

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
125 East Avenue
P.O. Box 5125
Norwalk, CT 06856**

TO: MEMBERS, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL

FROM: JOHN KYDES, CHAIRMAN

DATE: APRIL 28, 2023

RE: MEETING NOTICE

The Regular Meeting of the Economic & Community Development Committee is scheduled for Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7:00pm. To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.org/meetings.



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Maritza Alvarado at malvarado@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 4, 2023 @ 7:00PM
AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of April 6, 2023 Meeting.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLANNING AND ZONING

1. Update on the Waterfront Study.
2. Update on Zone Norwalk (zoning regulations update).

B. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

1. Advance the final PY49 Annual Action Plan (AAP) to the Common Council for its approval and to authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the submission of the PY49 AAP to HUD and all documents consistent with the approved PY49 AAP.

C. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

1. Approve the Arts and Cultural District delineated boundaries for inclusion in the Arts and Cultural District package to the Common Council for its review and approval.

III. OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF NORWALK
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
REGULAR MEETING
April 6, 2023**

Attendance: John Kydes, Chairman; David Heuvelman; Tom Livingston; Lisa Shanahan;
Darlene Young; Brian Meek; Greg Burnett

Staff: Norwalk Redevelopment Agency: Brian Bidolli, Executive Director
Jessica Vonashek, Chief of Economic and Community Development

City Departments:

Planning & Zoning, Steve Kleppin, Director P & Z; Ken Hughes, Recreation & Parks,
Sabrina Church, Director Bus. Devel.; Darin Callahan, Assist. Corporation Counsel;
Dept Public Works: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations; Jim Meehan, Engineer
Police Dept.: Chief Walsh; Assist. Fire Chief Ed McCabe; Assist Chief Mark Conte;
Chris Torre, Public Works; Ralph Kolb, Environmental Engineer, WPCA;
Norwalk Public Library: Sharelle Harris, Library Director;
Finance: Chitsamay Lam, Comptroller; Tom Ellis, Director of Budgets, Joyce Liu;
Board of Education; Lunda Asmani, Chief Financial Officer; Sandra Faoies,
Operations Assist. Superintendent; Rob Pennington, Deputy Superintendent,
Ralph Valenzisi, Information Technology, William Hodel, Facility Services Maint.
Lamond Daniels, Chief Community Services; Historical Commission; Patsy Brescia,
Lockwood Mathews Mansion; Bill Travers, Director of Transportation;
Building Facilities Management: Neil Rennie;

OTHERS: Diana Revolous, Common Council; Spinnaker: Matt Edwardson, Henry Conroy,
Colin Gauthier, Beinfield Architects

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:00.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kydes acknowledged those present as above noted, there was a quorum present.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proposed sale of a portion of 30 Monroe Street consisting of 46,094± sq. ft. identified as "Concept Property Lines" as and when shown in a certain map entitled "Zoning Location & Topographic Survey, 17 Chestnut, Prepared for SONO TOD II LLC, Norwalk, CT" dated March 14, 2023 and prepared by William W. Seymour & Associates, P.C (the "Survey Map"). (A copy of the Survey Map provided with Agenda materials.)

There were no members of the public that asked to speak. Mr. Kydes asked three times and hearing none, closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING PY49 Annual Action Plan

COMMENTS:

1. Diane Lauricella spoke on the need to open up the process, for more public notice and announcements on this action plan for next year. There should be limits to growth, in light of climate change water retention action steps should go into the planning to remove toxins beyond Brownfields. There was no clean up or waterfront study, no mapping of Brownfields for grant site assessments and there needs to be status check like back in the 80s as this is a ticking time bomb. The Industrial Waterfront Study Consultant states there are polluted sites along the harbor. She expects greater response from the Health Director and the City needs to protect the legacy of the shellfish industry to remove toxins from the harbor. She added she would like to see more investment in green infrastructure projects which improve the environment.

There were no others asking to comment and Mr. Kydes closed the second Public Hearing.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Richard Bonenfant spoke about the Chestnut Street project. He stated that the City should not pay for infrastructure, sidewalks, etc. and that is a waste of taxpayer dollars when this is federal grant and the developer should pay.
2. Diane Lauricella spoke on the process for Capital Budget that is very comprehensive and there should be a renewal process for unbudgeted items. She added the Broad River Complex \$5 million grant for artificial turfs destroys environment and the benefits of natural material.

Public Comments – continued D. Lauricella -

She had requested Recreation & Parks to study to find out more about natural turf and the true cost of maintaining artificial turf. She said it's very expensive and might find out the benefits of natural turf. Land Use Management only recommends trucks and vehicles using fossil fuel and this should be replaced with electric. But, only until the City makes this a priority they will only look at this and do more due diligence. She has requested many times, but if a study was done it would find natural turf is worth serious consideration. Under item C1 she is concerned with the Norwalk Legion 30 parking space situation and Jason Mulligan should address serious questions for Library parking.

Hearing no other requests for comments, Mr. Kydes closed the Public Participation at 7:15 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the Minutes of March 2, 2023 Meeting.

** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2023

Mr. Livingston requested a correction on page 2 for YMB to YMCA.

** MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (B. SMYTH ABSTAINED)

*Meeting tech moderator Mr. Manzi noted that there was another member of the public that had raised a hand to speak previously, Doug Peoples. He noted and asked again for him to unmute, but there were technical issues and he could not comment.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET

1. Advance the FY2023 Capital Budget to the Common Council for approval with the noted amendments.

Members of City Departments as noted under Attendance addressed the Committee to present the Capital Budget requests as included on the back-up budget documents and the Mayor's Capital Budget recommended approval letter as contained in the agenda. Questions and comments were fielded as referenced in the budget book and attachments.

Following budget presentations by each Department, Mr. Kydes requested an amendment to Board of Ed budget item #3 to move \$50,000 from Instructional Technology and \$25,000 from #11 School Projects to \$75,000 to fund item #4 Montessori Program at Brookside School.

- ** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2024 FY CAPITAL BUDGET AS ABOVE OUTLINED TO FUND \$75,000 FOR THE MONTESSORI PROGRAM AT BROOKSIDE SCHOOL BY TRANSFERRING \$50,000 FROM INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND \$25,000 FROM SCHOOL PROJECTS.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Kydes asked Mr. Asmani to contact Jessica with the details of the amendment to the Board of Ed budget to provide to Irene Dixon for next Tuesday's Council meeting.

FY 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET

- ** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ADVANCE THE FY2024 CAPITAL BUDGET TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL WITH THE NOTED AMENDMENT.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Redevelopment Agency

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to execute a Land Disposition and Development Agreement (the "LDA") together with any and all other agreements and documents required thereunder with Sono TOD II, LLC (the "Developer") for purposes of conveying a portion of 30 Monroe Street consisting of 46,094± sq. ft. identified as "Concept Property Lines" as and when shown in a certain map entitled "Zoning Location & Topographic Survey, 17 Chestnut, Prepared For SONO TOD II LLC, Norwalk, Connecticut" dated March 14, 2023 and prepared by William W. Seymour & Associates, P.C. (the "City Parcel"), said City Parcel to be consolidated with land of the Developer identified on the Tax Assessors records as M/BL 2/55/6, 2/25/57 and 2/55/22 (the "Developer Property" together with the City Property, collectively, the "Project Site") for purpose of constructing within the Project Site a mixed-use development containing: commercial space; residential units; structured parking facility, 60 of which to be dedicated for use by commuters of the South Norwalk Train Station; recreational area; and related improvements (the "Project"), pursuant to the LDA Term Sheet enclosed with this Agenda.

- ** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Bidolli presented an update on the project and asked the representatives from Spinnaker to review the details of the LDA. He introduced Matt Edwardson and Henry Conroy of Spinnaker, and Colin Gauthier of Beinfield Architects that provided an overview of the presentation that was made last year when the project was introduced. Following the presentation, questions and comments were fielded by Mr. Bidolli. He explained that there will be public community information sessions to address concerns about traffic congestion and infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Bidolli presented the financial details of the LDA and outlined the structure of the financing plan and infrastructure improvements and affordable housing that represents the grant requirements. He noted the difference of P3s Public Private Partnerships and the risk minimization versus POKO projects and legal requirements:

Accommodations of escrows performance bonds, in terms of LDA. Developer is paying fair market value which is a key difference and \$1 million held as an incentive of performance. Working with a completely vetted developer with performance record with the City. Darin Callahan outlined the legal technical terms of the LDA and risk mitigation and ensuring the timeline is completed on a timely manner, within permits and zoning approvals.

Mr. Livingston commended Mr. Bidolli and the Development Agency on the thoroughness of the presentation and the complexity of the due diligence that has been done in exemplary fashion. Mr. Kydes also applauded the Redevelopment Agency and thanked them and Corporation Counsel for all the work done with this project.

**** MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM AND FORWARD TO COMMON COUNCIL TO:**
AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE A LAND DISPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (THE "LDA") TOGETHER WITH ANY AND ALL OTHER AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS REQUIRED THEREUNDER WITH SONO TOD II, LLC (THE "DEVELOPER") FOR PURPOSES OF CONVEYING A PORTION OF 30 MONROE STREET CONSISTING OF 46,094± SQ. FT. IDENTIFIED AS "CONCEPT PROPERTY LINES" AS AND WHEN SHOWN IN A CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED "ZONING LOCATION & TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY, 17 CHESTNUT, PREPARED FOR SONO TOD II LLC, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT" DATED MARCH 14, 2023 AND PREPARED BY WILLIAM W. SEYMOUR & ASSOCIATES, P.C. (THE "CITY PARCEL"), SAID CITY PARCEL TO BE CONSOLIDATED WITH LAND OF THE DEVELOPER IDENTIFIED ON THE TAX ASSESSORS RECORDS AS M/BL 2/55/6, 2/25/57 AND 2/55/22 (THE "DEVELOPER PROPERTY" TOGETHER WITH THE CITY PROPERTY, COLLECTIVELY, THE "PROJECT SITE") FOR PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE A MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT CONTAINING: COMMERCIAL SPACE; RESIDENTIAL UNITS; STRUCTURED PARKING FACILITY, 60 OF WHICH TO BE DEDICATED FOR USE BY COMMUTERS OF THE SOUTH NORWALK TRAIN STATION; RECREATIONAL AREA; AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS (THE "PROJECT"), PURSUANT TO THE LDA TERM SHEET ENCLOSED WITH THIS AGENDA.

**** MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Referral of conveyance of City Parcel referred to in Section II, B, 1 of this Agenda to the Planning and Zoning Commission for 8-24 Review and Report.
{00117239.DOCX 1} 125 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CT 06851 · TELEPHONE 203-854-7948.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Advance the final PY49 Annual Action Plan (AAP) to the Common Council for its approval and to authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the submission of the PY49 AAP to HUD and all documents consistent with the approved PY49 AAP.

Mr. Kydes noted this item is on the agenda prematurely and it should be moved to next month's agenda.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL NEXT MONTH'S MEETING.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to enter into a lease agreement and such other documents necessary to lease thirty parking spaces from Norwalk Aerie, No. 588 Fraternal Order of Eagles, Inc. for two years for annual rent \$12,600.00 with three options to extend the term for a period of one year each at mutual agreed upon rent. Account Number: 016200 - 5265

Jessica Vonasheck spoke on work with Library Board and Scantrek with help of Darin secured an agreement with Eagles Club to secure 30 spots \$35 per month/space or annual cost of \$12,600 to come from the Library operating budget. She noted that the Library is in full agreement to accommodate patrons with the much need for parking. She also noted that the option to continue parking this until 2025 and Darin filled in the legal details of the two-year term of the agreement. In response to Mr. Kydes question on what if the Library charges, she added that the Library won't charge for parking at this time but infrastructure is there to be determined.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT AND SUCH OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO LEASE THIRTY PARKING SPACES FROM NORWALK AERIE, NO. 588 FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, INC. FOR TWO YEARS FOR ANNUAL RENT \$12,600.00 WITH THREE OPTIONS TO EXTEND THE TERM FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR EACH AT MUTUAL AGREED

City of Norwalk

Economic and Community Development Committee

Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

Page 6

UPON RENT. ACCOUNT NUMBER: 016200 - 5265

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

ADJOURNMENT

** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Knox

Telesco Secretarial Services

THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

125 East Avenue
P.O. Box 5125
Norwalk, CT 06856

**TO: MEMBERS, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE OF THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL**

FROM: NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY STAFF

DATE: MAY 4, 2023

RE: CDBG PY49 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

PY49 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (AAP) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One comment was received during the public hearing during the April 6, 2023 Economic and Community Development meeting. The comment is noted in *AP-12-Participation* of the annual action plan draft. No additional comments were received during the March 22-April 21, 2023 public comment period.

PY49 FUNDS AVAILABLE AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The City's CDBG amount available for funding is \$1,001,561. This number is comprised of \$843,561 of 2023-2024 entitlement funding and \$158,000 of anticipated program income. The allocation is \$6,439 less than anticipated funding listed in the NOFA and \$7,050 less than the prior year allocations. The proposed the funding allocations reflects the reduced allocation.

Below is a project summary of funding allocations recommends by the ECD Committee and included in the Annual Action Plan. CDBG program planning and administration will continue to operate according to the 20% formula as prescribed by HUD. All public service activities are capped at 15% of the allocation. All drafts of the PY49 AAP are available online at <https://www.norwalkct.org/1412/Community-Development-Block-Grant> .

Project	Organization	Program/Project	Funding Request	Actual Funding
Public Services	Catholic Charities of CT	Immigration/Legal Services for Norwalk Residents	\$ 25,760.00	\$ 24,187.59
	East Norwalk Improvement Assoc.	Literacy and STEAM Programing	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,450.63
	Family and Children's Agency	Behavior Health and Addition Treatment Programming	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 23,473.98
	Malta House	Residential and Partnering Success Program	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 46,947.96
	Wheel it Forward	Medical Equipment Lending Program	\$ 25,760.00	\$ 23,473.98
	Subtotal		\$ 135,520.00	\$ 126,534.14

Public Facilities	Carver Foundation	Carver Center Kitchen Renovation	\$ 29,775.00	\$ 29,775.00
	CT Institute For Communities	Renovations to Ben Franklin Center - Security Entrance Improvements	\$ 340,000.00	\$ 127,505.86
	Domestic Violence Crisis Center	Exterior Painting and Trim Replacement	\$ 16,705.00	\$ 16,705.00
	Subtotal		\$ 386,480.00	\$ 173,985.86
Housing	HomeFront	Home Revitalization Program for Critical Repairs	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Keystone House	Replacement of Sewer Main at Genoa St. Property	\$ 24,200.00	\$ 24,200.00
	Norwalk Housing Authority	Elevator Replacement at 20 West Ave. Property	\$ 51,700.00	\$ 51,700.00
	Subtotal		\$ 95,900.00	\$ 95,900.00

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Advance the final PY49 Annual Action Plan (AAP) to the Common Council for its approval and to authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the submission of the PY49 AAP to HUD and all documents consistent with the approved PY49 AAP.

Links

PY49 Annual Action Plan: <https://www.norwalkct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29865/Draft-PY49-AAP-4-26-23?bidId>



2023 Annual Action Plan

DRAFT

Norwalk Redevelopment Agency
3 Belden Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850

Annual Action Plan
2023

1

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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Norwalk's program year 2023 Annual Action Plan (PY 2023 AAP) is required each year by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the City to receive federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. These funds help provide for affordable housing and community development initiatives benefitting primarily low- and moderate-income (LMI) households in Norwalk.

Annually, the City develops its AAP which describes the uses of federal resources, the program year goals and specific activities that will be carried out to address the priority needs identified in the 5-Year 2020 - 2024 Consolidated Plan (ConPlan). This PY 2023 AAP is the fourth planning year of the 5-Year ConPlan for the City's CDBG program.

In PY 2023, the City of Norwalk anticipates receiving \$843,561 from CDBG entitlement funds and \$158,000 from program income for a total of \$1,001,561 that will help facilitate the execution of the plan's strategies and activities. The City has one final year remaining in the ConPlan period and anticipates one more final allocation around the same amount before a new 5-Year ConPlan cycle.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The City of Norwalk has developed its strategic plan based on an analysis of the data presented in the 5-Year ConPlan and an extensive community participation and consultation process. Through these efforts, the City has identified four priority needs with associated goals to address those needs. The priority needs with associated goals include:

Priority Need: Increase high quality and affordable housing

- Residential rehabilitation

Priority Need: Modernize public facilities and infrastructure

- Public facility rehabilitation
- Improve public infrastructure: modern & safe

Priority Need: Increase in available social services

- Basic services
- Health & mental health services

- Employment training
- Housing services

Priority Need: Expand economic opportunities

- Economic development: technical assistance

In PY 2023, the City will focus on all four priority needs. For more details, please refer to AP-20 for a summary of goals, objectives, and outcomes in the AAP.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The City, with other public, private and non-profit community housing providers and non-housing service agencies have made significant contributions to provide safe, decent and affordable housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities especially for low- to moderate-income households in the community. However, improvements to public facilities and infrastructure, vital public services for LMI, and affordable housing remain some of the most prolific needs facing Norwalk, as documented by the current Consolidated Plan and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

The summary of past performance reported below was taken from the City's most recently completed CAPER completed for PY 2021:

Affordable Housing: The City assisted a total of 16 households through the Residential Housing Rehabilitation program. These activities included housing rehab for 12 households at the Open Door Shelter supportive housing site, and minor housing repair activities for 4 LMI households.

Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements: The City made improvements to neighborhood facilities that had a low/mod citywide benefit to 86,935 persons. These improvements were for the roof replacement at the Carver Foundation facility and park improvements at Ryan Park and Washington Park. There were also 14 LMI persons who benefitted from improvements to the new Malta House location which serves pregnant and parenting mothers and their children. Sidewalk improvements throughout Norwalk also had a low/mod citywide benefit to 86,935 persons.

Public Services: The City supported public services that improved the quality of life of residents. Basic services directly benefitted 2,110 LMI persons throughout the City. These activities included homeless prevention programs, senior services, youth services, substance abuse services and childcare services. Among the total assisted, mental health services benefitted 131 LMI persons through Keystone House and the Triangle Community Center. The City also funded the Person to Person Eviction and Utility Shutoff Prevention program which helped 44 LMI persons. Finally, not included in the basic services total was employment services at Open Door, which had a citywide benefit to 86,935 persons.

Economic Development: The City's Technical Assistance Program helped local small businesses with job

retention. Training and consultation was provided through 1-on-1 and group sessions. At this time, the program is ongoing, and no accomplishments were reported in PY 2021.

CDBG-CV Activities in PY 2021

The City of Norwalk received CDBG-CV funding as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability Act (CARES Act) signed into law during March of 2020. CARES Act CDBG-CV funds were allocated to the City in the amount of \$1,329,485. In PY 2021, the City expended \$595,363 of these funds on activities that prevent, prepare for and respond (PPR) to the Coronavirus. The accomplishments of CDBG-CV funded activities include public services such as PPR health and safety precautions at the Malta House Residential Program, Family & Children Agency, the Higher Education Literacy Professionals program and the Domestic Violence Crisis Center. Together these PPR health and safety precautions assisted 495 LMI persons. There were 81 LMI elderly persons assisted with the Norwalk Senior Center Meals on Wheels program for persons sheltering from the pandemic. Mental health services at Keystone House and the Triangle Community Center assisted 131 LMI persons during the pandemic. Finally, 1,172 LMI persons were assisted with emergency response services such as food, financial assistance, residential services, and other health and safety operations in relation to COVID-19.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The City of Norwalk is engaged in ongoing efforts to coordinate among its network agencies and nonprofit organizations that deliver housing, community and economic development services to the community. As the administrators of HUD's CDBG program, the City's Norwalk Redevelopment Agency has open lines of communication with the City's many nonprofit and social service agencies, which are also given opportunities to participate in the planning process. These community stakeholders help provide input that shaped the priority needs and strategies to address the needs identified in the City's plan. See below for a summary of details on the City's citizen participation efforts:

Public Comment Period – A draft of the 2023 AAP Plan was placed on electronic display through the City of Norwalk's Website and various public locations for 30 days beginning **March 22, 2023, to April 21, 2023**. The draft AAP will be distributed in hard copy to the Main and South Norwalk branch libraries, the Norwalk Housing Authority, the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency office and Norwalk City Hall.

Public Hearing – The Economic and Community Development Committee held a public hearing on the draft 2023 AAP on **April 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM** to obtain comments on the draft plan.

Full details of the City's citizen participation outreach efforts are available in AP-12 Citizen Participation.

5. Summary of public comments

All comments and views were accepted.

Full details of the City's citizen participation outreach efforts are available in AP-12 Citizen Participation.

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

All comments and views were accepted.

A summary of comments is made available in AP-12 Citizen Participation.

7. Summary

In summary, the PY 2023 Annual Action Plan has been developed with community input and reflect the needs of the City.

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	NORWALK	Norwalk Redevelopment Agency

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Norwalk has designated the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency) as the administrator of Norwalk's annual entitlement of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Agency has a mission to improve the physical economic and social environment of the Norwalk Community by serving as the primary governmental organization dedicated to promoting commercial development, to preserving and improving the City's housing stock and to securing and administering the resources required to carry out these goals. As administrator of the CDBG program, the Agency is responsible for overall program management, coordination, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the program.

The Agency is responsible for the implementation of the City's urban renewal/redevelopment and economic activities; for ensuring all program activities are carried out in a timely manner consistent with grant conditions, State and Federal regulations; for acting as contact between the CDBG program and other City Departments, Federal and State agencies and the general public; for seeking out and applying for other funding sources to help leverage funds; for monitoring all activities for timely implementation; for preparing certificates of consistency for Norwalk social service providers; for compiling and submitting grant reports; for supervising personnel; for initiating and obtaining approvals for program and budget amendments; for processing payment request; and for ensuring that appropriate program and financial records are maintained. The Agency works with the Mayor and Common Council for appropriate program approval, as stated in the Citizen Participation Plan.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Norwalk Redevelopment Agency
3 Belden Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850
bbidolli@norwalkct.org
(203)854-7810

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

1. Introduction

The City of Norwalk developed a citizen participation and consultation process to maximize input from a large cross-section of stakeholders for the Consolidated Plan. The outreach effort included published meeting notices, public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and a web survey conducted in both English and Spanish. Several housing, social service agencies, and other organizations serving the City of Norwalk were consulted during the development of the plan. Participants included affordable housing providers, neighborhood organizations, homeless and social service providers, and city staff members. This input helped to identify the priority housing and community development needs of the 5-year Strategic Plan of the Consolidated Plan, and the goals to address these needs. This PY 2023 Annual Action Plan's goals and activities are developed to with the input of citizens and community stakeholders to further address the needs identified in the Consolidated Plan.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(l))

As noted above, the City of Norwalk's outreach effort to reach its large network of stakeholders included public meetings, stakeholder meetings, published meeting notices, and a web survey conducted in both English and Spanish. This included housing providers, social service agencies, and other organizations serving the City of Norwalk that were consulted during the development of the Consolidated Plan. Participants included affordable housing providers, neighborhood organizations, homeless and social service providers, and city staff members.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The City of Norwalk continues to commit significant resources to the planning and implementation of efforts to prevent and end homelessness. The Norwalk/Fairfield County Continuum of Care (CoC), known as the Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC) serves the communities of Norwalk, Weston, Wilton, Westport, Darien, Brookfield, Redding, Ridgefield, Sherman Newtown and New Canaan. The City will coordinate with the local CoC ODFC for efforts on homelessness.

Based on a Collective Impact Model, ODFC uses the goals and objectives set forth by the Federal Opening Doors strategic plan as a common agenda that embodies five major themes:

- 1) Increased leadership, collaboration, and civic engagement;
- 2) Increased access to stable and affordable housing;

- 3) Increase economic security;
- 4) Improved health and housing stability; and
- 5) Retool the homeless crisis response system.

Shared metrics established by federal legislation are in place to measure ODFC's success and includes the reduction in length and time people are homeless; rate at which people return to homelessness; reduction in first time homelessness; and overall reduction of people who are homeless. ODFC is structured by a governing body of experts and key cross-sector participants who directly and indirectly work with this population.

The efforts of ODFC are embedded in the working committees supported by dedicated staff from two agencies that keep members on tasks and committee's work plans on schedule. Supportive Housing Works and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, referred to as the "Backbone Organizations," strategically partner to provide ongoing facilitation, technology and communication support required for a working collaboration.

Finally, the CoC administers the Coordinated Access Network (CAN) for the region. The CAN system ensures that anyone, including chronically homeless, families and children, veteran and unaccompanied youth experiencing a housing crisis can easily access services through a defined point of entry: United Way 2-1-1. All households calling 2-1-1 speak with a housing specialist who provides appropriate referrals to prevent people from entering the homeless system. If no alternatives can be identified, 2-1-1 Call Specialists direct households to locally designated CAN sites, where specially trained staff assess each unique housing crisis and exhaust all opportunities for resolution.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS

The Norwalk/Fairfield County Continuum of Care (CoC) works with the Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) to ensure alignment between the CoC's strategic goals and the uses of Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG). Homeless housing assistance and service providers within the Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC are eligible to submit competitive grant applications to the State of Connecticut. None of the jurisdictions in the Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC are ESG entitlement communities. Stakeholders feel that Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC is not directly consulted by the State on how ESG should be allocated or distributed. The CoC is working to increase coordination with the DOH by acting as a quality control agent when an agency within the Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC receives ESG from the State. In this role the CoC collects project performance reports and ensures the project maintains compliance with ESG requirements. Furthermore, the DOH has attended Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC Meetings.

The Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC has designated the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) as the lead Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) organization. The CoC has an HMIS Policy

and Procedures Manual which requires the lead organization to input data accurately and in a timely manner. The data collected on homelessness in the area will help local governments and interested service providers with the information on the characteristics of the homeless population and what services are needed.

2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency is the lead entity responsible for the Consolidated Plan and AAP.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The NHA is the local public housing authority and attended stakeholder meetings during the development of the ConPlan. The City is engaged with the PHA and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Catholic Charities of CT
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Legal Services Nonprofit
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is a recipient of CDBG funding. The City remains engaged with the agency and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	East Norwalk Improvement Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is a recipient of CDBG funding. The City remains engaged with the agency and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Malta House
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Served-Persons living with HIV/AIDS
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is a recipient of CDBG funding. The City remains engaged with the agency and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Wheel it Forward
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is a recipient of CDBG funding. The City remains engaged with the agency and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Carver Foundation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is a recipient of CDBG funding. The City remains engaged with the agency and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	CT Institute For Communities
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is a recipient of CDBG funding. The City remains engaged with the agency and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Domestic Violence Crisis Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Homeless Services-Victims Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is a recipient of CDBG funding. The City remains engaged with the agency and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	HomeFront
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is a recipient of CDBG funding. The City remains engaged with the agency and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	CT-503 CoC, Opening Doors of Fairfield County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Regional organization Continuum of Care
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Opening Doors of Fairfield County is the local Continuum of Care. The CoC attended stakeholder meetings during the development of the ConPlan. Input provided at these meetings helped to identify the priority needs and goals of the plan. The City remains engaged with the CoC and has ongoing communication about the homeless needs in the City.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	FAMILY & CHILDREN'S AGENCY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is a recipient of CDBG funds. The agency attended stakeholder meetings during the development of the ConPlan. Input provided at these meetings helped to identify the priority needs and goals of the plan. The City remains engaged with the agency and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.

13	Agency/Group/Organization	Norwalk Health Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Norwalk Health Department attended stakeholder meetings during the development of the ConPlan. Input provided at these meetings helped to identify the priority needs and goals of the plan. The City departments have ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Norwalk - Building & Code Enforcement Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Building & Code Enforcement Department attended stakeholder meetings during the development of the ConPlan. Input provided at these meetings helped to identify the priority needs and goals of the plan. The City departments have ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	Keystone House
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Housing Services-Persons with a Disability
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency is a recipient of CDBG funds. The City remains engaged with the agency and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.

16	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF NORWALK - MAYOR'S OFFICE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Mayor's Office attended stakeholder meetings during the development of the ConPlan. Input provided at these meetings helped to identify the priority needs and goals of the plan. The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency remains engaged with the office and has ongoing communication about the community development and housing needs of residents.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	BroadbandNow
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Non-Housing Community Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	BroadbandNow is a research organization which publishes data on the digital divide and impact of highspeed internet in society. It believes broadband internet should be available to all Americans and its mission is to help find and compare internet options with a goal to bring attention to underserved areas. The City consulted with the BroadbandNow website for broadband access and identified high speed internet providers in the City. Eighteen internet providers offer internet in the City with five of those offering residential services, and 98% of the City has broadband coverage.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	Optimum
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Contact was made to this service provider to discuss services for LMI households. This service provider has services for LMI households. Optimum offers the Affordable Connectivity Program to provide discounts for broadband services to LMI households.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	T Mobile Home Internet
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Contact was made to this service provider to discuss services for LMI households. This service provider has services for LMI households. T Mobile Internet offers the Affordable Connectivity Program to provide discounts for broadband services to LMI households.
20	Agency/Group/Organization	Frontier Communications
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Contact was made to this service provider to discuss services for LMI households. This service provider has services for LMI households. Frontier Communications offers the Affordable Connectivity Program to provide discounts for broadband services to LMI households.
21	Agency/Group/Organization	Norwalk Public Library
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Contact was made to library to discuss free broadband services offered to the community. The library has WIFI hotspots residents can reserve and borrow. The library also provides free computer access and computer assistance during its open hours six days a week.
22	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Norwalk - Office of Emergency Management
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Emergency Management Services - Hazard Mitigation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Emergency Preparedness
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency consulted with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) on emergency preparedness in the City. The OEM prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates against natural and man-made disasters. The OEM uses social media to provide emergency information to residents.
23	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Norwalk - Public Works
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Emergency Management
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Emergency Preparedness
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency consulted with the Public Works department on flood prone areas in the City. The department is currently in the process of an extensive flood study, analyzing the key problems and low-lying areas. Recently, a more than \$7 million project was approved to alleviate flooding issues and reconstruct the storm and sanitary sewers in northern areas of Norwalk.

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

All entities were considered for consultation.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Opening Doors Fairfield County	The homelessness strategy was developed in consultation with Opening Doors Fairfield County, the lead agency for the regional CoC.
Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice	Norwalk Redevelopment Agency	Barriers to affordable housing opportunities from the AI were included in the Consolidated Plan.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.100(4), the City of Norwalk will notify adjacent units of local government of the non-housing community development needs included in its Consolidated Plan. Norwalk will continue to interact with public entities at all levels to ensure coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Plan and thereby maximize the benefits of the City's housing and community development activities for the residents being served.

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal setting

The City of Norwalk is engaged in ongoing efforts to coordinate among its network agencies and nonprofit organizations that deliver housing, community and economic development services to the community. As the administrators of HUD's CDBG program, the City's Norwalk Redevelopment Agency has open lines of communication with the City's many nonprofit and social service agencies, which are also given opportunities to participate in the planning process. These community stakeholders help provide input that shaped the priority needs and strategies to address the needs identified in the City's plan.

Norwalk Redevelopment Agency staff also attempt on an ongoing basis to encourage participation by all citizens with special emphasis on persons of low- to moderate-incomes and those with special needs to participate in the planning process. See below for a summary of details on the City's citizen participation efforts:

Public Comment Period – A draft of the 2023 AAP Plan was placed on electronic display through the City of Norwalk's Website and various public locations for 30 days beginning **March 22, 2023, to April 21, 2023**. The draft AAP was distributed in hard copy to the Main and South Norwalk branch libraries, the Norwalk Housing Authority, the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency office and Norwalk City Hall.

Public Hearing – The Economic and Community Development Committee held a public hearing on the draft 2023 AAP on **April 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM** to obtain comments on the draft plan.

Other Dates: The Economic and Community Development Committee will advance the draft 2023 AAP to the Common Council on May 4, 2023, for approval. On May 9, 2023, the Common Council will approve the Mayoral signing of the 2022 AAP for HUD submission.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL
1	Public Review Period	Non-targeted/broad community	A draft of the 2023 AAP Plan was placed on electronic display through the City of Norwalk's Website and various public locations for 30 days beginning March 22, 2023, to April 21, 2023 . The draft AAP will be distributed in hard copy to the Main and South Norwalk branch libraries, the Norwalk Housing Authority, the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency office and Norwalk City Hall.	All comments are accepted. At the conclusion of the public hearing the City will consider and summarize all comments.	All comments will be accepted.	N/A
2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community Common Council	The Economic and Community Development Committee held a public hearing on the draft 2023 AAP on April 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM to obtain comments on the draft plan.	All comments are accepted. At the conclusion of the public hearing the City will consider and summarize all comments.	All comments will be accepted.	N/A

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The following table provides an overview of the City of Norwalk's CDBG allocation for PY 2023, the expected amount for the remaining (1x) year of the Consolidated Plan, and other funding that will help facilitate the execution of the plan's activities.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	843,561	158,000	0	1,001,561	1,001,561	The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency will use CDBG funds to increase high quality affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, modernize public facilities and infrastructure, and increase available social services to residents of Norwalk. Expected amount available is 1x more year of the annual allocation and anticipated program income.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The City of Norwalk awards a portion of its annual CDBG allocation as grants to local organizations through a competitive process and recommends applicants provide matching funds, \$2/\$1 match for public service programs and a \$1/\$1 match for all other programs. Organizations in receipt of these grants receive support from an array of public and private sources to provide high quality and innovative programming in service of the community. The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency) works strategically so that federal funds attract additional funding and spur private development to meet the needs of the community.

HUD awarded a \$30 million Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant to the Norwalk Housing Authority and the Agency in 2014. This transformational project will leverage approximately \$120 million dollars from private, federal and state resources, which consists of approximately \$95 million in housing resources, over \$8 million for Critical Community Investments and about \$16.4 million for the delivery of social services. Funding sources for Critical Community Investments include CDBG, private developers, the City of Norwalk's Capital Budget, the State of Connecticut Departments of Transportation and Housing and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority. The Choice Neighborhood Initiative project will rebuild the outdated 136-unit Washington Village public housing development into a new 273-unit mixed income preserving and creating additional affordable housing, preserve multi-family housing in the area, and improve Ryan Park, the South Norwalk Community Center, walkability through the Complete Streets initiative, residential façades and public safety. It will position the neighborhood to build a better future for current residents and welcome new households and businesses interested in bringing new vitality to the area.

In April of 2022 the City received a \$6 million Community Challenge grant for infrastructure and housing improvements targeting a low-mod census tract, focused on the South Norwalk Train Station. Infrastructure improvements will focus on general connectivity and transit-oriented development, as well as complete streets and public safety improvements. An anticipated 50 residential units will benefit from facade improvements of predominantly low-mod income units. The City has also received \$3 million in DECD funding for community-based improvements focusing on what is call the MLK Corridor, a predominantly low-mod income area. The program started in 2022 and is continuing to facilitate the installation of public art, public safety improvements and facade improvements of residential and commercial structures.

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

N/A

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Public facility rehabilitation	2020	2024	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs		Modernize public facilities and infrastructure	CDBG: \$207,371	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 9500 Persons Assisted
2	Improve public infrastructure: modern & safe	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs		Modernize public facilities and infrastructure	CDBG: \$227,385	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5500 Persons Assisted
3	Basic services	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development		Increase in available social services	CDBG: \$96,853	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 470 Persons Assisted Other: 1
4	Health & mental health services	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs		Increase in available social services	CDBG: \$80,333	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 550 Persons Assisted
5	Housing services	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Public Housing		Increase in available social services	CDBG: \$80,333	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 50 Households Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Residential rehabilitation	2020	2024	Affordable Housing		Increase high quality and affordable housing	CDBG: \$309,285	Rental units rehabilitated: 60 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Public facility rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Fund public facility improvements that benefit low- and moderate-income households and persons with special needs. Activities may include neighborhood facilities (03E), Parks, Recreational Facilities 03F and Other Public Improvements (03Z).
2	Goal Name	Improve public infrastructure: modern & safe
	Goal Description	Fund non-housing community development proposals that eliminate threats to public health and safety. Inclusive of flood drainage improvements (03I), water/sewer improvements (03J), street improvements (03K), sidewalks (03L)
3	Goal Name	Basic services
	Goal Description	Basic services include Youth Services 05D, legal services 05C, and other services (05Z). The City will provide a workshop and training specifically designed to increase the capacity of non-profit organizations to carry out specific CDBG eligible neighborhood revitalization, community development or economic development activities. Activities will include providing technical assistance and specialized training to staff (19C).
4	Goal Name	Health & mental health services
	Goal Description	Health & mental health services include substance abuse services (05F), services for battered and abused spouses (05G), Health Services 05M, services for abused and neglected children (05N), and mental health services (05O).

5	Goal Name	Housing services
	Goal Description	Housing services include housing information (05X), fair housing activities (05J), subsistence payments (05Q), security deposits (05T), and housing counseling (05U).
6	Goal Name	Residential rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Residential rehabilitation extends the useful life of existing affordable housing through weatherization, repair, and rehabilitation programs. The goal is inclusive of single- and multi-unit residential rehab CDBG Matrix Codes 14A and 14B, respectively and housing rehab administration (14H)

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The following projects were selected to be funded by CDBG for PY 2023. The City will address the need for public services, public facility and infrastructure improvements and affordable housing rehab in the program year.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG: Administration
2	CDBG: Public Services
3	CDBG: Public Facilities & Infrastructure
4	CDBG: Housing Programs
5	CDBG: Nonprofit Capacity Building

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The majority of Norwalk's projects, including public service, housing, public facility, and public infrastructure activities, are selected through a competitive process. All CDBG projects and programs funded in 2023 were chosen because they address the high priority needs identified through the Needs Assessment and citizen participation process of the City's Consolidated Plan. Projects selected for CDBG funding were prioritized on efficient utilization of non-CDBG funds and ability to serve the largest number of beneficiaries.

Further consideration is given to account for grant guidelines. There is a 20% administration grant allocation cap as well as a 15% grant cap for public services.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG: Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Residential rehabilitation Public facility rehabilitation Improve public infrastructure: modern & safe Basic services Health & mental health services Employment training Housing Services
	Needs Addressed	Increase in available social services Modernize public facilities and infrastructure Expand economic opportunities Expand economic opportunities
	Funding	CDBG: \$200,312
	Description	CDBG funds will be used to cover costs associated with the administration of the City's CDBG Program for the 2023 program year.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A. Admin activities to support CDBG projects.
	Location Description	Admin of the CDBG program citywide.
	Planned Activities	See description. HUD Matrix Code: 21A
2	Project Name	CDBG: Public Services
	Target Area	

	Goals Supported	Basic services Health & mental health services Employment training Housing Services
	Needs Addressed	Increase in available social services
	Funding	CDBG: \$126,534
	Description	The City will allocate CDBG funds towards basic public services, health and mental health services, homeless and housing services and assist LMI individuals.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Public Services activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1,070 persons
	Location Description	Public services to eligible persons and households to be provided citywide.
	Planned Activities	Planned activities for public services are: Catholic Charities of CT, Immigration/Legal Services for Norwalk Residents (05C): \$24,187 East Norwalk Improvement Assoc., Literacy and STEAM Programing (05D): \$8,451 Family and Children's Agency, Behavior Health and Addition Treatment Programming (05O): \$23,474 Malta House, Residential and Partnering Success Program (03T): \$46,948 Wheel it Forward, Medical Equipment Lending Program (05M): \$23,474
3	Project Name	CDBG: Public Facilities & Infrastructure
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public facility rehabilitation Improve public infrastructure: modern & safe
	Needs Addressed	Modernize public facilities and infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$367,986

	Description	The City will allocate CDBG funds towards public facilities and infrastructure improvements to assist individuals and households living in LMI areas.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Public Facility for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 9,500 persons assisted Public Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5500 Persons Assisted
	Location Description	Eligible activities citywide.
	Planned Activities	Planned public facilities and infrastructure improvement activities include: Carver Foundation, Carver Center Kitchen Renovation (03E): \$29,775 CT Institute For Communities, Renovations to Ben Franklin Center - Security Entrance Improvements (03M): \$127,506 Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Exterior Painting and trim replacement (03C): \$16,705 NRA CN Public Facilities and Infrastructure (03E, 03F, 03K, 03L): \$194,000
4	Project Name	CDBG: Housing Programs
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Residential rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Increase high quality and affordable housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$275,900
	Description	The City will allocate CDBG funds to preserve high quality and affordable housing for LMI households.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Rental units rehabilitated: 60 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit
	Location Description	Eligible activities citywide.
	Planned Activities	Planned activities for housing programs include: HomeFront, Home Revitalization Program for critical repairs (14A): \$20,000 Keystone House, Replacement of sewer main at Genoa St. facility (14B): \$24,200 Norwalk Housing Authority, Elevator Replacement at 20 West Ave. property (14C): \$51,700 NRA City Neighborhoods Rehab Admin (14H): \$180,000
5	Project Name	CDBG: Nonprofit Capacity Building
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Basic services
	Needs Addressed	Increase in available social services
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,829
	Description	The City will allocate CDBG funds to provide workshops and targeted assistance to qualifying non-profits that serve LMI households.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Other: 1
	Location Description	Eligible activities citywide.

Planned Activities	Planned activities for housing programs include: Nonprofit Capacity Building (19C): \$30,829
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AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

The City of Norwalk does not allocate funding based solely on geographic requirements. Individuals or households must meet income qualifications in order to receive direct assistance from activities and services in the CDBG program. For eligible public facilities & infrastructure improvement activities as well as economic development opportunities the City will be targeting low- to moderate-income identified census tract areas in need. See below on how the City will determine these areas.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City of Norwalk does not allocate funding based solely on geographic requirements. When the project or planned activities are intended to serve individuals or households directly, they must meet income qualifications, as well as residency requirements, in order to receive assistance from the program. In these instances, City staff and/or one of its subrecipient partner agencies shall complete an in-take and eligibility status review of the applicant individual or household before the project/activity is initiated.

The City has also identified a need for public facilities and infrastructure improvement activities, in which case, the planned public improvement activities will serve a community, neighborhood or “area”. These projects (or activities) are said to have an “area-wide” benefit. Per HUD requirements, these areas must be within an eligible Census Tract, as defined by HUD-CDBG regulations, whereby the majority of the residents are at least 51% low- to moderate-income.

To determine these Tracts the City will be utilizing HUD CDBG Low Mod Income Summary Data (LMISD) from the HUD Exchange website, which has redefined the eligible tracts within the jurisdiction. The identified Census Block Group Tracts within the jurisdiction that are considered low-moderate income can be found on the HUD Exchange website at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/acs-low-mod-summary-data/>

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City anticipates continuing work on housing assistance for LMI households and has added new housing projects and goals. Multi-family rental housing rehab will take place properties owned by Keystone House and the Norwalk Housing Authority. Single-family housing rehab and rehab admin will be administered by HomeFront and the NRA City Neighborhoods Rehab Admin program.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	70
Special-Needs	0
Total	70

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	70
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	70

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

Discussion

Rental units rehabilitated: 60 Household Housing Unit

Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) is the principal provider of publicly assisted housing in Norwalk. NHA operates 18 public housing properties with a total of 1,034 units. All units are intended to serve low- and moderate-income households, with 698 units targeting families and 336 units targeting elderly. Additionally, NHA manages 896 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers.

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

NHA was a recipient of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative grant in 2012. The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and supports locally driven strategies to address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. NHA has continued implementing these strategies with program income that has been received through the project. In 2023, NHA intends to make improvements to Leroy Downs and the NHA main office. The NHA is actively assessing which development(s) may be an appropriate fit for our the CNI and will be looking at securing a planning grant.

NHA is developing 69 new units on a 7.6-acre site, currently vacant, which is owned by NHA and adjacent to the existing Colonial Village. This new construction project, “Colonial Village Phase II,” consists of 18 walk-up buildings, each with 2-6 units that are a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedrooms. There will also be a new 5,400-square-foot community center on-site for property management offices and Learning Center classrooms. The apartments will be available to households earning between 30% and 80% of area median income (AMI). NHA plans to convert 18 of its Housing Choice Vouchers to be Project-Based Vouchers to subsidize the rent of families living in the 30% AMI units. Additional financing sources will include Low Income Housing Tax Credits, a conventional construction/permanent loan, and possibly funds from the State of Connecticut’s Department of Housing. Project financing is estimated to close in early 2023 with construction starting immediately thereafter. The new units are expected to open in 2024.

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

NHA has a Resident Advisory Board (RAB) to give residents a voice in making recommendations for the development of NHA’s Five-Year Plan. Educating residents on the purpose of the RAB and how their feedback will be used to inform planning efforts can help encourage participation. There are currently 19 RAB members. Comments from RAB members and responses from NHA are publicized for transparency.

Norwalk Housing has 5 Learning Centers in its communities. The Norwalk Housing Authority Learning Centers (NHALC) are committed to providing NHA students with academic support, enrichment programs,

school and career guidance, character building opportunities and educational field trips. NHALCs provide safe, comfortable environments, as well as qualified, dedicated staff that help empower children to reach their highest potential. The long-term goal of the overall NHALC Program is to support, guide and assist NHA students to launch successfully into adulthood. In addition, the Norwalk Housing Foundation College Scholarship Program provides college scholarships to Norwalk Housing residents.

The NHA's Section 8 Homeownership program provides eligible Norwalk Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing residents with the opportunity to purchase a home with Section 8 assistance. For first time homebuyers who meet minimum employment, income and financial requirements, and with a mortgage of 20 years or longer, NHA can assist with a portion of the monthly mortgage for 15 years.

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

N/A. The NHA is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

N/A.

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

Introduction

The City of Norwalk does not directly receive Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) or Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds. These funding sources are administered through the Fairfield County Continuum of Care/Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC). ODFC coordinates the strategies of homeless prevention, housing, employment, advocacy and services to ensure that episodes of homelessness are rare, brief and non-recurring and that all citizens within the region have access to safe, affordable housing. There are over 150 stakeholders in the region working to end homelessness for all individuals and families in their communities.

The City will continue to support and collaborate with ODFC and homeless housing and service providers to prevent and end homelessness. The initiatives of ODFC are:

- **Ending Chronic Homelessness:** Streamlining and standardizing the housing process to minimize roadblocks for all people experiencing homelessness. A list of persons experiencing homelessness is created and updated continuously and a system of standardized tracking ensures the community's most vulnerable citizens are quickly and efficiently connected with the most appropriate housing options.
- **Project Homeless Connect:** Providing free access to comprehensive health and human services in one location, on one day each year.
- **Annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT):** Each January, Opening Doors of Fairfield County [ODFC] staff and volunteers partner with the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness [CCEH] to conduct a hands-on count of homeless residents located within the Fairfield County region. The annual Point in Time Count is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] to provide a snapshot of homelessness on a single night.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including:

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

ODFC operates the Fairfield County Coordinated Access Network (CAN), providing one point of entry for anyone experiencing a housing crisis by calling 2-1-1. A housing specialist provides referrals to service providers to prevent people from entering the homeless system. In conjunction with a continuously updated list of homeless individuals, CAN uses the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistant Tool when providing referrals. More commonly referred to as the VI-SPDAT, the tool is an evidenced-based common assessment tool that informs the type of housing intervention needed to end homelessness. The tool assesses the health and service needs of homeless individuals and families, and

guides placements on the Housing Registry.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

There are several emergency shelters and transitional housing units available in Norwalk that help to meet the needs of the homeless in the City.

Domestic violence victims can seek emergency housing at the Domestic Violence Crisis Center's Norwalk SafeHouse which can house individuals and families. The City has allocated PY 2023 CDBG funding to make improvements to the organization's building.

Malta House has an emergency residency program that can house single-adult females or families with children. In PY 2023, CDBG funds will support the Residential and Partnering Success Programs. Residents of Malta House participate in educational programs covering issues of Health, Nutrition, Parenting and Child Development. During their stay at Malta House, mothers also receive guidance designed to foster a positive self-image for themselves and their children. The Partnering Success Program provides ongoing follow-up assistance such as counseling, childcare, housing subsidies and transportation. This program serves scores of Malta House alumnae per year, and often includes support for the educational needs of the children.

The Family & Children's Agency has several facilities that help with transitional housing for adults and families. Shelter for the Homeless operates the Beacon III/Parkview South shelter which serves single adult males and females. Also, Open Door has several emergency shelters in Norwalk such as Chestnut Housing/Emergency Shelter, 139 South Main Street, 4 Couch Street, Norwalk Housing First, 4 Merrit Street and 137 South Main Street which are all available for all individuals or family types depending on location. Additionally, counseling, case management, educational opportunities, job training and certification, employment assistance, and supportive housing services are offered at the nearby Smilow Life Center.

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

In addition to the services described previously, ODFC provides several intervention services to ensure that individuals experiencing homeless receive stable housing. This includes Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Housing First Collaborative (HFC), and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

The RRH program provides specific financial assistance according to need and services needed to return people experiencing homelessness to housing. The three components of rapid rehousing include assistance to find housing and placement, time limited rental assistance and case management. The CT

Department of Housing funds the CT RRH Program for the Fairfield County CAN region. RRH rental assistance is also funded through HUD Continuum of Care and ESG programming. Veterans are also assisted with RRH programming. In this case, Veterans assisted with RRH are funded through the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF).

HFC immediately moves homeless individuals from the streets or shelters into their own housing units and provides time-limited case management support. This evidence-based national best practice is founded on the principle that one's first and primary need is to obtain stable housing. The Collaborative utilizes an adapted Critical Time Intervention (CTI) model for providing time-limited case management support.

PSH provides affordable housing and holistic case management services to clients who are at repeated risk of homelessness. Clients live in affordable housing and receive holistic case management services to ensure housing stability.

Other homeless service providers, such as Family & Children's Agency, offer supportive housing programs to help formerly homeless adults learn the skills to maintain housing and independent living through individual case management, educational workshops, and other community-based activities.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

The City of Norwalk provides CDBG funding to subrecipients that provide services to low-income individuals and families. Catholic Charities of CT has an Immigration Services program that provides affordable and reliable legal counseling and assistance to immigrants and consultations on immigration related questions and accredited representation at US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) appointments. East Norwalk Improvement Association provides literacy and STEM programming to Norwalk residents.

ODFC conducts a diversion strategy to prevent households from entering a shelter by providing immediate alternate housing arrangements. Diversion assistance includes security deposits, hotel stays, car repair, and transportation costs. These services can be reach through 2-1-1.

ODFC also operates a Food, Fuel and Shelter community. This group consists of staff from governmental agencies and nonprofits involved in providing food, fuel, and shelter services to households impacted by poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness. The primary function of this group is to collaboratively

identify service gaps and discuss strategies for solutions addressing homelessness.

The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) administers a family self-sufficient program for their clients to achieve financial stability after leaving public housing. Services include job training, job referrals, resume development, financial literacy and management, credit counselling and repair, homeownership programs, mortgage assistance, higher education, and parenting skills. Participants who increase their income will be able to save a portion of their rent into an escrow savings account, only to be received after graduating from the program. Participants are also eligible to participate in NHA's Section 8 Homeownership program if they meet eligibility requirements, allow HCV holders to purchase a home with Section 8 assistance. NHA can provide mortgage assistance for up to 15 years.

In addition to the services described previously, Family & Children's Agency participates in the State's Empowering People for Success Program (EPS). The program assists current and past recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) achieve self-reliance and independence. The program consists of three components: prevention services, safety net, and employment success. Prevention services provides program participants who are in jeopardy of losing TANF benefits a second chance based on Individual Performance Contracts (IPC). Safety net provides financial assistance for up to twelve months participants who have exhausted TANF time limits and cannot receive an extension. Finally, the Employment Success Program assists clients who are receiving benefits for the first time, providing intensive support to eliminate barriers to sustained employment and identify and achieve personal goals.

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

Introduction:

The following section will provide an overview of actions the City plans to take during PY 2023 and beyond to remove or ameliorate any barriers to affordable housing. Housing cost-burden is the largest barrier to affordable housing in Norwalk, and this issue is particularly disproportionate to LMI households. The City will need to continue working to provide affordable housing opportunities for LMI households. Norwalk intends to use all possible sources of funding and leverage to create and preserve affordable and fair housing.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

The City completed an update to its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing in 2015. The update has the following goals:

- Direct action against discrimination in rental, sale, and finance of home.
- Increase mobility and housing opportunities for people with disabilities by addressing seminal issues.
- Reduce foreclosures for minorities and others by providing help to homeowners at risk of foreclosure.
- Increase access to opportunity for Norwalk's marginalized populations.
- Provide assistance to LEP population

The City is continuing its work to accomplish these goals.

The City will continue to enforce and expand the workforce housing regulation that's requires developments with twenty units or more to provide a minimum of 10% of the total number of housing units as affordable workforce housing units. The housing units are deed restricted to remain affordable in perpetuity. Payment in-lieu of affordable housing is offered as an alternative for developers to continue increasing the supply of affordable housing options in Norwalk. Rehabilitation and preservation of existing housing stock will be the primary method of increasing affordable housing supply and choices in Norwalk. NHA will continue to recruit landlords to participate in the Section 8 program, especially in higher opportunity areas, and convert public housing to other forms of affordable housing as necessary to maintain quality homes in the housing inventory.

Following up on improving opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents, Norwalk is also planning to increase accessibility to community assets, particularly regarding transit-oriented development (TOD). TOD efforts in growing areas and centers of employment, such as East Norwalk and

along the Merritt Parkway, will increase access to jobs for LMI residents. Additionally, Wheels2U, a free on-demand shuttle service, will be assessed to improve transit options for Norwalk residents. At a grassroots level the City will work to establish neighborhood organizations in areas where they do not exist to help engage residents and local stakeholders.

To address discriminatory behavior, the City will collaborate with the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, local banks, and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to provide education on fair housing, financial literacy, credit counseling, and foreclosure counseling for all parties involved.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Norwalk has designated the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (NRA) as the administrator of Norwalk's annual entitlement of CDBG funds. The agency has a mission to improve the physical economic and social environment of the Norwalk Community by serving as the primary governmental organization dedicated to promoting commercial development, to preserving and improving the City's housing stock and to securing and administering the resources required to carry out these goals. As administrator of the CDBG program, the agency is responsible for overall program management, coordination, monitoring, reporting and evaluation. This section provides other actions the NRA will take to address the needs of the community.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The main obstacle to meeting underserved needs in the City of Norwalk is the general lack of funds, however the City will address this through partnerships with public service providers. The City encourages applicants to have funding for its program before they apply for CDBG funds, and CDBG funds are used to help leverage more funding streams for subrecipients.

The City of Norwalk will also continue to implement and annually assess its Language Access Plan to assist individuals with limited English proficiency. If a need arises, the City will make available citizen participation outreach and notices in other languages.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will continue to work on preserving the affordable housing in Norwalk through its Residential Improvement Program. The program is intended to help finance maintenance, repair, and renovation projects on residential properties primarily occupied by low- or moderate-income households. The Fund provides either a low-interest loan or, for eligible historic buildings, a no-interest, forgivable loan to qualifying applicants citywide. A lead safety pamphlet is also distributed to all beneficiaries.

The City will also continue to enforce the workforce housing regulation that requires developments with twenty units or more to provide a minimum of 10% of the total number of housing units as affordable workforce housing units.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The Norwalk Health Department will continue to conduct lead poisoning prevention and control efforts through its Housing Program. The Housing Program uses trained and certified staff to conduct epidemiological investigations and lead inspections. As part of routine housing code inspections or as a result of a complaint investigation, the Health Department will also conduct lead inspections in homes where children younger than 6 years old reside and provide educational material about lead upon request.

NHA and NRA will actively address lead-based paint hazards when carrying out housing rehabilitation and renovation activities. A lead safety pamphlet is also distributed to all beneficiaries of the Residential Improvement Program.

Residents with lead-based paint hazards are also provided with information on Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes program. Healthy Homes seeks to improve the well-being of children by providing families with a team of licensed and certified experts to assess homes and develop a scope of work to address housing related health hazards, such as lead based paint. Families looking to utilize the Healthy Homes program receive referrals via the NRA, which helps to expedite their application and review.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The activities planned in this PY 2023 AAP work directly to reduce the number of poverty-level families in Norwalk. Public services are targeted towards low- to moderate-income households to directly improve their quality of life, public facilities and infrastructure improvements help to revitalize low/mod income areas and invite further investments into the area, and affordable housing activities such as the housing rehab program will help to maintain housing from falling into conditions that might lead to homelessness.

The City of Norwalk's poverty reducing goals, programs and policies aim to increase the incomes of City residents and reduce the number of people who are living in poverty by moving them toward self-sufficiency. Increased income reduces the number of residents experiencing housing cost burdens and increases the number of people who can afford to purchase or rent units produced by the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and NRA's housing rehabilitation and new construction programs. The Norwalk Housing Authority helps residents receiving housing assistance transition to independently maintaining their homes through their family self-sufficiency and educational programs. The activities identified in this plan directly work to reduce the number of poverty level families in Norwalk.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Norwalk will continue to collaborate with human and social service agencies and the Continuum of Care to identify potential resources for meeting the service needs of City residents. The City will support the efforts of service agencies to obtain any available resources. The City will also continue to support and encourage the development of new affordable housing units.

Each year the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency announces a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which outlines the application process for funding through the City's CDBG program. Through this process, potential new and existing subrecipients are informed about the eligible activities and uses of funds. Technical assistance is provided for funded programs, and through this process service providers gain a greater capacity to meet performance goals and succeed in meeting the needs of citizens in Norwalk.

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

service agencies

As part of City Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI), a supportive services plan is being implemented to help residents attain greater self-sufficiency, maintain housing as the area undergoes changes, and bridge opportunities. Collaboration between service providers from a wide variety of sectors is necessary to successfully execute this plan. Supportive services include:

- Education services to support early childhood development through adult career advancement
- Employment services to provide individual assessments, training opportunities, and workforce readiness preparation
- Affordable health and wellness services through routine checkups, specialty service referrals, and assistance with everyday necessities (food, housewares, clothing, utilities, etc.)
- Relocation services accommodating displaced residents while their new housing is being developed

Additionally, many public service activities expanding economic opportunities and increasing access to social services through CDBG funds will efficiently leverage dollars through collaboration and referrals. These public service activities work to improve opportunities for vulnerable populations by providing necessary housing, education, and job opportunities to obtain and maintain future permanent housing.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

This section provides the program specific requirements for the CDBG program. The City anticipates generating \$158,000 in program income from CDBG housing activities in PY 2023.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	\$158,000
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	\$158,000

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100.00%



City of Norwalk – Community & Economic Development

125 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851

TO: ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
FROM: JESSICA VONASHEK, CHIEF OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SABRINA GODESKI, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
DATE: APRIL 28, 2023
SUBJECT: ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION AND CULTURAL DISTRICT

Introduction

In October of 2019 the State of Connecticut released Public Act No. 19-143 An Act Concerning the Establishment of Municipal Cultural Districts (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/ACT/pa/pdf/2019PA-00143-R00HB-06939-PA.pdf>) which authorizes municipalities to delineate districts of cultural significance to be eligible to receive and raise funds through a designated, locally established, Cultural Commission. Since the legislation's release, the Arts Commission Ordinance is being modified the Ordinance Committee of the Common Council to be the governing body of the District, presentations have been made to various Council Committees, and the Arts Commission has been briefed. While the Ordinance is going through the process, the Economic and Community Development Committee must decide on a delineated boundary for the District itself to be sent with the vetted Ordinance to the Council for the full establishment of both the updated Commission and the District.

Ordinance Progress

The Arts Commission Ordinance has been modified over the last few months by members of the Ordinance Committee and staff. Last month it was approved to be advanced to a public hearing which will be held at the next Ordinance Committee meeting on May 16th. The most recent version of the proposed Ordinance can be found in the last meeting package for the Committee here: <https://www.norwalkct.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/20679>.

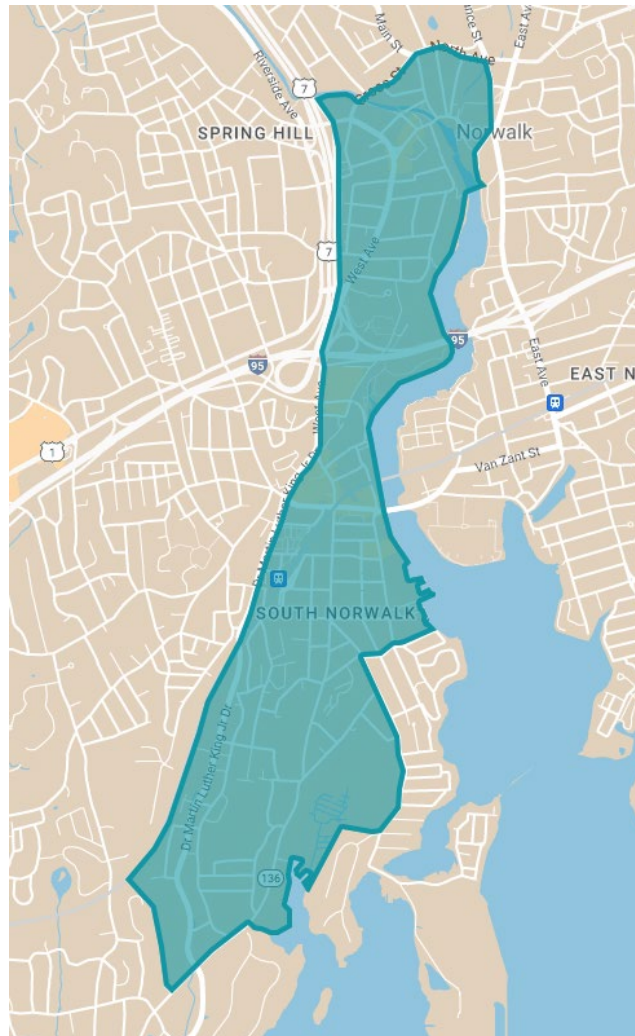
District Requirements

The ECD Committee is responsible for approving the District boundaries to be included in the approval package for the Cultural District. The requirements for the District are as follows:

- The Cultural District must have defined boundaries.
- The Cultural District must be walkable and accessible.
- The Cultural District must have cultural facilities and assets.
- The Cultural District should have public infrastructure and amenities.

Proposed Geography

Based on the criteria above, and for consistency, staff is proposing that the entirety of the urban core be delineated as the Cultural District. This will overlap with the Enterprise Zone boundaries, and with a portion of the Opportunity Zone boundaries which can prove beneficial from an investment standpoint for both private and public dollars. These areas are also walkable and have most the City's cultural facilities and assets. The boundary is as follows:



Next Steps

Following the review of the proposed geography, a public hearing will be held on the Arts and Cultural District Ordinance which makes reference to the designated District. The package that includes the geography and the ordinance will then be forwarded to the Common Council for its review and ratification. The package will then be forwarded to the State for its review and approval. Pending all approvals, the City will announce its first Arts and Cultural District.

ACTION: Approve the Arts and Cultural District delineated boundaries for inclusion in the Arts and Cultural District package to the Common Council for its review and approval.