



2022 Annual Action Plan

DRAFT

Berkeley County
P. O. Box 6122
Moncks Corner, South Carolina 29461

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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

Berkeley County strives to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing; a suitable living environment; and economic opportunities – especially for low- to moderate-income households and special needs groups in the County. In 2021, the County became a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) entitlement community, enabling it to be eligible for federal funds allocated through HUD's Community Planning Development program. The County's Grants Administration Department administers the federal HUD Community Development Block (CDBG) grant funds and ensures compliance of HUD regulations and guidelines. Partnerships with neighborhood nonprofit organizations and other local agencies and municipalities allow the County to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Berkeley County is located in southeast South Carolina nearby the Atlantic coast. As of 2019, the County has a population of 205,044. The County has been experiencing a population growth for the last several decades and saw a 43.7% increase from 2000 to 2019 (142,651 to 205,044). To help ensure that Berkeley County has healthy growth, the following Consolidated Plan and its subsequent Annual Action Plans (AAP) will help guide the County in identifying the priority needs of its citizens and developing goals to address these needs. This PY 2022 AAP represents the second year of the 2021-2025 5-Year Consolidated Plan.

CONTINGENCY PROVISION:

HUD has not notified the County how much it will receive from the CDBG grant for PY 2022. Therefore, the County has estimated that it will utilize \$1,043,557 towards public facility and infrastructure improvements and \$184,200 towards program admin, with adjustments to the balance of program admin costs within CDBG grant regulations to meet the final announced grant allocation amount.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

Berkeley County developed its strategic plan based on an analysis of the data presented in the Consolidated Plan and the community participation and stakeholder consultation process. Through these efforts, the County identified three priority needs and associated goals to address those needs. The priority needs are:

1. Expand & Improve Public Facilities
2. Reduce Slum & Blight in Residential Areas
3. Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements

To provide for those needs, the goals for the 5-Year planning period are as follows:

- 1A Improve Access to Public Facilities
- 2A Reduce Slum & Blight in Residential Areas
- 3A Provide Supportive Services for Special Needs Populations
- 3B Provide Vital Services for LMI Households
- 3C Provide for Improvements to Owner-occupied Housing

3. Evaluation of past performance

In 2020, Berkeley County accepted Urban County status as an entitlement community designated by HUD and began program activities starting with PY 2021, the first year of the 5-Year Consolidated Plan. At this time, the County has not completed a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The County will provide HUD with an evaluation of past performance with the submission of the PY 2021 CAPER.

Prior to this plan, the County followed its 5-Year Comprehensive Plan. In 2015, the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed, approved, and adopted by the County Council. After a review of the County's Comprehensive Plan, it was deemed that there were five guiding principles the County was to adhere to. They were:

1. Berkeley County will protect and promote the existence of distinctive and diverse, sustainable communities within its boundaries.
2. Berkeley County will manage development and expansion of infrastructure systems efficiently in order to effectively serve residents and employees within Berkeley County.
3. Berkeley County will respect and enhance historic, cultural, and natural resources, while providing expanded public access to them.
4. Berkeley County will adopt a clear, fair plan that can be implemented through simplified costs and streamlined processes.
5. Berkeley County will encourage public participation in achieving goals to ensure that all communities have a voice.

These guiding principles remain and helped to influence the priority needs and goals of the Consolidated Plan.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The purpose of the citizen participation process is to actively encourage citizens, particularly low- and moderate-income (LMI) households and those with special needs, to participate in the planning and development of the Annual Action Plan (AAP). Berkeley County works to ensure community stakeholders and citizens have adequate opportunities to participate in this planning process. The County continues to work with key nonprofit organizations for consultation of the plan, and to encourage the participation of the citizens they serve, including LMI residents who are the primary targets of their CDBG funded programs.

The County held a public hearing to have the AAP presented and to give information on the CDBG grant program. Citizen comments and questions are encouraged at all public meetings and hearings. A public review period of 30-days was advertised and opened for the public to give comments on the plan. Please see the following for a detail of outreach efforts:

- **30-Day Public Comment Period:** A public comment period is scheduled to be held from **April 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022** and is available online at www.berkeleycountysc.gov, or at the County's Grants Administration office, located at the Administrative Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. Written comments may be submitted to the County's Grants Administrator, at cecilia.anthony@berkeleycountysc.gov, or delivered to the Grants Administration office.
- **Public Hearing:** A public hearing will be held to discuss the AAP as well as discussion of any comments from the 30-day public comment period. The hearing will be held on **April 20, 2022 at 5:00 PM** and will be in the County Council Assembly Room in the Administrative Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. For more information, phone (843) 719-4766.

A summary of citizen outreach efforts is described in the AP-12 Citizen Participation section.

5. Summary of public comments

A summary of comments is located in the AP-12 Citizen Participation section.

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

All comments were accepted. See the AP-12 Citizen Participation section for further details.

7. Summary

The PY 2022 AAP is the second year of the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan.

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	BERKELEY COUNTY	Grants Administration Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

Berkeley County is an Entitlement Jurisdiction and receives federal HUD CDBG funds. The Grants Administration Department administers CDBG funds in Berkeley County.

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

1. Introduction

Berkeley County is engaged in ongoing efforts to increase coordination among the public, private, and non-profit organizations that deliver housing and community development services to the community. As the administrator of HUD's CDBG program, the County's Grants Administration Department acts as a central point of contact for coordinating combined efforts of housing and community and economic development in the area. Open lines of communication are maintained between the County and the area's nonprofit and social service agencies.

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))

The County is engaged in several efforts and initiatives to enhance coordination among the community's network of providers and service frameworks. A variety of organizations, both public and private, that provide vital services were contacted and participated in the stakeholder survey. Included in this outreach was organizations that serve special needs populations such as services to children, elderly residents, and fair housing providers. The consultation with these groups helped determine how County resources and investments will be directed.

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.

The Lowcountry Continuum of Care (COC) plans, develops, and implements comprehensive and coordinated strategies to address homelessness in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, and Jasper Counties in South Carolina. The Lowcountry COC has focused on expanding access points into the Coordinated Entry System (CES), which is a process designed to efficiently facilitate connecting persons experiencing homelessness to available housing resources. These steps include coordinating participant intake, assessment, provision of referrals, and placement into housing. When implemented correctly, CES allows communities to move beyond a traditional "first come, first served" approach to one that looks across the COC to serve those most in need of assistance.

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. Berkeley County is not a recipient of 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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	BERKELEY COUNTY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Berkeley County is the lead organization for the Consolidated Plan.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	South Carolina Regional Housing Authority No. 3
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	South Carolina Regional Housing Authority No. 3 is the local public housing authority. The PHA consulted through the stakeholder survey to help identify the local community needs.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Lowcountry Homeless Coalition dba Crisis Ministries, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Regional organization Planning organization Continuum of Care
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Lowcountry Continuum of Care is the local Continuum of Care network. Lowcountry Continuum of Care provided a housing needs assessment and homeless services of the community through a stakeholder survey.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Changed Lives Ministry
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Nonprofit
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Changed Lives Ministry provided housing needs assessment of the community through a stakeholder survey.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Hope Repair
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Nonprofit
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Hope Repair provided a needs assessment and quality of life improvements of the community through a stakeholder survey.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Alvin Recreational League Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Alvin Recreational League Inc. provided quality of life improvements of the community through a stakeholder survey.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Operation Home
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Nonprofit

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Operation Home provided a needs assessment and quality of life improvements of the community through a stakeholder survey.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Goose Creek
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	City of Goose Creek provided a needs assessment and quality of life improvements of the community through a stakeholder survey.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	East Cooper Community Outreach
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Nonprofit
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	East Cooper Community Outreach provided a needs assessment and quality of life improvements of the community through a stakeholder survey.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	TOWN OF ST. STEPHEN
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Town of St. Stephen participated in the multi-jurisdiction roundtable and offered input on needs for the town.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Quality of Life Improvements

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Town of Jamestown participated in the multi-jurisdiction roundtable and offered input on needs for the town.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Hanahan
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Hanahan participated in the multi-jurisdiction roundtable and offered input on needs for the city.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	TOWN OF MONCK'S CORNER
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Town of Moncks Corner participated in the multi-jurisdiction roundtable and offered input on needs for the town.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Nonprofit
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Workforce Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	County staff met with SCACED to identify opportunities to meet rural resident needs for higher paying jobs, transportation and affordable housing. SCACED will assist the County to develop capacity to meet the needs of this population.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	BEGIN (Berkeley Economic Growth Impact Network)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Nonprofit

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Workforce Development, Quality of Life
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	County staff met with members of BEGIN to identify opportunities to meet rural resident needs for jobs, transportation and affordable housing.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	Berkeley County School District
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Quality of Life
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Berkeley County School District was consulted through a roundtable work group designed to address substance abuse, mental health challenges and homelessness in Berkeley County.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	Berkeley Community Mental Health Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Health Agency Other government - State
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Quality of Life
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Mental Health Center was consulted through a roundtable work group designed to address substance abuse, mental health challenges and homelessness in Berkeley County.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	BroadandNow
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Broadband Access
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Quality of Life Improvements

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	BroadbandNow collects and maintains internet coverage for all US internet providers. BroadbandNow is also focused on bringing awareness to the digital divide and bringing awareness to the issue. Its belief is that broadband internet should be available to all Americans. The County consulted with the BroadbandNow website for broadband access in the County.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	TOWN OF BONNEAU
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Quality of Life Improvements
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Town of Bonneau participated in the multi-jurisdiction roundtable and offered input on needs for the town.

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

Not applicable. There were no agency types intentionally not consulted. All comments were welcome.

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	Lowcountry Continuum of Care	As the area's Continuum of Care, Lowcountry Continuum of Care works to prevent and mitigate the effects of homelessness throughout Berkeley County and the low country region. The goals of the COC directly overlap with the County's homelessness efforts.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

Berkeley County’s Urban County is partnered with 6 participating localities – the Cities of Goose Creek and Hanahan and the Towns of Bonneau, Jamestown, Moncks Corner, and St. Stephen. The County Supervisor and County Council have worked closely with the mayors and councils of these localities in planning for CDBG entitlement. The County has also worked closely with the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG). BCDCOG has long worked with the County on CDBG projects awarded by the State of South Carolina, and BCDCOG assists in the development of the County’s Comprehensive Plan.

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 purpose of the citizen participation process is to actively encourage citizens, particularly low- and moderate-income households, to participate in the planning of the Consolidated Plan, the Annual Action Plan (AAP), the development of the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) and any required submission of substantial amendments to those plans. Berkeley County works to ensure community stakeholders and County citizens have adequate opportunities to participate in this planning process.

The County's efforts to allow for participation for the PY 2022 AAP was to hold a 30-day public comment period to allow for citizens to review and make comments on the draft plan, and a public hearing to review and discuss the plan. For the public hearing CDBG basic concepts and planning considerations are to be covered, and this time is to allow for questions, answer and feedback from stakeholders and citizens. The plan was available on the County website and at the County Administrative Building. Comments could be submitted online at the County website or emailed to cecilia.anthony@berkeleycounty.gov. Details of the public comment period has been uploaded to the AD-25.

Details of the County's citizen participation outreach efforts are listed in the following table.

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
1	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	A public hearing will be held to discuss the AAP as well as discussion of any comments from the 30-day public comment period. The hearing will be held on April 20, 2022 at 5:00 PM and will be in the County Council Assembly Room in the Administrative Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. For more information, phone (843) 719-4766.	All comments accepted.	All comments accepted.	N/A
2	Public Comment Period	Non-targeted/broad community	A public comment period is scheduled to be held from April 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022 and is available online at www.berkeleycountysc.gov , or at the County’s Grants Administration office, located at the Administrative Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. Written comments may be submitted to the County’s Grants Administrator, at cecilia.anthony@berkeleycountysc.gov , or delivered to the Grants Administration office.	All comments accepted.	All comments accepted.	N/A

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

This section outlines Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding the County anticipates receiving for PY 2022 and the amount remainder anticipated for the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide vital services to the most vulnerable people in the County's communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses.

The County anticipates approximately \$1,227,757 for PY 2022. If at any time during the Program Year changes to allocated resources need to be made, any necessary amendments to this Action Plan will be made in accordance with the Town's Citizen Participation Plan and applicable HUD regulations.

CONTINGENCY PROVISION:

HUD has not notified the County how much it will receive from the CDBG grant for PY 2022. Therefore, the County has estimated that it will utilize \$1,043,557 towards public facility and infrastructure improvements and \$184,200 towards program admin, with adjustments to the balance of program admin costs within CDBG grant regulations to meet the final announced grant allocation amount.

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	1,227,757	0	0	1,227,757	3,683,271	The expected amount available for remainder of the ConPlan is 3x more years of the annual allocation.

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 federal funds listed above represent the annual allocation received by Berkeley County to support the activities outlined in the PY 2022 Annual Action Plan, as well as the anticipated funding for the remainder of the Consolidated Plan (2021-2025). Estimates of funding are based on PY 2022 HUD CDBG funds received and it is anticipated to remain at around the same level for the period covered by this Plan.

Berkeley County is continually working to expand resources that will help to address the needs of the community. The use of federal funds is crucial in helping to leverage additional local and state funds. Recently the County has been able to secure federal funding from the Department of Justice to address high crime areas and assist victims of crimes. Recent state funding includes grants from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, SC Department of Commerce, SC Rural Infrastructure Authority and SC Department of Parks and Recreation for various community development and infrastructure improvements throughout the County.

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

The various Berkeley County Libraries provide a space for community participation with the County when meeting with the public on CDBG programming.

Discussion

N/A

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	1A Improve Access to Public Facilities	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development		Expand & Improve Public Facilities	CDBG: \$1,227,757	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 18000 Persons Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	1A Improve Access to Public Facilities
	Goal Description	Improve access to public facilities that will benefit LMI persons and households and the special needs population throughout LMI areas in the county.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The following are proposed CDBG projects for PY 2022 including related objectives, and anticipated outcomes and accomplishments of those activities.

In the 2022 program year, the County will only address public facilities. The County is not using CDBG funds for demolition and public services in the 2022 Action Plan.

CONTINGENCY PROVISION:

HUD has not notified the County how much it will receive from the CDBG grant for PY 2022. Therefore, the County has estimated that it will utilize \$1,043,557 towards public facility and infrastructure improvements and \$184,200 towards program admin, with adjustments to the balance of program admin costs within CDBG grant regulations to meet the final announced grant allocation amount.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG: Program Administration (2022)
2	CDBG: Public Facilities (2022)

Table 7 – Project Information

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

In addressing the needs of low- and moderate-income households and the special needs population, the County’s CDBG program will administer the projects listed in the table above. The projects will work towards addressing the three priority needs in the County. These priorities are:

1. Expand & Improve Public Facilities
2. Reduce Slum & Blight in Residential Areas
3. Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG: Program Administration (2022)
	Target Area	Countywide
	Goals Supported	1A Improve Access to Public Facilities 2A Reduce Slum & Blight in Residential Areas
	Needs Addressed	Expand & Improve Public Facilities Reduce Slum & Blight in Residential Areas Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$184,200
	Description	Program administration of the CDBG program.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	Countywide
	Planned Activities	The activities of the administration include program planning and fair housing promotion (21A).
2	Project Name	CDBG: Public Facilities (2022)
	Target Area	Countywide
	Goals Supported	1A Improve Access to Public Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Expand & Improve Public Facilities
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,043,557
	Description	The County will provide funding for improvements to public facilities throughout the County.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Persons assisted with public facilities improvements: 18,000

Location Description	Countywide eligible
Planned Activities	<p>Planned activities for improvements to public facilities throughout the County include:</p> <p><u>Angel Wings Facility Improvements (03E): \$14,600</u> <i>Facility door replacement, facility sheetrock replacement, facility rail and fence replacement, and a ramp for the facility.</i></p> <p><u>Changed Lives Ministries, Drug & Alcohol Rehab Center Expansion (03E): \$175,000</u> <i>Construction of a new facility for men to accommodate more residents and staff members.</i></p> <p><u>Cross Community Center Facility Improvements (03E): \$264,000</u> <i>Exterior and interior improvements to the facility. Ceramic floor tiles, restroom partitions, sheetrock/leveling of floors, high impact windows/ADA accessible doors, paving and fencing.</i></p> <p><u>Habitat for Humanity - Infrastructure for Affordable Housing (05Z): \$263,000</u> <i>This activity will only be used for infrastructure improvements. Engineering, roadway, sewer, water, land prep. HFH is going to create a new neighborhood in Goose Creek using undeveloped land.</i></p> <p><u>Helping Hands of Goose Creek Facility Improvements (03E): \$11,400</u> <i>Facility improvements including cement slab for dumpster, automate/insulate garage door, waterline replacement, flooring replacement.</i></p> <p><u>St. Stephen American Legion Hut Facility Improvements (03E): \$231,257</u> <i>American Legion Hut Improvements include ADA compliance, lighting, flooring/walls, electrical, HVAC, kitchen upgrades, and exterior painting.</i></p> <p><u>Tri-Community Center Facility Improvements (03E): \$84,300</u> <i>Improvements include driveway/parking resurfacing, basketball court rehab, and upgrade perimeter fencing.</i></p>

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

Berkley County will implement its projects countywide based on its priority needs:

1. Expand & Improve Public Facilities
2. Reduce Slum & Blight in Residential Areas
3. Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements

Attention will be directed to low- and moderate-income households and the special needs population.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Countywide	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Berkley County will implement its projects countywide based on its priority needs and income of beneficiaries.

Discussion

N/A

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Berkeley County will not provide funding directly for the development of new housing, however improvements to public infrastructure and public facilities will help encourage and support development of affordable housing throughout the community.

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	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	0

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

Discussion

N/A

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

Public housing was established to provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low- and moderate-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Public housing includes federally subsidized, affordable housing that is owned and operated by the public housing authorities. The local housing authority operating in Berkeley County is the South Carolina Regional Housing Authority No. 3 (SCRHA3). SCRHA3 manages two public housing complexes in the County with 78 units at St. Francis Villa Apartments in Moncks Corner and 50 units at Belangia Apartments in St. Stephen. SCRHA3 also administers over 1,300 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) across the seven counties it serves, including Berkeley County.

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

SCRHA3's emphasis is to create stable housing for LMI families in the region. It will promote housing stability by providing all the necessary tools available to help them maintain this stability. Two of the main strategies involved are helping them find suitable employment and lifestyle skill development. Programs that further this strategy like the Youth Enrichment Scholarships, Benefit Access and Resident Training Program are discussed below.

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

The SCRHA3 has supportive services that help to increase residents' involvement with activities at the public housing community. Supportive services provide opportunities for personal growth, leadership advancement and community engagement; resident job training and employment placement; case management and supportive group environments; and health and wellness initiatives. These programs include:

Youth Enrichment Scholarships (YES): This program provides assistance with registration fees to connect residents with community and school-based activities and resources.

Benefit Access: This program provides access to resources needed by families to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Case management is provided to help eligible families with these services.

Resident Training Program: This program provides job training and employment opportunities through hands-on experience and job coaching. Applicants can apply on the SCRHA3 website.

The Lease Purchase Program: Through the program, there is a select number of houses where a potential homeowner can move in to while they are working to become mortgage ready. During the rental period, the homeowner must actively participate in housing counseling and will pay rent based upon their

income. Once the potential homeowner becomes mortgage ready, they will begin the process to purchase the home. An amount of \$50 from each month's rent is set aside for the potential homebuyer to use for down payment and closing cost assistance for the purchase of that home. SCRHA3 partners with Southeastern Housing and Community Development's Financial Resource Center to provide this program.

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

SCRHA3 is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

N/A

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

Introduction

Berkeley County is located in the southeastern part of South Carolina. Service providers in the County are part of the 7-county Lowcountry Continuum of Care (COC). The COC is made up of individuals and organizations serving those experiencing homelessness and plans, develops, and implements strategies to address homelessness throughout its jurisdiction. It is responsible for planning activities, setting strategic priorities, operating the Coordinated Entry System (CES), conducting the HUD-required Point-in-Time Count, and developing written standards for providing assistance with HUD funds.

The County will provide supportive services for special needs populations in the jurisdiction, which includes the homeless population. Funding will be directed to programs that will help this population stay out of homelessness and become self-sustainable.

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

Berkeley County is located in the southeastern part of South Carolina. Services providers in the County are part of the 6-County Lowcountry Homeless Coalition, which is the local Continuum of Care (COC). The City Charleston is the largest population center in the area and borders Berkeley County. While the homeless population is relatively high within Charleston, Berkeley County reported 26 homeless persons in the 2020 Point-in-Time Count. This is in part due to the nature of reporting homelessness in rural areas as much of the areas in Berkeley County are unincorporated and rural. For this purpose, the County will rely heavily on its service agencies and nonprofits to help identify homeless in the County and help enter them into the local care of the COC.

Lowcountry Continuum of Care uses the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and intakes into the Coordinated Entry System. Data from the centralized HMIS and intakes into the Coordinated Entry System provide important details of individuals and families experiencing homelessness (including household composition, ages, disability status, length of time homeless, and overall vulnerability) inform programs and agencies of the needs and recommended housing interventions for this population in Berkeley County and across the six counties in the COC. This process is intended to be done as quickly as possible to help families avoid becoming homeless.

HMIS is the local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. The Coordinated Entry System is a process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing

and assistance based on their strengths and needs.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

As reported by the Lowcountry Continuum of Care in HUD's 2020 COC Homeless Assistance Programs Housing Inventory Count Report, the Coalition's network offers more than 300 emergency shelter beds and almost 120 transitional housing beds for homeless persons in the region. None of these are reported to be located in Berkeley County.

The County will work to identify partners that can help satisfy the emergency and transitional housing needs of the homeless in the County. Currently, through the Coalition the County may utilize its homeless prevention programs which include rental assistance, financial assistance for rental application fees, utility payments, last month's rent, moving costs, and a variety of other housing services.

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

Berkeley County and Lowcountry Continuum of Care are committed to helping homeless persons, especially those who are chronically homeless and homeless families with children make the transition from homelessness to permanent housing and independent living. The issues with chronically homeless persons can be many and/or interrelated and therefore the County and the COC will work together with its network of service providers to help them receive all the referrals and resources they require to keep them sheltered and return to independent living.

Helping to make sure families with children make the transition to permanent housing and independent living is especially crucial as prolonged exposure to poverty makes it that much more difficult for children to get out of poverty in the future. With the help of County partners and the COC members, priority will be given to programs that help children in LMI households with education enrichment, youth development programming, and wellness programs.

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.

Berkeley County and the Lowcountry Continuum of Care recognize that low-income individuals and families who have been recently discharged or are about to be discharged from public institutions and/or systems of care are at high risk of becoming homeless. To ensure that they receive the proper resources and services necessary to avoid becoming homeless, the County and COC will rely on its network of experienced and capable service providers, who are in many ways connected to these institutions and systems of care. Some of these providers are Florence Crittenton, Family Promise, One80Place, Charleston Trident Urban League, Origin, Community Action Partnership, and Changed Lives Ministries.

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

Introduction:

Although public policies are made with the intention to positively address the needs of citizens in a jurisdiction, there are times where they may have an unforeseen negative effect on certain aspects of the community, which in this case is affordable housing and residential investment. Public policies that affect affordable housing and residential investment negatively, in turn becomes a barrier to creating affordable housing in the area. Affordable housing and public and private residential investments are key components in furthering fair housing in any community.

The County adopted the 2015 Berkeley Comprehensive Plan 5-Year Review, which gave an assessment and review of the community profile and housing needs in the County. The plan identified several guiding principles which directly tied into affordable housing.

Some of the issues of affecting housing affordability was significant population growth, increasing development pressures to protect rural historic communities, and the type of development that was to occur in the County. To address this, the County identified several goals that would help to reduce barriers to affordable housing. They were:

- Berkeley County will support the provision of community services, essential for all population groups.
- Berkeley County will support the development of affordable housing and diverse housing types.
- Berkeley County will plan and implement mitigation strategies to protect existing communities and neighborhoods from physical deterioration due to natural hazards and/or neglect.
- Berkeley County will promote the development of complete communities within the Principal Growth Area as designated on the plan's Future Land Use Map.

For more information on the 2015 Berkeley Comprehensive Plan 5-Year Review, see Berkeley County's website at: <https://berkeleycountysc.gov/dept/planning/comprehensive-plan/>

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

The County will provide for repairs/improvements to owner-occupied housing to help homeowners in the County protect their property and investment. To facilitate this in the plan, the County has created a goal

for owner-occupied housing rehab in its Strategic Plan, and will utilize this goal as the need arises.

Also, to identify negative effects and further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made it a legal requirement that entitlement grantees affirmatively further fair housing. The primary tool communities have for identifying contributing factors that lead to negative effects on the community is the Analysis of Impediments of Fair Housing Choice (AI). Berkeley County will begin work on an AI as required by HUD.

Discussion:

N/A

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Berkeley County is dedicated to improving the lives of its citizens, particularly the LMI and special needs population to enjoy a decent quality of life in the County. The County's CDBG program does this by community development programs which involve public services, expansion and improvements to public infrastructure and facilities, remove slum and blight to improve LMI areas and housing rehabilitation to help homeowners. Below are other actions planned by the County to meet the needs of the community.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The County coordinates its partners and local nonprofits and administers the CDBG program to help deliver services and programs to its underserved citizens. These programs all work to address the three priority needs of the County, which are: 1) Expand & Improve Public Facilities, 2) Reduce Slum & Blight in Residential Areas and 3) Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

While the County will not directly assist households with affordable housing activities such as housing rehab in PY 2022, the County will fund activities such as infrastructure improvements that will aid in the development of the affordable housing stock. This includes development of streets and waterlines that will provide infrastructure for the development of affordable housing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The County will follow all regulations as required by HUD and the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. A certified inspection of a structure built prior to 1978 will determine the presence of lead-based paint. If lead-based paint is found to exist, a risk assessment is conducted to determine the type, severity and location of the hazards. The findings of the risk assessment may direct abatement as the solution to best protect children from lead exposure.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The County will identify target LMI locations and address the most immediate needs of those communities through investment in public facilities and public infrastructure improvements, reduction of slum and blight in residential areas and vital services that improve the quality of life of County citizens.

Public services offered by the County and its partner nonprofits for LMI households work to directly address poverty. For this purpose, the County will expand public services for LMI and special needs households. These programs are primarily economic development activities and youth development programs at this time. Providing LMI households with the education and skills necessary to make a decent

living wage directly affects their ability to obtain affordable housing and stay out of poverty. The County will also provide for improvements to owner-occupied housing to help LMI homeowners in the County protect their property and investment. Finally, the reduction of slum and blight in residential areas will help to reduce poverty for County citizens by removing old and/or dilapidated buildings which will make the area safer and invite investment into the area.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Berkeley County will continue to work with organizations that address the various needs of the citizens of the County. Nonprofits will be selected to assist with vital public services and funded by the County. Each funded organization will be provided an overview of the CDBG program, and the County will continue to monitor and work with them to ensure compliance and program goals are met. The County will also work closely with the South Carolina Regional Housing Authority No. 3 (PHA) and Lowcountry Continuum of Care (COC) in planning to meet the needs of its citizens. These regional organizations also target LMI households and special needs groups and working together will help reduce duplication and streamline services.

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

Berkeley County will continue to coordinate with the South Carolina Regional Housing Authority No. 3 (PHA) to meet the needs of citizens in publicly assisted housing in the County. The PHA's emphasis is to create stable housing for LMI families in the region. It will promote and maintain housing stability by providing all the necessary tools available to help families maintain stability. Two of the main strategies utilized will be helping families find suitable employment and programs for lifestyle skill development.

The County will also work with Lowcountry Continuum of Care (COC) in planning to meet the needs of the homeless population. The County will refer to the COC and its members to address homelessness in Berkeley County.

Discussion:

N/A

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

This section describes the program specific requirements of the County’s CDBG program.

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.	70.00%