

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

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

Highlighted in the FFY 2016-FFY 2020 Consolidated Plan and FFY 2020 Annual Action Plan, the following items were noted as either low or high priority areas:

Housing Priority - (Low Priority)

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

- **HS-1 Housing Rehabilitation** - Continue to rehabilitate the existing owner and renter occupied housing stock in Berwick, including handicap accessibility modifications.
- **HS-2 Housing Construction/Rehabilitation** - Increase the supply of decent, safe, sound, and accessible housing that is affordable to owners and renters in both communities through new construction and rehabilitation of vacant units.
- **HS-3 Fair Housing** - Affirmatively further Fair Housing by promoting Fair Housing choices through monitoring, education, and outreach.
- **HS-4 Homeownership** - Assist LMI households in an effort to become homeowners and also provide counseling.

Homeless Priority - (Low Priority)

There is a need for housing and services for homeless persons and persons at-risk of becoming homeless as well as public education.

- **HO-1 Housing** - Support the efforts of local agencies that provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.
- **HO-2 Education** - Support the efforts of local agencies educational efforts that are designed to increase awareness regarding local homelessness and change public perceptions.

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 Transportation** – Support efforts to further develop public transportation access.
- **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 Development Priority - (High Priority)

There is a need to improve the public and community facilities, infrastructure, public services, code enforcement, public safety, clearance, and the quality of life in the Borough of Berwick.

- **CD-1 Community Facilities** - Improve the parks, recreational centers, trails, bikeways, and public and community facilities through rehabilitation, new construction and handicap accessibility improvements.
- **CD-2 Infrastructure** - Improve infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction of streets, sidewalks, ADA curb cut ramps, sewer, water, stormwater management, flood protection, bridges, green infrastructure, etc.
- **CD-3 Code Enforcement** - Undertake code enforcement activities to maintain the existing housing stock.
- **CD-4 Public Safety** - Improvement of crime prevention and/or the ability to respond to emergency situations.
- **CD-5 Clearance** - Remove and eliminate slum and blighting conditions.

Economic Development Priority - (Low Priority)

There is a need to increase employment, self-sufficiency, education, job training, technical assistance, and economic empowerment of the residents of the Borough of Berwick.

- **ED-1 Employment** - Undertake efforts to support SEDA-Council of Governments' (SEDA-COG) 5 Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) where applicable.
- **ED-2 Community Revitalization** - Plan and promote the development and redevelopment of downtown districts, vacant commercial and industrial sites, and facilities.

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.

This Consolidated Annual Plan Performance and Evaluation Report will discuss the aspects of these various goals in greater detail throughout this document.

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

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

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
AM-1 - Overall Coordination	Administration, Planning & Management	CDBG: \$238,331.00 / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$250,029.37	Other	Other	10	2	20.00%	1	1	0.00%

CD-1 - Community Facilities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$174,487.00 / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$283,616.71	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	10900	0	0.00%			
CD-2 - Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$1,088,834.08 / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$786,653.95	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	10477	0	0.00%	0		
CD-2 - Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0		394		
CD-3 - Code Enforcement	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	0	0				
CD-4 - Public Safety	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$65,236.50	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0				

CD-5 - Clearance	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$222,122.44 / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	25	6	24.00%				
ED-1 - Employment	Economic Development	CDBG: \$55,799.00 / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5	0	0.00%				
ED-1 - Employment	Economic Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	0	0					
ED-1 - Employment	Economic Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	0	0					
ED-2 - Community Revitalization	Economic Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	0	0					

HO-1 - Housing	Homeless	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$119,770.00	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	0				
HO-2 - Education	Homeless	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	0	0				
HS-1 - Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$13,546.00 / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	60	2	3.33%			
HS-2 - Housing Construction/Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	0	0				
HS-2 - Housing Construction/Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	0				

HS-2 - Housing Construction/Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	0	0				
HS-3 - Fair Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$17,051.48 / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$18,148.47	Other	Other	0	0				
HS-4 - Homeownership	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	0	0				
SN-1 - Transportation	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Other	Other	0	0				
SN-2 - Social Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$ / CDBG - Town of Bloomsburg: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0				

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

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

- CD-2: The borough closed out its FFY 2017 and 2018 Curb Cuts line items on October 1, 2020. 2,175 beneficiaries are reflected in the actual-program year column of “Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit.”
- CD-2: The borough did not close out its Removal of Blighted Structures activity which currently reflects 394 expected beneficiaries in the expected-program year column of “Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit.” Close out and/or potential future actions associated with this activity are contingent upon the borough efforts to implement a two year LMI certification period for its 2019 and 2020 program years.
- CD-5: The borough reduced its actual column of “Buildings Demolished” from 11 to 6 in the actual-strategic plan column. Close out and/or potential future actions associated with this activity are contingent upon the borough efforts to implement a two year LMI certification period for its 2019 and 2020 program years.
- AM-1: Administration funds were utilized for the continued operation of the borough’s CDBG program. The FFY 2017 administration activity line item was closed out on August 4, 2021. 2 beneficiaries are reflected in the actual-strategic plan column of “Other.”
- 1 beneficiary is reflected in the actual-program year column of “Other.”

Discussion of previously closed out activities, ongoing activities, and activities associated with the Town of Bloomsburg CDBG program is not provided. Previously closed out activities were discussed in prior year CAPER submissions. Ongoing activities are discussed below in CR-15. Activities associated with the Town of Bloomsburg CDBG program are discussed in the Town’s CAPER submissions.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	9
Black or African American	0
Asian	0
American Indian or American Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	9
Hispanic	0
Not Hispanic	9

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

Narrative

Berwick Borough undertook a business assistance program during the 2020 CDBG program which assisted nine white families.

The Borough of Berwick is not a HOME HUD entitlement. The Borough of Berwick does not receive HOPWA or ESG funding.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	1,748,272	395,530.94

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Immediately below provides a status update on the various activities currently financed with CDBG funding:

- **Administration:**
Administration of the CDBG program is ongoing. Allocations are made annually by Berwick Borough.
- **Berwick Business Assistance Program:**
Eight LMI qualifying businesses have been assisted through program. All CDBG funds have been dispersed. Upon successful monitoring of the businesses, the activity will be closed out during the 2021 program year. No additional CDBG or CDBG-CV funds are anticipated for this activity.
- **Berwick Hand Washing/Sanitizing Restrooms:**
An engineering firm has been procured and retained for this activity. Construction bidding has been let. It is anticipated that the borough will award construction contracts in November 2021. Construction is anticipated to occur during the 2021 program year. A significant funding shortfall exists for this activity. It is anticipated that Berwick Borough will reallocate CDBG funds from completed activities with budget surpluses as well as potentially delay implementation of some other CDBG activities.
- **Butternut Street Reconstruction:**
This activity is nearly complete and will need to be closed out at the appropriate time. It is anticipated that there will be a CDBG budget surplus in this activity. Remaining funds will be allocated to another identified activity.
- **Center Street Reconstruction:**
The borough has not completed income surveys of the service area to date, to determine national objective compliance. This activity will not proceed if national objective compliance cannot be successfully verified. This activity's implementation will likely be delayed with some CDBG funds reallocated to the Berwick Hand Washing/Sanitizing Restrooms activity.
- **Dewey Street Reconstruction:**
The borough has not completed income surveys of the service area to date, to determine national objective compliance. This activity will not proceed if national objective compliance cannot be successfully verified. This activity's implementation will likely be delayed with some CDBG funds reallocated to the Berwick Hand Washing/Sanitizing Restrooms activity.

- **East 4th Street Reconstruction:**
 This activity is complete and just needs to be closed out. It is anticipated that there will be a CDBG budget surplus in this activity. Remaining funds will be allocated to another identified activity.
- **5th Avenue and North Arch Street Reconstruction:**
 An engineering firm has been procured and retained for this street reconstruction effort. Construction is anticipated to occur during the 2021 program year. It is anticipated that this activity will have a CDBG budget shortfall. Additional CDBG funds will likely need to be allocated to this activity at a later date.
- **Mack Street Reconstruction:**
 The borough has not completed income surveys of the service area to date, to determine national objective compliance. This activity will not proceed if national objective compliance cannot be successfully verified. This activity's implementation will likely be delayed with some CDBG funds reallocated to the Berwick Hand Washing/Sanitizing Restrooms activity.
- **Monroe Street Reconstruction:**
 This activity is complete and just needs to be closed out. It is anticipated that there will be a CDBG budget surplus in this activity. Remaining funds will be allocated to another identified activity.
- **North Street Reconstruction:**
 An engineering firm has been procured and retained for this street reconstruction effort. Construction is anticipated to occur during the 2021 program year. It is anticipated that this activity will have a CDBG budget shortfall. Additional CDBG funds will likely need to be allocated to this activity at a later date.
- **Removal of Blighted Structures:**
 Most recently five properties have been demolished with FFY 2016 through FFY 2018 CDBG funding. Close out and/or potential future actions associated with this activity are contingent upon the borough efforts to implement a two year LMI certification period for its 2019 and 2020 program years.
- **Removal of Blighted Structures – Berwick Phase III:**
 Seven properties are currently targeted to be demolished with multiple years of CDBG funding. An engineering firm has been procured and retained for this next demolition effort. It is anticipated that the demolitions will occur during the 2021 program year. It is anticipated that this activity will have a CDBG budget shortfall. Additional CDBG funds will likely need to be allocated to this activity at a later date.
- **Washington Street Reconstruction:**
 Procurement of an engineer for this activity is anticipated to take place during the 2021 program year. Construction is anticipated to occur during the 2021 program year. It is anticipated that

this activity will have a CDBG budget shortfall. Additional CDBG funds will likely need to be allocated to this activity at a later date.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Borough of Berwick	55	55	Allocation amounts are pre-determined by HUD.
Town of Bloomsburg	45	45	Allocation amounts are pre-determined by HUD.

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

This narrative only speaks to the Borough of Berwick.

The geographic locations and the public benefit for following ongoing CDBG Activities are as followed:

- **Administration: Borough-wide**
- **Berwick Business Assistance Program: (LMJ)**
- **Berwick Hand Washing/Sanitizing Restrooms: (LMA)**
- **Butternut Street Reconstruction: (LMA)**
- **Center Street Reconstruction: (LMA)** To be determined via income survey. If the results of the income survey determine that the service area is less than 51% LMI, the activity will be abandoned.
- **Dewey Street Reconstruction: (LMA)** To be determined via income survey. If the results of the income survey determine that the service area is less than 51% LMI, the activity will be abandoned.
- **East 4th Street Reconstruction: (LMA)**
- **5th Avenue and North Arch Street Reconstruction: (LMA)**
- **Mack Street Reconstruction: (LMA)** To be determined via income survey. If the results of the income survey determine that the service area is less than 51% LMI, the activity will be abandoned.
- **Monroe Street Reconstruction: (LMA)**
- **North Street Reconstruction: (LMA)**

- **Removal of Blighted Structures: (LMA) or (SBS)** National objective of this activity is contingent upon the borough efforts to implement a two year LMI certification period for its 2019 and 2020 program years.
- **Removal of Blighted Structures – Berwick Phase III: (SBS)**
- **Washington Street Reconstruction: (LMA)**

Borough of Berwick has an overall low- and moderate-income percentage of 55.2%. LMA activities are assumed to benefit low to moderate income persons. SSB activities are a separate national objective.

Leveraging

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

- **Administration:** The borough utilizes its own general funds for miscellaneous CDBG efforts undertaken by its internal staff. Berwick Borough does own its own office facilities for its employees.
- **Berwick Business Assistance Program:** Businesses utilized their own funds along with other state and federal grant sources to maintain operations, as well as create and retain jobs. Berwick Borough verified that duplication of benefit did not occur. All businesses were located on private property.
- **Berwick Hand Washing/Sanitizing Restrooms:** Berwick Borough may utilize American Rescue Plan Funds to implement this activity. Otherwise the activity is anticipated to be funded fully through CDBG. Berwick Borough owns both park facilities where this activity's improvements are to take place.
- **Butternut Street Reconstruction:** No other financing sources outside of CDBG are being utilized for this activity. Public Works staff, which provide various levels of oversight and support on an activity such as this, are paid in part through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Liquid Fuels tax. This street is publically owned.
- **Center Street Reconstruction:** No other financing sources outside of CDBG are being utilized for this activity. Public Works staff, which provide various levels of oversight and support on an activity such as this, are paid in part through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Liquid Fuels tax. This street is publically owned.
- **Dewey Street Reconstruction:** No other financing sources outside of CDBG are being utilized for this activity. Public Works staff, which provide various levels of oversight and support on an activity such as this, are paid in part through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Liquid Fuels tax. This street is publically owned.
- **East 4th Street Reconstruction:** No other financing sources outside of CDBG are being utilized for this activity. Public Works staff, which provide various levels of oversight and support on an activity such as this, are paid in part through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Liquid Fuels tax. This street is publically owned.
- **5th Avenue and North Arch Street Reconstruction:** No other financing sources outside of CDBG are being utilized for this activity. Public Works staff, which provide various levels of oversight and support on an activity such as this, are paid in part through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Liquid Fuels tax. This street is publically owned.

- **Mack Street Reconstruction:** No other financing sources outside of CDBG are being utilized for this activity. Public Works staff, which provide various levels of oversight and support on an activity such as this, are paid in part through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Liquid Fuels tax. This street is publically owned.
- **Monroe Street Reconstruction:** No other financing sources outside of CDBG are being utilized for this activity. Public Works staff, which provide various levels of oversight and support on an activity such as this, are paid in part through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Liquid Fuels tax. This street is publically owned.
- **North Street Reconstruction:** No other financing sources outside of CDBG are being utilized for this activity. Public Works staff, which provide various levels of oversight and support on an activity such as this, are paid in part through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Liquid Fuels tax. This street is publically owned.
- **Removal of Blighted Structures:** At this time, it is not anticipated that other financing sources outside of CDBG will being utilized for this activity. These properties are privately owned.
- **Removal of Blighted Structures – Berwick Phase III:** At this time, it is not anticipated that other financing sources outside of CDBG will being utilized for this activity. These properties are privately owned.
- **Washington Street Reconstruction:** No other financing sources outside of CDBG are being utilized for this activity. Public Works staff, which provide various levels of oversight and support on an activity such as this, are paid in part through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Liquid Fuels tax. This street is publically owned.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	3	5
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	3	5

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	3	5
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	3	5

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

During this Five-Year Consolidated Plan, the Borough of Berwick is not funding any affordable housing activities with CDBG funds. The Borough of Berwick will utilize HOME funds they receive from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to do housing rehabilitation activities over the Five-Year Consolidated Plan period. The Borough of Berwick rehabilitated 5 housing units between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021, which exceeded its goal.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The Borough of Berwick is anticipated to rehabilitate 4 housing units between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022, through the HOME program.

In accordance with the Borough’s Analysis of Impediments and through collaboration with SEDA-COG, Fair Housing Hub has been created on SEDA-COG’s website. This Fair Housing Hub provides the public with information concerning a variety of affordable housing programs, financial assistance, etc. Berwick Borough will continue to publicize this information.

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

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	0	0
Low-income	0	0
Moderate-income	0	5
Total	0	5

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

The Borough of Berwick only provided funding to five projects for the 2020 CDBG Program Year. HOME funding is provided to income, eligible applicants for housing rehabilitation purposes. The Borough of Berwick receives its HOME funding from PA DCED as opposed to HUD.

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

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

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

Beyond Violence, the Women’s Center, and the Gatehouse all offer counseling programs to clients in an effort to assess their individual needs.

The Borough of Berwick participates in monthly Columbia County Human Service Coalition meetings, as a result of the Consolidated Planning effort. These meetings are also attended by the representatives of Beyond Violence, the Women’s Center, and the Gatehouse, as well as other social service providers, to coordinate services, prevent duplication of efforts, share information, and promote networking. The Borough of Berwick receives a monthly update from the providers listed above during the monthly Columbia County Human Service Coalition meetings about the status of their programs.

Additionally, a Homeless Task Force does also meet monthly concerning issues related to the homeless and “at risk” homeless. This group is made up of representatives from the Columbia County Housing Authority, religious organizations, women’s’ shelters, the Gatehouse, CMSU, Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc. (the county’s community action agency), the United Way of Columbia County, and the US Department of Agriculture. Currently, information updates regarding the Homeless Task Force are provided to the Borough of Berwick at the meetings of the Columbia County Human Service Coalition.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The Berwick Borough Council officially endorsed the efforts of Diana T. Myers and Associates, Inc., who applied to HUD for funding, on behalf of the regional Continuums of Care (CoC). Details about the funding proposals are provided immediately below:

Applicant Name	Project Name	Location
Commonwealth of PA	PA0188 Commonwealth of PA HMIS (PA-509) FY2021	PA-509
Commonwealth of PA	Commonwealth of PA (PA-509) Planning Grant 2021 (Planning)	PA-509
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania	PA0736 - Connect To Home Coordinated Entry Project FY 2021	PA-509
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence	PA0926 - East CoC RRH FY21 renewal	PA-509
Transitions of PA	PA00927 Coordinated Entry Specialist for Domestic Violence	PA-509
Commonwealth of PA	PA0188 Commonwealth of PA HMIS (PA-509) FY2021 Expansion	PA-509

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence	New Coordinated Entry Program for DV Survivors	PA-509
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence	New Rapid Rehousing Program	PA-509
United Way of Pennsylvania	New Coordinated Entry Program for DV Survivors	PA-509

The Borough of Berwick falls under the 33 county Eastern Pennsylvania CoC. This CoC is then broken into five (5) regional homeless advisory boards. Columbia County (and indirectly, the Borough of Berwick) is a member of the Central Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board (CV-RHAB).

The Borough of Berwick does not have direct representation on these boards, or how funds are expended.

The Borough of Berwick is not a recipient of HOPWA or ESG funding at this time. The Gatehouse facility, located in the Borough of Danville, does receive ESG funding for the purposes of providing emergency shelter and transitional housing. This facility does serve the Berwick area.

Additionally, a Homeless Task Force does also meet monthly concerning issues related to the homeless and “at risk” homeless. This group is made up of representatives from the Columbia County Housing Authority, religious organizations, women’s’ shelters, the Gatehouse, CMSU, Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc. (the county’s community action agency), the United Way of Columbia County, and the US Department of Agriculture.

Currently, information updates regarding the Homeless Task Force are provided to the Borough of Berwick at the meetings of the Columbia County Human Service Coalition.

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

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.

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 Borough of Berwick 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.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Borough of Berwick does not manage any public housing complexes. In Pennsylvania, public housing complexes are generally governed by a municipal authority, which is a separate government entity from a local, municipal government.

The Columbia County Housing Authority oversees the public housing complexes located in Columbia County, which the Borough of Berwick is a part of. The Columbia County Commissioners, a higher tier government entity from the Berwick Borough Council, is the governing board which has established the Columbia County Housing Authority.

However, the Borough of Berwick has begun to participate in the monthly Columbia County Human Service Coalition meetings, as a result of the Consolidated Planning effort. These meetings are also attended by the Columbia County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, as well as other social service providers, to coordinate services, prevent duplication of efforts, share information, and promote networking.

In prior email correspondence with Lori Gordner, Deputy Director of the Columbia County Housing Authority, she described the improvement needs of their public housing units as minor and able to be updated with annual Capital Funds received from HUD.

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

The Borough of Berwick does not manage any public housing complexes. In Pennsylvania, public housing complexes are generally governed by a municipal authority, which is a separate government entity from a local, municipal government.

The Columbia County Housing Authority oversees the public housing complexes located in Columbia County, which the Borough of Berwick is a part of. The Columbia County Commissioners, a higher tier government entity from the Berwick Borough Council, is the governing board which has established the Columbia County Housing Authority.

As such, the Columbia County Housing Authority manages their own programs and provides opportunities for their residents to participate in management and encourage homeownership. The Columbia County Housing Authority maintains a website (<http://www.columbiacountyhousing.com/home.html>) to inform the public of the programs, projects, and housing opportunities that they provide. A public notice section is also located on this website to inform the public of any newsworthy developments at the Authority.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there has been no concerted effort to encourage public housing residents become more involved in management. The Columbia County Housing Authority does not administer a Public Housing Homeownership Program or a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher 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.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The Columbia County Housing Authority currently does not have a troubled designation. Additionally, the Borough of Berwick does not manage any public housing authorities.

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

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

The following strategies have been accomplished in an effort to maintain existing affordable housing and create opportunities for new units of affordable housing, per the Borough of Berwick's FFY 2020 - 2024 Analysis of Impediments Fair Housing Study:

- Create a link to the Fair Housing Hub on the Borough's website and promote the Fair Housing Hub through one mailing to inform residents and partners that it has been created.
- Change the zoning ordinance so that group care facilities are permitted by right in any single-family dwelling.
- Include tenant rights information on the Fair Housing Hub.
- 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.
- Ensure that CDBG/HOME subrecipients fulfill the obligation to affirmatively further fair housing by including a clause in the contract and technical support.
- Create a link to Columbia County's utility assistance resources page from the Fair Housing Hub.
- Create a link to SEDA-COG's weatherization program on the Fair Housing Hub.
- Include information about affordable housing programs on the Fair Housing Hub.
- Include information about accessible housing programs on the Fair Housing Hub.
- Continue to offer a housing rehabilitation program to income eligible homeowners.
- Continue to address blight by allocating CDBG funding.

The following strategies are an ongoing effort to maintain existing affordable housing and create opportunities for new units of affordable housing, per the Borough of Berwick's FFY 2020 - 2024 Analysis of Impediments Fair Housing Study:

- Rezone underdeveloped land zoned R-1 to R-3 to allow for more density.
- 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.
- Consider accessible housing needs when allocating CDBG funding.
- Continue to submit an annual right-to-know request to the PHRC and address any complaints that are received.
- Participate in Berwick: The Next Step and support its projects.
- Assess the accessibility of sidewalks and other public spaces and identify other public spaces and identify other priority projects.

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

Borough of Berwick, social service providers, and other various public and private sector partners continue to collaborate to address underserved needs. With funding resources being scarce, funding becomes the

greatest obstacle for the Borough of Berwick to meet its underserved needs. Insufficient funding lessens the ability to fund many worthwhile public service programs, activities, and agencies. The Borough of Berwick, through its planning efforts, has use its limited resources to address its greatest needs and improve the quality of life for its residents. The following obstacles and corresponding actions have occurred (Berwick Borough listed actions only) in order to meet underserved needs:

- Lack of decent, safe, sound, and affordable owner and renter housing
 - See actions listed immediately above concerning the borough's Analysis of Impediments
- High cost of rehabilitation work
 - The borough continues to pursue and administer housing rehabilitation projects through HOME and Weatherization funds
- Aging-in-place population who need accessibility improvements
 - The borough continues to examine how efforts can be addressed as prescribed in the borough's Analysis of Impediments
- The need for rehabilitation of the Borough of Berwick's aging housing stock
 - The borough continues to pursue and administer housing rehabilitation project funds through HOME and Weatherization funds
- Vacant and abandoned properties
 - The borough continues to pursue and administer demolition project through CDBG funds
- The unemployment rate and loss of household income, particularly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - The borough pursued and administered a business assistance program through CDBG-CV funds.
- Low wages in the service and retail sector job market
 - The borough pursued and administered a business assistance program through CDBG-CV funds.

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

SEDA-COG periodically reviews Berwick Borough's policies and procedures utilized to operate the various aspects of the borough's CDBG program, including policies and procedure relating to lead based paint reduction. For Program Year 2020, the Borough of Berwick did not undertake rehabilitation, tenant based rental assistance, and/or property acquisition, which was supported by the CDBG program. The Borough of Berwick does adhere to the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act.

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

Given the economic downturn associated with COVID-19, preserving local jobs and businesses has been as important as ever for the Borough of Berwick so that the increase in poverty level families is minimized. In an effort to encourage a local economic recovery, economic empowerment of the Borough of Berwick's residents has been a local priority. These efforts 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 Borough of Berwick 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 Borough of Berwick has updated its Section 3 Action Plan in accordance with 24 CFR 75. 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 impleted 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.

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

The Borough of Berwick and SEDA-COG continue to coordinate activities amongst public and private agencies, and other organizations that serve the borough. Due to the relatively small population of the Borough of Berwick, 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 an effort to promote greater local cooperation, the Borough of Berwick continued to collaborate with the Columbia County Human Service Coalition. This will facilitate and coordinate linkages between public/private partnerships, developing new partnership opportunities, and ensuring that the goals and objectives of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan will be addressed by more than one agency.

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

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.

As of 2019, 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, rabbittransit, Bucknell University, and SEDA-COG have continued efforts to get a \$300,000 fixed route pilot program funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. This fixed routed piolet program would cover much of the Route 11 and Route 15 corridor throughout the Susquehanna Valley.

Unfortunately, this effort has run into a funding challenge as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Per consultation correspondence with Steve Herman of SEDA-COG's Transportation Department, scaled back proposals are still being crafted for Pennsylvania Department of Transportation consideration in an effort to maintain political momentum for this needed service.

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

The following strategies have been accomplished in an effort to maintain existing affordable housing and create opportunities for new units of affordable housing, per the Borough of Berwick's FFY 2020 - 2024 Analysis of Impediments Fair Housing Study:

- Create a link to the Fair Housing Hub on the Borough's website and promote the Fair Housing Hub through one mailing to inform residents and partners that it has been created.
- Change the zoning ordinance so that group care facilities are permitted by right in any single-family dwelling.
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- Ensure that CDBG/HOME subrecipients fulfill the obligation to affirmatively further fair housing by including a clause in the contract and technical support.
- Create a link to Columbia County's utility assistance resources page from the Fair Housing Hub.
- Create a link to SEDA-COG's weatherization program on the Fair Housing Hub.
- Include information about affordable housing programs on the Fair Housing Hub.
- Include information about accessible housing programs on the Fair Housing Hub.
- Continue to offer a housing rehabilitation program to income eligible homeowners.
- Continue to address blight by allocating CDBG funding.

The following strategies continue to be an ongoing effort to maintain existing affordable housing and create opportunities for new units of affordable housing, per the Borough of Berwick's FFY 2020 - 2024 Analysis of Impediments Fair Housing Study:

- Rezone underdeveloped land zoned R-1 to R-3 to allow for more density.
- 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.
- Consider accessible housing needs when allocating CDBG funding.
- Continue to submit an annual right-to-know request to the PHRC and address any complaints that are received.
- Participate in Berwick: The Next Step and support its projects.
- Assess the accessibility of sidewalks and other public spaces and identify other public spaces and identify other priority projects.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

The Borough of Berwick has entered into a formal legal agreement with SEDA-COG to provide administration of the grant(s). SEDA-COG Community Development Staff manage project development and application preparation responsibilities including citizen participation requirements, preparation of the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans, and satisfaction of federal regulatory requirements related to plan submission, including the Consolidated Action Plan Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Specific grant administration responsibilities include assistance in record keeping and financial management (including preparation and approval of invoice forms and IDIS draws), contract review and finalization of project scope, project coordination, procurement; regular review of required policies/plans, preparation, approval, and submission of progress reports, and close-out/monitoring. Specific project management responsibilities to be carried out on a project-by-project basis include Labor Standards Enforcement and completion of the required Environmental Review(s).

The Borough of Berwick retains control of grant funds and retains overall control of the financial management system through invoice drawdown and preparation of bank drafts. After final execution of the contract between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Borough of Berwick, SEDA-COG assists the Borough of Berwick in preparing the necessary contract documents. SEDA-COG shall set up, maintain, and requisition funds through the IDIS system. The Borough of Berwick however has final authority on the actual issuance of payment.

The chief elected official shall serve as the contact person between the Borough of Berwick and SEDA-COG in order to assist in the coordination of grant management activities. The Borough of Berwick council may also utilize other necessary expertise, at their discretion. Specific activities may require certain delivery services over and above the activities listed. HUD funds may be utilized to support archaeological, architectural, and/or engineering services, in addition to legal consultation.

SEDA-COG is an established Council of Governments created by eleven (11) counties with a mandate to provide planning and development assistance services to governments within its region. The agency provides a variety of services and has a successful track record in community development, project development, and contract administration. SEDA-COG's Community Development Program is also an approved Commonwealth vendor under ITQ Solicitation No. 4400007410 and Vendor Contract No. 4400014141 for Technical Assistance – Federal Grant or Loan Programs. SEDA-COG is also a COSTARS Participating Member (No. 3186).

SEDA-COG's Community Development team consists of twelve experienced professionals and numerous support personnel, including secretarial, word and data processing, and graphics staff. Additional specialized technical expertise is available through other SEDA-COG program staff with credentials in business development, finance, accounting, design, construction management, inspection, and supervision.

SEDA-COG's Community Development team is comprised of the following individuals:

- Tyler Dombroski, Director
- Kristin McLaughlin, Senior Program Analyst
- Linda Sterling, Program Analyst
- Heather Kelly-Weisen, Program Analyst
- Mitzi Gallagher-Long, Program Analyst
- Shannon Rudy, Program Analyst
- Jamie Shrawder, Program Analyst
- Aaron Crawford, Program Analyst
- Nicole Hogan, Fiscal Analyst
- Angie Kemberling, Program Assistant
- Susan Martin, Program Assistant
- Nadine Simpson, Program Assistant

The grant is managed by Tyler Dombroski, with assistance provided by Jamie Shrawder, Program Analyst. Collectively, team members have over 50 years of experience in the housing and community development field, successfully administering and completing over 1,000 federally funded projects.

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

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

Notices were advertised in the *Press Enterprise*, the local newspaper of circulation, regarding review of the Program Year 2020 CAPER in order to invite public comments. The public hearing date of November 15, 2021 was also provided in the notice.

SEDA-COG notified all of the organizations that initially participated in the consultation process, during the development of the FFY 2016-FFY 2020 Consolidated Plan and FFY 2020 Action Plan, that comments for the FFY 2020 CAPER were being accepted.

The Borough of Berwick conducted its 15-day public comment period for its FFY 2020 CAPER between November 15, 2021 and November 30, 2021. No comments were submitted to the Borough of Berwick or SEDA-COG concerning the FFY 2020 CAPER. The Borough of Berwick provided a draft copy of the CAPER for public comments at the following locations:

1. Borough of Berwick
1800 North Market Street

Berwick, PA 18603

2. SEDA-COG's website:
<https://seda-cog.org/departments/community-development/hud-documentation/>

Please refer to the minutes of the public hearing, which provides comment documentation for the public hearing.

The Borough of Berwick does make every effort to make all programs and activities accessible to the learning, mobility, visually, hearing, language-impaired persons, and those with limited English proficiency. Therefore, persons with a disability or limited English proficiency that require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation to participate, are invited to contact SEDA-COG to discuss how to best accommodate needs. Translators are also made available at public meetings upon advance request.

Any complaints, grievances, or comments written and submitted to SEDA-COG are addressed within 15 working days when practicable.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

Two substantial amendments were approved by the Berwick Borough Council for the Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan. There were multiple reasons for these substantial amendments:

1. The borough's second substantial amendment was prepared to update beneficiary figures and goals of existing activities. Additionally, HUD originally provided the borough with an incorrect allocation amount for FFY 2020. The borough updated its FFY 2020 activity allocations based on HUD's corrected allocation amount. Finally, the Ferris Avenue Reconstruction activity was abandoned due to its ability to meet a national objective. Funds allocated to this activity were reallocated to the Butternut Street Reconstruction.
2. The borough's second substantial amendment was prepared to change the national objective of the FFY 2016-2018 funded Removal of Blighted Structures activity from Spot Slum Blight to Low to Moderate Income Area Benefit. Close out and/or potential future actions associated with this activity are contingent upon the borough efforts to implement a two year LMI certification period for its 2019 and 2020 program years.

The borough's next round of demolitions was also separated into a new activity called Removal of Blighted Structures – Phase III.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.