



Fourth Program Year Action Plan

The CPMP Fourth Annual Action Plan includes the [SF 424](#) and Narrative Responses to Action Plan questions that CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG grantees must respond to each year in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations. The Executive Summary narratives are optional.

Narrative Responses

GENERAL

Executive Summary

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

Program Year 4 Action Plan Executive Summary:

The City of Bridgeport, Connecticut is pleased to present its 2011-2012 (Program Year 37) Annual Action Plan. This Annual Action Plan is the Fourth Program Year Action Plan of the City's approved Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development: 2008-2013. The Action Plan describes the planned expenditure of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investments Partnership (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Programs for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. In addition, the Action Plan also includes the planned expenditure in reprogrammed funds from prior year CDBG Programs.

The City of Bridgeport, Connecticut anticipated the availability of FY11 funding at 30% below its prior year funding level as a result of the Federal Budget approval process. On April 18, 2011, Bridgeport's City Council appropriated the following estimated available funds for FY 2011:

- \$2,524,675 New CDBG Entitlement Grant Funds
- \$1,072,062 New HOME Entitlement Grant Funds
- \$ 101,866 New ESG Entitlement Grant Funds
- \$ 592,353 New HOPWA Entitlement Grant Funds

In addition, the City also had reprogrammed funds from prior years in the following amounts:

- \$1,255,923 Reprogrammed CDBG Grant Funds

The total of \$5,546,879 in available funds has been allocated to a variety of community projects operated by public and private non-profit agencies that serve Bridgeport's extremely low, low and moderate income populations. The allocation of

funds is based upon the needs, strategies, goals and objectives identified within the City's approved 2008-2013 Consolidated Plan.

On April 25, 2011, the City of Bridgeport received notice from HUD of the estimated FY2011 funding levels, which are listed below. The City overestimated the level of funding cuts and per the approved Council Resolution; all funding over the allocated amount will be placed in a contingency account. Funding will then be allocated as an amendment to this Annual Action Plan. The City of Bridgeport will follow the appropriate process in line with its Citizen Participation Plan.

NAME	CDBG11	HOME11	ESG11	HOPWA11
Bridgeport	\$3,009,149	\$1,352,140	\$203,022	\$832,063

General Questions

- 1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed during the next year. Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.**

According to the **City's Master Plan, Bridgeport 2020, A Vision for the Future**, the City is delineated into thirteen neighborhoods, the boundaries of which for the most part follow the census tract boundaries. As part of the Master Plan project, the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis (CCEA) at the University of Connecticut prepared a baseline report that documents trends in crime rates, school performance, and income and housing characteristics for these neighborhoods. This report developed a Neighborhood Development Index for each neighborhood, which is a combined measure of neighborhood performance in terms of income, school quality and crime relative to the other Bridgeport neighborhoods.

In 2008, the City notified HUD that it would focus the majority of CDBG funds 'in those neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of economically distressed families and minority populations.' The neighborhoods were defined as: Boston Avenue/Mill Hill; Downtown; East End; East Side; Enterprise Zone; The Hollow; South End; and, the West Side/West End. These determinations were made by the City as part of its Master Plan project.

The following census tract map and neighborhood map identify these target areas.

2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) during the next year and the rationale for assigning the priorities.

The primary national objective of all the entitlement programs included in this Annual Action plan is to benefit low and moderate income residents. As a result, Bridgeport's CDBG funding will be targeted to low and moderate income neighborhoods as well as activities that benefit low and moderate income individuals and families. The map above indicates the CDBG target neighborhoods and census tracts.

The allocations for the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program are limited to eligible emergency shelters and day shelters and food pantries located within the City of Bridgeport. Given the current economic crisis and the rising unemployment and deepening recession, the City's providers find themselves stretched to the limits. Bridgeport's ESG funding will be allocated to the following category areas:

Organization Name	2011-2012 ESG Grant Amount	2011-2012 Proposed Grant Amount by ESG Category			
		Essential Services	Homeless Prevention	Admin	Shelter Operating Expenses
COB Veterans Food Pantry	\$5,000	\$5,000			
ABCD-Emergency Rental Assistance	15,000		\$15,000		
ABCD- Energy Assistance	15,000		\$15,000		
ABCD-Stephen's Food Pantry	\$6,366	\$6,366			
Alpha Community Services-YMCA	\$25,000				\$25,000
Bridgeport Tabernacle Church	\$5,000	\$5,000			
East End Community Council-EECC Program	\$2,500	\$2,500			
Frank Habansky Food PantryInc.-Black Rock FP	\$5,000	\$5,000			
Greater Bridgeport Adolescent Pregnancy Program	\$3,500	\$3,500			
North End Community Council-Food Bank	\$2,500	\$2,500			
United Congregational Church	\$5,000	\$5,000			
Healing Tree Kings Pantry	\$5,000	\$5,000			
2010-2011 Total Funds	\$94,866	\$34,866	\$30,000	\$7,000	\$25,000
% of Total Funds	100%	37%	32%	7%	26%

As a result of the new definitions for eligible metropolitan statistical areas (EMSAs) Bridgeport started to receive a direct allocation of Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant funds effective July, 2004. This funding was reallocated from the previous balance of State HOPWA allocation from the CT Department of Social Services. The basis for allocating investments geographically within the EMSA is based upon the number of HIV/AIDS cases coupled with the geographic location.

EMSA Community	# of Cases
Bridgeport	1,276
Danbury	207
Norwalk	333
Stamford	509

3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

One of Bridgeport’s greatest obstacles to meeting underserved needs is funding availability. Non-profit organizations throughout the City continue to see a decrease in funding from public and private sources. Research shows that Foundations have started to target funding for specific purposes, donors are becoming more hands on in determining the use of their funding and overall, organizations have been required to implement additional performance management strategies to demonstrate the impact of funding received. On a local and state level, government has faced many challenges to closing large budget gaps and as a result, steady funding sources, programs and services have been cut.

On February 18, 2010, Central Grants & Community Development received 81 applications for funding from area non-profit organizations and 32 applications for funding from City of Bridgeport departments. CDBG Requests totaled \$9,465,603; ESG Requests totaled \$565,495; and, HOPWA Requests totaled \$1,054,520. A total of 67 applications were approved for funding. During PY36 funding was awarded to 82 applications, however, as a result of decreased funding, the City was not able to award the same number of grants.

With funding availability being such a critical factor to the ability of our non-profit organizations to continue to perform their important and necessary work for Bridgeport residents, CG&CD is taking steps to provide additional opportunities for non-profit capacity development. The ACT Compassion Capital Grant will host a final workshop series in the upcoming program year on topics relevant to the needs of Bridgeport’s Nonprofit Organizations. Organization needs have been assessed through a web-based survey that was distributed by the ACT evaluation team.

A second obstacle to meeting undeserved needs in the community is the dramatic increase in individuals that are experiencing economic hardship for a variety of reasons including lack of work as well as those individuals and families that were subject to subprime lending and are potentially at risk of losing their home. CG&CD will continue to provide additional resources and information for Bridgeport residents as it relates to housing opportunities and foreclosure prevention and mitigation services. CGCD’s resource guide will be updated and distributed in print as well as on the City of Bridgeport website. Additionally, during PY37 the department will be expanding the programs available to low and moderate income residents. A Homeowner rehabilitation program has been funded at a significant level as well as down payment assistance for first time homebuyers. The City will also invest in the re-invigoration of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Additionally, Bridgeport's Five Year Consolidated Plan states one of the greatest obstacles in that approximately 53% of property in the City is tax exempt. The administration has made it a priority to continue to put properties back on the tax rolls helping reduce the pressure put on the municipal budget to provide services without increasing property taxes.

4. Identify the federal, state, and local resources expected to be made available to address the needs identified in the plan. Federal resources should include Section 8 funds made available to the jurisdiction, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds expected to be available to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the strategic plan.

The following section summarizes the potential resources that are expected to be available to the City to address the needs identified in the Plan.

FEDERAL RESOURCES

CDBG: The City will utilize \$2,524,675 in funding to support approved activities and projects, which include public services, housing, economic development, public facility improvements, program delivery, planning and administrative costs. Project worksheets that are included in this plan provide specific details on approved activities. During PY 37, the City has estimated that 90% of its activities will be used to benefit low and moderate income persons. The Program is administered by the Department of Central Grants and Community Development. Additionally, the City has \$1,255,923 in CDBG Reprogramming Funds which will be used for eligible activities that do not include public service or administrative costs.

HOME: \$1,072,062 in entitlement funds will be used for a variety of activities to develop and support affordable housing. Each year, the City adopts a budget based upon an allocations plan for general funding categories. Project worksheets have been included in this plan, which provide details on the approved funding categories. The Department of Central Grants and Community Development administers this Program.

ESG: Total funding for the ESG program is \$101,866. These funds will provide homeless individuals with basic shelter, essential support services, and leverage funding to local food pantries. Project worksheets that are included in this plan provide specific details on approved activities. The Department of Central Grants and Community Development administers this Program.

HOPWA: In July 2004, the City started to receive a direct allocation of these funds as a result of the new definition for eligible metropolitan statistical areas and funding was reallocated from the balance of State HOPWA allocation from the CT Department of Social Services. Since that time, the City has served as the grantee of record for the EMSA and applicants submit proposals during the City's Consolidated Plan budgeting process for implementation during the program year. A total of \$592,353 is available for PY37. Project worksheets that are included in this plan provide specific details on approved activities.

Continuum of Care Funding: The City of Bridgeport has an active network of housing and social service providers that serve the homeless, those at risk and special needs populations. This network, known as the Greater Bridgeport Area Continuum of Care (GBACOC) is community based and comprised of service providers, governmental representatives, and homeless persons and recently, a group of landlords have expressed an interest in participating. The providers collaboratively apply for supportive housing and shelter plus care funds under the HUD Super NOFA. The Continuum received \$4,648,621 in FY 2011.

HUD Public Housing and Section 8 (Housing Choice Voucher) Funding: The Housing Authority for the City of Bridgeport (HACB) receives funding on an annual basis, according to HUD formulas, for the operations and capital improvements of its public housing developments, and for the administration of its Section 8 (Housing Choice Voucher) Program. The HACB is also receiving funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in the amount of \$5,699,214 and will use these funds for needed capital improvements.

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing: Bridgeport received \$1,351,004 in funding under the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program. Over a three year period this funding will target two populations of persons facing instability: 1) Families and individuals who are currently in housing but at risk of homelessness and need temporary assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless, and 2.) Families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness (residing in shelters or on the street) and need temporary assistance to obtain and retain their housing (rapid re-housing). The City of Bridgeport has partnered with the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, Operation Hope, Supportive Housing Works (Fairfield 08), CT Legal Services, Alpha Community Services, and Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness to implement the HPRP program. HPRP is a three-year program Bridgeport's goal is to serve 140 clients. Approximately 374 households have been assisted to date with rapid re-housing or prevention services.

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program: Administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), the LIHTC Program offers federally-backed tax incentive to stimulate investment in affordable housing. Developers and owners of qualified low-income housing projects may apply for a portion of CHFA's allocation of federal tax credits to be used to reduce a project's federal taxes, or to sell to investors as a means of raising equity. The City participates in this program by encouraging it's HOME Program partners to utilize available funding in new construction and rehabilitation projects.

Federal Appropriate Request - Family Services Woodfield: The City of Bridgeport received \$475,000 in an appropriate request which will enable FSW to help 80 or more Bridgeport homeowners halt the foreclosure process while we work with them to achieve short and long-term financial stabilization plans over the next fifteen months. At least forty more will receive foreclosure prevention counseling and financial education that will assist them to remain in their homes, even without receipt of a grant. Services of the new program will include: 1) access to emergency financial assistance grants and loans, 2) loss mitigation counseling and short-term case management, 3) financial counseling and education, and 4) connections to other FSW financial and social services. Homeowners who avail themselves of these services will both develop plans that will prevent the loss of their homes to foreclosure, and the stabilization of their finances in a way that directly reduces the chance of their losing their homes in the near future.

TIGER II: Bridgeport was awarded funding under the TIGER II grant program for the Steel Pointe Peninsula Project. This project includes the reconstruction and modernization of urban minor arterial roadways within the City of Bridgeport. Roadway improvements follow the Complete Streets model, including roadway reconstruction, separation/reduction of site drainage, and inclusion of bikeways, enhanced landscaping, and pedestrian connections to the surrounding neighborhoods, Bridgeport's Downtown Intermodal Transportation Center, and public water front. The roadways to be reconstructed under this project comprise a significant travel corridor within Bridgeport today, and are also the core transportation components of the "SteelPointe Harbor Development", a planned redevelopment of the Steel Point peninsula into a vibrant mixed-use, transit-oriented, residential and commercial urban community.

EPA Brownfields Assessment: The City of Bridgeport is applying to EPA for a community-wide hazardous materials and petroleum Brownfields Assessment Grant. A new Assessment Grant will continue the City's successful momentum in brownfields assessment and inventory of sites, leading to cleanup and redevelopment of sites that fit into the City's specific neighborhood revitalization plans. Funding will be used for both hazardous substances and petroleum sites. \$300,000 hazardous substances, \$100,000 petroleum. Grant Request: \$400,000 Total Project Amount: \$400,000

HUD Sustainable Communities Grant (Regional Planning): Bridgeport is part of an unprecedented bi-state collaboration of nine cities, two counties and six regional planning organizations that have come together to form the New-York Connecticut Sustainable Communities Consortium. With support from the states of New York and Connecticut, the Consortium is designed to integrate housing, economic development, transportation and environmental planning in the metropolitan region. Working together, the Consortium will develop livable communities and growth centers around existing and planned transit to enhance affordable housing efforts, reduce congestion, improve the environment and continue to expand economic opportunities. A central goal is to link strategies, on a metropolitan scale to develop mined-income housing, employment and infrastructure in locations connected by the region's two-commuter rail networks – the MTA Metro-North Railroad and the MTA Long Island Rail Road.

The Consortium was awarded \$3.5 million in 2010. With this Sustainable Communities Planning Grant, Bridgeport will explore the feasibility of a new train station at the core of this transit-oriented development opportunity examining ridership, operations, environmental impacts, infrastructure requirements, station locations, and capitol and operating cost. This project and similar projects in Stamford will likely be conducted jointly to increase regional collaboration and cut cost.

HUD Lead Hazard Grant: The City of Bridgeport will receive \$3,000,996 in Lead Hazard Control initiative funding to promote healthy home for children. The funding will be utilized to reduce hazards for children with a blood lead level of 10 ug/dl or above and will trigger a custom plan for 210 units using interim or standard treatment measures. In 30 of the units, property owners will be given training, work plans, and incentive to remediate the lead hazards themselves.

EPA Greenscaper: The City of Bridgeport is seeking financial assistance from the U.S Environmental Protections Agency to hire an intern under the direction of the Sustainability Director, to assist with the BGreen 2020 Initiative. The intern would create opportunities for additional rain garden and LID project implementation.

EDA i6 Green Challenge Grant: The City of Bridgeport together with The United Illuminating Company, The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, The Bridgeport Regional Business Council, local universities including Yale University, and Ctech, an affiliate of Connecticut Innovations, is requesting funds from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, i6 Green Challenge Federal Funding Opportunity. Together, the applicants will work collaboratively with various entities in the State of Connecticut and southwestern Connecticut region to implement our proposal. The collaborative will be requesting \$1,000,000 for this project. The City of Bridgeport and the United Illuminating Company is working with the State Department of Public Utility Control to secure matching funds for the proposed program in the amount of \$500,000.

STATE RESOURCES

Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA): Administered by the State Department of Revenue Services, the NAA Tax Credit Program is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses who make cash contributions to these entities. Businesses can receive a credit of 60% of their approved contribution to certain programs (or 100% in the case of certain energy conservation programs) approved by the Department of Revenue Services. Any tax credit that is not taken in the income year in which the contribution was made may be carried back to the two immediately preceding income years (beginning with the earlier of such years). For the upcoming program year, thirteen (13) Bridgeport non-profit organizations will take advantage of this program.

State FY12 Budget: The bond package approved April 21, 2011 by the Finance Committee includes \$100 million in new capital for affordable housing over the biennium and an additional \$30 million to create 150 new units of supportive housing. In addition, the Appropriations Committee voted to provide nearly \$1.4 million to the Departments of Social Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services for rental assistance and services to support the new residents of the supportive units to be financed with the \$30 million in new capital. The budget also included approximately \$500,000 for Regional Planning Organizations to incentivize consolidation and \$4 million in PILOT payments and tax abatements for municipalities with public housing to mitigate rent increases for public housing residents.

The Department of Economic and Community Development: The Department of Community and Economic Development (DECD) is the states lead agency for providing non-profits additional support of their programs in the areas of economic, housing and community development. Their Office of Housing Development & Finance (OHDF) supports local housing authorities, and other non-profit and for-profit developers in the planning and development of single and multi-family housing programs. The Office of Municipal Development (OMD) champions community development programs such as the Small Cities Community Block Grant Program, Small Town Economic Assistance program (STEAP), and the *Energy Conservation Loan* and *Connecticut Main Street* programs. Non-profit organizations have been supported in their applications to the State for funds in support of projects that are consistent with the City's Consolidated Plan.

Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA): A leader in housing finance in Connecticut, CHFA has assisted families and individuals statewide in purchasing their first home and provided financing for the construction and/or rehabilitation of thousands of units of affordable rental housing for families and the elderly. CHFA has programs that assist both single-family and multi-family residential housing developments (www.chfa.org). Additionally, CHFA has been awarded \$33 million from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program, a forgivable loan program intended to assist homeowners facing foreclosure due to unemployment, under-employment or for medical reasons. It is anticipated that this program will benefit many Bridgeport residents.

Connecticut Housing Investment Fund (CHIF): The Connecticut Housing Investment Fund, Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization established to finance affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization projects throughout Connecticut. Programs include: the CHIF Home Improvement Loan, First Time Homebuyer, and Multifamily Energy Conservations Programs. In addition, they offer the Predevelopment Loan Program, providing low interest loans to non-profit organizations for predevelopment activities, the Neighborhood Rebuilder Program which offers short term construction and bridge loans to non-profits and for-profits, and the Interim Bridge Loan programs which makes bridge loans for interim financing to developers.

Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services: DHMAS supports the development of supportive housing and case management services through their Housing Assistance Fund Program which provides for a monthly rent subsidy payment for persons waiting for permanent state or federal subsidies, Homeless Services on an emergency basis, and Sober House programs. Services are offered to individuals suffering from a serious mental illness and/or substance abuse issues. The Southwest CT Mental Health System, Bridge House and Mental Health Association of Connecticut all offer services in Bridgeport.

Department of Social Services: This State agency administers programs for very low income residents and supports homeless and transitional facilities. In addition, the Department awards funds for the development of service facilities and homeless shelters.

LOCAL AND OTHER RESOURCES

General Fund: Tax revenues provide funding for general City services. The City provides many essential services that are described in the consolidated plan through

these funds including; senior services, social services and health services. Bridgeport’s fiscal year 2012 budget was approved on May 9, 2011 by the City Council and is accessible through the City’s website at www.bridgeportct.gov.

General Obligation and Special Purpose Bonds: On May 3, 2010, the Bridgeport City Council approved the FY2011 Capital Plan which included approximately \$18,500,000 in public facility improvements and housing activities. More specifically, \$3,000,000 was funded towards a sidewalk/streetscape replacement program, \$4,500,000 in infrastructure improvements, and \$5,000,000 in antiblight activities and demolition activities.

Managing the Process

1. Identify the lead agency, entity, and agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.

The City of Bridgeport, Department of Central Grants and Community Development (CGCD) is the lead agency for completion of the Consolidated Plan as well as development and implementation of the Annual Action Plan. As such, CGCD is also responsible for the management and distribution of CDBG, ESG, HOME, HOPWA and ARRA entitlement allocations. The Department is currently fully staffed and is working towards increasing operational efficiencies that will allow CG&CD staff to increase outreach, non-profit technical assistance and resource coordination efforts.

In this role, CDBG works in partnership with a number of key City Departments, other public organizations and non-profit organizations to accomplish the goals of the consolidated plan. Other agencies and organizations that will administer activities under this plan include:

City of Bridgeport	
Department of Aging	Office of Neighborhood Revitalization
Department of Social Services	Department of Public Facilities
Office of Planning and Economic Development	Health Department
Other Public Organizations	
Bridgeport Housing Authority	
Private Organizations and Agencies	
ABCD, Inc.	Hall Neighborhood House
AIDS Project Danbury	Healing Tree Kings Pantry
Alpha Community Services	IDEA for Autism
Beardsley Zoo	McGivney Community Center
Bridgeport Police Activities League	Mid-Fairfield AIDS Project
Bridgeport Tabernacle Church	Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County
Bridgeport YMCA	North End Community Council
Cardinal Sheehan Center	North End Community Council Food Pantry
Catholic Charities	Original Works
Chemical Abuse Services Agency	Ralphola Taylor Community Center
Child Guidance Center	ReFocus Outreach Ministry
Community Capital Fund	Recovery Network of Programs
Downtown Cabaret	Sickle Cell

East End Community Council	St. Luke's Community Services
Frank Habansky Food Pantry Inc.	The Village Initiative Project
FSW Inc.	United Cerebral Palsy
Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises, Inc.	Unity Heights
Groundwork Bridgeport	United Congregational Church
GBAPP	

2. Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.

The City of Bridgeport's Annual Action Plan process consists of three significant aspects: Request for Applications process, Citizen Participation, and development of the action plan.

In December, the City began the Annual Action Plan process by advertising the availability of funds, the start of the planning process, and the Request for Applications. Applications were made available on January 18, 2011 for all interested individuals and organizations on the City of Bridgeport's Website, through notice in the CT Post and La Voz newspapers, direct email to current sub-recipients and ACT program participants, request to the Fairfield County Community Foundation mailing list and announcement at a variety of community meetings including the Bridgeport Area Non-profit Collaborative and Greater Bridgeport Continuum of Care.

CGCD staff continued to incorporate the application changes that were made during PY36 in this year's application. A description of the entitlement allocation amounts, information on eligible activities, a description of the application process, and clear directions for completion and submission of the application was provided in the text of the application, which in previous program year's was not included. CGCD has experienced an increased understanding from applicants on program requirements which speaks to the importance of providing this information. Topics were further discussed with applicants at four technical assistance sessions. The expanded technical assistance that staff provided this year was critical to the success of the application process. Each session reviewed the application in its entirety and time was allocated to describing eligible projects under the CDBG, ESG HOME and HOPWA programs. Additionally, department staff provided one-to-one technical assistance for many organizations applying. The department received positive feedback from organizations that participated and will potentially look to incorporating designated one-on-one T/A appointments for PY38. It is our hope to develop and distribute a satisfaction survey to all applicants for feedback so that the department can incorporate that feedback into PY38 as well.

Applications were received February 18, 2011. A new receiving process was instituted during PY37. All applicants were required to meet with a program manager review the application package, making sure that the checklist was complete, the application was signed and that all necessary documentation was provided. This process took approximately 15 minutes per applicant. The department also set up a system whereby each applicant was assigned a category, i.e., public service, public facility, housing, economic development, planning or administration. By category each application was put into a binder, so that project

managers, citizen union members, and City Council members could refer to any application in a expeditious manner.

The allocation process is competitive and funding decisions were made based on the City's identified Citizen Participation planning process, which includes a series of public hearings, recommendations from the Citizen Union and City Council Recommendation, Approval and Authorization.

The Citizens' Union as established by City Ordinance with appointment by City Council members (20 Council Members representing 10 Districts) is charged with serving as a vehicle to allow Bridgeport citizens the opportunity to participate in the planning and development process and to assist the department in the development of the comprehensive consolidated plan and any amendments thereto. A copy of the Citizen Union by-laws, as established by the City Charter, can be found in the appendix of this plan. Every two years, the Citizen Union membership must be reviewed by the City Council and the City Council is required to formally appoint a new Citizen Union. Prior members are eligible for re-appointment. In January 2010, a new Citizen Union was appointed, of which approximately seventy-five percent of members were new.

Prior to the beginning of the PY37 Annual Action Planning process, CG&CD hosted a general technical assistance orientation session for all Citizen Union members to provide an overview on the City's Consolidated Plan, annual HUD entitlement allocations, citizen's review process, and the roles and responsibilities of the Citizen Union as outlined in the City Charter and ordinance. This technical assistance session was critically important during the FY2011 allocation process to keep all Citizen Union members updated and aware of the Federal Budget decision process. Citizen Union Members, City Council Members, City Administration and grant applicants received regular updates from CGCD on the estimated HUD funding levels and a decision was made by both the Citizen Union and City Council to allocate at 30% below the FY2010 allocation.

The Citizen's Union met four times, conducted two public hearings, provided input into the Action Plan and voted on grant allocations. CG&CD staff was available throughout the process to provide technical assistance to Citizen Union members as needed. The recommendations of the Citizen's Union were forwarded to the City Council's Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee who also conducted three public hearings, voted on grant allocations and forwarded their recommendations on to the full City Council for review and consideration. The City Council approved CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA Programs grant awards on April 18, 2011. All organizations listed above as key partners in the implementation and administration of programs have participated in the planning process. Minutes from all meetings can be found in the appendix of this plan.

3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to enhance coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies.

Over the next year, the City of Bridgeport is committed to the reinvigoration of the Greater Bridgeport 10 year plan to end homelessness. Participants from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, local legislative leaders, elected officials, housing organizations, advocacy groups and business leaders will continue to meet

and discuss the accomplishments of the 10 Year Plan, including setting goals to accomplish the following:

1. Working with developers to set aside supportive housing units within their developments
2. Increased intervention and rapid re-housing for homeless individuals and families
3. Working with local public and private organizations to address housing and homeless issue
4. Work with the Continuum of Care to create and promote initiatives and policies which support development of housing services for homeless individuals and families

The recent budget crisis facing the City of Bridgeport has caused a number of layoffs in many City Departments. The City is reviewing its current organizational structure in order to achieve efficiencies and enhance customer services. The department is actively involved in the social services network within the City and will continue during the upcoming year.

Additionally, CG&CD will look to expand its partnerships around non-profit capacity building to include the Fairfield County Community Foundation and CT Association of Non-profits. Also, CG&CD has initiated a conversation with United Way and the Foundation to look at potential opportunities for collaboration between funding sources and to increase communication on priority funding needs and objectives.

Another group, the Bridgeport Reentry Collaborative, has been meeting since May 2007 and is a unique voluntary association of state, federal, and local agencies, business, community service providers, former offenders and others impacted by offender reentry in the greater Bridgeport area. The Collaborative's mission is to serve the needs of former offenders by identifying and reducing barriers to reentry through the sharing of information and resources, educating the community, and influencing public policy. The Bridgeport Reentry Collaborative has met monthly. Meetings are open to all those interested in advancing effective reentry practices and contributing to a safer and more equitable Bridgeport community.

Citizen Participation

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.

The City considers the involvement of its low and moderate income residents to be essential to the development and implementation of its Annual Action Plans. The table below summarizes Bridgeport's Citizen Participation process.

Activity	Completion Date
<u>CGCD Application Process</u>	
Advertise Availability of Funds (15 days)	1/18/2011
Advertise Availability of Funds (7 days)	1/26/2011
Applications Available for Pickup	1/18/2011

Technical Assistance Workshop 1	1/24/2011
Technical Assistance Workshop 2	1/25/2011
Technical Assistance Workshop 3 (CANCELED 1/27/11)	2/4/2011
Technical Assistance Workshop 4 (ADDED B/C OF DEMAND)	2/3/2011
Applications Deadline (30 days)	2/18/2011
<u>Citizens Union Process</u>	
Notify CU Members	2/17/2011
Advertise CU Public Hearings (15days)	2/15/2011
Advertise CU Public Hearings (7days)	2/25/2011
CU Public Hearing (Non-Profit)	3/10/2011
CU Public Hearing (City of Bridgeport)	3/11/2011
CU Deliberation	3/14/2011
CU Deliberation/Vote	3/15/2011
Advertise Proposed Plan (30 days Prior to City Council Vote)	3/18/2011
<u>ECDE/City Council Process</u>	
Draft PY37 Resolution Submission to City Clerks Office	2/16/2011
PY37 Resolution referred to ECDE by City Council	2/22/2011
Advertise ECDE Public Hearings (15days)	3/8/2011
Advertise ECDE Public Hearings (7days)	3/14/2011
ECDE Public Hearing (Non-profit)	3/22/2011
ECDE Public Hearing (Non-profit)	3/23/2011
ECDE Public Hearing (City of Bridgeport)	3/24/2011
ECDE Special Meeting (Deliberation/Vote)	4/12/2011
Submit Updated Plan with ECDE Vote to City Clerk	4/13/2011
30 Day Comment Period Ends	4/18/2011
City Council Vote	4/18/2011

2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.

There were no citizen comments on the plan. Citizens who spoke at the Public Hearings did so to advocate for their particular project or program.

3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.

The City ensures that a Spanish-speaking staff person is available at all meetings to accommodate the needs of Spanish-speaking citizens. The City ensures that all

Public Hearings are held at times and locations convenient to potential and actual beneficiaries and with accommodations for persons with disabilities. Upon request, in advance of the meeting, the City will attempt to make accommodations for those individuals in need of special assistance. The City also provides technical assistance workshops for all interested in the programs. These sessions allow for a general overview on the specifics of the programs and their applications; a review of the schedule; previous funding allocations; program performance and a chance for applicants to preview their programs, projects or activities.

4. Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.

There were no comments received.

Institutional Structure

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to develop institutional structure.

As previously noted, the Department of Central Grants and Community Development is the lead agency for the PY37 Action Plan. After its approval by HUD, the Department prepares the required Environmental Review Records and all notices for the release of funds; holds pre-award conferences with all subrecipients including city agencies and departments and outside agencies; prepares requisite contracts; scopes of work; or subrecipient agreements; monitors projects, programs and activities; and reviews and processes all requests for payments in cooperation with the City's Finance, Treasurer's and Purchasing Departments. All subrecipients of the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program; Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program; Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program; and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program must submit performance outcome reports regularly to the staff, which are then reviewed prior to the processing of requests for payments. Over the course of the upcoming program year, staff will be working to revamp internal filing and program management procedures to improve the City's compliance with HUD grant administration regulations. Additionally, during the PY37 allocation process, CGCD staff began the use of an access database with the ultimate intention of streamlining information as it relates to each individual sub recipient during the upcoming program year.

The Department is continually seeking input and feedback from sub recipients, the Citizens Union and City Council to improve the processes and procedures associated with management of the CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA programs. We are currently working to develop a new contracting and payment request process as well as conducting follow-up on the PY37 application process for feedback from users of the new system. Staff will incorporate this feedback into the development of the PY38 process, as long as it complies with federal regulation. Additionally, CD will be working to engage PY37 subrecipients in more outcome and performance based management of programs. The Department will also look at best practice models for application review and approval processes.

Additionally, in September of 2008, the City merged the Central Grants Office with Housing and Community Development to create a one-stop for the City's grant resources. This means that all formula and competitive grants (including renewals) are now under one centralized umbrella which allows for more strategic grant

applications that fulfill the goals of Mayor Finch's administration to make Bridgeport "the cleanest, greenest, safest, most affordable city with schools and neighborhoods that improve each year". Centralized services enable the City to review the impact of funding opportunities from all aspects prior to application and to date CG&CD has experienced an increase in funding awards, issued a comprehensive grants policy and monitoring process that includes renewal and formula funding and has begun to implement new entitlement grant management processes.

Monitoring

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.

The City of Bridgeport continues to implement the following procedures to monitor its federal activities, programs, and projects to ensure compliance with applicable program requirements and comprehensive planning. The goal of the monitoring procedures set forth by the City of Bridgeport is to enhance the performance of the federally funded activities in order to maximize their benefit to the City's low and moderate income community.

The City continues to ensure that the CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA programs are carried out efficiently, effectively, and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations using the HUD Handbook 6509.2 Rev-5, Community Planning and Development Monitoring Handbook. CGCD staff assists program participants in improving their performance, developing or increasing capacity, and in augmenting their management and technical skills. Monitoring and performance results are shared with the Citizen's Union and the City Council.

The City of Bridgeport will continue to conduct mandatory "Pre-award Conferences" with all subrecipients of CDBG, ESG and HOPWA funds so that, prior to the signing of subrecipient agreements, each organization is clear on documentation requirements, federal compliance regulations and other responsibilities associated with CDBG, ESG, and HOPWA subrecipient agreements.

The City will monitor all of its subrecipients at least annually. The department will select those that will be desk-monitored and those that will be site-monitored. It should also be noted that as part of CGCD's quarterly report procedure, subrecipients are asked a variety of narrative questions to assess current grant status and identify organizations that may be non-compliant or in need of additional support to successfully complete their projects. Questions include:

- List the original goals and intended outcomes of the grant (as contained in your organization's work plan). To date, please describe the progress made in attaining each goal/outcome.
- In what ways, if any, has the actual project varied from your initial plans? Describe how and why? Do you anticipate any further variance before the end of the grant period? If yes, please explain.
- What difference has the grant made to your organization, in the community and for the population you are serving?

- Describe any unanticipated benefits or challenges encountered with this project.

HOPWA Program Monitoring: All HOPWA monitoring requirements specified by HUD will be met. CG&CD has designated a program specialist to be responsible for monitoring sub-recipients and project sponsors and will conduct site visits annually. The monitoring visits will provide information about program participants that is critical for making informed judgments about program effectiveness and management efficiency. The City will continue to work closely with the Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition (CARC) to monitor programs supported with HOPWA funds.

HOME Program Monitoring

The Department of Central Grants and Community Development is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the HOME Program, including monitoring the performance of all entities receiving HOME funds to ensure compliance with the program requirements. The City has developed monitoring procedures for the HOME program which are to be followed for PY37 and ensuing years. Particular attention will be paid to make sure every assisted unit is monitored based upon a schedule.

Generally, HOME funded projects are going to be monitored to determine compliance with income requirements, maximum rent limits and HUD Housing Quality Standards. In addition, the City will be monitoring on an annual basis the occupancy status, condition, and rent levels (if applicable) for those person/families assisted under the city's homeownership initiatives.

The current HOME Program Specialist was hired in September of 2010, and will be assessing and reorganizing previous monitoring efforts, as well as completing a HUD certification course in Rental Housing Compliance. The Department's Senior Manager has extensive training in the HOME Program and will offer guidance on the monitoring of existing HOME projects. Additionally, CG&CD has an AIA accredited Architect and Construction Manager on staff to assist with physical inspections, and coordinates all on-site inspections with the City's Department of Building and Commercial Code Enforcement so that an inspector accompanies the HOME Program Specialist on monitoring visits.

Lead-based Paint

- 1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards in order to increase the inventory of lead-safe housing available to extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.**

Poisoning from lead hazards is the most prevalent environmental hazard adversely affecting the development of children within their home environments throughout the City of Bridgeport. Poisoning from lead hazards is also very preventable. Lead is a harmful neurotoxin, of which everyone is at risk. However, children, unborn fetuses and women of child bearing age are those most in danger of being exposed to ill effects of lead hazards. Exposure to toxic levels of lead can cause a substantial drop in IQ. With that drop in intelligence come additional difficulties; hyperactivity and

other behavioral problems, various health crises, and an overall decline in physical and mental functioning.

The Bridgeport Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is the entity charged with enforcing the lead-based paint hazard reduction Act of 1992 and any and all other legislations relative to lead as a toxic substance and its affect on those at risk.

The Bridgeport Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is administered under the Health Department. The City Council has approved \$ 144,388 in CDBG housing funds for a Bridgeport Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. This Program provides testing services to low and moderate income households in order to ameliorate this pressing problem and is an integral part of the Bridgeport Lead Free families Program. Daily operative activities of Program Personnel assure compliance of Title X. These activities include: Hazard detection, Epidemiological Investigators/Lead Inspectors equipped a X-ray fluorescent lead in paint analyzer conduct an inspection to ascertain the existence of lead in paint. The Inspector also obtains samples of soil, water and dust of each premise.

The Property Owner is notified of all inspection findings. Written reports of all findings are provided to the property owner and if abatement is deemed necessary the owner is ordered to abate the lead hazard via an approved safe work method. The inspector consults and educates the property owner to explain what safe work methods are and then continues to monitor the abatement process to assure safe practice. Upon completion of ordered hazard abatement, a clearance test is conducted; in addition, inspection results are listed in the Town Clerks Office, to assure disclosure at the time of property transfers. If units are occupied at the time of inspection the occupant is provided with educational literature that describes practical methods of protection for the residing family. Occupants are also advised to have their children who may be less than six years of age tested for lead poisoning, as well as alerted to the presence and or condition of lead hazards or lead abatement.

Identified locally as the Bridgeport Lead Free Families Program (BLFF) , an intervention and prevention program structured to reduce lead hazards for low income children (ages six and under) in eligible areas located throughout the City of Bridgeport, the BLFF program was recently awarded its third Lead Hazard Control grant of \$ 3 million. The City will add an additional 210 units over the next 3 years to its already completed 500 lead–safe units. The City has again awarded a \$ 25,000 match of CDBG for this initiative.

Community outreach, widespread lead screenings, education to families and their landlords, risk assessments, and low-cost interim controls and abatement plans are used in eligible households in accordance with HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rules. The overall goal of the program is to protect children with lower blood-lead levels (10 to 19 ug/dl) before more serious poisoning occurs; identify and treat children with levels of 20 ug/dl and above; and prevent exposure to children occupying the same housing units in the future.

The incidence of lead poisoning among Bridgeport children is 3 times the state average. According to Connecticut State Department of Public Health, in Bridgeport only 46.7 % of the children have been tested for lead. This percentage together with the older housing stock and higher air pollutants illustrates a tremendous need to enhance lead testing, preventive and abatement initiatives.

In order to provide a more comprehensive approach and address other housing related health hazards that threaten vulnerable residents, the City is pursuing to build on the existing lead grants and expand to the Healthy Homes concept. Homes with lead-based paint hazards often have other important health hazards that could be addressed at the same time. The concept is that it is more efficient and cost-effective to identify and mitigate multiple health hazards, rather than follow the traditional approach of addressing individual hazards. Inspectors of the Health Departments various divisions, such as Housing Code, Environmental health, lead and anti-blight will be trained in Healthy Homes concepts and will integrate Healthy Homes approaches in their daily inspections. The goal is to be cross trained in each other's discipline, leading to one inspector performing all functions thus creating a one stop shopping concept. The City is actively pursuing to integrate this approach and will be seeking a Healthy Homes grant.

The BLFF program, under its award for Lead Hazard Control, received an additional \$100,000 to begin integrating the healthy Homes concept as well. Funds will be used to distribute items like HEPA filters, new pillow cases, mattresses etc to prevent mostly asthma and mold triggers. Any unit receiving lead remediation work, will also receive a healthy homes assessment.

The BLFF program creates and strengthens collaboration between multiple City departments, faith based and community organizations, and parent groups. The BLFF program is administered through the Central Grants and Community Development Office. The Bridgeport Health Department's Childhood Lead Prevention Program is working in coordination to provide screenings, inspections, risk assessments, and general program support.

The BLFF program also has implemented an innovative approach to creating lead safe housing units. Landlords that either opt out of participation in the full program, or do not have significant lead clean up are offered the Lead Rebate track. The Rebate program allows property owners to perform their own lead hazard control work. Owners are required to attend Lead safe Work Practices training and RRP certification and must have Health Department approved management plans. In addition, all grant requirements and HUD regulations for the unit, property owner, and the tenant (i.e. income verification, specifications) apply to the Rebate Program units. The Rebate program creates a self-sufficient cadre of trained property owners, allows for more lead safe units and creates a sense of pride in ownership.

The work of the program is also part of larger community revitalization efforts. Most of the adopted Neighborhood Revitalization Zones (NRZ's) have identified lead as one of their priorities in creating Healthy Homes.

Another partner in lead prevention has been established with the LEAP Program. LEAP. The Lead Elimination Action Program is a 3 years 2 million dollar grant, also funded out of the Office of healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. LEAP is administered by Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust (BNT), a 501 c3 and private non-profit community development organization. BNT has also been one of the Subcontractors for the BLFF program, responsible for the Construction part of the program and has focused much of their efforts on expanding its housing development work, as well as home ownership counseling. LEAP focuses on four components: creating 100 lead-safe units, providing comprehensive educational and outreach programs and, provide training of lead-safe workers and supervisors.

HOUSING

Specific Housing Objectives

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve during the next year.

In determining the order in which housing needs should be addressed for the 2008-2013 Consolidated Plan, the categories of households identified in the Housing Needs Table were first prioritized using the following formula below:

HOUSEHOLDS	PRIORITY
% of households with housing problems \geq 70%	High
% of households with housing problems \geq 35% < 70%	Medium
% of households with housing problems < 35%	Low

The City's administration and those who participated in the focus groups relative to the development of Bridgeport's Housing Policy Plan (June 2007) identified increasing the City's homeownership rate, particularly among minority groups, as essential to making Bridgeport a healthier, safe, and more attractive community. As such, since a priority of the City is to increase its homeownership rate, the homeowner category for incomes between 51 and 80% of median were given a high priority because of the likelihood they would be able to move to homeownership from renting with the proper subsidies. The results of this step are noted in the following Priority Needs Table.

PRIORITY HOUSING NEEDS (households)	Priority
-------------------------------------	----------

		0-30%	H
	Small Related	31-50%	H
		51-80%	L
		0-30%	H
	Large Related	31-50%	M
		51-80%	L
Renter		0-30%	H
	Elderly	31-50%	M
		51-80%	L
		0-30%	H
	All Other	31-50%	M
		51-80%	L
		0-30%	L
Owner		31-50%	M
		51-80%	H

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

For the upcoming Program Year (PY37) the City anticipates receiving approximately \$1,000,000.00 in HOME Program funding. Historically, HOME funds represent only about 15% of the total funds invested in projects, with 85% coming from other sources. These sources include Housing Trust Funds, investments from Low Income Housing Tax Credits and Historic Tax Credits, Next Steps Funding that includes funding from the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (“DMHAS”), Children and Families (“DCF”), GE, and the Department of Economic and Community Development (“DECD”).

In September of 2010, the City hired a new HOME Program Specialist to fill the role vacated by the prior staff member. Since his time with the program, the new HOME Program Specialist has worked with the City’s temporary HOME Program consultant, as well as the Senior Manager of CG&CD, to better track programmatic commitments and streamline the application process for new applicants.

In February of 2010, CG&CD awarded funding to Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, Inc. and Affordable Housing Centers of America to administer the Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program (“DPA Program”). The City will continue to utilize this \$450,000.00 allocation of HOME Program funding to support the DPA Program in the coming Program Year. The City plans to be able to assist sixteen (16) income-eligible first-time homebuyers, with the possibility of assisting two (2) additional applicants pending the reallocation of past funding for a similar City-administered program. To date, the City has closed three (3) of these loans, and has several more in the review process with its program partners.

The City is also in the process of completing renovations and commencing the sale of seven (7) City-owned properties through the Mayor’s Homeownership Initiative. HOME funding was used to rehabilitate these buildings so that they may be sold to income-eligible buyers in an effort to provide affordable homeownership opportunities, as well as increase residential viability in their respective neighborhoods.

Throughout the past year, CG&CD has evaluated national, state and local housing trends in order to better allocate HOME funding in accordance with market needs. During PY36, and moving forward in PY37, CG&CD will be focusing HOME fiscal resources on rental housing proposals that allow for greater flexibility and leveraging of additional private and public funding in order to meet the City’s current housing needs.

Several significant rental projects are expected to commence and/or be completed in PY37 that will provide much needed affordable housing opportunities in Bridgeport. The City anticipates the completion of the Jessica Tandy project which, in conjunction with Alpha Community Services, will provide six (6) families affected by HIV/AIDS with affordable rental housing and supportive services. Rehabilitation of a multi-family building on Barnum Avenue is also near completion, and will provide four (4) affordable rental units for residents of Bridgeport’s East Side neighborhood.

Additionally, the City and its project partners – Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, Inc. and the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund – plan to begin major renovations to two (2) abandoned six-family buildings in order to create twelve (12) units of affordable rental housing for families affected by mental illness and/or substance abuse in the City’s South End neighborhood. Other HOME projects in the pipeline for PY37 include an affordable elderly housing rental project on Clinton Avenue, an affordable rental rehabilitation on Clinton Avenue and the completion of Phase II of an affordable rental project on Yaremich Drive. Together, these four projects will use approximately \$2,000,000.00 in HOME funding in order to leverage an additional \$16,000,000.00 in project funding from other sources. When construction is complete, rental projects commenced in PY37 will result in 96 new units of rental housing in the City; 39 of which will be held at HOME Program rent limits for 15-20 years.

Needs of Public Housing

- 1. Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake during the next year to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.**

2. If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation during the next year.

The City's PY37 Action Plan and its approved Five-Year Consolidated Plan continues to build on the cooperation that has been developed between the Housing Authority and the administration over the past few years and to move forward together in order to accomplish its common housing goals. The Housing Authority and City continue to explore the possibility of an application for Choice Neighborhoods funding to support the replacement/rehabilitation of the Marina Village development which will greatly complement the City's recent revitalization efforts in the South End.

The residents of public housing will benefit from strategies contained in both the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Housing Authority's Five-Year Plan through the creation of more affordable housing units in the City; the promotion of resident self-sufficiency through support services such as education; homebuyer counseling and preparation; employment and training opportunities; and the upgrading and energy efficiency improvements planned for its public housing complexes. The City will continue to work with the Authority on its Section 8 homeownership program as it relates to housing development opportunities in various neighborhoods.

The Bridgeport Housing Authority is striving for designation as a high performing public housing agency.

For PY37, the City has approved the CDBG/Public Services award of \$7,000 for the Unique and Unified Program which promotes dignity, self worth and community ownership for the youth who reside in public housing. Activities include: one to one mentoring; life skills; homework assistance; literacy workshops; age appropriate book clubs; health and personal hygiene. The Program is held at the Marina Village Apartments.

Barriers to Affordable Housing

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to remove barriers to affordable housing.

Program Year 4 Action Plan Barriers to Affordable Housing response:

The City of Bridgeport has a high property tax rate that places an unfair burden on property owners, hinders the affordability factor for new homeowners and discourages property reinvestment. The City has been piloting a partial tax abatement program in market rate developments that requires a percentage of units to be affordable in perpetuity (10% targeted at 60% AMI or 15% targeting 80% AMI). The city's housing development strategy was also contingent on re-zoning significant tracts of industrial land to support new residential commercial, retail and mixed-use development. Given the city's industrial decline, it became essential to devise a mechanism for returning under-performing land and structures back to productive use. Like many northeastern cities, Bridgeport's land use map showed a heavy concentration of industrial land along the waterfront. The city's previous zoning map supported and reinforced this land use pattern. However, the waterfront is perhaps the city's greatest asset for residential and mixed-use development.

In response to these issues, the City has recently adopted an updated Master Plan of Conservation and Development that updates the zoning maps to support this type of development. The Master Plan also sets forth the proper composition of regulatory strategies that could include incentive zoning, whereby zoning incentives are provided to developers on the condition that specific physical, social, or cultural benefits are provided to the community. Inclusionary zoning requirements, that sets forth mandatory inclusion or set aside of affordable housing units, is also under serious review as part of the regulatory strategy for preserving affordable housing in the City. This program could also include an allowance for cash-in-lieu, land-in-lieu, purchase, renovation of existing units or off-site housing options for regulatory compliance.

Several thousand vacant and abandoned properties, many of which are tax delinquent, is another challenge the city must address in its housing strategy. This issue, however, does afford the city an opportunity to help control the direction of development and be a strong catalyst for long lasting change. There are a number of planning processes underway to address Bridgeport's changing market, and to direct development in ways that make sense given its economy and the growing populations in surrounding cities. One example of such planning is the creation of six Neighborhood Revitalization Zone plans, which have been made part of the new Master Plan. Vacant and abandoned properties are an important asset the City has in achieving the vision set by neighborhoods and in turn have adopted the following principles:

1. Reclamation of abandoned properties is a long-term investment in the wealth and well-being of the city, which may require short-term losses.
2. Preserving historic properties most often builds more equity for owners and neighbors over the long term than demolishing them.
3. Taking ownership of properties allows the City to control disposition, and ultimately use those properties to implement a strong Plan of Conservation and Development as well as neighborhood revitalization plans.
4. Implementation of a strong GIS system can support good planning and foster better coordination across departments and agencies to achieve the stated vision.

Additionally, there is a significant brownfields problem in Bridgeport due to past industrial uses. There are over 400 brownfield parcels in the city which translates into approximately \$50 million of lost property tax revenue. Again, the city recognizes that these properties represent not only a problem but a major opportunity, particularly along the large riverfront. As the City's Master Plan stipulates, Bridgeport will focus on remediating and redeveloping brownfield sites that could be used for affordable housing and mixed-use development.

Fair Housing – Analysis of Impediments

In 2008, the City of Bridgeport completed an update of its initial Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice from 1996. Discrimination against all protected classes was considered during the analysis and attention was paid to the ongoing problem of availability and access to low-income housing for persons with disabilities, racial disparities in housing and source of income discrimination. Overall, four major impediments were identified:

- I. Housing discrimination based on source of lawful income is happening too frequently. (Under CT State Law, it is illegal to refuse to rent or discriminate against a tenant because of source of income such as Section 8 vouchers or Security Deposit Guarantee Program)
- II. Housing discrimination based on disability is occurring particularly when it involves modification or a request for reasonable accommodations. (ie. installation of a ramp)
- III. There is a lack of Section 8 vouchers and other forms of rental assistance for low income residents lacking decent and affordable housing.
- IV. There is a concern that reports of insurance companies and agents questioning landlords regarding leasing to section 8 tenants is impacting insurability and rate plans.

Additionally, over the past year, the City of Bridgeport has seen a dramatic increase in the number of residents facing foreclosure. Bridgeport has increasingly recognized the harm done to homeowners (both families who refinance their homes and new buyers) and neighborhoods through the sharp increase of the issuance of subprime loans. Perhaps most damaging among subprime loan products are Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARMs), exploding ARMs, no document loans and other products that do not require lenders to take into account the loan's long-term affordability for the borrower. These type of loan products disproportionately impact minority and low and moderate-income families and neighborhoods. African American borrowers received the highest percent of subprime loans at 44.1% compared to 14.5% for whites. Likewise, residents of minority neighborhoods were more likely to receive subprime loans than residents of white neighborhoods. The City's subprime delinquency rate, which almost doubled to 10.4% in 2007, up from 5.5% in 2005, exploded to 23% in 2008 as the ARMs reset, the unemployment rates escalated to 10.4% and the overall financial market place tanked.

The magnitude of the City's housing crisis has no parallel in Connecticut, which is why the City received the highest allocation of Neighborhood Stabilization funds. The City has been administering the NSP program and partners with the following organizations to accomplish program goals: Housing Development Fund, Inc. (HDF) uses NSP funds to provide home buyer counseling and home purchase/rehabilitation financing. HDF will leverage NSP dollars with its loan pool and network of bank partners to impact the greatest number of households and loans. HDF and BRA will jointly use NSP funds to pursue bulk purchase of foreclosed homes from lenders, loan servicers, REO brokers, the National Community Stabilization trust and Fannie Mae. Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust (BNT) is a non-profit affordable housing organization. They collaborate with HDF on customer development, intake and home buyer counseling. Supportive Housing Works is an alliance of four leading permanent supportive housing providers to assist with the purchase and rehabilitation of larger, multiple family buildings that can be supported with Section 8 vouchers in order to assist people at or below 50% of area median income.

In May of 2011, Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies released a new report on the status of rental housing in America. According to the study, "Addressing the rental affordability crisis ultimately boils down to the nation's ability to supply housing that meets the needs of lower-income (and increasingly, moderate-income) families and individuals without placing excessive strain on household budgets." The supply gap between number of renters and affordable units nationwide is currently 6.4 million units. Additionally, in Bridgeport, it is reported that renters with severe housing cost burdens (paying more than 50% of their household income for rent and utilities) went from 18.6% of households in 2000 to 30.5% in 2009.

As a result of the foreclosure crisis and need for affordable rental housing, the City believes that this is critical issue that continues to impact Bridgeport residents and should be viewed as a new fair housing impediment that needs to be addressed through additional outreach, advocacy and development efforts. The HOME Program allocation as well as prospective development projects will focus on rental housing development.

Over the next year, the City will continue to ensure fair housing choice and take actions to address these impediments within the limits of available resources.

Currently, the CoC is working with the Bridgeport Housing Authority to secure 103 vouchers for homeless individuals and families. All units will include wraparound support services. Also, during PY37 the City will provide funding to the Health Department's Social Services Emergency Code Relocation program, Office of Persons with Disabilities and Housing Code to ensure that fair housing needs are met. The HOME CT grant will enable the City to look at downtown zoning requirements and CG&CD will be actively involved during the planning process to ensure new requirements will not create barriers to fair housing.

HOME/ American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI)

1. Describe other forms of investment not described in § 92.205(b).

The City of Bridgeport will not be using forms of investment other than those in the HOME Final Rule 92.206.

2. If the participating jurisdiction (PJ) will use HOME or ADDI funds for homebuyers, it must state the guidelines for resale or recapture, as required in § 92.254 of the HOME rule.

The City's HOME Recapture and Resale Provisions will abide by the requirements as set forth in the HOME Final Rule, Section 92.254, Qualification as Affordable Housing Homeownership but more specifically as noted below. The City does not anticipate funding any homebuyer activities in the upcoming program year that will use a Resale Provision.

Recapture Provisions

The City requires the recapture of its HOME funded homeownership housing assistance from net sales proceeds when the original homebuyer sells the property during the affordability period.

The HOME-Assisted units/properties will be subject to the following affordability and recapture provisions utilizing the net proceeds option in voluntary and involuntary transfers.

Net proceeds are the funds remaining from the sale of the property by the original homebuyer less the repayment of the outstanding balance on any superior mortgage, sales commission, the original homebuyer's down payment and the cost of any property improvements made by the original homebuyer. To the extent that net proceeds are available at closing, all or a portion of the HOME funds are due and payable. The Homeowner and the City will divide net proceeds proportionally.

The HOME-assisted unit must remain affordable and be occupied by the homebuyer as their principal residence for the period of time determined by the recapture schedule below, established in accordance with 24 CFR 92.254 (a) (4):

Less than \$15,000 in HOME Investment	5 Years
Between \$15,000 to \$40,000 in HOME Investment	10 Years
Greater than \$40,000 in HOME Investment	15 Years

All homeowner assistance involving HOME funds shall be provided as a deferred loan as evidenced by a note secured by a deed of trust on the property. The City of Bridgeport will continue to forgive direct HOME subsidy on a pro rata basis linked to duration of the period of affordability and occupancy requirements ("recapture provision"). During the period of affordability, the homebuyer shall not be permitted to refinance the property without the approval of the City.

The recapture provision shall be revoked if an ownership interest is terminated during the period of affordability by foreclosure, transfer in lieu of foreclosure, or assignment of a FHA-insured mortgage to HUD. If the owner thereafter obtained a redemptive interest in the property, the original affordability period resumes and continues until its term expires.

- 3. If the PJ will use HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is that is being rehabilitated with HOME funds, it must state its refinancing guidelines required under § 92.206(b). The guidelines shall describe the conditions under which the PJ will refinance existing debt. At a minimum these guidelines must:**
 - a. Demonstrate that rehabilitation is the primary eligible activity and ensure that this requirement is met by establishing a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing.**
 - b. Require a review of management practices to demonstrate that disinvestments in the property has not occurred; that the long-term needs of the project can be met; and that the feasibility of serving the targeted population over an extended affordability period can be demonstrated.**
 - c. State whether the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units, create additional affordable units, or both.**
 - d. Specify the required period of affordability, whether it is the minimum 15 years or longer.**

- e. **Specify whether the investment of HOME funds may be jurisdiction-wide or limited to a specific geographic area, such as a neighborhood identified in a neighborhood revitalization strategy under 24 CFR 91.215(e)(2) or a Federally designated Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.**
- f. **State that HOME funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG.**

The City of Bridgeport does not anticipate refinancing any existing debt with its HOME funds during PY37. Guidelines will be forwarded to HUD for review in the event this changes throughout the course of the program year.

- 4. **If the PJ is going to receive American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI) funds, please complete the following narratives:**
 - a. **Describe the planned use of the ADDI funds.**
 - b. **Describe the PJ's plan for conducting targeted outreach to residents and tenants of public housing and manufactured housing and to other families assisted by public housing agencies, for the purposes of ensuring that the ADDI funds are used to provide down payment assistance for such residents, tenants, and families.**
 - c. **Describe the actions to be taken to ensure the suitability of families receiving ADDI funds to undertake and maintain homeownership, such as provision of housing counseling to homebuyers.**

N/A

HOMELESS

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

- 1. **Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction's plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.**

During the planning stage of the Year Four Annual Action Plan, the City projected a 30% decrease in the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, allocating only \$101,866 in funding to applicants. The estimated ESG allocation level is \$203,022 on the HUD website. As described earlier in the plan, Bridgeport has not received an official funding notice from HUD on the FY11 allocation level. If the FY11 amount is consistent with HUDs estimations, the City will substantially amend this plan.

Emergency Shelter Grant funds will provide homeless individuals with basic shelter, essential support services, and leverage funding to local food pantries. CPMP Project worksheets that are included in this plan provide specific details on approved activities.

Additionally, under the 2009 Recovery ACT, Bridgeport received \$1,351,004 in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing grant funds. This funding targeted two populations of persons facing instability: Families and individuals who are currently in housing but at risk of homelessness and need temporary assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless, and families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness (residing in shelters or on the street) and need temporary assistance to obtain and retain their housing (rapid re-housing). The City of Bridgeport has partnered with the following organizations to implement the HPRP program. HPRP is a three-year program Bridgeport's goal is to serve 140 clients. Approximately 374 households have been assisted to date with rapid re-housing or prevention services. The program has far exceeded the anticipated number of households that the planning team sought to serve. All HPRP funds are expected to be expended by December, 2011.

- **Central Connecticut Coast YMCA/Alpha Community Services:** Alpha Community Services provides emergency family shelter, transitional housing and affordable housing with support services. Guests residing at the shelters will be given priority to obtain housing with the assistance of HPRP funds. ACS has been funded for the activities financial assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services.
- **Operation Hope of Fairfield, Inc.:** Operation Hope is a community homeless service provider. The agency has been in operation for over 20 years providing shelter for men, women and families as well as a Community Kitchen, food pantry and an Affordable Housing Program. The agency will provide financial assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services.
- **Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.:** CLS is a non-profit law firm whose mission is to improve the lives of low income persons in Connecticut by providing access to justice. The organization has an office located in Bridgeport.
- **Supportive Housing Works:** Supportive Housing Works is a non-profit organization whose overall mission is to eliminate homelessness in Fairfield County through the development and preservation of affordable housing with support services. The agency provides development of multifamily supportive housing, asset management and is also a facilitator of supportive housing.
- **United Way of Coastal Fairfield County:** The United Way of Coastal Fairfield County serves 11 neighboring communities along the coast. UW develops and supports programs that benefit the residents of diverse communities such as Bridgeport, Weston and Norwalk. UW serves as the fiduciary for OH and ACS.
- **Connecticut Coalition To End Homelessness:** CCEH is the System Administrator for the Homeless Management Integrated System (HMIS). CCEH provides HMIS training, user support and tools for monthly data collection which includes demographics, service usage and outcomes related to HPRP participation.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) received an allocation of \$4,648,621 for Fiscal Year 2011. Through this funding the COC has accomplished to date: Project Homeless Connect 2010 provided services, meals and clothing to over 300 guests; 2011 Point in Time count will be submitted to HUD when CCEH releases the number of homeless individuals counted in Bridgeport on January 26, 2011. The data will be entered into the new website HDX by May 31, 2010; A Legislative Breakfast was held with the 3 continua from the Stamford/Greenwich CoC, Fairfield County CoC. Eleven elected officials attended. Currently, the CoC is working with the Bridgeport Housing Authority to secure 103 vouchers for homeless individuals and families. The units will include wraparound support services.

The CoC agencies that received funding through the SuperNofa process are Abbey's House, ABRI-Waldrof Supportive Housing Program, Fairfield Apartments, Crescent Building, Tenant- Based Rental Assistance Program, Cherry Homes Transitional Housing Program, Conger House, Hall-Brooke Supportive Housing Program, HMIS Exhibit, Hope Four Project, PHD Supportive Housing Program, Refocus Transitional Housing Program, Seaview Supportive housing Program, SHP Trefoil, The Connection Supportive Housing Program and Transitional Housing 1 Program. The Bridgeport Housing Authority has complied with a court mandate to allow persons with disabilities to live in senior housing complexes.

The Bridgeport Housing Authority, along with the Woman's Institute Economic Development Corporation has renovated the Franklin and Eleanor Housing Complex, which consists of 110 units of housing. 48 units are supportive housing for homeless individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse addictions and low-income working individuals with a priority for veterans, and 62 units are reserved for elderly housing. Both complexes have on-site supportive services for the residents. Currently, the CoC in collaboration with United Way of Coastal Fairfield County and the Mayor's Office, is working to update The Ten Year Plan To End Homelessness with the inclusion of the priorities set in the Federal Strategic Plan To Prevent and End Homelessness.

Catholic Charities of Fairfield County partnered with Mutual Housing of Southwestern Connecticut to develop 22 units of permanent supportive housing located on Catherine Street adjacent to the Merton House of Hospitality. The Continuum of Care in conjunction with Supportive Housing Works and the Bridgeport Housing Authority have made progress with the Housing First Model to secure 100 vouchers for the homeless by the end of 2011.

2. Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.

The City of Bridgeport, the Continuum of Care, United Way of Coastal Fairfield County and homeless advocates will continue to work to serve the homeless by continuing to move the homeless into permanent housing with supportive services.

In January 2011, Representative Andres Ayala, of Bridgeport introduced the Proposed Bill No 6052 to the General Assembly and the Committee on Housing- **AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**, that all developments receiving state funding designate a certain number of housing units for persons who are chronically homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

High priority needs of homeless individuals include: permanent supportive housing, job training, case management, substance abuse treatment, mental health services and housing placement. Among individuals, those with the highest priority needs are: chronic substance abusers, the mentally ill, dually diagnosed individuals, and people with HIV/AIDS. High priority needs of homeless families with children include: transitional housing, job training, childcare, and substance abuse treatment. Children aging out of foster care have been and continue to be an emerging need.

The primary obstacle to meeting the needs of Bridgeport's homeless continues to be the lack of available funds on the federal, state and local levels. The PY37 Action Plan allocation of Emergency Shelter Grant funds, HPRP and Continuum of Care funding, as well as other related actions, will address these needs.

3. Chronic homelessness—The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.

The Continuum of Care Housing Committee in conjunction with Supportive Housing Works partnered with the developer Urban Green to secure six additional units for the chronically homeless individuals. Operation Hope secured an additional four units with HUD Bonus dollars. The Bridgeport Housing Authority has been awarded \$52 million which will result in a total 290 of project based housing vouchers. It has been determined that BHA will set aside 50 project based vouchers that will enable agencies to provide housing for the chronically homeless individuals. Currently, 340 housing units have been developed for the chronically homeless. The Continuum of Care's goal is to target 1260 units by the end of 2011.

In recent years, the Greater Bridgeport Continuum of Care has made incredible progress in building an enhanced coordinated continuum of care particularly with its effective partnership with the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County and with the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. Through these partnerships, task force groups have been established to meet regularly to assess needs, identify and close gaps, and coordinate efforts within the city and statewide. As part of meeting some of the homeless individuals and families' needs Project Connect Day was held on December 9, 2010.

Project Connect is a national initiative sponsored by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. The Greater Bridgeport CoC held its Project Connect day on December 9, 2010. Over 300 guests attended the fair where providers of housing, mental health, legal, employment, medical and financial services, income tax preparers and personal needs volunteers (barber, beautician and cosmetic experts) came together with homeless individuals and families to address their needs in a "one-stop" atmosphere. The Bridgeport Project has been credited with assisting numerous long term homeless individuals over the year in accessing housing and other services that for some reason were unobtainable by the homeless.

Again, the primary obstacle to serving the homeless is a lack of available funds on the federal, state, and local levels.

4. Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

The Greater Bridgeport Area Continuum of Care is working in collaboration with the Mayor's Leadership group to re-invigorate the Greater Bridgeport Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. This effort is chaired by Merle Berke Schessel, President and CEO of the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County (now known as United Way of Coastal Fairfield County) and Mayor Bill Finch. The leadership group is composed of presidents and directors of local universities, business groups, faith-based organizations, foundations, housing organizations, advocacy groups and selectmen from surrounding towns. The plan includes prevention, intervention, and results oriented approaches focusing on five goals that include:

1. Making safe and affordable housing available and ending the concentrations of poverty in communities.
2. Establishing a seamless safety net.
3. Developing and implementing income strategies.
4. Implementing discharge planning.
5. Raising public awareness of the issues.

Under the umbrella of the Greater Bridgeport Area Continuum of Care (GBACoC), and with the continued leadership of the Mayor's Office and United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, there has been continued progress in implementing the action steps and planning activities set forth in the plan. The United Way of Coastal Fairfield County has collaborated with Alpha Community Services and Operation Hope of Fairfield to serve as the fiduciary for the HPRP Program.

Having adopted this plan as their own, the GBACoC is in the process of expanding its membership to include all of those organizations who were instrumental in formulating the plan, and additional organizations who will be needed to achieve our goals in the future. They include: service providers, housing developers, business owners and leaders, representatives from government, philanthropic organizations, banks, behavioral health services, social service organizations, HIV/AIDS service providers, veterans' organizations, disabilities organizations, workforce development, health care providers, advocacy organizations, educational institutions, and consumers. In September of 2009, the Bridgeport CoC hired a part-time contractor to enhance communication, resource distribution and overall coordination efforts. Since that time, the CoC has been able to maintain an updated website, distribute monthly newsletters, establish more formal management processes and overall provide important support to the sub-committees.

United Way of Coastal Fairfield County has established a link on their website specifically for the GBACoC and implementation of the Ten Year Plan. Please link to: www.unitedwaycfc.org

The City of Bridgeport has been actively participating with the United Way housing initiative called Destination Home. Destination Home addresses chronic, transitional and episodic homelessness. The chronically homeless represents only 10% of the

total homeless population but utilizes 50% of the services. The transitional group represents 10% of the homeless population and uses about 30% of available services. The largest group of homeless (80%) experience episodic homelessness due to a crisis. Providing adequate prevention services can help this group avoid becoming homeless in the first place.

The vision of United Way's Destination Home is that all residents have appropriate housing – making possible the transition from homelessness to hopefulness.

Destination Home strategies include:

1. Implementing the actions in The Greater Bridgeport Area Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.
2. Investing in housing solutions (e.g. permanent supportive housing) that prevent homelessness and support individuals and families in obtaining appropriate housing choices.
3. Developing regional solutions to the wider housing crisis in partnership with a broad range of community providers.

The City's strategy for eliminating chronic homelessness as presented in Exhibit 1 of the Continuum of Care application is as follows:

1. Develop an inventory or pipeline of projects currently under development including set –aside of 5% for the chronically homeless individuals and families
2. CoC will continue to leverage federal, state and local investment housing funds
3. Provide assistance to developers that are building units in our community
4. CoC Housing Committee will continue to meet to address challenges and the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, which is entering its 5th year
5. Retain 87% of the housing for the homeless

5. Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.

Housing and support services will be coordinated and accessible for those being discharged from area hospitals, prisons, and residential care facilities, eliminating the need to discharge into shelters and homelessness.

Measures

1. Implementation of zero tolerance policy by all local institutions for discharge into homeless shelter or homelessness.
2. Reduction in number of individuals and families entering homeless service system who self disclose hospital, residential healthcare facility, or prison as last address.

Actions

- Add standards of service for discharge planning to system-wide standards for caregivers who serve the homeless in institutions.
- Establish additional supportive housing units for youth aging out of the foster care system; units to be funded by the CT Department of Children and Families.

- Create housing specialists to work in hospitals, prison, and courts.
- Establish pilot project to provide supportive housing to inmates at risk of homelessness utilizing funding from the Department of Corrections.

CoC Discharge Planning Policy Chart

Publicly Funded Institution(s) or System(s) of Care in CoC Geographic Area	None	Initial Discussion	Protocol in Development	Formal Protocol Finalized	Formal Protocol Implemented
Foster Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Foster Care: The Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF): DCF. has developed and implemented a policy that requires planning for the discharge of youth who are passing from DCF’s care at age eighteen or at age twenty-one, if the youth is still eligible for DCF’s care. The policy calls for a conference to be held six months prior to the anticipated discharge from DCF. care at which time a plan will be developed for the youth. In attendance at the conference is the youth’s assigned Social Worker and his/her immediate supervisor; the youth; foster parents or caregivers; the youth’s biological parents, if appropriate; any significant individual requested by the youth; community service providers. A budget is outlined for the youth and any income or assets available are discussed. In addition, expectations are discussed concerning continuation of services, after care service requirements, benefit entitlements for education, housing or medical care. A comprehensive plan is made that includes determining and verifying the youth’s future living arrangements.</p>					
<p>Health Care: The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS): DSS designed and developed "My Community Choices" a public information service that provides options for nursing home residents about returning to the community. The program, funded by an \$800,000 grant over three years from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is administered by DSS which has subcontracted the project to the Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living. Independent living centers are organizations designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities.</p>					
<p>The Section 8 Mainstream Housing Opportunities Program for Persons With Disabilities enhances the State of Connecticut’s continuing efforts to provide safe, decent, sanitary housing to persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities may apply when the Section 8 waiting list is open. The Section 8 waiting list identifies applicants who meet Mainstream eligibility requirements. Since 2003, DSS has made available up to 50 housing choice vouchers per year for persons living in licensed nursing facilities in the state of Connecticut who wish to live in private rental units in the community. Interested persons call a transition coordinator working in the center for independent living which serves the region in which they live. When a person has developed a service plan to live in the community, he or she will be referred to the contract administrator and placed on the waiting list.</p>					

Mental Health: On February 17, 1993, **The Connecticut State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)**: DMHAS has developed and implemented a policy required as a condition of receipt of McKinney Funds. This policy specifies that “each patient treated in a Department of Mental Health facility shall have a specialized treatment plan suited to his or her disorder...which shall include a discharge plan for appropriate aftercare of the patient. The treatment team or clinician responsible for the inpatient care should plan the aftercare services needed by the patient, in conjunction with the community case manager who is responsible to ensure service linkage in the community. This collaborative planning process should commence at the point of the inpatient admission and should identify all of the services and service providers in the local community support system whose efforts will assist the individual in maintaining him/herself in the community in the least restrictive environment possible. Continuity of care is of primary importance. Every attempt shall be made to verify discharge-housing arrangements. Under no circumstances shall an emergency shelter be considered appropriate housing disposition, and patients shall not be directly discharged by the inpatient facility to an emergency shelter. No patient shall be discharged from a DMH facility without documented evidence that discharge and aftercare plans have been an integral part of the treatment plan...(with) documentation indicating that the patient and the community based case manager have been actively involved in the discharge planning process.

Corrections: * **The Connecticut Department of Corrections (DOC.)** has instituted mandatory and standardized discharge planning for inmates at the end of sentence. Discharge planning begins at a minimum of 45 days prior to release. Staff assists the inmate with making arrangements for a smooth transition by addressing matters such as housing, clothing, transportation, medical and mental health treatment, identification and after care programs. The agency also contracts for more than 1,000 halfway house beds and supervises more than 3,500 additional low risk offenders in the community as a means of supporting a graduated and successful transition back to community self-sufficiency. With the consolidation of the Board of Parole field services into the Department of Correction, the number of offenders who are afforded this opportunity will increase. The Department ensures that each offender, from the time of half-way house placement until the end of supervision, has a Community Transition plan in place. This plan maps individual performance goals and objectives to be achieved in order to promote successful reintegration. The Department has funded pilot aftercare services in five community residential programs for those who have been discharged to parole supervision from a halfway house. Through a combination of state and grant funding the department has established over 40 supportive housing residences in the community A new partnership with the State Department of Veteran's Affairs will insure that discharging offenders who are veterans but are without housing will be welcomed at the State Veteran's Home and Hospital.

*Please note that “corrections” category refers to local jails and state or federal prisons.

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

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

N/A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

- 1. Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.**

The City of Bridgeport has determined its priority needs and objectives based upon its previously approved Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2003-2008) and updated by its recently completed Master Plan; Housing Policy; Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Should the City's priorities change over the next five years; the City will adjust these rankings via an amendment to its Five-Year Plan.

The funding reflects the needs of the City over the next five years. It is based upon the assumption that the City's current funding levels for CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA will remain somewhat constant over that period, as will its anticipated program income. Should that prove to not be the case, the City will adjust its estimates accordingly.

PRIORITY NEED	FIVE YEAR ESTIMATES	PRIORITY NEED LEVEL
Homeless and/or HIV/AIDS and their families	\$4,580,000	High
Non-Homeless/Special Needs; elderly, frail elderly, people with disabilities, alcohol and drug addiction	\$2,000,000	High
Housing	\$10,955,000	High
Public Facilities and Infrastructure	\$500,000	Medium
Economic Development	\$5,250,000	High
Public Services	\$2,440,000	High
Neighborhood Revitalization	\$2,000,000	High
Total Estimate for 2008 - 2013	\$27,725,000	

**Priority Community Development Needs
Table from Consolidated Plan**

Priority Need	Priority Need Level
Acquisition of Real Property	L
Disposition	L
Clearance and Demolition	M

Clearance of Contaminated Sites	M
Code Enforcement	H
Public Facility (General)	M
Senior Centers	H
Handicapped Centers	M
Homeless Facilities	H
Youth Centers	H
Neighborhood Facilities	H
Child Care Centers	H
Health Facilities	H
Mental Health Facilities	M
Parks and/or Recreation Facilities	M
Parking Facilities	L
Tree Planting	L
Fire Stations/Equipment	M
Abused/Neglected Children Facilities	H
Asbestos Removal	L
Non-Residential Historic Preservation	L
Other Public Facility Needs	
Infrastructure (General)	
Water/Sewer Improvements	L
Street Improvements	M
Sidewalks	M
Solid Waste Disposal Improvements	L
Flood Drainage Improvements	L
Other Infrastructure	
Public Services (General)	H
Senior Services	H
Handicapped Services	H
Legal Services	L
Youth Services	H
Child Care Services	H
Transportation Services	M
Substance Abuse Services	M
Employment/Training Services	H
Health Services	H
Lead Hazard Screening	H
Crime Awareness	M
Fair Housing Activities	H
Tenant Landlord Counseling	H
Other Services	
Economic Development (General)	H
C/I Land Acquisition/Disposition	M
C/I Infrastructure Development	H
C/I Building Acq/Const/Rehab	H
Other C/I	
ED Assistance to For-Profit	M
ED Technical Assistance	H
Micro-enterprise Assistance	H
Other Section 108 Loan Repayments	H

2. **Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.**

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

Bridgeport will complete a number of activities that will help to accomplish the goals and objective listed below during PY37. All of the projects supported with CDBG funds will meet the statutory goals of providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities for principally low and moderate income individuals. Project worksheets are attached to this document.

Five-Year Priority Needs and Objectives

This Annual Action Plan will continue to support the short and long term community development objectives of the Consolidated Plan. The following goals and objectives represent Bridgeport's five-year priority needs.

Public facilities and Infrastructure (PF & I): To maintain, improve and expand public facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the City's goals.

Specific Objectives:

1. Continue efforts to promote downtown Bridgeport as a residential, employment, educational, cultural, judicial and transportation district for the region during the next five years. Implement the recommendations of **The Downtown Plan** over the next three years. Create 500 new housing units and 1,000 new jobs. Priority assigned: High
2. Continue to support an improved multi-modal transportation network that keeps the city moving forward during the next five years. Reopen or replace the Congress Street Bridge over the next five years. Promote the use of downtown transit with appropriate pedestrian amenities; roadway improvements and streetscape enhancements over the next three years. Increase the number of parking spaces by 200 over the next three years. Priority assigned: Medium
3. Maximize city and community benefits through the balanced development of residential, commercial and public/recreational uses along Bridgeport's harbor and riverfronts during the next five years. Adopt the new Zoning Code proposed by the Master Plan over the next year. Increase public access to the waterfront by 50% over the next three years. Priority assigned: Medium

4. Maintain and further develop the quality and accessibility of public facilities throughout the city, focusing on the neighborhood revitalization zones and to increase the quality of sidewalks and streets, protecting current investment and safeguarding future investment during the next five years. Make improvements to 25 public facilities over the next five years. Move forward on the planning and preparation of 3 neighborhood revitalization zones over the next three years. Undertake at least two improvement projects within each of the 6 adopted neighborhood revitalization zones over the next five years. Priority assigned: Medium
5. Support improvements to neighborhood facilities that provide services to youth and the elderly and disabled. Make improvements to 25 neighborhood facilities over the next five years. Priority assigned: High

Economic Development (ED): To position Bridgeport to significantly increase its job base, become an employment center and capture its share of the projected regional job growth.

Specific Objectives:

1. Strengthen Bridgeport's economic competitiveness by attracting, creating and retaining jobs for Bridgeport residents and newcomers during the next five years. Create 1,000 new jobs over the next five years. Priority assigned: High
2. Continue to reposition the image of the city through effective marketing strategies and continued successful redevelopment projects. Recognize that improving the perception of the city is a top priority to promoting Bridgeport as a premier urban destination for Fairfield County during the next five years. Secure funding for the re-branding of Downtown Bridgeport and launch a new campaign within the next two years. Priority assigned: Medium
3. Motivate appropriate industries to locate and remain in Bridgeport. Focus on new and growing job sectors that the city is in a position to capture which includes: health-care; finance, insurance and real estate; back-office and administrative and support services for the region; arts, film and entertainment; and service and retail jobs during the next five years. Develop a low interest loan program to entice businesses to locate and expand within Bridgeport over the next three years. Provide assistance to 35 businesses over the next five years. Priority assigned: High
4. Continue to identify and target those brownfield sites in need of remediation and redevelopment so that the city can put them back to productive use and realize tax revenue from them during the next five years. Target 30 sites over the next five years. Priority assigned: High

5. Continue to support private developments that further the city's goals including: Steel Point; Pequonnock Mixed Use; Downtown North Adaptive Mixed Use and the Seaview Avenue Industrial Park and Lake Success Business Park during the next five years. Bolster the City's efforts to bring additional funding sources to the table for site improvements, affordable housing components and job creation for construction and permanent placement. Determine if the use of the Section 108 Loan Program is an appropriate funding mechanism for these projects over the next three years. Priority assigned: High

Public Services (PS): To improve the quality of life and meet the human service needs for the city's most vulnerable populations: the elderly, the youth, the disabled, the veterans and the homeless.

Specific Objectives:

1. Continue to fund senior centers that provide nutrition, health, social services, educational, recreational and transportation services. Support programs that assist seniors to remain housed in place for as long as possible during the next five years. Use CDBG funds to support programs to provide these services to 5,000 seniors over the next five years. Priority assigned: High
2. Expand programs that provide teens with role models, mentors and support necessary to remain in school and attain sufficient education and training. Support after-school programs that keep youth constructively involved and provide opportunities for physical and mental well-being. Support the number of quality prevention/positive youth development programs that incorporate substance abuse, pregnancy prevention and other health initiatives into their curriculum and have a proven track record for success during the next five years. Use CDBG funds to provide these services to 7,500 youth over the next five years. Priority assigned: High
3. Continue to support programs that provide information and referral, advocacy and case management and inclusion for persons with disabilities during the next five years. Use CDBG funds to provide these services to 5,000 disabled persons over the next five years. Priority assigned: High
4. Continue to support programs that provide counseling, case management, transportation, food and other support services to Bridgeport veterans and their families over the next five years. Advocate for more treatment and residential programs that can meet the needs of this population which is growing due to the Iraq War. CDBG funds will provide services to 2,000 veterans over the next five years. Priority assigned: High
5. Continue to support programs that provide safety net services to homeless individuals and their families including: the expansion of prevention services; wraparound services; discharge planning and additional treatment programs for those who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse disorders during the next five years. CDBG and ESG funds will provide services to 1,000 individuals over the next five years. Priority assigned: High

Neighborhood Revitalization (CE&SB): To foster neighborhoods of choice and improve the quality of life of neighborhood residents, transforming them into places where people choose to live because they want to, not because they have to.

Specific Objectives:

1. Continue to support programs that aggressively reduce blight, disinvestment and abandonment during the next five years. CDBG funds will be used to board up/secure 125 vacant properties and clean up 500 vacant lots and inspect 2000 properties over the next five years. Priority assigned: High
2. Provide programs that encourage property investment, including: the continuation of the Bridgeport Lead Free Program; rehabilitation programs for residential and commercial properties; façade improvements; appropriate streetscape treatments during the next five years. CDBG funds will be used to do 15,000 lead inspections; create 350 lead safe units; support 100 rehabilitation initiatives; improve sidewalks at the sites of new, improved housing and assist in the acquisition and development of 50 deteriorated units. Priority assigned: High
3. Focus growth on major transit corridors and work to reduce density within overcrowded neighborhoods during the next five years. CDBG funds will be used to provide staff and planning services to support the implementation of transit oriented development including housing along with State funded initiatives. Priority assigned: Medium
4. Work to improve safety and reduce crime and improve the livability of the neighborhoods during the next five years. Implement 12 neighborhood revitalization projects in the 6 approved zones over the next three years and develop and support 3 new neighborhood revitalization zones over the next two years. Priority assigned: High
5. Support partnerships with corporate sponsors and educational institutions to create additional state of the art facilities within neighborhoods during the next five years. Target the 10 largest corporations and the two colleges over the next three years to partner with the City. Priority assigned: Medium

Antipoverty Strategy

1. **Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.**

Program Year 4 Action Plan Antipoverty Strategy response:

Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) non-profit agency was designated the anti-poverty agency for the Greater Bridgeport Area in September of 1964 by the Office of Economic Opportunity. ABCD is distinguished from other corporations in two ways. First, ABCD's sole mandate is to assist the poor. Second, ABCD concentrates its efforts and resources on identifying and eliminating the causes of poverty rather than only dealing with its effects. ABCD's

actions are directed towards promoting appropriate institutional change and enabling the poor to become self-sufficient.

ABCD continues to make great strides in improving the quality of education for the city's children. The Total Learning Initiative involves a strategy of partnering with the Bridgeport school system and teaching nurtured groups of children entering the public school system. These children, who are products of ABCD's Head Start Program, are provided with specialized learning practices created in ABCD's pre-school experiences and which will be built upon throughout the early grades of public education. This curriculum infuses art, music and movement into what students learn. As a result of their success, Total Learning has spread from one classroom in one school to 16 classrooms across eight schools. Ultimately these children will overcome the learning gaps that plague school children nationally and the outcomes will bring about the institutional changes needed in public education everywhere.

ABCD's Early Learning Division continues to provide quality early learning services to more than 800 children and families. Each day they receive comprehensive early childhood/family services that include health, social and educational services. The Family Literacy Program, now in its 16th year, was recognized by the Administration for Children and Families. ABCD was also selected to be one of 10 national demonstration sites for the Fatherhood Initiative and one of 5 national demonstration sites for SAMHSA's substance abuse initiative.

While education reform is a major priority at ABCD, it continues to expand and excel in the delivery of its total array of social services. Their HIS Initiative, in cooperation With the Connecticut Department of Social Services, grows steadily. The hardships upon the poor, stemming from escalating energy costs has resulted in increased demand.

Recently, ABCD's employment services department underwent a name change. New Ventures, as it is now called, maintains the department's focus of assisting and empowering people in achieving self-sufficiency. Counseling and work-ready skills are provided for individuals on an as-needed basis, as well as basic computer skills training. New Ventures has also provided more than 2,000 Community Services hours for persons needing a non-profit organization to meet court mandated community work. The Individual Development Account (IDA) program, implemented last year, aims to assist participants in developing and maintaining assets. The IDA program has promise of providing participants with monies to assist in the purchase of a home, starting a business, or obtaining a higher education. New Ventures, as the name suggests, seeks non-traditional ways to address ABCD's objectives and funding to support its mission.

Additionally, ABCD was awarded \$5.9 million in ARRA funds to weatherize 770 Homes in Fairfield County; 525 Bridgeport, 99 Norwalk, and 146 Stamford by March 31, 2012. Currently the program has completed 908 residential dwellings and 104 HUD, Domestic Violence Shelters, and/or State Financed Housing. ABCD utilizes their fuel assistance program to identify program participants. Participants that own their homes and are found eligible, assistance is free. Renters require owner's permission and contribution.

For PY37, Emergency Shelter Grant funds have been awarded to ABCD for energy assistance (\$15,000); emergency rental assistance (\$15,000); and their food pantry (\$6,366).

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

Non-homeless Special Needs (91.220 (c) and (e))

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

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

Program Year 4 Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

The Bridgeport Health Department serves as the umbrella agency for the Office for Persons with Disabilities and Veteran's Affairs.

The Office for Persons with Disabilities undertakes activities to provide information and referral on issues, rights and programs for persons with disabilities at any age; promote self-empowerment; assist with direct advocacy support when necessary and with system advocacy to ultimately achieve the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Bridgeport community.

The Office of Veterans Affairs undertakes activities to provide information and referral; assistance with military disability, pension and other records; assistance in meeting basic needs and in obtaining treatment for alcohol or substance abuse for Bridgeport veterans and their families.

The Department of Social Services undertakes activities to provide services to individuals and families that have needs not met by State or Federal Entitlement programs. The State's elimination of the General Assistance program in 1997 represented a shift of responsibility from the State to the City for low-income single adults who have barriers in providing for their basic needs. Currently, the State has stipulated that the City serves individuals and families who have been discontinued from the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program with level funding. To that end, the following services are provided:

Case-Management Services : Bridgeport Social Services provides a comprehensive range of high quality services which prepare residents to advance toward total self-sufficiency. Social Workers will provide a full array of individualized and integrated case management services in a uniform and consistent manner. Services will be delivered through a client-centered approach that incorporates comprehensive assessment, counseling, employment plan development, service arrangement and referrals to eligible social services. Case management services begin at the point which the resident comes into the department whether referred from the Department of Social Services, community agencies, private sector, city departments, elected officials or as a walk-in.

Information and Referral: Bridgeport residents are provided with current information on opportunities and services available to them; their problems and needs will be assessed to ensure the individuals receive the appropriate

services, which included crisis intervention where clients' immediate needs are evaluated and proper referrals are made. Bridgeport Social Services has long standing relationships with other City and State Departments and local provider agencies that produce rapid responses to issues such as housing, emergency food and shelter, entitlement processes, substance abuse and mental health problems, transportation and day care.

In order to address non-homeless special needs during PY37, the City will continue to fund programs and activities which will benefit these populations most at risk, the disabled, the elderly, veterans and the low and very low income in need of social services. Such programs will include the services offered by the Department of Aging at the Eisenhower Senior Center; the Office of Veterans Affairs; the Office for Persons with Disabilities; the East Side Senior Center; the Ella Jackson Senior Center; the Social Services Emergency Code Violation Relocation program; Hall Neighborhood House and ABCD.

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS

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

- 1. Provide a Brief description of the organization, the area of service, the name of the program contacts, and a broad overview of the range/ type of housing activities to be done during the next year.**

The City of Bridgeport Department of Central Grants and Community Development uses its Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) grant funds to address the high priority needs for persons living with HIV/ AIDS in Bridgeport and the Eligible Statistical Metropolitan Area. Until the City of Bridgeport receives the final HUD allocation award letter, it is expected that the HOPWA funds for PY 37 will receive a cut from the current funding level. The majority of the funds will be targeted for tenant-based rental assistance, short term and utility assistance and support to congregate living facilities. In addition, HOPWA funds are utilized to provide supportive services in collaboration with other services providers.

- 2. Report on the actions taken during the year that addressed the special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, and assistance for persons who are homeless.**

The actions taken to address the special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing are stated previously in this document.

- 3. Evaluate the progress in meeting its specific objective of providing affordable housing, including a comparison of actual outputs and outcomes to proposed goals and progress made on the other planned actions indicated in the strategic and action plans. The evaluation can address any related program adjustments or future plans.**

The City of Bridgeport HOPWA Program continues to assist persons living with HIV/AIDS to establish and maintain a stable living environment. Project sponsors that receive HOPWA funds collaborate with other agencies to ensure that the needs of this special needs population are being met. Programs are expected to exceed their level of services and housing options for individuals and families. HOPWA funds are secured by project sponsors by submitting applications. The process is

competitive. The process involves a Citizen's Union participation and well as the Economic Development and Environmental Committee of City Council.

- 4. Report on annual HOPWA output goals for the number of households assisted during the year in: (1) short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to avoid homelessness; (2) rental assistance programs; and (3) in housing facilities, such as community residences and SRO dwellings, where funds are used to develop and/or operate these facilities. Include any assessment of client outcomes for achieving housing stability, reduced risks of homelessness and improved access to care.**

Over 90% of clients that received rental assistance (47) remained housed, 11 received housing in facility-based housing programs and 24 lived in transitional housing. The programs ensure that the consumers (81) are accessing a variety of services that enable them stability, confidence and self assurance. Most have jobs and/or are SSI recipients. With the proposed cuts that are predicted for PY37, the project sponsors are unsure as to whether the same level of client-oriented services will be available to PLWA.

- 5. Report on the use of committed leveraging from other public and private resources that helped to address needs identified in the plan.**

A total of \$2,141,213 of leveraged funds will be used by HOPWA sub-grantees in conjunction with the Ryan White, Supportive Housing Programs, CDBG, DSS, DMAS, United Way, private donations, in-kind contributions and program fees.

- 6. Provide an analysis of the extent to which HOPWA funds were distributed among different categories of housing needs consistent with the geographic distribution plans identified in its approved Consolidated Plan.**

Project sponsors received HOPWA funds to provide an array of services such as: tenant-based rental assistance, supportive services, facility-based operation funds, housing information services and administration cost associated with HOPWA activities.

- 7. Describe any barriers (including non-regulatory) encountered, actions in response to barriers, and recommendations for program improvement.**

The City of Bridgeport will unfortunately receive a decrease in HOPWA funds, which will cause a reduction in funds to the project sponsors. The non-profits will have to identify other resources and funding, so that the residents will not become homeless. Connecticut Resource AIDS Coalition will advocate on behalf of the PLWA for additional funding.

- 8. Please describe the expected trends facing the community in meeting the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and provide additional information regarding the administration of services to people with HIV/AIDS.**

As stated above, the most hindering challenge is the reduction in funding for the programs. Individuals are strapped with the high cost of rents, exorbitant utility

costs and the lack of affordable housing. Approximately 2,325 persons with HIV/AIDS reside in the EMSA area. These individuals need comprehensive case management and funds to sustain their housing, as well as maintain a healthy and positive relationship with their families. If a reduction in funding is put in place, PLWA will be faced with a reduction in rental subsidies, access to proper care and supportive services that are so important to their well-being.

9. Please note any evaluations, studies or other assessments that will be conducted on the local HOPWA program during the next year.

According to Connecticut Department of Public Health HIV Surveillance Program as of December, 2009, Bridgeport has 1,279 PLWA. The number represents 61.1% males, 38.9% females, 17.4% white, 43.1% black and 38.9% Hispanic. Stamford has 509 PLWA with 68.9 males, 31.4 females, 29.6% white, 46% black and 24% Hispanic. Norwalk has a total of 333 PLWA with 61.9% males, 38.1% females, 36.6% white, 41.4% black and 18.3% Hispanic. Danbury has the fourth largest number of PLWA in the EMSA with 207 individuals, 66.7% males, 33.3% females, 21% black and 32.9% Hispanic.

Program Year 4 Action Plan HOPWA response:

The HOPWA program is designed to provide states and localities with resources and incentives to develop long-term, comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of low and moderate income persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases, and their families. Funds are allocated nationwide to eligible areas based on new cases of AIDS reported to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

As a result of the new definitions for eligible metropolitan statistical areas (EMSAs) Bridgeport started to receive a direct allocation of Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant funds effective July, 2004. This funding was reallocated from the previous balance of State HOPWA allocation from the CT Department of Social Services. The basis for allocating investments geographically within the EMSA is based upon the number of HIV/AIDS cases coupled with the geographic location.

EMSA Community	# of Cases
Bridgeport	1,276
Danbury	207
Norwalk	333
Stamford	509

Individuals with HIV/AIDS living in Bridgeport and the surrounding EMSA face difficulties in finding safe and affordable supportive housing with wrap-around services, including services that provide substance abuse treatment center, and mental health facilities that specialize in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. Different approaches like harm reduction, medically monitored treatment, motivational interviewing and other creative methods must be implemented to reach the chemically dependent subgroup, that are caught in the cycle of relapse and find themselves in the streets, hospital or correctional facilities.

The strategies taken by the HOPWA sub grantees to meeting the national goals of the availability of increasing safe, decent and affordable housing for Persons Living with AIDS are as follows:

- Provide comprehensive case management and educational services to individuals and families
- Educate and provide outreach to youth who are afflicted with HIV/AIDS
- HIV counseling and testing syringe exchange programs
- Funds are used to sustain and expand housing and social services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their families
- Identify alternative funding sources to enhance housing options and services for persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families provide special focus group sessions where the PLWA can express their insight and candid input concerning their difficulties and concerns
- Promote coordination of outreach and service provision among the many providers within the EMSA
- HOPWA providers continue to bring attention to the forefront at the legislative level and other organizations, thereby representing those individuals who cannot lobby for themselves
- Maintain a positive relationship with their families
- Provide job assistance, rental assistance utility assistance and other housing costs that will help alleviate the burden to the person and families living with HIV/AIDS.

As a result of the advances in the treatment of HIV/AIDS the lives of the PLWA have been greatly extended. The new development of HIV/AIDS medications and the assistance of HOPWA funds have provided a healthier living environment for PLWA.

The City provides administrative funding to the Connecticut AIDS Residence Coalition to assist in the management of the funding in a manner that avoids duplication, leverages limited resources, provides services to programs within the city of Bridgeport and throughout the EMSA, and provides clients with a variety of options to maximize their housing choice. All agencies using HOPWA funds allocated by the City of Bridgeport in the EMSA must follow the standards of care for quality housing and services for PWAs used by the State Department of Social Services. Project Sponsors must adhere to HUD regulations under the AIDS Opportunity Act (42 USC Sec. 12901 et. Seq. (the Act), the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) Program rule, 24, CFR 574 as amended and the Consolidated Plan rule, 24, CFR 91 as amended. All of these regulations are incorporated into the contract agreements between the City of Bridgeport and the project sponsors. The city monitors all project sponsors on an annual basis.

The following organizations will receive HOPWA funding during the program year:

Agency: AIDS Project Greater Danbury
30 West Ave.

Danbury, CT 06810

Proposed Accomplishment: Provide housing, supportive services

Program: HOPWA

Activity: Facilities-Based Operations, Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Supportive Services

Contact: Robert Stewart

Request: \$114,000

Final Council Approval: \$ 75,000

AIDS Project Greater Danbury is non-profit organizations that advocates for and provide supportive services to people living with HIV/AIDS, their families and to actively promote AIDS education and prevention in the community. AIDS Project provides comprehensive case management services, community and youth outreach and education activities, HIV counseling and testing and a syringe exchange program. APGD serves as the regional intake point for all HIV services. The program will serve 5 individuals in congregate living and two scattered sites.

Agency: Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc.

238 Jewett Ave

Bridgeport, CT 06606

Proposed Accomplishments: Provide housing, supportive services

Program: HOPWA

Activity: Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, supportive services

Contact: Leticia Brown-Gambino

Request: \$217,000

Final Council approval: \$ 70,000

Catholic Charities is a non-profit agency that serves Fairfield County and is a leading provider of senior services, case management, behavioral health programs, women & children services and life skills. Catholic Charities is the largest private agency that provides housing through the scattered housing program enabling individuals and families with HIV/AIDS to live more independently and overcome problems in their lives. The program will serve 10 individuals and 7 families.

Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition (CARC)

110 Bartholomew Ave., Suite 400

Hartford, CT 06106

Proposed Accomplishments: To provide technical assistance to the City for AIDS housing and other services as needed. The current allocation is \$5,000.

Program: HOPWA

Activity: Technical assistance

Contact: John Merz

CARC is the only statewide AIDS organization in CT. Their services include advocacy and consumer organizing, disbursements of housing and client housing funds and technical assistance to AIDS housing and service providers

Agency: Chemical Abuse Services Agency:

690 Arctic St.

Bridgeport, CT 06608

Proposed Accomplishments: Provide supportive housing for 10 men, supportive services

Program: HOPWA

Activity: Tennant-based Rental Assistance, supportive Services

Contact: Jose Torres

Request: \$98,462

Final Council Approval: \$43,000

The Noble House will provide tenant-based rental housing (transitional) and supportive services to 10 single males who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Residents will receive case management, job skill training and substance abuse treatment.

Agency: Mid-Fairfield AIDS Project, Inc.

**16 River St
Norwalk, CT 06851**

Proposed Accomplishments: Provide permanent housing and supportive services

Program: HOPWA

Activity: Tenant-Based rental assistance and supportive service

Contact: Stuart Lane

Request: \$153,000

Final Council Approval: \$ 120,000

The primary focus of Mid-Fairfield is to take care of people living with HIV/AIDS. The housing program is that which we provide rental assistance to some thirty apartments serving individuals and families with HIV/AIDS. Service delivery is accomplished primarily through the case management program. A core group of case managers meet with clients to assess their needs, develop a care plan and work together to see that these needs are resolved. The program provides 12 units of housing for 20 men, women and families.

**Agency: Refocus Outreach Ministries, Inc.
80 Bunnell St.**

Bridgeport, CT 06607

Proposed Accomplishments: Provide housing and case management

Program: HOPWA

Activity: Facility-based operations, supportive services and non-supportive serves (food staples and other personal & hygiene products)

Contact: Martha Melvin

Request: \$85,369

Final Council Approval: \$ 75,000

Refocus Outreach Ministry, Inc. is a faith-based non-denominational residential facility designed to assist women who are making a transition from homelessness, substance abuse, and/ or incarceration to healthy lives. Since its inception, Refocus has had a proportion of women with HIV/AIDS which were referred to local social and health providers for their disability. Refocus is applying for HOPWA funds for the first time in order to provide 6 individuals with housing. Refocus has secured a 3 unit building and is providing permanent housing to 6 persons living with AIDS.

**Agency: Recovery Network of Programs, Inc.
2 Trap Falls, Suite 405
Shelton, CT 06484**

Proposed Accomplishments: Provide housing and supportive services

Program: HOPWA

Activity: Facility-based operations, tenant-based rental assistance

Contact: Joanne Montgomery

Request: \$130,634

Final Council Approval: \$ 80,000

Regional Network of Program's goal is to support the community, friends and families of the clients that they serve to achieve optimal wellness. RNP understands the complexity of substance abuse, mental health, persons living with HIV/AIDS and the devastation of homelessness. The highly skilled staff, administration and board of directors are caring, compassionate and dedicated to the clients they serve. The program provides housing, support services and other programs that benefit not only HIV/AIDS individuals and families but also the homeless population in the Fairfield County area. The program provides housing for 6 individuals and families and supportive services to 10 homeless individuals. RNP is providing drug rehabilitation treatment to those individuals that are living in the shelter and are also diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

Agency: St. Luke's Community Services, Inc.

**140 Franklin St
Stamford, CT 06901**

Proposed Accomplishment: Provide housing, education & supportive services

Activity: Facility-based operations & supportive services

Contact: Bob Rimmer

Request: \$182,968

Final Council Approval: \$ 111,583

St Luke's LifeWorks is a non-sectarian organization that provides housing, education and supportive services to people who are homeless, persons living with AIDS and persons with living with mental illness. Housing and supportive services are the primary focus of St. Luke's LifeWorks. The agency also operates Bed & Roses located in the Fairfield County as well as McKinney Residence which serves individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. The program provides congregate living facilities for 15 individuals.

Specific HOPWA Objectives

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

Program Year 4 Specific HOPWA Objectives response:

Based on the information provided in the CD YR 37 applications for HOPWA funds, this year HOPWA funds will leverage approximately \$2,141,213. The City expects this number to increase over the course of the program year. The various sources of funds which the HOPWA providers cited include: Connecticut Department of Social Services; Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; HUD SHP; HUD CDBG; Ryan White Part A funds; United Way funds; Foundations; and fund raising. Many of the providers collaborate with other community-based organizations that provide health care services, transportation and job training and placement opportunities. These resources allow the providers to create a full spectrum of comprehensive residential and supportive services for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Other Narrative

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

N/A