

**2010 - 2015 Strategic Plan
and
2010 Annual Action Plan**

for

**Housing and Community Development
in Suburban Monroe County**

June 15, 2010



Maggie Brooks
County Executive

**Department of Planning & Development
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Monroe County			8/1

Employer Identification Number (EIN): 16-6002563

Applicant Type: Local Government: County Specify Other Type

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"To the best of my knowledge and belief, all data in this application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant, and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is awarded." Please update the date with each new Action Plan and CAPER submission.

Signature	<i>Maggie Brooks</i>	Date:
	Maggie Brooks, County Executive	(MM/DD/YY) 06/14/10



3-5 Year Strategic Plan

This document includes Narrative Responses to specific questions that grantees of the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS and Emergency Shelter Grants Programs must respond to in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations.

GENERAL

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary is required. Include the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan and an evaluation of past performance.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Executive Summary:

Two thousand and ten marks the thirty-fifth year that Monroe County has received an allocation from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. It also marks the nineteenth year that Monroe County has been a participating jurisdiction as part of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. Combined with the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), these programs help Monroe County channel approximately \$3.5 million annually into suburban towns and villages that comprise the Monroe County Consolidated Plan Consortium in support of housing, public works, economic development and community services programs that primarily benefit low to moderate-income households, seniors and persons with special needs.

Funding for these programs is provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In order to remain compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations, which cover these federal allocations, Monroe County is required to complete a five-year strategic plan and annual action plans for the program years covered by the five-year plan. The five-year strategic plan covers overall program priorities and long-term initiatives, while the annual action plan addresses projects funded on an annual basis and new program initiatives for the program year.

Monroe County Community Development (CD) uses the CPMP Tool to complete its strategic and annual Plans, as well as the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) each year. The complete document includes the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, the 2010 Action Plan, needs tables associated with the plans, and a separate appendix that includes all of the demographic and housing related charts.

The purpose of Monroe County's 2010-2015 Strategic Plan is to communicate a clear vision to residents of the analysis of community development and housing needs, the intended use of federal dollars to meet these needs and to encourage public commentary in this endeavor. Monroe County has established an active citizen participation process to solicit public commentary on all relevant aspects of the programs. The Strategic Plan represents a coordinated effort by Monroe County to include input from public and private sources throughout the community in the planning of housing and community development programs. The Plan also serves as a reporting mechanism to HUD on the planning and evaluation of programs.

For purposes of the Strategic Plan, goal numbers have been projected for each of the five years covered by this plan. Goal numbers will be adjusted annually and reflected in the Action Plan for that program year to cover the activities and funds available for specific program areas.

A. Consortium Membership

The CDBG program operates in 17 towns and 10 villages in suburban Monroe County. All municipalities in Monroe County are members of the consortium with the exception of the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit, and the City of Rochester. By virtue of their populations, the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit are entitlement communities in their own right, and as such receive their own CDBG allocations.

The HOME program includes the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit, bringing the HOME consortium membership to 19 towns and 10 villages. The City of Rochester receives its own CDBG, HOME and ESG allocations.

Monroe County completed the Urban County re-qualification process for the 2008-2011 program years in April 2008. None of the current members of the consortium chose to leave the consortium for the three-year renewal period.

Currently, there are 60 block groups, known as Low Mod Areas (LMAs) that are eligible for funding in Monroe County's upper quartile. Municipalities with eligible block groups are the Towns of Brighton, Chili, Clarkson, Gates, Hamlin, Henrietta, Ogden, Parma, Penfield, Perinton, Pittsford, Riga, Sweden and Webster and the Villages of Brockport, East Rochester, Fairport, Hilton, Scottsville and Webster. The greatest concentrations of low-mod block groups are in the Towns of Brighton, Chili, Gates, Henrietta, Penfield and the Villages of Brockport and East Rochester. Seven municipalities have no eligible block groups: the Towns of Mendon, Rush and Wheatland and the Villages of Churchville, Honeoye Falls, Pittsford and Spencerport.

B. Allocation History

Monroe County's ability to fund the programs and projects contained in the Strategic Plan is directly related to the level of funding available from the Federal government, as well as our ability to leverage additional funds from other sources.

For purposes of this five-year plan, CD is making the assumption that the CDBG and HOME allocations will remain constant or increase slightly. It is hoped that the combined allocations will continue to total slightly more than \$3.5 million annually during the five-year period.

C. Program Goals

CDBG, HOME and ESG funds will be directed toward accomplishing the following primary program goals and objectives during the 2010-2015 period:

- a) Develop affordable rental and home ownership opportunities for all low to moderate-income income residents, with a priority focus on the development of housing in towns and villages that do not currently provide affordable rental units that have been financed, in part, through the County's CDBG and/or HOME Program
- b) Repair and conserve existing housing stock
- c) Improve access to and quality of public facilities
- d) Provide essential utility infrastructure in lower income areas
- e) Provide job training and economic development opportunities for low to moderate-income persons and persons with special needs
- f) Provide essential public services, particularly those that promote home ownership, fair housing and housing stability
- g) Revitalize deteriorated neighborhoods

The County's key strategies developed to meet CDBG, HOME and ESG goals to assist low to moderate-income families, elderly, and persons with special needs include: improving existing

housing conditions and preserving housing stock through the Home Improvement Grant Program; public facility and accessibility improvements in suburban towns and villages; utility infrastructure improvements; reducing costs for rental housing projects involving real property acquisition, certain pre-construction costs, off-site improvements and limited on-site improvements, and building renovation/conversion or construction to facilitate the provision of affordable rental units; and, increasing homeownership and rental housing opportunities for these groups through the provision of programs such as First-Time Homebuyer and Affordable Rental Housing Development.

D. Citizen Participation

CD followed its established Citizen Participation Process to formulate these priorities and strategies, incorporating public any comments received at the January and May 2010 public hearings and Steering Committee meetings.

The draft plan is released on or around May 12, at the same time the matter is introduced in the Legislature, with a thirty-day comment period. Public notice is provided at the time the plan is released, and the public hearing and steering committee will be held during this time, as well. The process concludes with the incorporation of public comments before the Legislature acts on the matter at its June meeting.

The Steering Committee serves in an advisory capacity in regard to the County's Community Development initiatives and is charged with the following responsibilities: analyze, measure and determine housing, public works, ADA and facility improvements, economic development, planning and public service needs for their residents, with an emphasis on the needs of low-mod income, elderly, disabled and homeless persons in their communities; identify existing resources to meet the needs as well as existing gaps in services unmet by other programs; advise CD Staff in the formulation of objectives, strategies; assist in the evaluation of the Consolidated Plan; and, help to assess the effectiveness of meeting the established needs with the use of Consolidated Plan resources.

The core membership of the Steering Committee will continue to include the Supervisors and Mayors of municipalities that are members of the consortium. To more effectively plan for the County's community development needs, and to comply with HUD guidelines, it may be useful to incorporate additional members of the public, business persons and persons involved in community and housing development into the Steering Committee. In addition, with the advent of the Internet and distribution of information on compact disc, methods of information distribution have expanded, and it is necessary to review our information distribution system to ensure that it is as accessible, comprehensive and cost effective as possible.

Many long-standing programs that will continue for the duration of this plan are described below. Specific program and project goals are included in the Annual Action Plan.

E. Housing Rehabilitation

CD has administered a housing rehabilitation program since 1976, and until last year, the program requirements for grant assistance had not changed significantly since 1999. Upon consultation with HUD, the County adjusted the grant guidelines to expand grant assistance to all home owners at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) and also increased the grant amounts from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

The Home Improvement Program (HIP) helps low to moderate-income residents finance home repairs to correct serious housing deficiencies, such as obsolete or dangerous electrical, heating or plumbing systems, structural repairs such as roof, foundation, windows, exterior painting and siding, and accessibility improvements such as ramps, doorways and bathrooms. Ordinary

maintenance, remodeling and cosmetic improvements are generally not eligible. These projects have become more expensive due to the increase in construction materials costs and implementation of federal lead-based paint regulations (24 CFR 35, Requirements for Notification, Evaluation and Reduction of Lead-based Paint Hazards in Federally Owned Residential Property and Housing Receiving Federal Assistance) under sections 1012 and 1013 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. These regulations, effective January 2002, have had a significant impact on the administration of the CDBG and HOME Programs, particularly the cost of housing rehabilitation projects completed as part of the Home Improvement Program.

Effective August 1, 2009, Monroe County made the \$10,000 grant available to households with incomes at or below 80% AMI. Project amounts above \$10,000 continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, particularly for projects that involve lead-based paint remediation. Program requirements for accessibility grants have not changed. Households with a disabled member with incomes at or below 80% AMI remain eligible for a grant of up to \$2,500 for accessibility improvements.

To date, the 2009 program changes have significantly increased the number of eligible program applicants and the average cost of projects. Due to these impacts, repeat grants will be discontinued at the start of the 2010 program year, August 1, 2010. HIP income limits are adjusted annually when new income limits take effect for the HOME program. In May 2010, HUD issued the revised limits, which have increased slightly. The new limits will be implemented effective June 26, 2010. All other existing policies and procedures for the housing rehabilitation program will remain in effect. CD will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the current program guidelines and make adjustments should the level of program participation warrant.

The CDBG and HOME programs are used fund this popular and essential program.

F. Home Ownership & First-Time Homebuyer Assistance

First-time homebuyer assistance is provided through the Home Ownership Program, which is administered by Providence Housing Development Corporation. Subsidies for down payment and closing cost assistance are allocated based on the buyer's need, with a minimum of \$1,000 and maximum of \$10,000 per family, with average grants of \$5,000 per family. The existing First-Time Homebuyer Program continues to provide HOME subsidy to program participants primarily with incomes between 50% and 80% AMI.

Under the Home Ownership Program, participants are provided with extensive one-on-one and group counseling and education. Providence staff has received thorough training and certification in housing counseling, homebuyer education and housing finance. All program participants receive: personal one-on-one credit and household financial counseling; long-term credit repair counseling; pre-purchase financial assessments and home ownership education; development of a personalized work plan, discussion of mortgage products; eight-hour educational workshop tailored to the first-time homebuyer, including a home maintenance component; guidance throughout the entire home buying process; packaging of all available program subsidies; and post-purchase follow up counseling.

Monroe County's existing Home Ownership Program resale/recapture provisions require the recording of a five-year note and mortgage on each property receiving subsidy allocations. This ensures that notification is received when families are intending to sell, transfer or refinance their home during the affordability period. All requests for release or subordination of these mortgages will initiate contact between the home owners and program counselors to ensure that they are making prudent financial decisions and maintaining the long-term affordability of their homes.

Newly constructed housing is often a desirable option for first time homebuyers and the County's Home Ownership Program allows for the purchase of a newly constructed home, although the sale prices of newly constructed housing are often cost prohibitive without additional subsidy from other sources.

G. Public Facilities Improvements

The need for public facilities improvements remains high in the suburban towns and villages, particularly in communities with greater concentration of low to moderate-income areas and/or aging facilities and infrastructure. Public facility improvements that improve accessibility to public facilities, neighborhood parks and recreational areas remain a high priority in this plan. Utility infrastructure, particularly water and sewer lines to provide water for household consumption, fire protection and adequate drainage to prevent flooding remain high priorities, as do safe sidewalks. These priorities continue to be reinforced by the project proposals submitted by consortium communities.

H. Economic Development

The Economic Development Grant and Loan Fund is the primary economic development tool used for the creation and retention of jobs for low to moderate-income persons. The fund provides low-interest loans and grants to local companies for equipment acquisition, infrastructure and leasehold improvements, real estate and working capital activities involved in business start-ups, expansions and relocations. These funds are often merged with an array of other public resources in an effort to leverage private capital investments by new and existing businesses for job growth. The portfolio currently includes nineteen active loans. Loan repayments are also the primary source of program income, which expands funding opportunities for all program applicants. The ED Grant and Loan Fund is funded by CDBG.

I. Public Services

The fifteen-percent cap on expenditures for essential public services has prompted CD to assess the core community services that limited CDBG funding can sustain. Under this Strategic Plan, CD intends to provide core community services that primarily promote home ownership, fair housing and housing stability. Public services are funded through CDBG.

J. Affordable Housing Development

The goals of the HOME Program were developed to address the priority housing needs of low to moderate-income families, elderly persons, homeless persons and persons with special needs.

Monroe County's objectives to provide affordable housing opportunities and ensure fair housing choice throughout the County was developed to address six areas of priority housing needs: a) Preserve existing single-family units through the continuation of the Home Improvement Program; b) Expand home ownership opportunities through the First-Time Homebuyer Program, including assistance to access the single-family housing market; c) Expand development of additional rental units through the Affordable Rental Housing Development Program to provide quality rental housing for low to moderate-income elderly and handicapped/disabled households (with supportive services) and families throughout the County; d) Provide education and counseling services that promote homeownership and housing stability; e) Support and expand coordinated planning efforts to secure and distribute Section 8 Program rental housing certificates/vouchers, including project-based assistance in suburban Monroe County; and f) Assist homeless persons, through ESG and the Homeless Continuum of Care, to secure supportive housing (emergency, transitional and permanent) and services necessary to achieve independent living.

Integral to these programs are the array of housing counseling services offered through the CDBG program: fair housing, foreclosure prevention and predatory lending, landlord/tenant counseling and home ownership counseling.

Monroe County administers a competitive process for distribution of HOME funds for the development of affordable rental housing. A minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of each federal allocation is reserved for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Monroe County does not predetermine the use of HOME funds by activity or tenure type. The amount of funds that will be allocated for each activity or tenure type is based on the applications submitted, the competitive criteria of the activity and the extent to which proposals are consistent with the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan.

Proposals for the development of affordable rental housing for families, the elderly and persons with special needs are selected through a competitive process. To the extent feasible, the County will allocate available program resources to meet housing needs in an equitable geographic distribution across the County, with a priority focus on the development of units in towns and villages that do not currently provide affordable rental units that have been financed, in part, through the County's CDBG and/or HOME Programs. Applications that have the greatest likelihood of being funded should efficiently produce a quality, affordable housing product, provide the greatest number of units for the longest period of time and serve the lowest income residents possible. Applications must also respond to a strategy that addresses one or more of the primary housing needs. The release of Monroe County's affordable rental housing NOFA is determined by the application deadline for the unified funding found set by the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR).

Monroe County initiated the competitive HOME application process in 1993. This process was established to efficiently accommodate potential financing opportunities that may be made available to applicants through the issuance of other state and federal NOFAs. Applicants are required to provide documentation needed to determine project feasibility and marketability, including but not limited to: a feasibility study and market analysis of the proposal; a proposed project financing and leveraging plan; a schedule with specific dates of the expected project commencement date, expected completion date, and if appropriate, the anticipated schedule for closing and occupancy of units; a description of the applicant's qualifications and previous experience; a statement by the applicant on the status of all public approvals and clearances required to undertake the project; a plan on how applicants will ensure compliance with federally mandated regulations throughout the regulatory term; statement describing the amount and source of any matching contributions required for the proposed project; statement of need and how the project meets the County's housing goals.

In selecting from among eligible applications, consideration is given to the extent to which the proposal will serve a demonstrated need; the amount of leveraged private investment or other funding; likelihood of successful project completion, including consideration of the market analysis submitted, prior experience of the applicant, viability of the submitted completion schedule and type of assistance requested.

All funded HOME projects remain affordable for the minimum period required by federal regulation and may be regulated for a longer period if other funding is utilized.

Limited and competitive state, federal and local resources for the development of affordable housing and community revitalization, coupled with ever-increasing costs of land acquisition and new construction, continue to make it increasingly challenging to finance the development of affordable housing.

K. Fair Housing Initiatives

Fair housing is at the cornerstone of Monroe County's housing efforts. HUD requires communities that receive CDBG, HOME and ESG funds to conduct an analysis to identify impediments to fair housing choice; develop and implement an action plan to overcome the effects of any impediments identified; and maintain records reflecting the analysis and actions in this regard, in order to continue to qualify for funding.

In 2006 Monroe County, in cooperation with the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit, completed their second Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Monroe County, NY (AI). In 2009 Monroe County, Greece and Irondequoit engaged a consultant with fair housing expertise to design a Fair Housing Action Plan to address impediments identified in the AI. The consultant reviewed current literature, conducted focus groups and interviews with governments, market rate and assisted housing providers to identify:

- Current barriers to fair housing choice
- Current activities that address fair housing choice
- Additional strategies to address impediments to fair housing choice

Fair Housing Action Plan: Strategies for Addressing Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Monroe County, New York: Phase I

- Identifies impediments to fair housing choice
- Identifies four priorities for Phase I
- Identifies community partners to implement strategies
- Designates performance measures to ensure strategies are appropriately utilized and carried out to produce positive results

The jurisdictions are meeting these requirements by contracting with a consultant with fair housing expertise to provide program design and reporting, outcome measurement and record keeping services, ensuring a direct line of communication with the entitlement communities. The consultant will work closely with designated representatives of each entitlement community and their sub-grantees to design reporting mechanisms and timetables appropriate for specific actions outlined in the Fair Housing Action Plan.

The consultant will engage local sub-recipients; collect data on each initiative and produce periodic progress reports, including identifying any problems that may arise, so that the jurisdictions may resolve issues in a timely manner. Implementation began in the spring of 2010.

L. Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC)

The Rochester/Monroe County Homeless Continuum of Care Team (CoC) is the lead entity for the Continuum of Care planning and management process, including direct oversight of the implementation of the CoC's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), project monitoring and establishment of project priorities. The CoC Action Plan provides a framework enabling the community to address homelessness and its underlying causes and to develop a comprehensive, coordinated system of homeless services to help individuals and families achieve independence. It describes a system that ranges from emergency housing and supportive services to permanent housing with homeless prevention and supportive services needed by homeless individuals and families to achieve independent living. Continuum services and housing alternatives include outreach, supportive services, emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing. The system's goal is to appropriately transition individuals from homelessness to their maximum level of self-sufficiency.

Monroe County and the City of Rochester first convened the Continuum of Care Team in 1994 after more than a year of initial planning, when HUD announced its homeless continuum of care

strategy. The Team is comprised of five Sponsors and Community-Based Planning Participant Organizations/Individuals. The Monroe County Sponsor has designated representatives from the Departments of Planning & Development, Human Services (MCDHS), Office of Mental Health, and the Rochester/Monroe County Youth Bureau. The City of Rochester Sponsor has designated representatives from the City of Rochester Bureau of Business and Housing Development. The Homeless Services Network (HSN) Sponsor (a consortium of more than 50 homeless service providers) elects two representatives; and both the United Way of Greater Rochester and Rochester Housing Authority Sponsors have a designated representative.

The CoC Team has 10 ex-officio members appointed by public and private organizations deemed necessary to develop, maintain, monitor and continuously improve a comprehensive, coordinated and flexible system of homeless housing and support services. They represent the County, City, United Way, Rochester Housing Authority, Homeless Services Network and a community-based planning participant, who is a formerly homeless individual. In addition, there are elected general members (not to exceed 50) from both public and private groups from the community, i.e. business sector, faith-based organizations, veterans organizations, schools, advocacy groups, etc. This diverse team is the primary planning and coordinating body for homeless housing and services in this community.

The Executive Committee of the CoC Team is comprised of the ten ex-officio members, one formerly homeless person, and the CoC Chair and Co-Chair who are elected by the full CoC Team.

In 2007 the CoC Team completed a restructuring process and developed by-laws that include the ability to designate a lead agent to apply for HUD funding and serve as the grantee. In anticipation of HEARTH implementation, the CoC Executive Committee recently formed a work group (structure committee) charged with the responsibility of exploring options for further changes to the structure of the CoC Team: the CoC Team becoming a new non-profit entity or restructuring under the umbrella of an existing non-profit.

The mission of the CoC Team is to develop, maintain, monitor and continuously improve a comprehensive, flexible and coordinated continuum of care system of services for homeless individuals and families. The Team works to accomplish this mission through direct planning of services, coordination of services across the continuum, integration of services with mainstream community resources and monitoring of outcomes.

The full CoC Team convenes monthly and various subcommittee meetings are held on a regular basis, with special ad hoc meetings convening as necessary. The Team is responsible for initiating CoC activities, monitoring progress, measuring outcomes and communicating progress to the community. Specific activities include:

- a) Incorporating the needs of the homeless into planning documents of respective Sponsors and organizations
- b) Developing the CoC Action Plan to establish a comprehensive process for addressing homeless housing and supportive service needs
- c) Overseeing the CoC Action Plan to ensure continuous coordination with all existing and proposed supportive service and housing programs/projects
- d) Establishing a Monitoring Plan to assess annual performance of existing HUD funded programs/projects to ensure compliance with proposed outcomes, and/or provide assistance and support to aid in doing so
- e) Annually ensuring that a process is in place to collect, aggregate and analyze needs assessment data and demographic information compiled by providers, homeless individuals and government agencies to identify and measure gaps, needs and shifts in the homeless population, including specific sub-populations

f) Annually participating in the development of a coordinated and equitable CoC Super NOFA process to coordinate and administer the local process for Super NOFA applicants; review and rank eligible CoC Super NOFA applications per CoC priorities; and update the CoC Super NOFA Exhibit I for submission to HUD

HUD has required the implementation of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as a tool of gathering accurate information about the homeless population. Funding for the purchase of HMIS software, hardware, etc. was approved in the 2002 Homeless CoC Super NOFA. The Catholic Family Center, the implementing agency (Lead Agency) for the HMIS project in Monroe County, submitted their technical submission to the HUD Buffalo Office. The CoC sponsors entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Catholic Family Center that covers the implementation and maintenance of the HMIS system. The selected vendor was Service Point, and training for the system followed immediately afterward and continues on an as needed basis. HMIS became operational by the third quarter of 2005 by phasing in providers to ensure the system was functioning as it should. The CoC is responsible for the continued operation and implementation of the HMIS during the five-year period of this plan.

In 2009, HUD approved the City and County's Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Substantial Amendments to each respective jurisdiction's 2008 Consolidated Plan Action Plans to receive HPRP funding in the amount of \$789,300 (County) and \$3,954,235 (City). As authorized under Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) - HPRP Notice published March 19, 2009, the HPRP was established to provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and to help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly rehoused and stabilized. The City and County formed the HPRP Committee consisting of representatives from the City, County CD, DHS and Mental Health Departments, United Way of Greater Rochester and the CoC to develop the joint City/County HPRP-Heading Home Program. Initial implementation of the Heading Home Program began in November 2009.

These are the primary programs and new initiatives that will be addressed throughout the five-year planning period. Annual initiatives and project goals are addressed in the Annual Action Plans.

Strategic Plan

Due every three, four, or five years (length of period is at the grantee's discretion) no less than 45 days prior to the start of the grantee's program year start date. HUD does not accept plans between August 15 and November 15.

Mission:

To improve the quality of life for low to moderate-income families, seniors and persons with special needs in suburban Monroe County by providing affordable rental and home ownership opportunities, repairing and conserving existing housing, financing public facilities and infrastructure improvements, creating and retaining jobs, and funding public services that stabilize and enhance living conditions.

General Questions

1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed.
2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) and the basis for assigning the priority (including the relative priority, where required) given to each category of priority needs (91.215(a)(2)).

Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.

3. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs (91.215(a)(3)).

3-5 Year Strategic Plan General Questions response:

1. Geographic Areas in which Assistance Will Be Directed

The CDBG program operates in 17 towns and 10 villages in suburban Monroe County. All municipalities in Monroe County are members of the consortium with the exception of the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit, and the City of Rochester. By virtue of their populations, the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit are entitlement communities in their own right, and as such receive their own CDBG allocations.

The Towns of Greece and Irondequoit are members of the HOME Program consortium, which has a total membership to 19 towns and 10 villages. The City of Rochester receives its own CDBG, HOME and ESG allocations.

There are currently 60 block groups eligible for funding in Monroe County's upper quartile, known as low mod areas (LMAs), where low to moderate-income residents range from 35.7% to 82%. LMAs are located in Towns of Brighton, Chili, Clarkson, Gates, Hamlin, Henrietta, Ogden, Parma, Penfield, Perinton, Pittsford, Riga, Sweden and Webster and the Villages of Brockport, East Rochester, Fairport, Hilton, Scottsville and Webster. The greatest concentrations of low-mod block groups are in the Towns of Brighton, Chili, Gates, Henrietta, Penfield and the Villages of Brockport and East Rochester. There are seven municipalities that do not have any eligible block groups: the Towns of Mendon, Rush and Wheatland and the Villages of Churchville, Honeoye Falls, Pittsford and Spencerport.

The suburban towns are often referenced in three categories: inner-ring, outer-ring and rural towns. Inner-ring towns are those that immediately surround the City of Rochester, including Greece, Brighton, Gates and Irondequoit. Outer-ring towns immediately surround or are adjacent to the inner-ring towns, such as Henrietta, Penfield and Chili. Rural towns radiate the furthest from the City of Rochester and include Riga and Hamlin. Much of the demographic data gathered from Census 2000 is provided in these categories.

Except for the Towns of Perinton, Pittsford and Rush, at least 20% of the population in each town in Monroe County have incomes at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI). The largest percentage of low to moderate-income persons are located in the towns of Clarkson, Gates, Greece, Hamlin, Henrietta, Irondequoit, Parma and Sweden, where at least 30% of the population is at or below 80% AMI.

Between 1990 and 2000, suburban Monroe County's senior population increased over 21% to comprise 11% of the county's total population. Seniors 75+ increased 55% and those 85+ increased 65%. Twenty percent (20%) of seniors over 65 years of age, and 30% over 75 years, have chronic self-care or mobility limitations. The towns of Clarkson, Gates, Greece, Irondequoit, Parma, Pittsford, Rush and Webster have the greatest percentage of seniors over age 65. Seniors make up at least 10% of the population in each of these towns.

Currently, the largest age group is the 45–65 cohorts. The over 65 age group is also expanding. Older residents make up a larger percentage of total residents.

- According to Census 2000, whites remained the majority at 79% of total county population, or 582,000 residents. The white population, however, decreased by 3.4%, or over 20,000 residents between 1990 and 2000.
- Monroe County became more diverse between 1990 and 2000. African Americans constitute the largest percentage of total minority residents at 38% (101,000), and their number increased by 19.6% (16,548) in 2000.
- The suburbs with the greatest concentrations of African Americans are the Towns of Greece (2,712), Henrietta (2,708 or 6.9% of its population), Gates (1,868 or 6.4% of its population) and Irondequoit (1,857).
- Asian and Pacific Islanders made up 2.4% of the County's population in 2000, or 18,000 residents. This is a 52% increase (6,100 residents) since 1990. Immigration spurred a growth in these numbers with the largest concentration of 8% living in Brighton. Other towns with growing Asian and Pacific Islander populations are Henrietta (2,143), Greece (1,403) and Perinton (1,309).
- In 2000, Hispanics made up 5.3% of the County's total population, at 39,000 residents. We expect this number will increase dramatically with the results of the 2010 Census now underway. The Hispanic population increased 58%, or over 14,000, in 2000. Towns with the highest concentrations of Hispanics are Greece, Irondequoit and Henrietta. Approximately 2.5% of Monroe County residents categorized themselves as "other race" on 2000 census forms. Most of these residents live in the Town of Greece, where over 800 persons categorized themselves as "other race."

Census 2000 data indicated that Monroe County's population increased by 21,375 residents. We expect the 2010 data to indicate essentially "flat" population numbers.

2. Basis for Allocating Funding and Assigning Priority

Projects funded must meet one of the HUD national objectives to benefit low/mod income residents or protected classes, prevent or eliminate slums and blight or meet an urgent need that threatens the community. Projects must also meet one of the overall consolidated plan goals to provide decent housing, provide a suitable living environment, or expand economic opportunities for eligible residents. In addition, projects must meet one of the following program objectives: develop affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for all low to moderate-income income residents, without discrimination; repair and conserve existing housing stock; improve access to and quality of public facilities; provide essential utility infrastructure in lower income areas; provide job training and economic development opportunities for low to moderate-income persons and persons with special needs; provide essential public services, particularly those that promote homeownership, fair housing and housing stability; revitalize deteriorated neighborhoods.

CD administers a competitive application process for the CDBG and ESG programs. Due to fluctuations in funding, Monroe County does not make multi-year funding awards. Grants for projects and programs are awarded for one-year periods, and entities, including towns, villages and non-profits, are required to submit a competitive application. CD does not use standard allocations because needs vary by municipality over time. Monroe County makes every effort to distribute resources equitably throughout the community based on need.

Additional criteria used in CDBG project selection include the amount of matched contribution by the applicant, project readiness, funding equity in terms of previous grants received, feasibility of estimated project costs and severity of project need. Community services, in particular, are highly competitive due to the 15% threshold. ESG projects are required to meet a 1:1 match, and funds for this program are extremely limited.

3. Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs

The greatest obstacle to meeting underserved needs through the CDBG, HOME and ESG allocations is limited funds. The demand for CD resources continues to increase due to tight town and village budgets and cuts to community service agencies by other public and private funding sources. Because our funds are limited, the overall impact we can make in each of our priority areas of housing rehabilitation, economic development, public facilities and community services, may appear limited at times. This presents a particular challenge in the area of community services. In order to make an impact and reach a larger audience, our funds will need to be used to leverage other funds instead of serving as the primary source of funds for community service programs.

Managing the Process (91.200 (b))

1. Lead Agency. Identify the lead agency or entity for overseeing the development of the plan and the major public and private agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.
2. Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.
3. Describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies, and other entities, including those focusing on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, and homeless persons.

*Note: HOPWA grantees must consult broadly to develop a metropolitan-wide strategy and other jurisdictions must assist in the preparation of the HOPWA submission.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Managing the Process response:

1. Lead Agency

Monroe County is the lead agency that oversees the Consolidated Plan through the six-person Community Development (CD) Division of the Department of Planning and Development. Programs are administered by the CD staff with assistance from the three other divisions of the Planning and Development Department, as well as municipal consortium members and private sector subrecipients. CD staff administers the Home Improvement Program and contracts with towns, villages, subrecipients and first-time homebuyers. The Economic Development (ED) Division of the Department administers the CDBG-funded ED Grant and Loan Fund, the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program and a wide variety of County business incentive programs. The Planning Division evaluates municipal planning and development activities including CDBG infrastructure projects and HOME-funded affordable rental developments. The Workforce Development Division of the Department serves as a resource for programs and other funds that address employment and training needs of the unemployed and underemployed.

Non-profit subrecipients responsible for administering programs covered by the Plan include The Housing Council, Providence Housing Development Corporation and Lifespan.

2. Significant Aspects of Plan Development and Other Participants

Many aspects of the five-year plan were developed in conjunction with the development of the first year action plan. County inter-departmental consultation and collaboration with municipal members of the Monroe County Consolidated Plan Consortium and related public and private-sector agencies, boards and committees is vital to the development of the five-year plan, as well as the action plans. (Specific agencies, groups and organizations are identified below.) The draft Strategic Plan was reviewed within Planning and Development and by the County Executive. It was

then made available for review and comment by the public, the Steering Committee and the County Legislature for a thirty-day comment period. A public hearing and Steering Committee meeting were held during this time to gather further input. The Plan was then submitted for review and approval by two standing committees of the Legislature and later by the full Legislature on June 8, 2010. Each of these entities plays a key role in the formulation of projects, integration of community wide goals and objectives and overall program development.

3. Consulting Agencies

Affordable Housing Needs and Strategies: United Way of Greater Rochester, Greater Rochester Housing Partnership, The Housing Council, Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation, Rochester Housing Authority, Urban League Economic Development Fund Company, Inc., Habitat for Humanity, Fair Housing Coalition, Greater Rochester Association of Realtors, Rochester Home Builders Association, Conifer Realty, LLC, Rochester's Cornerstone Group, Ltd., Lifetime Assistance, Inc., Edgemere Development, and Unity Health System.

CHDOs Providing Input on Housing Issues: Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation (PathStone), Housing Opportunities, Inc. (PathStone), Heritage Christian Services, ISLA Housing and Development Corporation and Providence Housing Development Corporation.

Homeless Issues: County/City Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) Team, MCDHS (primary consultant and provider of services), MC Office for the Aging, MC Office of Mental Health, Rochester/Monroe County Youth Bureau, Salvation Army, The Homeless Services Network, The Housing Council, RHA, Unity Health, Catholic Family Center and United Way.

Elderly Needs and Strategies: MC Office for the Aging, MC Health Department, Lifespan, MC Council of Elders and affordable housing developers (listed above).

Lead-Based Paint Hazards: MC Health Department, Environmental Protection Agency and environmental consulting firms.

Disabled Needs and Strategies: Regional Center for Independent Living, Center for Disability Rights, Lifetime Assistance, Inc., Continuing Developmental Services, Inc., Rochester Rehabilitation Center, Monroe Community Hospital, The Housing Council, MCDHS.

Persons with AIDS: AIDS Rochester and Monroe County Health Department.

Economic Development and Employment Issues: Rochester Business Alliance, Small Business Administration, Rochester Works, Inc., County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency (COMIDA) and Greater Rochester Enterprise (GRE), Empire State Development, The Entrepreneurs Network (TEN), Rochester Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) and the City of Rochester.

Citizen Participation (91.200 (b))

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.
2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.
3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.
4. Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Citizen Participation response:

1. Summary of Citizen Participation Process

The Consolidated Plan Steering Committee plays an integral role in the development of the Strategic Plan as well as the Annual Action Plans. The Steering Committee is comprised of town and village officials who are members of the County's Community Development Consortium. The Steering Committee is a vital consultant on the identification of municipal needs of low/mod income families, senior citizens, disabled persons and homeless persons, the identification of existing resources to meet the needs, the formulation of objectives and strategies, and the evaluation of the Plan and program assessment. The group is charged with the following responsibilities: analyze, measure and determine housing, public works, ADA and facility improvements, economic development, planning and public service needs for their residents, with an emphasis on the needs of low-mod income, elderly, disabled and homeless persons in their communities; identify existing resources to meet the needs as well as existing gaps in services unmet by other programs; advise CD Staff in the formulation of objectives and strategies; assist in the evaluation of the Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plans; and help assess the effectiveness of meeting the established needs with the use of available resources.

Public Hearings - Monroe County will continue to hold two public hearings annually at a variety of convenient, fully accessible locations. Bilingual interpreters will be provided upon request to translate policies and program requirements for non-English speaking residents. The first hearing in January is held to notify the public of the amount of CDBG, HOME and ESG funds that Monroe County expects to receive from HUD. The second public hearing, held in May, encourages the public to review and comment on the draft Strategic Plan and Action Plan. Commenters receive a response from the County within 30 days of submitting comments. The final Strategic Plan and Action Plan are not submitted to HUD without consideration and/or implementation of concerns and suggestions from citizens, public agencies and other interested parties.

Public Notices – Monroe County adheres to the public notice requirements as outlined in the CDBG and HOME regulations. Notice of public hearings is provided at least 15 days in advance. The public comment period for the Strategic Plan and Action Plan is 30 days. Projects proposed for funding are summarized in a public notice offering a 30-day comment period. The Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment (FONSI) and Intent to Request Release of Funds (IRROF) is published at least 15 days prior to the request to release funds, usually in August. Notices are published in two newspapers - The Daily Record and The Messenger Post Newspapers. The Plan is also available for review on Monroe County's website. A copy of the public notice and an invitation to the public hearing is mailed to Steering Committee members, interested public officials and interested housing and community service agencies.

The public is given an opportunity to review the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), prepared in October of each year. It contains a summary of accomplishments, status of current projects and an evaluation of progress made throughout the year in addressing identified needs and strategies. It is made available to the public through publication of a summary in The Daily Record and on the Monroe County website. Citizens are given a 15-day public comment period and are encouraged to obtain a complete copy of the CAPER or view it in its entirety on the County website or at our offices.

Review and Approval Process - The Strategic Plan and each Annual Action Plan are reviewed and approved by the County Executive and the Monroe County Legislature. All meetings of the Legislature and its standing committees are open to the public and start with a public forum. The Draft Plan is made available to the public for review and comment during the official 30-day public comment period and a public hearing is held in May each year. The CD staff responds to comments in early June. The Steering Committee reviews, expresses commentary and ultimately

endorses the Draft Plan in May. It is then reviewed, revised and approved by several Legislative committees prior to its final approval by the County Legislature in June. The Draft Plan is revised to incorporate all comments and sent to HUD in June each year.

Amendments to the approved Plan will be made for the following program changes: to make a change in allocation priorities or change the method of distribution of funds; to carry out an activity using funds from any Consolidated Plan program (including program income) not previously described in the action plan; or to make noteworthy changes to the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity. Upon completion, amendments will be made public and HUD will be notified. If an amendment reaches \$30,000 or more, a public notice will be provided that includes a 30-day public comment period before the substantial amendment is implemented. Monroe County will consider any comments received in writing in preparing the substantial amendment and a summary of comments will be attached to the substantial amendment.

Monroe County, through its grant agreement with HUD, certifies that it will comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA) and HUD implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 42. Monroe County has adopted and certified that it will follow a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan providing one-for-one replacement units and relocation assistance to minimize the displacement of persons eligible for assistance as a result of any activities assisted with the use of federal program funds.

2. Summary of Comments

The first public hearing on the development of the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan and the 2010 Action Plan was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 to obtain public comments and input on the five-year strategic planning process and the annual action plan. It was held at the Ebenezer Watts Conference Center, which is ADA accessible. Kathi Gingello, Community Development Manager, conducted the hearing and informed the public of the following:

“Monroe County expects to receive an allocation of about \$3.4 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2010. This amount represents allocations for the Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$1.9 million, the HOME Investment Partnership Program in the amount of \$1.4 million, and the Emergency Shelter Grants Program in the amount of \$84,000. These estimates are comparable to the actual levels of funding approved by HUD for these programs in Monroe County for the 2009 program year. Program income for the CDBG and HOME Programs in 2010 is expected to make available an additional \$300,000, for a combined total of \$3.7 million.

Funds will be used to continue existing programs and to identify new housing and community development activities that principally benefit low to moderate-income individuals.

Low to moderate-income persons are invited to participate in the Consolidated Plan process by proposing projects that serve community needs and by commenting on projects proposed by local Towns, Villages and community service agencies.

In accordance with federal regulations, a notice of funding availability was published in the December 16, 2009 issues of The Messenger Post Newspapers and The Daily Record to solicit participation from the public in the planning process for 2010 and to encourage comments from private individuals, consortium members and community service agencies.

Community Development is accepting project proposals for grants that will be made available on or after August 1, 2010. CDBG project applications are due Friday, February 12, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. Affordable rental housing applications were due on January 8, 2010 and are currently being evaluated for funding recommendations. Applications for funding are available on the table near

the exit if you would like one or are also available on Monroe County's website or via email upon request. If you require assistance in completing your application, please contact the appropriate staff member listed in the instructions and we will be happy to assist you.

Priority activities are those which develop affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for all low to moderate-income residents, without discrimination; repair and conserve existing housing stock; improve access to and quality of public facilities; replace deteriorated infrastructure with safe utilities; provide job training and economic development opportunities for low-mod income persons and persons with special needs; provide essential public services, particularly those that promote homeownership, fair housing and housing stability; and revitalize deteriorated neighborhoods.

The program area for the CDBG Program includes all municipalities in Monroe County with the exception of the City of Rochester and the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit. The HOME Program area consists of all suburban towns and villages in Monroe County, excluding the City of Rochester. To be eligible for funding, projects must principally benefit low to moderate-income persons and comply with other regulations of the CDBG, HOME or ESG Programs."

Thirty-eight people, including CD staff members, attended. There were no speakers, and no written comments were submitted.

The second public hearing on Monroe County's draft Strategic Plan and Action Plan was held on Wednesday, May 12th at the Ebenezer Watts Conference Center, which is fully accessible, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Kathi Gingello, Community Development Manager, conducted the hearing and informed those present of the following:

"The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on the Draft 2010-2015 Strategic Plan and the 2010 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development in Suburban Monroe County, which was made available for public comment today.

Monroe County expects to receive an allocation of \$3,562,126 from HUD for the CDBG, HOME and ESG programs. The County's CDBG allocation is \$2,080,086, an increase of \$156,704; the HOME allocation is \$1,397,543, a decrease of \$10,409; and the ESG allocation is \$84,497, a decrease of \$119. The 2010 combined allocations are \$146,176 more than last year.

Estimated program income (interest on outstanding loans and other repayments) is expected to total \$300,000 for the CDBG program and \$70,000 for the HOME program. The level of program income is slightly more than 2009. The combined total of anticipated funding available for all programs, including program income, is \$3,932,126.

Monroe County also expects to receive Section 108 loan repayments totaling \$261,892 during the 2010 program year. Monroe County and HUD are not bound by these estimates as they are subject to approval of the Action Plan submission to HUD.

Eligible projects include housing programs, public works, public facility improvements, economic development, and essential community services.

In accordance with federal regulations, Monroe County published a complete list of proposed projects in The Messenger Post Newspapers and The Daily Record on April 21, 2010, to solicit participation from the public in the planning process for the program period and to encourage comments from private citizens, consortium members and agencies.

The 30-day public comment period begins today, May 12th and concludes on June 11th. You may contact the Community Development Division or submit written comments until June 11th. You may also submit comments by email to mcplanning@monroecounty.gov.

Monroe County will consider all comments for incorporation into the final Strategic Plan and Action Plan, which will be sent to HUD on June 14. Monroe County will respond to all comments received in writing."

Eight people, including staff, attended the second public hearing. There were no speakers at the second public hearing and one written comment was received during the thirty-day public comment period. The written comment follows:

Commenter #1: Nancy Steedman, Mayor of the Village of Churchville wrote: "The Village of Churchville agrees with Monroe County's Consolidated Plan and the projects that will receive the funding. These projects will be beneficial to our community. We are particularly pleased that the County has included funding for the Community Center ADA Improvements project in the Village of Churchville. This project provides ADA access for all citizens of the community and surrounding areas to make use of the Community Center. It is an essential component in renovating the former fire hall into a Community Center. Once again, we support the Consolidated Plan as proposed by Monroe County."

3. Efforts to Broaden Public Participation

CD followed its established Citizen Participation Process to formulate these priorities and strategies, incorporating any public comments received at the public hearings and written comments received.

The draft plan is released on or around May 12, at the same time the matter is introduced in the Legislature, with a thirty-day comment period. Public notice is provided 15 days before the plan is released, and the public hearing and steering committee are held during this time, as well. The process concludes with incorporation of public comments before the Legislature acts on the matter at its June meeting.

The Steering Committee serves in an advisory capacity with regard to the County's Community Development initiatives and is charged with the following responsibilities: analyze, measure and determine housing, public works, ADA and facility improvements, economic development, planning and public service needs for their residents, with an emphasis on the needs of low-mod income, elderly, disabled and homeless persons in their communities; identify existing resources to meet the needs as well as existing gaps in services unmet by other programs; advise CD Staff in the formulation of objectives, strategies; assist in the evaluation of the Consolidated Plan and help to assess the effectiveness of meeting the established needs with the use of Consolidated Plan resources.

The core membership of the Steering Committee will continue to include the Supervisors and Mayors of the municipalities that are members of the consortium. To more effectively plan for the County's community development needs, and to comply with HUD guidelines, it may be useful to incorporate additional members of the public, business persons and persons involved in community and housing development into the Steering Committee. In addition, with the advent of the Internet, methods of information distribution have expanded, and it is necessary to review our system to ensure that it is as accessible, comprehensive and cost effective as possible. All other components of the Citizen Participation Plan will remain the same.

Direct outreach to community agencies has increased, marketing of programs continues in publications that reach minorities and consolidated plan documents have been made more accessible and available to the public. Community Development documents in draft and final form,

including the Five-Year Strategic Plan, Annual Action Plan and appendices, and the CAPER, are made available electronically or on CD and on the County's website (www.monroecounty.gov). Hard copies are also available free of charge from the Monroe County Department of Planning and Development. Citizens are encouraged to attend public hearings and to comment at any point throughout the process, in person, by phone or by mail to the Department of Planning and Development, 50 West Main Street, Rochester, New York 14614, (585) 753-2000 or e-mail (mcplanning@monroecounty.gov).

4. Public Comments Not Accepted

N/A

Institutional Structure (91.215 (i))

1. Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan, including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.
2. Assess the strengths and gaps in the delivery system.
3. Assess the strengths and gaps in the delivery system for public housing, including a description of the organizational relationship between the jurisdiction and the public housing agency, including the appointing authority for the commissioners or board of housing agency, relationship regarding hiring, contracting and procurement; provision of services funded by the jurisdiction; review by the jurisdiction of proposed capital improvements as well as proposed development, demolition or disposition of public housing developments.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Institutional Structure response:

1. Monroe County Institutional Structure

The Community Development (CD) Division of the Department of Planning and Development is charged with fulfilling the requirements of the CDBG, HOME and ESG programs, including development of the Strategic Plan and administration of the programs and projects funded by these federal allocations. Approval by the County Legislature, as well as the County Executive, is required in order for CD to submit the Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plan to HUD. This includes review by at least two standing committees of the Legislature.

Community Development administers the contracts associated with all of the programs, projects and services provided by the program, except the Economic Development Grant and Loan Fund, which is administered by the Economic Development (ED) Division of the Department. CD administers contracts with suburban municipalities for the public facilities and improvement projects, and CD staff internally administer the Home Improvement Program. First-time homebuyer programming and housing counseling services are provided through CD administered contracts with sub-recipients. Affordable rental housing development is contracted through housing developers, partnerships and CHDO's.

The five-year plan is prepared in compliance with HUD guidelines to encourage maximum coordination and participation from public and private sector leaders and agencies that play a critical role in carrying out consolidated plan activities. CD has developed good working relationships, regular communication, and shares a community vision with many non-profits, banks, private industry, government agencies at all levels, public institutions, local developers and private residents. The Citizen Participation Plan is a successful tool in the solicitation of constructive commentary from the community as a whole. Agencies respond in many different ways and forums such as municipal meetings, including County Legislature sessions. Input is also received

through the submittal of funding applications from a variety of housing, public service and community agencies dedicated to the needs of special population groups and other educational, health care and business/industrial institutions. Proposals are received annually from a variety of government agencies, housing advocacy groups, special interest agencies, contractors and developers, faith-based groups and private citizens. CDBG and HOME funds are used to leverage resources from other government programs, non-profit initiatives and private industry incentives in the implementation of programs to maximize program outcomes and increase the number of beneficiaries.

2. Strengths and Gaps in Delivery System

Strengths in Delivery System:

Monroe County continues to strengthen and expand existing public and private sector coordination and to identify and build innovative partnerships throughout the local community.

To facilitate economic development, Monroe County has assumed the operations of the Rochester Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC). PTAC provides free government contract consulting to diverse business concerns and will now be administered by the Monroe County Economic Development Division. County Executive Maggie Brooks also founded The Entrepreneurs Network (TEN) to support job creation and growing the region's entrepreneurial economy. TEN is an innovative six-month program designed to optimize exposure to, and interaction with, leading local and national entrepreneurial experts. County Executive Brooks also announced the creation of three new economic development programs to assist businesses with expansion projects in Monroe County. The Monroe County Green Jobs Plus Program provides an aggressive property tax abatement program for new building construction or renovation projects which are LEED certified by the United States Green Building Council. The Monroe Manufacturing Rewards Program provides manufacturing businesses with a rebate on manufacturing equipment purchases. The Monroe Manufactures Jobs program connects graduates of the Monroe Community College Applied Technology Center with local manufacturing companies by providing both the employer and employee with a bonus.

CD continues to work closely with all public, private and government entities within Monroe County's organizational structure to further enhance collaboration and communication and improve program delivery. CD continues to become more involved in affordable housing through participation on the Greater Rochester Housing Partnership Board of Directors and the United Way Building Community Impact Team.

Gaps in Delivery System:

Overall, the system works well for Monroe County. Resources are limited and should be increased for an expanded level of programs and services. The County, which has kept taxes stable for a number of years, does not have control over the activities of other taxing jurisdictions and the resulting impacts on the community. The limited funds CD has available for public services may create gaps in the delivery system until those entities faced with reductions are able to find new funding sources. Monroe County continues to seek new avenues of inter-governmental, public and private partnership opportunities to improve efficiency and enhance delivery of services. The County's Council of Governments has proven to be an innovative mechanism for new collaboration among the towns and villages.

3. Public Housing Strengths and Gaps:

Coordination between the Rochester Housing Authority (RHA), private and governmental health and mental health service agencies, is enhanced through the County and City's support of RHA's

social services programs and safety and security programs. The County and City also support RHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program which links Section 8 tenants and public housing residents with local training and employment program related service agencies.

The County and City have assisted in revitalizing neighborhoods surrounding public housing developments in many areas. New schools and community centers have been built. Road reconstruction and street maintenance are conducted on a regular basis. Fire and police protection efforts are ongoing at high levels of service. The Rochester Police Department works cooperatively with RHA in local drug elimination efforts and assisting in developing crime reduction strategies. RHA tenants regularly use nearby schools and recreation centers for educational needs and after school programs. County and City economic development efforts are ongoing and touch upon many neighborhoods where public housing is located.

The RHA also provides support services to its residents through their involvement with many agencies. For example, services to elderly are coordinated with Monroe County Visiting Nurse Service and the Consortium on Elderly Substance Abuse; while school children are linked with tutorial programs at two agencies and the City School District.

Public Housing Delivery System Gaps

The need for Section 8 vouchers by low/mod income residents of the City of Rochester and suburban Monroe County far exceeds RHA's available resources, resulting in Monroe County's priority need for affordable rental housing. Those most in need of affordable rental housing are low/mod income families with many children, who are increasing in the suburbs, together with poverty-level disabled persons and senior citizens.

Monitoring (91.230)

1. Describe the standards and procedures the jurisdiction will use to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Monitoring response:

1. Monitoring Standards and Procedures

Monroe County's Financial Accounting System

The Finance Department consolidates fiscal operations by coordinating the Budget, Financial Services and the Controller divisions to achieve a system that improves management of the County's finances and a strengthens the financial reporting process. The Department provides leadership to County government through the sound management of financial resources for the benefit of taxpayers, other County departments and the community at large. It strives to ensure the efficient and cost effective use of County resources and the attainment of established operational goals and objectives through effective fiscal policy, procedures, analysis and recommendation to maximize return on investment. Toward this end, it promotes sound financial practices to ensure that the use of County resources is responsive to community priorities.

The Divisions of the Department of Finance are:

- The Office of Management and Budget prepares, publishes and administers the annual operating budget and assists in the preparation of the Capital Improvement Program. It monitors expenditures and revenues and conducts analyses of County operations for the purpose of improving efficiency and effectiveness. Staff prepares multi-year budget forecasts, financial

information and analyses for presentation to the credit rating agencies, administration of the Sales Tax and Hotel Room Occupancy Tax, and review of recommendations to the County Legislature and contracts for services to ensure consistency with County financial and management objectives and policies.

- The Controller's Office maintains and operates the County's centralized financial information system and, from the data contained in it, reports on the financial condition of the County. This division pays all claims against the County and develops and enforces various systems of internal control to ensure budgeted appropriations are not exceeded. This division also monitors all County revenues. In planning for anticipated expenditures and revenues, the office utilizes a cash flow strategy to ensure that County obligations are funded on a timely basis. This office is ultimately responsible for all financial monitoring of the Consolidated Plan programs, sub-recipient financial record review and program income reconciliation for all activities.

- The Financial Services Division is responsible for a wide array of County fiscal operations comprised of the Treasury, Real Property Tax Service Agency, Purchasing and Internal Audit. Operations include responsibility to collect taxes, maintain assessment rolls, apportion of the County levy on local municipalities, advise assessors on procedural and legal changes, update tax maps, provide purchasing functions, and coordinate the professional evaluation of departmental operating and financial policies and practices.

- The Office of the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for formulating, evaluating and examining financial policies that include directing investment, cash flow and borrowing programs and supervising and coordinating the operations of the department. This office implements the fundamental strategies of financial management as articulated in the Financial Strategies section of the Monroe County Budget. Highlights of the primary strategies are as follows:

a. Annual budgets shall be prepared and presented in accordance with standards set by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

b. The concept of "popular reporting" shall be incorporated in the County's annual financial report by means of publishing a Popular Annual Financial Report concurrently with the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

c. Financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A cost accounting system shall be developed, instituted and maintained which accurately reflects the cost of services.

d. The cash management system shall be maintained to minimize short term borrowing, maximize investment earnings and ensure adequate safety of principal.

e. The principles and practices of sound "asset/liability management" shall be followed, which generally require the matching of liabilities with appropriately structured assets in order to minimize interest rate volatility risks.

f. A system of internal controls shall be instituted and maintained sufficient to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, optimal cost effectiveness of county services and prudent stewardship over public funds. All employees will be responsible and accountable for the safekeeping of public assets. Management shall institute and maintain a professional internal audit function to monitor and improve the system of controls.

g. All departments are responsible for recovery of budgeted non-tax revenues as planned in the annual budget. Departments shall maintain adequate billing and claiming processes in order to

effectively manage their accounts receivable system in conformance with the fiscal plan and sound business principles.

h. A management review will be performed annually to ascertain the County's performance in attaining these goals. The results of this evaluation shall be presented in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to be prepared by the Department of Finance in conformance with standards established by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

Accounting Procedures – Department of Planning and Development

All Monroe County Departments follow the financial accounting procedures of the County Finance Department. The staff of this Department works closely with the CDBG/HOME accounting staff to apply these principles to all financial aspects of Consolidated Plan Programs.

Governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting, which dictates that revenues are recognized when measurable and available to pay current liabilities. Expenditures are recognized when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on long-term debt which are recorded as expenditures when paid, and compensated absences which are recognized as a liability in the applicable fund if payable with current financial resources. Proprietary funds are accounted for using the accrual basis of accounting whereby revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when liabilities are incurred.

CDBG & HOME Program Monitoring

The monitoring program for the CDBG, HOME and ESG-funded activities consists of the use of standard Monroe County financial practices together with the standards, systems and procedures derived from the federal regulations and objectives. These guide us in successfully measuring fiscal, regulatory and programmatic performance and compliance of all activities funded by the Consolidated Plan. Our policies are effective in establishing project eligibility compliance with primary and national objectives as well as compliance with other areas of grant administration. The policies utilize methods such as risk analysis to guide the selection process and follow-up procedures such as progressive sanctions to effectively prevent and remedy problem areas.

CD staff administers the Consolidated Plan programs and maintains financial compliance by using uniform procedures that closely scrutinize the legitimacy and appropriateness of project costs. The system focuses on the training of sub-grantees in reporting fiscal and programmatic data simultaneously to achieve timely reimbursements. Sub-grantees submit claim vouchers with companion progress reports and statistical data to obtain payment of project costs or services performed. Materials which must accompany the vouchers are specific to each project but generally include invoices for project materials purchased, personnel records for labor involved, a detailed scope of services performed and other official data needed to evidence project costs. Narrative documentation, which must accompany each voucher, includes program status reports, a description of services performed and a breakdown of project beneficiaries by income, age, residence in our program area, ethnic background and other appropriate data. After evaluation and staff approval, vouchers are sent to the Controller's Office for payment. Sub-grantees usually receive payment within three weeks through the County's bi-monthly payment schedule.

Monitoring of Specific Activities - The activities funded through the CDBG, HOME and ESG Programs consist principally of housing rehabilitation and acquisition, new construction of affordable housing facilities, community services including fair and affordable housing counseling and technical assistance, public works and utility infrastructure, public facility improvements, particularly ADA alterations, operating assistance to agencies providing homeless and homeless prevention services and economic development loans and grants to businesses.

Community and Emergency Shelter Services - Our oversight ensures that sub-recipients who perform services comply with all applicable federal regulations governing their administrative, financial and programmatic operations and to verify compliance with program delivery, performance objectives, schedules and budgets. We conduct in-house reviews of project materials which include a complete evaluation of the project applications, contract agreements, progress reports, vouchers and financial audit materials. Great attention is paid to the sub-recipient's data on beneficiaries, which is described in detail in each progress report. Monitoring visits are conducted to insure that services are provided in accordance with federal regulations. Most programs have specific monitoring forms to record activities in progress and to identify the type and size of populations served. This provides the necessary data to evaluate performance and project effectiveness in reaching target recipients, achieving program objectives and compliance with regulations, to formulate monitoring strategies and recommend appropriate follow-up actions. In-depth project reviews are conducted annually to insure that all guidelines have been met.

Construction Activities (CDBG Public Works Improvements, Facility Improvements, and HOME construction projects) - These projects are evaluated closely at the proposal stage for eligibility and environmental review clearance. The procurement standards generally require the use of the competitive public bid process and in some cases, the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, when municipal labor forces do not perform the work. Contract agreements with sub-grantees are specific in citing compliance with federal regulations and are used as monitoring resource documents. All applicable federal acts and executive orders are referenced in these contracts, as well as in construction bid documents. For public bid projects, CD prepares all bid notices for publication in newspapers of general circulation to include general federal regulations, specifically labor standards provisions as they relate to Davis Bacon Wage Rates, EEO, the federal funding clause and Section 3 provisions. CD staff ensures that the construction bid documents contain all necessary forms, regulations and requirements in a section titled "Special Conditions - Federal and State Requirements" (EEO, Labor Standards, federal certifications, M/WBE Plan, Section 3 Provisions, etc.) to make potential bidders aware of federal project funding and related requirements. This section is revised periodically to reflect the most current HUD forms available through the HUD website. We continue to include specific federal certifications that must be signed by bidders as part of the bid proposal, which now contains all state, federal and local certifications.

All contractors and subcontractors are reviewed by HUD prior to participation in projects to ensure that they are not listed on any federal lists of suspended and debarred contractors. In addition, our standard County contract now contains a Debarment Certification, in accordance with the Monroe County Law Department. This certification must be signed by each sub-grantee as part of the contract execution and helps to ensure that Monroe County is not contracting with a firm or agency that appears on any suspended or debarred list.

CDBG & HOME construction bid projects are closely monitored during many inspections and site visits, beginning with an initial visit to verify the posting of HUD notices. Progress inspections are conducted to verify performance of the activity, particularly before payments are processed. Employee interviews are conducted with an employee of each prime and subcontractor. Final inspections by CD staff are performed to verify the satisfactory completion of the project, evidenced by photos. More technical inspections are performed by project engineers to verify satisfactory completion.

Force Accounts are construction projects accomplished by municipal labor forces that are not subject to federal Labor Standards Provisions. CD staff meets with municipal staff to execute contracts between municipalities and the County and to describe the force account process. An initial inspection is conducted to verify the site prior to construction. Reimbursable project costs include materials purchased, labor and fringe benefits for municipal workers and the cost of any equipment rented to accomplish the project. Periodic inspections are done by CD staff during the

project to verify that work being billed to the County has been satisfactorily completed. Final inspections are performed with municipal engineering staff to verify the completion of the project, evidenced by photos.

HOME Program Monitoring

Program Compliance Requirements

Records for the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) are kept for all activities to insure compliance with program regulations, financial procedures and County HOME Program strategies. These include income certification, rent levels, ethnic groups served, household characteristics/family size, type of unit, sales price of housing unit or other data needed to ensure compliance. Prior to disbursement of funds, all activities must comply with housing priorities and strategies of the Consolidated Plan. The program is evaluated annually in this regard.

Monitoring visits and on-site inspections of HOME-assisted rental units are conducted to determine compliance with the property Housing Quality Standards (HQS) of 24 CFR 92.251 and to verify that the information submitted by the owners is in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR 92.252. Inspections must be based on a sufficient sample of units to ensure compliance with all Section 8 Housing Quality Standards at 24 CFR 92.504.

Prior to Construction/Predevelopment Phase of Projects, County Staff:

- assist developers to ensure that construction bid documents and related technical and design specifications contain all applicable federal regulations; and
- conduct pre-construction meetings with the development team including the general contractor/subcontractors to assure compliance with all HUD federal requirements, including Section 3 Provisions, MBE/WBE, Davis-Bacon (if applicable) and Housing Quality Standard requirements before the project is bid.

During Construction/Redevelopment Phase of Projects, County Staff:

- attend monthly and final on-site construction meetings and inspections to assure compliance with all HUD federal requirements, including Section 3 Provisions, MBE/WBE, Davis-Bacon (if applicable) and Housing Quality Standard (HQS) requirements during project construction phase.

After Project is Completed/Redeveloped and Occupied, County Staff Conducts:

- HQS inspections, based on a sufficient sample of units to ensure that owner maintains units in compliance with all Section 8 Housing Quality Standards. These are conducted every three years for projects containing 1 to 4 units, two years for projects of 5 to 25 units and annually for projects containing 26 or more units;
- monitoring visits to ensure that the project owner maintains the appropriate mix of very low-income (VLI) and low-income (LI) tenants throughout the compliance period; properly collects the required information and annually determines the income eligibility of tenants in the assisted units; and collects rents that do not exceed the HOME maximum rents, when adjusted for tenant-paid utility allowance.

All HUD proposed homeless and/or housing applications that require a Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan must be reviewed prior to issuance of executed Certifications of Consistency. The County reserves the right to request updates on Consolidated Plan certified

activities and/or conduct site visits to ensure consistency with the original proposed activities and long-term compliance.

Housing Rehabilitation Activities - The Home Improvement Program (HIP), funded by CDBG and HOME, is our primary housing rehabilitation activity. Use of the following system enables us to operate this program effectively, efficiently and in compliance with federal regulations. Applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the year with priority given only to health and safety emergencies. Selection criteria for eligible households includes: income at or below 80% AMI, cash or liquid assets below \$50,000 and property must be owner-occupied with all property taxes paid to date. The applicant must have owned the home for at least one year prior to applying and must not have received program assistance in the past. Improvements must be approved and evidenced as eligible before funding is committed. Notices of approval or denial are sent out immediately to inform applicants of their status, accompanied by referrals to other programs as appropriate.

The Housing Staff provides all construction management services. Direct construction supervision is provided by the general contractor, selected by the homeowner, with the oversight of the CD Rehabilitation Specialist. The Specialist performs initial, pre-construction, in-progress and final inspections to determine that improvements are eligible prior to funding and in accordance with federal Housing Quality Standards (HQS). Upon completion, they must meet or exceed HQS requirements. The Rehabilitation Specialist also performs preliminary environmental reviews on each project, inspects properties for lead-based paint hazards, prepares work specifications, assists homeowners in obtaining estimates and provides other technical assistance and problem resolution. Since September 1, 2000, requirements of the HUD Lead Safe Housing Rule have been implemented to insure full compliance. Of all CDBG and HOME activities, these regulations apply most to rehabilitation work undertaken in the Home Improvement Program.

The Housing Staff prepares program grant agreements and monitors projects during the recapture period by recording mortgages against each property.

Economic Development Activities - The CDBG-funded Economic Development Grant and Loan Fund is the principal resource for providing low interest loans and/or grants to for-profit businesses for projects that create and retain jobs. The County has opted to use the HUD guidelines and objectives for evaluating project costs and financial requirements as a framework for financially underwriting and selecting projects for funding. We also implement HUD's standards for evaluating public benefit to insure that at least a minimum level is obtained from the expenditure of federal funds for activities determined to be eligible. This system allows us to easily document each project's compliance with the national objectives.

Monitoring procedures determine eligibility of the for-profit businesses by demonstrating that the assistance is appropriate. Written assistance agreements between the County and the businesses incorporate a detailed description of the documentation required for job creation and retention activities. These contracts include a commitment to make at least 51% of jobs, on a full-time equivalent basis, available to low-mod income persons and provide training for those jobs that require it; a listing by job title of permanent jobs to be created, identifying those jobs available to low-mod income persons, those requiring special skills or education and part-time jobs; a description of actions to be taken to insure first consideration of low-mod income persons for jobs; a listing by job title of permanent jobs filled, those available to low-mod income persons and a description of how first consideration was given. For job retention activities, similar data is included to evidence that in the absence of funding, the jobs would be lost.

To evidence compliance with the income benefit requirements, the following data is collected, evaluated: the size and annual income of the assisted low-mod income person's family, or substitutions to evidence that the person qualifies for another program having criteria at least as

restrictive; residence in an eligible low-mod income census tract; evidence of homeless status, or that the person is a referral from a government employment agency qualified to determine the person's low-mod income status, or qualifies under the "limited clientele" criteria of the national objectives or a certification signed by the assisted person stating that his income meets the HUD criteria.

Other activities eligible through the ED Grant and Loan Fund include job training, development and placement services, neighborhood revitalization projects, technical assistance to small and disadvantaged businesses and employment and training for persons with special needs. These activities provide services through consultants, therefore, Monroe County uses the same system of monitoring as that employed for community service sub-recipients, as listed above.

Monitoring Tools

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) - The CAPER and IDIS will continue to be used as effective monitoring resources since they describe and document the financial status of all projects and programs. They serve as accurate measures of performance in terms of eligible beneficiaries served, program target areas addressed, dollars being matched with priority needs, identifying primary activities funded, and generally, in displaying information in a format from which data can be easily extracted.

Contract Agreements are developed by CD staff for each project and are used as a mechanism to insure compliance with County legal requirements, to provide guidance to sub-grantees on performing projects in accordance with national objectives and related federal, state and other applicable regulations, as a means of documenting data required by federal recordkeeping regulations and subsequently, as an important project resource document.

Cooperation Agreements are executed between Monroe County and town and village members of the Monroe County Consolidated Plan Consortium every three years to enable those members who wish to continue participating in the CDBG and HOME Programs to do so. Non-members are invited to join the consortium when these agreements are renewed every three years.

Town/Village Board Resolutions are required to accept CDBG grants for specific projects. The Monroe County Legislature also passes a resolution to approve the Five Year Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plan prior to submittal to HUD.

Progress reports and voucher payment requests are required from all sub-grantees on special forms developed for tracking activity progress and reporting on income and ethnic data.

Other resource documents include Monroe County internal audits, independent financial audit reports of sub-recipients, Site Visit Reports on public service sub-recipients, Inspection Reports of construction projects, Construction Bid Documents and certifications contained in bid proposal sections, the Environmental Review Record File, the Procurement Documentation File and detailed project application forms and eligibility analysis files.

Priority Needs Analysis and Strategies (91.215 (a))

1. Describe the basis for assigning the priority given to each category of priority needs.
2. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Priority Needs Analysis and Strategies response:

1. Basis for Assigning Priority to Each Category of Priority Needs

Historically, CD has tried to keep the priority assigned to public facilities, housing rehabilitation and economic development relatively equal due to the large geographic area and significant number of communities covered by the Strategic Plan. This has allowed the County to distribute funds equitably throughout the areas served and reach the greatest number of beneficiaries. Public services, due to the 15% threshold, are a priority but on a limited financial scale.

Monroe County's Community Development needs for the next five years: develop affordable rental and home ownership opportunities for low to moderate-income residents; repair and conserve existing housing stock; improve access to and quality of public facilities; replace deteriorated infrastructure with safe utilities; provide job training and economic development opportunities for low to moderate-income persons and persons with special needs; provide essential public services, particularly those that promote home ownership, fair housing and housing stability; and revitalize neighborhoods.

By eligibility category, Monroe County's priority community development needs are as follows:

Public Facilities and Improvements - general (03); senior centers (03A); neighborhood facilities (03E); parks and recreation facilities (03F); parking facilities (03G); flood drain improvements (03I); water/sewer improvements (03J); street improvements (03K); sidewalks (03L)

Depending upon available resources, CD expects to undertake fifteen to twenty projects in this category annually for the next five years.

Housing - construction of housing (12); direct home ownership assistance (13); rehab single-unit residential (14A); rehab multi-unit residential (14B); rehabilitation administration (14H); lead based paint/lead hazard testing (14I)

Projects in this category include the First-Time Homebuyer Program, Home Improvement Program and Affordable Rental Housing Development. Each of these program areas is detailed fully in the Housing section.

Public Services - general (05); senior services (05A); fair housing activities (05J); tenant/landlord counseling (05K); housing counseling (05U)

Projects in this category include the Home Ownership Program, Safety and Security for Seniors Program, Expanding Housing Opportunities by The Housing Council, and Foreclosure Prevention and HECM Counseling, also by The Housing Council.

Neighborhood Revitalization – Rehab publicly or privately owned commercial/industrial (14E); non-residential historic preservation (16B)

CD expects to fund one or two projects in this category annually for the next five years.

Economic Development - ED direct financial assistance (18A)

Projects in this category include the ED Grant and Loan Fund, which creates and retains local jobs for low to moderate-income persons.

Monroe County defines, analyzes and assigns priority to community needs using many methods to retrieve data from reliable sources and input from the community as a whole. These factors help CD determine the priority of a project -- absolute need, relative need, availability of other funds, local preference and spending cap by category.

Census Tract Data and the Quartile Ranking of Low/Mod Income Persons have been compiled by HUD. Neighborhoods targeted for public improvements are located in eligible census tracts and block groups where the highest percentages of low/mod income residents are located. These statistics geographically define a concentration of residents in need of programs and services.

CD staff works closely with several County departments that provide health and human services. These partnerships provide valuable assistance in identifying the needs of county residents.

Consultation with the primary community agencies listed earlier helps to identify local trends, gaps in services and needs of special population groups, including senior citizens, persons with special needs and homeless persons.

The Steering Committee continues to help shape the community development needs analysis through the input of municipal members at semi-annual meetings. Local preference continues to be a very strong determining factor in assigning priority.

Public commentary, provided by county citizens through the citizen participation process, provides valuable insight into community needs. Public suggestions are incorporated into Monroe County's needs analysis, Strategic Plan, and funded in the Action Plan.

Staff participation on local committees and boards involved in public service issues provides added input on community needs as well as an opportunity to merge resources for programs that meet identified needs. Involvement on the Homeless CoC Team, Greater Rochester Housing Partnership Board and the United Way Building Community Impact Team are a few examples of community participation that have been beneficial in this regard.

2. Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs

The greatest challenge to meeting underserved needs is limited funding resources. More applicants are seeking community development funds than ever before, creating increased competition.

Lead-based Paint (91.215 (g))

1. Estimate the number of housing units that contain lead-based paint hazards, as defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, and are occupied by extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families.
2. Outline actions proposed or being taken to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards and describe how lead based paint hazards will be integrated into housing policies and programs, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Lead-based Paint response:

1. Estimate of Housing Units Containing Lead-Based Paint Hazards

Monroe County, through its Department of Public Health (MCDPH), has conducted a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program for the past 40 years. Program activities include the coordination of blood-lead screening of children, medical case management, environmental investigation, pursuit of lead hazard control and abatement, compliance enforcement, and health education. MCDPH conducts the lead poisoning program in compliance with the Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, the New York State and Monroe County Sanitary Codes, and federal CDC Guidelines regarding childhood lead poisoning prevention.

During the period 2005-2009, over 69,000 children, ages 0-72 months, were screened for elevated blood lead levels in the Rochester/Monroe County area. Of these children screened, approximately 2,300, predominantly City of Rochester residents, were identified to have blood lead levels ³ 10 mg/dl, a level considered dangerous in young children. Specifically in the year 2007, 14,917, Monroe County children 0-72 months of age were screened. In 2007, the County incidence rate of newly identified blood lead levels at or above 10 mg/dl was 16.0. This countywide rate is higher than the statewide (NY) average of 9.2 for the same year.

The Monroe County Department of Public Health collaborated with the City of Rochester and Rochester's Lead Coalition in the development and implementation of the City's Lead Ordinance. The Department will continue to provide the City with elevated blood lead level data and data on properties identified as having lead hazards for identification of high risk areas in relation to the City's Lead Ordinance. Lead Program staff is also committed to helping with the evaluation of the Ordinance in conjunction with the Center for Governmental Research (CGR), the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH), University of Rochester's Environmental Health and Sciences Center, and the City of Rochester.

Monroe County Housing Stock

Children residing in properties built before 1950 are at increased risk for elevated blood lead levels (Lanphear, 1998). The CGR report utilizes U.S. Census 2000 data and Monroe County/City of Rochester Tax Assessment data to profile the housing stock in the community and identify the most high-risk neighborhoods for lead poisoning. Maps and tables in the report break down the percentages of pre-1950 housing for all the municipalities in the County, summarized as follows:

- There are 82,780 residential properties built before 1950 in Monroe County.

Over 60% of the homes in the villages of East Rochester, Fairport, Honoeye Falls, Pittsford and Scottsville were built before 1960.

Over 40% of the homes in the towns of Brighton, Irondequoit, Mendon, Riga, Rush, Sweden and Wheatland were built before 1960.

2. Actions Proposed and Being Taken to Evaluate and Reduce Lead-Based Paint Hazards

From a policy perspective, making houses lead-safe requires that lead safety be incorporated into a variety of programmatic and policy decisions regarding the highest risk neighborhoods (CGR report).

Combined Efforts

The MCDPH and the CD Division acknowledge Federal requirements regarding disclosure of known lead-based paint hazards by those selling or leasing housing constructed prior to 1978, and advise property owners who are involved in our programs accordingly. Also, the federal Pre-Renovation Rule is followed whereby renovators and remodelers notify owners and occupants of target housing if lead-based paint is likely to be disturbed during a CD or MCDPH financed project. Efforts to educate contractors and property owners at-large regarding these disclosure requirements are continuing.

MCDPH collaborates with several other groups/agencies to provide a comprehensive response to lead poisoning cases. Monroe County lead paint violations are concurrently cited by the City of Rochester Property Conservation Bureau, which pursues compliance and correction along with other City building code violations. The City withholds final compliance and any Certificates of Occupancy as necessary until notified of lead correction by MCDPH. The Monroe County

Department of Human Services (DHS) reinforces the citation of lead violations by withholding rent payments to delinquent property owners, barring re-occupancy of properties with outstanding lead violations, and by orchestrating emergency relocation of families to lead-safe housing operated by community-based organizations. Medical case management of lead poisoning cases by the MCHPD includes regular conferences with the Finger Lakes Regional Lead Poisoning Treatment Center for all children undergoing mobilization and chelation therapy. The MCDPH Lead Program nursing staff maintains updated medical records for all children with elevated blood lead levels (database currently exceeds 100,000 children). The nurses also act as a resource to concerned parents, the public and health care providers, and assist physicians with medical management to insure required follow-up is provided for the child. Lead Program community outreach staff visits homes of lead-poisoned children to educate families on risk-reduction and prevention activities.

In 2006, the City of Rochester's "Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention" law (Municipal Code of the City of Rochester Ordinance 2006-37) went into effect. This law covers all rental property in the City where nearly 60% of occupied housing is rental. In addition, over 70% of these units were built before 1960. Under the Ordinance, inspectors look for deteriorated, potentially lead-based paint in housing units at the time of the regular Certificate of Occupancy inspection. An inspection may also be initiated in response to a tenant, neighborhood group, or medical doctor request. As part of the inspection, a City inspector performs a standardized Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) visual inspection for deteriorated paint and bare soil. All deteriorated paint in pre-1978 housing is assumed to contain lead, unless additional testing at the owner's expense proves otherwise. Deteriorated paint must be fixed using lead-safe work practices. The MCDPH has partnered with the City of Rochester Department of Neighborhood & Business Development in the MCDPH's Lead Primary Prevention grant since the inception of the grant in 2007. MCDPH has provided funding for 2 additional Property Conservation Officers to perform an additional 2196 inspections and 1338 dust wipe series per year.

In October 2009, the MCHPD Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program lowered the environmental intervention level to 10 mg/dl. This is lower than the 15mg/dL intervention level required by the NYSDOH.

Lead safe work practices training - All persons conducting lead hazard control work that is ordered in the "Notice and Demand," and participating in the HUD grant must successfully complete an approved 8-hour Housing and Urban Development "Lead Safe Work Practices" (LSWP) class. Prior to the commencement of lead hazard control work the recipient of the "Notice and Demand" and/or property owner must submit proof of LSWP training to the MCHPD for all such persons. The acceptable proof of training shall be the class certificate issued by the LSWP training provider. The purpose of this class is to provide workers with information they need to understand that lead-based paint can create health hazards and that using proper work practices can control hazards. In addition starting on April 22, 2010, the EPA's new Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting rule (LRRP) takes effect and affects anyone who is paid to perform work that disturbs paint in housing and child-occupied facilities built before 1978. This includes: residential rental property owners/managers, general contractors, maintenance personnel and trade contractors, including: HVAC, painters, plumbers, carpenters and electricians. A total of 26 classes, including 5 Saturday classes, will be conducted. The Cornell School of Industrial Relations is the EPA certified training provider again for 2010. This year the training is being paid for with funds from the HUD grant and the Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention grant. Both LSWP training classes (29) and LRRP refresher training classes (38) are being conducted by the Cornell School of Industrial Relations.

Coupled with these efforts, the CD Division continues to enforce actions specific to its housing programs in lead-based paint hazard identification, disclosure and reduction. The CD Rehabilitation Specialist has received extensive training to more easily recognize potential hazards and determine appropriate remediation activities, as well as to alert health officials of existing threats. We also

market the housing rehab programs to low and moderate-income homeowners in suburban Monroe County who require financial assistance in the remediation of lead-based paint hazards.

Monroe County has contracted with a local environmental contractor to provide risk assessment and clearance services for the Home Improvement Program.

All properties purchased through the County's First-Time Homebuyer Program must have inspections for lead-based paint hazards prior to final approval of applications for assistance. Purchase subsidies are only issued after receipt of inspection reports revealing that there are no lead-based paint hazards at the time of purchase.

HOUSING

Housing Needs (91.205)

*Please also refer to the Housing Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook

1. Describe the estimated housing needs projected for the next five year period for the following categories of persons: extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income families, renters and owners, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, including persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, single persons, large families, public housing residents, victims of domestic violence, families on the public housing and section 8 tenant-based waiting list, and discuss specific housing problems, including: cost-burden, severe cost-burden, substandard housing, and overcrowding (especially large families).
2. To the extent that any racial or ethnic group has a disproportionately greater need for any income category in comparison to the needs of that category as a whole, the jurisdiction must complete an assessment of that specific need. For this purpose, disproportionately greater need exists when the percentage of persons in a category of need who are members of a particular racial or ethnic group is at least ten percentage points higher than the percentage of persons in the category as a whole.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Housing Needs response:

1. Estimated Housing Needs

Internal analysis of housing data collected by the department indicates the following:

- Housing problems persist at the 30, 50 and 80% AMI income bands, but are greater at the 30 and 50% bands. Home owners at the 30 and 50% income band face significant housing burdens.
- Housing cost burden of over 50% of income is greatest at 30% AMI, decreases at 50% and decreases further at 80%. Cost burden of over 30% of income is greatest at 30% AMI, decreases slightly at 50% and decreases significantly at 80% AMI.
- Those with the greatest housing cost burden are home owners at or below 30% AMI. The cost burden is greater for elderly home owners than for renters at 30% AMI. The burden is slightly greater for small-family owners than for renters at 30% AMI. The housing cost burden is greatest for large-family renters at 30% AMI; slightly greater than for large-family home owners.
- Both small and large-family renters and owners at 30-50% AMI face significant housing problems and cost burdens.

- The percentage of housing problems and cost burden declines significantly at 80% AMI. Elderly renters, and small and large-family owners at 80% AMI experience the greatest housing burden.

Analysis indicates that the Consortium is comprised of more owners (54.5%) than renters (45.5%). The Consortium does not have a disproportionate racial/ethnic need. Over 56% of total disabled persons (6,000) have a housing problem. The AIDS/HIV population totals over 2,400 persons.

Conclusions:

- While elderly home owners at all qualifying income levels would benefit from housing rehab assistance, the need is greatest for those at 30% and 50% AMI.
- The greatest need for affordable senior rental housing is at 30 and 50% AMI; the greatest need for affordable small and large-family rental housing is at 30 and 50% AMI.
- Subsidy at all qualifying income levels would promote home ownership with significantly greater subsidy needed at lower income bands.

Public Housing and Section 8 Tenant-Based Waiting Lists:

Refer to the section entitled Needs of Public Housing regarding the number of families on public housing and tenant-based (Section 8) waiting lists.

Persons with Disabilities

Affordable, accessible housing units near public transportation remains a need in Monroe County. The high cost of renting special needs housing in Monroe County is often not affordable for individuals with disabilities. Most individuals with disabilities rely on Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income. There are significant waiting lists for subsidized apartments and assisted affordable apartment units. The challenge is to find housing located on a public bus route that is available and affordable for this population.

Recent development of smaller supportive housing known as Individual Residential Alternative residences (IRA) has proved to be much more effective, efficient and successful in serving the disabled population than the larger facilities referred to as Community Residences or Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) that serve up to fourteen individuals.

There is a demand for quality supportive housing, such as IRA's, that generally serve between four and ten individuals with disabilities. In addition, there is interest in supportive housing for developmentally disabled persons requiring high levels of medical attention.

Persons with Mental Illness

Affordable, safe housing remains the number one need for the majority of the severely mentally ill population. Most persons with mental illness live at the poverty level in sub-standard housing, often located in drug-infested neighborhoods that are dangerous and alluring to their own addictions.

Persons with Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse – Chemical Dependency

Many individuals with chemical dependency live in sub-standard housing due to lack of appropriate housing options. Although not technically homeless, many such individuals double up or move from house to house, as they may have no income, be unemployed and/or sanctioned from County DHS subsidies. Often, individuals who have completed stays in licensed residential programs are in the beginning stages of self-sufficiency, working at low paying jobs that limit their ability to find appropriate housing.

Assisted Housing Units in Monroe County

Assisted Housing includes rental developments in which all or part of the occupancy of the units is restricted to low and moderate-income households under the Mitchell-Lama program. Please refer to three assisted housing charts included in the Appendix of this Plan. The data in these charts is as of 1998 and has not been updated.

2. Disproportionate Needs

N/A

Priority Housing Needs (91.215 (b))

1. Identify the priority housing needs and activities in accordance with the categories specified in the Housing Needs Table (formerly Table 2A). These categories correspond with special tabulations of U.S. census data provided by HUD for the preparation of the Consolidated Plan.
2. Provide an analysis of how the characteristics of the housing market and the severity of housing problems and needs of each category of residents provided the basis for determining the relative priority of each priority housing need category.

Note: Family and income types may be grouped in the case of closely related categories of residents where the analysis would apply to more than one family or income type.

3. Describe the basis for assigning the priority given to each category of priority needs.
4. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Priority Housing Needs response:

1. Priority Housing Needs

Housing problems exist at the 30, 50 and 80% AMI bands, but are greatest at the 30 and 50% bands. More housing rehab assistance should be directed to the 30 and 50% income groups.

Because the burden of spending over 50% of their income on housing is greatest at 30% AMI, this income band would benefit most from affordable rental housing opportunities, increased subsidy for home ownership and housing rehab programs.

Elderly owners, particularly those at 30% AMI, need housing rehab assistance due to housing condition and cost burden. Elderly owners at this income level could benefit from affordable rental housing alternatives due to cost burden.

Elderly renters at 30-50% AMI would benefit more than somewhat higher income elderly renters from affordable housing alternatives to overcome cost burden.

Small and large-family renters and owners face significant housing problems and cost burden and could benefit from housing rehab, affordable rental options and enhanced home ownership programs.

Elderly Households

According to Census 2000, the number of persons 65+ increased 21% in suburban Monroe County. The number of persons 75+ years increased 55%. The number of persons 85+ years increased 65%.

In 2000, 78% of the population 65 years and older in Monroe County resided in suburban areas. Seventy-six percent of county residents 75+ and 73% of residents 85+ lived outside the city in 2000. These noteworthy increases in each age category point to the increasing need for more senior housing in suburban Monroe County. We expect that the 2010 Census will show continuing growth of this high needs population.

State and federal financing is available to develop affordable housing for older adults on a very limited and highly competitive basis. Developers express concern that efforts to expand the provision of affordable housing opportunities for older adults will continue to be a very slow and extremely challenging process.

A local study, A Proposal for Assessing the Housing and Service Needs of Monroe County's Seniors (2000), indicated that the variety of senior living alternatives increased over the previous decade. Growth of in-home services to help seniors "age in place" has made it possible for more seniors to remain in their own homes. We will need additional senior housing developments, independent senior apartments and naturally occurring retirement communities to serve the burgeoning population of seniors who are able to live independently. Supportive/congregate, shared and enriched housing developments are needed for those who require additional care or support in performing daily activities. Seniors need assistance in paying the cost of these options.

Persons with Disabilities

Sixteen percent of the total disabled population reside in suburban Monroe County. Persons age 65 and older have a higher rate of physical and self-care disabilities than younger people. Towns with a higher proportion of persons with physical and self-care types of disabilities include Gates, Greece, Irondequoit and Webster.

Persons with Mental Illness

As referenced in the Priority Housing Needs section of this Plan, affordable and safe housing remains the number one need for the majority of the severely mentally ill population. Most persons with mental illness live at the poverty level, often in sub-standard housing in drug-infested neighborhoods that are dangerous and alluring to their own addictions, which sets individuals up for decompensation and re-hospitalization.

Persons with Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse – Chemical Dependency

According to the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), there are approximately 70,000 adults and over 10,000 adolescents ages 12-17 years in Monroe County in need of chemical dependency treatment. OASAS-licensed residential beds for adults serve approximately 900 individuals annually, providing short term housing and supportive services in a structured environment.

Limited housing options exist for those with mental illness and chemical addiction (MICA), women with children, individuals involved with the criminal justice system and older adolescents/young adults. Housing needs include access to safe, decent, affordable housing, housing subsidies, supervised housing with onsite supports and supported housing with case management support. Affordable and safe housing remains the number one need for persons with chemical dependency.

2. Basis for Determining Relative Priority

Described below is an analysis of the characteristics of the housing market and the severity of housing problems and needs of each category of residents that has provided the basis for determining the relative priority of each priority housing need category.

Housing Conditions and Costs

Nearly 55% of dwelling units in suburban Monroe County were built before 1960. Many older houses are in need of repair and there is a shortage of appropriate housing affordable to low-income people. During the past two decades, there has been an increase in the number and percentage of residents who are paying more than 30% of their income for housing. Of particular concern is the increase in the number of people who face severe housing cost burden, paying more than 50% of their income for housing.

The HUD-designated fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit in Monroe County in 2010 is \$803, including utilities. HUD considers a person to be unduly burdened by housing expense if they are required to spend more than 30% of gross income on rent. Rent data provided in Out of Reach, 2009 (National Low Income Housing Coalition), indicates that:

- in order to pay \$803 per month at 30% of gross income, a household would have to earn \$32,120 per year, the equivalent of two full-time minimum wage jobs.
- A very low-income household would have to spend 48% of their income to pay \$803 per month.
- A minimum wage earner at \$7.25 per hour could afford monthly rent of no more than \$377.
- A recipient of SSI receiving \$411 monthly with no other income source could afford monthly rent of no more than \$123.

Approximately one-third of Monroe County households are renters, and their average hourly wage is approximately \$11.30, or \$23,500 annually. Such households can pay only \$588 per month without incurring undue rent cost burden. Since Monroe County fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$803, clearly these households are under serious financial stress.

The need to meet the continuing affordable housing demand among moderate, low and very low-income households continues to challenge County government. That said, Monroe County continues to participate in funding housing that meets a variety of needs across the county. (See List of Monroe County Affordable Housing Projects and map in the Appendix) Analysis of affordable housing needs in suburban Monroe County continues to substantiate the need to work toward the provision of rental and home ownership opportunities for very low to moderate-income family households.

3. Basis for Assigning Priority Given to Each Priority Needs Category

Current program use is reinforced by census data and indicators from the housing needs table as prime indicators of priority housing needs. The demand for housing rehabilitation assistance continues to be strong, especially in light of program enhancements made during the 2009 program year. Unfortunately, the scope of projects has increased along with cost, and completing a project within even the increased grant level of \$10,000 is a challenge. Demand for Homeownership Program counseling and home buyer subsidy from the First-Time Homebuyer Program continues to grow. The demand for senior and family rental housing is reinforced by census data and the Housing Needs Table. Special needs housing remains a priority, but building a large number of units can be cost prohibitive due to the high per unit cost.

Rental Housing Market (Census 2000 Data)

A breakdown of 2000 median gross rent by Town is described in the chart entitled Median Gross Rent by Town, included in the Appendix.

As indicated above, information pertaining to the 2010 FMRs is included in the Housing Market Analysis table located in the Strategic Plan Worksheets section of this Plan.

Census 2000 data pertaining to the percentage of rental units (by gross rent and bedroom size) existing in the City of Rochester, suburban Monroe County, Town of Greece and Town of Irondequoit is described in more detail in the chart entitled Percent of Rental Units by Gross Rent Range included in the Appendix.

Homeowner Households Paying More Than 49% of Income for Owner Housing Costs - 2000 Census data indicates that approximately 14.4% of homeowner households residing in Monroe County were paying between 30 and 49% of total household income toward owner housing costs, and 6.8% were paying 50% or more of income toward owner housing costs. We expect 2010 Census data to indicate more home owners paying higher percentages of their income for housing.

Census 2000 data pertaining to the percentage of owner households residing in each of the municipalities paying between 30 and 49%, and paying more than 50% of their total household income toward owner housing costs is described in detail in the chart entitled Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income, included in the Appendix. Again, we expect these percentages to be similar or higher when the 2010 Census is complete.

4. Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs

Examples of obstacles to meeting underserved needs include:

- Limited/competitive state, federal and local affordable housing funding resources
- Increasing costs of land acquisition, rehabilitation and new construction
- Limited supply of affordable 3 and 4-bedroom rental units for large families
- Lengthy waiting lists at most suburban affordable rental housing developments
- Increasing affordability problem among renter households
- Limited developer interest based on market study
- Limited partnership opportunities
- Limited CDBG and HOME funds
- Increasing rehabilitation costs

Housing Market Analysis (91.210)

*Please also refer to the Housing Market Analysis Table in the Needs.xls workbook

1. Based on information available to the jurisdiction, describe the significant characteristics of the housing market in terms of supply, demand, condition, and the cost of housing; the housing stock available to serve persons with disabilities; and to serve persons with HIV/AIDS and their families. Data on the housing market should include, to the extent information is available, an estimate of the number of vacant or abandoned buildings and whether units in these buildings are suitable for rehabilitation.
2. Describe the number and targeting (income level and type of household served) of units currently assisted by local, state, or federally funded programs, and an assessment of whether any such units are expected to be lost from the assisted housing inventory for any reason, (i.e. expiration of Section 8 contracts).
3. Indicate how the characteristics of the housing market will influence the use of funds made available for rental assistance, production of new units, rehabilitation of old units, or acquisition of existing units. Please note, the goal of affordable housing is not met by beds in nursing homes.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Housing Market Analysis responses:

1. Housing Market Characteristics

General Household Characteristics:

The following characteristics are based on 2000 Census data, and comparisons are to Census 1990. Indications are that trends visible between 1990 and 2000 generally have continued between 2000 and 2010. Monroe County's population in 2000 included:

- Single parent households: 29,950
- Non-family households: 102,033
- Married couple households with children: 61,223

In inner-ring suburbs:

- Single households with children and non-family households increased
- Married couple households with and without children decreased
- The Town of Greece experienced a 5% decrease in married couples with children
- The Town of Irondequoit experienced a 6% increase in non-family households and an 8% decrease in married couples without children

In outer-ring suburban towns:

- Families with children decreased 3%
- Family households increased 4%

In rural towns:

- Non-family households and single households with children increased 3%
- Married couples with children decreased 6%
- Married couples without children decreased slightly

From 1990 to 2000, the number of housing units in suburban towns and villages increased by over 18,000. Significant changes were noted in Greece (+4,000 units), Perinton (+2,000) and Webster (+3,000), while the vacancy rate in suburban Monroe County remained at 3%.

The number of owner-occupied units increased by approximately 13,000. Changes in owner-occupied units were most visible in Henrietta, Perinton and Ogden, which all increased 3%. Units in Brighton, Irondequoit and Gates decreased by 2%.

We expect that Census 2010 will indicate a continuation of these demographic trends.

Change in Household Composition in Monroe County from 1990 to 2000:

The percentage of Monroe County households consisting of a married couple with children decreased, from 25% of all households in 1990, to 21% in 2000. The percentage of single parent households increased slightly, and the percent of non-family households increased from 31% to 37%. See Appendix for household composition, housing units and tenure charts. We expect the 2010 Census will indicate that the trends presented below will continue.

Change in Household Race, Ethnicity and Tenure between 1990 and 2000:

Total Monroe County minority households increased a noteworthy 43%, from 38,899 in 1990 to 55,495 in 2000. The increase of 16,596 minority households is especially great when compared to the 2,028 decrease in the total number of White non-Hispanic households. Minority households increased in every town in Monroe County.

Minority households in suburban Monroe County increased from 7,523 in 1990 to 13,839 - an 84% increase in 10 years. Inner-ring suburban towns experienced a 101% increase in the number of minority households. Outer-ring suburban towns had a 74% increase. Rural towns experienced a 50% increase in minority households.

The percentage of minority-headed households also increased in every area of Monroe County as a result of countywide changes in the number of minority and White, non-Hispanic households. Overall, minority households made up 14.3% of all households in Monroe County in 1990 and 19.4% in 2000.

Renter Households:

The number of minority renter households increased in all areas of Monroe County, and the number of minority rental households in suburban Monroe County more than doubled. In 1990 there were 2,983 minority rental households living in Monroe County towns. By 2000, this number had grown 117%, to 6,465. Suburban rental opportunities more than doubled in both inner and outer-ring towns.

Much of the increase in the number of minority renter households in suburban towns can be attributed to the dramatic increase in the number of Hispanic households. Hispanic renter households increased 125% in suburban Monroe County, from 629 in 1990 to 1,416 in 2000. Black renter households increased 66%, from 1,550 in 1990 to 2,579 in 2000. Refer to the chart entitled, Number of Renter Households by Race and Ethnicity in 1990 and 2000, included in the Appendix. We expect the 2010 Census will indicate that these trends continue.

Minority Owner-Occupant Households:

Between 1990 and 2000, home ownership opportunities for minorities in suburban towns increased by more than 60% in both the inner and outer-ring towns. The increase in the number of minority owner-occupant households was greater outside the city than in Rochester. However, minority households remain much less likely to own homes than White non-Hispanic households. Refer to the chart, Number of Minority Owner-Occupant Households in 1990 and 2000, included in the Appendix.

The owner-occupancy rate for White non-Hispanic households in suburban Monroe County remained twice that of minority households. In 1990, the owner occupancy rate for White non-Hispanic households was 70%, increasing to 72% in 2000.

The decline in the owner-occupancy rate of Hispanic households in suburban Monroe County was greater than the decline of the owner-occupancy rate of Black households. Again, this was due to the greater number of renter households living outside the city in 2000 compared to 1990. Rental opportunities for minority households outside the city have exceeded opportunities for home ownership. See Number of Owner-Occupant Household by Race and Ethnicity in 1990 and 2000 and Owner-Occupancy Rates for Households by Race and Ethnicity in 1990 and 2000, included in the Appendix.

Persons with Developmental Disabilities (Special Needs Facilities and Services)

NYS-CARES II is a ten-year plan to serve a total of more than 8,500 individuals statewide. Due to the continued need and the success of NYS-CARES, the Governor proposed the NYS-CARES II expansion program in 2003. NYS-CARES II strives to serve the entire statewide residential waiting list for developmentally disabled persons over the next ten years.

Residential services will be developed utilizing an organized health care delivery system approach to ensure choice, efficiency and quality, as well as to enhance the recruitment and retention of direct care staff. NYS-CARES supports 189 new residential opportunities and 70 new day service opportunities in the Finger Lakes region. The Finger Lakes Developmental Disabilities Service

Office (DDSO), has been relatively successful in capturing additional NYS CARES allocations, therefore, the number of new residential opportunities may expand. Finger Lakes DDSO prioritizes new residential opportunities for individuals with high medical need, challenging behaviors, elderly living in underserved areas and those with dual diagnoses.

NYS-CARES II will support 1,900 new residential opportunities and 370 new day services opportunities statewide. Funding is included to expand family support services, 600 new at-home residential habilitation opportunities and to assist in reconfiguring and restructuring large community homes into smaller, more person-centered programs. The Monroe County portion of NYS-CARES II may support approximately 505 people.

The Finger Lakes DDSO reports a strong need for alternative housing to serve over 600 individuals on waiting lists. Through NYS-CARES, 45 new homes or apartments have been made available as Individual Residential Alternatives (IRAs). The average size of these homes is 4 units. There are 1,903 existing residential beds (an increase of 24 beds since 2003) in Monroe County where people with developmental disabilities can receive support services.

Continuing Developmental Services, Inc. (CDS) is a not-for-profit agency that serves 1,300 people in Monroe County. Currently, CDS provides housing to 178 individuals who have a developmental disability and has a waiting list of 80 persons. All apartment units developed by CDS are either handicap accessible or adaptable to allow residents to age in place. Although the initial capital costs to develop handicapped accessible housing are greater, in the long-term this practice will save money, as the person will not need to be relocated if they become non-ambulatory.

Lifetime Assistance, Inc. (LAI) is a not-for-profit agency that provides residential day and support services for children and adults with developmental disabilities throughout western Monroe County. LAI currently provides services for over 1,000 individuals, including group homes, supervised and supportive apartments, allowing individuals to achieve greater independence.

Individuals with developmental disabilities have many supportive services available to them in Monroe County. 969 individuals have supported employment. The County currently has nine workshops that provide employment for approximately 676 people with developmental disabilities. Monroe County provides day rehabilitation opportunities for 293 people and day treatment opportunities for 771 individuals.

Many existing community residences are aging or are no longer appropriate for the population they serve, creating the need to access sources of capital funding from county, state, and federal governments. The most current Finger Lakes DDSO demographic data available on the number of people on their waiting list is dated 2002. The waiting list indicates that the largest group of clients has developmental disabilities (94%) and most clients, regardless of specific disability, live with their parents (90%). White non-Hispanics are the largest racial group served (72%), and most are English speakers (94%).

One factor causing under-representation of some groups is culture. Some cultures, including Hispanics, Asian Americans and Native Americans, often do not seek outside support or assistance in the care of a family member. Senior housing is needed for older individuals with needs that can no longer be met in their current housing situation. In addition to group home development, independent apartment settings have been listed as preferences for many people awaiting alternative housing options.

Many people with developmental disabilities are interested in owning a home of their own. Many of these individuals are working with the local homebuyer programs and other sources to procure first homes and mortgages at lower rates. OMRDD also has Individual Service Support (ISS) funds available to individuals to supplement the loss in SSI funding when they leave congregate care.

Persons with Mental Illness

The Monroe County/CCSI Behavioral Health Community Data Base indicates that 34,275 unduplicated individuals were served by the public mental health system in Monroe County in 2004. There were 1,169 individuals served in OMH-licensed or funded housing in the community.

There continues to be significant need for housing options for persons with mental illness. Adult care facilities have been used as housing placement options for individuals unable to reside in other residential facilities or to live independently or semi-independently in the community. Although various sources of funding have been utilized to develop alternative housing options, the need continues to be much greater than the existing housing resources.

The number and targeting (income level and type of household served) of units currently assisted by local, state, or federally funded programs, and an assessment of whether any such units are expected to be lost from the assisted housing inventory for any reason, (i.e. expiration of Section 8 contracts) is included in the Appendix.

Assessment of Section 8 Contracts

HUD has changed the Section 8 funding system to a formula grant based on utilization rates and monthly unit costs in a given period. After determining each Section 8 agency's eligibility level, the amount of funding available is prorated by the amount that Congress has appropriated. This might be 100%, or 97%, or 102% of actual eligibility. The Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) anticipates that funding will decline even while rent and utility costs continue to rise. Unless Congress increases future funding, this will result in loss of assisted housing units in the City of Rochester and Monroe County.

Section 8 Housing Conversion Actions

In a continuing effort to preserve affordable housing, in 2004, HUD awarded the administration of 365 Enhanced Vouchers to RHA (126 1-Bdrm; 147 2-Bdrm; 73 3-Bdrm; 19 4-Bdrm) in conjunction with the housing conversion action at English Village Apartments in Greece. Eligible families residing in this Section 236 non-insured, financed rental housing development were issued tenant-based Section 8 housing choice vouchers, which allowed families to either remain in the complex or move elsewhere.

Previously, HUD requested that RHA administer 294 housing preservation, tenant-based vouchers (117 1-Bdrm; 120 2-Bdrm; 46 3-Bdrm; and 11 4-Bdrm) for eligible tenants residing at Penbrooke Meadows Apartments in the town of Penfield. As a result of housing conversion actions, eligible tenants residing in this HUD-subsidized, Section 236 non-insured financed, 350-unit rental housing development were issued tenant-based Section 8 vouchers. These housing preservation, tenant-based vouchers were provided by HUD in response to the property owner's decision to pre-pay the mortgage effective March 1, 2000, allowing the owner to convert to market rate rents.

Monroe County is carefully monitoring other rental projects that are potential candidates for mortgage pre-payment. A chart reflecting the contract expiration dates of subsidized rental projects is included in the Appendix. In addition, the County will assess alternative opportunities, such as the potential availability of special admission vouchers that may be made available for families as the result of housing conversion actions.

3. How Housing Market Will Influence Use of Funds

The characteristics of the housing market described in this section and in the Housing Needs and Priority Housing Needs sections influence the use of funds made available for new construction, development of new rental units and rehabilitation of old units. For example, the age and condition of housing in suburban Monroe County affirms the need for housing rehabilitation as well as the development of new units.

Specific Housing Objectives (91.215 (b))

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve over a specified time period.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the strategic plan.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Specific Housing Objectives response:

1. Priorities and Objectives

Monroe County has identified the following housing priorities which will maximize the impact of limited CDBG and HOME allocations:

- A. Rehabilitation of Owner-Occupied Single-Family Units
- B. Home Ownership Opportunities
- C. Rental Housing Development (New Construction and/or Rehabilitation)
- D. Housing Stability
- E. Fair Housing & Community Choice

The County's specific objectives to provide affordable housing opportunities and ensure fair housing choice are as follows:

A. Housing Rehabilitation

Preserve existing single-family units through the continuation of the CDBG and HOME-funded Home Improvement Program that assists moderate, low and very low-income elderly and family home owners to repair and maintain their homes, including accessibility improvements for those with disabilities.

B. Home Ownership Program

Expand home ownership opportunities through the County's First Time Homebuyer Program, including assistance to access the single-family housing market for moderate, low and very low-income families, particularly special needs and single-headed households. Types of assistance provided are counseling and provision of home purchase subsidies to buyers of existing and newly constructed homes.

C. Rental Housing Development Programs

Expand development of additional rental units through the implementation of the County's Affordable Rental Housing Development Program to provide quality rental housing for moderate, low and very low-income families as well as elderly and handicapped/disabled households with supportive services.

In addition, the County will continue to encourage private and non-profit developers to set aside rental units in proposed projects that are affordable to households in the 0 - 30% AMI income level. To achieve this objective, it may be necessary to increase the number of proposed units in a project to allow fixed costs for management and maintenance to be more widely spread in project operating budgets. Also, it may be possible to reduce debt service and increase equity in such projects through creative financing (e.g. increasing loan terms and combining various financial sources to provide increased funding dollars.) In addition to serving households at and below 30%

AMI, proposed affordable rental housing project applications that provide handicap accessible and/or adaptable units will enhance the potential to obtain County support and/or financial assistance.

To the extent feasible, the County will allocate available program resources to meet housing needs in an equitable geographic distribution across the county, with a priority focus on towns and villages that do not currently provide affordable rental units that have been developed with County CDBG and/or HOME funding.

Section 8 Program

Support and expand coordinated planning efforts to secure and distribute Section 8 Program rental housing vouchers, including project-based assistance, in suburban Monroe County. In November 2009, the RHA Board stopped the exception rent policy. This was done because there was a significant funding deficit during the 2009 fiscal year. RHA will provide an exception rent payment standard of 10% over the current FMR payment standard to these areas when funding is available.

D. Housing Stability

Homeless Continuum of Care Plan

Assist homeless persons, in accordance with the Homeless CoC Plan, to increase the supply of permanent and transitional affordable housing with supportive services for the chronically homeless and the homeless in general (targeted toward special needs populations), including Shelter Plus Care and Housing First projects. Maintain current inventory of HUD-funded homeless housing and services and secure supportive housing program services necessary to achieve independent living.

Housing Counseling

Provide counseling services that promote a stable living environment and enhanced understanding and furthering of opportunities available to consumers. This includes home ownership counseling, credit repair, mortgage relief, foreclosure and homeless prevention, predatory lending, landlord/tenant counseling and housing hotline services.

E. Fair Housing & Community Choice

In response to barriers to fair housing choice identified in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Monroe County, NY, Monroe County will initiate implementation of Phase I of the Fair Housing Action Plan. In addition to implementing the Action Plan, Monroe County will continue to fund fair housing education programs.

2. How Resources will be used to Address Needs

HOME Competitive Application Process for Rental Housing Development

All HOME funds will be distributed competitively, with the CD Division as the administering agency. Eligible applicants will submit applications that will be reviewed and competitively ranked according to the criteria set forth below.

Monroe County's competitive HOME application process was established to accommodate potential financing opportunities that may be available to applicants through other state and federal NOFAs. Applicants are required to provide documentation of project feasibility and marketability, including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Feasibility study and market analysis of the proposal
- Proposed project financing and leveraging plan
- Schedule with specific dates of project commencement, completion and if appropriate, the anticipated schedule for closing and occupancy of units
- Description of the applicant's qualifications and previous experience
- Statement of the status of all public approvals and clearances required to undertake the project
- Plan on how applicants will ensure compliance with applicable federal regulations throughout the regulatory term
- Statement describing the amount and source of any matching contributions required for the proposed project
- Statement of need and how the project furthers the goals of the County's Consolidated Plan

In selecting from among eligible applications, consideration is given to:

- Extent to which the proposal will serve a demonstrated need
- Degree to which the proposal leverages private investment or other funding
- Likelihood of successful project completion, including consideration of:
 - a. market analysis submitted
 - b. prior experience of the applicant
 - c. viability of the submitted completion schedule
 - d. type of assistance requested

Projects will remain affordable for the minimum period required by federal regulation and may be regulated for a longer period, depending on requirements of other funders.

Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO)

The County will reserve a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the HOME funds that it receives for CHDOs, in accordance with provisions of the NAHA of 1990. CHDOs will apply to the County to develop, sponsor or own projects and will be eligible to undertake any eligible activity in accordance with 24 CFR Part 92 Subpart G (Community Housing Development Organizations). In addition, a CHDO, in connection with housing it develops, sponsors or owns with HOME funds provided under this section, may provide direct homeownership assistance (e.g. down payment assistance). Limitation: A CHDO may not receive HOME funding for any fiscal year in an amount that provides more than fifty percent (50%) or \$50,000, whichever is greater, of the CHDOs total operating expenses in that fiscal year. This also includes organizational support and housing education provided under section 233(b)(1) and (6) of the Act, as well as funds for operating expenses provided under CFR 92.208.

The County conducts outreach activities and technical assistance to CHDOs. County staff, consultants made available by means of technical assistance funds to the County and non-profit intermediaries designated by HUD are all involved in the provision of technical assistance to current and potential CHDOs. During the year, special informational sessions are held with CHDOs that

focus on particular topics related to the HOME program. County staff maintains frequent contact with CHDOs, and when it is determined that a group may benefit from individual technical assistance (either from HUD staff, a consultant, or a non-profit intermediary), appropriate referrals are made. The County intends to continue these efforts in the future to the extent that available resources permit.

Additional project-specific assistance may be made available to CHDOs in the form of technical assistance, site control loans and seed money loans, in accordance with 24 CFR Part 92 Subpart G (CHDOs).

As described earlier, CD conducts a competitive application process for projects funded through CDBG. This process is applicable to the sub-recipients chosen to administer the County's housing counseling, such as the Home Ownership Program, as well as provide housing and fair housing counseling services.

RESOURCE COORDINATION

To address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the Plan, the County expects to utilize, in conjunction with other financial resources, the following federal, non-federal public, non-profit, foundation and private resources and entities. Monroe County has developed strong working relationships and financial partnerships with these agencies to facilitate the development of affordable housing opportunities.

Public Entities

The City of Rochester and Monroe County have worked on collaborative projects for many years to develop and oversee the Homeless CoC Action Plan, the initial Community Choice Action Plan and the joint Homeless Prevention and Rapid-Re-Housing Program (Heading Home.) In addition, several components of County government will work together with the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit and with public agencies and units of State government to carry out the housing affordability and community development strategies.

- County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency (COMIDA) – In 1997, Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs) across New York State expanded the scope of permitted uses to include issuance of non-industrial tax-exempt 501c(3) civic facility bonds for the construction of housing projects for individuals 60 years of age or older. Now COMIDA is permitted to assist not-for-profit residential facilities with bond issuances of less than \$20 million and designed primarily for individuals 60 years of age or older. COMIDA can assist these projects in Monroe County and the City of Rochester by providing access to the Civic Facility Tax-Exempt Bond market, which provides low-interest financing. This financing also makes it possible to serve middle income (above 80% AMI) elderly.

COMIDA also assists for-profit senior housing developers to construct projects targeted to low-income individuals by issuing tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds. Since these projects are financed through COMIDA, they are automatically eligible to receive as-of-right tax credits.

The below listed public entities are described in detail elsewhere in this Plan:

- Monroe County Department of Planning and Development
- Community Development Offices of Greece and Irondequoit
- Monroe County Dept. of Human Services (MCDHS), Division of Social Services
- Monroe County DHS Office for the Aging (MCOFA)
- Monroe County DHS Office of Mental Health (MCOMH)
- Rochester Housing Authority (RHA)
- Fairport Urban Renewal Agency (FURA)

Federal Entitlement Grant Programs in Suburban Monroe County

- CDBG
- HOME
- ESG
- HPRP

Federal Non-Entitlement Programs

Monroe County and the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit will encourage other agencies, private and non-profit developers and assist in fully utilizing the following other federal programs to implement the strategies of the Strategic Plan:

- Section 8 Program of Certificates and Vouchers
- Low-Income Housing Credit (LIHC) Program
- HUD Section 202 Housing Program
- HUD Section 811 Housing Program
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Service and the U.S. Department of Energy

State Entities/Programs

- NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR)
- Homes for Working Families Initiative (HWF)
- Senior Housing Initiative (SHI)
- State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA)
- NYS Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC)
- Mobile Home Cooperative Fund
- Small Project Initiative

Private Entities/Programs

- Federal Home Loan Bank of NY (FHLBNY) Affordable Housing Program (AHP)
- Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Affordable Housing Program (AHP)
- Greater Rochester Housing Partnership, Inc. (GRHP)

Non-Profit Organizations

The Consortium will look to these agencies as primary entities to develop affordable housing and pool resources. Since they work to develop housing that will remain affordable over the long term, these agencies will also assist in the delivery of needed support services to elderly residents and low-income renters:

- United Way of Greater Rochester
- Greater Rochester Housing Partnership
- The Housing Council
- Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation
- PathStone
- Providence Housing Development Corporation
- ISLA Housing and Development Corporation
- Urban League of Rochester Economic Development Corporation
- Flower City Habitat for Humanity
- Fairport/Perinton Senior Living Council, Inc.
- Perinton Churches Housing, Inc.
- Lifetime Assistance Incorporated
- Heritage Christian Services
- Continuing Developmental Services, Inc.
- YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County
- Sojourner House

These non-profit organizations play a major role in assisting the County in:

- Administering programs in accordance with fair housing requirements
- Implementation of the City/County community choice strategies by providing:
 - a) Affordable housing opportunities and alternatives
 - b) Supportive services
 - c) Fair housing promotion/services, education and outreach

Needs of Public Housing (91.210 (b))

In cooperation with the public housing agency or agencies located within its boundaries, describe the needs of public housing, including the number of public housing units in the jurisdiction, the physical condition of such units, the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing projects within the jurisdiction, and other factors, including the number of families on public housing and tenant-based waiting lists and results from the Section 504 needs assessment of public housing projects located within its boundaries (i.e. assessment of needs of tenants and applicants on waiting list for accessible units as required by 24 CFR 8.25). The public housing agency and jurisdiction can use the optional Priority Public Housing Needs Table (formerly Table 4) of the Consolidated Plan to identify priority public housing needs to assist in this process.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Needs of Public Housing response:

RHA Public Housing Located in Suburban Monroe County

Number of Units (Occupied and Unoccupied) - To date, only one Monroe County public housing rental project is maintained by RHA outside of the City of Rochester. This project, Antoinette Blackwell Estates, is located in the Town of Henrietta. Antoinette Blackwell Estates was developed prior to a legal opinion stating that RHA is prohibited from owning property outside of the City of Rochester. Antoinette Blackwell Estates consists of 100-units (99, 1-Bdrm and 1, 2-Bdrm) for elderly households. Occupancy reports from March 2010 indicated that 94 units are occupied (current vacancies are due to full unit modernization and once project is completed we anticipate 100% occupancy). RHA-owned public housing units, including those located in the City of Rochester total 2,432, of which 2,399 public housing units are occupied as of March 2010.

Physical Condition – All RHA public housing units are classified as above standard.

Restoration and Revitalization Needs - RHA continues to perform moderate rehabilitation to all apartment units.

Based on HUD guidance, RHA is in the application process to convert 117 scattered site public housing units into a homeownership and voucher subsidy program. Future plans may include the conversion of an additional 300+ scattered site public housing units.

PUBLIC HOUSING WAITING LIST

Significant demand exists for public housing as evidenced by the waiting lists. There is a 3:1 demand for family housing compared to demand for elderly housing. Annually, the demand for elderly housing continues to grow. For families, the greatest demand continues to be for two bedroom units, now at 49%. The number of families/households on the public housing waiting list as of March 2010 was 4,408.

RHA PUBLIC HOUSING WAITING LIST as of March 2010

Bedroom	Demand	%
1	1,042	23.6%
2	2,174	49.3%
3	904	20.5%
4	282	6.4%
5+	<u>6</u>	0.1%
TOTAL	4,408	

RHA is currently accepting applications for public housing. RHA eliminated the Section 8 lottery system, and the Section 8 waiting list is currently closed. Applicants are able to apply online for Public Housing, Section 8, and Project-Based Section 8. After meeting income criteria, prospective applicants are selected according to the date of application and the availability of a unit appropriate for the household.

Designated elderly housing is public housing exclusively available to persons age 50 and older. Non-designated elderly housing is available to either the elderly or individuals below age 50 who are disabled or handicapped. Currently, RHA has designated 899 units exclusively for elderly occupancy, and 477 non-designated elderly housing units for occupancy by either the elderly or persons with disabilities totaling 1,376, 0 and 1-bedroom units.

Physical Condition (Restoration and Revitalization Needs)

No occupied or unoccupied units are classified as substandard. The physical condition of RHA's public housing units located in the City of Rochester and Suburban Monroe County is very good, as evidenced by HUD's overall assessment score for RHA of 85%.

The restoration and revitalization needs of RHA public housing are detailed in RHA's five-year Capital Comprehensive Fund Programs (CFP) plan, which is produced annually on an overlapping basis.

The CFP five-year spending plan is established for physical improvements, management improvements and supportive services for public housing residents. Each year RHA will receive an annual formula allocation to address identified needs. Under the most recent CFP Plan, RHA will receive approximately \$4.5 million. The CFP plan is based upon a complete evaluation of the public housing units in RHA's inventory. Presented in the plan is a physical needs assessment for each of RHA's 26 project locations and scattered sites. The plan also identifies activities to improve management and provide support services to residents.

Management and Operations

RHA is proposing \$40,000 in management/operational improvements for FY 2010. Management improvements assist in enhancing property management operations and services, while expanding tenant involvement in property management. Management improvements for FY 2010 include:

- Installation of hand-held inventory and work order systems;
- Provide additional maintenance staff training
- Continue existing water management program
- Update computer software, including preventive maintenance scheduling, and provide related training

SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Suburban Monroe County

RHA and the Fairport Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) manage the two existing publicly administered Section 8 Programs in the County. RHA currently administers the City/County Program and FURA administers the Fairport Program.

As of February 2010, the RHA voucher inventory is at 7,600. In addition, the RHA program includes 590 Shelter Plus Care households. Over 1,600 of the vouchers are being utilized in Suburban Monroe County. Current utilization rates for RHA remain consistent between 96 - 99% of the total voucher inventory.

RHA is responsible for administering the following programs in addition to the Tenant Based Voucher Program:

- Project Based Vouchers
- Enhanced Vouchers
- Shelter Plus Care
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
- Family Self-Sufficiency
- Home Ownership
- Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Program
- Designated Housing Vouchers
- Moderate Rehab
- Mainstream Vouchers
- Medicaid Waivers
- Family Unification
- Disaster Relief HAP Program

RHA HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER WAITING LIST

A centralized waiting list currently exists in the Rochester/Monroe County area, with the exception of the Fairport program. As of March 2010, there were 15,973 households on the RHA Section 8 waiting list. Similar to public housing, the demand for Section 8 one and two-bedroom units is greatest, at 75%. The significant increase in the number of applicants is due to the list being open for the majority of 2009. The Section 8 tenant based voucher wait list is now closed, but the project based wait list and certain special programs wait lists remain open. Households will wait an average of seven years on the list before receiving a tenant-based voucher based on the current Section 8 waiting list.

RHA SECTION 8 WAITING LIST as of March 2010

Bedroom	Demand	%
1	6,520	40.8%
2	5,452	34.1%
3	3,005	18.8%
4	796	5%
5+	<u>200</u>	1.3%
TOTAL	15,973	

Currently, 70% of all RHA program participants and applicants have incomes below 30% AMI. RHA is required to target 75% of Section 8 assistance to households below 30% AMI.

In November 2009, the RHA Board stopped the exception rent policy. This was done because there was a significant funding deficit during the 2009 fiscal year. RHA will provide an exception rent payment standard of 10% over the current FMR payment standard to these areas when funding is available.

Public Housing Agency Strategies

RHA utilizes a multi-faceted approach to serve the needs of family households. These efforts currently include the administration of:

- Self-sufficiency programs, including home ownership, through the RHA Resident Services Department
- Development of new affordable housing units
- Redevelopment of existing RHA housing stock
- Project-Based Section 8 Voucher Program
- Investigating the use of RHA's bonding capacity to fund private housing developments with the assistance of not-for-profit organizations

RHA has created an affiliate, Homestead Management Enterprises, LLC, for the purpose of actively seeking joint venture partnerships with non-profit housing and development companies and other private property owners, in order to further the development and creation of affordable housing throughout the City of Rochester and Monroe County.

Public Housing Agency Plans

In accordance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibilities Act (QHWR) of 1998, beginning with funding received in Federal Fiscal Year 2000, the RHA and FURA both were required to prepare a five-year plan and annual plans. As described in detail in the Public Housing Strategy of the five-year Strategic Plan, the Public Housing Agency Plans cover tenant-based assistance (Section 8) operations for both RHA and FURA public housing authorities, and RHA's public housing operations.

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENT INITIATIVES

Tenant Associations/Self Sufficiency Activities

The Resident Advisory Board is comprised of 14 public housing residents. The Resident Advisory Board reviews and provides input into tenant related policies and RHA's Agency Plan. Resident councils continue to develop and organize recreational and community activities for RHA residents. RHA provides staff support, facilities, and financial assistance to encourage and support resident initiatives.

Living Environment

RHA continues to improve the living environment of RHA residents through its Resident Services Department. Enrichment activities are available to youth and adults. The following is a listing of activities provided:

Youth Programs

- a) Educational: After school and evening tutorial programs in conjunction with the City School District and the Boys & Girls Club
- b) Recreational: Youth programs including Summer Camp; City Recreational Programs

Senior Citizen Programs

Consortium on Elderly Substance Abuse; RSVP Program; Visiting Nurse Service/Monroe County Health Department; Grocery Shopping Bus Service, I'm Okay Program through the American Red Cross and site specific wellness programs.

Crime Prevention: Security Consultant Services; Crime prevention lectures, displays, security surveys, and patrols; Resident Crime Prevention Organizing/Tenant Security Programs; High-rise Guard Stations,

Other Counseling/Support Services: Enriched Housing Program at 3 locations; Catholic Family Center; Eviction Prevention Counseling; Social Services Counselor; Resident Council; and Resident Advisory Board, onsite Eldersource caseworkers for all senior/disabled residents.

Additional activities of the Resident Services Department include case management, education, training and employment services for residents to reach self-sufficiency and economic stability. Examples of some of the programs are: Employment (skills assessment, job search assistance and job placement); Training (computer skills, construction trades, child care provider, financial assistance for other training opportunities and job readiness training); Education (computer-assisted GED classes, scholarship assistance, post-GED math and reading review); Business Start-Up (small business development workshop and financial assistance for business start-up/micro-loan); Skilled Trades Training (homebuyer seminars, budgeting and household finances, time management, family support, financial counseling services, credit restoration and money management); and Support Groups (barriers to success, mental wellness, nutrition and values clarification).

Section 8 Programs - Home Ownership Opportunities

RHA operates two Section 8 home ownership programs; one a tenant-based (Section 8 voucher holder) program and the other a public housing tenant based program. Clients enroll in the Resident Services Center program to prepare for home ownership opportunities.

Under RHA's Section 8 Home Ownership Program, the participant's portion of the monthly housing payment is applied to a mortgage along with the Section 8 housing payment. As of March 2010, the Homeownership Program has produced 97 new home owners. Approximately 15% percent purchased in suburban Monroe County in Chili, East Rochester, Gates, Greece, Henrietta, Riga, Irondequoit and Brockport.

Rochester Housing Authority – Community Choice Initiatives

Following are initiatives undertaken by RHA under the Community Choice Action Plan:

In 2009, RHA eliminated the lottery system and opened the waiting list. RHA reworked computer systems, telecommunications, website support (applications and waiting list status) to facilitate management of the waiting list. At the present time, the Authority's Section 8 Program intends to use electronic means of communication to manage suburban agencies and households. The waiting list application is now available on the internet at www.rochesterhousing.org, and paper applications are available at libraries and local agency locations.

Through an annual, open-competitive RFP process, RHA has entered into contracts for 200 project-based vouchers currently renting or under construction to 13 projects outside of the City of Rochester. Another 68 vouchers have been awarded for 6 developments presently in the planning and funding phase outside of the City of Rochester.

In 2009, RHA created an affiliate, Homestead Management Enterprises, LLC, for the purpose of actively seeking joint venture partnerships with 501(c)(3) housing and development companies and other private property owners to further the development and creation of affordable housing throughout Monroe County.

RHA, through combined efforts of the Resident Services Department, has been placing a higher than ever focus on promoting Section 3 opportunities. Several initiatives will be implemented in 2010 to specifically promote qualified minority and women owned business through the Section 3 program.

RHA received HUD Resident Opportunities and Supportive Services (ROSS) funding and has developed training programs to promote skilled trades through collaboration with local organizations. Families may enhance earning power by participating in employment and training programs at the Center designed to increase their capacity to find new and better employment opportunities. RHA is stepping up its promotion to add Section 3 contractors to its list of eligible contractors for bidding on public works contracts. RHA is also developing more training alternatives for residents to develop skills in construction related trades with the goal of adding them to our contractor list.

The New York State Department of Labor Joint Training Partnership Act (JTPA) is replaced by the DOL Workforce Investment Act of 1999. RHA is represented as a partner agency on the Rochester Workforce Investment Board, which represents public and private community agencies, educational institutions and employers all working collaboratively to address the employment and training needs of community residents. RHA successfully operated a Construction Trades Training Program under JTPA funding and Welfare to Work Program under the City of Rochester Welfare to Work grant. Currently all funding received by the City to conduct employment and training programs is administered through an independent organization known as Rochester Resource Alliance (RRA).

Construction Trades Training

Recognizing the increasingly strained resources available to urban neighborhoods, a group of community associations created the "Reclaiming Rochester Collaborative" in partnership with the RHA and Monroe Community College. The participants created a model focused on real and positive change for city residents who are among the most at risk, while improving the quality of life experienced throughout Rochester. The primary goal of the Reclaiming Rochester Collaborative was to demonstrate a replicable model for moving members of the urban culture at high social and economic risk from underemployment and violent alternative economies to sustainable employment and economic self-sufficiency. Specifically, members of the targeted group, current residents of RHA public housing, were recruited (31 recruits), trained (13 trainees) and placed into employment (0 employed) with local companies that serve the building and construction trades in the City of Rochester.

Lessons learned:

- The majority of trainees required additional basic and intermediate math, reading, writing and comprehension training to compete in the construction labor market. Poor verbal communication skills were also an issue.
- Means of transportation was a key issue. Location of many jobs was outside the City and not on our regional bus routes. Only one participant has their own vehicle, while the others have issues to resolve in order to qualify for a driver's license (child support, suspended licenses, etc.)
- Allow more time for basic remediation training (educational requirements or passing a practice basic construction pre-test and post test) prior to participants moving into construction trades training.

RHA & Sherwin-Williams Homework Painter Training

RHA was selected by Sherwin-Williams to participate in their Homework Painter Training Program. RHA recruited 10 public housing/Section 8 participants and 2 Pathways to Peace clients to participate as trainees in a 2-week painter training program. Three days were spent in the classroom learning paint basics, application and applicator, paint trouble shooting, safety, HUD lead-safe work practices and how to find a job. After classroom training, resident trainees received hands on training, actually applying what they learned by painting one of RHA's community centers in just six days. From this experience two residents became gainfully employed and one trainee continued on to additional training via the City's PRIME masonry training program.

Soft Skills Job Readiness Training

RHA contracted with a local community based agency to provide job readiness training and job search assistance to public housing residents. Twenty public housing residents were referred to Rochester Works, BOCES, Childcare Council, PRIME, Rochester Landscape, Sutherland Group, VESID, WNY Childcare and Professional Driver's Institute for training. Of these 20, seven completed their respective programs and four were hired. Additionally, 18 public housing seniors were referred to Experience Works (Eldersource) program and 7 are participating in the Experience Works program.

As the new Fair Housing Action Plan is implemented during 2010, Monroe County will work with RHA to incorporate these initiatives into Phase I priorities moving forward.

FURA Tenant-Based (Section 8) Waiting List Program

In addition to the 393 vouchers for tenants receiving tenant-based assistance in privately owned units, as of April 1, 2010, 305 households were on the FURA Section 8 waiting list. Even after continually purging older, non-responsive applications, the wait for families to be assisted remains between two and three years.

The demand for Section 8 for families with extremely low incomes (below 30% AMI) is the greatest, accounting for 55% of the waiting list. The rest of the demand is for higher income families, but not over 50% AMI. The current applicant makeup of the waiting list is made up of: 21% elderly, 30% disabled; 49% families with children.

FURA also administers the Family Self-Sufficiency Program to help families become economically independent. In addition, FURA has also prioritized mobility and deconcentration, and developed programs to lessen the impediments for low-income families to move to higher income areas of its jurisdiction. These include the Project-Based Voucher and Security Deposit Programs.

RHA Program Participants Residing in Suburban Monroe County

The total number of Section 8 household program participants has increased by 227 since March of 2003. The FURA program is not administered by RHA, therefore, it is not included in the December 1, 2004 breakdown total of 1,385 current RHA Section 8 and Shelter Plus Care household participants by Town and number of households: Brighton -15, Chili-36, Clarkson-2, East Rochester-29, Gates-58, Greece-666, Hamlin-3, Henrietta-67, Irondequoit-158, Mendon-5, Ogden-8, Parma-1, Penfield-82, Perinton-43, Pittsford-29, Riga-6, Rush-2, Sweden-54, Webster-99, and Wheatland-22.

RHA Section 8 Tenant-Based Waiting List

There are a total of 6,667 vouchers for tenants receiving tenant-based assistance in privately owned units included in the RHA's Section 8 inventory. As of December 2004, there were 3,210

households on the RHA Section 8 waiting list. As in the case of public housing, the demand for Section 8 one or two bedroom units is the greatest, at 74%. The demand for one bedroom units however, now exceeds the demand for two bedroom units by 43%.

Currently, 90% of all RHA program participants and applicants have incomes below 30% of the AMI. RHA is required to target 75% of Section 8 assistance to households below 30% of the AMI. Of all of RHA's program participants, 85% reside within the City limits. The Section 8 waiting list was last opened in November 2003 and is now closed. RHA will reopen the waiting list as needed to utilize all vouchers available for Section 8 housing.

In April 2004, RHA was awarded 365 Enhanced Vouchers in conjunction with a Housing Conversion action at the English Village Apartment Complex in the Town of Greece. As a result of this conversion, 185 additional vouchers were awarded to RHA in December of 2004. It is unlikely that HUD will be issuing any new NOFAs for Fair Share Vouchers in the foreseeable future.

Subsequent to implementing exception rents in most of the suburban towns in 1998 for one and two-bedroom units, RHA has used its discretionary authority to set the one, two, three and four-bedroom Section 8 Payment Standards at 110% of the Fair Market Rent (FMR) in all suburban towns. Additionally, based upon previous HUD approval, ten towns (Brighton, East Rochester, Henrietta, Irondequoit, Ogden, Penfield, Perinton, Pittsford, Webster and Wheatland) have payment standards ranging between 110% and 120% of the FMR.

RHA recently initiated a Section 8 Home Ownership Program using Section 8 funds. This program is designed to promote and support home ownership for first time homebuyers. Through this program, eligible families are allowed to purchase a home with Section 8 payments being used to facilitate the transition from rental to home ownership. Of the twenty-five (25) current homeowners, nine (9) are located in suburban Monroe County (Chili, East Rochester, Gates, Greece, Henrietta and Riga). Those that purchased in the suburbs also received subsidies through Monroe County's First Time Homebuyer Program.

Public Housing Strategy (91.210)

1. Describe the public housing agency's strategy to serve the needs of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families residing in the jurisdiction served by the public housing agency (including families on the public housing and section 8 tenant-based waiting list), the public housing agency's strategy for addressing the revitalization and restoration needs of public housing projects within the jurisdiction and improving the management and operation of such public housing, and the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate families residing in public housing.
2. Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership. (NAHA Sec. 105 (b)(11) and (91.215 (k))
3. If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation. (NAHA Sec. 105 (g))

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Public Housing Strategy response:

1. Public Housing Agency's Strategies

See previous question/answer for detailed description.

RHA utilizes a multi-faceted approach to serve the needs of family households. These efforts include the administration of:

- Project-Based (Section 8) Voucher Program
- Self-sufficiency home ownership programs administered by RHA's Family Investment Center
- investigating the use of RHA's bonding capacity to fund private housing developments with the assistance of not-for-profit organizations such as Providence Housing

Public Housing Agency Plans

In accordance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibilities Act (QHWR) of 1998, beginning with funding received in Federal Fiscal Year 2000, the RHA and FURA were both required to prepare a five-year plan and annual plans. The plans cover tenant-based assistance (Section 8) operations for both RHA and FURA public housing authorities, and also public housing operations for RHA. QHWR constituted a substantial overhaul of HUD's public housing and Section 8 assistance programs. Congressional purposes for this requirement are: to advise HUD, the residents/ tenants, and members of the public of the PHA's mission for serving the needs of low-income, very low-income and extremely low-income families; their strategy for addressing those needs; to provide a framework for local accountability; and to provide an easily identifiable source by which public housing residents, participants in tenant based assistance programs and other members of the public may locate basic PHA policies, rules and requirements concerning its operation, programs and services. The goals of this comprehensive planning requirement are to make more efficient use of federal assistance, more effectively operate programs and better serve residents/tenants. In many respects, the Public Housing Agency Plan (Agency Plan) embodies the concepts of the Consolidated Plan.

These plans require both RHA and FURA to examine their existing operations and to design long-range and short-range strategies to address those needs. The five-year plan describes the mission and long-range goals and objectives for achieving its mission. The RHA and FURA prepare their five-year plan and annual plans in accordance with applicable regulations. A complete copy of the respective Agency Plans may be reviewed at the following locations:

Rochester Housing Authority
Executive and Administrative Office
675 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14611

Fairport Urban Renewal Agency
Fairport Village Hall
31 South Main Street
Fairport, New York 14450

2. Monroe County Strategies to Address Public Housing Needs

Described below is the manner in which the County Plan will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in home ownership.

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENT INITIATIVES

Tenant Associations/Self Sufficiency Activities

RHA supports several ongoing resident initiatives within Rochester's public housing community. The Resident Advisory Board, comprised of 21 public housing residents, reviews and provides input into tenant related policies and RHA's Agency Plan. Twenty or more resident councils develop and organize recreational and community activities for RHA residents. RHA provides staff support, facilities and financial assistance to encourage and support resident initiatives.

Public housing resident initiatives are in place at Antoinette Blackwell Estates, a 100-unit elderly facility in the Town of Henrietta. It is the only suburban public housing project that is maintained by RHA outside of the City of Rochester. RHA encourages and supports tenant associations. Community space is made available and recreation and support services are offered to all residents. The programs vary and are ongoing throughout the year. RHA's Elder Source Program encourages self-sufficiency by assisting tenants with financial support, mental health and other services that help residents maintain their independence. RHA also offers van service to residents for shopping and other senior activities.

Living Environment

RHA continues its activities to improve the living environment of RHA residents. Enrichment activities are available to youth and adults. The following is a listing of activities provided:

Youth Programs

a) Educational

- After school and evening tutorial programs in conjunction with the City School District, and the Urban League of Rochester
- Intern Programs with SUNY Brockport, Monroe County Community College and the Rochester City School District

b) Recreational

- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America
- Urban League of Rochester Youth Programs
- RHA Bowling League
- Upstate Housing Authority Basketball League
- Resident Summer Camp

Senior Citizen Programs

- Consortium on Elderly Substance Abuse
- Nutrition Centers (at 6 locations)
- RSVP Program
- Visiting Nurse Service/Monroe County Health Department
- Grocery Shopping Bus Service

Substance Abuse Prevention/Counseling

- Substance Abuse Prevention/Counseling Program
- SWAN/Bridge Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program
- Park Ridge Chemical Dependency Program
- Rochester Rehabilitation Center

Crime Prevention

- Security Consultant Services
- Tower Power
- High Visibility Bike Patrol
- Road Patrol

- Crime prevention lectures, displays, security surveys, and patrols
- Resident Crime Prevention Organizing/Tenant Security Programs
- High-rise Guard Stations

Other Counseling/Support Services

- HIV/AIDS Support Group
- Enriched Housing Program (at 3 locations)
- Catholic Family Center
- Eviction Prevention Counseling
- Social Services Counselor
- Resident Council,
- Resident Advisory Board
- Family Investment Center (FIC)

Specific FIC activities include case management, education, training and employment services for residents to reach self-sufficiency and economic stability. Examples of some of the FIC programs are: Employment (skills assessment, job search assistance and job placement); Training (computer skills, construction trades, child care provider, financial assistance for other training opportunities, job readiness training; Education (computer-assisted GED classes, scholarship assistance, post-GED math and reading review); Business Start-Up (small business development workshop and financial assistance for business start-up/micro-loan); Family Self-Sufficiency (home buyer seminars, budgeting and household finances, time management, family support, financial counseling services, credit restoration and money management); and Support Groups (barriers to success, mental wellness, nutrition and values clarification).

Section 8 Program - Home Ownership Opportunities

See description above.

Barriers to Affordable Housing (91.210 (e) and 91.215 (f))

1. Explain whether the cost of housing or the incentives to develop, maintain, or improve affordable housing are affected by public policies, particularly those of the local jurisdiction. Such policies include tax policy affecting land and other property, land use controls, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limits, and policies that affect the return on residential investment.
2. Describe the strategy to remove or ameliorate negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing, except that, if a State requires a unit of general local government to submit a regulatory barrier assessment that is substantially equivalent to the information required under this part, as determined by HUD, the unit of general local government may submit that assessment to HUD and it shall be considered to have complied with this requirement.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Barriers to Affordable Housing response:

1. Barriers to Affordable Housing

Fair housing cuts across all of Monroe County's housing efforts. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Monroe County, New York (AI), was submitted to HUD in early 2006. Representatives of Monroe County and the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit, the AI's sponsors, reviewed the AI's conclusions and recommendations. Working with a consultant, they designed a plan to identify specific activities to further enhance housing choice for county residents.

Fair Housing Action Plan Design

The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Monroe County, New York (AI) identifies a complex series of issues frequently interacting with one another to limit housing choice for protected class members. The challenge is to sort out and prioritize those impediments in order to formulate realistic strategies to address them. Analysis of the information provided and viewpoints expressed in interviews of housing professionals and the three focus groups, as well as the conclusions presented in the AI, helped to determine the most important first steps to enhance housing choice in suburban Monroe County. The Fair Housing Action Plan establishes four basic priorities in order to provide workable strategies for addressing these issues:

- Provide Fair Housing Education and Outreach
- Increase the Supply of Assisted Housing
- Promote Sustainable Minority Home Ownership
- Expand Appropriate Housing Opportunities for Minorities, Seniors, Disabled and Homeless Populations

Fair housing actions frequently take time to accomplish in changing economic and social conditions. Most initiatives are not accomplished within locally designated program years or funding cycles. For example, here in New York State, funding for worthy affordable housing projects frequently takes years to secure. Therefore, the Action Plan envisions utilizing a series of phases that may or may not correspond to annual contract years. In some cases, only after an extended time period can results be evaluated realistically. Some elements of the Fair Housing Action Plan, Phase I presented here can be achieved sooner than others. Phase I will cover a three-year period. Before moving to Phase II, the jurisdictions will evaluate progress for each of the planned actions and consider those results in selecting initiatives to be undertaken in Phase II.

Tracking Outcomes, Measuring Results and Maintaining Records

The jurisdictions will meet these requirements by contracting with a Consultant with fair housing expertise to provide program design and reporting, outcome measurement and record keeping services, ensuring a direct line of communication with the entitlement communities. The Consultant will work closely with designated representatives of each entitlement community and their sub-grantees. Working with the jurisdictions, the Consultant will design reporting mechanisms and timetables appropriate for specific actions outlined in the Fair Housing Action Plan. The Consultant will engage local sub-recipients, collect data on each initiative and produce periodic progress reports, including identifying any problems that may arise, so that the jurisdictions may resolve issues in a timely manner.

Entities Participating in the Fair Housing Action Plan Process

The following entitlement communities, non-profits and other local organizations will participate in Phase I of the Fair Housing Action Plan.

County of Monroe, NY

Monroe County, New York is the largest county in the Rochester Metropolitan Statistical Area (Rochester MSA). Monroe County, exclusive of the City of Rochester, has an overall poverty rate of 4.9%. Poverty rates for individual towns range from a high of 13.3% in the Town of Sweden to a low of .05% in Rush. The overall poverty rate for persons over 65 is 5.3%, and the poverty rate for children under the age of 18 is 5.2%. (2000 Census) Monroe County is a HUD-designated Entitlement Community and receives federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Monroe County CDBG Consortium

Monroe County consists of the City of Rochester, nineteen surrounding towns and ten villages. All towns except Greece and Irondequoit and all villages in the County are members of the CDBG

Consortium. Consortium programs are administered by the Community Development Division of the Monroe County Department of Planning and Development, which supports fair housing and affordable housing activities throughout suburban and rural Monroe County. The City of Rochester, also a HUD-designated entitlement community, is not a member of the County's Community Development Consortium.

The Towns of Greece and Irondequoit are also CDBG entitlement communities and receive their own CDBG grants each year. Monroe County is part of the Rochester MSA, and Rochester is the MSA's largest city.

Town of Greece, NY

Greece is the largest town in Monroe County. Greece is bordered by Lake Ontario on the north, the City of Rochester on the east, Gates, another inner-ring suburb, on the south and the outer ring towns of Hilton, Parma and Ogden on the west. The poverty rate for the total population in Greece is 4.8%. Poverty is concentrated in the southeastern and northeastern areas of the town. The poverty rate for those 65 years and older is 5.5%, and the rate for children under 18 is 6.9%. (2000 Census) The Town of Greece is a HUD-designated Entitlement Community and receives federal CDBG funds.

Town of Irondequoit, NY

The Town of Irondequoit, NY is located north of the City of Rochester. Irondequoit is bordered by the City of Rochester and the Genesee River on the west, Lake Ontario on the north, the City of Rochester on the south and Irondequoit Bay on the east. The poverty rate for the overall population of the Town of Irondequoit is 5.4%, for its residents 65 and older, 6.8% and for its children under 18, 6.1%. (2000 Census) Irondequoit is a HUD-designated Entitlement Community and receives federal CDBG funds.

The Towns of Greece and Irondequoit are members of the Monroe County HOME Consortium.

The Center for Disability Rights, Inc. (CDR)

The CDR is a not-for-profit, community-based advocacy and service organization for people with all types of disabilities. Since 1998, CDR has been recognized as an Independent Living Center by the National Council on Independent Living, making CDR part of a national network of Independent Living Centers that provide non-residential and non-medical services.

Greater Rochester Association of Realtors (GRAR)

The GRAR provides resources and education and promotes professionalism. GRAR supports the community through political advocacy of real property rights and by supporting charitable programs to enhance home ownership opportunities.

Housing Council

The Housing Council is a non-profit organization specializing in foreclosure prevention, fair housing education and landlord-tenant services. The Housing Council serves residents of the City of Rochester and Monroe County.

LifeSpan of Greater Rochester, Inc. (LifeSpan)

LifeSpan offers older adults and their care givers a wide array of free and fee-based non-medical services. LifeSpan's Safety and Security for Seniors program provides assessment and support services to frail elderly residents of Monroe County.

Providence Housing Development Corporation (Providence Housing)

Providence Housing develops, finances and manages affordable housing for seniors, people with special needs and families. Providence Housing also receives CDBG public services funding to

administer the Monroe County Home Ownership Program. Providence Housing is a non-profit housing development corporation in Rochester, NY.

Rochester Monroe County Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC)

First convened in 1994, the CoC's mission is to develop, maintain, monitor and continuously improve a comprehensive, flexible and coordinated continuum of housing and support services for homeless individuals and families.

The Plan envisions adding entities whose programs address the priorities determined in formulating actions.

Fair Housing Action Plan Phase I Priorities

Priority One: Provide Fair Housing Education and Outreach

Impediment: There is some progress in increasing housing opportunities among minority renters and home buyers in suburban and rural areas, but their numbers remain small compared to the concentration of minority city renters and owners and white non-Hispanic suburban renters and owners. Many minority and immigrant renters and home buyers are not aware of the choices available to them in suburban and rural areas.

Actions:

- Encourage Greater Rochester Association of Realtors (GRAR) to provide fair housing education classes to its membership
 - o Participating Organization: GRAR
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Track the number of GRAR members who complete Fair Housing Education classes each year.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased numbers of member agents who are familiar with fair housing laws

- Provide fair housing education to private market suburban landlords; conduct stand-alone fair housing workshops, incorporate fair housing components in pre-purchase classes
 - o Participating Organization: Housing Council
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Track the number of classes, workshops and focus group participants each year by jurisdiction.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increase knowledge of fair housing laws for suburban landlords and protected class members

- Provide fair housing education to supervisory, administrative and maintenance staff at assisted housing locations
 - o Participating Organizations: Affordable housing providers receiving project support from Monroe County, Towns of Greece and Irondequoit
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Track the number of classes and participants each year for agencies funded by Consortium and Entitlement communities.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased knowledge of fair housing laws for supervisory, administrative and maintenance staff in suburban assisted housing locations.

Priority Two: Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing

Impediment: Where you live largely determines your life opportunities. The AI, individual interviews and focus groups document the lack of affordable housing for large families, disabled and elderly. Of particular concern is lack of access to quality suburban housing, schools and other neighborhood amenities for low-income minority families and individuals.

Actions:

- Work with the Greater Rochester Housing Partnership (GRHP) to explore untapped private market funding sources and innovative strategies to enhance existing funding sources.

- o Participating Organizations: Monroe County, Towns of Greece and Irondequoit, GRHP, Consultant
- o Reporting Mechanism: Report and discuss various proposed strategies, issues and outcomes.
- o Outcome Measure: Increased funding sources

- Support formation of a committee made up of representatives of local government, non-profits, parents, neighborhood and project residents to address NIMBY fears regarding group homes, affordable rental complexes and new home construction. Introduce YIMBY concept.

- o Report the number of meetings/events and participants in each event; describe the subject development and NIMBY issues addressed by participants. Discuss results.

- Educate town board members, members of planning and zoning boards regarding local affordable housing needs and through the Monroe County educational program, giving examples of the aesthetic appeal of recent projects and positive impact on residents

- o Participating Jurisdictions: Monroe County, Towns of Greece and Irondequoit

- o Reporting Mechanism: Track the number, participants and location of meetings and describe questions and discuss general reaction.

- o Outcome Measure: Increased knowledge of local affordable housing needs and strategies for addressing those needs

- Provide ongoing technical assistance to affordable housing developers applying for development funds to build assisted housing that includes appropriate housing for seniors, families, disabled and minorities.

- o Participating Jurisdictions: Monroe County, Towns of Greece and Irondequoit

- o Reporting Mechanism: Report annually: Consolidated Plan

- o Outcome Measure: Increased appropriate housing options for seniors, families, disabled and minorities

- Based on availability, participate in funding projects providing appropriate housing for seniors, families, disabled and minorities.

- o Participating Jurisdictions: Monroe County, Towns of Greece and Irondequoit

- o Reporting Mechanism: Report annually: Consolidated Plan

- o Outcome Measure: Increased appropriate housing options for seniors, families, disabled and minorities

- Require existing providers and affordable housing fund applicants to expand marketing plans to ensure successful outreach to minorities.

- o Participating Organizations: Affordable housing providers

- o Reporting Mechanism: Annually report information on media and other sources used to publicize available units. Provide demographics of existing tenants and new tenant applications

- o Outcome Measure: Increased appropriate housing options for seniors, families, disabled and minorities

- Explore funding opportunities for the establishment of a local mobility program to increase suburban private market rental opportunities for minority families and individuals.

- o Participating Jurisdictions: Monroe County, Towns of Greece and Irondequoit

- o Reporting Mechanism: Report ongoing efforts and identified opportunities to participating jurisdictions

- o Outcome Measure: Increased suburban private market housing opportunities for minority residents

Priority Three: Promote Sustainable Minority Home Ownership

Impediment: Minority home ownership rates in suburban Monroe County lag significantly behind white non-Hispanic home ownership rates. At all income levels, minority mortgage applicants in suburban Monroe County are more likely to be denied than white non-Hispanic applicants. The

primary reason cited for denial is credit history. Black home buyers in suburban areas were nearly twice as likely as Hispanic and white non-Hispanic home buyers to finance with a subprime loan. Historically, at least 60% of Housing Council foreclosure prevention cases are minority home owners.

Actions:

- Establish a financial literacy initiative targeted to minority suburban home buyers. Market the initiative in minority media. The program will address family goal setting, where and when to use credit cards, understanding credit reports, budgeting for home purchase and ongoing home ownership, what to do if the home owner is experiencing financial difficulties.
 - o Participating Organizations: Providence Housing, Housing Council
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Report and discuss various proposed strategies, issues and outcomes.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased financial literacy for minorities

- Provide pre-purchase counseling targeted to minority home buyers that includes how to choose a Realtor, how to enforce their fair housing rights, and other important information needed to make an appropriate housing choice. Include relevant information regarding funds available for purchase by qualifying first time buyers.
 - o Participating Organization: Providence Housing; Housing Council
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Report and discuss various proposed strategies, issues and outcomes.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased knowledge of the home buying process for minority home buyers

- Create publicized suburban events in order to increase housing choice, particularly for minority home buyers. In addition to mainstream publications, particular attention would be given to advertising the event in minority media markets. All segments of the home buying process would be represented. Home buyer counseling opportunities would be presented by Monroe County's home buyer education provider, Providence Housing Development Corporation.
 - o Participating Jurisdiction: Monroe County Towns of Greece and Irondequoit
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Detailed report on location, attendee demographics and details about participating providers.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased minority access to suburban home ownership opportunities

- Work with the Greater Rochester Association of Realtors (GRAR) to publicize their official web site, HomesteadNet, because it enables home buyers to search by price range, location, home features and school district, and to advertise in minority media
 - o Participating Organization: GRAR
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Annual report of these activities, including information regarding advertising in Spanish.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased use of HomesteadNet; increased advertising in minority media

- Provide post-purchase counseling targeted at minority suburban home buyers.
 - o Participating Organization: Providence Housing
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Track the number of minority home buyers who participate after purchase is complete.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased number of educated minority home buyers

- Provide foreclosure prevention case management and home equity conversion mortgage (HECM) services.
 - o Participating Organization: Housing Council
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Track the number of foreclosure prevention, predatory lending and HECM cases each year for agencies funded by Consortium and entitlement communities. Include foreclosure prevention and HECM cases funded by others in each jurisdiction.
 - o Outcome Measure: Appropriate level of services provided to minority suburban home owners

- Provide public and/or private mortgage relief funds to qualifying home owners to prevent foreclosure.
 - o Participating Organization: Housing Council
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Track the number of home owners, property location and total dollar amount of mortgage relief funds provided.
 - o Outcome Measure: Home owners avoiding foreclosure through use of mortgage relief funds

- Fund programs to help consumers detect predatory lending and renegotiate loan terms or other alternatives with lenders.
 - o Participating Organizations: Housing Council, Providence Housing and LifeSpan
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Track and report on various activities
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased number of home buyers and home owners who avoid foreclosure

- Stabilize at-risk suburban neighborhoods and provide housing opportunities by acquiring and rehabbing foreclosed properties and selling them to low-income families. Require financial literacy training and pre- and post-purchase counseling for all home buyers. Provide grant funds to qualifying home buyers.
 - o Participating Organizations: Greater Rochester Housing Partnership, Providence Housing and Monroe County
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Track number of properties, issues and results.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased level of home ownership by financially educated low-income residents

Priority Four: Expand Appropriate Housing Opportunities for Minorities, Seniors, Disabled and Homeless Populations

Impediment: As stated earlier, where you live largely determines your life opportunities. There is a demonstrated need for quality appropriate housing for minorities, seniors, disabled and homeless populations and housing in locations that promote personal well being and choice.

ACTIONS

- Provide technical assistance to affordable housing developers applying for pre-development and development funds to build assisted housing that includes appropriate housing for families, seniors, and disabled persons.
 - o Participating Jurisdictions: Monroe County, Towns of Greece and Irondequoit
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Report annually: Consolidated Plan
 - o Outcome Measure: High quality applications for funding to ensure continuing production of assisted housing

- Based on availability, provide affordable housing funding for projects providing appropriate housing options for families, seniors and disabled persons.
 - o Participating Jurisdictions: Monroe County, Towns of Greece and Irondequoit
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Report annually: Consolidated Plan
 - o Outcome Measure: Enhanced housing options for seniors and disabled persons

- Encourage innovative housing design and supportive services required to meet potential demographic change, e.g., multi-lingual residents; aging population.
 - o Participating Jurisdictions: Monroe County, Towns of Greece and Irondequoit
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Report annually: Consolidated Plan
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased appropriate housing options for low-income residents, seniors and disabled

- Establish an outreach initiative targeted to rehab centers discharging persons with newly acquired disabilities providing fair housing information and housing solutions for persons who must alter their housing situations, e.g., stroke victims, elderly, individuals sustaining life-altering injuries.
 - o Participating Jurisdiction: Monroe County
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Report rehab facilities visited, presentations completed
 - o Outcome Measure: Enhanced housing solutions for individuals with a newly acquired disability

- Work in partnership with the Center for Disability Rights to provide increased opportunities for persons with disabilities to live in independent settings and diverse locations rather than group homes.
 - o Participating Organization: CDR
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Report and discuss various proposed strategies, issues and outcomes.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased opportunities for persons with disabilities to live in independent settings

- Work with the Rochester/Monroe County Continuum of Care and other relevant actors to facilitate provision of alternative housing choices and supportive services, including mixed-income housing, to address demographic change and enable households to transition into new communities and become more self-sufficient.
 - o Participating Organization: Rochester/Monroe County Continuum of Care
 - o Reporting Mechanism: Report and discuss various proposed strategies, issues and outcomes.
 - o Outcome Measure: Increased housing choice and appropriate supportive services for homeless populations.

HOMELESS

Homeless Needs (91.205 (b) and 91.215 (c))

*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook

Homeless Needs— The jurisdiction must provide a concise summary of the nature and extent of homelessness in the jurisdiction, (including rural homelessness and chronic homelessness where applicable), addressing separately the need for facilities and services for homeless persons and homeless families with children, both sheltered and unsheltered, and homeless subpopulations, in accordance with Table 1A. The summary must include the characteristics and needs of low-income individuals and children, (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered. In addition, to the extent information is available; the plan must include a description of the nature and extent of homelessness by racial and ethnic group. A quantitative analysis is not required. If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Homeless Needs response:

Monroe County Department of Human Services (MCDHS) prepares an annual assessment of the homeless population in a report entitled Housing/Homeless Services Annual Report. The most recent report released in May 2010 was used in the development of this Strategic Plan. The entire report is contained in the Appendix.

This publication provides specific information regarding the various services and programs provided by the County Department of Human Services, a listing of the number of beds available at the various emergency homeless facilities and the number, reasons and costs of emergency placements.

A summary of this report follows:

- During calendar 2009, MCDHS provided emergency housing to 9,185 families and individuals; an increase of 207, or 2%, over the number of placements that were made in 2008.
- The number of placements made for families seeking assistance increased by 243 from 2,386 in 2008 to 2,629 in 2009.
- The primary cause of homelessness (61%) continues to be eviction by primary tenant (families/individuals residing in the homes of relatives or friends that are asked to leave due to overcrowded conditions, substance abuse, domestic disputes, family breakup and strained relationships.)
- The second leading cause of homelessness in 2009 (16%) resulted from being released from an institution without a plan for permanent housing (institutions include hospitals, substance abuse treatment programs and the Monroe County jail.)

The goal of MCDHS is to assist homeless persons in securing permanent housing as quickly as possible. In 2009, placements were made in shelters (71%), hotels (28%) and leased homes (1%) and the average length of stay increased by one day.

Homeless Youth

The Monroe County Department of Human Services (MCDHS)/Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau has received HUD Supportive Housing Program (SHP) funds for the Homeless Youth Project since 1998, to provide outreach and case management services to homeless youth. Through this program, the MCDHS conducts outreach activities and provides assistance in securing entitlement benefits and permanent housing for homeless youth residing in shelters and youth who are unable to reside with their parents. Eligibility for Temporary Assistance benefits for youth has been changed as a result of Welfare Reform. The MCDHS designed a team approach to assess youth and continue to work with the community to develop supervised housing. The MCDHS team works closely with the Runaway and Homeless Youth Services to assess and provide the most appropriate community services. The number of requests for emergency housing placement of older homeless youth (ages 16-20) has continued to increase each year. Youth are housed in youth shelters, adult shelters and hotels when there is no other alternative.

In 2009, 920 youths (ages 16-21, unduplicated) were placed in emergency housing. Five hundred and eighty-one (581) of the youths were placed on multiple occasions, which resulted in the need for the MCDHS to make 1,502 placements for homeless youth in 2009. Of these 1,502 placements, 52% were in the adult shelter system, 35% in the youth shelter system and 13% in hotels.

At-Risk Homeless Persons

Through the joint City/County Heading Home - Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), a total of 431 referrals have been received from at-risk and/or homeless households and 435 households (1,295 persons) served between November and April 2010. The housing status of the 435 households served included 59 homeless, 374 at-risk (prevention) and 2 unknown. HPRP housing stabilization services include case management, credit repair, housing search, legal services and outreach. HPRP financial assistance includes rent, security deposits, utility payments, and/or moving costs. A total of \$268,457 in joint City/County Heading Home-HPRP financial assistance was issued as of April 2010.

Priority Homeless Needs

1. Using the results of the Continuum of Care planning process, identify the jurisdiction's homeless and homeless prevention priorities specified in Table 1A, the Homeless and Special Needs Populations Chart. The description of the jurisdiction's choice of priority needs and allocation priorities must be based on reliable data meeting HUD standards and should reflect the required consultation with homeless assistance providers, homeless persons, and other concerned citizens regarding the needs of homeless families with children and individuals. The jurisdiction must provide an analysis of how the needs of each category of residents provided the basis for determining the relative priority of each priority homeless need category. A separate brief narrative should be directed to addressing gaps in services and housing for the sheltered and unsheltered chronic homeless.
2. A community should give a high priority to chronically homeless persons, where the jurisdiction identifies sheltered and unsheltered chronic homeless persons in its Homeless Needs Table - Homeless Populations and Subpopulations.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Priority Homeless Needs response:

1. Homeless and Homeless Prevention Priorities
 - A. Increase the supply of permanent, affordable housing projects, with supportive services for the chronically homeless (Includes Shelter Plus Care and Housing First projects)
 - B. Increase the supply of permanent, affordable housing with support services for the homeless in general, and targeted toward special needs populations.

The following populations are not in any ranked order:

- Older homeless youth; pregnant/parenting older homeless youth
 - Homeless with criminal and poor credit histories
 - Homeless with mental health and/or substance abuse issues and co-occurring disorders
 - Homeless families with children
 - Veterans and their families
 - Transgender persons
- C. Maintain current inventory of HUD funded homeless housing and services at current levels (renewal projects)
 - D. Transitional housing for homeless special needs populations (see above) Projects able to serve sex offenders are especially needed
 - E. Support Services:
 - Increase capacity and access to comprehensive case management services from entry into the homeless system through follow up services in unsupported permanent housing
 - Employment/Job Placement services for persons with little or no employment history (including child care and transportation)
 - Improve access to and capacity of permanent, supportive housing programs
 - Outreach/Engagement services for the chronically homeless and frequent users of the homeless system

Annual CoC Super NOFA applications must meet or exceed HUD's national performance measurements. These projects must be able to clearly demonstrate that the services provided continue to be a need of the homeless in this community, and are an essential component of the community's continuum of care.

In addition, only projects that meet the above referenced CoC priorities and are also HUD eligible CoC activities under the Super NOFA will be rated.

Analysis of How Homeless Needs Provided the Basis for Determining Priorities

To determine community priorities to most effectively meet the needs of the homeless, the CoC obtained input annually from the Homeless Services Network (HSN), a consortium of more than 50 individuals and organizations who are involved with the homeless. In addition, the CoC reviewed information provided from the results of the 2010 Homeless Persons Needs Survey.

Homeless Continuum of Care Strategic Plan

Since 1998, this community has made significant investments in new and expanded shelters and support programs designed to reduce the number and plight of homeless people in Monroe County.

The community developed a Homeless Continuum of Care Action Plan to provide a framework to enable the community to address homelessness and its underlying causes and to develop a comprehensive coordinated system of homeless services to help individuals and families achieve independence.

- The CoC Plan describes a system that ranges from emergency housing and supportive services to permanent housing with homeless prevention services that homeless individuals and families need to achieve independent living.
- The Homeless CoC Team oversees Plan implementation. The Team consists of representatives from Monroe County, City of Rochester, United Way of Greater Rochester, Rochester Housing Authority and the Homeless Services Network. In addition, there are elected general members (not to exceed 50) from both public and private groups from the community (i.e. business sector, faith based organizations, veterans organizations, schools, advocacy groups, banking industry, community service organizations, community-based planning participant organizations, and a formerly homeless individual)
- Since 2002, a community network of service providers has provided assistance and input in the development of all of the annual Homeless CoC Plan updates.

Housing Gaps Analysis Chart

The gaps in services and housing for the sheltered and unsheltered chronic homeless was developed by using data consistent with the Community's Consolidated Plan and a Point-in-Time Inventory that was conducted on January 27, 2010. The January 27, 2010 Point in Time Survey identified 89 individuals as being chronically homeless.

There was an increase in the total point in time count number of homeless persons from 2008 to 2010 from: 595 in 2008, to 663 in 2009, to 709 in 2010. The CoC will closely monitor the shelter occupancy rates to determine if the numbers continue to rise and for how long. There has been a significant downturn in the local economy and an increase in the unemployment rate; however the numbers of homeless who report that recent job loss was the primary reason for their homelessness is similar to last year. The CoC at this point believes that the increased number of people in shelters may be due to the inability of friends or family members to continue to accommodate/afford an additional person residing with them.

The sheltered sub-population data was collected on January 27, 2009 by use of a written survey completed by program staff. Questions include number/type of beds, numbers of homeless persons, demographic information, special needs, and future housing needs. HMIS is used to verify the written surveys. Data from surveys is entered into an excel spreadsheet for aggregate totals and analysis.

The percentages of homeless sub-populations remained about the same from 2008 to 2009, however, it increased by approximately 40% in 2010.

The CoC began monthly point in time data collection of the homeless in February 2003. The data collection tool used was developed by the Center for Governmental Research at the request of the CoC Team to facilitate accurate data collection. In addition to the questions on capacity (used to complete the Current Inventory) and occupancy, data collection is also obtained each month on the future housing needs of the homeless, support services received, the number of homeless who fit the definitions of chronically homeless, number of homeless who are turned away from shelters/services, and the numbers of homeless on waiting lists for housing/services. Shelters and service providers complete the survey the 5th of each month.

The results of this analysis and the data collected for January 27, 2010 were used to complete the HUD chart entitled Continuum of Care Homeless Population and Subpopulations, which is included in the Annual Worksheet section of this Plan. This chart identifies the unmet needs/gaps in services and housing for individuals, persons in families with children and sub-populations.

The emergency shelter unmet need is determined by the number of persons found in uninhabitable places. The uninhabitable count takes place the same night as the point in time survey, the number turned away from emergency shelters when beds are full and the numbers on waiting lists for emergency housing programs, the numbers of those placed in hotels, minus the number of empty beds. The unmet need for transitional housing are the numbers on waiting lists and the number turned away on the date of the survey. The unmet need for permanent supportive housing programs is determined by the number of persons on waiting lists and the number of persons from the survey projected to be in need of this type of housing. Providers were asked the next appropriate level of housing needed by those in shelters on 1/28/10. The number of persons projected to be in need of permanent, supportive housing is added to the unmet need because these types of programs are consistently at or above occupancy. We then subtracted the number of beds under development.

The CoC Team's HMIS Coordinator has the primary responsibility for the collection and aggregation of point in time data. As previously mentioned, the CoC currently collects this data on the 5th of each month. HMIS participant organizations are required to have all data entry information for the previous month entered into HMIS by that date. Monthly draft data quality/participation reports are forwarded to all HMIS program participants for their review to allow for necessary corrections, identify missing data, etc. The January 28, 2010 data was used to complete the Gaps Analysis information. The survey forms are sent to shelter providers each month and are to be returned to the HMIS Coordinator within 5 business days. MCDHHS also completes the survey for placements they make to hotels. The data is entered onto a spreadsheet and the gaps analysis information is taken from this data. Concurrent to the point in time survey, the City County Outreach Team and the Homeless Youth Outreach Team conduct a street count of the homeless. Each team goes to areas where the homeless are known to congregate and are counted along with their normal outreach activities. These numbers are reported to the HMIS Coordinator to provide the information for the "Unsheltered Count".

The point in time survey asks questions to determine the homeless sub-populations. Providers are asked to provide the number of homeless in their shelter that fall into the following categories: (providers can choose more than one category, if appropriate)

- Substance abusers
- Seriously mentally ill
- MICA (dual diagnosis)
- HIV+/AIDS
- Veterans
- Physically Disabled
- Unaccompanied Youth
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Other
- Chronically Homeless

Effective May 28, 2003 information has been captured on the number of homeless who fit the definition of chronically homeless. The definition is included on the survey as a reference to the person collecting the information. Counting is conducted based upon the following:

- Number that were homeless continuously for one year or more
- Number with four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years

The first questions on the point in time survey ask about the capacity of the program. These questions provide the data needed to complete the current inventory of emergency, transitional and permanent housing in the Housing Activity Chart. The Homeless Services Network and the CoC Team have standard agenda items regarding new projects and updates on projects that are under development. This includes projects that are not funded through the Super NOFA process. This information is shared between the groups, and any changes or new projects under development are added to the inventory. New projects would then be added to the list of providers to complete the monthly point in time surveys.

Sheltered

Point in time surveys will utilize data that is available through the HMIS. If for any reason there are shelter providers that are not participating in HMIS, they will be required to complete a point in time survey for the same date that the rest of the information was taken from HMIS.

Unsheltered

The unsheltered would be counted in the same manner that the CoC is currently counting. The teams would go out to gather information on the same date that information would be collected from the housing providers.

2. Chronically Homeless Priority

As referenced above in this section under 2009 CoC Homeless and Homeless Prevention Priorities, the CoC has adopted a policy to establish a high priority for chronically homeless persons per the Homeless Needs Table included in the CoC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations chart.

Changes in the number of persons reported in the "chronic homeless," "sheltered," and "unsheltered" from 2004 to 2010 reflect a slight increase in the number of chronically homeless, from 81 in 2004 to 89 in 2010. The slight increase in chronic homeless that occurred during recent economic difficulties was minimized due to our success in moving homeless individuals into permanent supportive housing programs through existing Shelter Plus programs. There is a high participant retention rate, which reduces the number of chronic homeless in the shelter system and prevents those who have had less than four episodes of homelessness from becoming homeless again so they do not meet the definition of chronic homelessness. There was also a community wide effort to develop a plan in the winter of 2004 to get unsheltered homeless into beds during severe weather conditions explained more fully in the Homeless Strategic Plan section, which could

also be a factor in the reduced numbers. Also refer to the Chronic Homeless Strategy/Goals described in the Homeless Strategic Plan, under the Chronic Homeless section here.

Homeless Inventory (91.210 (c))

The jurisdiction shall provide a concise summary of the existing facilities and services (including a brief inventory) that assist homeless persons and families with children and subpopulations identified in Table 1A. These include outreach and assessment, emergency shelters and services, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, access to permanent housing, and activities to prevent low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) from becoming homeless. The jurisdiction can use the optional Continuum of Care Housing Activity Chart and Service Activity Chart to meet this requirement.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Homeless Inventory response:

Community definitions of emergency shelter and transitional housing are as follows:

Emergency Shelter

Housing in which homeless persons can access shelter immediately and reside for up to 30 days. An emergency shelter's primary function is to assist individuals in identifying causes of homelessness, accessing mainstream services and securing the next appropriate level of housing. The structure, rules and support services provided vary greatly from shelter to shelter.

Transitional Housing

Housing in which homeless persons live for up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. The services must include housing placement assistance. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or coordinated by them and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures, at one site or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

Supplemental Homeless Programs and Resources

The Rochester/Monroe County homeless service delivery system has been successful in coordinating/integrating services administered by the City and County as well as with other mainstream programs listed below:

Outreach Programs

- City/County Heading Home - Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)
- Homeless Youth Project/Rochester Monroe County Youth Bureau
- Mercy Residential Program/Supportive Housing for Youth

Case Management Programs

- City/County Heading Home - Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)
- Homeless MICA Program
- Safety Net Assistance Program

Housing Quality Improvement

- Move-in/Move-Out Inspection Project
- Pro-Active Property Management Project
- Rent Withholding Program
- Lead Paint Program
- Shelter Plus Care Program

Low-Income Housing Programs

- City/County Heading Home - Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)
- RHA/HHAP Housing Program
- Family Reunification Supportive Housing Program
- Shelter Plus Care Program
- Family Unification Program
- Welfare to Work Housing Assistance

MCDHS staff members are active participants of:

- Homeless Continuum of Care Team
- Homeless Services Network

In addition to various emergency housing facilities under contract with MCDHS, the MCDHS also coordinates with many of the state and local agencies, public housing authorities, non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, housing developers, nonprofit organizations and medical facilities listed in this plan under the sections entitled Institutional Structure and Homeless Strategic Plan.

Homeless Strategic Plan (91.215 (c))

1. Homelessness— Describe the jurisdiction's strategy for developing a system to address homelessness and the priority needs of homeless persons and families (including the subpopulations identified in the needs section). The jurisdiction's strategy must consider the housing and supportive services needed in each stage of the process which includes preventing homelessness, outreach/assessment, emergency shelters and services, transitional housing, and helping homeless persons (especially any persons that are chronically homeless) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. The jurisdiction must also describe its strategy for helping extremely low- and low-income individuals and families who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
2. Chronic homelessness—Describe the jurisdiction's strategy for eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. This should include the strategy for helping homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. This strategy should, to the maximum extent feasible, be coordinated with the strategy presented Exhibit 1 of the Continuum of Care (CoC) application and any other strategy or plan to eliminate chronic homelessness. Also describe, in a narrative, relationships and efforts to coordinate the Conplan, CoC, and any other strategy or plan to address chronic homelessness.
3. Homelessness Prevention—Describe the jurisdiction's strategy to help prevent homelessness for individuals and families with children who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
4. Institutional Structure—Briefly describe the institutional structure, including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions, through which the jurisdiction will carry out its homelessness strategy.
5. Discharge Coordination Policy—every jurisdiction receiving McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care, or Section 8 SRO Program funds must develop and implement a Discharge Coordination Policy, to the maximum extent practicable. Such a policy should include "policies and protocols for the discharge of persons from publicly funded institutions or systems of care (such as health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or correction programs and institutions) in order to prevent such discharge from immediately resulting in homelessness for such persons." The jurisdiction should describe its planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how the community will move toward such a policy.

3-5 Year Homeless Strategic Plan response:

1. Strategy to Address Homelessness and Priority Needs of the Homeless

Continuum of Care (CoC) Team

When HUD announced its homeless continuum of care strategy in 1994, Monroe County and the City of Rochester first convened the Rochester/Monroe County Homeless CoC Team. The Team is comprised of five Sponsors and Community-Based Planning Participant Organizations/Individuals. The Monroe County Sponsor has designated representatives from the Monroe County Departments of Planning & Development, Department of Human and Health Services (MCHHS), Office of Mental Health, and the Rochester/Monroe County Youth Bureau. The City of Rochester Sponsor has designated representatives from the City of Rochester Bureaus of Business and Housing Development. The Homeless Services Network (HSN) Sponsor (a consortium of more than 50 homeless service providers) elects two representatives; and both United Way of Greater Rochester and Rochester Housing Authority Sponsors have a designated representative. In addition, a community-based planning participant (formerly homeless) individual; a non-profit community-based planning participant organization, Providence Housing Development Corporation, has designated a representative. The Team continues to diversify and broaden community-based participation. Representatives of the Town of Greece Community Development Department, the business community, banking industry, schools, advocacy groups, veteran organizations and a neighborhood organization have become members within the past several years.

Community's CoC Planning Process for Developing a CoC Strategy – Action Plan

The CoC Team conducts an ongoing comprehensive, collaborative planning process involving representatives from multiple constituencies in the community necessary to effectively plan a comprehensive continuum of care for the homeless. Each Team member brings their expertise and connection to numerous community organizations to the table. In addition, the members bring their organization's commitment to incorporate the various housing and supportive service needs of the homeless into their respective consolidated planning documents. A CoC Agreement of Participation is executed by all Team members and their respective CoC Sponsors, to obtain authorization and concurrence from all Sponsors and Team members of the roles and responsibilities assumed by individual Team members and the Team as a whole. This Agreement provides written confirmation of each designated Team member appointment and participation requirements.

A. CoC Team Mission

The mission of the CoC Team is to develop, maintain, monitor and continuously improve a comprehensive, flexible and coordinated continuum of care system of services for homeless individuals and families. The Team works to accomplish this mission through direct planning of services, coordination of services across the continuum, integration of services with mainstream community resources and monitoring of service delivery outcomes.

B. Lead Entity for Developing a Homeless CoC Strategy

The CoC Team leads the continuum of care planning process. The process is structured to allow for the two-way flow of information between the Team and the various community constituencies represented. The Team serves as the hub for this multi-systems process, synthesizing input to develop a coordinated and integrated approach to serving the homeless in the community that maximizes the use of mainstream resources.

C. Continuum of Care Team Planning Activities

The CoC Team convenes monthly. Sub-committee meetings are held on a regular basis and special ad-hoc meetings are convened as necessary. The Team is responsible for initiating CoC activities, monitoring their progress, measuring their success, and communicating outcomes and progress to the community. Specific activities include:

- Communicating to the broader community regarding CoC Action Plan goals, objectives, activities and tasks
- Supporting Sponsors in maintaining good working relationships with other Community-Based Organizations
- Incorporating the needs of the homeless into planning documents of respective Sponsors and organizations
- Monitoring community trends, issues and other developments relevant to making informed investment decisions
- Developing the CoC Action Plan to describe a comprehensive process for addressing the homeless housing and supportive service needs
- Overseeing the CoC Action Plan to ensure continuous coordination with all existing and proposed supportive service and housing programs/projects
- On going and ad hoc committees to address specific issues related to the housing and service needs of the homeless
- Implementation of a Monitoring Plan to assess annual performance of existing HUD-funded programs/projects to ensure compliance with proposed outcomes, and/or provide assistance and support to aid in doing so
- Annually ensuring that a process is in place to collect and analyze needs assessment data and demographic information that is compiled by providers, homeless individuals, and government agencies to identify and measure gaps, needs and shifts in the homeless population, including specific sub-populations
- Annually establishing and prioritizing the community's existing homeless housing and supportive service needs from the most recent assessment data
- Annually, in accordance with HUD's requirements, participating in the development of a coordinated and equitable CoC Super NOFA process to:
 - a) Coordinate and administer the local process for Super NOFA applicants
 - b) Review and rank eligible CoC Super NOFA applications per CoC priorities
 - c) Update the CoC Super NOFA Exhibit I for submission to HUD
- Developing and expanding funder and provider relationships, including relationships with mainstream resources, to support proposed projects that address identified priority gaps in supportive services and housing needs
- Supporting the development of quality permanent affordable housing as an essential element of an effective continuum of care
- Annually updating the Planning Process (Tasks/Activities) Plan
- Annually updating the CoC Action Plan which contains the CoC Exhibit I
- Expanding and maintaining diversity of Team membership

D. The CoC's Five Most Active Planning Committees

- CoC Team Executive Committee

Sets the CoC Team meeting agenda and annual work plan, oversight of recruitment of CoC Team membership, CoC committee work plans and oversight of CoC staff. Forms ad hoc committees as needed to accomplish tasks and/or address homelessness issues. Responsible for oversight of successful community wide HMIS project and approves release of final community wide aggregate HMIS data to the public.

- CoC HMIS Advisory Committee

Overall responsibility to ensure that HMIS provides community wide, unduplicated homeless data for planning and coordination of homeless housing and services. Reviews data quality and HMIS reports monthly and annually reviews HMIS policies and procedures. Ensures that data is timely and accurate for both local reports and that accurate data is submitted annually for preparation of the annual CoC Super NOFA Exhibit 1, the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) - a national report to Congress on the extent and nature of homelessness in America, and the HPRP Annual Performance Report (APR) and Quarterly Performance Report (QPR).

- CoC Project Monitoring Team

Conducts annual site visits (including participant interviews when possible), reviews each project Annual Performance Report (APR) annually, addresses concerns, capacity issues, etc. of the HUD funded homeless projects/programs. Works with project staff to address barriers to performance. Makes recommendations for approval if there are significant changes to projects. Makes recommendations for continued project funding.

- CoC Rating/Ranking Team

Reads, rates and ranks applications of all new and renewal projects submitted to the CoC for HUD Homeless Assistance Program funding. Develops and distributes local applications for CoC funding including scoring criteria and rating forms.

- Ten Year Planning Committee

Responsible for the implementation and oversight of "Housing Options for All", this community's plan to end homelessness. Forms and coordinates work group activities that address the three major strategies in the Plan. Ensures that the annual homeless community priorities are aligned with "Housing Options for All". Ensures that strategies for ending homelessness are part of other community planning efforts.

E. Homeless Services Network (HSN)

The Homeless Services Network (HSN) plays an important role in identifying needs, service gaps and concerns related to the homeless population. The HSN is an organization comprised of more than 50 primarily homeless service providers and individuals interested in homeless service provision. The members represent a range of interests including homeless service providers, health care, mental health, chemical dependency, veterans groups, the faith based community, law enforcement, food cupboards, local/state government and youth services providers. The purpose of the HSN is to facilitate networking, coordinating, consulting and fund raising among agencies that provide service to the homeless.

Additionally, the HSN convenes monthly to discuss issues of concern and share information. Ongoing activities include: identification of gaps in service; provision of shelter staff training; sponsorship of informational events; investigation of promising intervention models; research of legislative and/or funding proposals; and development of minimum shelter standards and discharge protocol. Smaller workgroups have also been created to cover more immediate and specific issues as they arise such as data collection (HMIS), permanent housing, special needs populations, community resources, shelter staff training and community issues related to homelessness.

HSN activities are integrated into the CoC process. The HSN elects two representatives to be members on the CoC Team. These HSN representatives act as the liaisons between the CoC Team and the HSN membership, sharing information and issues of mutual concern. Each entity has a standing agenda item to provide updates on each other's activities and concerns.

F. City of Rochester and Monroe County Consolidated Plans

The Consolidated Plan is the principal planning document for the CDBG, HOME, ESG, HPRP and HOPWA programs. The City of Rochester's Bureau of Business and Housing Development prepares the Plan for the City. Monroe County's Department of Planning and Development, Community Development Division (CD), develops the Plan for Suburban Monroe County. The process used to develop both plans involves extensive input from the community at-large, service providers, private sector and industry, housing developers and other governmental entities.

The Plans outline the strategic framework for community, economic and affordable housing development in the City and County. The needs of the homeless and other special needs populations are addressed in these Plans. Both City and County Plans include a specific section entitled "Homeless Continuum of Care Action Plan". Both the City's Bureau of Business and Housing Development and the County CD, are represented on the CoC Team. The City and County CoC representatives and other staff members of these two departments work with the Team to ensure that CoC strategies and priorities are consistent with the overall Plan, and that CoC priorities are appropriately reflected in the various annual Action Plans. Information gathered via the planning processes relative to homeless supportive services and housing needs, including homeless prevention, is shared on a regular basis with the CoC Team. This coordinated method of information sharing is critical to both the City and County's planning process of receiving a broad avenue of community expertise and input into the on-going development of the CoC system, Homeless CoC Strategic Plan and annual Action Plans.

The City of Rochester has been designated as a federal Renewal Community (RC). This designation replaces the Enterprise Zone/Enterprise Community (EC/EZ) designation. The RC initiative focuses on marshalling the support and commitments of key stakeholders in state and local governments and emphasizes forming alliances with businesses and local community-based organizations. This initiative provides a framework for state and local governments to offer incentives and other benefits for the facilitation of job development and retention. It is designed to help residents gain employment, succeed in their jobs and become economically self-sufficient. This area is primarily concentrated in the center of the city, moving outwards to the northeast, northwest and southwest quadrants. Many of the homeless services are located within the boundaries of the new RC. Planning for the homeless necessitates linkages between the CoC Team and the RC zones to effectively coordinate services.

G. Other Related Planning Efforts

Planning to meet the service needs of homeless subpopulation groups is conducted under the auspices of several entities in addition to the CoC Team:

- The Monroe County Office of Mental Health (MCOMH) - is responsible for planning to meet the needs of individuals with mental illness, alcoholism/substance abuse and mental

retardation/developmental disabilities. The MCOMH administers funding from the federal mental health and substance abuse block grant programs.

- The Rochester/Monroe County Youth Bureau (RMCYB) - is responsible for planning to meet the needs of children and youth in the community. RMCYB develops the Runaway and Homeless Youth Services Plan and the Integrated County Plan (a consolidated youth services plan developed in conjunction with the Division of Social Services).

- The Monroe County Department of Human Services (MCDHS) - plans and administers all public benefits programs in the county, including the TANF Block grant, Food Stamps, Medicaid, income supports/assistance, temporary/emergency housing, other entitlement programs, public health services, adult protective and child welfare services. MCDHS conducts a comprehensive community planning process that includes areas related to homeless prevention and homeless services. MCDHS is an active member of the board that governs Workforce Investment Act activities in this community.

- United Way of Greater Rochester (UW) - plans through its six community investment teams, including the newly established Building Community. UW has adopted community-wide outcomes and indicators that include decreasing rates of homelessness, decreased residential transience, increased frequency of suitable housing choices, adequacy of income, self-sufficiency through stable employment, and education and job skills.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Funding for the purchase of HMIS software, hardware, etc. was approved in the 2002 Super NOFA. The HMIS Coordinator was hired in January 2003 as a result of funding approved in the 2001 Super NOFA. The HMIS Coordinator and members of the CoC HMIS Sub-committee attended regional HMIS meetings to understand how other CoCs in this region are implementing HMIS and share information learned from software demos, etc. Software demos were conducted locally in 2003 and Bowman Systems was selected as the software for our HMIS system.

All HUD funded projects in the community participate in the HMIS system. With the exception of one program, non-HUD funded programs also participate, agreeing to share at least the minimal amount of data to be able to produce an unduplicated count of homeless in this community. The community's domestic violence shelter has continued to express interest in participating; however they have asked to be one of the last organizations to be added as they more fully explore the confidentiality issues regarding domestic violence victims.

The CoC has two active HMIS subcommittees:

Advisory Committee - composed of members of the CoC Team and technical advisor

Responsibilities:

- Finalizing policy on release of HMIS data to the public
- Ongoing oversight of HMIS system
- Develop and distribute annual Homelessness Report
- Act as mediator for unresolved issues between lead and user organization(s)
- Support lead agency as needed to ensure maximum participation in the HMIS
- Encourage community wide data sharing and maintain maximum participation
- Approval of major changes in policies/procedures or of the HMIS system itself
- Receive and review HMIS community-wide, unduplicated homeless data for planning and coordination of homeless housing and services
- Review data quality and HMIS reports monthly

- Review user agency participation and data quality information monthly
- Review HMIS policies and procedures annually
- Ensure that data is timely and accurate for both local reports and that data is submitted for preparation of CoC Super NOFA Exhibit 1, AHAR and the HPRP APR and QPR
- Initiate individual follow-up with programs to make certain that corrections are made and/or to identify any training issues, etc.

Accomplishments:

- Selection of HMIS Software
- Executed MOU with Catholic Family Center, lead agency
- Reviewed User Agency MOU, Release of Information Forms, Privacy/Confidentiality Policies, Policies and Procedures, etc.
- Incorporated the implementation of the City/County HPRP into HMIS

Implementation Team - composed of representatives from agency users to evolve into the ongoing HMIS User Group

Responsibilities:

- Develop definitions of terms and examples of questions to ask to improve accuracy and consistency of data input
- Encourage community wide data sharing and maintain maximum participation
- Once implementation completed, become the Agency User Committee

Accomplishments:

- Identified potential users and allocated number of licenses to organizations based on number and/or size of programs
- Developed customized community wide data fields other than those required by HUD
- Developed User Agency MOU, Release of Information Forms, Privacy and Confidentiality Policies, Policies and Procedures, etc.

2. Strategy for Eliminating Chronic Homelessness

Chronic homelessness in this community is most often the result of serious mental illness and/or chronic substance abuse. Mental illness is often the cause of inappropriate behaviors which, coupled with inability to comply with rules or program requirements, makes individuals inappropriate for placement in any existing shelter, as well as in more traditional mental health or substance abuse residential programs. These individuals are those who fall through the cracks of all mainstream services. As a result, the same group of chronic individuals frequently sleeps on the streets, are admitted to hospital emergency departments and become involved with the criminal justice system and other institutions. These individuals are often released back to the community with inadequate discharge plans. The strategies implemented are:

A. Outreach Efforts

There are several outreach components in the CoC system, including the City/County Outreach Team, which specifically targets the chronically homeless. The City/County Outreach Team goes out at night to parking garages, streets and abandoned subway tunnels to locate and engage homeless living on the streets. This team has been going out at least once a month for the past 3 years. The team is staffed by the pastor of a local church, police officers, the TANF Intake Coordinator for MCDHS, an MCDHS Emergency Housing Team, a member of the SNAP team (unit that provides ongoing case management) and a number of other homeless service providers. Team members were chosen because they held positions that would enable them to cut through processes to ensure that the homeless receive mainstream services immediately. Once individuals

have agreed to accept a hotel room for the night, they are given bus tokens to get to MCDHS Emergency Housing Unit to meet with the SNAP worker. The SNAP worker then assists the individual with accessing mainstream financial resources and begins to develop a relationship to assist them with accessing mainstream mental health and chemical dependency services.

In November 2009 expanded outreach efforts were implemented through the joint City/County Heading Home-HPRP to provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and to help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

B. Non-Traditional Case Management Services

The Homeless MICA project - funded by the Monroe County Office of Mental Health is staffed by an eligibility examiner employed by MCDHS, a mental health case manager/crisis therapist from Strong Memorial Hospital and a mental health case manager from the Rochester Mental Health Center. The eligibility examiner assists with securing entitlement benefits and locating permanent housing. The mental health case managers provide linkages to mental health services and provide follow up case management for 4 months to ensure the client remains engaged.

The SNAP Program - funded with TANF block grant dollars, was developed in 2001 to augment the Homeless MICA project because severely mentally ill individuals continued to live in places not fit for human habitation and were not receiving any mental health treatment. The SNAP project is based on the premise that the level of interaction to develop a trusting relationship had to be frequent and ongoing. For some individuals it takes long periods of time before they will accept any services. Once this level of trust is developed, it is important to remain connected with the individual. Once the individual is stabilized in housing and treatment the SNAP worker provides follow up case management to ensure the housing and mental health linkages remain in place.

The IMPACT Project (SAMHSA grant) is an intensive case management program of Unity Health Systems that targets chronically homeless with serious mental illness, dual diagnoses and chemical dependency issues. Case managers assist the chronic homeless with accessing mainstream treatment programs. The IMPACT Project in partnership with the Rochester Housing Authority was awarded a Shelter Plus Care grant (50 certificates) in the 2003 Super NOFA that enhance this program by providing participants with affordable permanent housing.

C. Jail Transition Services

Transition case management services have been established by the Monroe County Office of Mental Health (MCOMH) at the County jail to link persons with mental illness with community services upon release from jail. Case management services are provided to individuals while they are still incarcerated, assisting with developing and implementing discharge plans. The MCOMH also administers the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program, which allows for the court to be petitioned for involuntary outpatient services for individuals with mental illness who meet certain criteria, including danger to self or others and have historically been, and are likely to continue to be non-compliant with treatment. Mechanisms have been developed for the transition team to refer individuals to the MCDHHS to assist them in accessing entitlements, including cash, Medicaid and Food Stamps, in an expeditious manner.

Medication Grants Program – serves individuals with mental illness who are being released from the Monroe County jail and are in need of continuing medications for their psychiatric illness. This program provides short-term funding for psychiatric medications and related medication monitoring services to bridge any gap between jail release and activation of their temporary assistance benefits.

There was a slight increase in the number of chronically homeless individuals 2010 (89). The CoC believes that the reduction in the number of chronically homeless individuals from 2004 to 2009, and the moderate increase that occurred between 2009 to 2010, may be due to our success in moving homeless individuals into permanent, supportive housing programs through the existing Shelter Plus Programs. There is a high retention rate of participants, which reduces the number of chronic homeless in the shelter system and prevents those who have had less than four episodes of homelessness from becoming homeless again so they do not meet the definition of chronic homelessness.

Obstacles to Reaching the Goal of Ending Chronic Homelessness within 10 Years

- The largest gap in meeting the needs of the chronic homeless, as well as the homeless in general continues to be the need for additional permanent, affordable housing with support services. The CoC Team and HSN will continue its ongoing efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units in this community.
- The community is beginning its seventh year of dialogue on the need for the expanded development of low demand permanent housing. We are currently reassessing the existing community 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness, which includes this type of housing to be successful. Education of both service providers and the community in general is on-going to facilitate the development of such housing. Staff from CD and MCDHS are active members of this subcommittee.
- The Homeless Persons Needs Surveys conducted in 2003 and 2004 indicated that a significant number of homeless stayed in abandoned houses and buildings. This data was supported by information from the City of Rochester who frequently discovers evidence that people had been staying in vacant properties that have been opened to be shown for auctions or other development programs. Thus far, we have not developed a successful outreach model that could identify those properties to be able to direct the persons found to the appropriate services.

Current Chronic Homelessness Strategy

- The CoC continues to work toward opening a Safe Haven. This project will be a gateway to the homeless continuum of care services by engaging the chronic homeless in a non-threatening manner to help chronically homeless to access mainstream services. The Safe Haven program is located in the Salvation Army's former emergency shelter for women. Because the site was already operating as a shelter there were no zoning issues with the location. Funds from the 2001 NOFA were used for site renovation. The Salvation Army operates the Safe Haven and an adjoining Homeless Drop-In Center, which provides the support services for the participants in the Safe Haven project. A drop-in center has been another longstanding community priority. The Salvation Army, Veterans Administration, veteran's organizations, formerly homeless, Volunteers of America and the IMPACT Project developed a community model for a downtown 24 hour homeless drop-in center that provides comprehensive support services and basic needs.
- VIA Health, in partnership with several community partners, used a SAMHSA grant to improve access to mainstream mental health and/or substance abuse services. The project targets the chronically homeless and older homeless youth; providing outreach services, a peer counseling component, mental health and substance abuse services. Monroe County Legal Assistance provides legal services as needed to assist participants with accessing appropriate entitlement benefits.
- The CoC Team continues to monitor the CoC system to ensure that the chronically homeless are accessing mainstream financial entitlements and mainstream service providers in a timely manner.

3. Homelessness Prevention Strategy

Below are the CoC's past accomplishments that successfully addressed the community's other homeless goals:

The CoC has reached the threshold of 77% of permanent supportive housing (PSH) participants. For 2008 - 88% of PSH participants remained in permanent housing for at least six months and continued to monitor the performance of our PSH projects quarterly to ensure that participants remained stable in housing. The local HPRP initiative (Heading Home) has provided new homeless prevention resources in the community for housing relocation and stabilization, including the provision of outreach services, case management services and financial assistance in order to address barriers to securing and maintaining permanent housing.

- As funds allow, the County will allocate CDBG and ESG funds to housing counseling programs that also benefit the homeless and at-risk population

In addition, refer to the chart entitled Other CoC Goals and Specific Action Steps to Address Homelessness, included in the Appendix.

4. Institutional Structure to Carry Out Homelessness Strategy

Monroe County and New York State Agencies assisting the homeless population include: the Monroe County Office of Mental Health; the NYS Office of Mental Health; the NYS Office of Children and Family Services; the NYS Division for Youth and the Rochester/Monroe County Youth Bureau.

City of Rochester Homeless Programs and Resources

- Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program - The City of Rochester and Monroe County provide funding under the Emergency Shelter Grant Program to assist agencies in providing a variety of emergency and transitional shelter, reception, homeless prevention and health care programs. The specific use of these funds will be determined by annual Requests for Proposals.

- Persons with HIV/AIDS - Funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) is provided to the City of Rochester. Housing assistance and services under the program are limited to low income persons with AIDS or related diseases and their families, but housing information services are available to persons with AIDS and their families without regard to income. Funds may be used for all types of housing designed to prevent homelessness for persons with AIDS and their families, including emergency housing, shared housing arrangements, apartments, single room occupancy dwellings and community residences. Appropriate support services must be provided in connection with HOPWA housing assistance. HOPWA funds can also be used to provide services only.

The City of Rochester administers HOPWA formula funds for the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area that includes the City of Rochester, Monroe and its five contiguous counties. During the current year, HOPWA funds will provide long term rental subsidies, emergency rental, utility assistance and transportation.

Case management and advocacy coupled with supportive services will be dedicated to those receiving HOPWA funds. Supportive services include transportation, nutrition and meal programs, mental health therapy and socialization and recreational programs.

Supplemental Homeless Programs and Resources

The Rochester/Monroe County homeless service delivery system has been successful in coordinating/integrating services administered by the City and County as well as with other mainstream programs listed in the Homeless Inventory section.

Other coordination efforts referenced in the Homeless Inventory section include the list of emergency housing facilities under contract with MCDHS that are described in the MCDHS Housing/Homeless Services report included in the Appendix.

In addition, MCDHS coordinates with many state and local agencies, public housing authorities, non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, housing developers, nonprofit organizations and medical facilities that are described in the sections entitled Institutional Structure and Homeless Strategic Plan.

5. Discharge Coordination Policy

Monroe County does not have a significant problem with youth exiting foster care and residential facilities being discharged with no housing in place. Each of the youth shelters tracks the number of youth who have been previously in foster care services and in other residential placements. When a concern arises regarding inappropriate or lack of planning, it is addressed on an individual basis. The Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Services Coordinator is a member of the CoC Team, the Homeless Services Network and conducts monthly RHY provider meetings with DHS and youth service providers. There is a clear understanding that a youth shelter/homeless shelter is not an adequate discharge plan.

Several providers in our CoC including Hunter House, Jennifer House, the YWCA, Volunteers of America and the Salvation Army have contracts with New York State Parole to provide housing upon release from state prisons for men and women who are unable to secure housing before their release. The result has been better coordination of discharge planning for those being released and coming to the Rochester community. These providers, as well as the Monroe County Office of Mental Health, go into the Monroe County Jail to assist inmates with planning for their release. The MCOMH Transition Case Managers assist individuals with mental illness in linking with services in the community and with continuation of any necessary medications following release from jail.

The MCOMH also works with local inpatient psychiatric units and the Rochester Psychiatric Center, an intermediate care facility, to ensure that appropriate discharge plans are developed for individuals leaving these institutions. A Single Point of Accessibility (SPOA) for mental health case management and housing services is in place. The SPOA is targeted to high need/high risk individuals with mental illness, many of whom are chronically homeless and high users of emergency and inpatient services. Referrals are routinely made to the SPOA as part of the discharge planning process.

As stated in our chronic homeless goals, the Homeless Services Network works with local hospital emergency rooms to develop discharge protocols for those being released to shelters. The Special Needs Population Committee will now begin working with other institutions such as inpatient rehab programs and other residential programs to develop similar protocols for discharge.

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan ESG response:

N/A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development (91.215 (e))

*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook

1. Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), – i.e., public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.
2. Describe the basis for assigning the priority given to each category of priority needs.
3. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs.
4. Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

NOTE: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Community Development response:

1. Priority Non-Housing Community Development Needs

Monroe County's non-housing Community Development needs support the overall Strategic Plan goals: repair and conserve existing housing stock; develop affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for all low to moderate-income residents; improve access to and quality of public facilities; provide essential utility infrastructure in lower income areas; provide essential public services, particularly those that promote homeownership, fair housing and housing stability; provide job training and economic development opportunities for low to moderate-income persons and persons with special needs; and revitalize deteriorated neighborhoods.

By eligibility category, Monroe County's priority community development needs are as follows:

Public Facilities and Improvements - general (03); senior centers (03A); neighborhood facilities (03E); parks and recreation facilities (03F); parking facilities (03G); flood drain improvements (03I); water/sewer improvements (03J); street improvements (03K); sidewalks (03L)

Depending upon available resources, CD expects to undertake fifteen to twenty projects in this category annually for the next five years.

Housing - construction of housing (12); direct homeownership assistance (13); rehab single-unit residential (14A); rehab multi-unit residential (14B); rehabilitation administration (14H); lead-based paint/lead hazard testing (14I)

Projects in this category include the First-Time Homebuyer Program, Home Improvement Program and Affordable Rental Housing Development. Each of these program areas is detailed fully in the Housing section.

Public Services - general (05); senior services (05A); fair housing activities (05J); tenant/landlord counseling (05K); housing counseling (05U)

Projects in this category include the Home Ownership Program, Safety and Security for Seniors Program, Expanding Housing Opportunities by The Housing Council, and Foreclosure Prevention and HECM Counseling, also by The Housing Council.

Neighborhood Revitalization – Rehab publicly or privately owned commercial/industrial (14E); non-residential historic preservation (16B)

CD expects to fund one or two projects in this category annually for the next five years.

Economic Development - ED direct financial assistance (18A)

Projects in this category include the ED Grant and Loan Fund, which creates and retains local jobs for low to moderate-income persons.

2. Basis for Assigning Priority

Monroe County defines, analyzes and assigns priority to community needs using many methods to retrieve data from reliable sources and input from the community as a whole. These factors help CD determine the priority of a project -- absolute need, relative need, availability of other funds, local preference and spending cap by category.

Census Tract Data and the Quartile Ranking of Low/Mod Income Persons have been compiled by HUD. Neighborhoods targeted for public improvements are located in eligible census tracts and block groups where the highest percentages of low/mod income residents are located. These statistics geographically define a concentration of residents in need of programs and services.

CD staff works closely with several County Departments that provide health and human services. These partnerships provide valuable assistance in identifying the needs of County residents.

Consultation with primary community agencies helps to identify local trends, gaps in services and needs of special population groups, including senior citizens, persons with special needs and homeless persons.

The Steering Committee continues to help shape the community development needs analysis through the input of municipal members at semi-annual meetings. Local preference continues to be a very strong determining factor in assigning priority.

Public commentary, provided by County citizens through the Citizen Participation Process, provides valuable insight into community needs. Many public suggestions are incorporated into Monroe County's needs analysis, Strategic Plan, and funded in the Action Plan.

Staff participation on local committees and boards involved in public service issues provides added input on community needs as well as an opportunity to merge resources for programs that meet identified needs. Involvement on the Homeless CoC Team, Greater Rochester Housing Partnership Board and the United Way Building Community Impact Team are a few examples of community participation that have been beneficial in this regard.

Monroe County will not reject applications for funding solely because the project may be of low priority. Low priority activities will be considered for funding, provided the request is for an eligible activity.

3. Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs

As previously stated, the greatest challenge to meeting underserved needs is limited funding resources. More applicants are seeking community development funds than ever before, creating increased competition.

4. Long and Short-Term Objectives

Strategies to address the CD objective of providing decent housing:

Over the next five years, the Home Improvement Program (HIP) will continue services to suburban residents. This program helps low to moderate-income residents finance home repairs to correct serious housing deficiencies. In 2009, CD took steps to expand the program by adopting a new policy to adjust the HIP grant guidelines to provide rehab grants to homeowners with incomes at or below 80%. Grant limits were also increased from \$7,500 to \$10,000 per project, and projects exceeding \$10,000 are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Program requirements for disability grants have not changed. Households with a disabled member with incomes at or below 80% AMI are eligible for a grant of up to \$2,500 for accessibility improvements.

Also key to providing decent housing is the Homeownership Program and direct subsidy available through the First-Time Homebuyer Program, which helps low to moderate-income families access the housing market and improves their overall living conditions. The development of affordable rental housing also assists in this endeavor by providing high quality, affordable rental units for the elderly, families and persons with disabilities.

Strategies to address the objective of providing a suitable living environment:

Improve the safety and livability of neighborhoods by providing utility infrastructure and neighborhood improvements in low/mod income areas. The strategies consist of utilizing CDBG funds for municipal public works projects. Municipalities continue to list new construction or replacement of utility infrastructure as a priority because of the age and deteriorated condition of sidewalks, sanitary sewers, waterlines and drainage utilities.

Essential public services are necessary to provide a suitable living environment, particularly for low to moderate-income families, seniors and disabled persons. Strategies include providing quality services with fewer consolidated plan dollars and within the 15% funding threshold for public services. In the next five years, projects will focus on housing assistance and activities that are not funded by other entities. Projects that rank high must improve quality of life issues and foster self-sufficiency, housing stability and independence for low income, elderly and disabled populations. Monroe County will work closely with traditional service providers to promote services and emphasize community needs, particularly for population groups expected to increase in the next five years. This provides a comprehensive understanding of the availability of local programs within the community, enabling the referral of clients in need of services.

In order to increase access to quality public and private facilities and services, Monroe County will provide more ADA improvements at public parks, municipal buildings and senior centers. Consortium members continue to prioritize the need for ADA projects because the elderly, mobility impaired and disabled populations increased substantially in the past decade and many facilities need further accommodations. Municipalities consistently request projects to retrofit public facilities with entrance ramps, automatic entrance doors, elevator and lift equipment, and accessible restrooms.

By restoring and preserving properties of special historic value, all Monroe County residents can continue to enjoy many popular community attractions in historic districts throughout the City of

Rochester and Monroe County. Public and privately owned historic structures in use as municipal buildings and facilities need rehabilitation in keeping with their historic significance.

Strategies to expanded economic opportunities address the priority needs for adequate resources and incentives for business retention, start-up, expansion and relocation necessary to encourage new jobs and protect existing jobs for low to moderate-income workers.

The most effective business development strategy is to utilize the resources of the CDBG Program to support the Economic Development Grant and Loan Fund and the merging of additional private and public sector resources in the next five years. The fund provides low-interest loans or grants to local companies for equipment acquisition, infrastructure and leasehold improvements, real estate and working capital activities involved in business start-ups, expansions and relocations. Funds are combined with other public resources to leverage private capital investments, including the CDBG Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority, COMIDA, New York State's Urban Development Corporation and the SBA 504 Program. County initiatives not funded by CDBG are utilized in combination with the ED fund, including the GreatRate Interest Subsidy Program, Great Rebate Program, EquiPlus Program, Monroe Manufacturing Rewards Program, Monroe Manufactures Jobs Program, PTAC, the Empire Zone Program, Jobs Plus Property Tax Abatement Program and incentives offered by the Monroe County Foreign Trade Zone.

Antipoverty Strategy (91.215 (h))

1. Describe the jurisdiction's goals, programs, and policies for reducing the number of poverty level families (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually). In consultation with other appropriate public and private agencies, (i.e. TANF agency) state how the jurisdiction's goals, programs, and policies for producing and preserving affordable housing set forth in the housing component of the consolidated plan will be coordinated with other programs and services for which the jurisdiction is responsible.
2. Identify the extent to which this strategy will reduce (or assist in reducing) the number of poverty level families, taking into consideration factors over which the jurisdiction has control.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Antipoverty Strategy response:

1. Goals, Programs and Policies for Reducing Number of Poverty Level Families

In suburban Monroe County, over 145,000 residents (nearly 30%) are low to moderate-income and 25,000 residents (nearly 5%) are below the poverty level. The towns of Brighton, East Rochester, Gates, Hamlin, Henrietta, Irondequoit and Sweden have poverty rates that exceed 5%.

MCDHS is the primary provider of social services assistance in Monroe County and as such has the greatest opportunity to reduce the number of poverty level families. CD will continue to coordinate programs and services with DHS, Office for the Aging, Office of Mental Health and the Rochester/Monroe County Youth Bureau and partner with them on the Homeless CoC Team.

The County's strategies focus on economic revitalization, job creation and retention, enhanced workforce development, and increased affordable housing options for all low income groups. The following efforts support these strategies and help reduce poverty.

County initiatives have provided improved social services, restructured economic development efforts, created more job centers, and now offer a prescription drug discount plan to all residents. County social services provide public assistance and other services to children, families, youth, aging adults and disabled residents. These include the Welfare to Work programs and housing services for emergency, supportive and permanent housing.

County job training and development is coordinated through Rochester Works, Inc. and its workforce development grants to provide employment services. County ED incentives are provided by COMIDA, and other programs that offer interest subsidies, rebates, property tax abatements and Empire Zone tax credits. The County's Local Labor Employment Policy offers incentives to companies that hire local workers and purchase equipment locally.

CDBG funds assist home owners and prevent homelessness through programs and services that stabilize living conditions by providing housing rehabilitation for low-mod home owners; credit repair counseling, mortgage relief and foreclosure prevention assistance; subsidies for first-time homebuyers, and supportive homeless assistance through Exhibit 1 of the CoC. The Economic Development Grant & Loan Fund and its Section 108 Loan Guarantee component are the primary business incentive tools to businesses that create and retain jobs for low-mod residents. ED grants are also used to purchase adaptive manufacturing equipment for facilities that employ disabled persons. Preference requirements applied through the Section 3 Program also help keep local workers employed.

Coordination of housing plan goals with County programs and services:

Strategies to reduce poverty include improving housing conditions and preserving housing stock, reducing costs for rental housing and development of additional units, increasing home ownership opportunities and providing homeless housing (emergency, transitional and permanent) with supportive services, access to public assistance benefits and full-time employment.

The Home Improvement Program improves housing conditions and preserves housing stock by providing substantial repairs to homes owned by low-mod income residents, thereby allowing them to remain in their homes and preventing homelessness. Public services provided by The Housing Council, such as tenant/landlord counseling and foreclosure prevention counseling also help in this regard. Lifespan's program for low-mod seniors provides minor home repairs and trains residents in home safety and security techniques, thereby enabling elderly persons to remain in their homes.

Home ownership opportunities are increased through subsidies to first-time homebuyers for down payments, closing costs and principal reduction.

2. Extent to which Strategies will Reduce Number of Poverty Level Families

CD strategies and programs contribute to reducing the overall number of poverty level families by stabilizing their living and financial conditions. Supportive housing services and essential public services help poverty level families improve self-sufficiency. While no government agency can control the life choices of program recipients, our combination of programs offer an array of educational and financial tools and services that improve living conditions, housing availability and employment opportunities, essential building blocks to enhance the life opportunities of low and moderate-income Monroe County residents.

Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Coordination (91.315 (k))

1. (States only) Describe the strategy to coordinate the Low-income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) with the development of housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income families.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan LIHTC Coordination response:

N/A

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS

Specific Special Needs Objectives (91.215)

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve over a specified time period.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the strategic plan.

3-5 Year Non-homeless Special Needs Analysis response:

1. Priorities and Objectives

Data available for the development of the Strategic Plan indicates that the need for affordable housing with supportive services for the elderly, frail elderly and disabled will continue to grow over the next five years. The County remains committed to facilitate the expansion of affordable supportive housing opportunities for elderly, frail elderly and persons with disabilities.

In addition to affordable rental housing development, it is important to provide the appropriate services and programs so that elderly and disabled home owners can age in place in their homes. The Home Improvement Program, which provides housing rehabilitation improvements and accessibility accommodations, supports this goal. Lifespan's Safety and Security for Seniors program makes minor accessibility improvements and trains seniors in home safety, thereby increasing the likelihood that seniors will be able to remain independent. Housing counseling, particularly in the areas of foreclosure prevention, reverse mortgages and predatory lending also provide home owners, including seniors, with the information they need to remain financially independent.

2. Resources to Address Needs

Federal, State and local public and private sector resources described in the Coordination of Housing Strategic Plan of the Specific Housing Objectives section, that are reasonably expected to be available, will be used to address identified needs for the five years covered by the Strategic Plan. CDBG-funded public services for special needs populations are subject to the 15% cap, and are therefore very limited.

Non-homeless Special Needs (91.205 (d) and 91.210 (d)) Analysis (including HOPWA)

*Please also refer to the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Estimate, to the extent practicable, the number of persons in various subpopulations that are not homeless but may require housing or supportive services, including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families), persons with alcohol or other drug addiction, victims of domestic violence, and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify and describe their supportive housing needs. The jurisdiction can use the Non-Homeless Special Needs Table (formerly Table 1B) of their Consolidated Plan to help identify these needs.

*Note: HOPWA recipients must identify the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families that will be served in the metropolitan area.

2. Identify the priority housing and supportive service needs of persons who are not homeless but may or may not require supportive housing, i.e., elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities

(mental, physical, developmental, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families), persons with alcohol or other drug addiction by using the Non-homeless Special Needs Table.

3. Describe the basis for assigning the priority given to each category of priority needs.
4. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs.
5. To the extent information is available, describe the facilities and services that assist persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, and programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing.
6. If the jurisdiction plans to use HOME or other tenant based rental assistance to assist one or more of these subpopulations, it must justify the need for such assistance in the plan.

3-5 Year Non-homeless Special Needs Analysis response:

1. Estimate of Non-Homeless Special Needs

Affordable Housing Needs of Elderly and Special Needs Persons

- According to U.S. Census data, the number of persons age 75+ and 85+ in suburban Monroe County grew dramatically from 1990 to 2000:
 - Persons age 75+ increased by 13,167 (55%), from 24,159 to 37,326
 - Persons age 85+ increased by 3,858 (65%), from 5,971 to 9,829
- In 2000 there were 49,311 Monroe County residents that were 75 or older.
- The proportion of seniors living in Monroe County who live outside the City of Rochester increased from 1990 to 2000. In 2000, 76% of persons age 75+ in 2000 lived outside the City of Rochester, an increase from 64% in 1990.

We expect that the 2010 Census will confirm continuing trends illustrated above.

- According to the County's "Aging Well" Report, the number of available housing units for older adults is currently not increasing at a rate fast enough to meet the anticipated market demands.

Persons with Disabilities

A person with a disability is anyone who indicated on their census form that they or a member of their household has, "a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition." Various charts describing types and percentage of disability population by municipality; demographic charts detailing the poverty status of the disabled population and the Finger Lakes DDSO demographic data waiting list are located in the Appendix.

Persons with Mental Illness

- According to the Monroe County/CCSI Behavioral Health Community Database, there were 34,275 unduplicated individuals served by the public mental health system in Monroe County during 2004.
- Other special populations that are increasing in our community are individuals with severe mental illness and a criminal history. These individuals are in the community with very little structure because our traditional residential services cannot meet their needs.
- Gap in Housing Units Needed for Persons with Severe Mental Illness – Much more is needed than currently exists for this population. There is also a need to offer the high risk/need individual with "special circumstances" safe and affordable residential services, which would include increased staff and supervision as well as tolerance. Many individuals with severe mental illness cannot

follow through with traditional rules and expectations, yet still need the support of supervised living.

- Persons with Severe Mental Illness in Need of Supportive Services - In 2004, Single Point of Access (SPOA) received 640 referrals for supportive services for persons with severe mental illness, of which 631 met criteria.
- Supportive Services Currently Available for Persons with Severe Mental Illness
 - Intensive Case Management (ICM) in Monroe County: (444 slots)
 - Supportive Case Management (SCM) in Monroe County: (820 slots)
 - DePaul SCM: (90 slots)
 - Assertive Community Treatment (ACT): (48 slots)

Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse Individuals

- Reports provided by MCOMH indicate that the chemical dependency population consists of 68,497 individuals (ages 19+) and 10,177 individuals (ages 12-17).
- 20% of the total alcohol/drug addicted individuals are expected to be in need of and present for outpatient treatments. The current outpatient capacity to provide supportive services equates to 252,975 visits, a gap of 12,034
- Currently there is a need for 101 community residential beds and 1,133 residential treatment beds on a regional basis for a total need of 1,577 licensed housing beds, a gap of 1,234.
- There are also a number of special populations of individuals with chemical dependency for whom there are barriers to finding appropriate residential services, including Individuals with MICA diagnosis, individuals in the criminal justice system and non-English speakers.

2. Priority Housing Needs of Non-Homeless Special Needs

Elderly Households

Elderly and/or frail elderly persons are in need of various types and levels of affordable, supportive housing opportunities. Challenging factors include the following:

- Ability to function independently and/or with supportive services
- Level of care and comprehensive medical and living support required
- Limited ability to pay for required housing choice and supportive services
- Limited availability of affordable supportive housing opportunities

Persons with Disabilities

Additional funds are needed to serve the high physical needs of individuals who are aging out of facilities such as Mary Cariola Children's Center. NYS-Cares funds do not provide enough capital to buy, renovate or build appropriate housing. Funds are needed to develop Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) projects.

Persons with Mental Illness

- Specialized housing promoting recovery-oriented services that provide structure with additional experienced staff is needed.
- Housing for all clients with mental illness remains a serious service gap.

Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse Individuals

- Additional housing options for individuals with chemical dependency remain a need in the community. Access to safe, decent, affordable housing for individuals and families is an important

aspect to assisting individuals to remain in recovery. There is a substantial lack of community residential and supportive living apartments for this population.

This population has substantial need for:

- Rental Assistance (i.e. Section 8 Program)
- Licensed community residential beds at all levels
- Residential options (licensed and non-licensed with case management support) for

individuals with co-occurring mental illness and chemical dependency

3. Assigning Priority

The basis for assigning the priority given to each category of needs was determined by the high demand, complexity and necessity to serve our community's special needs populations, and the beneficial impact on individuals served and the community as a whole. Existing resources that are available to address the various housing and supportive service needs continue to be limited and future projections are uncertain.

Persons with Mental Illness

- Although various sources of funding have been utilized to develop alternative housing options, the need continues to be much greater than existing housing resources. Persons with mental illness continue to need access to affordable housing with supportive services. Flexible, individualized support services are necessary to support and sustain individuals in their housing.

Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse Individuals

- Many individuals with chemical dependency double up or move from house to house, as they may: have no income, be unemployed and/or be sanctioned from social services subsidies.

- Affordable and safe housing remains the number one need for individuals with chemical dependency

Persons with Mental Illness

- Obtaining safe and affordable housing remains problematic, especially for persons with mental illness who may have been excluded from group homes, apartment programs or have failed at independent living.

- Persons with mental illness may not meet admission criteria, or residential staff may not tolerate their problematic behaviors.

- The ability to secure housing directly affects a MICA consumer's tenure. For years a number of attempts have been made to service MICA consumers, yet to a large degree this population remains underserved, consuming vital resources.

- Many severely mentally ill have 'burned their bridges' with landlords due to behavior related to their mental illness or the history of such behaviors.

Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse Individuals

- Individuals who have completed stays in licensed residential programs are in the beginning stages of self-sufficiency and may be working at low wage jobs, limiting their ability to find affordable, safe housing. This may mean the return to drug-infested neighborhoods that are dangerous and alluring to their own addictions, contributing to relapse and inability to maintain sobriety.

- Increases in rents and utility costs are a major barrier to affordable housing.

5. Facilities and Services Available

Housing Units Currently Available for Persons w/Severe Mental Illness (Information for 2004):

DePaul: Treatment Apartment Program: 91 beds
Group Homes: 70 Beds
Specialty Group Home Beds: 32 MICA Beds
Specialty Group Home Beds: 223 Specialty Group Home Beds
Supported Housing: 139 supported housing beds

East House: 54 Treatment Apt. Beds
Group Home: 57 Beds
Specialty Group Home: 85 beds
Supported Housing: 304 Beds
Community Place: 5 Supported Housing Beds

Ibero: 5 Supported Housing Beds

Rochester Psychiatric Center: 130 beds

Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse Individuals

- The licensed residential system admits about 900 persons per year. A total of 7,667 persons are admitted to outpatient services annually. The licensed residential capacity is significantly under that of the population receiving support, as it is assumed that most of the population resides in the community and is in need of affordable housing.

6. Need for HOME Assistance

The County annually plans to utilize HOME funds to assist one or more special needs populations, primarily the elderly and disabled, pursuant to the reasons described above and identified in the Special Needs Table.

Various community service providers of non-homeless special needs populations repeatedly advise the County of the growing need and increasing difficulty to adequately provide affordable supportive housing opportunities. In an effort to address the needs of this growing population, the County will continue to establish the provision of special needs supportive housing as a priority for persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing. Such populations include elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental, persons with alcohol or other drug addiction per the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in this Plan).

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)

1. The Plan includes a description of the activities to be undertaken with its HOPWA Program funds to address priority unmet housing needs for the eligible population. Activities will assist persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, such as efforts to prevent low-income individuals and families from becoming homeless and may address the housing needs of persons who are homeless in order to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. The plan would identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs and summarize the priorities and specific objectives, describing how funds made available will be used to address identified needs.
2. The Plan must establish annual HOPWA output goals for the planned number of households to be assisted during the year in: (1) short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to avoid homelessness; (2) rental assistance programs; and (3) in housing facilities, such as community

residences and SRO dwellings, where funds are used to develop and/or operate these facilities. The plan can also describe the special features or needs being addressed, such as support for persons who are homeless or chronically homeless. These outputs are to be used in connection with an assessment of client outcomes for achieving housing stability, reduced risks of homelessness and improved access to care.

3. For housing facility projects being developed, a target date for the completion of each development activity must be included and information on the continued use of these units for the eligible population based on their stewardship requirements (e.g. within the ten-year use periods for projects involving acquisition, new construction or substantial rehabilitation).
4. The Plan includes an explanation of how the funds will be allocated including a description of the geographic area in which assistance will be directed and the rationale for these geographic allocations and priorities. Include the name of each project sponsor, the zip code for the primary area(s) of planned activities, amounts committed to that sponsor, and whether the sponsor is a faith-based and/or grassroots organization.
5. The Plan describes the role of the lead jurisdiction in the eligible metropolitan statistical area (EMSA), involving (a) consultation to develop a metropolitan-wide strategy for addressing the needs of persons with HIV/AIDS and their families living throughout the EMSA with the other jurisdictions within the EMSA; (b) the standards and procedures to be used to monitor HOPWA Program activities in order to ensure compliance by project sponsors of the requirements of the program.
6. The Plan includes the certifications relevant to the HOPWA Program.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan HOPWA response:

N/A

Specific HOPWA Objectives

1. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the strategic plan.

3-5 Year Specific HOPWA Objectives response:

N/A

OTHER NARRATIVE

Include any Strategic Plan information that was not covered by a narrative in any other section.