

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.

The City pursued all resources that it indicated it would pursue as stated in the Consolidated Plan. The City provided required certifications of consistency for HUD Programs, in a fair and impartial manner, for which the city had indicated in the Consolidated Plan that it would support if such applications were made by other entities including non-profits, and Public Housing Authorities. Additionally, the City did not hinder the implementation of the Consolidated Plan by any action or willful inaction.

The activities funded were used exclusively for one of the three national objectives. None of the activities specified in the One Year Action Plan involved rehabilitation, or demolition, of occupied real property therefore displacement did not occur. Economic Development activities for the City are addressed through the San Benito Economic Development Corporation and CDBG funds are not utilized for such activities at the present time.

No program income was received for the reporting period. Lump sum agreements were not made. Neither Housing Rehabilitation nor Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Programs were funded using CDBG monies.

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: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$80795	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%	1	1	100.00%
CDBG-CV Emergency Assistance	Pandemic Emergency Assistance	CDBG: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$323182	Other	Other	0	0		0	0	0.00%
Education Objective	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	200	16	8.00%			
Infrastructure Objective	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	68600	127055	185.21%	13720	36635	267.02%

Infrastructure Objective	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0				
Public Facilities Objective	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	68600	16720	24.37%	13720	13720	100.00%
Public Facilities Objective	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	0	0		1	0	0.00%
Senior Services Objective	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	7500	30	0.40%	4	7	175.00%
Senior Services Objective 2	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	200	57	26.50%			

Youth Services Objective	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	200	53	397.00%			
Youth Services Objective 2	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	200	825	412.50%	193	477	247.15%

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.

The activities undertaken by the City of San Benito during the reporting period address the objectives as set out in the Rio Grande Valley Entitlement Communities Consolidated Plan and Strategy. Every effort was made to complete projects that addressed the highest priority such as infrastructure improvements, and public services specifically for the youth, elderly and abused. The City of San Benito realizes that the need is much greater than the funding provided. We will continue to address the projects with the highest priority.

Many accomplishments were achieved during the reporting period concerning public facilities and improvements. The annual payment to a Certificate of Obligation (CO) was processed. In July 2009 HUD approved the City to commit the use of CDBG Funds (pre-award costs) for 20 years for City wide street improvement projects. In 2004 the City incurred a \$6,000,000 Certificate of Obligation (CO) debt of which 50% would be used for street improvements. The CDBG funds were to help pay for the dept plus interest. The first draw was in February 2005 with the final 20th payment scheduled to be made in 2024. The project consisted of 50 streets that were reconstructed. The street reconstruction project began in 2005 and completed in 2010. The streets that were improved/completed include those that were identified to be located in low to moderate income neighborhoods. Based on the 2000 Census Data, the entire City of San Benito was over 51% low-to-moderate

income. The entire city would benefit from this activity as the majority of the block groups were represented. Resaca Trail Property Debt Payment was processed. CASA of Cameron & Willacy Counties served 58 children resulting in a total of 18 children achieving permanent homes, which was under the anticipated 45 beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries served by CASA is dependent on the number of children who are able to achieve permanent homes via the court system, and is at no fault to the organization. Maggie's House served 7693 children, which greatly exceeded the 4500 proposed to benefit. Amigos Del Valle served 7 seniors, providing a total of 1,011 hot lunches, which was over the approximately 942 hot meals. All of the activities which were undertaken in the Year Five Action Plan directly impacted and benefited low to moderate-income 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	889
Black or African American	0
Asian	0
American Indian or American Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	889
Hispanic	790
Not Hispanic	99

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

Narrative

As our Consolidated Plan indicated there are a great variety of social service agencies that solicit funding from our CDBG program. The number of solicitations for funding far exceeded the 15% that may be allocated to public service activities. Due to the high number of proposals received on an annual basis, the City has continuously funded those agencies that provide the largest impact. Those public service agencies include those that provide assistance to youth, elderly, and abused/neglected children.

For detailed information on project accomplishments, including the number, types of households served, income of those served, and racial and ethnic composition, please refer to the IDIS Report C04PR03.

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	534,401	375,232
Other	public - federal	403,977	

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The City of San Benito is an entitlement community of CDBG funds. The allocation amount for FY 2020-2021 was \$386,229. Available is the unexpended CDBG Funds at the end of previous program year of \$148,171.93 plus the entitlement grant of \$386,229 equaling \$534,400.93. The City expensed \$27,086.91 from previous grant years plus FY 2020-2021 entitlement grant of \$348,145.50 equaling \$375,232.41. The City of San Benito received \$403,977 CDBG-CV funds to prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The City of San Benito did a Substantial Amendment on October 6, 2020 in order to include the new funding.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
CDBG Eligible Areas	100	100	Areas eligible for CDBG area benefit.
City-wide	100	100	City of San Benito.

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The entitlement funds received by the City of San Benito have historically been designated for qualifying low and moderate-income residents in the City. All census tracts located within the City limits are qualifying low to moderate income areas, city wide, which includes the highest concentration of low/moderate income families. The map attached as an exhibit identifies the city limits and all census tracts within the City of San Benito. The City of San Benito is not funding any specific target projects.

The City of San Benito was the recipient of lots that were donated by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) which have been maintained in accordance with the 5-year commitment; which will be completed within the current calendar year. The lots were maintained (cut, manicured, etc...) but no development or other dedication for them has occurred. The City Commission will ultimately decide how the lots will be addressed upon the 5-year commitment period. The City Commission has the option to retain the lots and develop for city purpose, work in partnership with Habitat for Humanity or the Housing Authority in order make the lots available for development of low

income housing opportunities, or the lots can be sold in accordance with rules, policies, and procedures pertaining to the sale of public lands.

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.

The City, through its Community Grants and Programs Department, continued to pursue alternative funding for other community development needs in high priority areas.

In 2013, the City obtained one new grant through the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. This grant, which will run through September 2022, is helping to improve the health of San Benito's residents through increased physical activity and healthy eating. Our focus is to assist the underserved and lower-income members of our community. A Community Outreach Worker was hired and continues to offer free classes featuring exercise and health awareness. Activities utilize the Resaca Trail Property, which was purchased using CDBG funding. All activities involved with this program are paid for by the UTHealth grant.

The City has partnered with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service on the creation of two Community Gardens. The first garden is located near our popular Resaca Trail, which was purchased using CDBG funding, while the second is a low income area in San Benito. Classes continue to be held for beginning garden enthusiasts. Everyone is welcome to plant and care for their vegetables.

The City has also obtained a Recreational trails grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife and a grant to create a park on the South side of the City through the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation. This park will be paid, in the majority, using Texas Parks and Wildlife, Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation, and CDBG funding.

The City also received a grant from Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service. San Benito is currently in Phase IV of the Wetlands Project. The project has evolved into a Coastal Environmental Wetlands Habitat in addition to treating and releasing wastewater treatment plant effluent water into the Arroyo Colorado water shed.

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	0	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	0	0

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	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

Currently, the City of San Benito does not have funding for housing activities, therefore the City did not fund any housing activities for program year 2020-2021. The numbers provided above reflect the housing authority accomplishments. San Benito Public Housing Authority (SBPHA) is providing housing programs through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Public Housing Program, both funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Each year the allocation of

these two (2) programs reduces. Thus, making it difficult for SBPHA to increase the number of households to assist.

The SBPHA and its public facility - San Benito Housing Development Corporation, developed the Stone Village Community. This community continues to house 40 families of low to moderate incomes, of which 19 families are extremely low income.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The City of San Benito is not a recipient of HOME funds, therefore, housing activities are normally not included in our annual action plans for funding. However, the San Benito Community Grants and Programs Department and the SBPHA jointly strive towards placing low, very low, and low to moderate income families in decent, safe and sanitary affordable homes utilizing both the Public Housing Program and the Section 8 Homeownership Choice program. The SBPHA has adopted a policy and can utilize its Section 8 Voucher Program as mortgage payments for qualified participants. Both the SBPHA and the City will collaborate in efforts to further the San Benito HOME Program should funds be allocated.

The SBPHA started the development of Magnolia Gardens, which will contain eight, two-bedroom units. Magnolia Gardens, a public housing community, was funded through the SBPHA’s Replacement Housing Factor funds and matched with nonfederal funds, plus utility infrastructure costs funded by CDBG funds. Construction started in FY 2018-2019, with family occupancy planned before the end of FY 2019-2020 (September 2020). The project placed in-service date was September 2020.

The SBPHA has also submitted an application for the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program in 2018 and was awarded the Commitment to Enter into a Housing Assistance Payment Contract (CHAP) on July 2020. The CHAP is a multi-year award to include all of the public housing communities to convert into project-based vouchers.

The Palmville public housing community, with 100 apartments, will be the first public housing community to convert to a project-based voucher community. With the award of a 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, SBPHA will be performing major rehabilitation and constructing a community building.

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	0
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

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 has joined neighboring cities and homeless service providers across Cameron County to develop action steps to prevent and eventually put an end to homelessness through the creation of the Cameron County Homeless Partnership (CCHP). This group actively seeks funding through the Continuum of Care.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of San Benito is not a recipient of ESG or other McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Program funds, however, collaboration with the SBPHA maximizes efforts to maintain services and resources provided to individuals or families who may become homeless. The SBPHA provides the only support mechanism for homeless families by providing shelter through Public Housing units or Section 8 vouchers and also serves as transitional housing by allowing these families, who would otherwise be homeless, to live within the public housing units and eventually become homeowners through various Affordable Housing Programs available through collaborative endeavors. In an effort to promote transition into permanent housing, families residing in Public Housing Developments or participating in Section 8 vouchers are encouraged to become homeowners through the San Benito HOME Program.

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

In partnership with the City, the member organizations of the Cameron County Homeless Partnership provide an array of prevention services, including:

- Case Management (limited and short term assessments and education, and home visits)
- Child abuse assistance (crisis intervention and immediate safety)
- Emergency assistance (overnight vouchers, utility assistance, security and utility deposits, food and clothing distribution, meals, use of shower and restroom facilities, health-related transportation, and referrals),
- Family violence assistance (crisis intervention and immediate safety),

- Information and referral (Info line),
- Life skills classes (counseling center), and
- Tenant counseling, fair housing, discrimination, and housing assistance.

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 of San Benito is an active supporter of the Cameron County Homeless Partnership and its strategic plan. Realizing the detrimental effects homelessness has on the health and wellbeing of its residents, the Cameron County Homeless Partnership continues to meet on a regular basis to update their strategic plan to prevent and eventually end chronic homelessness. Made up of representatives from state and local government entities, public housing agencies, school systems, universities, law enforcement agencies, housing organizations, faith-based organizations, advocacy groups, local businesses, hospitals, medical facilities, as well as homeless service providers, the Partnership continues work on creating a seamless flow of services to homeless individuals and families that will create a “sustainable form of livelihood” that can ensure permanent housing meant for human habitation. The strategies of the Cameron County Homeless Partnership (attached as an exhibit) provide the road map for implementing key strategies in the current year.

In order to address the needs of the hearing impaired, the City of San Benito utilizes Relay Texas, which provides Texas TTY services and is included in all publications.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The City of San Benito is part of the PHA collaborative partnership for public housing needs. The Housing Authority of the City of San Benito (SBPHA) continues to budget funds from the Capital Fund Program to renovate and update public housing units throughout the community. Through its residents initiative services, public housing residents received valuable resources in education of nutrition, child care, and other preventive measures of family issues. Through collaborative partnerships, other resources were made possible to the families ranging from child care, early childhood education, and youth recreational activities.

The SBPHA is the lead agency in all of the community housing programs, such as the First-Time Homebuyer Program and the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program. The SBPHA also offers the Section 8 Home Choice Voucher which aids the family with the mortgage payments. All of these programs operate under the San Benito HOME Program and are administered by the SBPHA when funding is available.

The SBPHA has also submitted an application for the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program in 2018 and was awarded the Commitment to Enter into a Housing Assistance Payment Contract (CHAP) on July 2020. The CHAP is a multi-year award to include all of the public housing communities to convert into project-based vouchers.

The Palmville public housing community, with 100 apartments, will be the first public housing community to convert to a project-based voucher community. With the award of a 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, SBPHA will be performing major rehabilitation and constructing a community building.

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

The City of San Benito is part of the PHA collaborative partnership to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership. The San Benito Community Grants and Programs department and the SBPHA jointly strive towards placing low, very low, and low to moderate income families in decent, safe and sanitary affordable homes utilizing both the Public Housing Program and the Section 8 Voucher Homeownership Choice Program. The SBPHA has adopted a policy and can utilize its Section 8 Voucher Program as mortgage payments for qualified participants. Both the SBPHA and the City have collaborated in efforts to further the San Benito HOME Program. SBPHA encourages public housing residents to engage in the current and active Resident Advisory Board. Public Housing residents are also encouraged to attend monthly meetings of the SBPHA Board of Commission.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The only PHA in San Benito is the Housing Authority of the City of San Benito. Fortunately, this agency is not considered to be a troubled PHA.

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)

In an effort to affirmatively further fair housing, and developing the 2015 Analysis of Impediments, the City of San Benito conducted an assessment of Fair Housing with the participation of local bankers and non-profit organizations. Comments received during that assessment period included: 1) the need to educate the community. 2) the coordination of all housing programs by encouraging the efforts of nonprofit groups, public agencies and the private sector. The overall assessment of the City of San Benito's current public and private fair housing program and activities is that it is in general, an acceptable program. The City has made every effort to eliminate barriers to affordable housing and to further provide fair housing ordinances and practices to encourage and facilitate an environment of fair housing for all our citizens. The City continues to work with local agencies to develop programs to meet the needs of the community to address the impediments identified. Such actions include participation in Fair Housing Fairs, distribution and placement of posters advocating Fair Housing requirements at various locations throughout the City. Two Public Forums and Stakeholder Focus Group sessions were held at the San Benito Municipal Building to obtain public input for developing the 2015 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. Attendees were gathered through email invitations sent to select resident and community leaders, organizations, industry professionals, public service providers, and public officials. A public meeting notice was published in the San Benito News as well as on the department's Facebook page. General issues related to the housing market, neighborhood conditions, community development needs and concerns pertaining to fair housing choice were discussed during the meeting. Interaction between the agencies and organizations involved continued with impromptu meetings throughout the year. Housing issues were discussed between the City and the San Benito Housing Authority. The Planning Department, Building Inspection Department, and developers continuously meet to address development in San Benito (which is considered an Economically Distressed Area). The City did not receive any complaints or comments on project funding, fair housing choices, or impediments to fair housing. Additionally, there are no cases in San Benito where the Secretary has issued a charge of (or made a finding of) discrimination regarding the existence of fair housing complaints or compliance reviews. To our knowledge, there are no current or pending fair housing discrimination suits filed against the City of San Benito by the Department of Justice or private plaintiffs. April is typically proclaimed as Fair Housing Month.

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

San Benito attempted to expend public funds in a manner that met local needs—particularly among low- and moderate-income families and individuals—while addressing the RGVECs' common priorities. This process helped ensure that the San Benito Community Grants and Programs made the most significant impact according to the issues brought forward by public agencies, community

organizations, and residents during the community-wide consultation and citizen participation process. Additionally, the City continued to direct its scarce resources toward projects that leveraged the commitment of other public and private sector support whenever possible.

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

The City of San Benito was part of the SBPHA collaborative partnership to reduce lead-based paint hazards. The San Benito HOME Program, administered by our local PHA when funds were allocated, performed inspections on all existing homes where federal dollars were utilized, including homes constructed prior to 1978, for lead-based paint. The SBPHA has addressed lead based paint hazards in all of its housing units. The SBPHA's Section 8 Voucher Program continued to address this issue by also performing physical inspections of participating housing units. Special care was given in addressing Lead Based Paint in homes being rehabilitated using OCC funds.

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

The City's Anti-Poverty Strategy focused on the most vulnerable population segments: very low-income households; those individuals in public or assisted housing; and the uncounted homeless individuals and families. Very low-income households are generally more threatened with homelessness, often living paycheck to paycheck with financial ruin being no more than one unexpected financial setback away. Persons in public or assisted housing are dependent upon public subsidies to maintain their own residences and have just a little more peace of mind and security than their counterparts that are not residents of public housing. In all, these segments of the population have the highest incidence of poverty and possess limited economic enrichment opportunities. These households will see the most immediate benefit from a concentrated effort to increase economic opportunities for all households in the City.

It is important to recognize that the Anti-Poverty Strategy is not a housing plan; it is an economic development plan that attempts to increase incomes and job opportunities for low-income households. The changing and expanding City economy has led to a growth in the number of low as well as high-paying jobs. Nonetheless, housing is a major component of the Plan, since a secure and affordable residence allows household members to pursue jobs education and training without having to worry about the threat of homelessness.

At the core of any economic development plan must be the existence of an infrastructure capable of sustaining the needs of business. Infrastructure in terms of roads, drainage, water and sewer services can be costly line items for any new business development considering relocating or expanding their operations within the City. With this in mind, the City's community development efforts have had a strong emphasis in developing and sustaining the region's infrastructure not just for the use and convenience of residents but also as a manner to attract and maintain business opportunities.

The City further recognized the need to develop and train its workforce. During the SBCGP's

consultation process, it was discovered that the majority of the local Workforce Development Board operating budget funds are earmarked for low-income persons to place them in a structured institutional setting for skills training or in an on-the-job training setting where employment skills can be taught first-hand. The City's role then became that of a facilitator to bring together all stakeholders with the common interest of addressing the plight of its less fortunate residents. These stakeholders, combined address all areas along the road to self-sufficiency, including childcare, transportation services, community development, housing employment/skills training, educational institutions social service institutions and local government. In light of dwindling resources across the entire spectrum of social services, the answer lies in redefining the role of government in such a way that it fosters the cooperation of different social service programs with the end goal of allowing an individual the opportunity for self sufficiency.

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

The San Benito Community Grants and Programs Department worked with a variety of organizations involved in the delivery of housing, homeless, non-homeless special needs, and community development activities- including many of the public agencies and community organizations consulted during the development of the Consolidated Plan and the One-Year Action Plan. These include Public Housing Authorities (PHA), and community organizations whose fields of interest and services include but are not limited to: social services, youth services, elderly services, disability services, HIV/AIDS services, abused children's services, health services, homeless services, and domestic violence assistance.

The strength of the City's institutional structure is derived from the variety of public agencies and community organizations in the area that are working diligently toward one common goal: to provide affordable housing, supportive services, and community development assistance to benefit low-and moderate-income individuals and families. Local agencies, community-based organizations, and social service providers must coordinate their activities in response to the City's urgent needs.

Each stakeholder in the delivery system contributed valuable resources and expertise.

Furthermore, the City recognized that the need for affordable housing surpassed its own ability to meet current demand. As such, the City provides letters of support for other affordable housing providers and entities seeking low-income housing tax credits-provided the project is deemed to have merit and is consistent with housing strategy set forth in the RGVEC's Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Strategy.

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

The San Benito Community Grants and Programs Department (SBCGP) coordinated its activities with a variety of organizations involved in the delivery of housing, homeless, non-homeless special needs, and community development activities—including many of the public agencies and community organizations

consulted during the development of the Consolidated Plan and the One-Year Action Plan. They include designated Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), and other community organizations whose fields of interest and service include but are not limited to: social services, youth services, elderly services, disability services, HIV/AIDS services, abused children’s services, health services, homeless services, and domestic violence assistance.

To strengthen this delivery system, the SBCGP has undertaken a more collaborative approach to develop a common vision for housing and community development activities for the South Texas region. Commitment and coordination among different levels of local government, community organizations, and the public will be essential.

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

The City worked with local agencies to develop programs to meet the local needs of the community and to address the impediments identified. Such actions included participation in Fair Housing Fairs, distribution and placement of posters advocating Fair Housing requirements at various locations throughout the City. The City of San Benito strived to meet with the Housing Authority of the City of San Benito throughout the year to discuss housing issues and needs of the community. In addition, the Planning Department continuously provided technical assistance to developers interested in developing affordable and low-income housing within the jurisdiction.

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

Monitoring is an ongoing process involving continuous subrecipient communication and evaluation. The process involves frequent telephone contacts, written communication, periodic meetings, as well as program and activity evaluations. The goal of monitoring is to identify deficiencies and promote corrective action in order to improve and reinforce subrecipient performance.

A desk review of all pertinent project information and documentation is performed with each subrecipient. The Community Grants and Programs Coordinator reviews the project file and associated documentation to determine the project's progress and adherence with the proper regulations. After the desk review is completed, an on-site review of the project is scheduled. This process enables the City to verify the status of the project as suggested in the project file.

It is the City of San Benito's intent to formally monitor each activity undertaken with HUD entitlement funds at least once yearly. The staff member performs a formal monitoring visit. The purpose of the monitoring process is to determine compliance with the executed contract/subrecipient agreement, HUD requirements, other applicable Federal requirements, and applicable State codes and statutes. The monitoring process also provides an opportunity by which aspects of exemplary project administration or performance are identified.

Pre- and post-interviews are also conducted with subrecipient personnel. These interviews serve two functions: one is to inform the subrecipient of the monitoring goals and purpose; the other is to articulate any areas of concern prior to dissemination of the formal written report as well as to acknowledge areas of good performance. The formal written report is routed through City Staff for review and consent prior to distribution. A copy of the report is then mailed to the appropriate parties. Typically, the City allows a 30-day response timeframe for each report. In addition to the formal monitoring process outlined above, the City monitors the day to day operations of assigned projects continuously. This is accomplished through frequent telephone contacts, written correspondence, e-mails, meetings, and monthly progress report reviews.

During this reporting year, Community Development Staff conducted monthly and annual desk reviews on all public services activities funded in 2020-2021 as CDBG Subrecipients. The City performed informal on-site monitoring reviews, which revealed that all Subrecipients were making diligent efforts to comply with Federal, State, and local law. While City Staff found several areas in need of technical assistance, no formal findings were made. The City realizes this is an area for an opportunity for improvement to further develop our monitoring program.

A copy of our Citizen Participation Plan is being submitted as an Exhibit to this report.

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.

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.

Limited resources have forced us to save funds from one year to another in order to produce a considerable project for our community. In the past, efforts have been made to obtain additional grants and funds. Unfortunately, the City has not been very successful in doing so. City officials have considered the hiring of a Grant writer to help the City with its efforts. However, because resources are scarce the ability to fund such a position has not been realized. The City continues, however to make efforts with its existing staff.

As a result of the San Antonio HUD’s on-site monitoring of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program on July 15-19, 2019. The City of San Benito, as well as all personnel involved in this matter, learned the value of meticulous record keeping and attention to detail. The City of San Benito CDBG continues to follow monitoring and audit recommendations in order to evaluate the organization's performance and compliance with applicable Federal program requirements, and overall grant management.

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

No

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

Attachment

Citizen Participation Plan - 2020-08-11