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CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report

Year 1

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

**U.S DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM**



The following is the required annual report submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development on what was accomplished in Year 1 of our current Five Year Consolidated Plan. I have included the City's Entitlement Mission Statement, and Priorities, Objectives and Actions that are targeted yearly to meet the City's goals in the program.

The City's Entitlement Mission Statement is as follows:

“To create a Strategic Plan for the next five years that continues to enhance the community and economic development of the City of Biddeford through targeted public facility and infrastructure improvements, social services, housing, economic development projects, and activities that benefit residents, including low to moderate income persons and special needs population groups.”

Objectives and Outcomes

The following are the priorities, objectives and outcomes for the Consolidated 5 Year Plan that began on July 1st, 2018. These priorities, objectives and outcomes are also part of each individual year's Action Plan. Detailed projects and programs for each of the five years are developed and prioritized from this list. Priorities are listed in the order in which they rank (highest Priority #1, etc.) Each is also addressed within narrative of the Consolidated Plan and are part of the multifaceted approach to continue to address the City's issues. It should be noted that although Infrastructure is Priority 1, Priority 2 which is Housing, is to be funded equally with Infrastructure.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority 1 - To eliminate slum and blight in the downtown area through infrastructure and public facilities improvements that benefit LMI neighborhoods.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome – Improving sustainability by promoting viable communities

Objective 1 - Increase access and provide public facilities that provide for the health and safety of residents in LMI neighborhoods.

- Actions:
1. Implement sidewalk and other street improvements, ADA projects and beautification projects in LMI neighborhoods for safe and adequate access to services and facilities.
 2. Implement park, trail and walkway developments in LMI neighborhoods for safe and adequate recreation needs through acquisition, demolition and redevelopment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Outcome – Improving sustainability by promoting viable communities

Objective 2 - Increase business attraction to promote job creation

- Actions: 1. Provide loan/grant assistance to commercial property owners and businesses through a Downtown Micro Loan Program.

HOUSING

Priority 2 - To provide a strategy to meet the increasing need for transitional to affordable and supportive housing.

HUD OBJECTIVE – PROVIDING DECENT HOUSING

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units

Objective 1 - Increase the supply of safe and adequate affordable housing for low to moderate-income persons.

- Actions: 1. Consider making the City's "surplus" and/or tax acquired real estate available for the development of affordable housing.
3. In partnership with other public/private parties, explore the adaptive re-use and redevelopment of non-residential properties, e.g. mills, churches, etc. into affordable housing.
4. Consider and implement when feasible combinations of housing and community space that support LMI neighborhoods and enhance opportunities for housing occupants.

Objective 2 - Preserve and upgrade the City's housing stock serving low to moderate income persons.

- Actions: 2. Consider acquisition and demolition of blighted properties for construction of new housing when applicable.
5. Undertake a systematic and concentrated program of code enforcement to ensure life safety standards are met and to prevent blighting influences on neighborhoods.
6. Encourage participation by landlords in the Biddeford Landlords Association and encourage partnerships that provide resources for landlords and tenants.

Objective 3 - Increase opportunities for homeownership for low and moderate income persons.

- Actions: 1. Consider a partnership with other public/private organizations to pool resources to help finance home ownership, e.g. down payments, loan assistance, mortgage interest rate write-downs, and other financing mechanisms.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Priority 3 - Provide educational and work opportunities for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations that provide avenues to obtain jobs and/or better paying work opportunities.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units or services

Objective 1 - Increase the economic prosperity of homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations, and their ability to afford housing, and health and safety amenities by providing work opportunities and partnerships that provide housing and housing services.

- Actions: 1. Provide opportunities for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations to participate in work force preparedness and financial management programs that enhance their ability to have access to affordable housing.
2. Provide child care and youth programs that increase the opportunity for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations to attend educational and training programs, while providing enrichment programs for youths of all ages.
3. Link local programs to secondary education and training that would be the "next step" for low to moderate income persons, homeless and special needs populations, and implement training and educational programs for these populations.

Priority 4 - Implement strategies to aid the elderly and special needs populations with access to information and services to increase health and safety and reduce reliance on the City's overburdened Health and Welfare Department that can only provide minimal assistance.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units or services

Objective 1 - Improve the health and safety of the elderly and special needs populations.

Actions: 1. Provide and coordinate programs that outreach to the elderly and enable the elderly to access assistance that enhances their quality of life.

Priority 5 - To reinforce and strengthen the emergency shelter and transitional housing system that is already in place which includes housing, counseling, education and a wide variety of homeless, special needs and LMI assistance.

Objective 1 - Assist and work with the City's Health and Welfare Department, volunteer organizations and agencies to seek collaborative efforts to assist homeless, low to moderate income and special needs populations in Biddeford.

Actions: 1. Encourage network meetings of area resources and services.

* The following falls under all priority listings and pertains to special needs populations thus giving it a stand alone Objective and Action.

Objective 1 - Provide for a seamless network of social services and assistance for special needs populations.

Actions: 1. Continue to gather all social service information and examine gaps in existing systems for all special needs population groups (includes diagnostic, rehabilitative, educational, housing and work opportunities).

Year 1 Projects are detailed below under their respective objectives and actions. Also listed are those projects proposed for reallocation and/or to be carried over from Year 1. The report is based on the Year 1 allocation of **\$462,200** plus any additional carryover from the previous year. Funding is carried over if a project is delayed, under implementation, or is cancelled. The following is the Year 1 project report, funds expended and carried forward, and/or to be reallocated.

Infrastructure

Priority 1 - To eliminate slum and blight in the downtown area through infrastructure and public facilities improvements that benefit LMI neighborhoods.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT
Outcome – Improving sustainability by promoting viable communities

Objective 1 - Increase access and provide public facilities that provide for the health and safety of LMI neighborhoods.

Actions: 1. Implement sidewalk and other street improvements, street paving, ADA improvements and beautification projects in LMI neighborhoods for safe and adequate access to services and facilities.

Sidewalks

Accomplished Actions: Extension of Main Street Sidewalk Improvement Project

In Year 1 it was determined that the Main Street Sidewalks from Lincoln Street and Adams Street to Elm Street on both sides should be reconstructed. The design included sidewalks, resetting of historic curbing where possible, the use of historic cobblestones for bump outs, crosswalks with pavers and cobblestones, lighting to match previously reconstructed portions of Main Street, tree removal, retention and replanting. Council approved the design and gave approval to bid the project. The project was completed by the end of summer 2019.

Funding Amount: \$157,148

Funding Expended: \$157,148

Total To Carry Forward: \$0

Total Number of Persons Served: Downtown Core (Census Tract 252-02, Block Groups 1 & 6

Total LMI Served: Block Group 1 (81.85% LMI) and Block Group 6 (43.48% LMI)

2. Implement park, trail and walkway developments in LMI neighborhoods for safe and adequate recreation needs through acquisition, demolition and redevelopment.

Economic Development

Priority 1 - To eliminate slum and blight in the downtown area through infrastructure and public facilities improvements that benefit LMI neighborhoods.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Outcome – Improving sustainability by promoting viable communities

Objective 2 - Increase business attraction to promote job creation.

- Actions: 1. Provide grant assistance to commercial property owners and businesses through a Downtown Improvement Program.

Accomplished Actions: Downtown Business Assistance Program

A Downtown Improvement Program targeted the downtown to improve buildings designated as “spot” slum and blight as it relates to health, safety, and ADA issues. This grant program was developed to compliment the ongoing revitalization and facade improvement program in the downtown to assist with business attraction and retention. A key component of this grant program was to assist businesses and property owners with health, safety, and ADA issues that are often too costly for potential businesses to locate and open in Biddeford’s downtown. It was discovered in the first year of this program that applicants were coming the City for assistance already under contract for repairs and improvements, which can not be reimbursed

under HUD regulations. The City developed in Year 2 a presentation about how to use this program and its processes to acquire grant funding. In addition, the City added job creation as another activity under this program.

Funding Amount: \$50,842

Funding Expended: \$0

Total To Carry Forward: \$50,842

Total Number of Persons Served: Downtown Core (Census Tract 252-02, Block Groups 1 & 6)

Total LMI Served: Block Group 1 (81.85% LMI) and Block Group 6 (43.48% LMI)

Community Development

Priority 3 - Implement strategies to aid the elderly and special needs populations in access to information and services to increase health and safety and reduce reliance of the City's overburdened Health and Welfare Department that can only provide minimal assistance.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units or services

Objective 1 - Improve the health and safety of the elderly and special needs populations.

Actions: 1. Provide and coordinate programs that outreach to the elderly and enable the elderly to access assistance that enhances their quality of life.

Southern Maine Agency on Aging

Accomplished Actions: 86 Seniors and Disabled Biddeford Residents served a total of 7,036 meals in the Meals on Wheels Program

The primary goal of the Meals on Wheels program over the past year was to serve 10,000 meals to 90 Biddeford residents who could not regularly shop for or prepare meals on their own thereby helping to reduce food insecurity and social isolation for Biddeford's low-income, homebound senior population.

Despite chronically flat government funding, and a wait list for the program for the majority of the grant period, SMAA made significant progress towards this goal by delivering 6,636 meals to 74 Biddeford seniors in need during the grant period.

Towards the end of the CDBG Fiscal Year, SMAA was awarded an additional \$2,000 in additional funding from the program to help support Biddeford clients who were on the wait list to receive meals. Those funds were used to support the cost of Simply Delivered for ME meals – SMAA's private pay home-delivered meal program – to help feed Biddeford seniors until they are enrolled in the traditional Meals on Wheels program. Those additional funds paid for 400 Simply Delivered for ME meals to be delivered to 12 Biddeford seniors on the wait list.

Funding Amount: \$17,000
Funding Expended: \$17,000
Total To Carry Forward: \$0
Total Number of Persons Served: 86
Total LMI Served (Presumed benefit): 86

Priority 3 - Provide educational and work opportunities for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations that provide avenues to obtain jobs and/or better paying work opportunities.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units or services

Objective 1 - Increase the economic prosperity of homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations, and their ability to afford housing, and health and safety amenities by providing work opportunities and partnerships that provide housing and housing services.

Actions: 2. Provide child care and youth programs that increase the opportunity for low to moderate income persons to attend educational and training programs, while providing enrichment programs for youths of all ages.

ArtVan

Accomplished Actions: Youth Art Program benefited 12 Youths

The ArtVan Program, a mobile art program, traveled into Biddeford's neighborhoods to provide a free art program for youths that was community based and used the arts as a form of prevention and personal development. This program ensured that LMI youths who for whatever reason and who may not have had access to social services, or after school and summer activities, had opportunities to express themselves safely and productively with the guidance of professional art therapists. This educational and self development program let youths practice verbal and nonverbal communication and interpersonal relationship skills. Youths learned to take turns and work through emotional triggers to self regulate emotions, planning and executive functioning through art. The program particularly focused on the Bacon Street Neighborhood and culminated in the making and installing of art for the Bacon Street Festival in August.

Funding Amount: \$5,956
Funding Expended: \$5,956
Total To Carry Forward: \$0
Total Number of Persons Served: 21
Total LMI Served: 14

Neighborhood HUB – 73 Bacon Street

Accomplished Actions: Planned for redevelopment in Year 2

Community Partners for Protecting Children (CPPC) directed the Canopy Park Resource Center, called the HUB, at 49 Bacon Street, in the Bacon Street Neighborhood. In previous years, the CPPC had a Community Builder available to assist neighborhood residents with access to services and programs, and to engage residents in the neighborhood in community events. This year, the CPPC decided to return to its original mission and is now at the Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center. There were several attempts to reorganize the HUB with other organizations, but this did not produce any results. The HUB is currently closed and in Year 2 the focus will be on working with Biddeford Ready and several organizations to assess what households and families in the Bacon Street area need in regards to resources and services to enhance the quality of life for their families. With the improvements seen over the last 15 years in the Bacon Street Neighborhood and the reduction in negative activities, it is the goal of this project to eventually expand this model into other identified neighborhoods through the “My Neighborhood” Network.

Funding Amount: \$17,374

Funding Expended: \$0

Total To Carry Forward: \$17,374

Total Number of Persons Served: 0

Total LMI Served: 0

3. Link local programs to secondary education and training that would be the "next step" for low to moderate income persons, homeless and special needs populations, and implement training and educational programs for these populations.

Seeds of Hope Career Center

Accomplished Actions: 20 LMI Residents Assisted With Employment Skills and Opportunities

The Seeds of Hope Career Center assisted 20 users of the Career Center and an additional 100 additional users of the BiddefordOpenNet (non CDBG) which provides free wireless Internet access to LMI Biddeford residents who use it to conduct work searches, etc. The Center offered computer skill training, resume preparation career planning, job interview preparation, and assistance with job searches. The Center reported that all 20 of the participants were low income. A number of the Career Center participants accessed the center a number of times making the individual uses in Year 1 even higher. The Center is a liaison with Biddeford General Assistance, York County Community Action, York County Shelters, and the Maine Career Center in Springvale. The Center is also a member and coordinates with the Biddeford-Saco Chamber of Commerce and with local businesses to raise awareness of the program and those ready to work. The Center has reported success with persons finding work and helping others. Many of the clients participated in the Biddeford Open Net free wireless Internet access outreach provided by the Center. With the number of people seeking employment in the Biddeford area,

and with the past closing of the Career Center in Saco, the resources to help people with resume development, on-line applications, interviewing skills, etc. are limited and unreachable for people without transportation. In addition, with the successful advent of new business attraction and retention in Biddeford it has proved beneficial to prepare Biddeford's workforce for employment in these entities.

Funding Amount: \$15,000
Funding Expended: \$15,000
Total To Carry Forward: \$0
Total Number of Persons Served: 20
Total LMI Served: 20

MaineWay, Inc. Representative Payee Program

Accomplished Actions: Representative Payee Program assisted 61 Biddeford Residents

The Maine Way Inc. Representative Payee Program served a total of 61 LMI Biddeford residents with financial management assistance in the program year. They were also assisted in learning budgeting and financial skills for self management of their funds. The Representative Payee Program helped these Biddeford residents get "caught up" or stay current with their bills including housing.

Generally, clients seek transitional housing or assistance with finances in a state of disarray. They are often severely behind in rent payments or have been served with an eviction notice and CMP disconnection notice. The Maine Way developed financial agreements with the clients and worked with Social Security to maintain the client's benefits and retain their housing. The program works with the Biddeford Housing Authority that encourages and can require that housing assisted clients be enrolled in the Representative Payee Program. Clients in the program learned budgeting skills and were encouraged to access community and other social services. The program helped a number of clients attain self-sufficiency in handling finances and/or recognize skills for employment opportunities. Besides financial management and budgeting assistance, the program works with clients who receive Social Security benefits in completing their disability reports. Many of these clients do not have case managers and are often left to complete these forms by themselves. This can lead to the forms being filled out incorrectly or even a lack of filing, affecting benefits. This extra assistance helps those Biddeford residents already stressed due to financial hardship.

Funding Amount: \$16,000
Funding Expended: \$16,000
Total To Carry Forward: \$0
Total Number of Persons Served: 61
Total LMI Served: 61

Housing

Priority 2 - To provide a strategy to meet the increasing need for transitional to affordable and

supportive housing.

HUD OBJECTIVE – PROVIDING DECENT HOUSING

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units

Objective 1 - Increase the supply of safe and adequate affordable housing for low to moderate-income persons.

- Actions:
1. Consider making the City's "surplus" and/or tax acquired real estate available for the development of affordable housing.
 3. In partnership with other public/private parties, explore the adaptive re-use and redevelopment of non-residential properties, e.g. mills, churches, etc. into affordable housing.
 4. Consider and implement when feasible combinations of housing and community space that support LMI neighborhoods and enhance opportunities for housing occupants.

Objective 2 - Preserve and upgrade the City's housing stock serving low to moderate income persons.

- Actions:
2. Consider acquisition and demolition of blighted properties for construction of new housing when applicable.
 5. Undertake a systematic and concentrated program of code enforcement to ensure life safety standards are met and to prevent blighting influences on neighborhoods.
 6. Encourage participation by landlords in the Biddeford Landlords Association and encourage partnerships that provide resources for landlords and tenants.

Objective 3 - Increase opportunities for homeownership for low and moderate income persons.

- Actions:
1. Consider a partnership with other public/private organizations to pool resources to help finance home ownership, e.g. down payments, loan assistance, mortgage interest rate write-downs, and other financing mechanisms.

Accomplished Actions: Establish a Multi-Family Rehabilitation Program

A significant number of rental units in Biddeford are 60 or more years old and considered

substandard (electrical issues, code and life safety issues, energy efficiency, etc.), so much so that the City has implemented a code safety program for all apartment buildings in excess of 4 units. At the same time, demographics suggest that Biddeford is experiencing unprecedented growth in the demand and cost of rental housing. These two factors are making it harder for those at the lower end of the housing spectrum to find safe, affordable housing. This prompted the City to develop a multifamily housing rehabilitation program for owner occupied structures with four units or less. The goal is to improve housing quality while preserving affordable rents in a competitive housing market. The City has worked on a design and implementation process for this program during the program year and continues to prepare the program to be implemented. One important aspect of the program was securing a Housing Rehabilitation Specialist for the inspection, specifications documentation, and other tasks needed to be performed in the program. A specialist has been secured and the program is expected to be implemented in Year 2. Other sources of funding may also come in to play in Year 2, including a Lead Reduction Program Grant.

The City plans to rehabilitate 28 housing units in the program. In each rehabilitated building, 51% of the units must be for residents who are below 80% of the low to moderate family income threshold, according to HUD requirements. The housing affordability will be enforced for a minimum of ten years. Each unit will be eligible for funding of up to \$10,000 per unit. Those housing units must meet the safety requirements of the Code Enforcement Office and HUD Housing Quality Standards.

Funding Amount: \$206,561
Funding Expended: \$0
Total To Carry Forward: \$206,561
Total Number of Units: 0
Total LMI Served: TBD

Other Funding

Administration

Funding Amount: \$92,440
Funding Expended: \$92,440
Total To Carry Forward: \$0

A total of approximately \$278,000 has been carried over from Year 1 and includes any unexpended funds. The carryover is primarily comprised of the Downtown Improvement Program and the Housing Improvement Program funding. These funds are expected to be expended completely in the current Year 2.