



Public Review Draft

June 26 – July 25, 2024 Public Review Period

**THE CITY OF BILOXI
2024 ACTION PLAN
FOR THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM**

**PREPARED BY
Grace Aaron Development Consultant
and
the City of Biloxi Federal Programs Division**

In compliance with HUD regulations, the City of Biloxi has designated a 30-day period during which the public may submit written comments regarding the community's priority needs and the public review draft of its 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan. **The comment period begins June 26 and ends July 25, 2024.** Submittal of comments may be through one of the following methods:

Email: spickich@biloxi.ms.us

Mail: Biloxi Federal Programs Division
P.O. Box 429
Biloxi, MS 39533

Delivery: Biloxi Federal Programs Division
214-A Delauney Street
Downtown Biloxi

All written comments received by 4:00 p.m., Thursday, July 25, 2024 will be considered by the City and incorporated into the final document submitted to HUD for approval.

*For information about Biloxi's CDBG Entitlement Program, please visit:
<http://www.biloxi.ms.us/cdbg/>*

**Public Review Draft
City of Biloxi CDBG 2024 Action Plan**

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

Pursuant to the requirements of 24 CFR Part 91, the City of Biloxi, Mississippi developed its Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the period 2020-2024 in compliance with consolidation of planning and application requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its CPD programs. Biloxi is an entitlement city for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, one of the four programs subject to these requirements.

In compliance with CDBG Program national objectives, the City of Biloxi historically has invested the vast majority of its CDBG resources to primarily benefit its low- to moderate-income residents by funding projects that support at least one of the program's three broad goals to:

provide decent housing; provide a suitable living environment; and expand economic opportunities.

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan consists of three sections: identification of housing and community development needs through data assessment; a housing market analysis; and a strategic plan that prioritizes housing and community development needs and identifies strategies the City will implement with available CDBG resources during the 2020-2024 planning period.

The 2024 Action Plan identifies CDBG resources anticipated to be available in Program Year 2024 (Biloxi's program year runs from October 1 to September 30) to address needs and objectives established in the Consolidated Plan and how these resources will be invested to achieve the City's housing and community development goals and objectives, particularly as they relate to low- and moderate-income residents.

The 2024 Annual Plan was developed with the participation of residents, elected officials, affordable housing representatives, public service providers and many other stakeholders.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

Objectives identified through the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2024 Action Plan development process focus on using Biloxi's CDBG resources to address high priority unmet needs to primarily benefit low- to moderate-income residents by improving their living conditions.

Through the citizen participation process, residents and nonprofit agency representatives consistently express support for using CDBG and other resources to:

- improve basic infrastructure and services, including public safety;
- improve drainage to alleviate recurring flooding in Central and East Biloxi;
- construct and improve neighborhood streets, sidewalks and public parks; and
- support public services addressing homelessness; improving affordability of childcare services and youth education/recreation programs; and expanding job training/ workforce development activities to increase opportunities for lower income residents to secure jobs that pay a living wage.

The need to maximize the effective and efficient use of limited public resources also continues to be identified as a priority objective.

3. Evaluation of past performance

Through its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), the City annually analyzes and reports on its performance during the preceding program year to HUD; the City publicizes the availability of each CAPER, which is maintained for public review in the Federal Programs Division office of the City.

In conjunction with citizen input and progress made toward addressing high priority unmet community needs, evaluation of past performance is considered by the City during the process of identifying projects to be funded each program year.

For example, during PY2018 through 2023, the City has been successful in achieving annual goals to address the high priority need to expand access to affordable childcare. Based on past success and input regarding the on-going community need, the City of Biloxi plans to invest CDBG resources to support qualified public service agencies in providing affordable childcare services to eligible households again in PY2024.

Successful implementation of transportation improvement projects, as identified in past performance evaluations, likewise have resulted in use of CDBG resources to achieve the goals of providing suitable living environments and improved public safety in primarily low- to moderate-income areas. Accordingly, the City proposes to invest PY2024 CDBG funds to complete Phase II and implement Phase III of the East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road Project.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The City of Biloxi initiated planning and development of its 2024 CDBG Annual Action Plan (AAP) in March 2024 to allow adequate time for broad public outreach and scheduled opportunities for public input. As required by HUD and its Citizen Participation Plan, the City conducted two public hearings, established a formal 30-day written comment period and complied with HUD's advance notification policy to allow citizens to plan for and participate in AAP development. HUD-required notices were published in the local newspaper as well as included in the City's monthly newsletter that is mailed to the estimated 25,000 residences and businesses with a City of Biloxi water account. Notices also are posted throughout the City as described in template PR-15.

5. Summary of public comments

Template PR-10 identifies the agencies/organizations that generally provide input into development of the City of Biloxi's CDBG Annual Plan and work on an on-going basis with the City to help address priority community needs. Following the July 25, 2024 deadline for submittal of public input, templates PR-10 and PR-15 will identify the input and updated

community information received from numerous sources . Documentation of the City's public outreach efforts, public hearing minutes, copies of emailed and mailed invitations to agencies/organizations and other HUD-required potential stakeholders to consult with the City about the 2024 CDBG Action Plan will be included in the Citizen Participation Attachment.

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

All comments submitted to the City were accepted and considered.

7. Summary

The Mayor reserves the right to designate qualified subrecipients to assist in the City's on-going efforts to address high priority, unmet community needs through specific, HUD-eligible public service activities, subject to the approval of the Biloxi City Council and in compliance with HUD's annual budget limits on public service activities.

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)

The following is the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	City of Biloxi	Engineering Department, Federal Programs Division

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Susan Pickich, Federal Programs Manager
 Engineering Department
 (228) 435-6269
spickich@biloxi.ms.us

PR-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.110, 91.200(b), 91.300(b), 91.215(I) and 91.315(I)

– this template will be completed following the end of the input process

1. Introduction

The City of Biloxi complied with HUD CDBG Entitlement Program regulations and the Biloxi Citizen Participation Plan, inviting targeted groups identified by HUD, in addition to the general public, to consult with the City during development of the 2024 Action Plan.

Among those invited to consult with the City regarding development of the 2024 CDBG Action Plan include the Biloxi Housing Authority, South Mississippi Housing Authority (the former Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII), Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Biloxi NAACP, Back Bay Mission, Coastal Family Health Center, Moore Community House, Mental Health Association of South Mississippi, Mississippi Center for Justice, the Salvation Army of Biloxi, and several other agencies/organizations.

Residents of assisted housing, low-income residents, the Biloxi Public School District, agencies that represent special needs populations, agencies representing protected classes under the Fair Housing Act, other local units of government, regional agencies, public and social services agencies and others as identified in the mailing list included in the Citizen Participation Attachment also were encouraged to provide input.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(I)).

To enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers, private and governmental health, mental health and services agencies, the City of Biloxi encourages all known public and assisted housing providers, private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies to participate in the process for developing its CDBG Annual Action Plans, including attending CDBG public hearings and submitting written comments.

The City also encourages these agencies to attend Open Doors Homeless Coalition's monthly lunch meeting, which supports the exchange of information and encourages on-going collaboration.

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

The City of Biloxi consulted with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care throughout development of the 2024 Action Plan. A representative of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition regularly attends and provides oral and written comments at the City's CDBG public hearings; Open Doors also annually provides updated information about Biloxi's homeless populations for inclusion in the Action Plan.

Throughout the CDBG program year, the City and Open Doors work collaboratively to address the needs of Biloxi's homeless, including the chronically homeless, families with children, veterans and unaccompanied youth. The Biloxi Police Department annually assists Open Doors coordinate and conduct the annual Point In Time Count and they communicate on an on-going basis to balance local public safety with the needs of homeless individuals and families.

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 City of Biloxi does not receive ESG funds but provides feedback to and supports the efforts of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care to administer its ESG award to best meet the needs of Biloxi residents.

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

- this table will be completed following public input process

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Biloxi Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing; PHA; Services – Housing; Services - Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment; Lead-based Paint Strategy; Public Housing Needs; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; 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?	The Biloxi Housing Authority (BHA) was emailed an invitation to participate in the 2024 AAP development process & was asked to complete a mailed questionnaire to provide updated assisted housing information. The Executive Director provided the requested information & discussed it by telephone with the Federal Programs Manager. The outcomes of consultation between the City & BHA include a better understanding of local housing needs and maintenance of a collaborative working relationship for fair housing education.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	South MS Housing Authority (the former MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing; PHA; Services – Housing; Service-Fair Housing; Regional organization
	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; Anti-Poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	<p>The South MS Housing Authority (SMHA) was emailed an invitation to participate in the 2024 AAP development process & asked to provide updated assisted housing information.</p> <p>SMHA does not own or manage any assisted housing developments in the City of Biloxi but it does provide housing assistance vouchers to eligible Biloxi residents. Biloxi assisted housing residents also are invited to participate in SMHA's education programs and activities.</p>
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing; Services – Housing; Services-homeless; Service-Fair Housing; Services – Victims; Regional organization
	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; 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?	The Open Doors Homeless Coalition provided the City of Biloxi with 2024 PIT Count reports via email. The Executive Director & Federal Programs Manager communicated by emails during development of the 2024 AAP to discuss local homeless issues. The outcome of this consultation is a good working relationship that benefits both the City & Open Doors.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services – Housing; Services-Children; Services-Persons with Disabilities; 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?	Housing Need Assessment; Public Housing Needs; Homelessness Strategy; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Anti-Poverty Strategy

	<p>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>The City consulted with the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence during 2024 Action Plan development & updated information was provided to the City for use in the plan. GCCN also applied for 2024 public service funding assistance & a representative attended the June public hearing. Outcomes of consultation include improving local response & expanding services to better meet the needs of those who have experienced domestic violence.</p>
5	<p>Agency/Group/Organization</p> <p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p> <p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p> <p>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Moore Community House</p> <p>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 - Narrowing the Digital Divide; Civic Leaders</p> <p>Housing Need Assessment; Homelessness Strategy; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Anti-Poverty Strategy</p> <p>Moore Community House (MCH) provided updated information to the City for use in the Action Plan and the Executive Director exchanged emails with the Federal Programs Manager to discuss unmet community needs, especially in East Biloxi. MCH also applied for CDBG public services funding to expand its affordable early childhood education program. An outcome of consulting with MCH includes an improved understanding of increasing poverty in East Biloxi & the unmet high priority needs of a majority of East Biloxi residents.</p>

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

The City consulted with all known agency types through publication of newspaper notices; telephone call; emails; USPS mail; public hearings; consultation meetings; B-News articles; posting of notices; and distribution of flyers.

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	Open Doors Homeless Coalition	The Comprehensive Plan & the CDBG Strategic Plan for the City and Open Doors' Continuum of Care plan coordinate in terms of identifying homelessness as a high priority need that merits the short- & long-term efforts of both to address.
State of Mississippi Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice	Mississippi HOME Corporation	The section of the State's A.I. pertaining to the City of Biloxi & Biloxi Housing Authority coordinates with the Strategic Plan component of Biloxi's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan & 2024 AAP, identifying the goal of addressing impediments to fair housing through education outreach efforts to benefit of all residents.
Sociodemographic & Economic Snapshots of the Moore Community House Service Area, August 2019	Moore Community House (MCH)	This plan substantiates information provided by MCH during its 2024 AAP consultation with the City regarding unmet needs in East Biloxi. The City is proposing to budget CDBG public services funds to continue supporting the high priority need to improve access to affordable childcare services, which is particularly important to low-income, single residents with children who are seeking employment or struggling to maintain employment.
MS Gulf Coast Plan for Opportunity	Gulf Regional Planning Commission	Goals in the City's CDBG Consolidated Plan overlap several of the six livability principles identified in the Plan for Opportunity, including promoting equitable, affordable housing; supporting more public transportation choices; enhancing economic competitiveness; and expanding social opportunities.
Biloxi Comprehensive Plan	City of Biloxi	Goals of the Biloxi CDBG 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan to increase access to affordable housing & provide suitable living environments for residents throughout the City overlap goals & objectives identified in the City's post-Katrina long-term community plan.

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))

- this section will be completed following the end of the input process

The City continues to work collaboratively with the Mississippi HOME Corporation, the Mississippi Center for Justice and the Biloxi Housing Authority to educate residents about their rights under the Fair Housing Act and to strategize about how to address impediments to fair housing choice that continue to limit housing access for some Biloxi and Harrison County residents. Through collaborative efforts, the

City works with these public entities to share information about locally pertinent housing issues and housing assistance opportunities as well as to provide fair housing education outreach brochures and workshops.

The City mailed letters with questionnaires to other local units of government, including Harrison County, requesting input about common transportation and infrastructure challenges, community needs and projects/programs that might benefit from a multijurisdictional approach. _____ (to be completed following end of the input period.)

Both the Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC) and South Mississippi Planning and Development District (SMPDD) were invited to participate in two public hearings and consult with the City regarding development of the 2024 AAP and to submit written comments for consideration.

The City mailed requests for updated information to the Harrison County Health Department and Mississippi State Department of Health, Environmental Division. Letters also were sent to the Mental Health Association of South Mississippi, Coastal Family Health Clinic, Disability Connection and South Mississippi AIDS Task Force to invite consultation with the City regarding 2024 AAP development and to request updated information for inclusion in the plan.

Consultation invitations also were emailed or mailed to the MS Sec or State Office regarding Tidelands management, MDMR regarding land, water and coastal preserves management, restoring/preserving wetlands to help mitigate damage from more frequent and more severe storms; and MDEQ regarding environmental quality.

PR-15 Citizen Participation – 91.105, 91.115, 91.200(c) and 91.300(c)

-this template will be completed following the end of the public input process

Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal setting

The Biloxi Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) identifies the City's processes for inviting and encouraging community participation and input into every phase of its CDBG Entitlement Program, from developing Five-Year Consolidated Plans and Annual Action Plans, to identifying specific CDBG-eligible projects and activities to be funded and implemented to achieve established goals, and to evaluating the City's performance throughout project implementation to closeout.

The City initiated its 2024 Action Plan development process by publishing notices of CDBG information availability in the local newspaper and in the monthly B-News mailed to +11,000 households and businesses in Biloxi and posting the notice on its website and in specific public buildings identified in its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP). This was followed by emailing or mailing the development process schedule to known public service agencies and others on the City's CDBG email/ mailing lists that include agencies representing NonEnglish speaking residents, agencies representing Fair Housing Act protected classes and agencies representing special needs populations.

A separate notice was published in both the newspaper and the City's monthly B-News, and posted on the Biloxi website and in specified public buildings for each of two public hearings, as required in the

CPP. The availability of a public review draft of the 2024 Action Plan and establishment of a 30-day written comment period also were advertised through the publication of a notice in the newspaper and in the monthly B-News.

In addition to publishing and posting notices to invite residents and other interested stakeholders to participate in the hearings and/or review and comment on the draft plan, the City sent letters to known public service agencies and HUD-identified public and private target groups to invite consultation with the City, as required by HUD.

The two public hearings were held at 5:00 p.m., the time identified as most convenient by those attending previous CDBG hearings of the City. In addition to staff, three people attended the first public hearing on May 22 and two written comments were submitted, identifying the need for additional mental health assessment and treatment services for homeless populations in Biloxi. In addition to staff, ___ people attended the second hearing on Tuesday, June 25; ___ written comments were submitted.

All written and oral comments offered at the public hearings and during the 30-day comment period were accepted and considered by the City in developing the final plan to be submitted to HUD.

The Citizen Participation Attachment includes public hearing sign-in sheets, agenda packets and minutes; documentation of publication of notices and website postings; a copy of the City's CDBG email/ mailing lists; and a copy of each written comment submitted.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons
1	Public Hearings	Minorities, Non-English Speaking - Spanish & Vietnamese, Persons with disabilities, Non-targeted broad community, Residents of Public and Ass't Housing, Public & private agencies	The first public hearing was held at 5:00 pm Wed., May 22 with two agency representatives and Councilman Tisdale participating. The second hearing was held at 5:00 pm, Tues., June 25 with a total of ___ residents and agency representatives in attendance.	The minutes from both hearings are attached to the final plan as part of citizen participation documentation.	All comments received were considered.

2	Internet Outreach	Minorities, NonEnglish Speaking Spanish & Vietnamese, Persons w/ disabilities, Residents of Public & Ass't Housing Non-targeted/ broad community, all who sign up for City emails.	Not known because other forms of outreach were used to encourage citizen participation and input.	All written comments received and hearing minutes are included in the Citizen Participation Attachment.	All comments received were considered.
3	B-News monthly publication notices	Non-targeted/ broad community	The City published notices about CDBG public hearings, availability of information and public review draft documents in its monthly publication that is mailed to +11,000 City water/sewer service customers.	Not applicable	All comments received were considered.
4	Public notices and flyers	Non-targeted/ broad community	<p>Notices were posted at City Hall, Community Development, four Biloxi Library Branches & at each Biloxi Housing Authority development. Notices in Spanish and Vietnamese were delivered to agencies representing these populations in Biloxi.</p> <p>Flyers about hearings, draft availability & the written comment period were mailed/emailed to agencies and the CDBG Master Mailing List.</p>	Not applicable	All comments received were considered.

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

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

As a CDBG Entitlement City, Biloxi receives an annual allocation of funds from HUD to address local housing and non-housing community needs, particularly for low- to moderate-income individuals and households. In Program Year 2024, HUD allocated \$403,868.00 to the City of Biloxi and the City anticipates generating approximately \$184,016.00 in program income. The City anticipates having approximately \$107,763.00 in previously allocated but unexpended or additional program income to carry forward to budget for PY2024 projects and activities.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 5				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation \$	Program Income \$	Prior Year Resources \$	Total \$		
CDBG	HUD	Admin., Planning, Acquisition, Economic Dev., Housing, Public Improvements, Public Facilities & Public Services	403,868	184,016	107,763	695,647	-0-	PY2024 is the last year covered by the City's 2020-2024 ConPlan.
			403,868	184,016	107,763	695,647	-0-	

Expected Resources

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

Not applicable; the CDBG Entitlement Program allocation does not require a match.

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

City-owned or to-be-acquired rights-of-way may be used to help address community needs for enhanced public safety and welfare or improved/expanded infrastructure.

Discussion

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goal Description

1	Goal Name	Administration & Planning
	Goal Description	Costs associated with administration of the CDBG Entitlement Program that may include but are not limited to staff training; legal and other professional services; environmental review; publication of notices and other public outreach costs; equipment; and supplies that may include materials for subrecipient training and fair housing education and outreach.
2	Goal Name	Public Services – NonHousing Community Development
	Goal Description	During Program Year 2024, the City budgeted \$57,500 to support programs and activities of qualified nonprofit agencies that benefit low- to moderate-income residents by addressing high priority community needs: <u>Coastal Family Health Center</u> – mental health assessment & treatment services for Biloxi homeless \$7,500 to benefit estimated minimum of 80 Limited Clientele beneficiaries; <u>Gulf Coast Center for NonViolence</u> – year-round therapeutic preschool program \$20,000 to benefit estimated minimum of 25 Limited Clientele children <u>Moore Community House</u> – affordable early childhood education services \$30,000 to benefit estimated minimum of 67 qualified children
3	Goal Name	Transportation Improvements
	Goal Description	<u>Multiyear funded East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road Improvements Project, Phases II and III</u> to serve a low/mod neighborhood. <u>Phase II</u> activities include additional engineering design and surveys for completion of Phase II (between Hopkins and Porter); and <u>Phase III</u> activities include acquisition of two parcels; relocation assistance for one household; construction of section of roadway (between Querens and Graham). This goal overlaps with the recommended action in the 2019 Biloxi/BHA Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice to consult with transportation agencies to increase transit access options in low/mod areas.

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Administration & Planning	2024	2025	Administration & Planning	Not applicable	\$100,000	Not applicable
2	Public Services – NonHousing Community Development	2024	2025	Public Services - NonHousing Community Development	Limited Clientele services for mental health assessment; & expanded access to affordable daycare programs	\$57,500	Public service activities NonHousing GOI # people Total Beneficiaries: 172 persons
3	Transportation Improvements: Phase II Phase III	2023	2025	Public Facilities & Resource Improvements	Enhanced Public Safety & Welfare	Phase II \$50,000 Phase III \$488,147	Public Facility Activities other than Low/Mod Income Housing Benefit; Total Persons to Be Assisted: 2,450, 1,325 (54.08%) low/mod

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

- this template will be completed following the end of the input process

Introduction

HUD's PY2024 CDBG Entitlement Program allocation to the City of Biloxi is \$403,868 and the City anticipates it will generate approximately \$184,016 in program income during the same period. The City also anticipates carrying over previously allocated but unexpended CDBG funds or additional program income in the estimated amount of \$107,178 to support PY2024 projects and activities.

Program Year 2024 projects and activities proposed to be funded include \$100,000 for Administration; \$57,500 for NonHousing Public Service activities to benefit qualified low- to moderate-income residents; \$50,000 to complete Phase II of the East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road Project; and \$488,147 to complete Phase III. The multiyear East Biloxi East-West Access Road Improvements Project will benefit an historic East Biloxi neighborhood in which 54.08% of households qualify as low- to moderate-income.

#	Project Name
1	Administration & Planning
2	Transportation Improvements - East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road, Phase II (roadway between Hopkins Boulevard and Porter Avenue)
3	Transportation Improvements - East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road, Phase III (roadway between Querens and Graham)
4	Non-housing Public Service Activities

Project Information

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

The City of Biloxi’s allocation priorities were identified during development of the City of Biloxi’s 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and confirmed by citizen input and support expressed for projects during development of Annual Action Plans for Program Years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. 2024 Program Year resources will be used to primarily benefit low- to moderate-income residents through completion of a multiyear funded transportation improvement project and implementation of three public service activities. With funding available through the City’s CDBG Entitlement Program, there are no anticipated obstacles to addressing the identified high-priority needs.

AP-38 Project Summary

- this template will be completed following close of the input process

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Administration & Planning
	Target Area	Not applicable
	Goals Supported	Not applicable
	Needs Addressed	Not applicable
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	PY2024 CDBG funds in the amount of \$100,000 are budgeted for eligible administrative expenses associated with administering the CDBG Entitlement Program in compliance with federal and state regulations and policies and local regulations, policies and procedures.
	Target Date	9/30/2025

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Not applicable
	Location Description	Federal Programs Office City of Biloxi 214-A Delauney Street Biloxi, MS 39530
	Planned Activities	Eligible administrative costs may include but are not limited to staff training/salary; legal, environmental review and professional administrative services; publication of notices and other public outreach costs; equipment; and supplies that may include materials for subrecipient training and fair housing education and outreach activities identified as recommended actions in the City's A.I..
2	Project Name	Phase II, East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road (roadway between Hopkins Boulevard and Porter Avenue)
	Target Area	East Biloxi
	Goals Supported	Provide Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Enhanced Public Safety and Welfare
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	This project will improve public safety and welfare of residents in a primarily low- to moderate-income area in East Biloxi through additional engineering and surveying needed for an access road to preserve neighborhood access and improve emergency vehicle response times (roadway from Hopkins Boulevard to Porter Avenue).
	Target Date	2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City estimates that 2,450 people will benefit from this project; 1,325 or 54.08% of total beneficiaries are low- to moderate-income.
	Location Description	East Biloxi between Hopkins Boulevard and Porter Avenue, north of the CSX Railroad tracks
	Planned Activities	Activities will include additional engineering design and surveying.
	Planned Activities	Engineering design and survey work needed to complete Phase II activities.
3	Project Name	Phase III, East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road (roadway between Querens Avenue and Graham Avenue)
	Target Area	East Biloxi
	Goals Supported	Provide Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Enhanced Public Safety and Welfare

	Funding	CDBG: \$488,147 (Sources of funds: \$196,368 PY2024 allocation; \$184,016 program income to be generated; and \$107,763 carryover from previously allocated but unexpended funds or additional program income received but not used).
	Description	This project will improve public safety and welfare of residents in a primarily low- to moderate-income area in East Biloxi through acquisition of two parcels; relocation assistance provided to one household; and construction of a section of roadway from Querens to Graham Avenue. This new roadway will preserve neighborhood access and improve emergency vehicle response times.
	Target Date	2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City estimates that 2,450 people will benefit from this project; 1,325 or 54.08% of total beneficiaries are low- to moderate-income.
	Location Description	East Biloxi between Querens Avenue and Graham Avenue, north of the CSX Railroad tracks
	Planned Activities	Activities will include acquisition of two parcels; relocation assistance for one household; and roadway construction.
4	Project Name	Non-Housing Public Service Activities
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Provide Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Enhanced Public Safety and Welfare
	Funding	CDBG: \$57,500
	Description	Three public service activities will be supported, available on a citywide basis and provided by licensed local agencies to eligible Biloxi residents. Services will include mental health assessments and treatment for homeless individuals; a therapeutic preschool program at GCCNV; and expanded access for low/mod households to an affordable early childhood program.
	Target Date	2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City estimates that a total of 172 people will benefit from these activities as follows: 1) <u>Coastal Family Health Center</u> \$7,500 to benefit an estimated minimum of 80 Biloxi homeless residents through mental health assessments and treatment; 2) <u>Gulf Coast Center for NonViolence</u> \$20,000 to benefit an estimated minimum of 25 Limited Clientele children through a year-round therapeutic preschool program; and 3) <u>Moore Community House</u> \$30,000 to benefit an estimated minimum of 67 qualified Biloxi children through expanded access to an affordable early childcare educational program.
	Location Description	Moore Community House 325 Nixon Street, East Biloxi

Planned Activities	Activities will include public services provided by certified, licensed local agencies ranging from mental health assessments and treatment for homeless individuals; to a year-round therapeutic daycare program; to expanded access for low/mod households to an affordable early childhood education program.
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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

The City of Biloxi does not allocate funds based on geographic priorities; it invests its limited CDBG resources to maximize benefit to low- to moderate-income residents. Attached maps identify the City’s low- to moderate-income areas, as defined by HUD Census data; areas of minority concentration; and the location of PY2024 projects.

HUD-eligible activities are selected for funding by the City based on the community’s priorities for addressing unmet needs as expressed during the citizen participation process.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Not applicable	Not applicable

Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City of Biloxi does not allocate its CDBG resources based on geographic distribution but invests the funds to address high priority unmet community needs to benefit the largest number of low- to moderate-income residents possible.

Discussion

Optional

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

– this template will be completed following the end of the public input process

Introduction

The City of Biloxi does not receive a HOME, ESG or HOPWA allocation. Because its CDBG allocation is invested to address high priority unmet community needs to benefit the largest number of low- to moderate-income residents possible, the City does not budget CDBG resources to construct, rehabilitate or acquire housing.

Although the City published a notice inviting applications for PY2024 CDBG public services funding, no applications were received requesting funding assistance to help address homelessness and to assist households that are near-homeless from becoming homeless.

No applications were received by the City requesting PY2024 funding to support any type of housing assistance program including supporting the provision of emergency shelter services; providing rent or utility assistance for Biloxi households transitioning to permanent housing; or providing rent assistance to help alleviate severe housing cost burdens on low-income households that occupy permanent housing in Biloxi.

One Year Goals for Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	0
Special-Needs	0
Total	0

One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	0

One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

Because its CDBG allocation is invested to address high priority unmet community needs to benefit the largest number of low- to moderate-income residents possible, the City does not budget CDBG resources to construct, rehabilitate or acquire housing.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

– this template will be completed following receipt of updated information

Introduction

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

During Program Year 2024, the Biloxi Housing Authority plans to continue its work managing assisted housing and sustaining affordable housing in the City of Biloxi.

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

The Biloxi Housing Authority will continue to support its Resident Councils and the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in

management and participate in home ownership. Residents will be encouraged to attend 2024-2025 workshops offered by the Mississippi Center for Justice and/or the City of Biloxi that will focus on various aspects of the Fair Housing Act, including how to file a complaint with HUD, and local homeownership.

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

Not applicable

Discussion

South Mississippi Housing Authority update to be inserted here

(Section 8) housing units participating in SMHA voucher program within city limits

& types of vouchers issued/provided to CoB residents

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

– this template will be completed upon receipt of updated information

Introduction

The City of Biloxi works with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care and its member agencies/and organizations to reduce and end homelessness in the City.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including: Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

The City of Biloxi's one-year goal for Program Year 2024 is to continue working with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, the Biloxi Housing Authority, Back Bay Mission, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Coastal Family Health, the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi and other agencies and stakeholders to share information about Biloxi's homeless populations and to assist in generating increased private donations to meet needs.

The City also will work with neighboring local units of government, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, public housing agencies and others to address and prevent increased homelessness because of increasing costs of rent, food, transportation and the inadequate inventory of affordable housing.

The City will continue to support funding applications submitted by qualified public service agencies to prevent homelessness and help reduce the number of homeless persons in Biloxi. It also will continue to encourage the Veterans Administration to expedite referrals so all VASH Vouchers are issued to benefit homeless veterans.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City will continue to participate as an active member of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care and will support efforts of Open Doors and its member organizations to:

- establish and operate an emergency shelter for Biloxi’s homeless populations; and
- expand the inventory of transitional housing in Biloxi.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The City of Biloxi will continue to support the efforts of the Biloxi Housing Authority to encourage the Biloxi-based Veterans Administration to expedite VASH Voucher referrals to benefit homeless veterans. The City also will continue to work with Open Doors Homeless Coalition to support programs that expand access of homeless persons, especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth, to existing affordable housing units through rent, utility and security deposit assistance.

The City also will continue working with the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi to provide a day shelter facility that will be operated by _____ to provide a safe and sanitary environment for Biloxi’s homeless populations, which will continue to include periodic food distribution by Loaves and Fishes and other volunteer organizations several times a week. The day shelter provides homeless individuals with potable water, access to showers, restroom facilities and _____.

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

Collaborating with Open Doors, the City will continue encouraging local housing services agencies to expand services to help 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.

Assistance that includes rent, utility and security deposit grants, would expand access to affordable housing for low-income households as well as for those being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care. The City did not receive any applications requesting PY2024 CDBG public services funds to provide housing assistance to qualified low-income households; to help meet the needs of Biloxi’s homeless populations; or to help near-homeless individuals and households from becoming homeless.

The City of Biloxi will continue to support the public and private agencies that address housing, health, public services, employment, education and youth needs by endorsing their applications for funding

assistance and providing technical assistance as feasible with the City's limited staff and resources. The City also will continue to support the Biloxi Housing Authority's ongoing Community and Supportive Services activities and programs.

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

- this template will be completed upon receipt of additional information

Introduction:

Biloxi officials, planners and community development staff are aware of and considering how best to adapt local codes to meet the growing need for a wider range of housing types, which may include updating zoning classifications to expand options for development by right of affordable group homes and residential “compounds” that include 4 - 6 residential units with shared common areas.

The City of Biloxi invests public resources to support efforts of its professional planning staff to keep apprised of legal decisions regarding land use at the local level as well as urban planning trends and policies that may change availability of affordable housing or impact individuals’ property rights. Consideration is being given to allowing increased density in lower-density residential zones to accommodate the increased number of VRBO conditional use requests and to allowing multiple principal uses on a single lot of record. This may be in response to trends in other communities permitting location of tiny houses and/or small studio housing units in what traditionally were open backyards, as a means of supplementing property owners’ income to ease increasing housing cost burdens, including increasing home owners and flood insurance.

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 City worked with the Biloxi Housing Authority to develop the 2019 joint City of Biloxi-Biloxi Housing Authority Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice during 2018-2019, which included a review of local land use controls, including zoning, ad valorem tax policies, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations and policies affecting return on residential investment. At that time, no zoning restrictions or limitations were identified as barriers to affordable housing.

The City anticipates that within the next several years HUD will require development of a similar Analysis of Fair Housing Choice type document for the 2025-2029 period.

Biloxi’s official zoning district map allows for a mixture of single- and multi-family residential units on varying lot sizes throughout the City as well as group homes in more than one zone. Mixed use zoning is permitted with no parking requirements in the downtown area, which improves the affordability of development and redevelopment.

The City has adopted the most current version of the International Building Code, which requires compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Fair Housing Act provisions. Unlike

construction costs and property insurance premiums, property taxes in Biloxi have not increased in more than 25 years.

Discussion:

The annual comparison of cost and availability of housing for sale & for rent in the City of Biloxi and Harrison County;

interest rates stabilizing, property & flood insurance premiums still increasing south of Back Bay; local real estate market update & comparison pre- and post-pandemic.

Address: high rent, lack of availability of affordable rental units & housing, limited rent assistance programs for special needs and elderly populations

current low volume of single family housing and multifamily rental housing under construction in the City of Biloxi

i.d./compare PY2023 & 2024 owner & renter occupancy rates

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

- this template will be completed upon receipt of additional information

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Biloxi will continue to work with other local units of government, public service agencies and organizations and others to share information about and collaboratively meet the needs of underserved members of the community.

While inflation and interest rates seem to be stabilizing, new challenges exist to meeting underserved needs, including the high price of food, ____ and shelter. Insert additional information RE: homeless & near-homeless populations

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Biloxi plans to continue working with housing developers and realtors to encourage affordable infill housing development and it will consider zoning changes that allow a wider range of affordable housing types throughout the City to meet the needs of different populations, including the elderly and those with special needs. During PY2024, the City will continue to offer its grant program to support redevelopment of structures in the downtown area into housing units for low- to moderate-

income workers.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City of Biloxi will continue to support the efforts of the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), the Biloxi Housing Authority and others to improve awareness among parents and caregivers about the hazards of lead-based paint to children, especially those aged six and under. Biloxi building codes require lead-based paint testing for rehabilitation of residential units built before 1978-79 and, if LBP positive, property owners are required to abate and properly dispose of LBP chips/dust or to contain the LBP in compliance with applicable standards.

Data for LBP testing of children residing in Biloxi area codes in 2020 was provided by the MSDH to the City in June 2022 and identifies that of the 306 children ages six and under who were tested for elevated blood lead levels, only one was identified with a venous lead level of 5 or higher and none were identified with venous lead levels of 15 or higher. This indicates efforts to improve public awareness about permanent damage LBP poisoning can have on young children may be effective and should be continued.

Updated information has been requested from MSDH for inclusion in Biloxi's 2024 CDBG Action Plan to identify if the LBP poisoning rates continue to remain low among children who have been tested.

healthy choice neighborhood information to be inserted

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will continue to collaborate with Open Doors, and its other member agencies and organizations, to provide the supportive services needed to help break the cycle of poverty. Those able to work will be encouraged to participate in existing workforce development and job skills training programs to expand their employment opportunities.

The City also will continue to support participation of the Biloxi Housing Authority in the HUD/HCV Family Self Sufficiency Program as part of its effort to reduce the number of poverty-level families.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City will continue to participate as an active member of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition and it will support continued development of the institutional structure by local and regional nonprofit agencies and organizations, including the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi and other faith-based organizations.

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

Participation in the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care activities continue to enhance coordination between public and private housing and public service agencies. Food, clothing and toy drives are well coordinated by community and faith-based organizations to maximize their impact on underserved citizens.

Discussion:

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

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated the City of Biloxi CDBG funds in the amount of \$403,868 for Program Year 2024. The City also anticipates generating approximately \$184,016 in program income and carrying over an estimated \$107,763 in previously allocated but unexpended funds or additional program income. This brings total CDBG resources available to support PY2024 CDBG projects to \$695,647.

The City of Biloxi proposes to invest its available CDBG resources as follows:

- 1) East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road Phase II** (roadway between Hopkins Boulevard to Porter Avenue) \$50,000 for additional engineering design and survey work;
- 2) East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road Phase III** (roadway between Querens and Graham Avenue) \$488,147* for acquisition of two parcels; relocation assistance for one household; and construction of a section of the roadway;
- 3) Three NonHousing Public Service Activities, \$57,500 total:**
 - i) Coastal Family Health Center \$7,500 for mental health assessments and treatment for Biloxi homeless individuals (citywide benefit, Limited Clientele)
 - ii) Gulf Coast Center for NonViolence \$20,000 to support a year-round therapeutic preschool program (citywide benefit, Limited Clientele)
 - iii) Moore Community House \$30,000 to expand access to affordable early childhood education program (citywide benefit for income-eligible households)
- 4) CDBG Entitlement Program Administration** \$100,000 for a portion of salaries; legal, consulting and/or environmental services; publication costs; fair housing outreach and education; and other CDBG-eligible costs

*Sources of funds budgeted for Phase III of the East-West Access Road Project include \$196,368 PY2024 allocation, \$184,016 program income to be generated and \$107,763 carryover from previously allocated but unexpended funds or additional program income received but not used).

**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	0
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 grantee's strategic plan	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
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.	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
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 persons 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.	100.00%

Discussion:

The City of Biloxi has identified the one-year period 2024 for determining Overall Benefit of CDBG funds to persons of low- to moderate-income.

The following will be attached to the final document:

Citizen Participation Documentation

Maps

Executed HUD Forms and Certifications