



**UNION
COUNTY**
north carolina

2022 CDBG Comprehensive Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)



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CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan.

91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

As a recipient of Community Development Block Grant funds, Union County is required to submit a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) within 90 days of the end of Union County's fiscal year, June 30, 2023 or by September 30, 2023. This report constitutes a summary of accomplishments and an accounting of the allocations and expenditure achieved by Union County as outlined in the County's FY 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan. The CAPER covers the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 and the second year of the County's five-year consolidated planning cycle. Projects listed in the FY 2022-2023 Action Plan are designed to address housing and community needs of low-and moderate-income Union County residents. During FY 2022-2023, many of the subrecipients were either providing public service activities to low-mod income residents or completing construction on a multi-year infrastructure project. While not all milestones were realized during the program year, several annual action plan goals were accomplished.

During the FY 2022-2023 time period, which is the second year of the 5-year Consolidated Plan, all funded projects were identified as the highest priority activities by the County. All projects aligned with Public Services, Affordable Housing Infrastructure, Public Facilities and Infrastructure to provide services to LMI and presumed benefit category residents.

Explanation of **the progress Union County has made in carrying out its strategic plan and action plan** by identified high priority goals:

- Continue ongoing County support for delivery of Public Service, with for services provided mainly for presumed benefit populations, such as elderly, domestic violence victims, economic and housing stabilization programs for vulnerable population, emergency shelter support services, emergency-related equipment along with prescription medication services for low-mod income individuals.
- Improve public facilities and infrastructure to support development Funds were planned for Jesse Helms Park Project. The project is still in early development, no CDBG funding was spent on this project. The County also planned for CDBG Septic System Repair Program which is still in development and is expected to begin next program year.
- Promote Affordable Housing by using funds for the purpose of creating housing through CDBG eligible activities such as site improvements. CDBG funding was allocated for infrastructure project to provide access for LMI East Village neighborhood. This project hit unexpected delays and the County is working with all parties to determine next steps.

CDBG-CV

During PY 2022 CDBG-CV\$74,270.80 funds were reimbursed for COVID related activities. No accomplishments were provided because the reimbursement was for previously completed activities during the PY 21 timeline.

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Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee’s program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	0	0.00%	0	0	
Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	220	0	0.00%	4865	0	0.00%
Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	7	0	0.00%	2	0	0.00%
Promote Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	7	0	0.00%			
Promote Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	1	0.00%	1	0	100.00%

Support Delivery of Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	4000	1051	131.03%	2472	1051	42.52%
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Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

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Assess how the jurisdiction's use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

Program year 2022 is the second year of the 5-year Consolidated Plan. All projects funded were identified as the highest priority activities. These projects included:

- **The Council on Aging In-Home Assistance for Seniors Project:** Union County's Council on Aging agency provides in-home services, that are offered at no cost to clients, which enables economically disadvantaged seniors an opportunity to receive assistance with tasks that are essential to remain living independently in their homes.
- **The Common Heart Economic Empowerment Program:** Common Heart, a non-profit organization with a mission to feed hunger families and empower those in poverty to create a sustainable community, provides access to food and crisis assistance, while connecting families to Economic Empowerment programs to build stability and self-sufficiency to those in poverty, and encourage relationships, connections, and social capital among individuals of all economic classes.
- **The Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter Assistance Project:** Turning Point is a non-profit service provider that provides a 24/7 crisis line, safe shelter, victim/court advocacy, case management, children's programs, parenting classes, individual and group counseling, and financial & relocation assistance for victims who cannot remain in the community due to safety concerns.
- **Union County Crisis Ministries Housing Stability Project:** Union County Crisis Ministries provides a combination of housing and stabilization knowledge, financial education, advocacy, and flexible financial assistance to help high-risk households becoming homeless retain their housing.

All projects met the following identified high priority needs:

- **Public Services:** Support community and supportive services, with special emphasis on services for the homeless, seniors, at-risk youth, the disabled, veterans, and other persons with special needs.
- **Promote Affordable Housing:** Union County Fair Housing Advisory Council was formed to gather community input regarding how the Council should operate, what specific goals and responsibilities should be assigned, and what activities the community envisions the Council doing. Activities brainstormed by Union County and Centralina included: Explore housing barriers, Develop a sustainable work plan that aims to increase affordable housing access, Research ideas for public awareness efforts around fair housing, Conduct annual progress reports for the BOCC's review, and Advise the BOCC of the strategies to support fair and affordable housing in Union County.

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CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	348
Black or African American	675
Asian	0
American Indian or American Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	1,023
Hispanic	140
Not Hispanic	883

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

According to most recent Census data estimates released July 1, 2022, 249,070 people reside in Union County, there are 78,473 households with an average size of 3.0 persons residing in a household, and 89,090 total housing units with an 82.6% owner-occupied housing unit rate. The median household income in Union County is estimated to be roughly \$88,465. Union County is made up of 79.5% White persons, 12.7% Black or African American, 4.7% Asian, 0.7% American Indian and Alaskan Native, 0.7% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, .1% multi-racial, 12.4% Hispanic or Latin of any race, and 68.8% not Hispanic or Latino.

The table above for CDBG reflects racial data collected on families assisted through public services where race and ethnic data have been collected. The families in the table above assisted with CDBG should reflect 1051 clients served although 28 individuals or 0.03% served did not identify with any of the race categories available and identified their race as other therefore all individuals that fell within the available categories totaled 1023 individuals. 348 individuals or 33 % White persons, 675 individuals or 64% Black or African American, 0% Asian, 0% American Indian and Alaskan Native, 0% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 13% Hispanic or Latin of any race, and 87% not Hispanic or Latino clients were served with CDBG funding.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	1,250,734	

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Marshville			
Monroe			
Stallings			
Union County CDBG Program Area			Project area includes the ETJ areas of Union County.
Union County ETJ			
Waxhaw			
Weddington			
Wingate			

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

Union County is home to fourteen municipalities and of those, ten municipalities have chosen to participate in the CDBG program: Marshville, Monroe, Stallings, Waxhaw, Weddington, Wingate, Fairview, Indian Trail, Mineral Springs, and Wesley Chapel. Union County has not established specific target areas to focus the investment of CDBG funds. Applications for CDBG funds are received annually from participating municipalities and qualifying area non-profits. Applications were evaluated based on objectives set by HUD:

- The severity of the need.
- The availability of other funds to ensure project viability.
- How the project met national CDBG objectives and goals

- How well the project addressed local needs.
- How large the impact will be for residents, i.e., number of beneficiaries.

The County Manager's Office reviews the applications and makes awards based on application ratings. The County Manager's Office seeks to distribute funds equitably throughout Union County to best meet community needs.

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Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

CDBG funds are leveraged annually by subrecipients seeking state and private foundation grants in order to accomplish community development objectives. Unlike some other federal grant programs, CDBG regulations do not require matching funds on behalf of the Grantee. While there are no federal match requirements for CDBG funds, Union County highly recommends that organizations provide matching funds, if possible.

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CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	7	0
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	7	0

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

The County's 2022-2023 Action Plan did anticipate providing infrastructure improvements to increase 2 affordable housing units in the County. The infrastructure project for road paving, sidewalks, and driveways in the East Village community experienced unexpected delays therefore no funds were spent on this project during the 2022 program year. County staff are working with all parties involved to determine a path forward to move the project along. The County has been working to develop the

Septic System Program to rehab 7 existing units. The County anticipates the Septic Rehab program to be able to provide accomplishment data next PY.

The County is committed to demonstrate to HUD and the community that the County is affirmatively furthering fair housing. To that end, Union County has completed a fair housing study known as the 2022-2026 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) to ensure that HUD-funded programs are being administered in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing for federally protected classes. As a result of the AI process, the County was able to fully examine the available demographic, housing and transportation data that helped implement set short-term and long-term goals over the next five years to affirmatively further fair housing choice for Union County residents. Based on the recommendations of the AI, the County will continue to further efforts of affordable housing. The County saw the AI as an opportunity to get the community involved in forming an UC Fair Housing Advisory Council that can lead the process in resolving these impediments. The UC FHAC kickoff meeting took place October 12, 2022 to gather community input regarding how the Council should operate, what specific goals and responsibilities should be assigned, and what activities the community envisions the Council doing.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Union County will increase staff members and work with a consultant to review unspent funds to develop, adjust, or implement programming to complete these goals and obligations. Additionally, Union County will continue to invest the maximum allowable amount towards various public services to ensure vital services can be delivered to County residents. Furthermore, Union County will expand fair housing educational opportunities for residents, local organizations, and local municipalities, and begin fostering partnerships to work towards its goal of preserving and maintaining the existing housing stock in the county.

The County's subrecipient that experienced delays in their projects will be reflected in future CAPER's once those projects are completed. Union County will take into consideration methods to close the gap between our expected one-year goals and our actuals for each category in the tables above, paying more attention to timing of when projects are expected to close and risks, and likelihood of risk for project delays. It is noteworthy that in the upcoming fiscal year, Union County will continue to complete projects already in the pipeline as well as embark on new initiatives that continue to support high priority goals. Due to a change in staff and restructuring the administration of the CDBG entitlement program we will be working with the consultant to complete a deep review of unspent funds. The timeline for spending funds is being developed and is a high priority for the county. During 2022 PY funds were not spent in the categories of public facilities and affordable housing

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	936	0
Low-income	87	0
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	1,023	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

In Program Year 2022, all projects funded qualified as Low-to Moderate Limited Clientele. To meet this National Objective, subrecipient organizations were required to collect beneficiary documentation indicating that benefits were low-to-moderate income. The data compiled from the beneficiary income documentation is reflected in Table 6 above. Additionally, 28 persons served did not identify with any of the races available but fell within the extremely low category totaling 1051 households served.

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CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)
Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

As described in the Consolidated Plan, the County has been working with the NC Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) Piedmont Region 5 Continuum of Care to reach the local homeless population during Program Year 2022 and beyond. The County will continue to work with and support the Piedmont Region 5 Continuum of Care, to reach the local homeless populations and assess their needs and identify resources to support the need. Homeless outreach is conducted primarily through the CoC.

The 2022 homeless outreach Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night on January 26, 2022. HUD requires that Continuums of Care (CoCs) conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. CoCs must also conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons every other year (odd numbered years); however, North Carolina CoCs conduct this count every year. Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.

Based on the 2022 PIT Count data:

Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness: 9 Households, 35 Total People, 23 children ages 17 and younger, 1 between 18-24 years old, 11 above the age of 25.

Adults without Children Experiencing Homelessness: 92 Households, 101 total people, 11 adults between 18-24years old, 90 adults above the age of 25.

Total number of people experiencing homelessness was 136 individuals. 77 or 56% were in a shelter, 0 or were in Transitional Housing and 59 individuals or 43% were unsheltered.

3 adults are veterans, 1 in 4 adults are domestic violence survivors, 1 in 9 people are chronically homeless and 1 in 5 people are children.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Union County will continue to work with area partners to assess the needs of this population and develop measures to assist with those needs through the annual notice of funding available and solicitation for public input during the Annual Action plan. Transitional Housing is no longer a best practice of HUD funding recommendations. It is the County's understanding through cooperation with

the CoC that the few Transitional Housing programs in Union County are administered by Religious Organizations that require participants to participate in religious activities and therefore are ineligible for federal funding.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after 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); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Homeless needs are addressed in the community through other organizations. However, Union County CDBG funding is available to eligible agencies that provide services and assistance to those at risk of becoming homeless.

People become homeless for a number of reasons including evictions, inability to pay rent, health problems, domestic violence and family conflicts, substance abuse issues, poverty and unemployment, inadequate supply of affordable housing, as well as physical and mental disabilities. The County continues to provide CDBG funds annually to eligible agencies carrying out activities to assist LMI individuals.

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

CDBG funding was provided to the following to agencies that help clients connect with services to prevent homeless situations although these agencies do not physically provide shelter space to program participants. These agencies work to provide referrals to agencies that **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.**

- **The Common Heart Economic Empowerment Program:** Common Heart, a non-profit organization with a mission to feed hunger families and empower those in poverty to create a sustainable community, provides access to food and crisis assistance, while connecting families to Economic Empowerment programs to build stability and self-sufficiency to those in poverty, and encourage relationships, connections, and social capital among individuals of all economic

classes.

- **The Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter Assistance Project:** Turning Point is a non-profit service provider that provides a 24/7 crisis line, safe shelter, victim/court advocacy, case management, children's programs, parenting classes, individual and group counseling, and financial & relocation assistance for victims who cannot remain in the community due to safety concerns.
- **Union County Crisis Ministries Housing Stability Project:** Union County Crisis Ministries provides a combination of housing and stabilization knowledge, financial education, advocacy, and flexible financial assistance to help high-risk households becoming homeless retain their housing.

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CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Union County does not maintain nor support any public housing. The Monroe Housing Authority (MHA) is the local entity with the sole responsibility for management and maintenance of public housing. MHA was established under the State of North Carolina General Statute 157 (Housing Authority Law) through a cooperation agreement with the City of Monroe, North Carolina on June 28, 1966. MHA administers the Public Housing (PH) and Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Programs funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the City of Monroe and Union County.

Public housing was established to provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families and individuals with a total number of 206 units. Monroe Housing Authority (MHA) has four Public Housing communities:

- West Ridge - 33 units (Family Site)
- Serenity Place - 44 units (Elderly and Disabled Site)
- Grace Gardens - 83 units (Family Site)
- Willow Oaks - 46 units (Family Site)

During the 2022 PY, The Monroe Housing Authority is in its first phase of the rental assistance demonstration (RAD) conversion. The first phase consists of the conversion of West Ridge, 33 units, (Qualified Census Tract - Boyte and Hart Streets) from Public Housing to Project Based Vouchers. The Monroe Housing Authority plans to convert its entire Public Housing portfolio to project based vouchers, 173 units.

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

The Monroe Public Housing Authority is independent from Union County; therefore, the County does not participate directly in addressing public housing needs. The Monroe Public Housing Authority's programs and supportive services designed to involve management and participate in homeownership should be described in the Monroe Housing Authority's annual performance report.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

N/A

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken 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. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

Union County 2022-2026 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Report explains, affordable housing works best when it provides more than just a place to live. Without government subsidies and policy support, it is difficult to make affordable housing development happen. A collaborative effort among government leaders on all levels and non-profit organizations in the community is critical to transpire creative solutions.

The AI explains HUD defines the four housing problems as incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than 1 person per room, and cost burden greater than 50%. HUD defines the four severe housing problems as incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than 1.5 persons per room, and cost burden greater than 50%. Cost burden is the ratio of housing costs to household income. For renter, housing cost is gross rent (contract rent plus utilities). For owners, housing cost is “select monthly owner costs”, which includes mortgage payment, utilities, association fees, insurance, and real estate taxes.

Regarding Union County Affordable housing, A total of 18,830 households (both owner and renter included) out of the total 75,165 households in Union County experienced at least 1 of the 4 housing problems and 8,485 households (both owner and renter included) experienced at least 1 of the 4 severe housing problems. A total of 56,845 households (both owner and renter included) out of the total 75,165 households in Union County experienced cost burden less than or equal to 30%, 10,875 households (both owner and renter included) experienced cost burden between 30% and 50%, and 6,690 households (owner and renter included) experienced cost burden more than 50%.

Additionally, addressing barriers to affordable housing must continue to be a comprehensive approach and commitment from public officials, private donors, and the public and as well coordinated efforts of various county and city agencies. Education on affordable housing needs should begin to be discussed and addressed. Other strategies are being investigated such as providing opportunities such as donated properties and developed lands with improved infrastructure are extremely helpful to the attainment of affordable housing. Additional funds and partnerships such as private foundations and donors providing grant funds towards affordable housing development. Capacity building for local housing development agencies is needed to have qualified agencies to work with on affordable housing using federal funding.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Union County continues to develop the Septic System repair program. This program will assist Union County residents that are below 80 percent of AMI and on fixed and limited income to address

Department of Environmental Health code issues and help improve the current housing stock.

Additionally, Public Services funds supported community and supportive services, with special emphasis on services for the homeless, seniors, the disabled, veterans, and other persons with special needs.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Currently Union County does not have any programs that would trigger Lead based paint hazards. The County will continue to develop the Septic System Repair pilot program to review houses built prior to 1978. If requested, education can be provided to the residents of Union County regarding the dangers of lead-based paint to adults and children. By providing this education to residents it will decrease the number of lead-based paint cases throughout Union County.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Union County allocated PY 2022 funding to multiple public service agencies that provide various services to low-income citizens. These services are primarily focused on family and senior services and providing participants with assistance to overcome barriers associated with being low income.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Union County is the lead agency, responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan which requires public and private input from community stakeholders. Union County will increase staff which will increase capacity of the County to develop more partnerships with stakeholders. Union County will continue its efforts to collaborate with other County departments and state agencies to facilitate more efficient solutions.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Union County has continued to develop a network of community-based nonprofit organizations that provide a wide range of housing and human service opportunities for County residents. Union County solicits input from several public, private, housing and social services agencies to request funding and provide their input.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

Union County 2022-2026 Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Report The goal of the analysis to identify any barriers to fair housing choice for protected classes and to develop recommendations Union County can implement to address barriers that exist for fair housing choice for residents.

The report identifies barriers that could limit housing choice for residents of Union County. Impediments to fair housing can be complex in nature and are embedded in the fabric of the community through different layers, such as the social, cultural, and economic levels. There is no one strategy that fits all. The barriers can prevent residents from recognizing their rights to fair treatment under federal fair housing laws as it shows with the number of fair housing complaints submitted (10) between 2016 and 2021. Education is the fundamental foundation of fighting against discrimination and a power tool to increase awareness. It is important that Union County residents understand what steps they can take when they have experienced some form of housing discrimination. Furthering Fair Housing will require municipalities, agencies, and organizations across the County to work within their own divisions to create and monitor unbiased policies, correspond with each other to identify strengths and limitations of strategies, and implement solutions to existing and new barriers. The following AI goals employ a combination of education, data collection and development of partnerships with increased access to affordable housing and housing services: **1-Increase fair housing resources and enforcement:** the goal is to increase the knowledge about Fair Housing laws and regulations among county residents, landlords, tenants, local agencies, organizations, and municipalities, and encourage updating existing Code Enforcement Ordinances to provide a baseline for effective enforcement strategies, that can be implemented. **2-Increase fair housing education and outreach:** Union County's goal is to partner up with the NC Justice Center to organize county-wide training sessions on fair housing issues several times a year, subject to HUD funding availability. The County is partnering with local housing agencies to educate tenants and landlords on fair housing rights. **3-Increase supply of new affordable housing units:** Union County is currently lacking in the development of new affordable housing. The County is beginning to initiate partnerships with public and private housing developers and advocating for the development affordable and mixed-income housing. **4-Increase preservation and accessibility modification of existing affordable housing stock:** Union County is starting a septic system repair program with a goal of assisting 7 homes in the county as a way of maintaining affordable housing units in the community. The goal is to work towards building up a county-wide robust critical home repair program, using CDBG funds, and other available grant funds over the upcoming years. The County also plans on actively seeking out potential partnerships with existing local Community Housing Development Organizations. **5-Provide better access to mobility and transportation services. Continue improving access to public infrastructure.** Union County is continuing to be involved in discussions about local and regional public transportation initiatives.

Of these goals the County has made robust strides to Increase preservation and accessibility modifications of the existing affordable housing stock by beginning the Septic System Repair Program. While no funds have been spent on the program, the program is currently accepting applications and completing inspections for qualified applications. The County is ready to begin the procurement process and hire a contractor to begin the repair or replacement of defective septic systems in the County. Additionally, the County has formed the UC Fair Housing Advisory Council and created bylaws for the Council.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

Union County is responsible for monitoring the performance of each sub-recipient under the terms of its agreement.

The County, with Centralina Regional Council, recently developed a CDBG Subrecipient Monitoring Manual and Risk Assessment Matrix in accordance with applicable federal requirements. The County has developed a monitoring checklist for each type of CDBG-funded activity that will ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the program.

Monitoring procedures for 2022 applicable programs are described below:

CDBG Subrecipients are monitored continuously throughout the year. All federal regulations and laws listed in their agreements are monitored including but not limited to Davis Bacon, conflict of interest, and procurement guidelines. All reimbursement documentation is carefully reviewed. During which, Union County also requires review of client intake forms and procedural processes for client assistance. During desk monitoring or onsite monitoring a checklist is used to ensure all regulations and program information has been reviewed such as National Objective and eligibility; Conformance to sub recipient agreement; Record keeping system; Financial Management systems; Procurement; Equipment and real property; Non-discrimination and actions to fair housing; Conclusions and follow up.

Union County will require a full list of clients served during the funding year. The lists contain addresses of all participants, confirming eligibility, such as location within jurisdiction, income, demographics for each sub recipient program. At the end of each monitoring visits, recap of findings or non-findings were discussed. Upon completion of the monitoring, each subrecipient will be provided a letter of compliance and performance, items to be addressed will be noted.

The County and its recipients established a quarterly reporting and reimbursement process that will allow County staff early opportunities to work with grant recipients should programmatic issues occur.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

Below is the timeline of public notice and solicitation for citizen participation for the FY 2022 CAPER:

- Public Notice appeared in Inquirer Journal from 9/6/2023 to 9/21/2023

- CAPER Public Comment Period 9/7/2023 - 9/21/2023

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CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

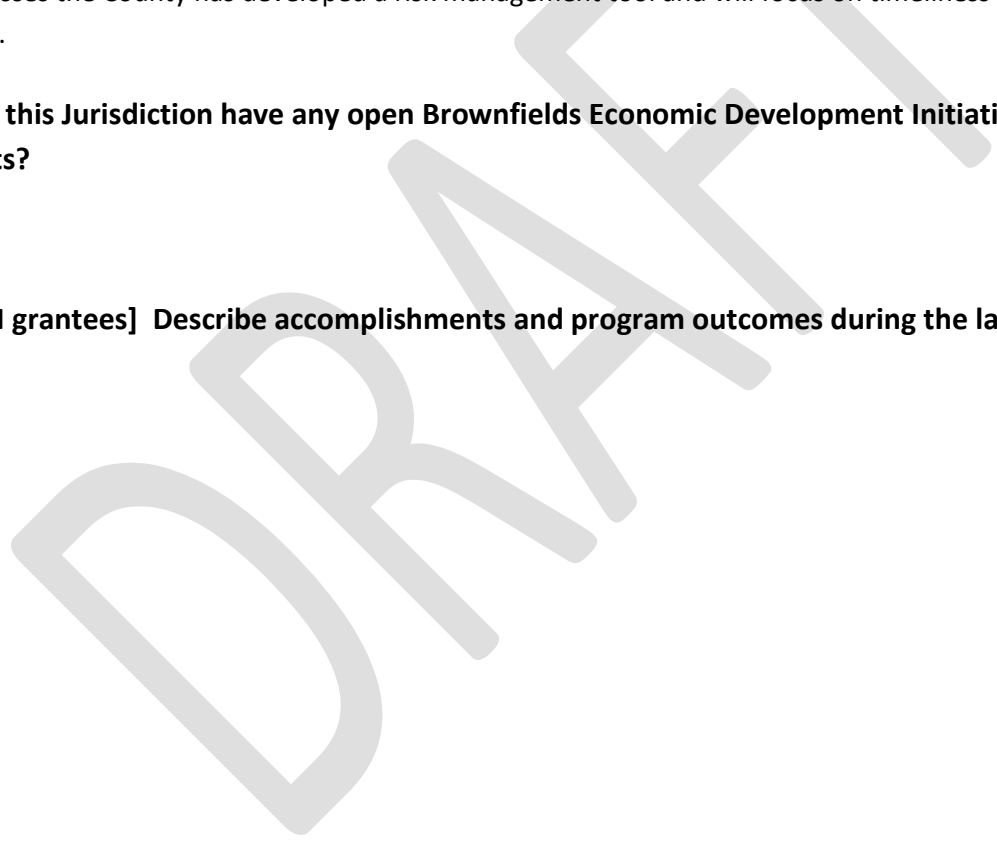
Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction’s program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

Reasonable delays in the implementation of project activities were to be expected during Program Year 2022, which was the second program year of the County’s Consolidated plan. The County worked diligently to develop necessary procedures, materials, and reports for the program. As a result, Union County will increase staff members and work with a consultant to review unspent funds to develop, adjust, or implement programing to complete these goals and obligations. In the upcoming years, the County expects that implementation of activities identified in the Annual Action Plan will be more efficiently and effectively carried out in a more reasonable timeframe. Through the development of the processes the County has developed a risk management tool and will focus on timeliness of spending funds.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.



CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours					
Total Section 3 Worker Hours					
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours					

Table 8 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					

Other.					
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Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

There were no programs in 2022 triggered section 3 requirements.

DRAFT