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Consolidated Annual Performance Report
2021-2022
Department of Grants

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CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

91.520(a)

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

St. Tammany Parish Government is an entitlement jurisdiction, receiving an annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a recipient of CDBG funds, St. Tammany Parish is required to prepare a five-year strategic plan that identifies housing and community needs, prioritizes these needs, identifies resources to address the needs, and establishes annual goals and objectives to meet the identified needs. The five-year plan is known as the Consolidated Plan. The purpose of the Consolidated Plan is to outline a strategy for the Parish to follow in using CDBG funding to achieve the goals of the CDBG program, *“to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low-and moderate-income persons.”* The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) addresses the goals identified in the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan which was approved in August of 2018.

Each year the Parish is required to provide the public and HUD with an assessment of its accomplishments toward meeting the priority goals outlined in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. This annual assessment is known as the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). This document provides a review and evaluation of St. Tammany Parish’s progress toward meeting the annual goals and outcomes as outlined in the Action Plan for the Program Year 2020-2021 as well as the larger five-year goals of the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan.

For St. Tammany Parish’s Community Development Block Grant Program, achieving strategic and action plan goals is largely dependent upon awardees successfully carrying out eligible activities.

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

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

Goal	Category	Source/ Amount	Indicator	Unit of measure	Expected	Actual	Percent Complete
Residential Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG FY18*Funding from 2017: \$150,000	Homeowner Rehabilitation	Sewer Units	20	5	80%

Goal	Category	Source/ Amount	Indicator	Unit of measure	Expected	Actual	Percent Complete
Residential Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$100,000	Homeowner Rehabilitation	Sewer Units	12	0	-
Homeless Prevention-Public Service	Homeless Prevention-Mental Illness	CDBG: \$44,137.00	Supportive Housing - mental illness	Housing Units	15	15	100%
Homeless Prevention -Public Service	Homeless Prevention-Mental Illness	CDBG: \$44,138.00	Public service activities	Households Assisted	60	37	4.38%
Homeownership Center	Affordable Housing-Counseling	CDBG: \$100,000	Public service activities	Households Assisted	8 families	163 individuals	100%
Administration	Planning	CDBG: \$251,034.00	Planning	NA	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

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

For program year 2020-2021, strategic decisions were made to accommodate funding allotment from the previous program years 2019-2020. Due to the failed tax renewals and staff reduction throughout the Parish, a halt was brought to all rehabilitation programs until the required staff compliance was fulfilled. However, we are in the process of exhausting CDBG funds from program years: 2017, 2018, and the current year. Funds were distributed based on past program efficiency with the goals of alleviating issues of homelessness, lack of affordable housing, and elimination of poverty. Public Services activities offered direct services to the parish’s LMI population. These services include the St. Tammany Transit (STAR) Voucher Program, Family Promise Family Stabilization Program, NAMI St. Tammany Day Program, St. Tammany Homeownership Center, Residential Rehab, Sewer Repair, and Housing and Homeless Assistance.

Successful collaborations with external programs and grants provide opportunities for leveraging other community resources. LMI homeowners received minor home repairs by leveraging CDBG funding. Tangible results in the areas of neighborhood stabilization and economic development are fundamental for a community’s growth potential and create the foundation for sustainable resiliency to weather the fluctuations in population, economic downturns, and changes in public policy.

Long range planning efforts led to the formulation of a strategy to mitigate water quality issues. CDBG investments were ear-marked to support four new water and sewer infrastructure projects. A targeted short-term strategy, the Sewer Repair/Replacement Program, identified LMI households possessing non-compliant wastewater discharge systems. These repairs positively impacted the quality of the discharge water, contribute to a cleaner environment, and improve the quality of life and public health. The CDBG program can report the number of successful activities which provide services to repeat clients

demonstrating the need for such services in the community.

In 2019, CDBG funds were allocated to Safe Haven for land acquisition, to purchase Cardinal Cove. Safe Haven is a place where all people living with mental illness or substance use disorders, can come to be assessed, locate services, and ultimately receive the care they need based on their behavioral health journey. The benefit of this project was to gain facility space that is appropriate for a residential program, which allows the Parish to address housing needs. The facility will provide housing, composed of 24-bedrooms, a common area, and offices. These CDBG investments have resulted in decent and safe living conditions for the chronically disabled persons residing on the parish’s Safe Haven Campus.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

St. Tammany Parish does not receive HOME or HOPWA funds.

	CDBG
White	123
Black or African American	76
Asian	0
American Indian or American Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Other	2
Total	201
Hispanic	4
Not Hispanic	201

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

Narrative

St. Tammany Parish does not fund any organization based on race. All funding is not allocated to one demographic, the funding, however must be used for persons with low-to-moderate income. Funding organizations were asked to report to staff the number of the clients served based on HUD's definition of clients race and ethnicity monthly. The table provided by the CAPER is a not comprehensive list of the data gathered due to staff exhausting funds from previous program years. Staff has included a table that represents the reporting from the organizations and the residents served across all St. Tammany Parish during the program years of 2021-2022.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Expected Amount Available 2021-2022	Actual Amount Expended Program Year 2021-2022
CDBG	Public - Federal	\$1,255,172	\$
ESG	Public -State	\$84,758	\$36,198.75

Continuum of Care	Public - Federal	\$79,719.69	\$50,852.31
FTA	Public - Federal	\$1,740,455.68	\$1,740,455.68
LIHEAP	Public - State	\$1,216,455	\$1,064,827.97

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The Parish’s Community Action Agency administers the CSBG, LIHEAP, and ESG programs. The St. Tammany Transit LMI voucher program is administered by the Grants Departments. The Department of Grants also administered numerous CDBG-DR projects that were funded through the HUD-DR office and the Louisiana Office of Community Development Disaster Recover Unit. These projects included the construction of an Emergency Communications Tower, public fishing pier, drainage improvements, numerous sewer system improvement projects, and an affordable housing assistance program.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Parish-wide	100%	100%	

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

For program year 2021-2022, St. Tammany Parish distributed its CDBG Entitlement funds to organizations and residents living in all sections of the parish. Three public service programs were administered Habitat for Humanity-West, NAMI Day Peer, and NAMI Residential.

1. Mental health peer one on one counseling was provided to low income clients through NAMI St. Tammany’s Peer Program.
2. NAMI St. Tammany Resident program, provide supportive housing for homeless individuals with serious and persistent mental illness, over the span of the program, proved housing, case management, transportation and support to the 15 individuals living within 10 apartments.
3. Habitat for Humanity St Tammany West provided Homeownership and financial fitness classes to low – to moderate income clients in St Tammany Parish.
4. The Sewer Repair and Replacement activity offers maintenance, repairs, and full replacements for non-compliant septic systems throughout the parish.
5. The Home Rehabilitation Program provided repairs for LMI homeowners in the parish.

Building upon the recommendations of the 2014 Watershed study, CDBG investments were directed to environmental, engineering and design, and master planning services for water and sewer infrastructure projects. Two North Slidell area waterlines, Alton and Ben Thomas are currently in progress. A master planning consultant was hired for the Ben Thomas neighborhood near Slidell, on the east side of the parish needing infrastructure improvements. Design work for a community sewer project is pending final plan review.

A collaborative effort between the Departments of Grants was established to leverage CDBG & EPA funds for neighborhoods identified as major hot spots for non-source pollution. CDBG funds were allocated to repair and/or replace non-compliant septic systems with individual mechanical treatment systems in neighborhoods throughout the Parish.

In response to the behavioral health crisis, St. Tammany Parish seized the opportunity to revive the Southeast Louisiana Hospital site and create a new “Safe Haven” behavioral health campus. The Safe Haven Blue-Green Campus & Trails project is a Community Nonstructural Mitigation/Flood Risk Reduction and Public Services project that will enhance detention capabilities in a critical drainage area adjacent to Cane Bayou, protecting campus facilities from flood related damages; improving stormwater management on the campus; and providing increased greenspaces. The project, located in Mandeville, will divert stormwater into existing forested land, illustrating how a multi-phase development with existing infrastructure in vulnerable environments can be repurposed to benefit surrounding areas. The project aims to catalyze development that integrates Safe Haven Campus and the essential services it provides into the surrounding community, with the ultimate goal of destigmatizing mental health and substance abuse programs and encouraging an inclusive culture in which Safe Haven’s critical services are better utilized.

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Leveraging

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

As part of a multi-year Federal Transportation Agency grant funding has been allocated to fund a local transit system. Each year CDBG funds are leveraged to provide services for low to moderate income clients through the St. Tammany Transit voucher program. Free transportation vouchers are distributed to local non-profit and government agencies who distribute the vouchers to their low- to moderate-income clients. For PY 2021-2022, annual transit vouchers were distributed.

The Community Action Agency (CAA) leverages multiple sources of funds for its Emergency Support Grant (ESG), Supportive Housing Program (SHP), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Community Service Block Grant (CSBG).

Department of Grants also leveraged its CDBG funds with St. Tammany Parish Departments of Environmental Services (DES) and Development-Engineering (DoD-E) in an effort to optimize assistance to LMI populations targeting their respective grant projects. Department of Grants is providing CDBG funds to repair and replace homeowner sewer treatment units for qualified LMI residents. DES is conducting individual homeowner sewer treatment unit Inspections and Education. DoD-E is coordinating sampling to demonstrate water quality improvement from the Inspection and Repair and Replace Programs.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	40	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	79	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	75	0
Total	194	0

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	27	0
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	27	0

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

Department of Grants and CAA homeless prevention programs have seen a rise in rental rates, which puts further financial strain on families. Since area incomes are not keeping pace with the cost of living, families are consolidating households, resulting in multiple family members living in crowded conditions, or leaving the parish and commuting. Department of Grants collaborates with a number of non-profit organizations to deliver housing solutions.

CAA provided emergency funds to help families with rental, mortgage and/or utility assistance payment to prevent homelessness. These programs also help to alleviate poverty by enabling families to achieve sustainability, self-sufficiency, and in some cases, stability of home ownership.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

CDBG funds will be targeted to fill the financial gaps for local services providers enabling them to continuously deliver services to their LMI clients. The Community Land Trust program, previously funded by CDBG-E and currently funded through CDBG-DR, enables low to moderate income households

to purchase a home and reduce their mortgage payments.

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

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	107	0
Low-income	64	0
Moderate-income	30	0
Total	201	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

St. Tammany Parish CDBG Entitlement Program is reporting 163 unduplicated beneficiaries, of whom are 100% low to moderate income. All programs are designed to benefit low to moderate income families. According to the Community Data Center study, St. Tammany rent is the highest in the metropolitan New Orleans region. Twenty percent of St. Tammany renters experience a severe cost burden of 50% of their income on rents and the median gross rent is \$1,143.00 per month. Contrary to the need for affordable units, the newly constructed units target higher income families. Since 2005, over 1,300 new luxury-style apartments were built in the parish.

For this reason, our programs are designed specifically to aid these families chronically living with poverty and struggle to find affordable housing. While home ownership in St. Tammany Parish exceeds the national average of 78% vs 63%, homeowners do experience a severe cost burden of 9%, consistent with the national average of 10%.

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

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

CDBG staff participates in the monthly meetings of the Commission on Families, Northlake Homeless Coalition and the St. Tammany Housing and Homeless Alliance. These meetings help parish staff stay current with the issues that are affecting the homeless population and the organizations that serve them.

A successful outcome of the St. Tammany Housing and Homeless Alliance efforts is the establishment of a local affiliate of the national Family Promise organization. The local chapter was successfully launched in May 2015 with assistance provided by the Public Health Millage and CDBG-DR funds. Family Promise provides shelter, case management, life skills education, and transportation assistance for homeless families. The program is designed to ensure children attend school, families stay together, and case management guides them to self-sufficiency.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) requires Continuums of Care (CoCs) to develop a centralized or coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake, assessment, and provision of referrals. St Tammany Parish Community Action Agency (CAA) has been working in a concerted effort with our CoC, the Northlake Homeless Coalition, by participating in the coordinate access system. This is to ensure that this population is identified, assessed for vulnerability, and provided with real strategy to ensure housing stability. The goal being people have a fixed address and housing that is appropriate, and includes required supportive services as needed.

In order to address the needs of homeless persons, the Parish has provided rental, mortgage and utility assistance directly to clients in need, and has provided transitional and supportive housing to those who have become homeless.

CAA helps eliminate barriers to affordable housing for homeless families with children by providing a Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESGP). While providing rent and utility assistance, these programs also help adults gain job skills, education, permanent employment, parenting skills, counseling, day care for children, and any other services deemed appropriate that will lead to self-sufficiency of the family. As the families develop stability and no longer need the financial services, CAA continues a relationship with them so they are not isolated from the community again. In addition to in-house efforts to reduce homelessness, Department of Grant staff members are active participants in the St. Tammany Housing and Homeless Alliance which was an integral part of developing a local Family Promise chapter. The Alliance focuses on case management and permanent solutions to homelessness. Department of Grant also participates in the Northlake Homeless Coalition meetings and initiatives, and St. Tammany Parish's CAA manager serves on the board.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections

programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Non-profit organizations in the parish have provided transitional housing to homeless persons. The Northshore branch of Volunteers of America receives HUD funds that are used to provide supportive and transitional housing to the homeless. These funds are distributed to homeless individuals and families throughout the Parish and can be used to provide transitional housing.

CAA helps families make the transition to permanent housing by eliminating barriers to affordable housing for homeless families with children through SHP. Program participants will have the opportunity to gain employment and soft skills necessary to live independently. Department of Grant staff members actively participate in the St. Tammany Housing and Homeless Alliance which focuses on immediate needs, lack of sheltering options, and also removing barriers to affordable housing and permanent solutions to homelessness.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds provided utility payment assistance to low income homeowners to avoid service disconnections. LIHEAP, and both House Repair Programs help prevent homelessness by making housing sustainable. Through the Residential Rehabilitation program, the Parish provides home repairs to low to moderate-income homeowners. The elderly, disabled, large families and those of very low income status receive priority assistance. This program also allows for handicap accessibility improvements to be performed.

St. Tammany Parish provides referrals to the homeless centers, such as Safe Harbor for women who are survivors of domestic violence, Sunshine House for those with mental illness, and Miramon Center for homeless males, along with other shelters that may open during the project period. Parish funding priority will be given to shelters with supportive services that serve victims of domestic violence, the severely mentally ill, and substance abusers. Helping house the homeless and providing assistance that will help them achieve independent living status will be given priority.

St. Tammany Parish Government is addressing the needs of the homeless population through the active participation in groups that work to end homelessness. Department of Grant staff members also actively participate in the Northlake Homeless Coalition and the CAA Manger serves on the board. The NHC has developed a 10-year plan to reduce chronic homelessness. Department of Grant continues its partnerships with Florida Parishes Human Services Authority and the Northlake Homeless Coalition to develop additional permanent supportive housing options for persons with mental disabilities as the mentally ill are a large segment of the homeless population. NAMI St. Tammany runs and operates both group homes and apartment homes that serve the mentally ill who might otherwise be homeless due to their conditions. NAMI provides case management and support to all who participate in their programs. Another shelter for homeless referrals, Giving Hope Retreat is located near Hwy 433 and 190 in Lacombe, at the site of the former K-Bar-B youth ranch. The location was acquired by New Orleans Mission Foundation in May 2015, and targets homeless veterans with the intention of providing a safe location for respite and rehabilitation. The facility delivers transitional case management to enable veterans to return to self-sufficiency and productivity. The types of services available are vocational and education training, behavioral therapy, and medical services.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to

permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

ESG funds are administered by CAA to provide homeless prevention assistance through rent or mortgage assistance. LIHEAP funds were used to provide utility assistance to low-income homeowners so that their homes would be made comfortable in the summer and winter. LIHEAP and both House Repair Programs help prevent homelessness by making housing sustainable. St. Tammany Parish has partnered with the Volunteers of America of Southeast Louisiana to address the home repair needs of the disabled, elderly, and low-income populations. Through the Residential Rehabilitation program, the Parish provides home repairs to low- to moderate-income homeowners. The elderly, disabled, large families and those of very low income status receive priority assistance. This program also allows for handicap accessibility improvements to be performed.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Public Housing funds of St. Tammany Parish are controlled by two communities, Covington and Slidell Housing Authorities. Neither is part of the Parish's Consolidated Plan. Department of Grants invited both authorities to participate in all activities for fair housing, community needs assessment focus groups and outreach events, and public hearings. For the Community Needs Assessment and Affirmative Fair Housing Study, Department of Grants made special efforts to receive input from both authorities. Department of Grants continues to seek better communication with both housing authorities and attempts to collaborate with both agencies to combat housing deficiencies for low-income families.

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

St. Tammany Parish CDBG also works with local non-profit organizations to increase the number of affordable and decent housing units within the Parish.

Department of Grants provides resources and referral information to public housing residents and all citizens and local organizations who contact the office looking for resources. This information is posted on the Parish's website and regularly updated.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

There are two public housing developments in St. Tammany Parish in the municipalities of Slidell and Covington. Slidell receives its own CDBG allocation and is responsible for the Housing Authority. Through the Housing and Homeless Alliance and the Commission on Families, successful outreach efforts to establish better communication and collaboration are possible.

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

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

Overall, affordability is a barrier to homeownership. The cost of home ownership can be expensive in St. Tammany Parish compared to other Louisiana parishes. The median price of a house in St. Tammany is \$249,100 and the median household income is \$70,730. In comparison, on the state level, the median price of a house in Louisiana is \$ 189,200 and the median household income is \$67,521. The high costs of land, elevation requirements, homeowners insurance, and for some areas, of flood insurance, increase the barriers to home ownership. Renters also experience a high cost burden. The median gross rent is \$1,143 per month.

Several housing related activities were designed to overcome the barriers to affordable housing. Residents successfully completing the Homeless and Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) are directed to the homeownership centers as part of the pathway from homelessness to self-sustainability and home ownership. These homeownership centers provided homebuyer training and Individual Development Account (IDA) information to families seeking to stabilize their housing situation and aid in the prevention of homelessness. These services include pre-purchase counseling, credit repair, money management classes, and homebuyer training classes.

Community Land Trust

The Northshore Housing Initiative (NHI), St. Tammany Community Land Trust, is tasked with developing more affordable housing. NHI also received CDBG funds from the Louisiana Office of Community Development Disaster Recovery Unit that are used for the acquisition of the land. NHI purchases the land while the homebuyer finances the cost of the house (less the cost of the land) making the purchase more affordable. For three years, CDBG Entitlement funds were used to supplement the salary and benefits of the NHI's executive director who provided assistance to the homebuyer before, during and after the home buying process. NHI helps the LMI homebuyer locate a home or property, seek financing, and receive all the applicable education and homebuyer counseling services.

The Biggert-Waters Act (BWA)

St. Tammany is a recipient of Hazard Mitigation and Severe Repetitive Loss funds from FEMA. The Parish uses these funds to assist homeowners in elevating their homes to the appropriate level as indicated by FEMA. Ideally, this will help prevent certain homes from becoming unaffordable due to the new BWA laws.

NIMBYISM

Many of the Parish's elected officials agree that there is a need for affordable workforce housing in our community. The forthcoming Community Needs Assessment and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing studies will provide data and guidance to develop anti-Nimbyism strategies. Toward the goal, a 4 part educational campaign for first time homebuyers was developed by St. Tammany Parish's Public Information Office, the Northshore Housing Initiative and New Day Homeownership Services and was broadcasted via Cable Access Television. Increasing the number of community focused activities, such as Farmer's Market's, neighborhood festivals highlighting local culture and flavor, and grass roots efforts to address local issues, unite the array of communities and provide opportunities to reduce barriers, facilitate community networks and develop positive working relationships to dispel preconceived prejudices.

High Cost of Land

The Parish is collaborating with NHI by providing non-entitlement CDBG funds received from the State Office of Community Development. These funds enabled NHI's Community Land Trust Program to provide financial assistance to qualified homebuyers for the purchase of homes by covering the cost of and retaining ownership of the land on which the home resides. This effort decreases the purchase price for the homebuyer and makes the home more affordable to future buyers.

HMGP

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funds to enable homeowners to elevate their homes in areas of the Parish which were hardest hit by hurricanes. By elevating a home, a homeowner can reduce the expense of their FEMA flood insurance. This allows families to remain in the homes, and protect their asset and investment, while preventing the permanent de-population of flood prone neighborhoods and ensuring a healthy and vibrant community. Many of these communities are populated by long term residents who have been forced to evacuate each time a major storm has impacted the area. By providing the option of elevation, families who have experienced repeated flooding will now be able to return home quickly and resume to their normal activities.

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

Community Action Agency (CAA) helps eliminate barriers to affordable housing for homeless families with children through its Supportive Housing Program (SHP). This program helps adults gain job skills, education, permanent employment, parenting skills, counseling, day care for children, and any other services deemed appropriate that will lead to self-sufficiency of the family. As the families develop stability and no longer need the financial services, CAA continues a relationship with them so they are not isolated from the community again. CAA uses funds from its Emergency Solutions Program (ESP) and SHP to assist homeless families and individuals in securing housing through rapid re-housing.

Department of Grants will continue to provide resource and referral information to public housing residents and all citizens and local organizations who contact the office looking for resources. This information is posted on the Parish's website and regularly updated.

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

Department of Grants requires environmental clearance before any home can receive assistance through the Home Repair Program. If the home was constructed in 1978 or earlier, a lead paint test is required to be performed from our current contractor as well as our own parish inspector. In order to reduce lead-based paint hazards, the parish distributes informational lead-based paint brochures to any person or family who received housing or public assistance from the Parish. Lead-based paint hazard information was also posted in all Parish offices that are open to the public. Public libraries and non-profit organizations have the option to post and distribute this information.

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

CAA helps eliminate barriers to affordable housing for homeless families with children through SHP. This program helps adults gain job skills, education, permanent employment, parenting skills, counseling, day care for children, and any other services deemed appropriate that will lead to self-sufficiency of the family. As the families develop stability and no longer need the financial services, CAA continues a relationship with them so they are not isolated from the community again. CAA uses funds from ESP and SHP to assist homeless families and individuals in securing housing through rapid re-housing.

The Housing and Homeless Program offered three months of housing and utility assistance for the homeless families. This program successfully stabilized families while enabling adults to find suitable work. These programs have seen a rise in rent, which put a further financial strain on the families with limited

income. Families are consolidating households, resulting in multiple family members living in crowded conditions.

The Parish has been awarded \$10,914,916 from a CDBG-DR Hurricane Isaac allocation for planning and infrastructure projects that will enable local students and residents the opportunity to advance necessary skills for the high skill/high wage jobs of the future. CDBG-DR funds have also been used to support program delivery for Family Promise.

Department of Grants will continue to provide resource and referral information to public housing residents and all citizens and local organizations who contact the office looking for resources. This information is posted on the Parish's website and regularly updated.

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

The Grants Project Manager- CDBG regularly updates the Administrative Manual to keep current on the latest updates from HUD and from other related governmental agencies. The Parish initiated a Process Improvement Task force in December 2013 to address inefficiencies in standard operating procedures. This process is intended to identify areas of operations for improvement and deliver high quality services to the tax paying public. In order to ensure compliance with programs and comprehensive planning requirements during the last year, the Parish has completed the following:

- Evaluated and revised policies and procedures;
- Sought technical assistance from HUD representatives;
- Developed standardized checklists and forms;
- Monitored subrecipients monthly through reporting and annual site visits;
- Communicated monthly and provided technical assistance to subrecipients regarding their progress in reaching their goals;
- Completed the 2022 – 2023 Annual Plan;
- Held two public hearings. All comments were recorded.

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

There are two public housing developments in St. Tammany Parish in the municipalities of Slidell and Covington. Slidell receives its own CDBG allocation. Through the Housing and Homeless Alliance and the Committee on Families, successful outreach efforts to establish better communication and collaboration are possible.

Department of Grants will continue to provide resource and referral information to public housing residents and all citizens and local organizations who contact the office looking for resources. This information is posted on the Parish's website and regularly updated. In accordance with the planning process, two public hearings six community needs public meetings, and three focus groups, and parish wide survey were held during the Plan development stage. Meeting notices for the public hearings were publicized in the *St. Tammany Farmer* (the official St. Tammany Parish journal) and on the Parish's website. E-mails were also distributed to local government agencies and non-profit organizations to alert them of the hearings as well. The hearings were in the afternoon and evening hours on different days of the week in an effort to accommodate both those who attended during working hours on behalf of their employers and those who attended after working hours as Parish citizens. An additional 30 day public review process was provided for the public to have a chance to review and comment upon the Annual Action Plan document before it was sent to HUD.

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

St. Tammany Parish is in process of revising its Fair Housing Policies as directed by HUD.

To date it has found three primary impediments to fair housing. These impediments are:

1. Limited choice in affordable housing due to unit availability;
2. Negative public opinion of affordable housing; and
3. A lack of public information regarding fair housing and housing assistance.

These impediments to fair housing are all currently being addressed by either the Parish or by other institutions or organizations who intend to create more fair and affordable housing within the Parish. The Parish currently has a fair housing ordinance. Through seminars and regular communication with the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, Department of Grants was able to bring more information about Fair Housing to the business community and residents throughout the parish. In addition, local non-profit organizations and government municipalities have formed a St. Tammany Housing and Homeless Alliance which Department of Grants and CAA actively participate in. This Alliance was created to specifically address issues in St. Tammany Parish such as this impediment to fair housing and the others that exist in our jurisdiction.

CDBG staff continue to seek opportunities to deepen their knowledge of Fair Housing by attending seminars to learn more about laws and compliance. Residents are able to obtain information about housing rights and counseling through referrals and literature available through the Department of Grants office. The Parish has Fair Housing posters advertised in government buildings around the area. Calls received by Department of Grants with questions about housing assistance are referred to an organization that is able to help them. Program flyers are available in both English and Spanish, to those who may be eligible for the housing repair assistance. Additionally, Department of Grants and CAA staff members participate in coalitions, alliances, and networking groups to help address this problem.

Through our Residential Rehabilitation program, we have historically partnered with local non-profit organizations who have provided repairs to the most vulnerable segments of our community: the elderly, the disabled, families with children, and households with limited incomes that are at a higher risk of housing discrimination. Through our programs and partnerships, the collective outreach efforts reflect a deep knowledge and comprehensive experience in providing community based rehabilitation. When an applicant applies for assistance, a prioritization of the persons is performed, assessing the resources available to their organization, and evaluating their ability to provide the required repairs. Of the total residents receiving benefits from CDBG-funded programs, 100% are extremely low or low-income individuals and families.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

In order to ensure compliance with programs and comprehensive planning requirements during the last year, the Department of Grants has completed the following:

- Evaluated and revised policies and procedures;
- Sought technical assistance from HUD representatives;
- Developed standardized checklists and forms;
- Monitored subrecipients monthly through reporting and annual site visits;
- Communicated monthly and provided technical assistance to subrecipients regarding their progress in reaching their goals;
- Completed the 2022 – 2023 Annual Plan;
- Held two public hearings. All comments were recorded.

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

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

The two branches of the Department of Grants – CDBG and Community Action Agency (CAA) - and St. Tammany Parish staff maintain consistent communication throughout the year with local organizations that have specific interests in on-going efforts to address the community's concerns regarding workforce housing, neighborhood improvement, and economic opportunities. The data gathering process occurs throughout the year. In preparation of the Annual Action Plan, public hearings, emails, dialogues, formal and informal gatherings, and one on one meeting was utilized to generate discussions and comments which ultimately facilitated the development of the plan.

St. Tammany Parish Government adopted a new Citizen Participation Plan in 2017. In these meetings, the summary of the Annual Action planning process was presented, and opportunities for citizen input was allotted. Written, phone-in, and e-mailed comments were also encouraged. This year, two public hearings were held in order to solicit community input:

- July 28, 2022 at the Parish Council Chambers
- November 21, 2022 at the Parish Council Chambers

In accordance with the planning process, two public hearings were held during the planning and development stages. Meeting notices for the public hearings were publicized in the ***St. Tammany Farmer*** (the official St. Tammany Parish journal) and on the Parish's website. E-mails were also distributed to local government agencies and non-profit organizations to alert them of the hearings as well. An additional 30 day public review process was provided for the public to review on the parish website and comment upon the Annual Action Plan document before it was sent to HUD.

Input from the community contributed to the establishment of housing and community development goals. Parish staff reviewed public input and comments as they were submitted. Staff weighed the priorities of parish administration in conjunction with citizen input, and then presented a proposed project plan to parish administration for consideration and approval. A draft of the Annual Action Plan and projects proposed for the Annual Action Plan were posted on the Parish's website on November 7th,

2022 and summaries were presented at a public hearing held that afternoon. A 15-day comment period ran through November 7th, 2022 until November 21st, 2022. Citizens, public agencies, or other interested parties wishing to comment on the plans can do so by e-mail or by mail to Department of Grants.

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CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

In 2013-2014, the parish allocated \$522,000.00 of CDBG funds to address some of the areas in need of infrastructure improvements that were highlighted in the Watershed Management study, completed in June, 2014. The study was commissioned to identify specific sites and neighborhoods where outflow of contaminated water is evident. As a result, the parish will leverage its funds to provide sewer upgrades in the Slidell Manor and Ben Thomas neighborhoods. Waterline improvements will be completed in the Alton and the Ben Thomas neighborhood contingent on future funding availability.

The emerging behavioral health crisis has prompted the parish to take considerable note of the need for a comprehensive system of behavioral health care. In addition to funding the demolition and rehabilitation of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) facilities, the parish has purchased the Southeast Louisiana Campus in May 2015. In November, St. Tammany Parish announced the purchase of Northlake Behavioral Health, as part of its vision of developing the Safe Haven campus. Ultimately, the campus will be designed as a place where behavioral health care clients can find the appropriate care and support to begin their path to recovery.

Parish staff will continue to play an active role in the planning and development of our community's needs. By attending meetings and staying in constant communication with local service providers, Parish government can assist in addressing the most urgent and current needs of our citizens. Also, with the most recent pandemic related to Coronavirus, many communities are struggling and we hope to be able to provide assistance when preparing, preventing, and responding to COVID.