



**City of Meriden, Connecticut
Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan
Year Five of Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019)**

CARES Act Amendment

CV-Public Facilities Improvements Amendment

City of Meriden
Economic & Community Development Department
142 East Main Street
Meriden, CT 06450

Annual Action Plan
2019

1

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Amended on July 7, 2020 to add CDBG CARES Act funds to the Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan was amended for a second time to include CDBG-CV3 funds to the CARES Act Amendment. **The City amended the plan in November 2021, to reallocate funds from CV-Public Services to CV-Public Facilities Improvements.**

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Meriden's (the "City") Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan (the "Plan") is the fifth plan created under its 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development, and offers strategies and anticipated outcome indicators to address housing and non-housing community development needs, principally of low- and moderate-income persons. The goal of the Consolidated Plan and subsequent Annual Action Plans is to achieve viable community development by providing decent housing; a suitable living environment; and expanded economic opportunities for primarily low- and moderate-income persons. The Consolidated Plan promotes citizen participation and collaboration while consolidating planning, application and reporting requirements for the City's U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") entitlement programs.

The Economic Development Department is the lead agency in Meriden's consolidated planning process and is also responsible for the formulation, preparation and development of each year's Annual Action Plan. Meriden's City Council has the ultimate responsibility for the allocation of Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Program funds. Overseeing the implementation of projects related to housing and community development are two committees of the Meriden City Council: 1) Economic Development, Housing and Zoning, and 2) Human Services. The Meriden Housing Authority has the authority and responsibility for coordinating and implementing Public Housing projects referenced in this plan. The Council of Neighborhoods coordinates various neighborhood association activities referenced in this plan. The Community Development Manager and Grant Administrator is responsible for coordinating the CDBG activities and gathering information and data from all of the organizations and City departments involved in the City's housing and community development activities.

Low- and moderate-income definitions used in this Plan are determined by HUD and are subject to change from program year to program year. Households with income less than 80% of the area median income ("AMI") fall within the "target income" for purposes of the goals, objectives, and strategies of the Plan. In addition, census block groups where 51% or more of the households have income less than 80% of AMI are referred to as "CDBG target areas" for purposes of the CDBG program.

CARES ACT AMENDMENT:

On March 27, 2020 the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) was signed into law to assist communities in their efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included supplemental formula grant allocations to HUD's Community Planning & Development (CPD) programs, and were awarded in three rounds over the course of the first few months of the pandemic. As a recipient of CDBG funds, the City was allocated CDBG-CV CARES act funds from Round 1 and Round 3.

Round 1 CDBG-CV1: The City amended the AAP on July 7, 2020 with Round 1 CDBG-CV1 CARES Act funds of \$648,003 with provisions to citizen participation and waive program requirements such as the 15% public services cap. Funds went to support residents with public services and struggling businesses negatively affected by the pandemic.

Round 3 CDBG-CV3: On September 11, 2020, HUD made available the remaining CDBG-CV allocation funds to entitlement grantees. The allocation named CDBG-CV3 (Allocation 3 – Part A) will be the final allocation for CDBG CARES Act funding. The CDBG-CV3 formula allocation was developed by HUD to meet the statutory requirements of the CARES Act and the President's August 8, 2020 Executive Order "Fighting the Spread of COVID-19 by Providing Assistance to Renters and Homeowners." The CDBG-CV3 funding allocated to the City was \$397,684, and is to be used to fund public services that help to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

CV-Public Facilities Improvements Amendment

The City has Substantially Amended the plan to move \$30,000 from CV-Public Services to a new project, CV-Public Facilities Improvements, that will improve neighborhood facilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. Activities will include health and safety measures to limit and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The sections amended were:

ES-05: A summary and citizen participation details were added.

PR-05: Updated contact information.

AP-12: Citizen participation summary and details of how to participate in the public comment period.

AP-20: Added narrative for Goal #2 Create Suitable Living Environment

AP-35: Added narrative to intro and priority.

AP-38: Added project CV - Public Facility Improvements and updated CV - Public Services allocation.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The City's Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan was developed through collaboration with housing, health and social service providers and public agencies, and other entities, including those focusing on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, homeless and chronically homeless persons, as well as businesses, developers and community organizations. A local survey conducted as part of the Consolidated Plan process provided insight into community priorities. Overall, youth services, economic development, quality of life improvement and poverty reduction were identified as priority issues. Priority needs related to housing included single-family housing, homeless emergency shelters, energy assistance, and first-time homebuyer assistance. For economic development, job retention or creation and employment training were rated as important. For community service needs, youth, poverty reduction and anti-crime programs were rated the highest. In terms of infrastructure, flood control and street improvements were the key issues. Lastly, for special needs services, neglected/abused children, the mentally disabled, domestic violence victims and substance abusers were identified as target populations. These issues and needs, along with others, are discussed below.

The Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan was also amended in July of 2020 in order to address the public health emergency caused by the novel coronavirus and the associated COVID-19 pandemic. This amendment was completed in order to take advantage of special funds allocated to the City through the passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Specifically, the City was allocated CDBG-CV funds to provide funding for activities that prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. The Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan, as amended, covers these activities as well. Any future rounds of funding provided for, or changes in allocations for projects related to the pandemic response will also be done to this plan per HUD guidance.

In this Plan, "very low-income" refers to households earning 0% - 30% of the median family income; "low-income" refers to households earning more than 30% and less than 50% of the median family income; and "moderate-income" refers to households earning between 50% and 80% of the median family income. Based on the five year American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2011 - 2015, of Meriden's total households, approximately 34 % were very-low or low income and approximately 16% were moderate-income. Indeed, on a city-wide basis, 51.26% of all households in Meriden are considered Low and Moderate Income Households based on the same 5 year ACS data. The City will direct its Community Development Block Grant funding to implement and support programs that serve the moderate-, low- and very low-income households and areas in the City, as well as its other most vulnerable citizens.

Meriden continues to experience a number of housing problems, notably "cost burdened" households. Households with "moderate" cost burden pay between 30% and 50% of their income for housing costs, and households with "severe" cost burden pay over 50% of their income. This phenomenon is particularly acute in the inner-city/downtown area of Meriden. Indeed, In Census tract 1702, which comprises much of the Colony Street and West Main Street downtown core, 46.34% of households are considered cost burdened.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The City of Meriden made significant progress toward meeting its strategic plan objectives during Program Year 43 (Program Year 44 is still ongoing at the time of submission of this Plan). During Program Year 43, the City spent approximately \$206,000 on public services and facilities, \$326,000 on housing related activities, and \$116,000 on administration. Limited financial resources make it difficult to address all community needs and strategic plan objectives in one program year. In allocating its CDBG resources, the City of Meriden prioritizes its funding to support projects that benefit its low- and moderate-income target areas; low- and moderate-income households most in need of public services; and its youth and elderly populations. During Program Year 43 (and in the ongoing Program Year 44) Meriden funded projects that directly addressed several specific strategic plan objectives, including housing, suitable living environment, and economic opportunity.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The City met citizen participation requirements in drafting its Annual Action Plan by conducting public outreach and encouraging citizen comment, including: a request for funding proposals document published on the City's website detailing key dates, past use of CDBG funds by the City of Meriden, and Consolidated Plan goals/outcome indicators; offering scheduled technical assistance sessions (as needed and requested by applicants) during the CDBG application process; the provision of public hearings, held on March 6, 2019, March 27, 2019 and April 24, 2019 allowing citizens and community stakeholders to comment on the allocation of funding and the CDBG process in Program Year 45; a 30-day public comment period on the PY45 Action Plan; City Council testimony on and approval of the proposed program of activities and the final budget for PY45; and public comment on the City's program performance. As part of the Plan development process and as part of on-going housing and community development efforts, the City coordinates with local non-profits, state agencies and other organizations in the implementation of its programs to ensure the greatest impact in addressing community needs.

The City also amended its Citizen Participation Plan in July of 2020 in order to establish expedited citizen participation processes as allowed by the CARES Act and subsequent HUD waivers. These expedited processes allow for the City of Meriden to prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus quickly by providing flexibility surrounding statutory and regulatory comment periods, in-person public hearings, and other Citizen Participation requirements as they relate to drafting, proposing, or amending Consolidated Plans and Annual Plans. As such, the City held an abbreviated 5 day comment period from June 25 to June 30, 2020 and a virtual public hearing on June 30, 2020 regarding the amendments to both the Citizen Participation Plan and the Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan.

CARES ACT AMENDMENT (CV3):

The CARES Act Amendment with CDBG-CV3 is the second amendment to the PY45 AAP. This amendment adds an additional \$397,684 in CDBG-CV3 funds for a combined total of \$1,045,687 of CARES Act CDBG-

CV funds to be used for eligible activities that prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. Citizen participation for the CV3 CARES Act Amendment to the AAP included a 5-day public comment period and a virtual public hearing. The plan was available to review from June 23, 2021 to June 29, 2021, and was available online at www.meridenct.gov, or at the Community Development Office, Room 134, 142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450. Written comments could be submitted to ldiaz@meridenct.gov or be delivered to the Community Development Office. The City also held a virtual public hearing on June 29, 2021 at 5:00 PM to discuss the review the plan.

CV-Public Facilities Improvements Amendment

A 5-day public comment period was held from **November 10, 2021 to November 15, 2021** to give the public an opportunity to review and make comments on the draft amendment. The plan was available online at www.meridenct.gov, or at the Community Development Office, Room 134, 142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450. Written comments could be submitted to ldiaz@meridenct.gov or be delivered to the Community Dev Office at the address above.

5. Summary of public comments

Comments were received at the three public hearings held through the months of March and April. These comments are summarized in Section AP-12 Participation – 91.105.

Written comments that were received during the 30-day Public Comment period are included in the Citizen Participation Comments attachment to this Annual Plan. Comments received provided support and additional information for the Our House Meriden activity and for the Meriden Soup Kitchen activity. All comments were passed along to the City Council for their review and consideration prior to their action on the Program Year 45 Annual Plan.

Comments that were received during the Citizen Participation Plan and Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan substantial amendment processes, including the virtual public hearing, are summarized in Section AP-12 Participation – 91.105. Any written comments that were received are included in the Citizen Participation Comments attachment.

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

All written comments that were received were sent to the City Council for their review prior to their action on the Program Year 45 Annual Plan.

7. Summary

The City of Meriden, through its City Council, public participation process, and non-profit community partners, has crafted an Annual Action Plan for Program Year 45 that seeks to provide residents of the

City of Meriden – especially those who are the most vulnerable – with access to services and programming that offer a better quality of life, and that will build capacity in the programs being funded.

CARES ACT AMENDMENT:

CARES Act funds allocated to the City of Meriden came in rounds 1 & 3 and were in the amount of:

Round 1: \$648,003 for CDBG-CV1

Round 2: \$0

Round 3: \$397,684 for CDBG-CV3

This AAP has been amended to reflect the CARES Act funds, and how those funds will be used to help people living in the City prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. CARES Act funds are provided with provisions to citizen participation and requirements such as the 15% public services cap.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	MERIDEN	Economic Development Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The designated lead agency for overseeing the development and implementation of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans is the City's Economic Development Department. The Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator is primarily responsible for coordinating services of public, private, and non-profit entities, and activities related to housing and community development.

Meriden's City Council has responsibilities for the administration and allocation of CDBG funds. Two committees of the Meriden City Council oversee the implementation of projects related to housing and community development: Economic Development, Housing, and Zoning; and Human Services. The Meriden Housing Authority has the authority and responsibility for coordinating and implementing public housing projects referenced in this Plan. The Council of Neighborhoods coordinates various neighborhood association activities.

The Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator of the City of Meriden is responsible for the coordination, oversight and general monitoring of all activities funded with CDBG. In addition, the CDBG program is staffed with an Administrative Secretary who assists in application intake, contract management, financial management and general file maintenance. The Economic Development Director also assists with administration of specific CDBG funded activities and overall program compliance issues as necessary. The Neighborhood Preservation Specialist is also involved with the administration of the CDBG funded Neighborhood Preservation Program by reviewing applications, determining eligibility of applicants and projects, drafting contracts and loan documents, tracking projects, and ensuring adherence to all lead paint, procurement, and other HUD requirements for homeowner rehabilitation projects. As administrator of the CDBG funds, the Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator ensures compliance with Federal regulations through review of grant application funding requests, recipient contracts, quarterly performance reports, and subgrantee monitoring. All financial transactions are conducted through the City's Finance Department, and are subject to the annual audit of the City's municipal finances.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Lucy Diaz, Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator
142 East Main Street
Meriden, CT 06450
Email: ldiaz@meridenct.gov

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

1. Introduction

The Citizen Participation Plan (included in the Appendix) sets forth the City's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the development of Meriden's Consolidated Plan and Annual Plan documents.

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(l))

Several steps were taken to ensure coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies during the current program year. Each of these steps helped facilitate the exchange of information between the City and those providing critical services. The following details the planning process to enhance coordination amongst agencies and the City:

- The Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator met with sub-recipients in person during the program year. Sub-recipients are required to attend the initial CDBG public hearing at which all sub-recipients present a summary of their programs and activities, thereby providing a forum for organizations and City stakeholders to be informed as to programs and activities carried out by non-profit applicants/service providers.
- The Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator participated in and monitored several ongoing activities resulting in enhanced cooperation and coordination between the City and private and non-profit entities working to promote and develop affordable and special needs housing.
- City staff and members of the City Council review, assess and make funding determinations based on need, as determined by the community, and allocate funds in a manner that aims to avoid duplication and connect eligible individuals and households with the specific services they need.

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.

Through its applicant organizations, the City aims to provide social and supportive services that address the needs of persons at risk of homelessness. Specifically, the Women and Families Center's "Project REACH" program targets runaway, homeless and at-risk youth throughout the City of Meriden and offers services aimed to get them off the streets and into safe, stable living environments. The Meriden Soup Kitchen also addresses immediate needs of the homeless and those at-risk of homelessness by connecting them with critical services. Programs like the Change the Play Meals, New Opportunities Security Deposit Program, and the Salvation Army Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program aim to assist low- and moderate-income persons and families who are one financial setback away from homelessness. The New

Opportunities Shelter Now program also provides shelter to homeless individuals in the community, including potential spaces for families in need.

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

Not applicable as Meriden does not receive ESG funds.

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

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Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Meriden City Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Economic Development Department relies heavily on the City Council, through its Human Services Committee, to guide the annual allocation process. Through public meetings and hearings, the Human Services Committee directs resources to the areas of greatest need.

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

Not applicable.

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		
Choice Neighborhood Plan	Meriden Housing Authority and City of Meriden	Similar goals, only with a limited geographic scope. The area covered by the Choice Neighborhood Plan is focused on downtown Meriden and is an area with higher rates of unemployment & poverty when compared to the City as a whole or the State of CT. This same area makes up a large portion of the Low/Mod census tracts within the City. A major portion of this Plan focuses on providing services to the residents of the Choice Neighborhood. Many of the organizations receiving funding in this Annual Action Plan are providing needed services to these residents and were instrumental in the creation of Choice Neighborhood Plan.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
City of Meriden Plan of Conservation & Development	City of Meriden	Goals are more comprehensive in scope as they address the entire City, but there are many common themes, including promoting economic/transit oriented development and preserving and enhancing existing housing. CDBG staff are also involved in the required update of this plan that is currently ongoing in 2019.
Come Home to Downtown, Act II	City of Meriden & CT Main Street Center	The Come Home to Downtown plan is focused primarily on attracting and supporting businesses to a key corridor in the City's downtown. This planning effort informed the public facilities portion of the Strategic Plan.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

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AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The City followed its Citizen Participation Plan (included in the Action Plan as "Appendix B") in soliciting citizen input for its Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan. Three public hearings were conducted so that the applicant organizations and members of the public could offer input into how proposed programming fit with the City's Consolidated Plan. A 30-day Comment period was also held during which citizens were able to submit written comments on the draft Annual Action Plan. The City received 3 written comments, which were then forwarded to the City Council prior to adoption of the Annual Action Plan. These comments are included as an attachment to this plan. Members of the public were also invited to share their thoughts and ideas as to how Meriden's CDBG funding could best serve the community and its needs.

The City also amended its Citizen Participation Plan in July of 2020 in order to establish expedited citizen participation processes as allowed by the CARES Act and subsequent HUD waivers. The City held an abbreviated 5 day comment period from June 25 to June 30, 2020 and a virtual public hearing on June 30, 2020 regarding the amendments to both the Citizen Participation Plan and the Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan.

CARES ACT AMENDMENT (CV3):

The CARES Act Amendment with CDBG-CV3 is the second amendment to the PY45 AAP. This amendment adds an additional \$397,684 in CDBG-CV3 funds for a combined total of \$1,045,687 of CARES Act CDBG-CV funds to be used for eligible activities that prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. Citizen participation for the CV3 CARES Act Amendment to the AAP included a 5-day public comment period and a virtual public hearing. The plan was available to review from June 23, 2021 to June 29, 2021, and was available online at www.meridenct.gov, or at the Community Development Office, Room 134, 142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450. Written comments could be submitted to ldiaz@meridenct.gov or be delivered to the Community Development Office. The City also held a virtual public hearing on June 29, 2021 at 5:00 PM to discuss the review the plan.

(CV-Public Facilities Improvements Amendment)

A 5-day public comment period was held from November 10, 2021 to November 15, 2021 to give the public an opportunity to review and make comments on the draft amendment. The plan was available online at www.meridenct.gov, or at the Community Development Office, Room 134,

142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450. Written comments could be submitted to Idiaz@meridenct.gov or be delivered to the Community Dev Office at the address above.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Newspaper Ad	Interested potential applicants and City residents interested in participating in planning process	39 Total applications were received.	No comments received, other than the individual requests for funding included in the applications.	Not applicable as no comments were received.	http://www.meridenbiz.com/resources/community-development-block-grant/
2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Mandatory public hearing for all CDBG applicants held at the Meriden Senior Center on March 6, 2019. 31 applicant speakers; 5 City Council members; 4 City staff present. Public Hearing was advertised in the Meriden Record Journal Newspaper and on several City websites.	Applicants explained their proposals for PY 45 and also answered questions from City Council members that were present; No other comments were received.	Not applicable.	http://www.meriden2020.com/news/cdbg-public-hearing-on-march-6-2019/

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Public Hearing held on March 27, 2019 at Meriden City Hall with City staff and City Council members and City residents interested in offering input PY45 AAP; 3 City Council members, 3 City staff, and 5 members of the public attended. The Public Hearing was also advertised in the Meriden Record Journal newspaper and on several City websites.	The comments received were in favor of specific applications submitted by Franciscan Home Care, Joy Unlimited Ministries, Meriden Children First, Meriden Farmers Market, and Springwall Learning Solutions.	Not applicable.	http://www.meriden2020.com/news/cdbg-public-hearing-on-march-27-2019/

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	30 Day Comment Period on Draft Annual Action Plan from April 5 to May 5, 2019. A summary of the draft plan and allocations was published in the Meriden Record Journal on April 4, 2019. The Draft Plan was also placed online on various City websites and was also printed out and left for review in the City Manager's Office.	Three comment letters were received in support of specific applications, including the Our House Meriden - Phase One and the Meriden Soup Kitchen. These letters are included as an attachment. The letters were forwarded to the Human Services Committee and the City Council prior to voting and approval of the Annual Action Plan.	A Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding the address of the Change the Play organization was received from a Meriden Citizen on April 4, 2019. This request was sent to the Grants Administrator, City Manager, and several members of the City Council. Staff responded to the FOI request on April 5th. After receiving the information, the citizen responded that they didn't wish to submit written comments on the Draft Annual Plan for Program Year 45.	http://www.meriden2020.com/news/proposed-annual-action-plan-cdbg-py-45/

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
5	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Public Hearing held on April 24, 2019 at Meriden City Hall with City staff and City Council members and City residents interested in offering input PY45 AAP; 4 City Council members, 4 City staff, and 2 members of the public attended. The Public Hearing was also advertised in the Meriden Record Journal newspaper and on several City websites.	The comments received were in favor of specific applications submitted by Franciscan Home Care and Joy Unlimited Ministries.	Not applicable	http://www.meriden2020.com/news/cdbg-public-hearing-on-april-24-2019/
6	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Public Meeting of the Meriden City Council on May 20, 2019 to approve the Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan.	No comments received.	No comments received.	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
7	Public Comment Period	Non-targeted/broad community	5 Day Comment Period on Draft Substantial Amendment and on the amended Citizen Participation Plan from June 25 to June 30, 2020. A summary of the substantial amendment and citizen participation plan amendment was published in the Meriden Record Journal on June 23, 2020. The Drafts of both documents were also placed online on various City websites.	A written comment was received regarding the public hearing process/comment period for the substantial amendment and seeking additional information on funding. The comment is included as an attachment.	Not Applicable.	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
8	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Virtual public hearing was held on June 30, 2020 regarding the substantial amendment and the Citizen Participation Plan Amendments. This was attended by 5 members of City council, 5 City staff members, a member of the City's consultant working on the Consolidated Plan update, and at least 4 members of the public viewed the virtual hearing.	Comments received were in favor of increasing funding levels for business support, questioning whether any City Council members had a conflict of interest, asking whether the City has experienced decreases in CDBG funding, and questioning whether the public will be able to see funding allocations at the activity level and not just the project level. The Question and Answer Report from the virtual Hearing is included in the Citizen Participation attachment.	Not Applicable.	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
9	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Public Meeting of the Meriden City Council on July 6, 2020 to approve the substantial amendment to the Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan.	No comments received.	No comments received.	N/A
10	Public Comment Period	Non-targeted/broad community	(CV3) A 5-day public comment period was held from June 23, 2021 to June 29, 2021 to give the public an opportunity to review and make comments on the draft amendment. The plan was available online at www.meridenct.gov , or at the Community Development Office, Room 134, 142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450. Written comments could be submitted to ldiaz@meridenct.gov or be delivered to the Community Dev Office.	There were no comments made from the public.	All comments are accepted.	N/A
11	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	(CV3) The City held a virtual public hearing on June 29, 2021 at 5:00 PM to discuss the review the plan. For more information please contact ldiaz@meridenct.gov .	There were no comments made from the public.	All comments are accepted.	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
12	Public Comment Period	Non-targeted/broad community	(CV-Public Facilities Improvements Amendment) A 5-day public comment period was held from November 10, 2021 to November 15, 2021 to give the public an opportunity to review and make comments on the draft amendment. The plan was available online at www.meridenct.gov , or at the Community Development Office, Room 134, 142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450. Written comments could be submitted to ldiaz@meridenct.gov or be delivered to the Community Dev Office at the address above.	Comments will be included with the amendment submission.	All comments are accepted.	N/A

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Expected annual allocations for Program Year 45 have been confirmed as HUD made available municipal entitlement award amounts on the HUD Exchange. The City also received a formal allocation letter dated April 15, 2019. Any changes in funding levels after City Council Adoption as a result of learning the actual entitlement from HUD were done so in accordance with the Allocation Contingency Plan (included as Appendix C).

CARES ACT AMENDMENT:

On March 27, 2020 the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) was signed into law to assist communities in their efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included supplemental formula grant allocations to HUD's Community Planning & Development (CPD) programs, and were awarded in three rounds over the course of the first few months of the pandemic. As a recipient of CDBG funds, the City was allocated CARES act funds from Round 1 and Round 3. The allocations are listed below:

Round 1 CDBG-CV1: \$648,003

Round 3 CDBGCV-3: \$397,684

CDBG-CV funds are to be used to fund activities that help to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,056,363	0	98,065	1,154,428	0	Expected amount available for the remainder of the ConPlan is estimated to be zero as program year 45 is the 5th year of the City current Five Year Consolidated Plan. The actual amount of funding available is \$1,154,427.65. IDIS automatically rounded this amount to \$1,154,428.
Other CDBG-CV	public - federal	Admin and Planning Economic Development Public Services Other	1,045,687	0	0	1,045,687	0	CDBG-CV funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus. CDBG-CV funds were CV1 funds for \$648,003 and CV3 for \$397,684 for a total of \$1,045,687.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
Other	public - federal	Housing	216,756	0	0	216,756	0	This is our Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The amount listed is the amount that is in the RLF as of submission of this plan. The actual amount in the account is 216,756.39. See Discussion for more information. The amount expected for the remainder of the Consolidated Plan is estimated to be zero as program year 45 is the 5th year of the City current Five Year Consolidated Plan.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The City makes efforts to leverage federal and state agency resources to meet the needs identified in its Consolidated Plan. The City has secured a Section 108 Loan of \$1,500,000 to leverage a \$300,000 DECD Brownfields Pilot grant and \$400,000 in U.S. EPA Brownfields funds to complete demolition and environmental remediation of the former Insilco Factory H building at 77 Cooper and 104 Butler Streets. Redevelopment of the Meriden Green, Meriden Transit Center, and Factory H areas are projects that are being or were facilitated with HUD Challenge Grant funding as well as significant investment by the State of Connecticut. Additionally, the City has received a \$2,000,000 grant and \$2,000,000 loan from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, and a \$200,000 EPA Brownfields Grant for the remediation of the vacant Meriden Wallingford Hospital at 1 King Place. This structure is slated to be turned into mixed-use market rate development, with funds for the

conceptual site reuse plan coming from a \$100,000 DECD Brownfield Area-wide Revitalization Planning Grant. The City also received a \$2,000,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for demolition of the Mills Public Housing Project in downtown Meriden so that it can be turned into an extension of the Meriden Green. The relocation of Mills residents, as part of the overall housing and development plans for the TOD district in Meriden, has also resulted in millions of dollars of private investment in mixed use projects such as 24 Colony Street, Meriden Commons 1 & 2, and 11 Crown Street.

Several activities, including the Rental Assistance/Security Deposit Program run by New Opportunities, have also been able to leverage additional grant funds as a result of the CDBG funds allocated to them in the past.

The City leverages other sources of funding when possible to supplement CDBG projects and provide maximum assistance in meeting community needs.

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

The City has limited developable land, thus greatly affecting the ability to construct new affordable housing units. The City is actively involved in redevelopment efforts in its downtown that will provide new affordable housing as part of mixed-use development centered on an updated transit hub. Brownfield sites and vacant buildings – including 116 Cook Avenue, 1 King Place, 69 East Main Street, 11 Crown Street, and 121 Colony Street Rear – are being or have been assessed for environmental contaminants, remediated, repurposed and transferred to private partner organizations to be developed into usable, mixed-used developments with housing and economic development opportunities. The City is also assisting in completing site re-use planning projects by working with landowners of vacant or underutilized parcels in the downtown area.

Discussion

The "other funding source" is our Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The amount listed is the amount that is in the RLF as of submission of this annual plan. It is funding that is used solely for NPP, which provides low-interest, forbearance loans for owner occupied rehabilitation projects. This fund is administered by the Rehabilitation Administration activity, as well as the general CDBG administration activity. The amount in the account is subject to change unexpectedly based on when new applications for loans are approved or when properties that received loans are transferred, hence triggering repayment. The RLF was initially capitalized with CDBG funds. All accomplishments are reported under IDIS Activity 622, NPP Loans 2011.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Increase supply of decent and affordable housing	2015	2019	Affordable Housing Homeless	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide	Housing	CDBG: \$377,750 Revolving Loan Fund: \$216,756	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 5 Household Housing Unit Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 7000 Household Housing Unit
2	Create Suitable Living Environment	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide	Public Facilities Community Services Infrastructure Special Needs Services Business and Job Support	CDBG: \$470,004 CDBG-CV: \$666,150	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 16250 Persons Assisted Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2541 Persons Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 170 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 444 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Provide Economic Opportunity	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide	Community Services	CDBG: \$53,852 CDBG-CV: \$300,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 733 Persons Assisted Jobs created/retained: 43 Jobs Businesses assisted: 50 Businesses Assisted
4	Administration/Other/Loan Repayment	2015	2019	Administration	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide	Administration/Other	CDBG: \$252,821 CDBG-CV: \$79,537	Other: 2 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Increase supply of decent and affordable housing
	Goal Description	
2	Goal Name	Create Suitable Living Environment
	Goal Description	(CV-Public Facilities Improvements Amendment) The City has moved \$30,000 in CDBG-CV from CV-Public Services to CV-Public Facility Improvements. This amendment does not change the goal allocation amounts in the AP goal.
3	Goal Name	Provide Economic Opportunity
	Goal Description	

4	Goal Name	Administration/Other/Loan Repayment
	Goal Description	Administrative and planning costs related to carrying out Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan, including costs associated with hiring a consultant to assist in the drafting of the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan.

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Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Projects to be carried out in Program Year 45 are listed below. Please see Appendix A for list of funded activities associated with the original Program Year 45 annual plan projects. Activities to be funded with the CDBG-CV funds will be identified at a later date via subsequent application periods and review.

CARES ACT AMENDMENT:

CDBG-CV funds are to be used to fund projects and activities that help to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. The City will fund economic development to assist businesses in Meriden as they cope with the hardships, including financial, of preparing for, preventing, and responding to the coronavirus. The City will also fund public services that are specifically geared towards preparing for, preventing, or responding to the coronavirus. The public services grant allocation cap of 15% has been waived. Finally, the City will also provide funding for administration of the CV grants.

(CV-Public Facilities Improvements Amendment)

The City will move \$30,000 from CV-Public Services to a new project, CV-Public Facilities Improvements, that will prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. The public facility improvements project will support activities that will help in providing preventative and safety measures to neighborhood facilities during the ongoing pandemic and limit the spread of the coronavirus.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Public Service
2	Public Facilities
3	Housing
4	Administration
5	Section 108 Repayment
6	CV - Economic Development
7	CV - Public Services
8	CV - Administration
9	CV - Public Facility Improvements

Table 7 - Project Information

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

needs

All funding allocations have been made consistent with priority needs in the City of Meriden pursuant to the Consolidated Plan, Citizen Participation Plan, Annual Plan Allocation Process, and the Allocation Contingency Plan. The Citizen Participation Plan and the Allocation Contingency Plan can be found in the Appendices. Every effort was made to ensure that the most vulnerable residents of Meriden (youth, elderly, disabled, homeless/at-risk of homelessness, non-English speakers, individuals and families battling substance abuse, individuals/families experiencing domestic abuse) are the beneficiaries of Program Year 45 CDBG funding. Unfortunately, the amount of funds requested for activities significantly exceeds the amount of funds available. Indeed, the total of all funding requests was approximately \$330,000 more than the amount of the City's entire allocation from HUD.

With the infusion of CDBG-CV funds coming to the City of Meriden from the CARES Act, the City has allocated money to projects that will hopefully assist businesses and citizens of the City deal with coronavirus. As Connecticut is one of the more acutely afflicted states from this pandemic, with over 40,000 confirmed cases and nearly 4,000 deaths, including 755 cases in Meriden and 62 deaths as of 5/29/20, providing as much support to the community as possible is of vital importance. Indeed, according to the "Roadmap for Reopening Connecticut", as many as 35,000 businesses have closed and 531,000 residents have filed for unemployment in the state. In order to alleviate some of the pain caused by the coronavirus, and to provide a lifeline to businesses and residents, the City has allocated money to provide emergency grants to small businesses, and allocated significant funding to public services that assist those in need in the City during the pandemic.

(CV-Public Facilities Improvements Amendment)

In response to COVID-19, the City will allocate CDBG-CV funds for efforts in providing health and safety measures to public facilities to limit the spread of the coronavirus. The City will add a new project, CV-Public Facilities Improvements, that will support these activities that prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Public Service
	Target Area	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide
	Goals Supported	Create Suitable Living Environment Provide Economic Opportunity
	Needs Addressed	Community Services Special Needs Services Business and Job Support
	Funding	CDBG: \$220,000
	Description	Public Service activities carried out in Program Year 45, include, but are not limited to: arts/culture; youth programming; literacy training; employment services; programming for non-English speakers; homelessness prevention/outreach; nutrition; service referrals; and mentoring. Full list of activities can be found in Appendix A. Full list of activities funded with the Program Year 45 annual allocation during the annual plan process can be found in Appendix A.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that approximately 3,800 individuals will benefit from the public service activities. Additionally, an estimated 29,000 meals will be served at the Meriden Soup Kitchen activity and about 11,000 individuals are eligible to benefit from the Meriden Farmers Market Doubling Dollars Program.
	Location Description	Citywide, with a focus on downtown/Choice Neighborhood Area.
	Planned Activities	Public Service activities carried out in Program Year 45, include, but are not limited to: arts/culture; youth programming; literacy training; employment services; programming for non-English speakers; homelessness prevention/outreach; nutrition; service referrals; educational opportunities; and mentoring. Full list of activities funded during the Annual Plan Process can be found in Appendix A.
2	Project Name	Public Facilities
	Target Area	Central Downtown Area
	Goals Supported	Create Suitable Living Environment

	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$303,856
	Description	Public facility activities carried out in Program Year 45 will consist of sidewalk construction carried out by the City of Meriden. The commercial facade rehabilitation program will also continue to be carried out but is being funded with previous allocations.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 16,250 individuals will receive an area-wide benefit through the Inner City Sidewalks program.
	Location Description	Downtown TOD target area/Choice Neighborhoods Area and CDBG-eligible census tracts identified in Consolidated Plan.
	Planned Activities	Public facility activities carried out in Program Year 45 will consist of sidewalk construction carried out by the City of Meriden. The true allocation for the sidewalk construction in program year 45 will be \$303,856.40. The commercial facade rehabilitation program will also continue to be carried out but is being funded with previous allocations.
3	Project Name	Housing
	Target Area	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide
	Goals Supported	Increase supply of decent and affordable housing
	Needs Addressed	Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$377,750 Revolving Loan Fund: \$216,756
	Description	Housing activities carried out in Program Year 45 include code enforcement and the administration of the Neighborhood Preservation Program, including the issuance of forbearance loans to qualifying households.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 7,000 households will be inspected/re-inspected and that 5 households will receive assistance through the NPP program.

	Location Description	Citywide, with a focus on downtown, Choice Neighborhood area, and qualifying low/mod census tracts.
	Planned Activities	Housing activities carried out in Program Year 45 include code enforcement and the administration of the Neighborhood Preservation Program (Rehab Administration), including the issuance of forbearance loans to qualifying households. The Housing Code Enforcement Activity pays 75% of the salaries of 4 housing code inspectors and 50% of the salary of the Clerk that helps with the daily operations of the Housing Code Division. The Rehab Administration activity will pay for 25% of the salary of the ED Specialist salary which will administer the day-to-day activities of the program as well as supplies, training, and potential consultants, as needed. Also, it will pay for approximately 6.25% of the Grants Administrator position's salary for that employee's work conducting environmental reviews for a given project and overall compliance with CDBG regulations. The actual expected resources/allocations for these activities are \$377,750 for Housing Code Enforcement and Rehab Administration and \$216,756.39 for the NPP program from the City's RLF. The numbers are slightly different in the "Expected Resources" section as IDIS only allows whole numbers to be entered into that field.
4	Project Name	Administration
	Target Area	Central Downtown Area Meriden - Citywide
	Goals Supported	Administration/Other/Loan Repayment
	Needs Addressed	Administration/Other
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000
	Description	Administrative and planning costs related to carrying out Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan and completing the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan update.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Citywide.

	Planned Activities	<p>Administrative costs covering three (3) staff members and all other related expenses connected to planning and implementing Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan. Costs include covering 75% of the salary of the Grants Administrator/Community Development Manager and 10% of the salary of the Administrative Secretary, as well as supplies, professional subscriptions/memberships, costs affiliated with training, advertising and other administrative costs, as applicable. It will also cover 10% of the Economic Development Director's salary for purposes of general CDBG program oversight and participation in certain CDBG funded tasks, such as the Meriden Match program.</p> <p>Additionally, funds will be used to pay for a consultant to complete the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan. This plan will need to be adopted prior to the end of Program Year 45 as it will be the basis for the City's CDBG program and the individual Annual Action Plans for Program Years 46 – 50.</p>
5	Project Name	Section 108 Repayment
	Target Area	Central Downtown Area
	Goals Supported	Administration/Other/Loan Repayment
	Needs Addressed	Administration/Other
	Funding	CDBG: \$102,821
	Description	Repayment of the Section 108 loan in connection with demolition/remediation at Factory H site.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Downtown. The loan payment is for a Section 108 Loan that was used to demolish the Factory H building in downtown Meriden.
Planned Activities	Repayment of Section 108 loan in connection with demolition/remediation at Factory H site. The amount to actually be repaid, and hence the amount allocated to this project, is \$102,821.25. The amount was rounded in the "expected resources" field to account for IDIS whole number entry.	
6	Project Name	CV - Economic Development
	Target Area	Meriden - Citywide

	Goals Supported	Provide Economic Opportunity
	Needs Addressed	Business and Job Support
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$300,000
	Description	Economic Development project for business support to assist with preparing for, preventing, or responding to the coronavirus. Funding for this project comes from:CDBG-CV1: \$300,000
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Businesses assisted: 50 Businesses Assisted
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	The City will create a small business emergency grant program to assist businesses in Meriden as they cope with the hardships, including financial, of preparing for, preventing, and responding to the coronavirus.
7	Project Name	CV - Public Services
	Target Area	Meriden - Citywide
	Goals Supported	Create Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Community Services Special Needs Services
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$636,150
	Description	Public Services that are specifically geared towards preparing for, preventing, or responding to the coronavirus that are to be funded with the CDBG-CV funds will be determined via a supplemental application process. Funding for this project comes from: CDBG-CV1: \$348,003 CDBG-CV3: \$288,417
	Target Date	6/30/2022

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Goal Outcome indicator is pro-rated based on the amount of funding in comparison to the regular Public Services project. Number of families/individuals to be served will become more clear once the City obtains, reviews, and approves applications for funding of activities under this project.
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	CDBG-CV funds will also be used for public services that prepare, prevent, or respond to the coronavirus.
8	Project Name	CV - Administration
	Target Area	Meriden - Citywide
	Goals Supported	Administration/Other/Loan Repayment
	Needs Addressed	Administration/Other
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$79,537
	Description	Administration of the CDBG-CV grant program. Funding is for admin is from CDBG-CV3 for \$79,537.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Administration of the CDBG-CV grant program.
9	Project Name	CV - Public Facility Improvements
	Target Area	Meriden - Citywide
	Goals Supported	Create Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$30,000

Description	Public Facility Improvements that will help provide health and safety measures and preventative activities to benefit residents in low/mod areas. CDBG-CV will fund activities that are tied to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Funding for this project comes from: CDBG-CV3: \$30,000
Target Date	6/30/2022
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 16250 Persons Assisted
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Public facility activities carried out will include various activities that help to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Activities will be conducted at neighborhood facilities in low/mod areas in Meriden.

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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

CDBG investment in Meriden is targeted primarily in its downtown neighborhoods, which contain low- to moderate-income households, sub-standard housing conditions, and a concentration of vacant or underutilized properties. The City recognizes that the revitalization of its downtown neighborhoods is linked to the revitalization of its economy as a whole. This is also the area of focus for the Meriden Choice Neighborhood Plan, the Connecticut Main Street Center “Come Home to Downtown, Act II” program, portions of the Meriden Plan of Conservation and Development, and the cooperative efforts of the Meriden Economic Development Corporation, the Midstate Chamber of Commerce, City Staff, and other local funders as expressed through the “Making Meriden Business Center”. This joint venture provides a visible presence in the downtown and seeks to link prospective businesses to available business development programs and potential properties. This Annual Plan supports these goals to revitalize the downtown neighborhoods and the local economy while also allowing for services to be provided to income-eligible recipients in other parts of the City as needed.

CDBG allocations provide support for activities that benefit low- to moderate-income households, as well as the City’s minority population, concentrated in the following census tracts: 1701, 1702, 1703, 1706, 1707 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1713, 1714, and 1715. These areas comprise a large portion of the central downtown area. Eligible census tracts have been determined as those having greater than 51% of households with an income less than 80% of HAMFI. This data is based on the 2011-2015 American Community Survey information compiled by HUD on the HUD exchange website as part of CPD Notice 19-02.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Central Downtown Area	72
Meriden - Citywide	28

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City has several mechanisms in place to ensure that funds go to the neediest individuals. First, City Code Enforcement activities funded by CDBG are limited to the low-income census tracts outlined above. Moreover, the Rehabilitation Administration activity administers the NPP program which provides low-interest loans to qualifying low income individuals/households, with funding targeted at the central downtown area & low-income census tracts. Additionally, all sub-grantees under the Public Services category must document that the service being provided benefits low and moderate income families. Finally, geographic investment in the downtown area helps to leverage much need public and

private funding as Meriden revitalizes this critical target area. Such CDBG funded investment includes the Inner City Sidewalks activity. Additionally, the City has been able to obtain millions of dollars in grants/loans from the CT Department of Economic & Community Development and the US Environmental Protection Agency for brownfield remediation projects that encourage future economic development and quality of life in central downtown area.

It is expected that the CV - Economic Development Project to be funded with CDBG-CV funding will be predominantly focused on the Central Downtown area. This is because the project is focused on assisting small/micro businesses weather the financial impacts of the coronavirus. The majority of businesses in this geographical area are small/micro businesses that may not be able to access other forms of financial assistance, such as SBA loans or the Paycheck Protection Program. Thus the City expects the greatest need for assistance to be in this region of the City.

Discussion

Percentage of funds shown in the geographic distribution table is an approximation for the Program Year 45 Annual Allocation. Included in the Central Downtown area funds are the Public Facilities, Housing, and the Section 108 repayment projects. Also included are several Public service activities that are specifically located in the downtown, or predominantly serve the residents of downtown. The projects that are to be funded with CDBG-CV funds are not included in this calculation.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Applications supporting affordable housing include New Opportunities security deposit program; Salvation Army Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program; housing rehabilitation administration; and City code enforcement staff.

In addition to direct assistance to homeowners and renters, the City plans to allocate critically needed funding to organizations working to address homelessness, and support those in the community who are at risk of homelessness. The New Opportunities Shelter Now Program offers emergency shelter and referrals to approximately 170 individuals, while Project Reach will connect with approximately 200 youth who are at risk of homelessness, or are living in unstable housing situations.

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

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	40
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	5
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	45

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Housing Authority of the City of Meriden (MHA) is responsible for providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for individuals residing in Meriden who have low- and moderate-incomes. MHA is an autonomous corporation which is allowed to act as a municipal entity and participate in municipal benefits. The City's Economic Development Department and the MHA operate independently, and therefore the Economic Development Department's direct role in providing public housing is very limited.

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

Need: Shortage of affordable housing for all eligible populations

Strategy #1: Maximize the number of affordable units available to the MHA within its current resources by:

- Reducing turnover time for vacated public housing units;
- Seeking replacement of public housing units lost to the inventory through mixed-finance development;
- Maintaining or increasing Section 8 lease-up rates by establishing payment standards that will enable families to rent throughout the jurisdiction;
- Undertaking measures to ensure access to affordable housing among families assisted by MHA, regardless of unit size required;
- Maintaining or increasing Section 8 lease-up rates by marketing the program to owners, particularly those outside of areas of minority and poverty concentration; and
- Participating in the Consolidated Plan development process to ensure coordination with broader community development strategies.

Strategy #2: Increase the number of affordable housing units by:

- Applying for additional Section 8 units should they become available;
- Leveraging affordable housing resources in the community through the creation of mixed - finance housing;
- Pursuing housing resources other than public housing or Section 8 tenant-based assistance;
- Implementing project-based Section 8 voucher program consistent with revised statutes; and
- Amending Section 8 Administrative Plan to allow and promote use of project-based vouchers in neighborhoods that are under a comprehensive revitalization and at other mixed-finance

developments.

Need: Specific Family Types: Families at or below 50% of Median Area Income

- Adopt rent policies to support and encourage work

Other Housing Needs & Strategies:

The MHA will continue to implement a project-based Section 8 Program (PBV) track designed to work in tandem with other sources of affordable housing finance.

Given the historic under-funding of modernization, the MHA will be looking at ways to leverage resources to redevelop its public housing portfolio. Re-establishing a stable and viable housing portfolio is a major priority for the MHA over the development of incremental units but will not preclude supporting opportunities to assist other entities in the expansion of affordable housing in Meriden.

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

MHA conducted a series of meetings with residents and management staff. These meetings brought up two main areas of concern voiced by residents: safety and security, and major repairs or replacement. With a list of specific resident concerns, the MHA can continue to work with residents to address concerns.

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

Not applicable as the PHA is not designated as troubled.

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

Introduction

The City intends to allocate \$30,000 in Program Year 45 funds to two separate organizations (New Opportunities and the Women and Families Center) that provide services to homeless individuals and families, as well as youth that are at risk of homelessness. Through its public services grants, the City supports the operations of several private non-profit organizations whose mission is to provide temporary housing and other related counseling services for the homeless in Meriden. During the 2019-2020 program year the City of Meriden will implement projects that impact homelessness and relieve the cost burden on special needs populations. The City also intends to allocate \$15,000 for security deposit and rent assistance that is intended to keep families and individuals who cannot afford to make an initial security deposit or who run into temporary difficulty making a rent payment from falling into homelessness.

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

To address its homelessness objectives, the City will allocate resources towards the provision of housing and counseling services to individuals who are either homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. The Women and Families Center's "Project Reach" directly benefits runaway, homeless and at-risk youth ages 12-24 by seeking out youth where they congregate and providing supportive services to build self-sufficiency and identify stable, long-term housing. The program also provides transitional housing services to young adults, economic training, and independence through job readiness programs and education. Also, the Shelter Now activity provides shelter to homeless persons while also supporting a portion of the full-time case management position. This position provides support and coordinates service assistance for Shelter residents. Services including implementing individual evaluations, working with participants to develop activities to reach their goals, providing necessary intervention and cultivating and maintaining program links with area social service agencies, medical providers and appropriate support programs, helping to get residents into treatment, securing a job and enrolling in

school

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The following organizations specifically address the homeless needs identified in the Consolidated Plan:

- Joy Unlimited Outreach Ministries - Breaking of Bread
- Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Self Sufficiency Program
- New Opportunities Security Deposit Program
- New Opportunities Shelter Now Program
- Meriden Soup Kitchen
- Child Guidance Clinic
- Women and Families Center – Project Reach
- The Salvation Army Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program

The Meriden Housing Authority (MHA) also works to address homelessness in the City of Meriden. MHA is responsible for providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for individuals residing in Meriden with low and moderate incomes. The Meriden Housing Authority has the following goals to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness:

- “Expand the supply of assisted housing”
- “Increase assisted housing choices”
- “Promote self-sufficiency and asset development of families and individuals”
- “Ensure equal opportunity in housing for all Americans”

The Meriden Housing Authority will address homelessness by providing Section 8 vouchers and to provide first time homeowner loan assistance aimed at transitioning residents from public housing into the private housing market. The Meriden Housing Authority will apply if funds are available for new Section 8 Certificates or vouchers for households experience severe cost burden.

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

To end chronic homelessness, the City intends to support public service projects that provide counseling and support services to the homeless. These programs include the Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Self Sufficiency Program, Shelter NOW, and Women and Family Center - Project Reach. In addition, the City will support the Child Guidance Clinic and Project Reach, which provide counseling to at-risk youth in order

to alleviate future behavioral and other developmental problems that could lead to chronic homelessness.

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.

The Meriden Housing Authority has found that providing rental subsidies to households below 80% of the median income level for the area is the most cost effective and practical means to address pending homelessness. The Meriden Housing Authority will secure additional Section 8 Housing Assistance vouchers as they become available so that more individuals can be served. Project Reach will also play a critical role in identifying youth who are in unstable living environments and are at risk of becoming homeless in order to divert them from the shelter system. Advocacy Academy will also receive support for its programming to provide necessary services to Spanish-speaking families, with a focus on families and children with mental health disabilities. The Salvation Army Emergency Assistance Program and the New Opportunities Rental Assistance/Security Deposit Program can also provide payments directly to landlords or utility companies to assist renters in jeopardy of becoming homeless due to a financial emergency.

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

Introduction:

Meriden's downtown area contains high concentrations of low- and moderate-income and minority households and much of its older housing stock. In Meriden's downtown neighborhoods, many residents frequently experience cost burden problems and homeowners struggle to maintain their properties. Indeed, in many of the previously identified census tracts from Section AP-50, the percent of households that are housing cost burdened ranges from approximately 30% to greater than 58% of households depending on the census tract.

An Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) is required by HUD from jurisdictions receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The overall goal of the AI is to review and assess impediments to fair housing within Meriden. According to HUD, impediments to fair housing choice are:

- Any actions, omissions, or decisions taken because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin that restrict housing choice or the availability of housing choices.
- Any actions, omissions, or decisions that have the effect of restricting housing choices or the availability of housing choices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.

The AI report was developed in conjunction with this Consolidated Plan. It evaluates Meriden's current fair housing legal status, and its and public and private fair housing programs and activities, and provides recommendations for fair housing initiatives critical to ensuring equal housing opportunity within the City.

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

With Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) program funds, the City acquired, rehabilitated and resold homes to low and moderate income households, including minority households, in the downtown area. Although the funding for this program has been exhausted, the City will continue to monitor the properties for program compliance, including affordability restrictions and the submission of required reporting.

Similarly, the objective of the Meriden Neighborhood Preservation Program is the recovery of the downtown neighborhoods through housing rehabilitation. Using its NPP Revolving Loan Fund and other public subsidies, the City provides below market interest rate loans to low to moderate income property owners (living within designated "Neighborhood Strategy Areas") for housing rehabilitation. These loans are aimed specifically at helping fund emergency repairs, such as sewer line replacements or roof repairs

that would otherwise be a danger to occupants of a given household. Other necessary household repairs are also considered, depending on the project. The administration of this program is paid in part by the Housing Rehab Administration activity.

The City also undertakes Code Enforcement activities targeted at the downtown area and surrounding low/moderate income households. This activity help maintain properties in a livable condition. Often, it is through the work of the City's code enforcement officers that potential projects for the NPP program are identified.

In addition to the activities undertaken by the City, the Meriden Housing Authority addresses barriers to affordable housing by providing economic subsidies. The Meriden Housing Authority states the following goal related to the removal of barriers to affordable housing: "Increase the availability of decent, safe and affordable housing by applying for additional rental vouchers, reducing public housing vacancies, and leveraging private or other public funds to create additional housing opportunities." Toward this end, the Meriden Housing Authority will continue to reduce the barriers to affordable housing by providing Section 8 vouchers and to provide first-time homeowner loan assistance aimed at transitioning residents from public housing into the private housing market.

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AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The projects included in the Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan were chosen for the range and quality of services and programs geared toward the most vulnerable Meriden residents, and for their alignment with the priorities detailed in the City's Consolidated Plan. These projects will address a number of the planning objectives of the City of Meriden to: address obstacles to meeting underserved needs; foster and maintain safe and affordable housing; reduce the number of poverty-level families; develop institutional structure; and enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The allocation of funding in Program Year 45 aims to provide Meriden's special needs populations, including the elderly, the poor, non-native english speakers, and the handicapped, access to services used by the public at large. Projects will provide a suitable living environment by making services accessible to needy individuals. Examples include:

- Youth sports, arts, after school, and empowerment activities.
- Literacy training and translation services for residents who do not speak English as their first language, including those needing mental health counseling.
- Employment and entrepreneurship training.
- Employment opportunities for mentally disabled adults.
- Homelessness prevention and outreach.
- Emergency shelter and referral services.
- Homecare for the elderly.
- Outreach, education and treatment related to the opioid crisis.

Program Year 45 will also include funding to continue the City's Inner City Sidewalk program. This project will remove deteriorated sidewalks and provide a safer walking environment for the residents of the targeted inner-city neighborhoods in the qualifying census tracts in Meriden. The City has seen improvements in these neighborhoods where the City has invested in new sidewalks.

Program Year 45 will also include continued implementation of the Meriden Match Facade Rehabilitation program, which helps create a suitable living environment for underserved populations and the community at large in the targeted downtown area. This activity received CDBG funds in both Program Year 43 and 44, with funds remaining to be spent.

Program Year 45 will also include creation and implementation of a small/micro business emergency grant program to be funded with CDBG-CV funds. This program will seek to assist businesses with the financial hardship they are experiencing due to mandated business closings as a result of the coronavirus. Businesses will be able to apply to the program for grants that will allow them to pay for rent, mortgage,

utilities, and other allowable business expenses. This will ideally serve as bridge funding, permitting the targeted businesses to stay afloat and prevent further layoffs until they are allowed to reopen for business as usual. This will help create a suitable living environment for underserved populations and the community at large in the targeted downtown area and will also aid in job retention in the City.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Meriden will provide low-interest forbearance loans for single-unit and multi-unit residential rehabilitation projects within the target area. This includes continuation of the Neighborhood Preservation Program to increase affordable, decent housing in the City center. This program is administered as part of the Rehabilitation Administration Activity, with the loans to be funded by the NPP program's Revolving Loan Fund. The New Opportunities Security Deposit Program will also provide residents who otherwise would not be able to afford an apartment with the assistance needed to gain entry to the rental market. Salvation Army's Emergency Assistance Program will also aid renters who may otherwise have to make the nearly impossible choice of whether to pay rent or buy food/pay bills.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Funding provided to City staff through the Housing category will in part cover housing inspections throughout targeted geographic areas in Meriden, and will address lead paint hazards as needed. Homes issued CDBG-backed loans through the Neighborhood Preservation Program with children younger than six years old residing in them will be tested for lead based paint hazards if any work is to be performed that would pose a potential hazard to occupants.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Provide those in need of temporary housing and counseling services, including adults and children who are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, access to needed services in Meriden. Projects will provide a suitable living environment by making services accessible to needy individuals. Further, employment training, entrepreneurship programming, literacy training for both children and non-English speakers are all designed to provide residents with the skills and knowledge to improve the quality of their life as well as their families.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

CDBG administrative funds will contribute to the administration of the CDBG Program and help ensure that the City meets the statutory and regulatory objectives outlined as a condition of participation in the program. The Community Development Manager and Grants Administrator will take the following actions to ensure that needed services are coordinated between the City, subrecipient organizations carrying out CDBG activities, and the public who benefit from the CDBG-funded activities:

- Post CDBG Program materials and announcements, such as the availability of the Annual Plan, Annual Action Plan 2019

CAPER, and RFP documents in the local newspaper and on the City's website www.cityofmeriden.org.

- Distribute copies of all materials to the general public, non-profit organizations, and elected officials when available or requested.
- Hold one-on-one meetings with sub-recipients to discuss quarterly report accomplishments and overall programming, as needed.
- Provide referrals to appropriate City departments and local organizations, such as the Neighborhood Preservation Program and the Meriden Housing Authority.

The Community Development Manager/Grants Administrator will also begin working on the required update to the City's 5 year Consolidated Plan. The current Consolidated Plan will expire at the end of Program Year 45. Thus, a new plan with all required outreach will need to place for adoption by the City for Program Year 46, which begins July 1, 2020. A RFP requesting consulting services to assist in the Consolidated Plan update is expected to be issued in early summer of 2019, with the Consultant expected to be paid out of the Administration activity.

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

The Meriden Housing Authority will continue to reduce the barriers to affordable housing by providing Section 8 vouchers and to provide first-time homeowner loan assistance aimed at transitioning residents from public housing into the private housing market. The Economic Development Department will work with developers of new rental housing construction in the targeted TOD area to ensure that historic tax credits and other state and federal programs leverage adequate affordable housing opportunities for residents.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

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.

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.	80.00%

For the purposes of this PY 45 Annual Action Plan, the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for the Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) was not entered as program income. The rationale behind this is that since the RLF was set up specifically for the NPP program, and since the funds are held in a separate account, the funds are designated for use in the NPP program only. The RLF and its associated funds were not set

up to be used to fund different activities. Thus it does not have the same flexibility of use that traditional program income does. Additionally, the fund doesn't need to be spent entirely prior to spending money on other activities per CDBG regulations.

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