



# City of Texarkana, Texas

## CAPER

Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report

Community Development Block Grant Program  
October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019  
Program Year 2018

## 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.

During CDBG Program Year 2018 (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019 = PY18), the City of Texarkana had a total of \$419,796 in CDBG resources to address various community needs. These funds included carryover resources in the amount of \$92,338 from prior allocations, \$2,425 in Program Income and \$325,033 for the Program Year 2018 allocation. The City expended \$349,405 leaving an unexpended balance at the beginning of the 2019 program year of \$70,391.

### 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
Administer the CDBG Program	Administration	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%	1	1	100.00%
CDBG Revolving Loan Fund	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	5	0	0.00%			
CDBG Revolving Loan Fund	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	10	0	0.00%			
CDBG Revolving Loan Fund	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	5	0	0.00%			

First Time Home Buyer Down Payment Assistance	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	4	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	20	4	20.00%	4	4	100.00%
Public Facilities and Parks	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	100	100	100.00%			
Public Facilities and Parks	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	20	0	0.00%			
Public Improvements and Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted						

Public Improvements and Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	5	0	0.00%			
Section 108 Loan Program for Economic Development	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ / Section 108: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit		0	0.00%		0	0.00%

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

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**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.**

The City carried out the following activities during this reporting period:

Public Service – Vista \$5,025 : Vista One Stop Shop providing coordinated services through THN for persons experiencing homelessness.

Public Service – Life Skills \$3,698 : Life Skills classes provided to women & children experiencing homelessness & Job Training classes provided for persons experiencing homelessness.

Sidewalk/Bike/Tree Project \$210,331 : Project to install/improve sidewalks/ADA accessibility/bicycle facilities/tree planting in Beverly neighborhood, Downtown Texarkana and other LMI locations.

Housing Rehabilitation \$55,765 : Project to repair/install accessibility to homes owned by LMI individuals/families.

Park Improvements \$45,527 : Project to replace playground equipment at Kidtopia Park.

Administration \$29,059 : Administration of CDBG program to provide services to LMI &/or homeless individuals/families.

## 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
White	17
Black or African American	83
Asian	0
American Indian or American Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
Hispanic	2
Not Hispanic	98

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

### Narrative

Downtown Texarkana is located in Census Tract #48037010500. This tract has a poverty rate of 49.8%. Of the 3232 residents that call the Downtown area home, 1,009 are white, 2,050 are Black or African American. Population continues to decline in the area as fewer and fewer make their homes here. In this area of just over 200 acres, there are over 200 confirmed or suspected Brownfield properties ranging from suspected lead and asbestos contamination to petroleum and MTBE's. Nearly half of the buildings in the area are no longer open or functioning.

The Beverly area (Census Tract #48037010600) population has decreased from 2,612 in 1990 to 2,293 in 2010, with the number of households for the same period also declining from 921 to 774. Total number of housing units likewise decreased from 1,103 to 918 households. The number of vacant housing units decreased from 182 to 144. During this same time period, renter occupied housing units rose from 441 to 506 while owner occupied housing units dramatically decreased 44.17% from 480 to 268. In 2012, average median household income for Texarkana, Texas was \$37,526, but only \$17,262 in Beverly, a variance of 46%. Per capita income was also lower by 45% as compared to the city at \$23,297 per person in the city and only \$10,477 in Beverly. Median home values in the city were reported at \$136,770 and only \$37,863 in Beverly.

## 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	CDBG	419,796	349,405
HOME	HOME		
HOPWA	HOPWA		
ESG	ESG		
Section 108	Section 108		
Other	Other		

**Table 3 - Resources Made Available**

**Narrative**

During CDBG Program Year 2018 (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019 = PY18), the City of Texarkana had a total of \$419,796 in CDBG resources to address various community needs. These funds included carryover resources in the amount of \$92,338 from prior allocations, \$2,425 in Program Income and \$325,033 for the Program Year 2018 allocation. The City expended \$349,405 leaving an unexpended balance at the beginning of the 2019 program year of \$70,391.

**Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments**

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Beverly Community Revitalization	41	10	Public Services : Vista & Life Skills Programs, Housing rehabilitation
Downtown Area	39	49	Sidewalk/Bike/Tree Project , Park Improvements

**Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments**

**Narrative**

Beverly Boundaries are New Boston Rd (Hwy 82), Robinson Rd, College Dr & Richmond Rd to Summerhill Rd- qual census tract 106. It is bordered by commercially zoned streets with interior comprised of older housing stock & many vacant, boarded buildings & has minority, elderly, & poverty concentrations. Staff worked closely with community leaders & it became clear that residents needed neighborhood cleanups. The city committed staff time to help while the Neighborhood Assoc has taken on the responsibility of the actual cleanups. The Downtown Area (Tract 105) is bound by the Kansas City Southern Railroad (Front St) & 7th St (MLK Blvd.), Stateline Ave, & Lake Dr. Citizens asked staff to focus on downtown revitalization for the past ten years. Consultation with numerous agencies, public meetings/hearings, citizen surveys, & votes of elected City Council Members establish a strong consensus for moving forward to arrest the decline of this historic center of the town & revitalize the area's potential for economic growth & provide affordable housing close to area services. These regions were chosen because they have great potential & need. They are bordered by major transportation

routes, prime real estate for commercial development. New multifamily & new single family housing will provide safe, secure, quality, affordable, housing for families. The economic development potential can bring jobs to sustain these LMI areas. In PY2018, the expenditures in the downtown area: accessibility improvements to area surrounding RSOS, (sidewalks, bike facilities & tree planting). Sidewalks with ADA improvements installed at Kidtopia Park in downtown. Design work & construction for New Boston Rd sidewalks & ADA improvements were done in Beverly. Construction work for Norris Cooley Rd & Rose Hill areas were completed with construction of sidewalks & ADA improvements. Housing Rehabilitation Program was continued in PY2018 with construction began on 4 LMI households & will be completed in PY2019. Public services implemented with Texarkana Homeless Coalition – Vista Program designed to provide a one-stop shop for homeless persons to receive needed services. PS program created at RSOS to provide life skills classes for homeless women & children (living at the shelter) as well as job training classes for all residents of RSOS. Grim Lofts to create low/mod housing in Downtown began & will be ongoing through the next years & will include Section 108 Loan Funds. Section 108 Loan funds will be drawn from HUD – HQ in PY2019 after closing with developer. EN funds will also be drawn to repay the HUD – HQ loan plus interest and financing fees.

### **Leveraging**

**Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state & 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.**

The City recognizes the importance of leveraging resources. It is estimated that these community development projects will bring \$1.75 in private resources spent in the local economy for each grant dollar invested. Moreover, most projects require substantial private investments at a 9 to 1 ratio, especially the Revolving Loan Fund program for Downtown Business economic development. Matching requirements for other grant programs are met by in-kind donations of labor and/or materials rather than by the use of CDBG funds. Publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction includes housing lots owned by the city, city parks, and scattered properties located in downtown. This property may be used to promote economic development, provide support for homeless programs, and/or affordable housing in Texarkana, Texas. Publicly owned land may also be used to support public health activities, infrastructure and public services, promoting livability and sustainability within the jurisdiction. The City expects to use CDBG funding as a leveraging tool to support community and economic development within the jurisdiction.

Other grant programs that magnify the impact the City's commitment of CDBG resources and provide significant leverage to CDBG investments in the Downtown and Beverly Target Areas include the:



- \$ 440,000 EPA Brownfields Multi-Purpose Grant
- \$ 900,000 EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund
- \$ 200,000 EPA Brownfields Petroleum Assessment Grant
- \$ 200,000 EPA Brownfields Hazardous Materials Assessment Grant
- \$ 94,000 USDA Farmers' Market Promotions Program
- \$ 100,000 NEA Grant for Downtown redevelopment

*Note: Texarkana, Texas is not a HOME entitlement community.*

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## 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	50	50
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	50	50
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	50	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>

Table 5 – 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	20	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	4	4
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

The City's 5 Year Consolidated Plan for meeting Housing goals primarily consisted of projects and activities relying on Non-CDBG funding. Significant changes in funding streams the City relied upon for meeting these goals, including both CDBG and Non-CDBG funding, necessitated changes in plans for the 2018 Action Plan and will impact future Action Plans.

In the past, the City has included outcomes associated with projects funded with Non-CDBG funding sources like TDHCA in the 5 Year Plan & 1 Year Action Plans. For example, the City included four Housing Rehabilitation projects in the Con Plan funded through TDHCA. Those funds are now not available. Without a replacement funding source, those programs have been removed from the City’s expected outcomes. However, even though these no longer exist as projects in HUD’s (Housing and Urban Development) database system due to the way IDIS archives projects associated with these plans, the expected outcomes still appear in this report. The more significant issue is the decrease in funding in CDBG and Non-CDBG funding programs. This directly impacts real outcomes in Texarkana communities. The City does provide capacity building support for Homeless Coalition members, including Randy Sams Homeless Shelter, ArkTex Council of Governments and Mission Texarkana. The outcomes for these activities are reported as organizations assisted.

**Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.**

Future action plans will incorporate more activities funded by the CDBG program leading to improvements in meeting the goals & outcomes specified in the 5 Year Consolidated Plan. The City has submitted a new Consolidated Plan to allow for future annual action plans to specify the use of CDBG funds to address priority needs areas, especially those relating to housing, homelessness, & homelessness prevention activities.

**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	4	0
Moderate-income	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 7 – Number of Households Served**

**Narrative Information**

The city operates a Homebuyers Assistance & Home Rehabilitation Programs to increase affordable housing in LMI neighborhoods. In PY2018, 4 homes received CDBG housing rehab assistance. Additionally, the city is actively involved with mortgage lenders as a part of the Community Advisory Committee to increase access to affordable housing products & loan services in Texarkana. The city made available a First Time Home Buyer Assistance Grants Program in Program Year 2018 (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019) that require eligibility determination, however, no funds were expended during the year due to no applicants completing home purchase.

The city is a grantee for ESG & CoC funds to assist extremely low income individuals & families. Homeless PIT numbers have decreased 17% or to 120 individuals during the last homeless count period.

The city has several infrastructure projects including over 15,994 LF of new sidewalks & ramps to increase access/safety/mobility for persons with disabilities.

The city is an active partner & providing a 2.3-million-dollar loan package for the Hotel Grim Lofts that will provide 93 additional housing units with 20 affordable units for low to moderate income individuals & families.

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## **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 priorities for Texarkana in addressing the needs of these population groups include:

- To assist public and nonprofit agencies in providing housing & supportive services to the elderly & frail elderly;
- To assist public & nonprofit agencies in providing housing & supportive services to homeless persons & those "at-risk" of homelessness.
- To assist the Texarkana Homeless Coalition & those agencies that are part of the coalition, serving special needs populations.

The city of Texarkana is a long-time advocate for ending homelessness. As such, the city is an active participant in the Texarkana Homeless Coalition. Staff lends their expertise & the city contributes countless hours to assisting the Coalition in its endeavors to reduce duplication of services, benefit from efficient models of service delivery, & create economies of scale. Additionally, the city has partnered with homeless services providers to apply for Continuum of Care & Emergency Solutions Grant funds & works closely with the Texas Homeless Network to ensure Texarkana will one day end homelessness. CDBG funding was used to meet outcomes associated with the Program Year 2018 Action Plan. Specifically, the city focused on building capacity in non-profits associated with the Homeless Coalition, its partnership with the Texas Homeless Network & Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care. Future Action Plans will also incorporate the use of CDBG funding to meet goals & objectives related to ending homelessness.

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

Emergency Housing, Transitional Housing & Rapid Re-Housing:

RSOS for the Homeless (emergency shelter for 86 unaccompanied adults) provides services under ESG & CoC grants. The Salvation Army, Texarkana, Arkansas (9 family rooms for up to 36 people & 25 beds for individual men). ArkTex Council of Governments (ATCOG) provides services under the ESG grant.

Mission Texarkana provides services under CoC grant.

RSOS provides the only available beds for people who are chronically homeless in Texarkana, Texas. The Salvation Army Homeless Shelters for Families, & Unaccompanied Men are located in Texarkana, Arkansas. Their facility is listed here because they are the only local provider of shelter for homeless families in the region. Crossing state lines for shelter is problematic for many homeless persons because assistance is usually tied to state of residence. Mission Texarkana (formerly Texarkana Friendship Center) provides services to the needy & homeless in downtown Texarkana. They are a non-profit care

provider rendering life sustaining assistance to the indigent & job training/placement for able bodied clients without regard to religious preference, political affiliation, sex, race, handicap or other classification. They feed an average of 300 people a day as well & provide groceries for over 20 families daily. Additionally, MT provides Rapid Rehousing to more than forty formerly homeless families through Continuum of Care grant as a partner to the City. Special Health Services of Texas provides some support for HIV/AIDS patients in the region. Community Health Core plans to provide supportive housing & permanent supportive housing to homeless veterans & their families as well as supportive housing for MHMR clientele. Additionally, the city has partnered with homeless services providers for Emergency Solutions Grant funds & works closely with the THN to ensure Texarkana will one day end homelessness.

CDBG funding was used to meet outcomes associated with the Program Year 2018 Action Plan. Specifically, the City focused on providing support through Public Services to non-profits associated with the Homeless Coalition, its partnership with the Texas Homeless Network and Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care. The City worked closely with Randy Sams Outreach Shelter and the Texarkana Friendship Center by administering the Continuum of Care Grant. The City made payments directly to the non-profit providers of Rapid Rehousing and Case Management services.

**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 elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS & their families, public housing residents, & victims of domestic violence present a range of complex problems that put them at greater risk of severe income limitations & homelessness. These populations have a much more difficult time finding, securing, & maintaining adequate housing & necessary social services. The city serves as the fiscal agent for a CoC - Rapid Re-Housing grant administered through RSOC & MT. These agencies provided rapid housing &/or case management to approximately 148 individuals, including 29 children under the CoC grant. Of these participants, one head-of-household is a veteran & ten have physical or developmental disabilities. The program moved from a Transitional Housing model to a Rapid Rehousing model as of March 1, 2015. In both cases, the program meets the needs of these residents by providing case management, counseling, life skills training, & assistance for job seekers. The program assists these persons & families learn self-sufficiency. These formerly homeless persons transition gradually to paying their own rents. They are considered permanently housed at the point that they are paying their own way. CDBG funding was used to meet outcomes associated with the Program Year 2018 Action Plan. Specifically, the City focused on assisting three (3) non-profits under Public Services. The City worked closely with RSOS, Texarkana Homeless Coalition Vista program and Amachi Vision Corps to provide services such as life skills, job training and youth programs that are designed to improve the lives of homeless persons & provide help in gaining

self sufficiency.

**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 primary goal for serving special needs populations is to assist public & nonprofit agencies in expanding & enhancing their provision of housing & services to the elderly, disabled & dually/multiply diagnosed, persons with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, & persons with addictions. The city recognizes services required by special-needs populations often overlap the housing needs & supportive services for the homeless as identified & addressed throughout the Consolidated Plan. CDBG funding was used to meet outcomes associated with the Program Year 2018 Action Plan. Specifically, the city focused on assisting three (3) non-profits under Public Services: RSOS, THC Vista program & Amachi Vision Corps to provide services such as life skills, job training & youth programs that are designed to improve the lives of homeless persons & provide help in gaining self sufficiency. The City made payments directly to the non-profit providers of Public Services. Future Action Plans will also incorporate the use of CDBG funding to meet goals & objectives related to ending homelessness.

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

### **Actions taken to address the needs of public housing**

Texarkana & the Housing Authority of Texarkana (HATT) have made significant, meaningful strides toward ensuring that extremely-low, low-, and moderate-income citizens have access to safe, affordable housing. While these gains are meaningful, the city's goals have not been fully realized.

Public Housing currently has less than a 2% vacancy rate & maintains a Section 8 waiting list in excess of 800 families at any given time. Clearly, there is more work to be done to provide affordable housing in Texarkana. The city continues to assist the PHA in the acquisition of lots, demolition & clearance. Subsidized housing on the existing PHA site & the surrounding community is a part of the replacement housing. The Rosehill area continues to be a priority for the City, though the emphasis has shifted to the Beverly Area where the homes are primarily owner occupied or rentals & not public housing units.

Program Administration funds include time spent working with HATT to ensure quality public housing exists in Texarkana.

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

HATT's community centers, an active communications program, & frequent, positive resident engagement encourages residents to seek out & use services offered & participate in the management of public housing in Texarkana. HATT transitioned to a referral-based system ensuring that public housing residents have access to services provided by federal, state, local, &/or non-profit agencies, including educational resources like GED preparation & computer skills training through the Literacy Council, vocational & job training programs offered through Workforce Solutions, Texarkana Community College, & Texas A&M Texarkana, financial management skills training, child care, & other relevant support services. These programs help to connect residents to information that can help them to obtain better paying jobs & greater financial literacy. By buying down some of the mortgages of homes built with Hope VI funds, & providing information on home purchasing options to residents, HATT can improve home ownership rates in some of the poorest neighborhoods of the city. Staff continues to work closely with HATT to improve resident engagement & homeownership. Additionally, the city continues to educate lenders & HATT personnel on the availability of First Time Home Buyer Down Payment Assistance through the CDBG program. CDBG funding was used to meet outcomes associated with the Program Year 2018 Action Plan in Public Housing as Administrative planning funds. Future Action Plans may incorporate the use of CDBG funding to meet goals and objectives related support of Public Housing.

### **Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs**

HATT is an exemplary public housing authority & is not designated as troubled.



## **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)**

An analysis of factors that affect the cost, production or maintenance of housing affordable to extremely low-, & LMI families has aided the city in developing programs that reduce the adverse effects of these constraints. Policies concerning the public welfare, building codes & subdivision standards are required by law for the protection & general welfare of the community & are routinely reviewed. Development impact fees are recovered from the developer to assure that the public costs of new developments are paid by that development. While recognizing the needs to adjust public policies to adapt to changing conditions, the city will continue to review policies periodically to determine whether they have become excessive or represent an unnecessary constraint on the development or maintenance of affordable housing. Race & poverty concentrations can be barriers to affordable housing, so city will continue to develop new strategies to ameliorate these types of barriers. The city is implementing the following strategies to address them:

- Substantial down payments required to purchase new/existing homes—First time home buyer assistance program, lender education, work with Coalition partners on financial education classes; provide educational materials at community events
- Availability of credit to LMI persons w/credit problems—lender education, work with Coalition partners on financial education classes, provide educational materials at community events
- Availability of decent affordable single-family units/affordable rental properties—work with developers to redevelop troubled neighborhoods, actively marketing properties that would expand the stock of affordable single-family homes & rental properties

CDBG funds have been administered by the Planning & Community Development Department (PCD). In order to more effectively administer this program, several departments whose jurisdictions & expertise lend themselves to a more robust program were reorganized/combined. The PCD now incorporates planning, zoning, economic development, grants management & community development.

Consideration of affordable housing barriers such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees & charges, growth limitations, & policies affecting affordable housing is integral to the city's efforts to improve the livability of the city. The city considers the impacts of any changes of the above when projects are brought to the City Council for consideration. Each issue is evaluated by professional staff, applicable commissions, & no less than two briefings on every item occur before the Council votes on any issue. The city developed a new Ten-Year Comprehensive Plan that will guide the city's policies, taxes, fees, & codes for the next ten years. Any plan passed by the Council will address barriers to affordable housing. As part of that effort, the city will conduct a new Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing.

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

The most significant actions Texarkana has taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs has been to reach out & engage residents, renters, & owners of businesses in Texarkana, especially those in the Downtown, Rosehill and Beverly Target areas & continue working closely with the Homeless Coalition.

Having a significant staff presence in troubled communities, working side-by-side to improve the livability of neighborhoods, residents, business owners & social service agency personnel continues to provide City staff with the background understanding of unfiltered real needs and desires of community members.

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

The city emphasizes lead-based paint (LBP) counseling & awareness in all of its programs. The city informs interested persons of home buyers assistance & housing rehabilitation of lead paint hazards as well as identifying & abating lead-based paint hazards during the housing rehabilitation process. When lead-based paint is identified, the appropriate lead hazard control methods are incorporated into the rehabilitation project. The city has integrated lead hazard education, evaluation, & reduction activities into its existing housing programs. The City also maintains a continued focus on the hazards of lead-based paint & the need for lead-based paint testing of potential rehabilitation projects. City has continued to work with public service agencies caring for or providing services to children to reduce lead-based hazards in the community. Based on 2010 information from the Tx DSHS, 25 out of 1,123 Texarkana children under the age of 6 years tested for elevated blood lead levels were found to have elevated levels at 10mcg/dl or greater.

The following strategies related to the City's CDBG program are ongoing:

- Provide public information & education regarding lead based paint via city's website, publications & presentations
- Integration of lead hazard evaluation & reduction activities into any activities that would disturb the ground in potentially lead contaminated areas
- Provide training & certification opportunities for staff to manage lead-based paint impacted projects
- Collaboration with EPA Brownfields Region 6 Office to maintain current information for all staff involved in CDBG &/or housing projects

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

Texarkana has taken direct action to help reduce poverty in the city. Key actions include:

- Identification of 2 Target Area in Qualified Census Tracts – Downtown & Beverly
- Emphasis on economic development in downtown & Beverly. 3 loans have been made through the RLF program during the current Con Plan period
- Economic development services are now under PCD, ensuring seamless efforts between redevelopment, community development, & economic development
- **Networking:** HATT, Workforce Development, local banks & the Homeless Coalition to identify local service providers that offer education, job training services, material services, child care services, transportation & other services, the absence of which could prevent poverty level families from securing & keeping steady employment
- **Collaboration:** members of the THC, MT, local banks, ATCOG & RSOS - resulted in a robust program addressing root causes of poverty. These classes include domestic relationships, self-esteem, parenting, education classes (ESL & GED classes), & job search classes & support, including job referral service, a computer lab, resume service, & job interview preparation

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

The city coordinates & administers CDBG programs, projects & activities including housing, homelessness prevention, & non-housing community development through its PCD department. PCD manages an average of 3 million dollars per year in federal state & local funds. The City has reorganized this department to incorporate the city's economic development, planning, zoning, & sustainability functions. In order to more effectively manage these functions & strengthen institutional structure, the city hired a new departmental director, new city planner & planner II, brought zoning into the department & instituted new grants management procedures for grants tracking & reporting. Current staff continue to obtain training through HUD's CPD office & new staff will also receive training.

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

The PCD department acts as a liaison with other city departments, community groups, public institutions, non-profit organizations & private industry to share information, identify resources & opportunities & coordinate activities to the greatest extent possible. Staff is represented in the local CoC actively participates on the Homeless Coalition & provides capacity building to at least two agencies on the Coalition.

## **Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdiction's analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)**

The City identified the following strategies to overcome any obstacles impediments to affordable housing & is implementing subsequent strategies to address possible barriers:

- Substantial down payments required to purchase new/ existing homes—First time home buyer assistance program, lender education, work with Coalition partners on financial education classes; provide educational materials at community events;
- Availability of credit to LMI persons with credit problems—lender education, work with Coalition partners on financial education classes, provide educational materials at community events;
- Availability of decent affordable single-family units & affordable rental properties—work with developers to redevelop troubled neighborhoods, actively marketing properties that would expand the stock of decent affordable single-family homes & rental properties.

Funds are administered by the PCD department which incorporates planning, zoning, economic development, grants management & community development. The city developed a new Ten-Year Comprehensive Plan this year that will guide the City's policies, taxes, fees, & codes for the next ten years. Any plan passed by the City Council will address barriers to affordable housing. The city conducted a new Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing during the creation of the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan. The City will continue to:

- Maintain flexibility in zoning & building requirements when appropriate to allow for infill housing development & to provide technical assistance to developers of affordable housing;
- Display posters in city office buildings & provide information on website;
- Monitor city-sponsored projects for equal access & compliance of the Fair Housing Act & Building Department officials monitor code compliance to Fair Housing standards;
- Hold periodic Public Hearings providing information & requesting public comment on fair housing or related issues;
- Provide homebuyer & homeowner education, including fair housing information;
- Conduct outreach efforts to for-profit & non-profit builders & developers through funding & technical assistance to increase the supply of decent, affordable housing within low to moderate income neighborhoods;
- Meet with local lenders & home builders to encourage the use of non-traditional client loan-qualifying & loan products to better serve the needs of homebuyer households with challenges that preclude conventional qualification;
- Conduct public outreach regarding availability of housing & housing assistance including translation of housing application materials into Spanish, & maintains bi-lingual staff in order to assist applicants and clients who are not English-proficient;
- Support local Continuum of Care efforts for homeless populations; Work with local agencies that provide financial case management & credit counseling;
- Research the possibility of adopting a Fair Housing ordinance to ensure that fair housing options are available to its citizens.

## **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**

Texarkana continuously monitors programs & activities to ensure compliance with City/State/Federal regulations & policies. Monitoring focuses on the following areas:

**Financial:** PCD & Finance staff work closely to ensure that funds drawn down are used for authorized activities on approved projects. Activities agreements, expense documentation, & approvals must be in place for funds to be expended. The City ensures a system of checks & balances & that staff requesting payments of funds are not authorized to approve them. The City is also subject to an annual single audit, conducted by an independent accounting firm.

**Environmental:** All projects & individual activities are subject to a review of environmental impacts prior to funding approval. Remediation of impacts is implemented where required & projects unable to meet environmental requirements are abandoned or alternative locations or solutions are sought.

**Programmatic:** Results &/or impacts are expected of all projects. Staff is charged with monitoring progress toward program goals on a regular basis. Accomplishments & outcome data is entered into IDIS by staff. Ability to reimburse funds is tied directly to reporting of accomplishments.

**Sub-Recipient Monitoring:** The City currently has no sub-recipients for the CDBG program.

**Labor Standards:** The City of Texarkana monitors labor standards for all CDBG funded projects. Labor requirements are included in all bid documents & discussed again during the required pre-construction conference. Contractor payments are not processed until all required forms are submitted & verified to be accurate and correct.

**Minority Business Outreach:** Purchasing standards are closely monitored to maximize the number of minority & women owned businesses utilized. The City uses the State of Texas Purchasing System when local minority & women owned businesses are not available.

## **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 gave notice that the Draft of the PY2018 Caper would be available for public review & comment at:

Texarkana, Texas City Hall  
Department Planning & Community Development  
220 Texas Boulevard  
Texarkana, Texas 75501

during the comment period of November 11 - 25, 2019 during regular business hours. The Draft Caper was also available on the Texarkana, Texas website ([www.ci.texarkana.tx.us](http://www.ci.texarkana.tx.us)) for the duration of the comment period. Public meetings were conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Law (V.T.C.A. Government Code 551) & in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act 42 USC 12101 (1991). The facility is wheelchair accessible & handicap parking is available. Requests for sign interpretive services are available upon request, which must be received at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Spanish translation was available. Citizen comments are included as an attachment to this document.

No comments were received during the comment period & no comments were made at the Public Hearing November 25th City Council Meeting. Attached are the minutes for that meeting.

## 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 most significant changes that have occurred in Texarkana's program objectives have been the exclusion of Non-CDBG Funded projects & activities from the Five Year Consolidated Plan & Annual Action Plan. Moving from city led to volunteer-driven neighborhood association clean-up projects staff at the city have been able to forge stronger relationships that will prove invaluable as the City continues to work at transforming Beverly from a Target Area to a desirable neighborhood. The short term impact of excluding Non-CDBG funds on the CAPER is the creation of perception that the program is not meeting its targets & goals. In the past, the City has included outcomes associated with projects funded with Non-CDBG funding sources like TDHCA to meet Housing goal indicators. For example, the City included four Housing Rehabilitation projects in the Consolidated Plan funded through TDHCA & administered through City staff. Those funds are now not available & the City has been directed to remove those programs from the City's expected outcomes. However, even though these no longer exist as projects in HUD's database system (called IDIS – the Integrated Disbursement & Information System) due to the way IDIS archives projects associated with these plans, the expected outcomes still appear in this report. Another important change to the City's planning is that the City was able to partner with the TxDot to provide needed ADA improvements to sidewalks & curbs for its downtown infrastructure projects, allowing the City to leverage these CDBG dollars.

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

No

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

## Notice of Public Comment

The City of Texarkana, Texas hereby gives notice that the DRAFT of the Community Development Block Grant 2018 Program Year *Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)* will be available for public review/comment. The Department of HUD requires all recipients of CDBG funds to submit an annual report. All interested persons or groups are encouraged to review the DRAFT CAPER & formally present their comments for inclusion in this report.

The CAPER DRAFT can be reviewed during the 15 Day Public Comment Period at the following location during regular business hours between November 11 & November 25, 2019:

Texarkana, Texas City Hall  
220 Texas Boulevard  
Texarkana, Texas 75501

The DRAFT CAPER is also available on the Texarkana, Texas website ([www.ci.texarkana.tx.us](http://www.ci.texarkana.tx.us)).

The City will hold a City Council Meeting on November 12, 2019 & Public Hearing for the CAPER will occur on November 25, 2019. Citizens are asked to present their comments at this Public Hearing or to submit written comments to the City by 5:00 p.m. November 25, 2019.

These meetings are conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Law (V.T.C.A. Government Code 551) & in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act 42 USC 12101 (1991). The facility is wheelchair accessible & handicap parking is available. Requests for sign interpretive services are available upon request, which must be received at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.