

# 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 and Home Investment Partnerships [HOME] 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 fifth year of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan for the period January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. The 2023 Annual Action Plan identifies the specific projects that are proposed for the HUD allocation of \$1,120,091 in CDBG funds. Projects are identified as priorities in Cherokee County's Consolidated Plan and are modified resulting from input from various agencies and organizations in Cherokee County. The action plan also identifies nonprofit partnerships the County will use to address housing needs in the community with the HUD allocation of \$553,363 in HOME funds for program year 2023.

### 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 Foundation is seeking funding to make improvements to its Family Resource Center. The center provides mental health and family support services in the County to help at-risk families keep children out of foster care. The Children's Haven is proposing two minor rehabilitation projects to separate buildings on their campus: their main building and satellite space that will be used as a community room where court appointed special advocates will be trained and training services are provided to foster families. The main building will have two supervised visitation rooms for children in foster care. The County also proposes funding for facilities improvements to an active park in an LMI neighborhood (Kenny Askew Park). Cherokee Child Advocacy Council is seeking additional funding for Phase II of a public facilities improvements project. The County's collaboration with Habitat for Humanity to address *Affordable Housing for LMI Persons* and to *Eliminate Substandard Housing for LMI Individuals and Families* will continue; the program makes available, for each qualified household, up to \$15,000 for minor/emergency repairs. Cherokee Child Advocacy Council provides services to children who have experienced child abuse, some of which are Spanish speaking victims. Grant

funds allow the Center to partially support two multi-lingual Counselors/Forensic Interviewers. In addition to advocacy services, the center provides forensic medical exams in-house in a safe, child-friendly, and comfortable environment for medical evaluations for physical abuse. 510 victim children and 260 non-offending caregivers are expected to benefit from services. The Children’s Haven has launched a Chin Up Mentoring Program for teens and has requested funding for a program coordinator. The program expects to assist 40 LMI children. The Boys and Girls Club provides Youth Development programming, which encompasses three core programming initiatives: Academic Success, Character and Leadership, and Healthy Lifestyles. The Mimms Boys & Girls Club expects to serve 165 youth with 132 being LMI. MUST Ministries, Inc. continues to work with the homeless and near homeless populations of Cherokee County. MUST's supportive housing program creates an individualized service plan to obtain health services, mainstream benefits, and employment. Services are expected to benefit 70 LMI persons. Bethesda Community Clinic requests funding to help support the medical staff of its mobile medical unit for the underinsured/uninsured LMI persons in the county. Services are expected to benefit 750 persons. Goodwill of North Georgia partners with Chattahoochee Tech to provide job training and placement for low-to-moderate income persons. They expect to serve 20 LMI persons through the Career Pathways Program. Next Step Ministries serves disabled clients, some of whom are medically fragile and require round-the-clock care. They are seeking funding for staff support and expect to benefit 23 clients. And, Serenade Heights has requested funding for case management in their transitional housing program for single mothers and their children.

The County will receive another allocation of HOME funding from HUD’s Community Planning & Development Division, Home Investment Partnership Program [HOME] for the 2023 program year for \$553,363. The County will use its existing relationship with MUST Ministries to continue administration of a Tenant Based Rental Assistance program. The County will use HOME funds to fund the acquisition of lots for Habitat for Humanity to construct affordable housing to help address the need to add affordable housing stock in the County. Habitat for Humanity-North Central Georgia administers the County’s Minor/Emergency Home Repair Program with CDBG funds.

<u>Public Facility</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Cherokee Child Advocacy Council [Anna Crawford Children's Center]	Public Facility Improvements (Phase II)	\$225,000
The Children’s Haven	Minor Rehab – Public Facility (Ph II Main)	\$15,357
The Children’s Haven	Minor Rehab. - Public Facility (Community Room)	\$30,645
Goshen Valley Foundation	Minor Rehab. - Public Facility (Goshen Valley’s Family Resource Center)	\$112,500
Cherokee County – Parks	Kenny Askew Park Improvements	\$70,000
Cherokee County	Minor/Emergency Home Repair	\$100,000
TBD	Projects to be Determined	<u>\$218,784</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Public Facilities</b>	<b>\$772,286</b>
<u>Non-profit Agency</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Cherokee Child Advocacy Council [Anna Crawford Children's Center]	Staff Support – Bi-lingual therapists/counselors	\$30,037

Bethesda Community Clinic	Staff Support – Mobile Medical Unit Medical Services Provider	\$21,621
Boys & Girls Club	Staff Support - Youth Development Program	\$32,421
The Children’s Haven	Staff Support – Chin Up Mentorship Program	\$15,110
Goodwill of North Georgia	Staff Support - Career Pathways	\$15,221
MUST Ministries, Inc.	Case Management-Supportive Housing	\$22,500
Next Step Ministries	Staff Support – Nurse	\$22,500
Serenade Heights	Staff Support – Case Manager (Transitional Housing)	<u>\$17,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Public Services</b>	<b>\$176,410</b>
Cherokee County	Planning and Administration	<u>\$227,371</u>
<b>Total All Projects</b>	<b>CDBG</b>	<b>\$1,176,067</b>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	<b>Project</b>	
Habitat for Humanity	Land Acquisition – Affordable Housing Production	\$325,000
MUST Ministries, Inc.	Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program	\$153,440
Cherokee County	Program Administration	<u>\$53,160</u>
<b>Total All Projects</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>\$531,600</b>
<b>TOTAL Formula Grant Allocations</b>		<b>\$1,707,667</b>

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.

The County’s partnership with Habitat for Humanity to administer a 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 Persons and Families*. It successfully assisted 9 households in 2022. The County also partners with Habitat for Humanity to increase affordable housing stock by funding the acquisition of lots for construction of affordable housing through its Build Program. In 2022, two affordable housing units were added. The County will continue to support this program with HOME Program funding.

Program year 2022 saw a significant portion of the supplemental CARES act funding for the CDBG Program expended to exceed the required 80% expenditure rate milestone, measured three years after initial funding, to finish a small business relief program, to continue to offer an eviction prevention program through a partnership with MUST Ministries, and to support food pantries offered by Heritage Presbyterian Church and MUST Ministries. The food pantries shouldered an enormous amount of demand for food supplies for food-insecure families and individuals. The supplemental funds leveraged agencies’ efforts to address the pandemic’s significant economic impact on small businesses and LMI renter households. The unassigned remaining CDBG-CV funds at the end of program year 2022, will be allocated to MUST Ministries to continue efforts to address the unprecedented need for food supplies for LMI persons and families.

Cherokee Child Advocacy Council's multi-lingual therapeutic & victim advocate program will be supported with funding. Victim children statistics continue to rise for the County, and CDBG funds will be used to assist

programs providing services to abused children. 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. The County provided funds for staff support of case managers for MUST's Supportive Housing Program in 2022, and the County proposes to continue support of the program in 2023.

Program year 2022 funds were also awarded to Bethesda Community Clinic for staff support to expand its telehealth education and disease prevention services to assist clients in managing chronic disease and aid in the prevention of disease for uninsured/underinsured LMI persons. Bethesda uses a mobile medical unit to provide healthcare services in LMI neighborhoods and areas of the community with unmet transportation needs. Having served over 700 persons through the Telehealth Program Expansion, the County will award funds to leverage services provided by the clinic and support medical staff on the mobile medical unit. The County awarded funding to Goodwill of North Georgia, who provides job training and placement through a partnership with Chattahoochee Tech. Seven persons were served in 2022; the agency experienced turnover and challenges signing up clients for job training. Youth development programming at Mimms Boys and Girls Club was awarded funding in 2022 to improve literacy and develop social and soft skills to ensure academic and career success for students during and after high school. After-school and summer programming are designed to help youth improve reading and comprehension, make healthy choices, and prepare for education, work, or military after high school. The County proposes to fund the Mimms Boys & Girls Club for this programming in 2023.

The County provided 2022 funding to Goshen Valley Foundation for Phase II of its 2021 public facilities project to improve the living environments of boys in foster care at its Goshen Valley Boys Ranch campus. The County will fund another facilities project for Goshen's Family Resource Center. Anna Crawford Children's Center used 2022 funding to make facility repairs and has a need for additional funding to address other much-needed repairs for Phase II of the project. The County will provide funds for Phase II in 2023.

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.

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

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The County advertises in the Cherokee Tribune to encourage citizens to participate in the planning process for the development of the Annual Action Plan. The public notice and posts on the County website inform the public about the availability of funding and proposed projects. 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. Two workshops are held to address the requirements of the program during the grant application cycle. 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. Staff also participates in a monthly collaborative of service providers to stay abreast of community needs.

**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.

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. Providers remain cautious 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**

**7. Summary**

**DRAFT**