project on Marion Street from 15th to 18th Streets. Work on phase 1 (16th to 18th) of this multi-year funded project was completed in 2019. FY2019 funds were committed towards phase 2 (15th to 16th). In Ward 2, work on phase 2 (Mosley to Glenview) of the Poe Street from Alma to Glenview street, drainage, and sidewalk improvements project began in late 2018 and was completed in 2019. FY2019 funds were committed and preliminary work began on the next Ward 2 project on 9th Street from G to I Street. In Ward 3, preliminary work began and FY2019 funds were obligated for a project on 50th Street from Camp Robinson to Allen Streets.

Another priority need established was affordable housing through rehabilitation or development. The City encouraged new development of affordable housing by allocating 90% of its 2019 HOME funds for use by certified Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Through the commitment of prior year HOME funds, one new affordable home was built and sold in 2019. Construction was completed on a second new home in December of 2019, with an anticipated sale to a low income homebuyer in early 2020. (The beneficiary/accomplishment data on this second home will be reported in the City's 2020 CAPER since the sale will occur in 2020.)

Public services were also identified as a priority need. Central Arkansas Area Agency on Aging (dba CareLink) was allocated 2019 CDBG funding to deliver Meals on Wheels to elderly citizens. The North Little Rock Boys and Girls Club Great Futures program was awarded CDBG funds to provide after school and/or summer programs for youth at two locations in North Little Rock.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee’s program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$475,182 / HOME: \$85,635	Other	Other	5	4	80.00%	1	1	100.00%
Affordable Housing - Rehabilitation / Development	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$171,218 / HOME: \$770,713	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	7	5	71.43%	2	1	50.00%
Affordable Housing - Rehabilitation / Development	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	50	100.00%	0	0	0.00%
Public Improvements - Infrastructure / Facilities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$1,532,810	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	8395	8395	100.00%	0	1445	100.00%

Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$196,900	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	4000	3757	93.93%	773	1044	135.06%
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted		0		0	0	

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

In regard to the priority need for Public Improvements – Infrastructure and Facilities, in 2019, CDBG funds in the amount of \$510,000 were equally divided and allocated for one street and drainage improvement project in a low to moderate income area in each of Wards 1, 2, and 3. Due to the high cost of street improvements, each of these projects required multi-year funding.

To address the identified priority need of Affordable Housing – Rehabilitation or Development, 2019 HOME Program funds in the amount of \$251,698 were allocated to new home construction activities through a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), to increase the availability of affordable housing stock for low income persons. Utilizing previous year HOME funds, Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat, a CHDO, constructed and sold one home in 2019. A certificate of occupancy was received on a second newly constructed home in December, with an anticipated sale to a qualified homebuyer in early 2020.

The priority need for public services for low to moderate income persons was addressed with the 2019 CDBG allocation of \$67,000 to nonprofit organizations which provide essential services focused on youth, the elderly. Previous year CDBG allocations funded an activity which provided duffel bags, coats, and other essential items to homeless persons who participated in the 2019 Point in Time count.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME
White	339	0
Black or African American	677	3
Asian	2	0
American Indian or American Native	3	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
Total	1,021	3
Hispanic	21	0
Not Hispanic	1,000	3

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

The table above displays the race and ethnicity of persons assisted with CDBG funded public service activities and HOME funded affordable housing activities. Beneficiaries of public infrastructure street and drainage projects are not tracked by race, and are therefore not included in the numbers shown. Some race categories were not listed in the above table. CDBG activities also benefitted 13 American Indian/Black or African American persons and 10 Other Multi-Racial persons that were Not Hispanic.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	1,544,394	562,463
HOME	public - federal	796,632	159,311

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The \$1,544,394 available amount of CDBG funding shown in Table 3 includes the City's FY2019 allocation of \$666,055, FY2019 program income in the amount of \$3,234, and \$875,105 from previous year grant allocations. The \$796,632 available amount of HOME funding shown in Table 3 reflects the City's FY2019 allocation of \$279,664 plus \$516,968 from previous year grant allocations. Program Year 2019 Investments/Expenditures are listed below:

- \$ 260,743.24 Ward 1 Marion St from 16th–18th Street/Drainage/Sidewalk Improvements
- \$ 100,246.86 Ward 2 Poe St from Alma to Glenview Street/Drainage/Sidewalk Improvements
- \$ 9,650.00 Ward 2 9th St from G to I Street/Drainage/Sidewalk Improvements
- \$ 3,895.20 Ward 3 50th St from Camp Robinson to Allen Street/Drainage/Sidewalk Improvements
- \$ 31,000.00 Boys and Girls Club/Positive Place Great Futures for Kids Program
- \$ 35,999.10 CareLink/Meals on Wheels Program
- \$ 120,928.92 Planning and Administrative Costs
- \$ 562,463.32 TOTAL 2019 CDBG Expenditures**
- \$ 151,236.48 HOME Program/CHDO Development New Construction
- \$ 8,074.50 HOME Planning and Administrative Costs
- \$ 159,310.98 TOTAL 2019 HOME Expenditures**

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
CDBG ELIGIBLE AREA	62	74	INFRASTRUCTURE
CITYWIDE	38	26	OTHER

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

Planning and Administrative Costs listed above were not included in geographic distribution percentage calculations. Infrastructure improvement projects were targeted to CDBG eligible low to moderate income areas. On multi-year projects, only funds expended in 2019 were used in calculating above actual allocation percentages. Expended amounts could include previous year allocations. Housing programs were offered citywide to income qualified residents. Public service activities were allocated to nonprofit organizations serving low to moderate income residents citywide.

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

When possible, the City attempts to budget local funds per City Ward each year, to be used for street and drainage improvement projects. These local funds were used to jointly fund CDBG public infrastructure activities. Ward 1 drainage funds were committed to the Marion Street project. Ward 2 drainage funds were committed to phase two of the Poe Street project. Ward 3 City drainage funds were allocated towards the 50th Street project. The nonprofit organizations that expended CDBG funding to offer public services in 2019 offset their costs through funding obtained from other sources, including other grants and fundraising efforts. HOME matching requirements for the federal fiscal year period were met with donations of vacant lots (one from the City), appliances and other construction materials to Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH), a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), for the development of new affordable housing. Match requirements were also met with banked match funds from previous years. The Jericho Way Resource Center is located in Little Rock but is jointly funded by the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock. The center provides essential services for the homeless population including case management, job counseling, assistance with obtaining identity documents, training, medical care, housing referrals, transportation, and meals.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	227,455
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	10,436
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	237,891
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	29,708
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	208,184

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match
572	12/27/2018	0	0	0	0	1,268	0	1,268
583	05/24/2019	0	0	2,500	0	2,084	0	4,584
584	12/31/2018	0	0	2,500	0	2,084	0	4,584

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at begin-ning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
0	0	0	0	0

Table 7 – Program Income

HOME MBE/WBE report- Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	106,120	0	0	0	0	106,120
Number	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sub-Contracts						
Number	10	1	0	1	3	5
Dollar Amount	60,973	6,013	0	4,050	25,391	25,519
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	106,120	0	106,120			
Number	1	0	1			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	10	1	9			
Dollar Amount	60,973	1,200	59,773			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0	0			
Businesses Displaced		0	0			
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0	0			
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0	0			
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	2	1
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	2	1

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	2	1
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	2	1

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

This year's goal for number of households supported through the production of new units was two. One unit was constructed and sold. A second unit was constructed this year, but will not be sold until early 2020. The second unit will not be reported as an accomplishment until sold.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Future annual action plan goals will continue to be estimated based on a review of previous year outcomes and anticipated funding allocations.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	0	0
Low-income	0	1
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	0	1

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

No renter-occupied households were assisted with CDBG or HOME housing activity funds in 2019. While CDBG or HOME funded activities did not address renter households, the North Little Rock Housing Authority provided resources through public housing, Section 8 vouchers, and VASH vouchers to address worst case needs. Owner households assisted met the Section 215 definition of affordable housing. No middle income or homeless persons were assisted with housing activities. Residents with disabilities were referred to agencies who could assist them with wheelchair ramps.

Although this questions asks for number of persons served, the accompanying table asks for number of households served. Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH) completed construction and sold one new affordable unit to a 3 person, low income household in 2019. Construction was completed on a second new home in December of 2019, with sale to an eligible buyer anticipated in early 2020. Accomplishment data will be reported for this second home on the 2020 CAPER.

Progress made in meeting projected objectives and goals is discussed above. Housing activities were application based, so it was not possible to precisely predict the income categories of the persons who would contact our office or PCNAH offices during the year for assistance. However, programs were available to aid persons/households in these income categories. Other organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Ozark Mission Project played important roles in providing additional assistance towards maintaining affordable housing in the City.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

The City of North Little Rock maintained its participation in the local Continuum of Care (CoC) through membership in Central Arkansas Team Care for the Homeless (CATCH). North Little Rock's Community Development Agency Director attended regular meetings of the CATCH membership which provided opportunities for discussion and consultation regarding coordination of outreach efforts among homeless service and housing providers. In January 2019, the CoC conducted Point in Time (PIT) counts and surveys to determine the homeless population in the area and to reach out to homeless individuals, including unsheltered persons, in order to better assess their needs. Donations were solicited for items to be provided to the homeless. A 2018 CDBG activity provided funding for additional items. Backpacks and duffel bags containing essential items including coats, gloves, socks, toiletries, snacks, etc. were assembled and given to the homeless persons that participated in the count.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of North Little Rock joined forces with the City of Little Rock and shared the costs of purchasing and renovating a building that opened in 2013 as the Jericho Way Resource Center. The two cities continue to share annual operating costs. This day shelter for the homeless provides a centralized location where multiple services, such as case management, housing referrals, job counseling, training, and transportation, are coordinated with the goal of transitioning clients out of homelessness.

The City's CDBG strategic plan goals include providing financial assistance to homelessness-related public service activities, but funding is limited. The City's homelessness strategy goals continue to be supported by participation in CATCH membership meetings to collaborate and best coordinate with homeless service providers and agencies in addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

The Little Rock/Central Arkansas CoC continued communications with mainstream service providers to implement strategies for persons being discharged to homelessness. Collaboration among local service providers has built a network of coordinated services to help raise awareness of services and facilitate referrals. The CoC includes organizations which administer homelessness prevention programs.

The City's CHDO, Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat, (PCNAH) has worked with homeless service providers in providing opportunities for persons transitioning out of homelessness.

The City allocated local funding to Ozark Mission Group, a nonprofit organization who provided needed repairs to homes in the North Little Rock area.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The City continued to maintain communication and coordination with our partner agencies in the CATCH membership to more efficiently prioritize and cover all aspects of the Little Rock/Central Arkansas Continuum of Care's homelessness needs. Staff from the cities of North Little Rock, Little Rock, and Jacksonville served on the Rank and Review Committee for applications for annual CoC funding and focused on a combination of qualified programs that provide counseling and assistance as well as permanent housing for all categories of the homeless, including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth.

CATCH continues to work towards streamlining its Coordinated Entry Process in order to make quick and effective referrals for the high priority populations of chronically homeless, veterans, and families with children. Goals include prioritizing permanent housing options in an attempt to bypass shelters when possible. Intake and entry procedures attempt to ensure that homeless individuals and families who need assistance are quickly connected to proper housing and services.

The NLRHA focuses on homeless veterans through the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program. Currently, NLRHA has 200 vouchers in its inventory that contribute toward reducing the homeless veteran population. In 2020 NLRHA will request funding for the Tenant Protection Vouchers for Fostering Youth to Independence (TPV - FYI) Initiative. The funding will allow the housing authority to assist individuals leaving foster care and facing obstacles to acquiring their own housing.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Established in 1939, the North Little Rock Housing Authority (NLRHA) is the oldest and second largest public housing authority (PHA) in Arkansas. NLRHA builds and maintains affordable housing, identifies supportive services, encourages self-sufficiency, and offers upward mobility opportunities to low income families, veterans, elderly and disabled persons.

As the largest provider of affordable housing in North Little Rock (NLR), it addresses the urgent need of providing secure and quality homes to families and individuals of very modest means. In 2019, NLRHA began the transformation of its public housing portfolio to improve the quality of housing provided. Following years of planning, the authority was able to enter into private/public/non-profit partnerships to obtain funding for modernization of the senior/disabled complexes. The modernization is addressing years of deferred maintenance and updates due to the lack of funding.

The housing authority will continue modernizing the portfolio through participation in the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program and the HUD Section 18 process. While undertaking the modernization process some tenants are allowed an option of utilizing tenant protection vouchers to relocate to other communities.

Additional housing in the NLRHA portfolio includes eighteen (18) unsubsidized scattered site units, six of which were developed with Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) funds.

Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program Funding

In FY2019, NLRHA received about \$13M in subsidies for rental assistance and about \$1.9M for modernization and capital upkeep.

Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)

NLRHA also administers a Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV), commonly known as Section 8, which provides subsidy for rental housing and homeownership. The regular voucher program serves 1392 participants. NLRHA is a partner with the VA in administering 200 vouchers for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program. The VA collaborates with support agencies to ensure that the veterans receive wraparound services.

With the substantial rehabilitation and redevelopment taking place under Section 18 and the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) programs, 453 tenant protection vouchers were obtained for the elderly/disabled residents. That increased the total vouchers to 1845 as of January 2020. As a result of the RAD and Section 18 modernization, all of the public housing units will eventually convert and the residents will receive their housing assistance through project-based vouchers.

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

Though the housing authority is converting its portfolio from public housing to a private/non-profit ownership structure, tenant representation (i.e. resident councils) remain important and viable. HUD requires that the properties continue to acknowledge and set aside funds at each location to assist in training residents for participation in the councils and to help promote activities for the betterment of the developments. In addition to the site-based resident councils, the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) was created as a housing-authority-wide resident council. The RAB consists of members with each site fairly represented. The RAB's purpose in conjunction with the resident council is to:

- Respond to resident concerns
- Improve quality of life
- Represent resident interests
- Involve residents in creating a positive living environment

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

The North Little Rock Housing Authority has administered a Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency program since 2006. The purpose of the program is to link participating families to the supportive services they need to achieve self-sufficiency and no longer need public assistance. The Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program provides case management and coordination of supportive services for residents of family sites. Participants sign a five (5)-year contract to participate in the program and an Individual Training and Service plan is developed with each participant upon enrollment. Escrow accounts are established when a participant's earned income increases. Instead of paying higher rent because of the increased income, the "extra rent" goes into an escrow account.

For FSS participants who enrolled through 2019 and identified homeownership as a goal, the housing authority continues to work with them to become eligible to purchase a home using their voucher. For those participants, NLRHA has ongoing meetings with a committee with a goal of coordinating between public housing and external agencies to assist with homebuyer education. Some of the guidance that FSS participants receive include budgeting and saving, credit counseling services, and the step-by-step process of purchasing a home. Participants are also made aware of state and national down payment assistance programs. The policy for the original HCVP homeownership program is under review, therefore, the program is currently suspended and new enrollments to the program are currently not being accepted.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The North Little Rock Housing Authority is not a troubled agency.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

No known negative effects of public policies on affordable housing were identified. Barriers exist that are not public policy related, including declining areas due to aging housing stock and unstable neighborhoods, the need for improved management of properties by homeowners and landlords, and the limited land available within the City limits to develop new affordable housing.

The City's Code Enforcement Department has taken a proactive role in boarding and securing vacant and derelict buildings in order to minimize their negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood as well as to protect them for future rehabilitation and reuse. The City has been aggressive in condemning and demolishing houses that are an eyesore and potential safety hazard to the community. North Little Rock employs a full time Code Officer to address rental property issues.

The City continued to support its CHDO, Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH), by providing funding towards its efforts to increase the number of new affordable housing units.

As a result of Governor Asa Hutchinson's directive to state agencies to partner directly with faith based organizations, the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) awarded Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas both NSP and HOME funding to develop affordable housing in the area. North Little Rock will now be home to this Habitat affiliate's first pocket community. A vacant elementary school building was demolished, a new street was installed, and groundbreaking took place in December for construction of nine new single family houses. These affordable homes will be made available for purchase by low income families. The City of North Little Rock and the North Little Rock School District coordinated the property donation. The City Council also supported the project with additional City funding.

With the new construction and rehabilitation of eight public housing properties, the NLRHA is working to identify additional opportunities to further its voice and has widened its engagement in numerous revitalization efforts in the City. Specific areas of interest are in NLR neighborhoods where the housing authority owns properties, some of which have not experienced investment in decades.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

A major obstacle to meeting the needs of the underserved is a lack of adequate funding and resources. Reductions in funding at all levels of government, as well as declining donations to the nonprofit sector in recent years, have severely restricted the ability of the City and its subrecipients to aggressively respond to underserved needs.

Feedback received through citizen participation and input from our partner organizations was carefully analyzed. The City maintained its strong relationships with our nonprofit and housing providers in order to coordinate efforts. The Community Development Agency continued to support nonprofit human service agencies. Limited resources were targeted for the greatest impact toward neighborhood revitalization.

Current directories of available resources were updated in order to best direct those in need. Citizens and neighborhood groups were informed of services provided by other City departments, such as our Electric Department's free Energy Evaluations, as well as beneficial programs conducted by other organizations, including the Ozark Mission Project, Jumpstart, and the William F. Laman Public Library.

The NLR Housing Authority continued to meet the needs of its residents by providing affordable housing opportunities to those of modest means and supportive services through partnerships with local nonprofits and government agencies. NLRHA is in the planning phase of a job and learning center that will provide support services and resources that target 18-40 year old public housing and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) holders. The mission is two-fold:

- ensure that participants have access to upward mobility opportunities
- prepare participants for twenty-first century job opportunities and work advancement through coaching, training, and education

The programming will be robust from onsite instructors to participants learning at their own pace to numerous workshops available. The housing authority will collaborate with private industry to access Section 3 opportunities for businesses and qualified residents. Also, NLRHA intends to provide services for budding entrepreneurs, women in non-traditional jobs, and apprenticeships. The site of the learning center is yet to be determined.

Hemlock Courts will be the last remaining public housing properties by January 2021. Built in the 1950s, Hemlock, a 106 unit family site, is located in the East Broadway district. This geography is part residential, commercial and industrial. Residents have indicated they do not feel included in new and rehabilitative activities that are occurring in other neighborhoods and are hungry for "new things." The property where the development currently exists presents challenges to redeveloping at that location. An option to redevelopment is voluntary conversion wherein the current residents can be offered tenant based vouchers to relocate to housing in communities of their choice.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The NLRHA complies with HUD's Notice PIH 2017-13 in regard to the minimization and abatement of lead-based paint hazards and elevated blood lead levels of children under age six (6). Where lead paint hazards exist and the NLRHA is made aware of the potential hazards and a confirmed case from a medical professional, within five (5) days, the HA will notify the local field office, Office of Lead Hazard Control (OLHCHH) and Arkansas Health Department's Lead-Based program of the EBLL case. NLRHA will conduct environmental investigation within 15 calendar days of receiving notification. NLRHA contracts with a certified company to abate or remove lead-paint hazards. NLRHA completes the lead-hazard reduction within 30 calendar days of receiving the environmental investigation report. Furthermore, the PHA will address potential hazards as it prepares for redevelopment and substantial rehabilitation through RAD and Section 18.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Recognizing that many factors contributing to poverty lie outside of local control, the City's overarching goal for its CDBG and HOME programs is nonetheless to assist persons living in poverty, and most especially those groups that are disproportionately affected.

To fight poverty over the long term, the City has worked to stabilize neighborhoods by ensuring that the number of problem properties were reduced, thereby protecting the value of neighborhood property. Support for Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat's efforts has helped less affluent citizens purchase affordable new homes. Low income and first time homebuyers who were attempting to rise out of poverty by building equity through homeownership were directed to homebuyer counseling/down payment/subsidy assistance programs.

CDBG-funded public service activities were geared towards poverty level and low income youth, elderly, and homeless populations. North Little Rock Boys and Girls Club's after school and summer programs provided essential child care for working parents. CareLink's Meals on Wheels program delivered meals to homebound elderly citizens. CATCH members assembled survival bags to be given to homeless participants of the Point in Time Count.

The Cities of North Little Rock and Little Rock assisted in funding the Jericho Way Resource Center for the homeless. This day shelter, while operated in Little Rock, serves both cities and provided essential services including meals, clothing, showers, transportation, case management, job counseling, internet access, and housing assistance to the homeless.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Cooperation between the City’s Community Development Agency and its partners has a long track record of success. The City continues its strategy of working closely with the North Little Rock Housing Authority, local nonprofit public service and affordable housing providers, and private industry to assist in coordination of services and activities offered to address the needs of the community and to make the best use of the limited funding available. The City of North Little Rock continues its active partnership in the Central Arkansas Team Care for the Homeless (CATCH), attending regular meetings to facilitate communication and coordination among key service providers.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

NLRHA continues to build and expand relationships with private and non-profit agencies to develop housing and create resident services. Supporting this work is the housing authority’s nonprofit affiliate, Arkansas Housing and Community Development Corporation (AHCDC). In the last couple of years, seniors and disabled residents benefited from a holistic health initiative with heart disease, diabetes, nutrition, and mental health counseling at the core. These services were offered in partnership with health foundations, universities, and corporations. At the family site, mental health, workforce training and education, early childhood education, financial management and digital inclusion have been identified as the areas of social service needs. Partnerships continue to include private developers, national foundations, nonprofits, universities, corporations, state agencies and workforce services.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

Housing affordability and disparate impacts of mortgage lending were identified as impediments. Many households are cost burdened and severely cost burdened. Affordable housing for these residents is often limited to older neighborhoods in poor condition. PCNAH will be able to make a positive impact by offering newly constructed, energy efficient homes with affordable monthly payments due to its zero percent financing program. PCNAH affirmatively markets its program to ensure outreach to minorities and low income persons. Neighborhood “clean-up” campaigns by Habitat for Humanity and the Ozark Mission Project offer assistance. The City’s Fit2Live department continues its work with community gardens.

The City plans a major campaign to make all North Little Rock residents aware of the 2020 Census. A Census Committee will get the word out regarding the importance of being counted to ensure cost burdened residents can continue to benefit from federal safety net programs that are funded based on census data.

Socio-economic impediments were noted with more jobs paying “living wages” needed. The City’s Mayor and Economic Development staff are constantly working to encourage private investment, in an effort to add jobs at all levels. The City’s downtown is flourishing with the addition of the Argenta Plaza. Construction of new apartment complexes, businesses, and restaurants will bring jobs to the area. Three census tracts in the City were approved as federal Opportunity Zones. In December, a real estate investment and development group announced a January 2020 groundbreaking on the \$20 million dollar first phase of a 41 acre project along the City’s riverfront. The group is taking advantage of Opportunity Zone tax breaks to develop apartments, single and multi-family homes, retail shops, and a hotel over a 10 to 15 year period, bringing a steady stream of new jobs to the area. Also in December, the City Council authorized a study to identify economic development opportunities in the East Broadway area. The study will be conducted by the Arkansas Economic Development Institute at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, through a program that is funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The City supports the Arkansas Innovation Hub, an organization which focuses on entrepreneurship, mentorship and job creation to build and strengthen our workforce.

An impediment noted was the need for greater public awareness of Fair Housing. The City supported education through posters and brochures and the direction of complaints to the appropriate HUD offices. Subrecipients of grant funding were provided outreach materials. Assistance was offered on all Citizen Participation activities to non-English speaking citizens.

NLRHA actions included:

1. Furthering its mission of providing safe, secure and decent housing to its residents. NLRHA is undergoing a corporate rebranding process and hopes that the new brand will better represent the housing authority’s mission today.
2. Utilizing HUD's RAD and Section 18 development programs that will help reduce the \$90 million backlog of deferred maintenance and modernization needs of its properties that were built in 40s, 50s, 60s and 80s. Redevelopment lessens the risk of subpar housing and provides residents with higher quality of life.
3. Continuing to foster current partnerships and cultivating new ones that champion the need for affordable homes in economically developing and existing neighborhoods that speak to potential and current gentrification.
4. Staying committed to ongoing trainings to ensure that NLRHA staff adheres to and remains informed about policies related to fair housing in order to stay in compliance.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

The City of North Little Rock monitors its CDBG and HOME programs to ensure compliance with HUD regulations and attainment of Consolidated Plan goals. Annual Action Plan activities are set up and progress and accomplishments are tracked in HUD's Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). IDIS reports are run on a monthly basis and reconciled against City Finance department records to facilitate ongoing review of activity expenditures.

During the program year, the City conducts desk monitoring and schedules on-site monitoring visits with subrecipients. This monitoring reviews program performance, financial performance, and regulatory performance. Subrecipients are required to submit information regarding the beneficiaries they have served.

The City of North Little Rock has a long-standing policy of assuring that affirmative marketing practices are undertaken, and those policies continue. Participation of minority, disadvantaged, and woman owned business enterprises is encouraged in the City's procurement process. Subrecipient agreements require submission of affirmative marketing plans. City records are maintained and subrecipient data is collected on the dollar amount and number of contracts executed with minority and woman business enterprises, so that reporting such as that reflected in section CR-15 of this CAPER can be generated and reviewed.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

The City of North Little Rock considers citizen participation a priority and continues to encourage input from our residents, particularly those who reside in low to moderate income areas. Notice of a 15-day public comment period on the CAPER was published on March 11, 2020. The notice was advertised in the local newspaper, and included the locations where the CAPER could be reviewed. Paper copies of the CAPER were made available for public review at the Community Development Agency and at North Little Rock City Hall. The CAPER was also posted on the City's website. The Notice of Public Comment Period on the CAPER was mailed to the North Little Rock Housing Authority as well as local nonprofit agencies that provide services to low to moderate income households and individuals, including minorities, disabled, and non-English speaking persons, in an effort to provide notice and an opportunity for comment to all citizens.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction’s program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

The City is satisfied with the performance and accomplishments of its Program Year 2019 CDBG activities. The uncertainty of the timing of receipt of annual grant funds and the possibility of grant cuts are impediments to effective planning and estimation of goal indicators.

The City may consider adjusting Plan objectives based on demand for services and available funding in order to maximize benefits with limited funding.

The City does not have an existing Section 108 guaranteed loan.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

CR-50 - HOME 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

No rental housing was assisted under the City's HOME program.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 92.351(b)

The HOME program requires that affirmative marketing steps are taken by participating jurisdictions when using HOME funds for rental and homebuyer projects. Affirmative marketing steps consist of actions to provide information and attract eligible persons in the housing market to available housing without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, familial status or disability.

Subrecipient agreements require a nonprofit to submit an affirmative marketing plan. The City reviews affirmative marketing practices and activities.

As indicated previously, no rental housing was assisted, but the City's 2019 HOME program did allocate funding for homebuyer activities to its Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), which is Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH). Coverage of PCNAH/Habitat activities was carried in newspapers, television spots, and other media opportunities. PCNAH/Habitat of Humanity made presentations to community groups, civic and business groups and city/county officials to emphasize the need for low income housing. Presentations included information on PCNAH's commitment to fair housing practices and inclusiveness in all operations. Volunteers are actively involved in PCNAH/Habitat and are solicited from all walks of life through churches, businesses, civic groups, women's organizations, retirees, etc. PCNAH/Habitat families are diverse, representing many ethnicities, employment backgrounds, and family structures.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

No program income was received from HOME projects.

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 91.320(j)

Priority needs of adding affordable housing units for low income households and increasing homeownership in neighborhoods to strengthen and revitalize areas were identified in the City's Consolidated Plan. Funding for new unit production was allocated through the use of HOME funds designated for development of affordable homes by a CHDO. PCNAH built and sold one new home with zero interest financing in North Little Rock in 2019. A certificate of occupancy was received on a second home in December 2019, with anticipated sale to an eligible buyer in early 2020.