



Sarasota County

HERO

Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office

Annual Action Plan

FY 2025 - 2026



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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The 2025 Annual Action Plan was prepared by the Sarasota County Housing Enhancement and Rehabilitation Office (HERO).

Annually, Sarasota County receives federal grant allocations from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for three federal Community Planning and Development entitlement grants:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

In 2021, Sarasota County completed the planning process for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (Consolidated Plan) spanning Federal program years 2021-2025, as required by HUD. The purpose of the Consolidated Plan is to identify goals and strategies for addressing housing and community development needs, including those of homeless and other populations with special needs, using Federal funding sources during the five-year period. The County's Consolidated Plan includes Sarasota County only as a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds.

There are four major areas of focus in the Consolidated Plan: Housing, Homelessness, Non-Housing Community Development, and Non-Homeless Special Needs. The Consolidated Plan process requires the County to identify priority needs and prepare an Annual Action Plan each subsequent year to address those priority needs. For each priority need, there are goals and strategies established to measure progress. Both the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action plan address statutory goals established by Federal law, which include decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

This Annual Action Plan describes the specific projects that will be implemented during the Federal Fiscal Year (FY) starting October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026 (i.e., Federal FY 2025.), and represents the fifth year of the five-year planning period.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

Sarasota County's 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan is structured around five goals for administering the County's housing and community development programs. Each goal is accompanied by corresponding priority needs and specific outcome indicators toward meeting that goal.

Projects selected for the fifth-year (Federal Fiscal Year 2025) Annual Action Plan must continue to support these goals through eligible activities.

These goals are identified as follows:

1. Affordable Housing Availability/Access – Increase the availability of and access to affordable housing units.
2. Affordable Housing Maintenance – Maintain the existing affordable housing stock.
3. Homeless Needs – Provide housing, facilities, and services to the homeless.
4. Special Needs – Provide housing, facilities, and services for those with special needs.
5. Community Development – Support the provision of public improvements, services, and facilities.

Additionally, the County will use federal funding to administer the CDBG and ESG programs (i.e., non-goal program administration).

3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

In October 2023, the administration of the County's CDBG and ESG funding was transitioned from the City of Sarasota's Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) to Sarasota County's Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office (HERO) following an Interlocal Agreement that was not renewed. The County is currently in compliance with HUD regulations and will continue to meet the goals and priority needs identified in the Consolidated Plan.

The cities of North Port and Venice have an Interlocal Agreement with Sarasota County and are a part of the Sarasota Urban County program. Because the City of Sarasota receives a direct allocation of CDBG funds, the Sarasota Urban County program funds must be used to primarily benefit residents of the unincorporated portion of Sarasota County and the cities of North Port and Venice. Uniquely, Sarasota County also receives a direct allocation of ESG funds.

Currently, the Sarasota Urban County meets the funding threshold to receive a direct allocation of HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) whereas the City of Sarasota does not. However, HUD allows local governments to join with contiguous local governments to meet the funding threshold by forming what HUD calls a "Consortium". One of the consortium members is designated as the "lead entity" and receives the HOME funding on behalf of all consortium members. At the time this Annual

Action Plan is being drafted, the City of Sarasota is the lead entity for the Sarasota Consortium HOME funds are discussed in the City's Annual Action Plan.

Each year performance outcomes for CDBG and ESG are measured and reported under the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) which captures progress towards meeting five-year goals and objectives. The CAPER provides a comprehensive review of past performance of Sarasota County and its subrecipients both as to level of expenditures and accomplishments. The current fiscal year 2024 is still underway and a CAPER will be completed in December of 2025. Prior and current years of CDBG funds are being used to complete several projects that are underway or in the planning phase to include sidewalk improvements, park improvements, erosion control projects, and social services case management. Prior and current years of ESG funds are being used to complete rapid re-housing, emergency shelter, and HMIS database projects for homeless individuals and families.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Citizen participation has been and will continue to be an integral part of developing and maintaining the Consolidated Plan. Staff continue to make efforts to increase community participation in developing the Annual Action Plan. A timeline of efforts made by Sarasota County during this year's planning include:

February 2025 – Two public input meetings were held on February 25, 2025 and February 26, 2025 to assess the needs and priorities of the community. Public meeting notices were published in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune (a newspaper of general circulation) to encourage citizen participation and attendance at these public meetings. The two public meetings were held in north and south county during times and locations that were most convenient for citizens to participate. At these public meetings, participants were able to provide written and verbal comments with verbal comments transcribed by staff.

March 2025 – Two grant workshops were held virtually on March 13, 2025 and March 17, 2025 where local municipalities and non-profit organizations attended to gain information on CDBG/ESG eligible activities and the County's new application process for project selection for the Federal FY 2025 Annual Action Plan. A total of 39 attendees representing 18 organizations were present for these workshops. In addition, applications for organizations, local municipalities, and internal departments were open for submission from March 18, 2025 through April 8, 2025. A total of 17 completed applications were received (3 CDBG Public Facilities/Infrastructure, 9 CDBG Public Services, 5 ESG) and evaluated with a total of 9 projects (6 CDBG and 3 ESG) being selected for inclusion in the 2025 Annual Action Plan draft.

April 2025 – The draft Annual Action Plan was placed on Sarasota County's public website and emails were sent to the Continuum of Care, public housing authorities, housing and social service providers, the business community, organizations and associations representing low-income neighborhoods, representatives of minority groups, and the general public with links to the draft plans for viewing and a

dedicated email address for the submission of comments. Comments on the draft Action Plan were accepted for a 30-day period starting April 15, 2025, and ending May 15, 2025.

Additionally, two public meetings were held on April 29, 2025 and April 30, 2025 for comments related to the draft Annual Action Plan.

Public notices, meeting minutes, and public comments regarding the citizen participation process are provided in the Grantee Unique Appendix (Appendix) of this Annual Action Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

Sarasota County's public comment period for the draft Annual Action Plan was April 15, 2025 through May 15, 2025. There were no public comments received.

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

All comments received during the public comment period were accepted.

7. Summary

Sarasota County's Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office has carefully analyzed the needs and goals of the Consolidated Plan to ensure that proposed FY 2025 projects support these goals and meet the needs of the community. These needs were prioritized through an extensive citizen participation process that involved citizens, community stakeholders, housing and service providers, and staff of participating jurisdictions, which informed the decisions made relative to the Annual Action Plan.

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

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

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	SARASOTA COUNTY	Office of Financial Management, HERO
ESG Administrator	SARASOTA COUNTY	Office of Financial Management, HERO

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office (HERO) is a newly formed unit within Sarasota County's Office of Financial Management Department, within the Program Management Division – it is the responsible administrator over the County's CDBG and ESG funds.

This Annual Action Plan was developed by staff from Sarasota County HERO, the cities of North Port and Venice, not-for-profit public service providers, and the general public.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

Sarasota County's Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office, in the development of this plan, published multiple newspaper advertisements and an email address for submission of comments, conducted 2 public input meetings, conducted 2 virtual workshops for interested organizations and municipalities, hosted a public comment period of 30 days, conducted 2 public hearings on the draft Annual Action Plan. Opportunities to participate were advertised by newspaper, website, and email outreach. Comments and concerns raised during the citizen participation process were taken into consideration when selecting the Annual Action Plan projects.

On 07-08-2025, the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners reviewed and approved funding allocations, projects, and activities outlined in this Annual Action Plan (CDBG, ESG).

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

Sarasota County's Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office notified community stakeholders about opportunities to participate and consulted directly with the Continuum of Care (CoC), public housing authorities (PHAs), and other housing and social service providers regarding respective needs. Opportunities to participate were advertised by newspaper notice, website, and email outreach. The County consults with entities throughout the preceding year concerning ongoing topics of mutual interest and during the preparation of the Annual Action Plan.

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

The Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness (Suncoast Partnership) is the lead agency for the Continuum of Care (CoC). The mission of the Suncoast Partnership is to prevent and end homelessness throughout Manatee and Sarasota counties. The Suncoast Partnership provides leadership to the communities on issues relating to homelessness through engagement and collaboration with business and civic leaders, service providers, faith-based organizations, advocates, concerned citizens, and people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

HERO coordinated directly with the Suncoast Partnership regarding the needs of homeless persons and persons at-risk of homelessness. Specific homeless needs include rental assistance and rapid rehousing, street outreach, mental and behavioral health services/substance abuse programs, and permanent supportive housing.

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

Sarasota County directly receives and administers Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. Consultation with the Suncoast Partnership CoC informed the selection of Action Plan projects. As the lead agency for the CoC, the Suncoast Partnership administers the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and reports the annual Point-in-Time (PIT), Housing Inventory Count (CIC), and other HUD system performance measures to comply with HUD requirements and document progress related to the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

2. Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and consultations

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Sarasota County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Grantee Department Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email Outreach; Direct Consultation/Coordination; Sarasota County Staff Meeting to Select Projects and Draft Budgets; Identification of Community Development Needs. Sarasota County's Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office prepared the Annual Action Plan and met to review/evaluate funding applications and make recommendations regarding the proposed use of federal funds.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Sarasota
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email Outreach; Direct Consultation/Coordination; Identification of Community Development Needs. The City of Sarasota and the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) was advised of the availability of the County's draft Action Plan and encouraged to submit public comment.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	City of North Port
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email Outreach; Direct Consultation/Coordination; Identification of Community Development Needs. The City of North Port was advised of the availability of the draft Action Plan and encouraged to submit public comments. Meetings were held previously with City of North Port staff which supported the initial development of the proposed projects.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Venice
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email Outreach; Direct Consultation/Coordination; Identification of Community Development Needs. The City of Venice was advised of the availability of the draft Action Plan and encouraged to submit public comments. Meetings were held previously with City of Venice staff which supported the initial development of the proposed projects.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Laurel Civic Association, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education Services-Employment Emergency Food and Financial Assistance Neighborhood Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Housing Community Development Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email Outreach; Request for Input; Notification of Opportunities to Participate; Website/Publications Research. The Laurel Civic Association, Inc. was advised of the availability of the draft Action Plan and encouraged to submit public comments. Meetings were held previously with Laurel Civic Association, Inc. staff which supported the initial development of the proposed projects.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email Outreach; Direct Consultation/Coordination; Notification of Opportunities to Participate; Identification of Homeless Needs. Sarasota County HERO staff directly consults with the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, the lead entity for the Continuum of Care (CoC) during development of the Annual Action Plan. The Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness was advised of the availability of the draft Action Plan and encouraged to submit public comments. Consultation meetings were held previously with the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness which supported the initial development of the proposed projects.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Salvation Army Sarasota
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Neighborhood Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email Outreach; Direct Consultation/Coordination; Notification of Opportunities to Participate; Identification of Homeless Needs. The Salvation Army was advised of the availability of the draft Action Plan and encouraged to submit public comments. Consultation meetings were held previously with The Salvation Army which supported the initial development of the proposed projects.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Saint Vincent de Paul
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email Outreach; Direct Consultation/Coordination; Notification of Opportunities to Participate; Identification of Homeless Needs. St. Vincent de Paul was advised of the availability of the draft Action Plan and encouraged to submit public comments. Consultation meetings were held previously with St. Vincent de Paul which supported the initial development of the proposed projects.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Safe Children Coalition
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-homeless Child Welfare Agency Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email Outreach; Direct Consultation/Coordination; Notification of Opportunities to Participate; Identification of Homeless Needs. Safe Children Coalition was advised of the availability of the draft Action Plan and encouraged to submit public comments. Consultation meetings were held previously with Safe Children Coalition which supported the initial development of the proposed projects.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Harvest House
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-homeless Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email Outreach; Direct Consultation/Coordination; Notification of Opportunities to Participate; Identification of Homeless Needs. Harvest House was advised of the availability of the draft Action Plan and encouraged to submit public comments. Consultation meetings were held previously with Harvest House which supported the initial development of the proposed projects.

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

HERO consulted with various agencies and agency types in developing the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan. No agencies were intentionally left out of the process.

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness	The funding priorities established by the Continuum of Care are included in the Consolidated Plan.

Table 2 - Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Annual Action Plan

2025

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Narrative

Effective implementation of the Consolidated Plan involves a variety of agencies both in the community and in the County. Coordination and collaboration between agencies are important to ensuring that the needs in the community are addressed. Sarasota County's Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office maintains an ongoing relationship with local housing authorities, affordable housing providers, and agencies providing services to low- and moderate-income populations and the homeless. Not all agencies were able to attend the public hearings but many did consult and discuss needs with County staff throughout the year as needed.

Please see attachment for a comprehensive list for #11-29 of agencies groups, organizations and others who participated in the Action Planning process as it relates to CDBG and ESG funding.

AP-12 Participation - 91.401, 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

Sarasota conducted an extensive citizen participation and consultation process during the development of the Consolidated Plan that included consultation with the Continuum of Care, the two public housing authorities serving Sarasota County, housing and social service advocates and providers, the business community, neighborhood organizations and associations, minority and special needs groups, and the general public. The comments received during that process informed the priorities and goals of the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan, which must be supported by each subsequent Annual Action Plan.

Citizen participation is imperative to the planning process for the County's Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office. To support the development and finalization of this year's draft Action Plan, a series of in-person and virtual meetings were held to gather information and feedback as to community needs. Two public input meetings were held in February 2025 to gather the public's perspective on the needs and priorities of the community. In addition, two virtual grant workshops were held in March 2025 with local non-profit organizations, local municipalities, and internal departments. Finally, two public hearings were held in April 2025 to discuss the draft Annual Action Plan prior to the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners meeting on 07-08-2025.

Public meeting and public hearing notices were published in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune (a newspaper of general circulation) to encourage citizen participation and attendance at these public meetings. The two public meetings were held in north and south county during times and locations that were most convenient for citizens to participate. At these public meetings, participants were able to provide written and verbal comments with verbal comments transcribed by staff.

The draft Annual Action plan was also placed on Sarasota County's public website and emails were sent to the Continuum of Care, public housing authorities, housing and social service providers, the business community, organizations and associations representing low-income neighborhoods, representatives of minority groups, and the general public with links to the draft plans for viewing and a dedicated email address for the submission of comments. Comments on the draft Action Plan were accepted for a 30-day period starting April 15, 2025, and ending May 15, 2025.

Public notices, meeting minutes, and public comments regarding the citizen participation process are provided in the attachments of this Annual Action Plan.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
1	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/ broad community	A newspaper advertisement was placed in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune on February 14, 2025, to notify residents of the opportunity to attend 2 public meetings and provide input on the use of federal funds for the 2025 Annual Action Plan. The ad also provided a dedicated email for public input comments if citizens could not attend in person.	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	A Public Meeting was held on February 25, 2025 at the Betty J. Johnson Library in Sarasota, FL to accept citizen comments on proposed federal funding projects and use of funds for the 2025 Annual Action Plan.	There were no comments received at this public meeting.	N/A	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	A Public Meeting was held on February 26, 2025 at the Frances T. Bourne Jacaranda Library in Venice, FL to accept citizen comments on proposed federal funding projects and use of funds for the 2025 Annual Action Plan. There was 1 representative from a local non-profit organization that was present.	There were no comments received at this public meeting.	N/A	N/A
4	Virtual Workshop	Non-Profits, Local Municipalities, Internal Depts.	Two virtual Grants Workshops were held via Microsoft Teams on March 13, 2025 and March 17, 2025. The workshop was open to non-profit organizations, local municipalities, and internal departments to discuss CDBG/ESG funding, eligible activities, and the funding application process. A total of 39 attendees representing 18 organizations were present for these workshops.	There was an open discussion held at the end of the workshop where questions were received from attendees that pertained to anticipated funding amounts and the new application process in Neighborly.	N/A	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
5	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/ broad community	A newspaper advertisement was placed in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune on April 15, 2025, to notify residents of the draft 2025 Action Plan's availability on the HERO webpage. The ad also invited citizens to attend 2 public meetings and provide input on the draft 2025 Annual Action Plan that outlines the use of federal funds for the upcoming Fiscal Year and provided a dedicated email for public input comments and an address to submit written comments if citizens could not attend these meetings in person.	The Public Comment period was open April 15, 2025 through May 15, 2025. There were no public comments received.	N/A	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
6	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/ broad community	A notice of the draft 2025 Annual Action Plan's availability, draft document, and notification of public comment period timeframe was posted on the County's HERO webpage. The posting also invited citizens to attend 2 public meetings and provide input on the draft 2025 Annual Action Plan that outlines the use of federal funds for the upcoming Fiscal Year and provided a dedicated email for public input comments and an address to submit written comments if citizens could not attend these meetings in person.	The Public Comment period was open April 15, 2025 through May 15, 2025. There were no public comments received.	N/A	www.sc.gov.net/HERO
7	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	A Public Meeting is being held on April 29, 2025 at the Frances T. Bourne Jacaranda Library in Venice, FL to accept citizen comments on the draft 2025 Annual Action Plan.	There were no public comments received.	N/A	N/A
8	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	A Public Meeting is being held on April 30, 2025 at the Betty J. Johnson Library in Sarasota, FL to accept citizen comments on the draft 2025 Annual Action Plan.	There were no public comments received.	N/A	N/A

Table 3 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources - 91.420(b), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

Sarasota County has been awarded \$1,767,490 in CDBG funding for the upcoming Federal Fiscal Year 2025. Program Income for the upcoming fiscal year is estimated at \$20,000. CDBG funds will be used for housing and community development activities including, but not limited to, social and public services, public improvements, and administration of the County's CDBG program.

Sarasota County has been awarded \$152,828 in ESG funding for the upcoming Federal Fiscal Year 2025. No ESG Program Income or prior-year resources are anticipated. ESG funds will be used for street outreach, emergency shelter, maintaining the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and administration of the County's ESG program.

The expected amount available during the remainder of the Consolidated Plan (2025) is based on the amount of funding remaining after the first-, second-, third-, and fourth-year allocations and related program income are subtracted from the five-year total. Prior-year resources are already accounted, and therefore are not subtracted.

Other resources, such as private and non-Federal public sources may become available to Sarasota County during the program year. For CDBG leveraging, these include local government General Fund dollars, private or nonprofit organizations, or other sources. The County will look to leverage funds, if available, from other agencies and programs to support housing and community development efforts.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$1,767,490.00	20,000.00	0.00	\$1,787,490.00	0.00	CDBG funds will be used for housing, public service, and community development activities.
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	\$155,828.00	0.00	0.00	\$155,828.00	0.00	ESG funding will be used for homeless housing and services.

Table 4 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

CDBG funds do not require a local match; however, where applicable, Sarasota County will leverage CDBG funds with other public and private funding sources.

The Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) requires a 1:1 match. The match is met through the County's contribution to the HMIS system. In addition, each agency receiving funding may be required to provide a portion of the required match, where applicable.

Other resources, such as SHIP funding, were previously administered by the City of Sarasota as lead of the Sarasota Consortium. For the upcoming Fiscal Year, the administration of the SHIP program is expected to transition to Sarasota County. Sarasota County intends to include funding from SHIP for leveraging. For example, state SHIP funding will be used for homeowner housing rehabilitation, purchase price assistance, construction of homeowner and rental units, and administration.

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

Sarasota County maintains a list of publicly owned land that is available on the County's website: <https://www.scgov.net/government/planning-and-development-services/property-management>. Parcels considered surplus lands are denoted on the list. Each department within the Sarasota County regularly reviews their respective list of properties, in conjunction with the Property Management Division, to identify opportunities to dispose of surplus lands.

Discussion

Sarasota County will commit award \$1,787,490 in CDBG funds and \$152,828 in ESG funds to projects to be completed during the 2025-2026 program year (i.e., Federal FY 2025). These CDBG funds, along with prior-year resources, will be used for public services (e.g., social services/case management) and public improvements in the unincorporated County, City of Venice, and City of North Port. ESG funds will be used to facilitate emergency shelter, street outreach, and HMIS for homeless data collection.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Homeless Needs	2021	2025	Homeless	N/A	Housing Assistance and Support Services Mental and Behavioral Health Services Homeless Housing and Services Homeless Outreach and Case Management Public Services	CDBG: \$130,000.00 ESG: \$141,366.00	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 40 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 25 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 100 Persons Assisted
2	Community Development	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Low- and Moderate-Income Areas (LMA)	Housing Assistance and Support Services Mental and Behavioral Health Services Neighborhood Improvements Parks/Recreation or Community Facilities Public Services	CDBG: \$1,304,000.00	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 8060 Persons Assisted Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 366 Persons Assisted
3	Non-Goal Administration	2021	2025	Administration	N/A		CDBG: \$353,490.00 ESG: \$11,462.00	Other: 0 Other

Table 5 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Homeless Needs
	Goal Description	For the 2025 Annual Action Plan, ESG funding will be utilized for the HMIS system, street outreach, and emergency shelter services for the homeless or at-risk of homelessness. In addition, a portion of CDBG funding will be used towards public services to provide housing assistance and supportive case management services to unaccompanied youth and homeless individuals/families and in-home mental health services for individuals and families currently involved in a transitional housing program to promote stability and continued housing.
2	Goal Name	Community Development
	Goal Description	For the upcoming fiscal year, CDBG funding will be used towards a parks improvement project, purchase of a high-water rescue vehicle for emergency response efforts, and public service activities for social services case management.
3	Goal Name	Non-Goal Administration
	Goal Description	CDBG and ESG funding will be used to administer federally funded housing and community development programs.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

During Fiscal Year 2025, Sarasota County's Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office plans to use CDBG funding to fund both non-housing community development projects and public services. Non-housing projects will improve public facilities and infrastructure that serve low- and moderate-income residents. Public service activities will assist an array of homeless, special needs, and low- to moderate-income individuals for social services case management, mental health counseling, and housing support services for homeless individuals/families and unaccompanied youth in the community. ESG funding will be used to provide street outreach, emergency shelter, and HMIS services.

Additionally, CDBG and ESG funding will be used for program administration.

Details of these projects are included in this table.

#	Project Name
1	North Port Fire Rescue Equipment (CDBG)
2	Sarasota County Locklear Park Improvements (CDBG)
3	North Port Social Service Attendants (CDBG)
4	Laurel Civic Social Service Attendants (CDBG)
5	Harvest House Wellness Within Reach (CDBG)
6	Safe Children Coalition Schoolhouse Link (CDBG)
7	Program Administration (CDBG)
8	ESG-25 Sarasota County

Table 6 – Project Information

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

Allocation priorities are based on the needs assessment, market analysis, and strategic plan goals set forth in the five-year Consolidated Plan. Additionally, input from the public and collaboration with municipalities (City of North Port and City of Venice) and agencies shaped the more specific allocation priorities of Fiscal Year 2025. The main obstacle to addressing underserved needs is coordination of services and projects. The analysis done for this Annual Action Plan took into account funding which was already allocated to services and projects and attempted to utilize the funds available to fill any gaps in funding, primarily for low- and moderate income residents of the jurisdiction. The 20% program administration cap and 15% public service cap for CDBG funding and the 7.5% program administration cap for ESG funding were also taken into account when developing this Plan.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	North Port Fire Rescue Equipment (CDBG)
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Community Development
	Needs Addressed	Parks/Recreation or Community Facilities Special Needs Facilities and Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$324,000.00
	Description	Purchase of High-Water Rescue Vehicle for the City of North Port's Fire Rescue Department.
	Target Date	12/31/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that the purchase of this vehicle could assist up to 6860 low- to moderate- income families throughout the City of North Port in areas that are prone to flooding and near waterways.
	Location Description	City of North Port
	Planned Activities	This purchase of a High-Water Rescue Vehicle would allow the City of North Port to provide vital services during and after disastrous storm events, such as the recent spate of Hurricanes that impacted Southwest Florida. Investing in a high-water rescue vehicle offers numerous advantages to a local fire rescue department and the community it serves: 1) Enhanced Emergency Response: The ability to operate in extreme weather ensures that fire rescue teams can continue their missions even when other vehicles are immobilized. 2) Improved Safety: Firefighters and first responders can perform rescues without unnecessary risk, reducing the chance of injury or loss of life. 3) Greater Community Protection: With faster response times and a greater ability to reach stranded individuals, these vehicles significantly improve public safety during natural disasters. 4) Versatility: These vehicles are not limited to flood rescues; they can also be used for wildfires and search-and-rescue missions in rough terrain. 5) Cost Savings: By mitigating the damage caused by delayed rescues, these vehicles help reduce long-term costs associated with emergency response and disaster recovery.
2	Project Name	Sarasota County Locklear Park Improvements (CDBG)

	Target Area	Low- and Moderate-Income Areas (LMA)
	Goals Supported	Community Development
	Needs Addressed	Parks/Recreation or Community Facilities
	Funding	CDBG: \$850,000.00
	Description	Reconstruction and enhancement of the amenities in a public park.
	Target Date	4/30/2028
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The improvements to Locklear Park will benefit thousands of people – 3,218 people live in the same one-square-mile Census Tract, and the eight surrounding Census Tracts are each home to between 2,800 - 4,300 residents. Even assuming only neighbors within half a mile use the facilities, these improvements will easily achieve 1,200 persons assisted in this low- to moderate- income area.
	Location Description	821 S. Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL 34237
	Planned Activities	The existing play areas and boardwalk access are nearing end-of-life and require replacement. Additional improvements include new accessible amenities and enhancing the landscape.
3	Project Name	North Port Social Service Attendants (CDBG)
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Community Development
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$55,000.00
	Description	Salary/benefits for a case worker assisting low- to moderate-income households seeking social services at the North Port Social Service Center. Utility assistance up to 3 months paid directly to utility provider.
	Target Date	9/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Minimum of 125 Persons Assisted
	Location Description	City of North Port

	Planned Activities	The City of North Port will have social service attendants that will screen applicants and identify needed social services for lower income families. Funded services include matching applicants with local rental assistance, utility assistance, and other wrap-around services. The City of North Port will also provide utility assistance to income-qualified residents on a case-by-case basis. These payments will be made directly to the utility provider and will not exceed three months of assistance in a 12-month period.
4	Project Name	Laurel Civic Social Service Attendants (CDBG)
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Community Development
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$75,000.00
	Description	Salary/benefits for case workers assisting low- to moderate-income individuals and families seeking social services at the Laurel Community Center.
	Target Date	9/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Minimum of 125 Persons Assisted
	Location Description	Laurel/Nokomis
5	Planned Activities	Laurel Civic Association, Inc. will have social service attendants that will screen applicants and identify needed social services for lower income families. Funded services include matching applicants with local rental assistance, utility assistance, and other wrap-around services.
	Project Name	Harvest House Wellness Within Reach (CDBG)
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Community Development
	Needs Addressed	Mental and Behavioral Health Services Special Needs Facilities and Services Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$60,000.00

	Description	Expansion of the Wellness Within Reach program. Funding will assist in funding Salary/benefits for a licensed mental health professional to provide on-campus or in-home mental health services to individuals and families that are actively involved in supportive or transitional housing situations that meet low- to moderate-income and special needs criteria.
	Target Date	9/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Minimum of 116 Persons Assisted
	Location Description	3650 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34235
	Planned Activities	The licensed mental health professional will provide on-campus or in-home therapy sessions a minimum of twice per month to individuals and families that are actively involved in supportive or transitional housing situations with Harvest House. These individuals/families are low- to moderate-income and special needs populations.
6	Project Name	Safe Children Coalition Schoolhouse Link (CDBG)
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Homeless Needs
	Needs Addressed	Housing Assistance and Support Services Homeless Housing and Services Special Needs Facilities and Services Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$70,000.00
	Description	Expansion of the Schoolhouse Link program. Funding will assist in funding Salary/benefits for a Housing Locator position to provide on-campus or in-home mental health services to individuals and families that are actively involved in supportive or transitional housing situations that meet low- to moderate-income and special needs criteria.
	Target Date	9/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Minimum of 40 Persons Assisted
	Location Description	County-wide

	Planned Activities	Since 1996, Safe Children Coalition's (SCC) Schoolhouse Link (SHL) program has provided daily outreach, case management and support to homeless families, children, and unaccompanied youth in Sarasota County Schools, offering services tailored to the individual needs of each family and youth. The Housing Locator position is a new position for Schoolhouse Link that will enhance the services already being provided to unaccompanied youth and homeless individuals/families. A critical component of the program is the addition of a Housing Locator position. Many homeless youth lack experience in finding housing, communicating with landlords, completing rental applications, and managing move-in fees. The Housing Locator will play a vital role in supporting these youth by assisting them with finding suitable and affordable rental options. They will help youth create a budget to plan for ongoing rent payments, ensuring that housing is affordable and sustainable. Additionally, the Housing Locator aids in securing the necessary funds for move-in costs, including deposits and rent, ensuring youth can access stable housing. Finally, the Housing Locator will provide ongoing support, including conducting housing inspections and offering continued assistance to help youth maintain their housing and avoid eviction.
7	Project Name	Program Administration (CDBG)
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Non-Goal Administration
	Needs Addressed	N/A
	Funding	CDBG: \$353,490.00
	Description	Funds will be used for general program administration expenses including planning, coordination, oversight, and analysis.
	Target Date	9/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	County-Wide
	Planned Activities	Program administration and reporting for funded projects.

8	Project Name	ESG-25 Sarasota County
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Homeless Needs
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Housing and Services Homeless Outreach and Case Management
	Funding	ESG: \$152,828.00
	Description	ESG Funding will be used 4 ways: 1. The Salvation Army Emergency Shelter (\$50,000)- Funding will be used for operations costs for the shelter and salaries/benefits for case managers for the Emergency Shelter Program. 2. St. Vincent de Paul Street Outreach (\$41,366) - Funding will be used for salaries/benefits for street outreach workers providing direct services to homeless individuals. 3. Suncoast Partnership HMIS Database Support (\$50,000) - Funding will be used to support the HMIS Case Management Database licenses and administration of HMIS system. 4. ESG Program Administration (\$11,462) - Funding will be used for general program administration expenses including planning, coordination, oversight, and analysis.
	Target Date	9/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Minimum of 230 Persons Assisted through Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach.
	Location Description	County-Wide

	Planned Activities	1. Emergency Shelter - Funding will assist in the provision of case management services and operations costs for the shelter. 2. Street Outreach - Funding will assist street outreach workers providing direct service to actively homeless individuals and families. Their focus is to target homeless individuals and families living in vehicles and unsheltered locations, such as parks, wooded areas, campgrounds, abandoned buildings, parking lots, construction sites, under bridges, railroad tracks, and other places not meant for habitation. Additionally, these workers will visit places people often frequent, including day labor businesses, transit stops, 24-hour establishments, libraries, and colleges seeking to locate, engage, and connect with individuals experiencing homelessness throughout Sarasota County. Individuals and families identified through street outreach efforts will be assessed for coordinated entry through Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness and referred for services to address their immediate and ongoing needs for housing stability. 3. HMIS Database - Funding will assist in provision of the HMIS system to include the set-up and monitoring of housing and services contracts in the system, completion of Federally required reports such as Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) and the Housing Inventory Count (HIC), training and technical assistance for users of the system, production of performance reports for local funders and agencies, and data coordination with other community systems. Funding will also support the cost of licenses for HMIS. 4. Program Administration - Program administration and reporting for funded projects.
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AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.420, 91.220(f)

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

The County will continue to focus the expenditure of CDBG funds in eligible low- and moderate-income areas (LMA) and for activities that benefit low- and moderate- income individuals (LMI) outside of these areas. For the 2025-2026 program year, Sarasota County has programed approximately 65.7% of its CDBG allocation toward public improvements in eligible LMA neighborhoods and an additional 14.5% of CDBG funding for public service activities that benefit low- and moderate- income individuals.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Low- and Moderate-Income Areas (LMA)	65.7%

Table 7 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Sarasota County attempts to balance its use of federal and state funds to assist low-income individuals and families living in impacted areas, but to also provide public services outside of racial/ethnic and low-income concentrations. Within impacted areas, funds will be made available to improve neighborhoods (i.e., public improvements). Public services will be disbursed based on income eligibility rather than geographic location to provide such opportunities throughout the community based on individual or household need. New affordable housing units and housing rehabilitation loans will be disbursed based on income eligibility rather than geographic location to provide housing opportunities throughout the community based on household need.

Discussion

Currently, Sarasota County does not have specific designated “Target Areas.” Sarasota County has identified eight (8) projects to implement the goals of the Strategic Plan during the fifth year (i.e., Federal FY 2025) of the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. These projects benefit low- and moderate-income persons countywide or within eligible low- and moderate- income areas. Only public improvements (i.e., facilities and park improvements) are location dependent. Projects with countywide benefit include public services and administration of the grant programs.

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities - 91.420, 91.220(i)

Introduction

The City of Sarasota, Sarasota County, the Continuum of Care (CoC) and local foundations have been working together to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to address homelessness. The City of Sarasota hired the Florida Housing Coalition to create "Sarasota: Creating an Effective Homeless Crisis Response System" that was adopted by both the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County governments. Since then, the City, County, Suncoast Partnership to End Homeless (lead entity for the Continuum of Care), and foundations have worked jointly to implement the Homeless Crisis Response System and monitor and measure its success based upon the criteria set forth in the Florida Housing Coalition report and in consideration of "best practices" as identified by the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

The Homeless Crisis Response System is county-wide in nature and this section describes the goals and action steps that will impact the homeless in Sarasota County.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Sarasota County has instituted a "Housing First" approach to dealing with homelessness. The Housing First approach works to quickly place individuals in permanent housing and reduces the need for emergency shelter beds. Sarasota County and its service providers coordinate with the Salvation Army to provide emergency shelter beds for individuals who are homeless on a temporary basis. For the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025, ESG funding will assist in funding the emergency shelter program with The Salvation Army. In addition, ESG funding will assist in funding the street outreach program targeting outreach efforts to homeless individuals and families with St. Vincent de Paul.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

In 2018, private donors created a new rapid re-housing program in Sarasota County. With an initial contribution of \$1.5 million, the new program aimed to assist 80 chronically homeless individuals find housing. This project is expected to continue in 2025.

The CoC is also coordinating services provided by programs like Jewish Family & Children's Services

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(JFCS) Supportive Services for Veteran Families. By compiling an accurate and prioritized list of veterans experiencing homelessness, the overall county effort to address veteran homelessness in the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County has seen improved success in placing veterans into permanent housing. The community is nearing their goal of reducing veteran homelessness and to receive certification from USICH (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness) as meeting community criteria and benchmarks for veterans.

The City of Sarasota and Sarasota County continue to support the provision of permanent supportive housing. In 2017, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation funded a 40-unit permanent supportive housing apartment complex in the City of Sarasota, which began construction in 2018. An 80-unit permanent supportive housing complex was recently completed in the City of Sarasota near the intersection of Fruitville Road and Tuttle Avenue. It includes 72 one-bedroom units and eight two-bedroom units. All units are for those with special needs, including formerly chronic homeless individuals, those with substance abuse and disabilities, with 50% of all units for homeless and 50% for those with a disabling condition. There are no market rate units unless the tenant has a voucher, and Section 8, VASH, or NED vouchers are accepted.

For the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025, CDBG funding will be provided to the Safe Children Coalition, Inc. for a Housing Locator position to provide housing location services and support to unaccompanied youth and homeless families to obtain housing. ESG funding will assist in funding the HMIS system, street outreach, and emergency shelter projects.

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

There is a very strong system in place to prevent homelessness. The community funds "Season of Sharing" which provides more than \$2 million annually to prevent homelessness in Sarasota County.

In 2018, a Youth Action Board was established to focus various community efforts to address the problems facing unaccompanied homeless youth. This group acquired limited funding to establish pilot programs to house homeless youth. Several non-profit organizations in Sarasota County provide services for homeless youth, including but not limited to the Harvest House.

All Faith's Food Bank plays a major role in preventing homelessness by providing food to families in need. In 2022, all Faith's Food Bank distributed more than 20.9 million pounds of food annually to over 60,000 individuals in need in Sarasota and DeSoto counties through numerous local agency partners and

by their mobile pantries, mobile farm market, backpack program, and school-based pantries.

Discussion

In program year 2025-2026 (i.e., Federal FY 2025), Sarasota County will continue to work with City of Sarasota and Suncoast Partnership, as the lead entity for the Continuum of Care, along with local foundations and other agencies to implement and expand upon the original recommendations in the Florida Housing Coalition report. During program year 2025-2026, a portion of Sarasota County's CDBG funding will be used to fund activities and projects aimed at providing housing and support services to unaccompanied youth and homeless families through Safe Children Coalition's Schoolhouse Link program. Sarasota County's ESG funding will be used to fund activities focused on HMIS, emergency shelter, and street outreach.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing -91.420, 91.220(j)

Introduction

This section describes the actions that it will take during the next year to reduce barriers to affordable housing.

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

Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota currently have a joint Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC). The AHAC's purpose is to review the established policies and procedures, ordinances, land development regulations, and adopted Comprehensive Plan and recommend specific actions or initiatives to encourage or facilitate affordable housing while protecting the ability of the property to appreciate in value. The AHAC may make recommendations that include the modification or repeal of existing policies, procedures, ordinances, regulations, or plan provisions; the creation of exceptions applicable to affordable housing; or the adoption of new policies, procedures, regulations, ordinances, or plan provisions, including recommendations to amend the local government comprehensive plan and corresponding regulations, ordinances, and other policies. The AHAC meets throughout the year on an as-needed basis and currently has 11 active members in the committee.

Often a barrier to affordable housing for lower income household is simply the lack of resources. Sarasota County plans to utilize CDBG funding for two projects that provide supportive mental health services in-home to individuals and families currently in a transitional housing program through Harvest House and a Housing Locator and Support Services position with the Safe Children Coalition, Inc. who will work directly with unaccompanied youth and homeless individuals and families in need of housing assistance. In addition, Sarasota County will also utilize its ESG funding toward HMIS, emergency shelter, and street outreach for homeless persons during the 2025-2026 program year. These programs will provide valuable resources to lower income households to prevent homelessness and stabilize at-risk individuals and families.

Discussion

The cost of housing in Sarasota County continues to rise drastically with housing costs at levels that are unaffordable to low- and moderate-income households. The most significant barrier continues to be the lack of financial resources available to address affordable housing needs in the County given the challenge of rising housing costs.

AP-85 Other Actions - 91.420, 91.220(k)

Introduction

This section of the plan describes the actions that Sarasota will take to carry out the following strategies in the Consolidated Plan:

- Foster and maintain affordable housing.
- Evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards.
- Reduce the number of poverty-level families.
- Develop institutional structure.
- Enhance coordination.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The greatest obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the lack of funding for affordable housing.

The County's CDBG funding increased \$28,591, from \$1,738,899 in 2024 (Federal Program Year) to \$1,767,490 in 2025 (Federal Program Year).

The County's ESG funding decreased \$2,655, from \$155,483 in 2024 (Federal Program Year) to \$152,828 in 2025 (Federal Program Year).

Combined with the effects of inflation, the compounded effect of incremental funding reductions in prior years makes it difficult to initiate meaningful programs to meet the needs of the underserved. Sarasota County will continue to educate its federal and state legislators about the lack of funding to meet underserved needs. The Federal FY 2025 federal formula allocations will be applied toward public service, public improvement, emergency shelter, and street outreach efforts in the community.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Sarasota County is a grantee for HOME funding through HUD and SHIP funding through the state of Florida. The City of Sarasota is currently the lead entity of the Sarasota Consortium and administers the HOME funds. Because of this, information specific to HOME funding and affordable housing will be included in the City's Annual Action Plan.

For the upcoming Federal Fiscal Year, administration of the SHIP program will transition to the HERO team. SHIP funding will be used to further affordable housing efforts in acquisition, rehabilitation and

new construction.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Lead based paint hazard reduction is integrated into all housing programs in Sarasota County. The specific actions that will be undertaken during the next program year include the following:

- Each applicant receiving housing rehabilitation loans receives an EPA-approved pamphlet with information on identifying and preventing lead-based paint hazards;
- Homes built prior to 1978 receiving housing rehabilitation loans with federal funding are tested to determine if lead-based paint is in the home; and
- If lead is found, the lead-based paint will be remediated as required by federal law.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Sarasota County will continue to coordinate with Suncoast Technical College to assist low-income residents attain their GED and gain vocational and business training. The Technical College works to qualify individuals to qualify for employment in the construction industry and other sectors. Sarasota County will also make referrals to CareerSource Suncoast, an organization that provides training to improve job readiness, including personalized job search assistance, referrals to employers, career planning and skills assessment, computer software tutorials and assistance with resume writing.

Sarasota County will continue to sponsor the CEO: Community Entrepreneur Opportunity program, which is a free 10-week course developed by CareerSource Suncoast to help new businesses and potential entrepreneurs evaluate their business ideas, network with other community members, and learn what is needed when starting a business. The course includes developing a business plan, competitive analysis, and the importance of marketing and communications. CEO Program graduates have continued access to counseling and office accommodations through CareerSource Suncoast where they can use computers, phones, and fax machines. There is no cost to participate in the program.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

During program year 2017-2018, the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, as the lead entity for the Continuum of Care, developed a coordinated entry system that is being used by all homeless providers.

In 2025, the homeless delivery system will continue to focus on the priority needs of the homeless population in the region. Service providers will be expected to coordinate wrap-around services and serve the individuals and families with greatest need. A “Housing First” approach will be supported by funding for emergency shelter and street outreach through Sarasota County’s ESG program.

Additionally, Sarasota County's CDBG program may fund other supportive services.

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

Sarasota County will continue to be an active participant in the Continuum of Care that coordinates homeless housing providers and social service agencies.

Discussion

Sarasota County is committed to continuing its participation and coordination with Federal, State, local governments, and other agencies, along with the public and private sectors, to serve the needs of income-eligible individuals and families in the community. In particular, the County will continue closely coordinate with City and County departments regarding housing and community development initiatives.

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements - 91.420, 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction

This subsection addresses the program-specific requirements for the Annual Action Plan, including CDBG and ESG.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	1
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	80.22%

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Reference 91.220(l)(4)**

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

The Continuum of Care (CoC) and Homeless Providers have prepared written standards that have been approved by the Sarasota County Commission. Those written standards are attached.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

In January 2018, the Continuum of Care (CoC) began using their new assessment tool, Oneby1. The tool meets all HUD requirements. During the program year, the CoC will continue implementing and training on that assessment tool.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

Sarasota County coordinates its allocation of ESG funding with the CoC lead entity, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness.

Funding applications for ESG-eligible activities and projects were accepted in March/April 2025, reviewed internally by HERO staff, and scored to determine project selection. There are three non-profit organizations (The Salvation Army, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, Inc, and St. Vincent de Paul) that were selected for funding in the areas of Emergency Shelter, Street Outreach, and HMIS.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

Sarasota County awards all ESG funds and is unable to meet the requirement that a homeless or formerly homeless individual is a member of the elected commission. The CoC works with Sarasota County on the allocation of ESG funds and a formerly homeless individual serves on the CoC Leadership Council.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

ESG performance standards are based on the total number of individuals/families that received services through ESG-funded projects and their outcomes upon exiting their respective programs. Emergency Shelter anticipates that they will serve upwards of 130 homeless individuals/families in the next fiscal year and Street Outreach anticipates that they will serve upwards of 100 homeless

individuals/families in the next fiscal year.

Discussion

CDBG funds will be used for activities that benefit persons of low- and moderate-income.

ESG standards are summarized above.