

# Executive Summary

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

### 1. Introduction

A Consolidated Plan and an Annual Action Plan are submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] as a prerequisite to receiving Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] Program Funds. Cherokee County's 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan is a comprehensive planning document that identifies Cherokee County's overall needs for affordable housing, homelessness needs and services, community and economic development, and public services. The Consolidated Plan outlines the County's strategies, priorities, and objectives for addressing identified needs.

An Annual Action Plan is required for each of the five years of the Consolidated Plan. This document is for the third year of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The 2021 Annual Action Plan identifies the specific projects that are proposed for the \$1,202,802 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] allocation that were identified as priorities in Cherokee County's Consolidated Plan and are modified as a result of input from various agencies and organizations in Cherokee County.

### 2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

Goshen Valley Boys Ranch is proposing minor rehabilitation of the group home facilities for boys in foster care. The repairs will to the buildings on the campus the boys ranch will benefit (100) boys in foster care and improve their living environment. The Cherokee County Historical Society proposes using funds to build out its facility to provide a research library, archives, exhibition space, and additional space for restrooms. The City of Canton proposes to make street improvements on Marietta Road to make pedestrian traffic safer and improve access to city amenities and services from a low-mod neighborhood. Charlie Ferguson Community Center in the Pea Ridge Community plans to use funds to fund a second phase of the conversion of a former fire station into a community center. This will increase services and amenities for an underserved LMI neighborhood. The County also proposes funding for facilities improvements to Heritage Presbyterian Church, which was key community partner in responding to the pandemic with an emergency food pantry. They had an overwhelming community need to fill for individuals and families out of work and unable to provide food for themselves. The County's collaboration with Habitat for Humanity to address *Affordable Housing for Low-to-Moderate Income Persons* and to *Eliminate Substandard Housing for LMI Individuals and Families* continues to be administered, successfully assisting 10 households in 2020. In addition to the minor/emergency home repair program, the County will fund the acquisition of lots for Habitat to construct affordable housing to help address the need to increase affordable housing stock in the County. The Boys and Girls Club provides

transportation to after-school and summer programs and activities for youth in the County. The County proposes to continue support of the program which expects to serve 276 youth in Cherokee County, of which 206 are expected to be LMI (75%). In addition to support for the transportation program, the County intends to fund a reading program designed to improve literacy for LMI youth. The program will be administered by the Boys & Girls Club, and it will benefit 40 3rd – 8th grade youth. A third program the Club is proposing for funding is a Workforce Readiness / Development Program designed to improve the success of high school students after graduation, whether continuing their education in college or a trade school, entering the workforce directly into a full-time job, or entering the military, by offering training for soft skills, life skills, and job skills. Programming will benefit 45 teens. Proposed funding for new programming will go to Goodwill of North Georgia who provides job training and placement through a partnership with Chattahoochee Tech for low-to-moderate income persons. They expect to serve 20 LMI persons. Cherokee Child Advocacy Council (Anna Crawford) provides services to children who have experienced child abuse, some of which are Spanish speaking victims. The assistance, provided with CDBG funds, allows the Center to partially support two multi-lingual Counselors/Forensic Interviewers. In addition to advocacy services, the center provides forensic medical exams in-house to provide a safe, child-friendly, and comfortable environment for medical evaluations for physical abuse. 450 victim children and 225 non-offending caregivers are expected to benefit from this program. MUST Ministries, Inc. continues to work with the homeless and near homeless persons of Cherokee County. MUST's supportive housing program creates an individualized service plan to obtain health services, mainstream benefits, and employment. The County supported this, the only supportive housing program in Cherokee, in 2020 and will continue to support it in 2021. The program expects to serve 45 LMI persons. Bethesda Community Clinic plans to continue their Community Health Education and Disease Prevention Initiative for underinsured/uninsured LMI persons in the county by adding telehealth education services. Services are expected to benefit 850 persons. And, the YMCA requests funding for the Summer Day Camp/Youth Development program that is administered each year and offers low-cost / no-cost admission to LMI children and children in foster care. 100 LMI youth are expected to benefit.

<b>Public Facility</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>
City of Canton	Canton Creek Pedestrian Bridge – Street Improvements	\$74,878
Habitat for Humanity	Land Acquisition - Affordable Housing	\$100,000
Cherokee County Historical Society	Public Facility Improvements	\$300,000
Heritage Presbyterian Church	Minor Public Facility Improvements	\$49,504
Goshen Valley Foundation	Minor Rehab. to Public Facility at Goshen Valley Boys Ranch	\$101,000
Cherokee County	Pea Ridge Community Ctr. Initiative Ph. II	\$150,000
Cherokee County	Minor/Emergency Home Repair	\$60,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$835,382
<b>Non-profit Agency</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Bethesda Community Clinic	Staff Support – Telehealth Education & Disease Prevention	\$24,413
Boys & Girls Club	Transportation Program	\$20,428
Boys & Girls Club	Workforce Readiness / Development Program	\$25,421
Boys & Girls Club	Reading Program	\$20,470

Cherokee Child Advocacy Council [Anna Crawford Children's Center]	Two Multi-lingual Counselors Staff Support	\$28,037
Goodwill of North Georgia	Career Pathways	\$19,209
MUST Ministries, Inc.	Case Management-Supportive Housing	\$22,950
YMCA	Summer Day Camp/Youth Development	\$19,492
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$180,420
Cherokee County	Planning and Administration	\$187,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$1,202,802

**Table 1 - Summary of Objectives & Outcomes**

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

Cherokee County's partnership with Habitat for Humanity to administer a Minor/Emergency Home Repair program to assist LMI persons 55 years old and older, veterans, and persons with disabilities allows the program to address the goal of providing *Affordable Housing for LMI Persons* and the goal to *Eliminate Substandard Housing for LMI Seniors and Families*. The program allows up to \$5,000 for minor/emergency repairs. Successes of the program allow the County to support funding for Habitat to administer it. The County will continue to fund the Minor/Emergency Home Repair Program to benefit the County's vulnerable population to age/remain in place in sustainable and affordable housing. Because of pandemic restrictions on work within the homes of seniors, the repair program was halted for a short period in 2020, but once work resumed, 10 households benefitted from the program. In addition to the repair program, the County partners with Habitat for Humanity to increase affordable housing stock by funding the acquisition of lots for Habitat to construct affordable housing through its Build Program. In 2020, the pandemic severely hampered the build schedule for affordable housing units, but one affordable housing unit was added for LMI family. The County will continue to support this program to address affordable housing for LMI persons.

The program year was dedicated to planning for, responding to, and preventing the spread of infectious disease as a result of the national emergency declaration due to the public health crisis brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. HUD allocated two separate tranches of supplemental funding to the County for a total of \$1,699,801. In addition, the regular CDBG funds allocation totaled \$1,251,255, but funds were not made available during the program year. Projects funded in prior program years were completed in 2020 or begun during the 2020 program year. MUST Ministries, Inc. continues to work with the homeless and near homeless persons of Cherokee County with the only Supportive Housing Program in the County. For program year 2020, the County provided funds for staff support of case managers for MUST's Case Management in the Supportive Housing Units which will be administered in 2021 because of late funding availability. The County proposes to continue support of the program in 2021.

Victim children statistics are on the rise for the County and CDBG funds will be used to assist programs geared toward assisting children. The Opioid Crisis facing the County continues to significantly impact the increase in the number of children entering foster care. Cherokee Child Advocacy Center's multi-lingual therapeutic and victim advocate programs will be supported with funding. Because of timing of the availability of funds, the award for 2020 will be administered in 2021. The County supported the minor rehabilitation of facilities

located on the Goshen Valley Boys Ranch campus with 2020 funding to benefit boys in foster care, and the grant will be administered in 2021. Program year 2020 funds were also awarded to Bethesda Community Clinic for staff support for Bethesda Community Clinic to provide healthcare services to the uninsured/underinsured LMI persons of Cherokee County and youth development programs at Mimms Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA. The grant awards for these 2020 programs will be administered in 2021. Transportation services provided by the Mimms Boys and Girls Club were also funded for 2020, and the grant will be administered in 2021. The County proposes to fund Bethesda Community Clinic, the Mimms Boys & Girls Club and the YMCA for these programs in 2021.

The County continues to take a proactive approach in project selection to ensure capital projects are committed and shovel-ready. In addition, all prior activities and subrecipients have been evaluated by reviewing past performance. Timeliness will continue to be a concern for the County as long as the annual allocation is not available until after the program year begins and the subrecipients/non-profits are not in a position to begin a project until the award is known.

#### **4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in the planning process for the development of the Annual Action Plan. The County advertises in the Cherokee Tribune and posts on its website the availability of funding and holds two workshops to address the requirements of the program during the application period. Public Comments are solicited for a 30-day period prior to the approval by the Board of Commissioners for submission of the plan to HUD. At the Public Hearings for the Annual Action Plan and CAPER, as well as at each of the workshops, community needs are discussed. Staff also meets with individuals as well as the community stakeholders throughout the year to assess the on-going needs for the County. During the pandemic, staff have attended virtual meetings with stakeholders and service providers.

#### **5. Summary of public comments**

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

Public comments received were limited during the planning process for this action plan. The organizations that attended the workshops provided information about their agencies and the needs within the community in responses on the Needs Assessment Surveys and open discussion. More and more needs are expressed for affordable and workforce housing, and transportation service continues to be an unmet need in the County. An increasing number of children are entering the foster care system due to the Opioid Crises experienced in the County. Providers fear that the community may experience a surge in homelessness due to the public health emergency and its economic impact on families and businesses.

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

There were no comments made or views that were deemed "not accepted".

**7. Summary**

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