

Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

In compliance with HUD's regulations, the Town of Bloomsburg has prepared an Annual Action Plan, which will be utilized for FFY 2023. This Plan highlights challenges and opportunities in focus areas such as housing, community, and economic development within the Town of Bloomsburg. The Plan also establishes goals for the Town of Bloomsburg over the next year by outlining initiatives the Town will undertake to address identified needs. This Plan is a collaborative effort between the Town, SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG), the community at large, social service agencies, housing providers, community development agencies, and economic development groups. The planning process was accomplished through a series of public meetings, stakeholder consultation interviews, and collaboration.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The "vision" of this Plan is to serve as a planning document, an application, and a strategic plan for the Town of Bloomsburg. As part of the Plan, the community must develop goals and objectives. The following goals and objectives have been identified for the Town of Bloomsburg for FFY 2023 CDBG Program:

Housing Priority - (High Priority)

There is a need to improve the quality of the housing stock in the Town of Bloomsburg, and to increase the supply of affordable, decent, safe, sound, and accessible housing for homeowners, renters, and homebuyers.

- **HS-1: Fair Housing** – Support education, enforcement/reporting, and/or evaluation/study of Fair Housing rights and other housing related topics relevant to the public.
- **HS-2: Housing Stock** - Support efforts to create new units of affordable and/or accessible housing as well as maintain and improve the quality of older homes, including elimination of slum and blighting conditions.

Other Special Needs Priority - (Low Priority)

There is a need for services and facilities for the youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, persons with HIV/AIDS, and persons with special needs.

- **SN-1 Public Safety** – Improvement in the ability to respond to emergency situations.
- **SN-2 Social Services** - Support social service programs and facilities for the youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, persons with HIV/AIDS, and persons with other special needs.

Community and Economic Development Priority - (High Priority)

There is a need to improve the public and community facilities, infrastructure, employment, and the quality of life in the Town of Bloomsburg.

- **DV-1 Community Facilities** - Improve the parks, recreational centers, trails, bikeways, and public and community facilities through rehabilitation, new construction, and handicap accessibility improvements.
- **DV-2 Infrastructure** - Improve infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction of streets, sidewalks, ADA curb cut ramps, sewer, water, storm water management, flood protection, bridges, green infrastructure, etc.
- **DV-3 Employment** - Support and encourage job creation, job retention, and job training opportunities as well as entrepreneurship and small business development.

Administration, Planning, and Management Priority - (High Priority)

There is a continuing need for planning, administration, management, and oversight of Federal, state, and local funded programs.

- **AM-1 Overall Coordination** - Provide program management and oversight for the successful administration of Federal, state, and local funded programs, including planning services for special studies, environmental clearance, fair housing, and compliance with all Federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Assignment of Priority Discussion:

High Priority - Activities are assigned a high priority if the Town of Bloomsburg will likely utilize CDBG funds to finance activities during the Five-Year Consolidated Plan period.

Low Priority - Activities are assigned a low priority if the activity may not be funded by the Town of Bloomsburg during the Five-Year Consolidated Plan period. The Town may support applications for other funding if those activities are consistent with the needs identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The Town of Bloomsburg is an eighth year federal Entitlement community.

The FFY 2016 through FFY 2021 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) has been submitted to HUD regarding how the Town of Bloomsburg has expended its funds.

The FFY 2022 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report will report on the use of FFY 2022 funds. This report will be submitted by the end of the calendar year 2023.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

In preparation for the FFY 2023 Annual Action Plan, a notice was mailed out on March 21, 2023, to the Columbia County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (who also has a representative on the regional Continuum of Care Board), businesses, developers, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations, and community and faith-based organizations regarding the initiation of the CDBG application preparation schedule. An announcement about the FFY 2023 program was also made at the bi-monthly Columbia County Human Services Coalition meeting, as well as to encourage project proposals.

As a component of this schedule, the Town of Bloomsburg held its first public hearing on April 4, 2023. This meeting was held both in person and virtually due to the Coronavirus pandemic, in accordance with HUD and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania guidance/emergency orders. The hearing was based on the needs of the community and its residents. The hearing also provided the residents, agencies, and organizations with the opportunity to discuss the community's CDBG program, and to provide suggestions for future CDBG program priorities and activities.

SEDA-COG then emailed all the agencies and organizations that were contacted as part of the consultation process, to let them know that the Action Plan was on public display. The comment period for the Town of Bloomsburg began on June 5, 2023, lasting a period of 30 days. A copy of the "Draft FFY 2023 Annual Action Plan" was placed on display at the following locations:

1. Town of Bloomsburg
301 East Second Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
2. SEDA-COG's website:
<http://www.sedacog.org/Pages/communitydevelopment.aspx>

A final public hearing was held in the Town of Bloomsburg on June 26, 2023. This meeting was held both in person and virtually due to the Coronavirus pandemic, in accordance with HUD and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania guidance/emergency orders. The hearing gave the public a final opportunity to comment on the plan.

The comment period for the FFY 2023 Annual Action Plan ended on July 5, 2023. Please refer to the minutes of the public hearing for further comment documentation as well as the public comment summary.

5. Summary of public comments

Notices were advertised in the *Press Enterprise*, the local newspaper of circulation, regarding the municipality's public hearing in order to invite comments. Public comment was also invited for thirty (30) days regarding the Annual Action Plan.

Comments received at the municipality's public hearings, as well as during the thirty (30) day comment period are included as public hearing meeting minutes, attached at the end of the Plan.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

All comments and suggestions received to date have been accepted and incorporated into the FFY 2023 Annual Action Plan.

7. Summary

The main goal of the FFY 2023 Annual Action Plan is to implement strategies and work toward goals related to challenges identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Through this Five-Year Consolidated Plan study effort, baseline goals were established to work toward improving the housing conditions, and address community and economic development needs.

For FFY 2023 Program Year, the following CDBG allocation will be received:

- Town of Bloomsburg: \$247,819

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

The following agencies and contacts are responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and the administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Recipient	Lisa Dooley	Town of Bloomsburg
CDBG Administrator	Jamie Shrawder	SEDA-COG
CDBG Administrator	Tyler Dombroski	SEDA-COG

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The mission of the Community Development Program at SEDA-COG is to work with local governments and their citizens to improve communities and the lives of community residents through housing, public safety, social services, infrastructure, and community facility projects. Recipients of SEDA-COG's Community Development services include the region's counties, communities, municipal authorities, and locally based organizations.

Success is assisting a community through the planning, development, design, funding, and construction of much needed housing, public safety, social services, public infrastructure, or community facility projects. In the last 30 years, SEDA-COG's Community Development Program has assisted with nearly 1,000 public infrastructure and community facility projects, resulting in community investments of nearly a half a billion dollars.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

The Town of Bloomsburg and its CDBG Administrator, SEDA-COG, held a series of consultation meetings during March of 2021. Input from the consultation meetings was used in the development of the specific strategies and priorities for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Public hearings were scheduled in accordance with the Town’s adopted Citizen Participation Plan to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the development of this Plan.

Organizations that participated during the consultation process of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan have been notified of the FFY 2023 CDBG program’s initiation through an outreach letter. Additionally, an announcement was made at a bi-monthly Columbia County Human Services Coalition meeting about the FFY 2023 Annual Action Plan’s development and the opportunity for CDBG program funding for projects. Public advertising also occurred.

The Town of Bloomsburg will work with the following agencies to enhance coordination:

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
Town of Bloomsburg	Government agency	Community Development – Public Facilities, Neighborhood Improvements, Public Services, Economic Development Planning	Jurisdiction
Central PA Continuum of Care	Government agency	Homelessness	Region
Columbia County Housing Authority	PHA	Affordable Housing: Ownership Affordable Housing: Rental Public Housing	Region
Columbia County Human Service Coalition Member Organizations	Nonprofit organization	Homelessness Non-homeless special needs	Region
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce	Private Industry	Economic Development Planning	Region
Community Strategies Group	Redevelopment authority	Affordable Housing: Ownership Affordable Housing: Rental Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Planning	Region
DRIVE	Government agency	Economic Development Planning	Region
SEDA-COG	Government agency	Community Development – Public Facilities, Neighborhood Improvements, Public Services, Economic Development Planning	Region

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness:

Columbia County is part of Central Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Boards. There are 5 Regional Homeless Advisory Boards in the Eastern PA Continuum of Care, and each Regional Homeless Advisory Boards has two representatives on the Continuum of Care’s Funding Committee. Each year the Continuum of Care conducts a gaps analysis, using data from the homeless service system, to identify needs and gaps within the Continuum of Care. This analysis includes a review of needs both at the

Continuum of Care level, but also at the region and county level. The Continuum of Care Funding Committee uses this analysis to inform funding decisions about the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including chronically homeless, families with children, veterans, and youth.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards and evaluate outcomes, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the administration of HMIS:

The Continuum of Care has three mechanisms by which local organizations may be involved in funding decisions, developing performance standards/evaluating outcomes, and developing funding policies/procedures.

- 1) Regional Homeless Advisory Board meetings - There are five regions in the Pennsylvania Continuum of Care, each represented by a Regional Homeless Advisory Board RHAB. Columbia County is part of Central Valley RHAB. Local organizations are encouraged to participate in these meetings. These meetings serve to keep Continuum of Care members updated on what is going on in the Continuum of Care, solicit input from members on needs within the Continuum of Care, and allow members to connect with one another and share resources.

- 2) Funding Committee - Each Regional Homeless Advisory Board has two representatives on the Continuum of Care's Funding Committee. Each year the Continuum of Care conducts a gaps analysis, using data from the homeless service system to identify needs and gaps within the Continuum of Care. This analysis includes a review of needs both at the Continuum of Care level, but also at the region and county level. The Continuum of Care Funding Committee uses this analysis to inform funding decisions about the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including chronically homeless, families with children, veterans, and youth. The Funding Committee also leads the process of developing performance evaluation standards. All Continuum of Care funded projects are evaluated based on their performance annually, which informs which projects are renewed for ongoing funding.

- 3) Data Committee - Any Continuum of Care member can join the Data Committee. The Data Committee is charged with reviewing Continuum of Care level and project level data, developing performance benchmarks, and evaluating outcomes across the Continuum of Care.

Describe Agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdictions consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities:

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Columbia County Commissioners' Office
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - County Civic Leaders

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Agape
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Regional organization Faith Based Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	Central Susquehanna Community Foundation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Community Development Financial Institution Foundation Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	CMSU
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Health Agency Child Welfare Agency Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Columbia County Family Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Child Welfare Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment Regional organization Planning organization Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Columbia County Career Link
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment Regional organization Business Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	United Way of Columbia County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Community Development Financial Institution Foundation

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	CARING COMMUNITY FOR AIDS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Health Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	HOPWA Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Columbia County Human Services Coalition
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Needs - Veterans Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment Regional organization Planning organization Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	Columbia County Housing and Redevelopment Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization Planning organization Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.

13	Agency/Group/Organization	Columbia Montour Area Agency on Aging
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine Clinic, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Health Health Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	Town of Bloomsburg
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, regular attendance at Town Council meetings and work sessions; Housing and Community Development priorities.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	Susquehanna Greenway
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Community Development Financial Institution Foundation Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education Regional organization Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Major Employer Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	Bloomsburg Area YMCA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.

19	Agency/Group/Organization	DC Center - Independent Living
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
20	Agency/Group/Organization	National Organization - Disability
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
21	Agency/Group/Organization	Eastern Seals Western and Central Pennsylvania
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
22	Agency/Group/Organization	Easter Seals Eastern Pennsylvania
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.

23	Agency/Group/Organization	Northeast Pennsylvania Center for Independent Living
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
24	Agency/Group/Organization	Aging Office Columbia Montour
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
25	Agency/Group/Organization	Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education Regional organization Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
26	Agency/Group/Organization	Central PA Continuum of Care
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter; Housing and Community Development priorities.
27	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Strategies Group
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, email, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.
28	Agency/Group/Organization	Central Susquehanna Opportunities
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, email, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.
29	Agency/Group/Organization	DRIVE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, email; Housing and Community Development priorities.
30	Agency/Group/Organization	SEDA-COG
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Agency - Emergency Management Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, email; Housing and Community Development priorities.

31	Agency/Group/Organization	The Gate House
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public advertisement, outreach letter, regular attendance at Columbia County Human Services Coalition meetings; Housing and Community Development priorities.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting:

All agency types were consulted and contacted during the planning process.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan:

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Central Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board (Central RHAB)	They are incorporated in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
FFY 2021 and 2022 Annual Action Plans	The Town of Bloomsburg	They are incorporated in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
FFY 2021-FFY 2025 Consolidated Plan	The Town of Bloomsburg	They are incorporated in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
FFY 2020-FFY 2024 Analysis of Impediments Fair Housing Study	The Town of Bloomsburg	They are incorporated in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
Columbia County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	Columbia County	They are incorporated in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	SEDA-COG	They are incorporated in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Long Range Transportation Plan	SEDA-COG	They are incorporated in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))

Due to the relatively small size, population, and tax base of the Town along with the rural character of the greater region, almost all of the consulted agencies provide services on either a county or multi-county level. As a result of this administrative structure, the Town’s efforts to implement the strategies produced from this Five-Year Consolidated Plan will require continued cooperation with partner agencies.

Narrative (optional):

The Town has consulted with various agencies which has culminated in the development of the FFY 2021-2025 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Below is a non-exhaustive list of organizations represented at Columbia County Human Service Coalition Meetings:

- Columbia County Family Center
- Columbia County Children and Youth Services
- Columbia County Juvenile Probation
- Columbia County Commissioners
- Columbia Child Development Program/ Head Start
- AGAPE
- Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine
- Danville Child Development Center
- Central Susquehanna Community Foundation
- Columbia/Montour Area Agency on the Aging
- CMSU Behavioral Health/Drug and Alcohol
- Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit
- Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit
- AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania
- Gatehouse Shelter
- Caring Communities
- Central Susquehanna Opportunities Inc.
- SEDA-COG
- Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corp. (CPWDC)
- The Women's Center Inc
- Geisinger Nurse Family Partnership/Free2BMoms
- Consumer

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal setting:

The Town of Bloomsburg followed its Citizens Participation Plan to develop this FFY 2023 Annual Action Plan including:

- Email and written letter outreaches to local organizations.
- Regular attendance at Columbia County Human Service Coalition meetings.
- Two public hearings at different stages of the application preparation schedule.
- Newspaper advertisements encouraging participation and comments.
- Public display of the draft FFY 2023 Annual Action Plans.

Through the citizen participation process, public input was used to identify what challenges and opportunities exist in Bloomsburg, as well as develop goals to mitigate these issues.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of Response/ Attendance	Summary of Comments Received	Summary of Comments Not Accepted and Reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Notice to community organizations	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Sent via US Mail and email to community organizations and agencies.	No comments received.	No comments received.	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of Response/ Attendance	Summary of Comments Received	Summary of Comments Not Accepted and Reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Public Hearing	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Assistance provided upon request Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Varied. Refer to attached sign-in sheets for attendance records.	Refer to minutes of public hearings attached to this Annual Action Plan.	All comments were accepted.	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of Response/ Attendance	Summary of Comments Received	Summary of Comments Not Accepted and Reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Newspaper Ad	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Assistance provided upon request</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p>	All advertisements circulated in the local newspaper of circulation, the <i>Press Enterprise</i> .	No comments received.	No comments received.	http://www.pressenterpriseonline.com/

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of Response/ Attendance	Summary of Comments Received	Summary of Comments Not Accepted and Reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Annual Action Plan Comment Period	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Varied. Refer to attached documentation of comments received.	Comments from members of the public were received electronically and during the public hearings.	All comments were accepted.	https://seda-cog.org/departments/community-development/hud-documentation/

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c) (1,2)

Introduction

The Town of Bloomsburg will receive \$247,819 of FFY 2023 CDBG funds.

The program year goes from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. The accomplishments of these activities will be reported in the FFY 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$247,819	\$0	\$0	\$247,819	\$500,000	Expected amount available for the remainder of the Consolidated Plan's implementation based on level funding allocations between FFY 2024-2025.

Table 3 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state, and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied:

In addition to the CDBG entitlement funds, the Town anticipates the following resources may be available to local partners to undertake the strategies identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan:

- American Rescue Plan Act
- Columbia County Access Grant Program
- Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Response
- Community Health Choices
- Emergency Solutions Grant
- First Time Home Buyers Assistance Program
- HOME Program
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC)
- Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation
- Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources Grant Programs
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Multi-Modal Transportation Fund
- Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
- Pennsylvania Liquid Fuels Program
- Public Housing Developments
- Section 8 Rental Assistance Program
- Self-Determination Housing Project
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Single Family Housing Programs
- Weatherization Program

CDBG funds may be considered by the Town as a match source for projects financed with other resources, when a national objective can be met, and match requirements do not preclude use of federal funds.

If appropriate, describe public owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan:

Publicly owned property will likely be utilized for DV-2 Infrastructure projects.

Discussion

With limited CDBG funds available to address the needs identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, the Town will work cooperatively with private, public, and non-profit partners.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1.	DV-2 Infrastructure	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Town-Wide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: 86% of total CDBG project funds; \$213,275	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 10,970 Persons Assisted
2.	AM-1 Overall Coordination	2021	2025	Administration, Planning, and Management	Town-Wide	Administration, Planning, and Management Priority	CDBG: 14% of the total CDBG allocation; \$34,544	Other: 1 Other

Table 4 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1.	Goal Name	DV-2 Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Improve infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction of streets, sidewalks, ADA curb cut ramps, sewer, water, storm water management, flood protection, bridges, green infrastructure, etc.
2.	Goal Name	AM-1 Overall Coordination
	Goal Description	Provide program management and oversight for the successful administration of federal, state, and local funded programs, including planning services for special studies, environmental clearance, fair housing, and compliance with all Federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Listed below are the FFY 2023 CDBG activities for the Town of Bloomsburg:

Projects

#	Project Name
1	East Pine Street Parking Lot
2	West Pine Street Parking Lot
3	Pine Street Parking Lot
4	Administration

Table 5 - Project Information

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs:

- The Town of Bloomsburg owns and maintains the East Pine parking lot that is used primarily by town residents when utilizing town services and supporting local businesses. The lot is located one block south of Main Street, adjacent to several businesses and is easily accessed from Iron Street and Catherine Street. The spaces are evenly divided between metered and permitted spaces. These permits are made available for sale every six months for \$210 on a first come, first serve basis. They are utilized by Bloomsburg University students who live in nearby rental housing. The cost for a permit is less than the cost to put money in the meter when considering the hours of parking meter enforcement over the same period of time. Metered parking is affordable to the predominately LMI town population because the meters are only \$0.25 per hour and the parking permits are less than half of the cost of a permit in a private parking lot.

The lot is physically in very bad condition with a traffic flow that does not allow for safe ingress and egress from the improperly placed ADA accessible car park. The lack of this accessibility leads to dangerous conditions for the elderly and disabled. The pavement has reached the end of its useful life and no longer meets the specifications required for handicap parking. The pavement throughout the entire lot is crumbling and cracked due to stormwater issues. The concrete islands are deteriorated to unstable condition, making it hazardous for people to access the meters and traverse the parking lot. Due to changes in use of spaces, meter heads have been removed from the metal posts, but these posts remain in the concrete islands, creating a hazard for pedestrians. Currently, the utility poles create obstacles to safe travel through the lot. Also, due to lack of full lighting, it is an unsafe place after dark.

Prior to reconstructing the lot, stormwater improvements will be made to ensure the new pavement is not undermined by stormwater issues. Utilities will be relocated underground. New ADA compliant curb cuts and spaces will be provided as part of the reconstruction. To improve

safety for all town residents, new LED lighting will be installed at the lot, allowing for more use after dark. Parking meters will be reinstalled, but payment can also be made for any unpermitted space using the PANGO mobile application. Utilizing PANGO has decreased parking tickets by \$75,000 in the 2022 budget calendar year. This also benefits the low-income residents of the town who can more easily ensure the parking meter is fed when not at the meter and avoid a parking ticket. Landscaping will also be installed to finish the project. Landscaping will be added as part of the stormwater and beautification efforts.

The metered and permitted spaces do not exceed \$25,000 in a calendar year. Therefore, the income from the meters will not be program income. It will be treated as miscellaneous income that will be used for additional parking lot improvements, but not for maintenance at town-owned lots that are used primarily by town residents.

This 03G Parking Facilities activity falls under the National Objective of Low/Mod Area Benefit (LMA), focused on serving the residents of the Town of Bloomsburg who are primarily low to moderate income. The boundaries of the service area are the town limits. This activity provides benefit to all residents within the town limits, with 59.14% LMI in the town. Because the lot is owned and maintained by the town for use by town residents, and the primary users of the parking lot are town residents based on town parking permit records, the town-wide service area is reasonable for the scope and nature of this activity. The town of Bloomsburg is primarily residential, with 59.14% low to moderate income persons based on the 2011-2015 America Community Survey data. It should also be noted that the improved aesthetics of the parking areas will improve the perception of the town and lead to increased economic vitality as more people are comfortable parking in the downtown to patronize businesses. The FFY 2023 CDBG funds will be utilized in conjunction with other grant funding to complete the parking lot reconstruction.

- The Town of Bloomsburg owns and maintains the West Pine Street parking lot that is used primarily by Bloomsburg University students who live in nearby rental housing. The lot is located one block south of Main Street, adjacent to several businesses and rental housing units. Most of the spaces are permitted. These permits are made available for sale every six months for \$175 on a first come, first served basis. Bloomsburg University students who live in nearby rental housing purchase most of the permits. The cost for a permit is less than the cost to put money in the meter when considering the hours of parking meter enforcement over the same period of time. Metered parking is affordable to the predominately LMI town population because the meters are only \$0.25 per hour and the parking permits are less than half of the cost of a permit in a private parking lot.

The lot is physically in very bad condition with spaces that are not sized to current regulations and handicap spaces placed improperly throughout. The lack of this accessibility leads to dangerous conditions for the elderly and disabled. The lot also does not meet the required 10%

pedestrian walkway. The pavement has reached the end of its useful life and no longer meets the specifications required for handicap parking. The pavement throughout the entire lot is crumbling and cracked due to stormwater issues. The concrete islands are deteriorated to unstable condition, making it hazardous for people to access the meters and traverse the parking lot. Due to changes in use of spaces, meter heads have been removed from the metal posts, but these posts remain in the concrete islands, creating a hazard for pedestrians. Currently, the utility poles create obstacles to safe travel through the lot. Also, due to lack of full lighting, it is an unsafe place after dark.

Prior to reconstructing the lot, stormwater improvements will be made to ensure the new pavement is not undermined by stormwater issues. Utilities will be relocated underground. New ADA compliant curb cuts and spaces will be provided as part of the reconstruction. The parking spaces will be changed from angled parking to straight spaces to ensure the space size meets regulations. To improve safety for all town residents, new LED lighting will be installed at the lot, allowing for more use after dark. Parking meters will be reinstalled, but payment can also be made for any unpermitted space using the PANGO mobile application. Utilizing PANGO has decreased parking tickets by \$75,000 in the 2022 budget calendar year. This also benefits the low-income residents of the town who can more easily ensure the parking meter is fed when not at the meter and avoid a parking ticket. Landscaping will also be installed to finish the project. Landscaping will be added as part of the stormwater and beautification efforts.

The metered and permitted spaces do not exceed \$25,000 in a calendar year. Therefore, the income from the meters will not be program income. It will be treated as miscellaneous income that will be used for additional parking lot improvements, but not for maintenance at town-owned lots that are used primarily by town residents.

This 03G Parking Facilities activity falls under the National Objective of Low/Mod Area Benefit (LMA), focused on serving the residents of the Town of Bloomsburg who are primarily low to moderate income. The boundaries of the service area are the town limits. This activity provides benefit to all residents within the town limits, with 59.14% LMI in the town. Because the lot is owned and maintained by the town for use by town residents, and the primary users of the parking lot are town residents based on town parking permit records, the town-wide service area is reasonable for the scope and nature of this activity. The town of Bloomsburg is primarily residential, with 59.14% low to moderate income persons based on the 2011-2015 America Community Survey data. It should also be noted that the improved aesthetics of the parking areas will improve the perception of the town and lead to increased economic vitality as more people are comfortable parking in the downtown to patronize businesses. The FFY 2023 CDBG funds will be utilized in conjunction with other grant funding to complete the parking lot reconstruction.

- The Town of Bloomsburg owns and maintains the Pine Street parking lot that is used primarily by town residents when utilizing town services and supporting local businesses. The lot is located one block south of Main Street, adjacent to several businesses and the Bloomsburg University Greenly Center and is easily accessed from several surrounding streets. There are twice as many metered spaces as permitted spaces. These permits are made available for sale every six months for \$210 on a first come, first served basis. They are utilized by Bloomsburg University students who live in nearby rental housing. The cost for a permit is less than the cost to put money in the meter when considering the hours of parking meter enforcement over the same period of time. Metered parking is affordable to the predominately LMI town population because the meters are only \$0.25 per hour and the parking permits are less than half of the cost of a permit in a private parking lot.

It is physically in very bad condition with a traffic flow that does not allow for safe ingress and egress from the improperly placed ADA accessible car park. Spaces that are not sized to current regulations and handicap spaces placed improperly throughout. The lack of this accessibility leads to dangerous conditions for the elderly and disabled. The lot also does not meet the required 10% pedestrian walkway. The pavement has reached the end of its useful life and no longer meets the specifications required for handicap parking. The pavement throughout the entire lot is crumbling and cracked due to stormwater issues. The concrete islands are deteriorated to unstable condition, making it hazardous for people to access the meters and traverse the parking lot. Due to changes in use of spaces, meter heads have been removed from the metal posts, but these posts remain in the concrete islands, creating a hazard for pedestrians. Currently the utility poles create obstacles to safe travel through the lot. Also, due to lack of full lighting, it is an unsafe place after dark.

Prior to reconstructing the lot, stormwater improvements will be made to ensure the new pavement is not undermined by stormwater issues. Utilities will be relocated underground. New ADA compliant curb cuts and spaces will be provided as part of the reconstruction. Some of the parking spaces will be changed from angled parking to straight spaces to ensure the space size meets regulations. To improve safety for all town residents, new LED lighting will be installed at the lot, allowing for more use after dark. Parking meters will be reinstalled, but payment can also be made for any unpermitted space using the PANGO mobile application. Utilizing PANGO has decreased parking tickets by \$75,000 in the 2022 budget calendar year. This also benefits the low-income residents of the town who can more easily ensure the parking meter is fed when not at the meter and avoid a parking ticket. Landscaping will be added as part of the stormwater and beautification efforts.

The metered and permitted spaces do not exceed \$25,000 in a calendar year. Therefore, the income from the meters will not be program income. It will be treated as miscellaneous income that will be used for additional parking lot improvements, but not for maintenance at town-owned lots that are used primarily by town residents.

This 03G Parking Facilities activity falls under the National Objective of Low/Mod Area Benefit (LMA), focused on serving the residents of the Town of Bloomsburg who are primarily low to moderate income. The boundaries of the service area are the town limits. This activity provides benefit to all residents within the town limits, with 59.14% LMI in the town. Because the lot is owned and maintained by the town for use by town residents, and the primary users of the parking lot are town residents based on town parking permit records, the town-wide service area is reasonable for the scope and nature of this activity. The town of Bloomsburg is primarily residential, with 59.14% low to moderate income persons based on the 2011-2015 America Community Survey data. It should also be noted that the improved aesthetics of the parking areas will improve the perception of the town and lead to increased economic vitality as more people are comfortable parking in the downtown to patronize businesses. The FFY 2023 CDBG funds will be utilized in conjunction with other grant funding to complete the parking lot.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1.	Project Name	East Pine Street Parking Lot
	Target Area	Town -wide
	Goals Supported	DV-2 Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Priority
	Funding	\$71,091.67
	Description	CDBG funds will be used to reconstruct the parking lot that is owned, operated, and maintained by the town for the primary benefit to the predominately LMI residents of the town.
	Target Date	10/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2,017 Families and 10,970 persons.
	Location Description	Town of Bloomsburg
	Planned Activities	The National Objective is Low/Mod Area Benefit (LMC). The Matrix Code is 03G Parking Facilities.

2.	Project Name	Pine Street Parking Lot
	Target Area	Town -wide
	Goals Supported	DV-2 Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Priority
	Funding	\$71,091.67
	Description	CDBG funds will be used to reconstruct the parking lot that is owned, operated, and maintained by the town for the primary benefit to the predominately LMI residents of the town.
	Target Date	10/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2,017 Families and 10,970 persons.
	Location Description	Town of Bloomsburg
	Planned Activities	The National Objective is Low/Mod Area Benefit (LMC). The Matrix Code is 03G Parking Facilities.
3.	Project Name	West Pine Street Parking Lot
	Target Area	Town -wide
	Goals Supported	DV-2 Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Priority

	Funding	\$71,091.66
	Description	CDBG funds will be used to reconstruct the parking lot that is owned, operated, and maintained by the town for the primary benefit to the predominantly LMI residents of the town.
	Target Date	10/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2,017 Families and 10,970 persons.
	Location Description	Town of Bloomsburg
	Planned Activities	The National Objective is Low/Mod Area Benefit (LMC). The Matrix Code is 03G Parking Facilities.
4.	Project Name	Administration
	Target Area	Town -wide
	Goals Supported	AM-1 Overall Coordination
	Needs Addressed	Administration, Planning, and Management Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$34,544
	Description	General administrative costs, including staff salaries/benefits, consulting services, preparation of application, annual action plans, environmental review record, CAPERs, advertising, audit, special studies, planning and management
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2,017 Families and 10,970 persons.

Location Description	Town of Bloomsburg
Planned Activities	The project matrix code is 21A - General Program Administration.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed:

Generally speaking, CDBG expenditures will be made on a municipal wide basis.

Compared to other HUD grantees, the Town of Bloomsburg is quite small in size, population, and tax base. The Town only has three census tracts within its municipal limits.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Municipal Wide	100%

Table 56 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Selection of projects to be financed with CDBG is orchestrated by the Town’s adopted Citizen Participation Plan. Criteria necessary to have a project financed with CDBG includes but is not exclusively limited to the project’s eligibility as a CDBG activity, financial need, and consistency with the FFY 2021-2025 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The service area of a project is also of great importance, particularly given that at least 70% of CDBG project funds must be expended on low to moderate income benefit activities. The Town has traditionally funded most of its activities based on low to moderate income area benefit. Depending on the service area of a proposed activity, a local income survey effort may be necessary to demonstrate low to moderate income benefit. Otherwise, the following geographic areas are considered predominately low to moderate income based on 2011-2015 ACS data:

- Town-Wide LMI: 59.14%
- Census Tract, 511 Block Group 1: 74.36%
- Census Tract, 511 Block Group 2: 86.03%
- Census Tract, 511 Block Group 4: 86.03%
- Census Tract, 512 Block Group 1: 62.50%
- Census Tract, 512 Block Group 2: 98.66%
- Census Tract, 512 Block Group 3: 58.14%

Discussion

The geographic locations for the FFY 2023 CDBG activities are as follows:

- East Pine Street Parking Lot: Town-Wide (LMA)
- West Pine Street Parking Lot: Town-Wide (LMA)
- Pine Street Parking Lot: Town-Wide (LMA)
- Administration: Town-Wide

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	
Non-Homeless	1
Special-Needs	
Total	1

Table 6 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	
The Production of New Units	
Rehab of Existing Units	1
Acquisition of Existing Units	
Total	1

Table 7 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

The current housing rehabilitation program, HOME grant has a period of performance from 05/20/21 to 05/19/24. The Town currently has one project that will be awarded for construction in 2023. One homeowner withdrew from the program because she plans to sell the home. A total of nine (9) homes are anticipated to be completed with these funds by 5/19/24.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Columbia County Housing Authority's Admission and Continued Occupancy Policy requires their agency to regularly monitor each of their units to maintain safe, satisfactory living conditions for its public housing tenants.

To provide superior service, the Columbia County Housing Authority resolves to:

- Administer applicable Federal and state laws and regulations to achieve high ratings in compliance measurement indicators, while maintaining efficiency in program operation to ensure fair and consistent treatment of clients served.
- Provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing, in good repair in compliance with program uniform physical condition standards for very low- and low-income families.
- Achieve a healthy mix of incomes in its public housing developments by attracting and retaining higher income families, and by working toward deconcentrating of poverty goals.
- Encourage self-sufficiency of participant families and assist in the expansion of family opportunities which address educational, socio-economic, recreational, and other human services needs.
- Promote fair housing and the opportunity for very low- and low-income families of all races, ethnicities, national origins, religions, ethnic backgrounds, and with all types of disabilities, to participate in the public housing program and its services.
- Create positive public awareness and expand the level of family and community support in accomplishing the PHA's mission.
- Attain and maintain a high level of standards and professionalism in day-to-day management of all program components. Administer an efficient, high-performing agency through continuous improvement of the CCHRA's support systems and commitment to employees and their development.
- CCHRA will make every effort to keep residents informed of program rules and regulations, and to advise participants of how the program rules affect them.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing:

According to Matt Hess, Executive Director of the Columbia County Housing & Redevelopment Authorities, the public housing needs in Bloomsburg will best be met by concentrating on offering vouchers for housing rather than ownership of public housing units. To this end, the CCHRA disposed of the Public Housing Town Park Village in Bloomsburg and are focused on offering vouchers in the area

instead.

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

The Columbia County Housing Authority does not administer a Public Housing Homeownership Program or a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Homeownership Program. These are voluntary programs that public housing authorities can choose to establish by notifying HUD and the public in the Annual Agency Plan and by creating administrative guidelines that meet HUD requirements. HUD approval of these local option programs does not increase funding to the public housing authority. The CCHRA continues to offer a resident advisory council at the public housing site, but no responses have been received. They are investigating offering the HCV homeownership voucher program.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance:

Not applicable.

Discussion

The Columbia County Housing & Redevelopment Authority will continue to ensure the public housing needs are met in the Town of Bloomsburg. The CCHRA is currently reviewing HUD regulations to determine additional public housing priorities for the future. Community Strategies Group (CSG) is currently constructing a new 44-unit senior living facility, Mulberry Mill, in Bloomsburg for residents aged 62 and up and will continue to maintain safe, satisfactory living conditions for its public housing tenants. The apartments will be on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors. The first floor will consist of a community services hub and offices for CSG, the Housing and Redevelopment Authorities, Chamber of Commerce, and the United Way. Mulberry Mill will be completed in June 2023.

They are also applying for grant funds to construct Bloom Heights, a six town-house community with 20 two-bedroom units and 12 three-bedroom units. Four of the units will be fully handicap accessible. Two units will be affordable to households at or below 20% of area median income, two units for those at 30% of area median income, 13 units for those at 50% area median income and 15 units for those at 60% area median income.

Opened in Spring 2022, Bill's House is being managed by CSG. Once accepted, case management is provided, with the clients, which includes life skills programming, financial literacy programs, and other programs as needed. There are 5 (1) BDR apartments, 3 (2) BDR apartments and a 3 BDR house.

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)

Introduction

The Town of Bloomsburg is part of the Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care and the Central Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board which includes 11 counties. Most people experiencing homelessness are sheltered and are not considered to be homeless based on the HUD definition. There is a perception that homelessness does not exist in the Town and further if a person is homeless, it is their own fault due to drugs, alcohol, etc. As noted by the National Low- Income Housing Coalition Executive Director Sheila Crowley in the Daily Item, “rural homelessness is undercounted...Rural people could be living in a car, living in a trailer, in hunting shacks.” People experiencing homelessness in rural communities also have the challenge of being distanced from services.

In Bloomsburg, a significant percentage of households are ‘doubled up’ with multiple families or unrelated individuals. This percentage is highest in Census Tract 511 (34.2%) – the area around Bloomsburg University – and Census Tract 512 (23.6%), the area most impacted by flooding.

- Census Tract 510 9.1%
- Census Tract 511 34.2%
- Census Tract 512 23.6%
- Bloomsburg-Berwick MSA 12.5%
- Pennsylvania 10.2%
- United States 11.1%

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including:

Based on the recommendations of the FFY 2020 - 2024 Analysis of Impediments Fair Housing Study, the Town of Bloomsburg will assess the need for additional emergency or transitional shelter, rapid rehousing, and homelessness prevention services in the municipality. Key partners to this effort included the Continuum of Care, Community Strategies Group, SEDA-Council of Governments, and the Town of Bloomsburg.

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

The Town of Bloomsburg’s Citizen Participation Plan encourages consultation with local homelessness organizations during the development of various CDBG planning efforts. These organizations include:

- Beyond Violence, Inc.
 - Provides shelter for women and children that are victims of domestic violence.
 - Located in the Borough of Berwick.
- Columbia/Montour Transitional Housing and Care Center
 - Provides emergency shelter and transitional housing.
 - Located at the Gatehouse facility in the Borough of Danville.
 - New Gatehouse facility opened in Bloomsburg Spring 2023.

- Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care
 - The HUD program is designed to promote regionwide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.
- The Women’s Center, Inc.
 - Provides shelter for women and children that are victims of domestic violence.
 - Located in the Town of Bloomsburg.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The Town of Bloomsburg’s FFY 2020 - 2024 Analysis of Impediments Fair Housing Study provides the following strategies to address this housing need:

- Assess the need to provide additional emergency or transitional shelter, rapid rehousing, and homelessness prevention services in the Town and the region.
 - Key Partners: Continuum of Care, Community Strategies Group, SEDA-Council of Governments, Town of Bloomsburg
- Submit a regional competitive ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) application to DCED to fund the needs and solutions identified in the assessment.
 - Key Partners: Continuum of Care, SEDA-Council of Governments

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 Town of Bloomsburg supports the efforts of local partner agencies to address the need for rapid rehousing.

CCHA’s Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program’s aim is to provide financial assistance and services to minimize and prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.

Beyond Violence in Berwick and the Women’s Center of Columbia/Montour Counties in Bloomsburg both have counseling and programs to assist their clients with finding more permanent housing opportunities. The Women’s Center of Columbia/Montour Counties holds focus groups on this topic and other related topics such as healthcare, budgeting, and parenting. The Gatehouse also lists “securing affordable housing” as one of their shelter’s tenant goals for their residents.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: 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); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

A variety of programs are established in Columbia County to help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless. The Columbia County United Way and Berwick United Way, the Columbia County Family Center, Beyond Violence, and the Women’s Center of Columbia/Montour Counties offer some form of budgeting or financial literacy class. The goals of these classes are for clients to learn how to earn money, manage it, and potentially invest it, and/or donate it to organizations or causes to help others. Successful money management is a critical skill for clients to develop in order to find and maintain housing which is affordable to their budget.

Numerous programs are also available for individuals and families recently discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care. CMSU has established a Mental Health/Substance Abuse Housing Plan as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare’s Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS). This plan describes the status of and any modification to the county’s efforts to enable adults and transition age individuals with serious mental illness to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities.

The county also has an established reentry program known as the Justice House program for prisoners who have been released back into the community. For individuals about to be released from a medical institution, hospitals must have written discharge policies that include evaluation of a patient’s capacity for self-care and possibility of being cared for in “the environment from which he/she entered the hospital.” The actual discharge varies with the individual being discharged, their primary and behavioral health needs, and resources and supports available. While planners try to send individuals home or to family, sometimes they discharge to a nursing home, rehab hospital or as last resort, non-HUD funded shelter.

Discussion

The Town of Bloomsburg’s public housing action plan is described above.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)

Introduction:

The Town of Bloomsburg's FFY 2020 - 2024 Analysis of Impediments Fair Housing Study provides the following narrative concerning local public policies negatively impact affordable housing:

The Town of Bloomsburg uses an inclusive definition of family that does not prevent unrelated individuals from living in the same dwelling. Bloomsburg also permits by right community living facilities (sometimes known as group homes) within each zoning district where residential dwelling units are permitted.

The undeveloped land in the Town is zoned R-C Residential Conservation District and R-S Residential Suburban District. Multiple-unit dwellings are only permitted by special exception in these districts. Zoning Ordinance, Section 27-603 outlines the special exception requirements for multiple-unit dwellings (apartments), as follows: "Apartments (R-C and R-S Districts). Apartments of no more than four units per structure shall be permitted provided 7,500 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit area also provided." This limits new apartment buildings to only four units, and the square footage required per dwelling unit is high. In the R-U Residential Urban District, multiple-unit dwellings are permitted by right (so an applicant does not need to pay the cost to go in front of the Zoning Hearing Board). In this area, the lot area per dwelling unit is 2,000 square feet. It would be more costly to build apartments in the R-C and R-S zoning districts, and these are the areas of the Town that are most undeveloped. In the R-C Residential Conservation District, the minimum lot size is 20,000 square feet and minimum lot width is 100 feet. In the R-S Residential Suburban District, the minimum lot size is 7,500 square feet and minimum lot width is 75 feet. In the R-U Residential Urban District, the minimum lot size for a single dwelling unit is 4,000 square feet and minimum lot width is 40 feet. Because most of the undeveloped land is zoned R-C and R-S and there is less density in those districts, development in those districts is targeted toward higher-income households. Bloomsburg should explore if it is possible to re-zone some of the R-S undeveloped areas to the R-U Residential Urban District to allow for more density which could result in more affordable housing options. However, there may be other issues such as lack of infrastructure and topography that would be a barrier to creating higher density housing in these areas.

The Town adopted an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance in October of 2020. This ordinance "ensures that all persons, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, genetic information, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability, use of guide or support animals and/or mechanical aids enjoy the full benefits of citizenship and are afforded equal opportunities for employment, housing, and use of public accommodations." The ordinance also established the Bloomsburg Human Relations Commission.

The definition of disruptive conduct does not exclude victims of domestic violence. While this is not required by law, such a definition may discourage victims from seeking assistance when they are in danger. Currently, the Housing Ordinance states that a license can be revoked after two violations involving the same occupant. This is inordinately restrictive as most municipalities base this on three violations. This was revised in October 2020 to add "A domestic violence victim with a protection from abuse order shall not be subject to a disruptive conduct report if the police officer determines, after investigation, that the behavior complained of is the result of domestic violence."

Actions it planned 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:

The Town has continued to retain the consulting services of Hailstone Economic to draft ordinance and zoning changes associated with the public policies identified immediately above. Hailstone has made several recommendations to be considered by the Town Planning Commission based off of the Analysis of Impediments Fair Housing Study. They are summarized below along with the Planning Commissioners comments.

Based on the AI report recommendations and national best practices for promoting affordable and accessible housing, the following items for consideration create opportunities for new units of affordable housing and new units of accessible housing:

1) R-S Zoning District

- a. Change multiple-unit dwellings from a special exception use to a permitted use.
 - Keep restriction for no more than 4 units per structure but move from Special Exception Section 27-603. A. to Supplementary Regulations Section 27-801.
 - Eliminates the need to gain approval from the Zoning Hearing Board; eliminates ZHB fee.
 - Note: while this eliminates the need for a special exception hearing, the project is a land development, and the Planning Commission will review the land development and make a recommendation to the Town Council.
- b. Reduce the minimum lot area requirements.

The Planning Commission feels that the recommendation goes against the purpose of the language in the R-S zoning district. Multi-unit dwellings are currently permitted as a special exception and should remain as such.

2) R-U Zoning District

- a. Allow for higher buildings.
 - Currently building height cannot exceed 35 ft.
- b. Reduce the minimum lot area requirements.

The Planning Commission recommends consultation with the fire chief in determining if approving the height to 50 feet would be safe. The R-U district has some areas within/below the airport flight path.

3) Elder Family Accessory Dwellings

- a. Change elder family accessory dwellings from a special exception use to a permitted use in the R-C, R-S and R-U zoning districts.
 - Eliminates need to gain approval from the Zoning Hearing Board; eliminates ZHB fee.
 - Section 27-703.9. provides regulations for which the applicant must comply prior to

the zoning officer issuing the zoning permit.

The workshop group felt these changes were sufficient in accommodating families trying to assist their elder family members.

4) H-C Zoning District

a. Permit conversion apartments, multiple-unit dwellings, and dwelling above or in combination with commercial spaces.

- Currently no housing types are permitted.
- Consider a density bonus policy that promotes a certain percentage of units to be affordable and accessible.

5) C-W Zoning District

a. Permit multiple-unit dwellings and dwelling above or in combination with commercial spaces.

- Currently conversion apartments are permitted.
- Consider a density bonus policy that promotes a certain percentage of units to be affordable and accessible.

6) C-R Commercial Residential District

a. Allow for higher buildings.

- Currently building height cannot exceed 35 ft.

b. Reduce the minimum lot area requirements.

Other Recommendations:

- 1) Review use of the word “apartment” vs. “multiple-unit-dwelling” and make it more consistent.
- 2) Section 27-603. D., cluster dwellings, provides regulations for the R-C, R-S and H-C districts. However, cluster dwellings are not listed as a special exception use in Section 27-506, H-C district. Should the ordinance be amended to include cluster dwellings as a special exception use in the H-C district?
- 3) Section 27-801.10., accessory apartment, provides regulations for the R-C and R-S Districts. However, accessory apartments are not listed as a permitted Section 27-501, R-C district. Should the ordinance be amended to include accessory apartments as a permitted use in the R-C district?

Discussion:

The Planning Commission has asked for more time to review the recommendations. The recommendations will then go before the Community Development Committee. The Town plans to make one large ordinance amendment by the end of 2023.

The Town of Bloomsburg’s Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study (AI Plan) recommended forty-six goals to the town to address fair housing and its barriers within the Town.

Eleven Goals have been completed:

1. Create a link to the Fair Housing Hub on the Town’s website and promote the Fair Housing Hub through one mailing to inform residents and partners that it has been created.
2. Include tenant rights information on the Fair Housing Hub.
3. Pass and enforce an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance.
4. Assess the need to provide additional emergency or transitional shelter, rapid rehousing, and

- homelessness prevention services in the Town and the region.
5. Create a Fair Housing Hub on the SEDA-COG website and promote it to residents, municipalities, social services, government agencies, and housing and lending professionals.
 6. Ensure that CDBG/HOME subrecipients fulfill the obligation to affirmatively further fair housing by including a clause in the contract and technical support.
 7. Create a link to Columbia County's utility assistance resources page from the Fair Housing Hub.
 8. Create a link to SEDA-COG's weatherization program on the Fair Housing Hub.
 9. Include information about affordable housing programs on the Fair Housing Hub.
 10. Establish a Human Relations Commission with members that represent adversely impacted groups in the community.
 11. Have materials about utility assistance programs available at Town Hall.

Eight Goals are ongoing:

1. Publicize and promote an annual fair housing hearing to provide residents with the opportunity to ask questions and/or share concerns related to fair housing.
2. Ensure that municipal staff have access to and understand fair housing educational materials so that they can be shared with the public as needed.
3. Continue to support Community Strategies Group's efforts to develop new units of affordable housing.
4. Consider affordable housing needs when allocating CDBG funding.
5. When opportunities arise, support public and private efforts to create new units of affordable housing.
6. Consider accessible housing needs when allocating CDBG funding.
7. Continue to educate homeowners, residents, and housing professionals about their rights and opportunities.
8. Continue to submit an annual right-to-know request to the PHRC and address any complaints that are received.

The following are recommended goals to complete next:

1. Update the PHA tenant guide to reflect protected classes and update the tenant guide as needed.
2. Explore if any of the R-S undeveloped areas can be rezoned R-U to allow for more density and affordability.
3. Change the definition of disruptive conduct so that it excludes victims of domestic violence.
4. Inform the Local Center for Independent Living (MyCIL) about new projects.
5. Explore the feasibility of transitioning student housing to affordable housing in conversation with Marr Development, Community Strategies Group, and other private and nonprofit developers.
6. Support MyCIL outreach efforts by sharing information.
7. Participate in Fair Housing Month to raise awareness about fair housing rights and how to file complaints.
8. Issue an annual proclamation to recognize someone who has made a positive contribution to fair housing in the local community during Fair Housing Week.
9. Distribute WELCOME BACK Toolkit newsletter promoting Fair Housing: Rights, Laws, Discrimination, Maintenance, Biases, Familial Size, Orientation and Service Animal within protected classes.

The town will continue to work towards completing these goals and all other recommendations included in the AI plan.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The Town of Bloomsburg has developed the following actions which address the obstacles of meeting underserved needs, foster affordable housing, reduce lead-based paint hazards, reduce the number of families living in poverty, develop institutional structures, and enhance coordination between public and private housing, and social service agencies.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs:

Despite efforts made by the Town and social service providers, several significant obstacles remain to meeting underserved needs. With funding resources being scarce, funding becomes the greatest obstacle for the Town to meet its underserved needs. Insufficient funding lessens the ability to fund many worthwhile public service programs, activities, and agencies. The Town of Bloomsburg, through its planning efforts, will use its limited resources to address its greatest needs and improve the quality of life for its residents. The following obstacles need to be overcome to meet underserved needs:

- Lack of decent, safe, sound, and affordable owner and renter housing
- High cost of rehabilitation work
- Aging-in-place population who need accessibility improvements
- The need for rehabilitation of the Town's aging housing stock
- Vacant and abandoned properties
- The unemployment rate and loss of household income, particularly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Low wages in the service and retail sector job market

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing:

Housing Priority - (High Priority)

There is a need to improve the quality of the housing stock in the Town of Bloomsburg, and to increase the supply of affordable, decent, safe, sound, and accessible housing for homeowners, renters, and homebuyers.

- **HS-1: Fair Housing** – Support education, enforcement/reporting, and/or evaluation/study of Fair Housing rights and other housing related topics relevant to the public.
- **HS-2: Housing Stock** - Support efforts to create new units of affordable and/or accessible housing as well as maintain and improve the quality of older homes, including elimination of slum and blighting conditions.

Assignment of Priority Discussion:

High Priority - Activities are assigned a high priority if the Town of Bloomsburg will likely utilize CDBG funds to finance activities during the Five-Year Consolidated Plan period.

Low Priority - Activities are assigned a low priority if the activity may not be funded by the Town of Bloomsburg during the Five-Year Consolidated Plan period. The Town of Bloomsburg may support applications for other funding if those activities are consistent with the needs identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards:

For the CDBG and HOME Program rehab programs, all contracts entered after January 10, 2002, must comply with the Lead Based Paint Regulations dated September 15, 1999 for housing rehabilitation. These regulations include the requirement that all work performed on lead-containing surfaces must conform to lead-safe practices and be completed by workers who are either supervised by an EPA-certified abatement supervisor, or workers trained in lead-safe work practices. If abatement options are specified in the work writeup, then the contractor must hire an EPA-certified and state licensed abatement contractor and submit proof of the current state license.

The following requirements apply to federally funded housing rehabilitation:

Rehab where the costs range from \$1,000 to \$4,999:

- Provisions of the Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home Pamphlet found at www.epa.gov/lead
- Paint testing
- Repair surfaces disturbed during rehabilitation
- Use lead safe work practices
- Clearance of the work site

Rehab where the costs range from \$5,000 to \$24,999:

- Provisions of the Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home Pamphlet found at www.epa.gov/lead
- Paint testing and risk assessment
- Interim controls
- Use lead safe work practices
- Clearance of the unit

Rehab where the work exceeds \$25,000:

- Provisions of the Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home Pamphlet found at www.epa.gov/lead
- Paint testing and risk assessment
- Abatement (interim controls on exterior surfaces not disturbed by rehab)
- Use lead safe work practices
- Clearance of the unit

Any housing rehabilitation projects undertaken by the Town utilize DCED's Housing Rehabilitation Guidebook dated November 2020. This guidebook was specifically created for projects financed with

CDBG and/or HOME funds. The actions listed above were obtained from this literature.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families:

Given the economic downturn associated with COVID-19, preserving local jobs and businesses has been as important as ever for the Town so that the increase in poverty level families is minimized. To encourage a local economic recovery, economic empowerment of the Town’s residents also needs to occur. These efforts need to include but are not limited to new employment opportunities, employee education and job training, and business technical assistance efforts.

The resources and opportunities that the Town has for minimizing the number of families with incomes below the poverty line are limited. Since poverty is a function of income, its effect on housing opportunity and choice is apparent. Conversely, without adequate, stable housing, alleviating poverty is more difficult. Still, the means of addressing both issues are fragmented.

Several structural barriers to poverty are addressed through different local policies. For example, the Town of Bloomsburg has adopted a Section 3 Action Plan which requires the employment of Section 3 persons in construction contracts when possible. Admittedly, contractors often already have the workforce necessary to complete a construction project.

More direct efforts to alleviate poverty by combining case management, social services, job training, and housing assistance are more common through collaboration with the Columbia County Human Service Coalition. The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce also has developed relevant programming to include:

1. Facilitation of regular discussions between employers and educators to improve the teaching of real workplace skills; and
2. Foundational skills for unemployed and underemployed individuals with the potential expansion to include people on parole and/or leaving prison; and
3. A partnership with Bloomsburg University to develop team leadership and basic management skills in existing employees.

The goals of the FFY 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan concerning economic development include:

Community and Economic Development Priority - (High Priority)

There is a need to improve the public and community facilities, infrastructure, employment, and the quality of life in the Town of Bloomsburg.

- **DV-1 Community Facilities** - Improve the parks, recreational centers, trails, bikeways, and public and community facilities through rehabilitation, new construction, and handicap accessibility improvements.
- **DV-2 Infrastructure** - Improve infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction of streets, sidewalks, ADA curb cut ramps, sewer, water, storm water management, flood protection, bridges, green infrastructure, etc.

- **DV-3 Employment** - Support and encourage job creation, job retention, and job training opportunities as well as entrepreneurship and small business development.

Assignment of Priority Discussion:

High Priority - Activities are assigned a high priority if the Town of Bloomsburg will likely utilize CDBG funds to finance activities during the Five-Year Consolidated Plan period.

Low Priority - Activities are assigned a low priority if the activity may not be funded by the Town of Bloomsburg during the Five-Year Consolidated Plan period. The Town may support applications for other funding if those activities are consistent with the needs identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure:

The Town of Bloomsburg and SEDA-COG will coordinate activities amongst public and private agencies, and other organizations that serve the municipality. Due to the relatively small population of the Town, many public and private agencies provide services on either a county or multi-county level. As a result of this administrative structure, the efforts to implement the strategies produced from this Five-Year Consolidated Plan will require greater cooperation across Columbia County.

In order to streamline efforts and promote greater local cooperation, the Town will continue to collaborate with the Columbia County Human Service Coalition. This will facilitate and coordinate the linkages between these public/private partnerships, develop new partnership opportunities, and ensure that the goals and objectives of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan will be addressed by more than one agency.

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies:

Establishment of a public transportation system is the greatest improvement that can occur to facilitate coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

Due to a multitude of factors, the Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way, the United Way of Columbia and Montour County, the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, Transitions PA, River Valley Transit, Rabbitransit, Bucknell University, and SEDA-COG have tabled efforts to get a \$300,000 fixed route pilot program funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. This fixed routed pilot program would cover much of the Route 11 and Route 15 corridor throughout the Susquehanna Valley.

Rabbitransit has initiated a Stop Hopper program, an on-demand shuttle service, in the Bloomsburg region. Stop Hopper is similar to other ride-share services where customers can use a smartphone app to request a ride to and from anywhere they wish to travel within the service zone boundaries. Following a ride request, the app will provide an estimated pick-up time, track rides in real-time, and provide an alert upon arrival. Stop Hopper offers a convenient option to connect with fixed route service. Stop Hopper is only \$2.00 per one-way trip and is FREE for seniors with a registered Free Fare ID card.

Discussion:

The Town of Bloomsburg will continue to observe the community and economic development challenges and opportunities that the residents of the community face. Although the Five-Year Consolidated Plan study effort has been completed, the baseline goals established toward improving the housing and community and economic development needs of the Town will be modified as necessary.

Otherwise, this current Consolidated Plan will continue to serve as a guide for allocating CDBG funds over the next five years and to provide direction to stakeholder organizations to address the housing and community and economic development needs.

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I) (1,2,4)

Introduction:

The Town of Bloomsburg receives an annual allocation of CDBG funds. Since the Town receives this Federal allocation, the questions below have been completed, as they are applicable. The Town of Bloomsburg will use 86% of FFY 2023 CDBG funds toward the benefit of low- and moderate-income individuals.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the Town's strategic plan	
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan.	
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	
Total Program Income	0

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit person of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit -A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	86%

Discussion:

The Town of Bloomsburg wishes to be evaluated over a three-year period (FFY 2021-2023) to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income.