

Fiscal Year 2022 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) City of Columbus Annual Action Plan Summary

Introduction

The City of Columbus Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Section, solicited project proposals for the use of Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funding in the summer of 2021. Since January of 2022 the City has been moving projects forward based on budgets approved in the draft FY 2022 Annual Action Plan. The budgets outlined in this summary were developed upon receipt of the FY 2022 funding allocations provided by HUD on May 16, 2022.

The City has received allocations from HUD for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which has a 15% public service cap¹ and a 20% administration cap², the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program, the HOME Partnership (HOME) program which funds affordable housing opportunities and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program which provides homelessness prevention and shelter assistance.

This summary of the final FY 2022 Annual Action Plan outlines projects the Grants Management Section plans to include in the City's submission of FY 2022 Annual Action Plan to HUD. The projects are expansions of existing programing and new programing to serve low-to-moderate income Columbus residents. Expenditures must be consistent with community needs, priorities and strategies stated in the City's HUD 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

Projects are listed in the grant sections below under a City of Columbus Strategic Plan Goal which are identified in the City's HUD 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The Strategic Plan Goals are:

- 1.) Preserve and expand affordable housing
- 2.) Program Management, capacity building and/or admin
- 3.) Ensure safe and sanitary property conditions
- 4.) Provide housing for special needs populations
- 5.) Provide homebuyer education and other counseling
- 6.) Ensure equal access to housing
- 7.) Foster business expansions in areas of need
- 8.) Foster development of skills for residents in need
- 9.) Provide educational/recreational youth programs
- 10.) Improve health outcomes
- 11.) Provide housing and services for persons with HIV
- 12.) Increase access to housing and emergency shelter
- 13.) Public facilities/Infrastructure improvements

¹ Public Service is defined in 24 CFR Part 570.201 (e) as services including but not limited to those concerned with employment, crime prevention, child care, health, drug abuse, education, fair housing counseling, energy conservation, welfare, homebuyer downpayment assistance, or recreational needs.

² Administrative cost is defined in 24 CFR Part 570.206 and is related to the planning and execution of community development activities.



FY 2022 HUD Allocations

FY 2022 Program	Budget
Community Development Block Grant	\$7,474,580
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	\$2,274,944
HOME Investment Partnership	\$5,021,546
Emergency Solutions Grant	\$640,624

Citizen Participation Process for the FY 2022 Annual Action Plan

During each year of the City's HUD Annual Action Plan development process, the City follows its Citizen Participation Plan which is approved within the City's HUD 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The section below outlines the efforts made by the City to engage with the public throughout the development of the City's FY 2022 Annual Action Plan.

First Public Comment Period

The City of Columbus started a thirty (30) day public comment period on August 18, 2021 when a notice was published in the Columbus Dispatch and a HUD Annual Action Plan Project Proposals Summary was made available on the City's Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management webpage. The document provided an overview of every project proposed for FY 22 CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG. The Grants Management section accepted comments through September 17, 2021, 5:00 PM. No comments were received.

First Public Meeting

The Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management section hosted a public meeting on August 25, 2021 at 5:30 PM. Each project proposed for inclusion in the FY 2022 Annual Action Plan was discussed. The meeting was held at 141 N. Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, in the conference room located on the bottom level of the City of Columbus' parking garage. The meeting was advertised through social media, email, and a legal advertisement in the Columbus Dispatch newspaper.

Second Public Comment Period

The City of Columbus started a thirty (30) day public comment period on November 5, 2021 when a notice was published in the Columbus Dispatch and the draft Annual Action Plan Summary along with a draft Annual Action Plan were made available on the City's Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management webpage. The Grants Management section will accepted comments regarding the draft Annual Action Plan through December 6, 2021, 5:00 PM. The only comments the City received were through testimony during the public meeting.

Second Public Meeting

A second public meeting for the draft 2022 Annual Action Plan was held by Columbus City Council on November 9, 2021 in Council Chambers. Council, City staff and external partners discussed proposed projects for the 2022 program year, providing estimated budgets and project funding amounts. The meeting was publicly advertised similarly to the first.

Third Public Comment Period

The City of Columbus started a third thirty (30) day public comment period on June 27, 2022 when a notice was published in the Columbus Dispatch and a summary of FY 22 grant funded projects was made available on the City's Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management webpage. The document provided an overview of the final list of projects proposed for FY 22 CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG. The Grants Management Section accepted comments through July 27, 2022. No comments were received.

Third Public Meeting

A third public meeting for the final 2022 Annual Action Plan was held by the City's Grants Management Section on July 6, 2022. The meeting was held at 141 N. Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, in the conference room located on the bottom level of the City of Columbus' parking garage. City staff and external partners discussed projects, provided final budgets and project funding amounts. The meeting was publicly advertised.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The total FY 2022 CDBG budget for eligible activities is \$10,067,488. The total budget is made up of the FY 2022 allocation from HUD awarded to the City, a return of funds from HUD, the City’s Revolving Loan Fund and program income generated from HUD funded programs. The table below notes each funding resources’ total dollar amount contributing to the whole FY 2022 CDBG budget.

Funding Resources	Budget
2022 CDBG Entitlement Budget	\$7,474,580
CDBG Return of Funds to Local Account	\$293,215
Revolving Loan Fund	1,130,983
2022 CDBG Program Income	\$1,168,710

Goal: Provide Educational / Recreational Youth Programing

- 1.) Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) Capital Kids
 - CDBG Budget: \$630,000
 - The CRPD Capital Kids program for Columbus youth incorporates trained staff, state of the art technology, high expectations and high performance standards designed to gauge students’ academic achievement and to also provide participants with a safe place to learn and play when school is out.

- 2.) Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) Fitness Camps
 - CDBG Budget: \$90,000
 - CRPD provides a camp for children ages 6 to 14 years that operates during the summer & winter when school is not in session. The program is designed to especially benefit the children of working parents. As part of the program, the School's Out camp offers a day long, well supervised camp that allows children to take part in a variety of recreational, educational, cultural and physical fitness activities in a safe and secure environment.

- 3.) Seven Baskets Community Development Corporation Youth Services
 - CDBG Budget: \$18,790
 - CDBG funding from the Department of Finance and Management is utilized by Seven Baskets Community Development Corporation for youth services programing through school partnerships. The programing provides several critical services to young students including in-person tutoring, afterschool activities, homework assistance and meals.

- 4.) Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) Youth Programing
 - CDBG Budget: \$180,000
 - CDBG funding will be utilized for the CRPD to offer new and expanded youth programing throughout the City.

Goal: Public Facilities / Infrastructure Improvements

- 1.) Construction of Glenwood and Windsor Pools
 - CDBG Budget: \$3,000,000
 - \$3,000,000 of FY 2022 CDBG funding will support the construction of aquatics facilities at Glenwood and Windsor Parks. FY 2021 CDBG funding allowed CRPD to complete the community engagement, architectural and engineering phase. The FY 2022 CDBG funding will leverage additional local funds necessary for construction. This CDBG funding will allow CRPD to transform outdated and ill-equipped community pools into safe, modern outdoor aquatics facilities for the Greater Hilltop and South Linden Columbus communities. The total construction cost for the pools is estimated at \$15,000,000.

- 2.) 2022 Neighborhoods Curb Improvements
 - CDBG Budget: \$1,530,237
 - The Department of Public Service requests funding for the installation of new curb ramps and the replacements of existing curb ramps in order to meet current ADA requirements. As required, the project will include running and cross slopes, horizontal and vertical deflections as well as detectable warnings. The project will improve pedestrian safety in the Hilltop, Near East, Near South, South Linden and Northland neighborhoods.

- 3.) Neighborhoods Trash and Recycling Litter Receptacles
 - CDBG Budget: \$700,000
 - The Department of Public Service will utilize CDBG funding to replace sidewalk litter receptacles on E. Main Street, W. Sullivant Avenue, Broad Street, E. 11th Avenue, Gay Street, High Street and various other locations. Existing sidewalk receptacles are reaching end of life and have become unserviceable leading to increased litter and blight in neighborhoods and commercial corridors. This sidewalks improvement project is especially critical in areas serviced with public transportation and large volumes of pedestrian and multi-modal transportation options.

- 4.) Wheatland Farm Complex – Market Building Construction
 - CDBG Budget: \$1,500,000
 - The Department of Neighborhoods will modify an existing CDBG funded subaward with the Mid-Ohio Food Collective to increase funding for the construction of various improvements to Wheatland Farm to \$4,500,000. Wheatland Farm is a developing community asset. The CDBG funding will be utilized for the Market Building, site infrastructure and other site elements.

- 5.) Maloney and Nelson Playground Improvements
 - CDBG Budget: \$400,000
 - CDBG funding will be utilized by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department to replace a 20+ year old playground and install workout stations at Maloney Park. CDBG funding will also be utilized by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department to replace a 20+ year old playground and improve drainage issues at the playground at Nelson Park.

Goal: Preserve and Expand Affordable Housing

- 1.) Rebuilding Together Central Ohio D.B.A. Modcon Living Tool Library
 - CDBG Budget: \$86,500
 - Rebuilding Together Central Ohio D.B.A. Modcon Living requests CDBG funding for the expansion of the Tool Library and the Home Ownership Sustainability Program.

Goal: Ensure Equal Access to Housing

- 1.) Fair Housing Program
 - CDBG Budget: \$150,000
 - The City of Columbus will utilize CDBG funding for a subaward with the Columbus Urban League to administer a Fair Housing Program in order to affirmatively further fair housing in the City of Columbus.

Goal: Foster development of skills for residents in need

- 1.) Community Development for All People South Side Café
 - CDBG Budget: \$35,134
 - Community Development for All People requests CDBG funding to pay wages for café employees at a new café located on Parsons Avenue. Employees of the café will be provided job training and assistance with securing stable employment following their tenure at the café.

Goal: Foster business expansions in areas of need

- 1.) Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc. Capital for Construction
 - CDBG Budget: \$200,000
 - Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc. requires funding for business training and technical assistance for Columbus businesses in the construction industry and construction trades. The program will target minority business enterprises.

Goal: Ensure Safe and Sanitary Property Conditions

- 1.) Legal Aid Society of Columbus Housing Conditions Project
 - CDBG Budget: \$100,000
 - The Legal Aid Society requests that the Department of Finance and Management award CDBG funding for a public service project to assist low-to-moderate income renters in Columbus. The objective of the project is to improve conditions of low-income housing stock in Columbus by using legal tools to encourage landlords to invest in the maintenance of their rental properties. The project's goal is to assist 250 tenant families in one year.
- 2.) Westside Apartment Housing Security Fence Construction
 - CDBG Budget: \$466,100
 - This project removes blighted and deteriorated fencing around the perimeter of Carol Stewart Village and provides a new security fence and driveway gate at the property.

Goal: Program Management, Capacity Building and / or Administration:

1.) Department of Finance and Management Grants Management Administration

- CDBG Budget: \$480,727.00
- Grants Management Section staffing and contracting in the Department of Finance and Management for administration of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants.

2.) Urban Tree Canopy Site Assessments

- CDBG Budget: \$500,000
- CRPD requests \$500,000 of FY 2022 CDBG funding for the second phase and completion of an inventory assessment of street tree sites in public right-of-ways throughout nine CDBG-eligible block groups.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS

Funding Resources	Budget
2022 HOPWA Entitlement Budget	\$2,274,944

Goal: Provide Housing and Services for Persons with AIDS

- 1.) HOPWA Lutheran Social Services, Faith Mission
 - HOPWA Budget: \$814,414
 - Funding will be used for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Permanent Housing Placement (PHP), and other supportive services. An estimated 92 households will be assisted.

- 2.) HOPWA Equitas Health
 - HOPWA Budget: \$720,631
 - Funding will be used for TBRA, PHP, and other supportive services. An estimated 86 households will be assisted.

- 3.) HOPWA Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency
 - HOPWA Budget: \$321,227
 - Funding will be used for TBRA, Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility assistance (STRMU), PHP, and other supportive services. An estimated 126 households will be assisted.

- 4.) HOPWA Licking County Coalition for Housing
 - HOPWA Budget: \$350,424
 - Funding will be used for TBRA, STRMU, PHP, and other supportive services. An estimated 89 households will be assisted.

Goal: Program Management, Capacity Building and / or Administration

- 1.) HOPWA Administration
 - HOPWA Budget: \$68,248
 - Staffing and other costs for HOPWA grant administration.

HOME Investment Partnership (HOME)

The total FY 2022 HOME budget for eligible activities is \$5,483,982. The total budget is made up of the FY 2022 allocation from HUD awarded to the City and program income generated from HOME funded programs. The table below notes each funding resources total dollar amount contributing to the whole FY 2022 HOME budget.

Funding Resources	Budget
2022 HOME Entitlement Budget	\$5,021,546
2022 HOME Program Income	\$462,436

Goal: Preserve and Expand Access to Affordable Housing

- 1.) Community Housing Development Organization Set Aside
 - HOME Budget: \$753,232
 - Required set aside of 15% of HOME fund allocation for awards to city certified CHDOs.
- 2.) Rental Housing Development
 - HOME Budget: \$2,609,673
 - Providing gap financing for new construction and substantial renovation rental projects. An estimated 3 HOME funded rental projects will be assisted, including 12 units.
- 3.) Downpayment Assistance
 - HOME Budget: \$100,000
 - Up to \$7,500 for downpayment and closing costs for low or moderate income homebuyers. An estimated 15 households will be assisted.
- 4.) Homeowner Housing Development
 - HOME Budget: \$1,000,000
 - HOME funds will be utilized for the development and affordability assistance for 6 new homeowner housing units.
- 5.) Rebuilding Lives Tenant Based Rental Assistance
 - HOME Budget: \$325,000
 - Tenant Based Rental Assistance for those who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. An estimated 55 households will be assisted.
- 6.) Community Housing Development Organization Operating Support
 - HOME Budget: \$251,077
 - Operating support provided to the Community Housing Development Organizations by the Community Development Collaborative.

Goal: Program Management, Capacity Building and /or Administration

- 1.) Department of Development Housing Division Staff
 - HOME Budget: \$400,000
 - Housing Division staffing in the Department of Development for administration of HOME Investment Partnership funded programs.

- 2.) Community Development Collaborative Operating Support (Administration)
 - HOME Budget: \$45,000
 - Community Development Collaborative funding for administration of CHDO operating support.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Goal: Increase Access to Housing and Emergency Shelter

- 1.) Emergency Solutions Grants Programs
 - ESG Budget: \$640,624
 - Emergency shelters provide access to beds for men and women in Columbus and Franklin County. Beyond providing a secure and clean place to sleep, shelter programs provide access to basic services such as showers, meals, healthcare and material assistance, along with supportive services, referrals to additional supportive services as needed, and crisis assistance. Shelter programs have resource centers that provide internet access, telephones, employment leads, job training resources and other community resources. ESG-funded Direct Housing programs provide services and financial assistance to families exiting emergency shelter programs into their own homes, with the goal of long-term stabilization. The 2022 ESG program will assist an estimated 4,000 persons.