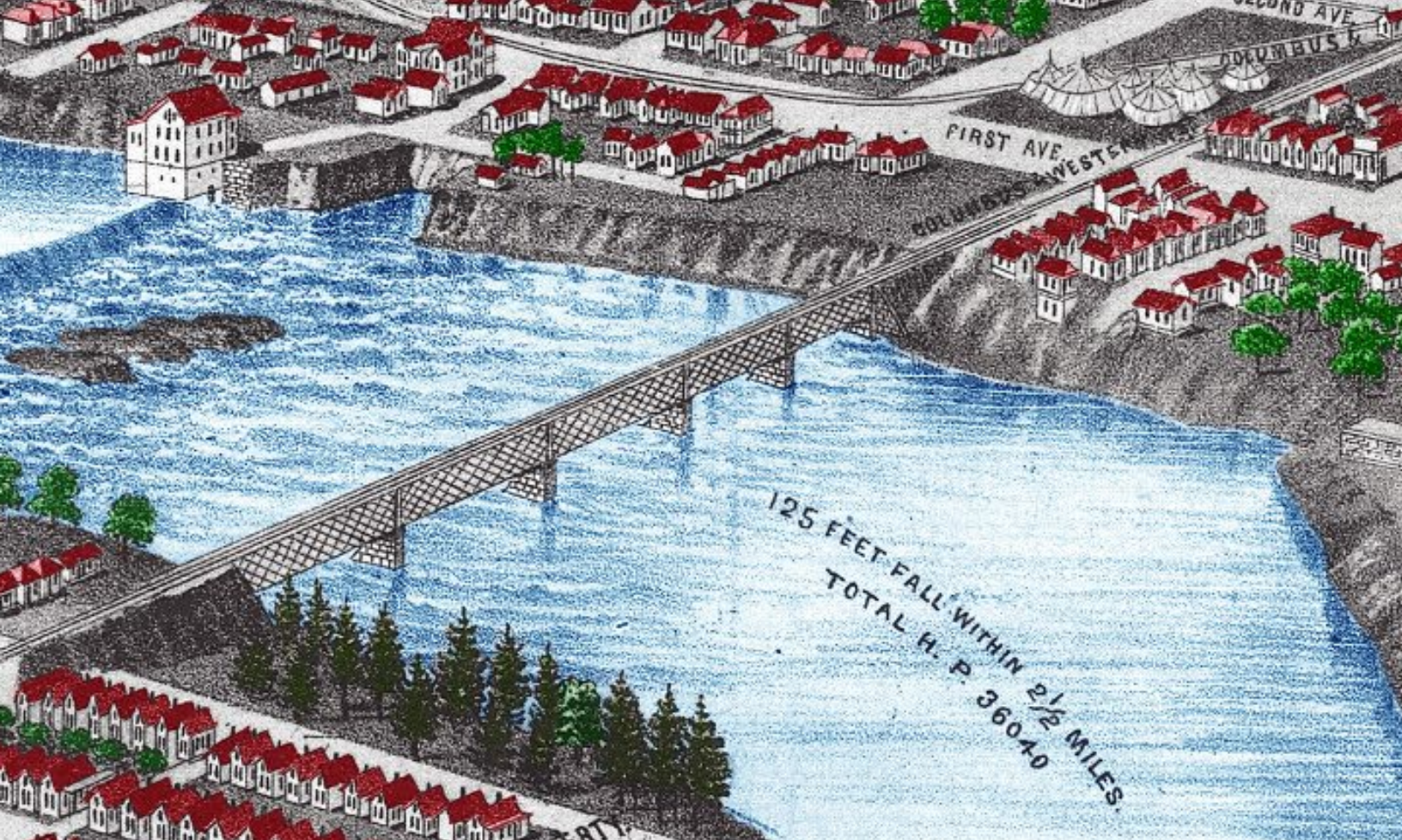




2023-2024

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

October 2024



Director's Welcome

As the Director of the Community Reinvestment Department, it is my distinct pleasure to



welcome you to this year's Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for City Fiscal year 2024. I am thrilled to announce that this has been a record-breaking year for the City of Columbus as more than 60,000 beneficiaries served through the impactful programs, we've been able to implement.

Thanks to the invaluable support from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and through a collaborative effort with our nonprofit partners and dedicated community organizations, we have made tremendous strides in addressing the needs of our low- to moderate-income residents. Our efforts focused on improving access to affordable housing, enhancing facilities and infrastructure, and offering critical support to the homeless and vulnerable populations in our community.

In FY2024, we proudly managed over 50 projects, expending nearly \$4 million in CDBG, HOME, and HOME-ARP funds. These resources have allowed us to make meaningful progress toward the strategic goals set forth in the City's FY2021-2025 Consolidated Plan and our FY2024 Action Plan. Principally through Public Services and Infrastructure improvements, we have targeted our most at-risk populations to provide assistance where it is needed most.

This achievement belongs to everyone who has played a role in making these programs a success – from our staff to our partners, and most importantly, the residents we serve. Together, we are transforming Columbus into a more inclusive, resilient, and compassionate city.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to continuing this positive momentum. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership as we work to ensure that every resident has the opportunity to thrive in our great city.

Sincerely,

Robert Scott

Robert Scott

Director, Community Reinvestment Department

City of Columbus, Georgia

CR-05 - GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

The City of Columbus, Georgia has prepared its Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FFY2023) Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) under the federal regulations found in 24 CFR 570. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided the following grants to the city to address the needs of low-to moderate income persons in the community. This report informs the public of progress that the city made using Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME).

The FFY2023 CAPER covers the period from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. It also provides a detailed description of the city’s use of HUD funding and gives an account of the City’s progress in reaching its strategic goals outlined in the Fiscal Year 2021-2025 (FY2021-2025) Consolidated Plan and its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024) Action Plan.

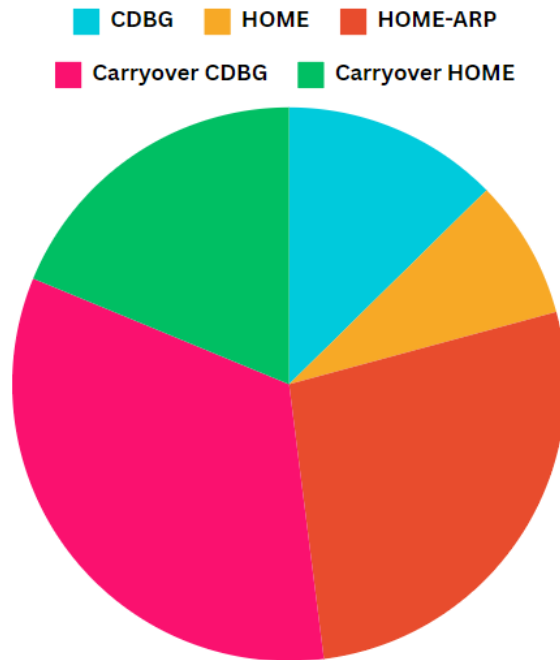
The City of Columbus collaborated with non-profit organizations and other entities to ensure that the city could target their most vulnerable populations. These activities included a wide range of services and programs such as affordable housing, facility and infrastructure improvements, operational support for nonprofits, emergency housing, and supportive services for the homeless. The City of Columbus Community Reinvestment Department successfully managed more than 50 projects that contributed to the overall success of the program helping us to achieve strategic priorities.

During FY2024, the City of Columbus expended \$3,954,705.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP).

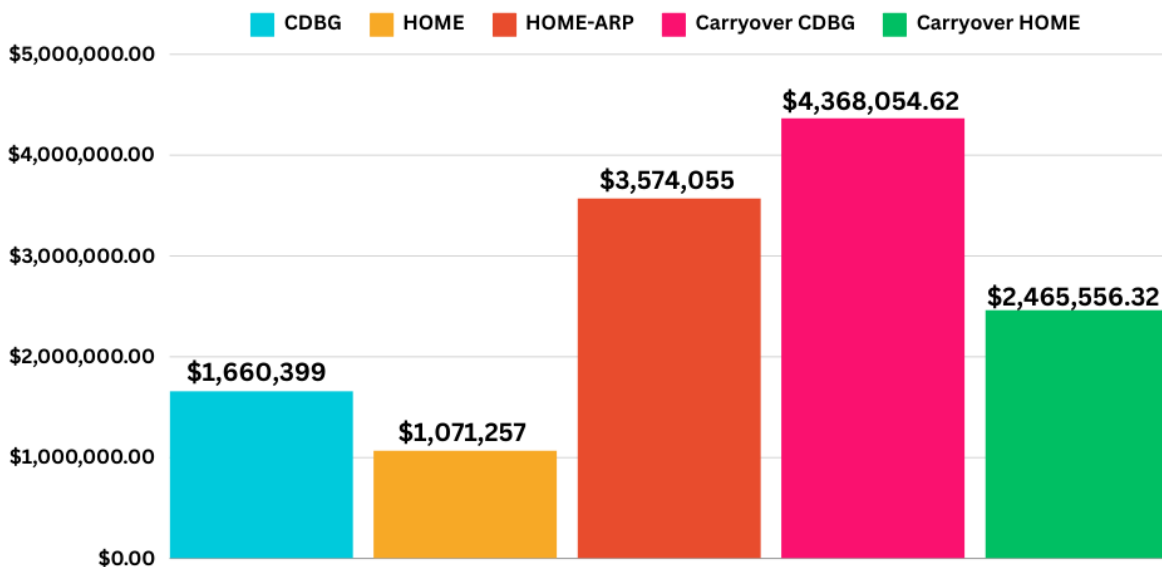
Resources

During FY 2024, The City of Columbus made available approximately \$6,305,711.00 in resources comprised of grant allocations from CDBG (\$1,660,399.00), HOME (\$1,071,257.00), HOME-ARP (\$3,574,055.00). The City also carried forward unexpended grant funds from previous fiscal years that totaled \$4,368,054.62 for CDBG and \$2,465,556.32 for HOME.

Resources Available



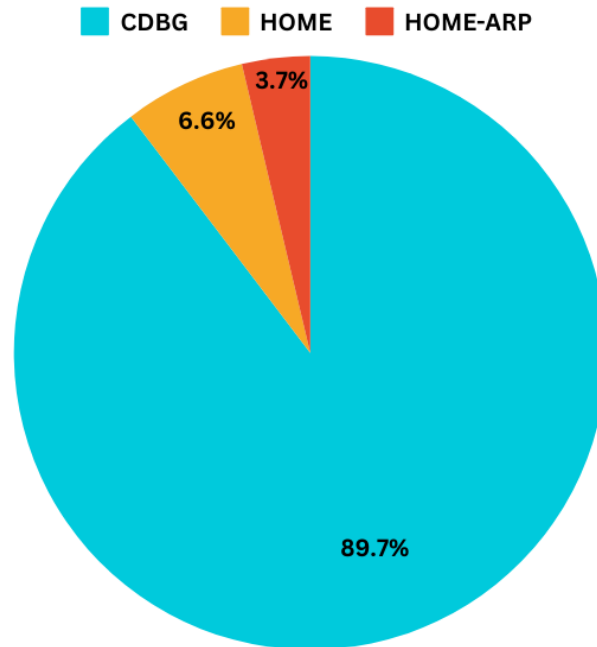
Resources Available



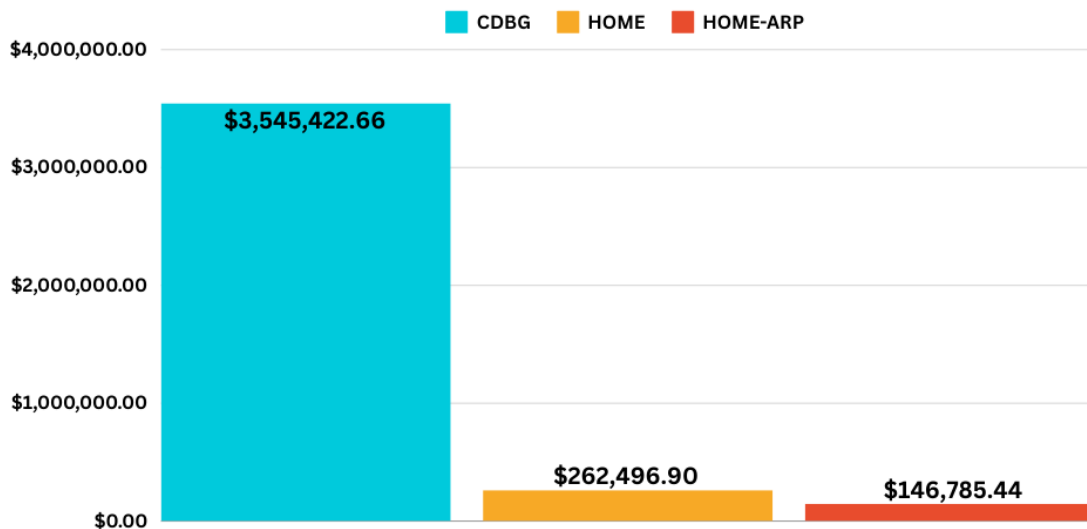
Expenses

The City of Columbus dispersed a total of \$3,954,705.00 in grant funds. According to local financial records, The City dispersed \$3,545,422.66 in CDBG funds, \$262,496.90 in HOME funds, and \$146,785.44 in HOME-ARP funds.

FY24 HUD Entitlement Expenditures



FY24 HUD Entitlement Expenditures



CDBG PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The City of Columbus allocated funds for various community development projects to benefit low-to moderate income communities and persons including economic development activities, ADA improvements, homeowner housing rehabilitation, acquisition of equipment and facilities, infrastructure improvements, housing counseling, youth activities, and other public service programs. Below is a highlight of community development projects completed in FY2024.



Agency Name: MercyMed of Columbus

Project Name: Affordable & Accessible Primary Care

Website: [MercyMed - affordable, quality healthcare
\(mercyMedcolumbus.com\)](https://mercyMed-columbus.com)

MercyMed of Columbus is a nonprofit healthcare center committed to delivering vital healthcare services to individuals who face challenges accessing medical care. Operating as a safety net for the local community, MercyMed provides a wide range of services designed to meet the healthcare needs of low-income households. These services include Primary Care, Dentistry, Counseling, Physical Therapy, and various other health and wellness programs. The clinic's mission is to ensure that no one is left without access to quality healthcare, regardless of their financial circumstances.

To date, MercyMed has provided over 200,000 healthcare and wellness visits. This number speaks to the profound impact the clinic has had on the local community. The individuals served by MercyMed are often those who fall through the cracks of the traditional healthcare system, whether due to lack of insurance, financial difficulties, or other barriers to care. By offering affordable services, the clinic works to bridge this gap, ensuring that everyone in the community can receive the care they need.



Primary Care is one of the core services provided at MercyMed, helping patients manage chronic conditions, treat acute illnesses, and maintain their overall health. The clinic's dentists offer essential dental care, ensuring that oral health is not neglected due to financial barriers. Mental health is also a priority at MercyMed, with professional counseling services available to help individuals cope with stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. Physical therapy is yet another crucial service offered, allowing patients to recover from injuries and improve their mobility, all while remaining within a system that is affordable and accessible. Their work ensures that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, for all who need it in the Columbus area.



CDBG PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Agency Name: Girls Inc of Columbus & Phenix-Russell

Project Name: Full Stream Ahead

Website: [Girls Inc. | Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold \(girlsinc-columbus.org\)](http://Girls Inc. | Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold (girlsinc-columbus.org))

Girls Inc focuses on the development of the whole girl. The combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl environment, and research-based programming equips girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers, and continue their path of being healthy, educated, and independent women.



Full STREAM Ahead program highlights its ongoing efforts to inspire and empower girls aged 6-16 to explore Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STREAM). The program provides a variety of hands-on learning experiences that encourage young girls to develop confidence and curiosity in STREAM fields.

One recent activity included a visit to the West Fraser Sawmill in Opelika, Alabama. This excursion allowed participants to gain insight into the

renewable wood industry and learn about career opportunities within the field, especially those available to women. At Girls Inc. centers, participants have also been involved in gardening projects, where they cultivate vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Supported by West Fraser and Bonnie Plants Nursery, this initiative not only teaches sustainable farming practices but also encourages healthy eating, as the girls take home their produce to prepare meals with their families.



The girls have been introduced to the fundamentals of mechanical engineering by building junior circuits. They also participated in a six-week soapbox derby program, where they worked collaboratively to build and race their own cars, promoting teamwork, creativity, and problem-

solving. Chess lessons have further helped to develop their critical thinking and mathematical skills.



The program has also provided older participants with the opportunity to visit educational institutions such as Columbus Tech, Georgia Tech, and Auburn University, exposing them to a variety of STREAM-related fields, including aviation and veterinary sciences. Seven seniors recently graduated from the Eureka! Program and have gone on to attend college or serve in the military, demonstrating the success of the program in preparing young women for their futures.

The Girls Inc. STREAM Lab is nearing completion, equipped with the tools and resources needed to continue advancing STREAM education. These efforts, made possible through community support, are empowering young girls to pursue STREAM careers with enthusiasm, confidence, and a sense of purpose. The program continues to make a lasting impact on the future of its participants and the broader community.

Stream Lab

Before



After



CDBG PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Demolition of the Former Georgia State Farmers Market



The former Georgia State Farmers Market, once a bustling hub of agricultural activity, is now set for demolition as part of a transformative initiative funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. After years of decline and underuse, the site, which has long been a symbol of the region's agricultural heritage, will be cleared to make way for new opportunities that align with the evolving needs of the

community. This project not only removes a deteriorating structure but also opens the door to a new chapter of economic and social growth in the area.

The demolition, funded through CDBG, is a critical first step toward revitalizing the site. These federal funds, designed to support projects that benefit low- to moderate-income communities, will ensure that the site's redevelopment is geared toward the public good. By removing the aging infrastructure, the city is creating the potential for the land to be repurposed into something that will serve the broader needs of the community. Whether for affordable housing, public spaces, or community services, the cleared site represents a blank canvas for innovative development.





While specific plans for the site's future are still being considered, the potential for public benefit is significant. Various options are being explored that could include mixed-use development, parks, or community centers that would provide residents with valuable resources and foster economic activity. This area could also become a hub for new businesses, supporting local entrepreneurs and creating jobs, while ensuring that the space remains accessible and beneficial to the community at large.

The redevelopment of the former Georgia State Farmers Market site is a key part of the city's broader vision for inclusive and sustainable growth. The use of CDBG funds ensures that the project remains focused on serving the public interest, with particular attention to improving the quality of life for residents in surrounding neighborhoods. The potential for affordable housing, improved infrastructure, or enhanced public services would address existing community needs, ensuring that the project delivers long-term benefits.

Ultimately, the demolition marks the beginning of a new era for the site and the surrounding community. By clearing the land and reinvesting in its potential, the city is taking bold steps toward creating a space that reflects the current and future needs of its residents. With thoughtful planning and community involvement, the former market site will be transformed into an asset that not only preserves the area's legacy but also paves the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.



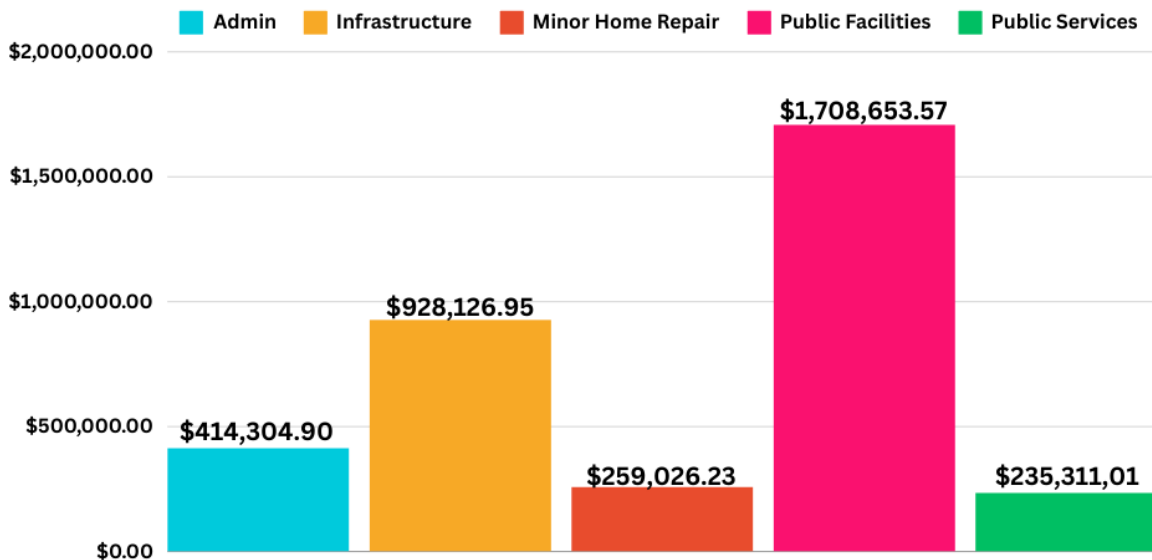
CDBG Expenditures

The City of Columbus dispersed a total of \$3,545,422.66 in CDBG funds. The following chart illustrates the fiscal distribution of CDBG Expenditures in relationship to its eligible activity.

FY24 CDBG Expenditures



FY24 CDBG Expenditures



HOME PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The City of Columbus also focused on affordable housing initiatives by acquiring, rehabilitating, selling single-family homes and providing tenant-based rental assistance. Housing affordability is and has remained a top priority for the city this year. It was addressed through the acquisition, rehabilitation, and disposition of single-family housing and tenant based rental assistance. Below are highlights of affordable housing activities in FY2024.



Agency Name: NeighborWorks Columbus
Project Name: NeighborWorks Affordable Housing Program
Website: www.nwcolumbus.org

For over fifteen years NeighborWorks Columbus (NWC), a non-profit “one-stop-shop,” has worked to provide promote and provide access to fit and affordable housing and to build family assets for financial independence for all citizens of low to moderate income in the Chattahoochee Valley.

NeighborWorks of Columbus acquires, rehabilitates, and sells single-family homes to income-eligible homebuyers. Repairs often include thermal and moisture protection, blown insulation, significant drywall repair, replacement windows, front porch repairs, rear deck repairs, as well as the installation of flooring.

3704 4th Avenue

3704 4th Avenue was newly constructed by NeighborWorks Columbus which culminated with it being sold to a homebuyer with a total household income which was less than 80% of the applicable fiscal year’s Area Median Income (AMI). This homebuyer is a single parent. The homebuyer purchased the new 3-bedroom and 2-bathroom home for \$153,400. By all indicators, this project has been highly a highly successful one which benefited not only an income eligible homebuyer, but also a neighborhood in need of revitalization, and a city in need of such safe, decent, and sanitary affordable housing options for its citizens.

Before



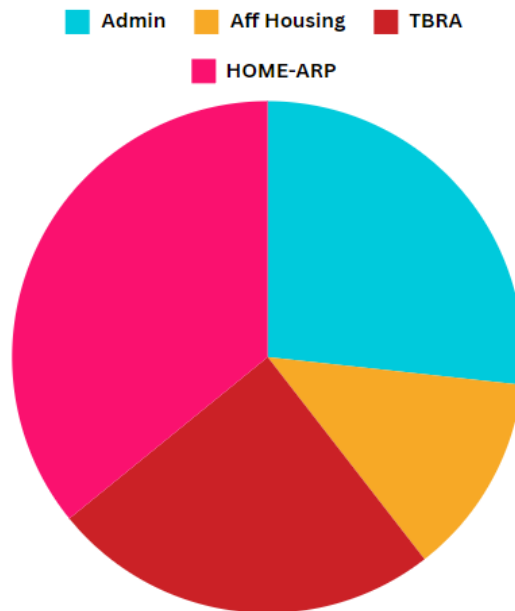
After



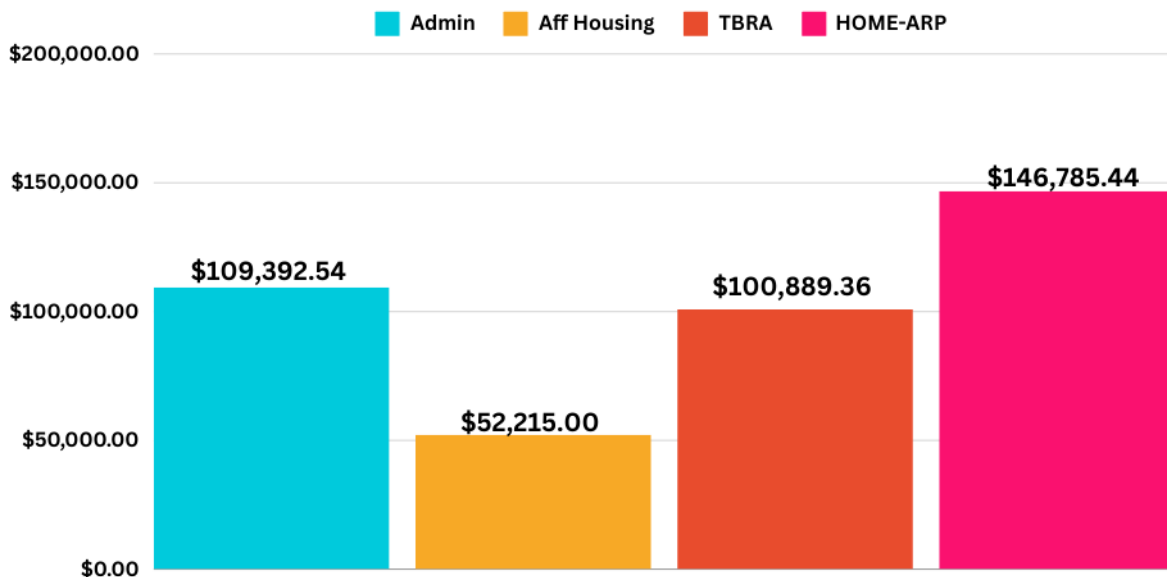
HOME Expenditures

The City of Columbus dispersed a total of \$262,496.90 in HOME funds and \$146,785.44 in HOME-ARP funds. The following chart illustrates the fiscal distribution of HOME Expenditures in relationship to its eligible activity.

FY24 HOME Expenditures



FY24 HOME Expenditures



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

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

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Blight Removal	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$325,000	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	40	10	25.00%	2	6	300.00%
COVID-19 Response	COVID-19 Response	CDBG: \$0	Other	Other	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$694,261 HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	0	0	N/A	3	0	0.00%
Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$964,132	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	25	9	36.00%	6	1	16.67%
Fair Housing	Fair Housing	CDBG: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
Fair Housing	Fair Housing	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A

Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$60,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	120	61	50.83%	12	17	141.67%
Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	9,590	28,735	299.64%	5,771	26,770	463.87%
Program Administration	Program Administration	CDBG: \$332,079 / HOME: \$107,125	Other	Other	0	0	N/A	1	0	0.00%
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$234,059	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0	N/A	2,367	39,856	1683.82%

Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$15,000	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	1,952	N/A	0	78	100.00%
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$0	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	5	0	0.00%	0	0	N/A

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

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

Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds aim to create viable communities for low-to-moderate income households by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities encompass community facilities and improvements, housing rehabilitation and preservation, affordable housing development, public services, economic development, as well as planning and administration.

The City of Columbus undertakes activities aligned with the priorities set forth in the Consolidated Plan. These priorities, goals, and objectives focus on supporting lower-income residents in need of housing, employment, and essential services.

CR-10 - RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF FAMILIES ASSISTED
Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).
91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME
White	3,727	2
Black or African American	6,931	12
Asian	36	0
American Indian or American Native	53	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	52	0
Total	10,799	14
Hispanic	487	0
Not Hispanic	10,312	14

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

Narrative

The chart above displays the total beneficiaries by race and ethnicity who received direct assistance through HUD funding during the 2023-2024 program year. Please note that the race and ethnicity data is based on self-reported information, and as such, may not align perfectly. The figures in the CDBG and HOME columns refer to households rather than individuals, with the race being that of the household's primary respondent.

As required by HUD, the City of Columbus and its subrecipients adhere to the Affirmative Marketing Rules. All recipients of HOME funds must comply with these marketing requirements. Printed materials are designed to inform the public, property owners, or potential tenants about the HOME Program and include a statement regarding the Columbus Consolidated Government's Affirmative Marketing Plan, along with the relevant fair housing laws. All media releases and public reports about the HOME Program contain the Equal Housing Opportunity logo, slogan, or statement. Additionally, Fair Housing Posters are displayed in the offices of all City subrecipients.

To promote and publicize the various housing programs, information is made available on the City's website at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/> and on the City's social media accounts. The websites of some subrecipients also provide publicity for City-funded housing programs, including:

- NeighborWorks: <http://www.nwcolumbus.org>
- Wynnton Neighborhood Housing: <http://www.wyntonnhousing.org>
- Open Door Community Housing: <http://www.opendoorcommunityhouse.org>

Federal funds support residents with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. Ongoing efforts include distributing information through minority publications and media outlets to raise awareness among minority populations. Housing events continue to be held throughout the community, targeting outreach to minority groups.

CR-15 - RESOURCES AND INVESTMENTS 91.520(A)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	6,028,453.62	3,545,422.66
HOME	public - federal	3,536,813.32	262,496.90

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

In the 2023 program year, the City of Columbus received CDBG and HOME funds in the amounts of \$1,660,399 and \$1,071,257 respectively. In addition to these new grant funds, the City also carried forward unexpended grant funds from previous fiscal years totaling \$4,368,054.62 for CDBG and \$2,465,556.32 for HOME. Columbus dispersed a total of \$3,954,705 between the two programs with older funds from prior program years expended first, before the new grant funding awarded to the City for PY 2023.

Additional HOME-ARP resources remained available to the City from the pandemic-related HOME funding rounds. The City began the program year with a balance of \$3,574,055 in HOME-ARP funding available and expended \$146,758.44 from these sources.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Citywide	80%	100%	The Citywide target area encompasses the entirety of the City of Columbus, allowing the City to direct CDBG and HOME funds to eligible activities throughout the city.
South Columbus NRSA	20%	0%	The City is working to identify a Community Based Development Organization (CBDO) and grow its internal technical capacity in order to promote revitalization within the new South Columbus NRSA.

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The City of Columbus allocated 100% of its available resources to citywide projects, prioritizing CDBG funding for areas where 51% or more of the population are low-to-moderate income individuals. According to the Consolidated Plan, an "area of minority concentration" and an "area of low-income concentration" are defined as census tracts where the minority or low-income populations are statistically and significantly higher than the citywide average.

The South Columbus NRSA (Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area) is a smaller district within the city, housing approximately 10.8% of the total population. In this area, an estimated 72% of residents have low or moderate incomes. The City is seeking Community Based Development Organizations (CBDOs) to enhance their technical capacity. Engaging CBDOs in NRSA activities provides additional funding flexibility and supports the City's efforts to maximize revitalization in South Columbus.

The City uses HOME and CDBG funds across its jurisdiction to assist low-to-moderate income individuals. A portion of these funds is dedicated to rehabilitating and renovating single-family homes to improve housing conditions in targeted neighborhoods. This approach allows the City to serve its most disadvantaged residents, given the limited funding available.

Leveraging

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

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	\$1,278,671.72
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	\$0.00
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	\$1,278,671.72
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	\$0.00
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	\$1,278,671.72

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructur e	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at beginning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Table 7 – Program Income

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0				
Businesses Displaced						
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced						
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced						
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	6	31
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	6	31

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	13
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	6	1
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	0	17
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	6	31

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

The City supported 13 households through tenant-based rental assistance but had not set a goal for the program in the 2023 Action Plan. One new home was constructed and sold to income-qualifying homebuyers, which falls short of the City's goal for this program. The shortfall is due to current market conditions and developer capacity. These deficiencies have been difficult to address during this program year, but the City has developed a sustainable platform to make an impact in this upcoming program year. We have adopted a first in, first ready, first serve model to accelerate affordable housing development. The City set a numeric goal for housing rehabilitation in the 2023 Action Plan to assist 12 households, there were 17 households assisted through CDBG-funded programs offered by Habitat for Humanity and Access 2 Independence.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Due to extended construction timelines, the addition of homeowner housing units is often the result of resources from previous years. As a result, the one-year goals are likely to be reflected in future CAPER reports, and a comparison to the 5-year Consolidated Plan goals may offer a more accurate measure of progress. Based on completed projects and currently funded programs, the City is on track to meet or exceed the 5-year goals for providing affordable housing units outlined in the Consolidated Plan.

Despite collaborating with numerous community-based organizations, the primary challenge in addressing underserved needs is the limited entitlement funding and the fact that many nonprofit organizations operate with minimal financial resources. The City continues to face reductions in funding at the local, state, and federal levels, which significantly constrains the resources available to address the shortage of affordable housing units.

The City of Columbus will share updates on program changes currently in development as future Action Plans are shaped by ongoing assessments of resident needs. Subrecipients will be encouraged to consider market conditions and the availability of affordable rental and permanent housing when setting annual project beneficiary goals.

Additionally, the Community Reinvestment Department will broaden its outreach by engaging more nonprofit and private affordable housing developers during the open application cycle.

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

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	8470	13
Low-income	1976	1
Moderate-income	353	0
Total	10799	14

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

The City's housing market faces substantial challenges in developing an adequate supply of affordable housing for low- to moderate-income individuals and families. The recent loss of major manufacturing jobs, such as those from Snyder's-Lance, combined with rising construction costs, has created significant barriers to affordable housing development. Additionally, according to the 2020 Decennial Census, Columbus is now the second-largest city in Georgia, which has further highlighted geographic and socioeconomic disparities in access to essential community resources. Household income in Columbus varies significantly across racial and ethnic groups, with minority residents often earning less.

To address these obstacles and promote fair housing, the City has taken several steps. This includes allocating CDBG funds for housing rehabilitation to preserve existing affordable housing and using HOME funds for both new construction and rehabilitation projects. Additionally, the City is going to utilize funding for down-payment assistance, homebuyer education, and fair housing outreach and

education. These initiatives are highlighted in this CAPER and continue to be a key part of the implementation of the City's most recent Consolidated Plan.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

As a partner in the local Continuum of Care (CoC), led by Home for Good, the City collaborates to address homelessness and meet the priority needs of homeless individuals, families, and subpopulations. The CoC coordinates efforts with three primary Street Outreach Providers: the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) team, the Columbus Police Department (CPD), and the Homeless Prevention Team.

Street outreach is conducted regularly, with CPD carrying out weekly outreach, PATH conducting outreach biweekly, and the Homeless Prevention Team engaging on a random basis. Representatives from each of these groups serve on the Mainstream and Outreach Committee (M&O Committee), which meets quarterly to coordinate efforts and review progress in key areas. Each group focuses on specific services, such as crisis intervention or survival assistance, but they all share the common goal of connecting individuals to the Coordinated Entry System (211) for intake and personalized support services.

Individuals and families in need can access services by directly presenting themselves at most shelter facilities or through referrals. Regional emergency shelters also refer participants to agencies that help them access mainstream resources. Transitional housing programs similarly refer participants and provide the necessary support to secure resources that facilitate successful transitions into stable housing.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Each year, the Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts a Point-in-Time (PIT) count to assess the number of individuals residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and those living unsheltered in the Columbus area. This count helps identify the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals, ensuring that these needs are addressed effectively. The CoC has developed a plan to encourage greater participation in the count by emergency shelters, highlighting the benefits of the statistical data collected through the PIT and Housing Inventory Count processes. This data includes information on homeless clients tracked via the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which captures service usage from HMIS-participating agencies. The system allows local nonprofits to monitor the services provided to eligible clients in the city. The City provides annual funding to support the HMIS database, which tracks the effectiveness of service providers.

With HOME-ARP funding, the City is supporting the development of a new non-congregate shelter in partnership with the Salvation Army. The funding has been approved, and written agreements between the City and the Salvation Army are being put in place. Additionally, \$50,000 of the City's HOME-ARP funding is allocated to address homelessness among domestic violence survivors.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care

(such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Increasing the availability of permanent, affordable housing with supportive services is crucial to helping homeless individuals transition to stable, independent living. Many chronically homeless people struggle with severe mental illness and/or substance abuse, requiring long-term affordable housing combined with supportive services to achieve residential stability. To enhance placement and retention rates, the Continuum of Care (CoC) recently completed a Housing Stability Plan, which will guide clients through the process of securing permanent housing. Home for Good has hired a Vice President of Poverty Reduction to lead the plan's implementation. The Chattahoochee Valley Poverty Reduction Coalition has played a pivotal role in coordinating efforts across various agencies and organizations, supporting poverty-reduction initiatives, including the new poverty czar role. The position's first five years of funding, totaling \$500,000, have been secured through ARP resources.

A key element of the CoC's strategy to end chronic homelessness is addressing the underlying factors contributing to the problem:

- The high prevalence of substance abuse among chronically homeless individuals
- The lack of adequate education and job skills among many homeless persons
- The shortage of affordable housing in Columbus

By focusing on these issues and fostering effective coordination with local nonprofit agencies, the City of Columbus is positioning itself to tackle chronic homelessness strategically. To support these efforts, the CoC has implemented a comprehensive Homeless Prevention Strategy to identify, assess, and prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and to divert those in a housing crisis.

The City of Columbus is a new recipient of the Emergency Solutions Grant and will utilize \$145,932 of FFY 2024 ESG entitlement funding for eligible services in emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, HMIS, and the administration of the ESG program.

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

The City of Columbus acknowledges the importance of neighborhood-based homelessness prevention programs, including crisis response and stabilization teams, street outreach initiatives, housing search and placement specialists, expanded employment opportunities, and temporary rental assistance services. The Continuum of Care (CoC) has developed a comprehensive system to enhance access to employment and mainstream benefits. Through the Coordinated Entry System, clients' needs are assessed during intake,

and they are connected to the appropriate services and programs. CoC-funded programs and projects are required to participate in SOAR training, quarterly resource fairs, and job fairs. Additionally, each project is assigned case managers or life skills managers to coordinate and provide ongoing assistance to clients.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia (HACG) provides publicly supported housing for residents and operates under the Moving to Work (MTW) designation, which grants it greater flexibility in using operating and capital funds, as well as implementing policies not typically allowed under HUD regulations. In addition to public housing, HACG offers rental assistance through the Section 8 Voucher Program.

While HACG's public housing stock is generally well-maintained and in fair condition, the cost of maintaining aging units is increasingly prohibitive. Through the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, public housing agencies can leverage public and private funds to reinvest in their housing stock. Under RAD, units transition to a Section 8 platform with long-term contracts that are legally required to be renewed, ensuring the units remain permanently affordable to low- and moderate-income households.

HACG plans to convert two large public housing developments, Warren Williams Homes (182 units) and Elizabeth Carty Homes (249 units)—to project-based vouchers within the next 1-3 years. In 2020, HACG demolished 108 public housing units at Chase Homes under SAC Section 18 demolition approval, relocating all households through tenant protection vouchers. The site has been redeveloped into The Banks at Mill Village, a 102-unit mixed-income development, replacing the public housing units with 76 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Project-Based Voucher (PBV) units for residents earning 50% AMI, 15 Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units for those earning 60% AMI, and 11 market-rate units. Additionally, 50 HCV PBV units will be available at the Warm Springs Senior Village, a 72-unit mixed-income housing development for seniors aged 62 and older.

HACG is also in the design phase of a new project, BTW South, which was awarded 9% LIHTC funding. This 90-unit mixed-income development will provide housing for seniors aged 62 and older, including approximately 52 HCV PBV units. Upon completion of these RAD conversions, HACG's portfolio will consist entirely of project-based and tenant-based vouchers.

HACG's RAD conversion efforts are ongoing, pending the allocation of 4% LIHTC bonds by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The housing authority is also actively working on modernization and aesthetic improvements across its properties. To support these efforts, the City of Columbus has allocated HOME-ARP funding to HACG for the preservation of a limited number of public housing units as "triage units," temporarily housing individuals from the Continuum of Care's coordinated entry list. Through these initiatives, the City and HACG continue to collaborate in developing and preserving affordable housing for residents.

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

At each of its public housing sites, the Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia (HACG) supports resident councils, security task forces, educational opportunities, and youth programs. These initiatives provide residents with valuable resources to enhance their economic conditions and overall quality of life. HACG also reserves a seat on its board for a public housing resident and actively encourages resident participation in planning meetings.

HACG offers several programs, including the Moving to Work (MTW) program, established in 2013, which provides greater flexibility in the use of federal funds. Additionally, the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program is a voluntary initiative designed to help families identify needs, improve skills, and work toward life goals such as economic independence and housing self-sufficiency. The FSS program includes a dedicated coordinator who assists participants in accessing resources to support their progress.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

Not applicable. As a Moving To Work agency, the HACG is not scored through the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS).

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

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

Over the past year, the City and its partners have continued efforts to reduce barriers to affordable housing by allocating CDBG funding for housing rehabilitation, aimed at preserving existing affordable homes. Through programs like Continuing Hope and Home Accessibility, essential repairs and modifications were provided to elderly households and households with members who have disabilities. Additionally, the City allocated HOME funds for both new construction and housing rehabilitation.

To further address and eliminate barriers to affordable housing, the City has identified the following actions:

1. Develop partnerships to increase the number of affordable housing units.
2. Support and coordinate with developers applying for housing tax credit projects within the city.
3. Provide homebuyer education programs.
4. Collaborate with the Land Bank Authority of Columbus, Georgia, to develop affordable housing units.

During the 2023-2024 program year, the City began reviewing the housing authority's policies related to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to identify any potential barriers to affordable and fair housing. Despite these efforts, limited CDBG and HOME funds remain the primary challenge in meeting underserved needs, underscoring the importance of additional public and private resources to successfully implement these policies and programs.

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

Although the City collaborates with numerous community-based organizations, the primary challenge in addressing underserved needs is the limited entitlement funding and the fact that many nonprofit organizations operate on tight budgets. Reduced funding at the local, state, and federal levels has further constrained the City's ability to meet the growing demand for affordable housing and community services. In response, the City has shifted its strategy to prioritize the development of multifamily affordable housing projects, which will leverage additional resources and expand housing options for income-eligible renters. Additionally, the City remains committed to affordable housing acquisition and rehabilitation efforts, providing leverage for the acquisition, rehabilitation, and resale of homes to income-eligible residents, many of whom are first-time homebuyers.

As part of the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan, the City established a new Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) in South Columbus. The creation of the NRSA allows for greater flexibility in the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and fosters collaboration between government, civic organizations, private businesses, and nonprofits to revitalize distressed neighborhoods. The South Columbus NRSA permits the use of CDBG funds in a more flexible way to support revitalization efforts in neighborhoods where at least 70% of residents are low-to-moderate income. This

designation will benefit some of the most distressed areas in South Columbus, facilitating much-needed revitalization.

The City is actively seeking Community-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs) to enhance their internal technical capacity. Engaging CBDOs in NRSA work opens additional funding opportunities and will help maximize revitalization efforts in South Columbus. NRSA accomplishments will be reported in future Annual Action Plans and CAPERs.

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

Columbus is engaging in compliance measures under programs funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program, and other housing-related initiatives. These programs often mandate lead-paint inspections and remediation before renovation or rental assistance can be provided. The City has a contractor who conducts lead-based paint testing for activities where buildings were constructed prior to 1978, to ensure regulatory compliance.

These actions contribute to creating safer housing environments, particularly for low-income families, and help prevent the detrimental health effects associated with lead exposure. Continued funding and community partnerships are key to expanding these efforts across Columbus, focusing on both education and remediation.

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

The City of Columbus actively contributes to reducing poverty and expanding economic opportunities by fostering job creation and development. Poverty rates are closely tied to the ability of households to meet basic needs, which underscores the strong connection between the labor market and poverty levels. Creating opportunities for low-income individuals is essential to reducing the number of families in poverty. Economic development, facilitated through direct technical and business support, serves as a catalyst for job retention and the creation of new jobs, providing pathways to economic mobility.

In Program Year 2023, the City promoted economic development through several key initiatives:

- The City maintained its partnership with Home for Good, the lead agency for the Continuum of Care (CoC). The CoC has implemented a comprehensive system designed to increase access to employment and mainstream benefits. Through the Coordinated Entry System, individuals are assessed and connected to appropriate services and programs that support their economic stability.
- The City continues to participate in the Chattahoochee Valley Poverty Reduction Coalition, which supports initiatives aimed at driving systemic change to improve the well-being of local families. One of the Coalition's key programs is the Jobs for Life initiative, which provides participants with job skills necessary to find and maintain meaningful employment.
- Additionally, the City established a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) in South Columbus, allowing targeted investment of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The NRSA designation enables the City to address both economic development and housing needs in the targeted area. Job creation and retention efforts are central components of the NRSA strategy.

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

In the year 2023 program, the City's Community Reinvestment Department made substantial investments in staff training, particularly for new employees, and in enhancing policies and procedures to strengthen the department's effectiveness and the programs it funds and operates. This year, staff have implemented comprehensive written guidelines to ensure that all programs and operations are conducted sustainably and in compliance with federal regulations.

The Community Reinvestment Department has continued to enhance Columbus's social service infrastructure by fostering strong partnerships with local agencies and hosting informational workshops on relevant topics. Collaborative efforts among public and local agencies are vital for effectively executing tasks. The City remains committed to coordinating with partner agencies to promote a shared understanding of community needs and to develop collaborative approaches to address these needs while remaining responsive to changing conditions.

The City maintains a Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC), consisting of board members appointed by the mayor and council members, which acts as the voice of residents in accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan. This committee meets throughout the year to provide recommendations for the City's consolidated planning process.

Furthermore, the City continues to collaborate closely with partner agencies and community stakeholders to develop social response programs tailored to community needs. For instance, the Community Reinvestment Department and other City representatives are active members of the Continuum of Care (CoC) board and subcommittees, the 211 response line through the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, the Columbus 2025 Initiative for Economic, Community, and Workforce Development, and Neighborhood CDBG Programs.

The Community Reinvestment Department has established a strong relationship with the City's Planning Department, with a focus on community engagement. Department staff participate in community meetings hosted by the Planning Department to address community questions and gather input, even on topics outside of CRD's specific programs. Additionally, the Department has been building connections with other City departments, such as Engineering, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works, to help them understand the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the resources available through the Community Reinvestment Department to support their missions. By fostering proactive engagement across departments, the City can provide coordinated quality-of-life improvements for its residents.

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

The City has developed various cooperative partnerships and collaborations with public and supportive housing providers, local government, and mental health and social service agencies to address its priority needs, and it will continue to pursue these efforts. Notable examples include:

- **Single- and Multifamily Housing:** The City collaborates with NeighborWorks to coordinate the funding, development, and monitoring of both single-family and multifamily housing units

funded through the HOME and CDBG programs.

- **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance:** The City works with the local nonprofit Open Door Community House to manage the HOME tenant-based rental assistance program, which prioritizes homeless individuals and families. Support services are available to all households receiving Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) through Continuum of Care (CoC) programs.
- **Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation:** The City partners with Columbus Area Habitat for Humanity and Access 2 Independence to provide minor home repairs and accessibility modifications for income-eligible elderly and disabled individuals.
- **Community Services:** The City is committed to its partnership with the Chattahoochee Valley Poverty Reduction Coalition. By participating in and presenting at the Coalition's meetings, the City actively supports the initiative and its various programs.

The City provides annual CDBG funding and partners with Home for Good, a local nonprofit serving as the collaborative applicant for the CoC. Home for Good coordinates several system-wide strategies aimed at reducing homelessness, including Coordinated Assessment, Housing First, and Rapid Rehousing, in collaboration with both public and private agencies.

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

During the 2023 program year, the City of Columbus intensified its commitment to community education on fair housing. The City has prioritized several initiatives this year, including:

- **Ongoing Outreach:** Continuing outreach efforts in targeted communities at locations such as recreation centers, community/neighborhood centers, and churches.
- **Educating Officials:** Providing education to elected officials and City department staff responsible for CDBG and HOME funds regarding their legal obligation to affirmatively further fair housing.
- **Landlord Engagement:** Focusing on education and outreach for landlords who manage a small number of rental units, as they may be less aware of fair housing laws and their responsibilities.
- **Staff Training:** Ensuring all Community Reinvestment Department (CRD) staff receive training to effectively refer housing discrimination complaints to HUD when appropriate.

The City also maintains outreach efforts for individuals with limited English proficiency within targeted communities. Currently, the City is developing a formal policy to ensure that individuals with limited English proficiency can access housing and community development services and programs.

To streamline programs such as CDBG and HOME, the City will continue hosting an annual HUD Grant Workshop. This workshop aims to provide an overview of the CDBG and HOME programs to interested nonprofit organizations and affordable housing developers. It will help simplify the annual application process and better prepare organizations for the City's funding application process.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

In Program Year 2023, the City of Columbus has made significant strides in enhancing its capacity and planning for subrecipient monitoring. The monitoring policies and procedures have been thoroughly revised to ensure compliance with all HUD regulations and guidance, and City staff have received training on these updated protocols. This training included a focus on implementing and conducting risk analyses.

Going forward, the City will conduct an annual risk analysis on all open activities to assess financial capacity, management effectiveness, planning quality, and alignment with national objectives. The risk analysis scores will be averaged to determine which activities necessitate on-site monitoring or desk audits for compliance with federal and local regulations. By the end of Program Year 2023, City staff will continue conducting on-site monitoring visits as indicated by the risk analysis outcomes. During these visits, program staff will thoroughly inspect key project components to ensure adherence to grant regulations and promote accountability among subrecipients.

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

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

On October 16, 2024, the 2023 CAPER was advertised for public comment in the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*. The Community Reinvestment Department distributed the Public Notice to organizations that serve low-to-moderate income persons, minorities, or protected classes throughout the city. The City received public comments over a 15-day period from Wednesday, October 27, 2024, through Thursday, November 11, 2024, and held a public hearing on Monday, October 28, 2024. There were no citizen comments to report.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

This CAPER assesses the outcomes from the third year of the City's 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. The 2023 program year has not diverged significantly from the City's initial program objectives.

During the creation of the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan, several priority needs were identified, including the expansion of affordable housing, housing rehabilitation, blight removal, infrastructure and public facility improvements, public services, fair housing initiatives, COVID-19 response, and program administration. The Consolidated Plan outlines specific goals, measurable objectives, and implementation actions for each component. The 2023 program year has continued to align closely with the program objectives established in the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan and the 2023 Annual Action Plan.

Funding for PY 2023 projects was allocated in accordance with these priorities. Throughout the remainder of the City's consolidated plan period, the Community Reinvestment Department will continue to conduct annual needs assessments to evaluate whether any adjustments to strategic priorities are necessary.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No.

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

Not applicable.

CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

While the HOME regulations state that on-site inspections must only be conducted every three years following the initial 12-month post completion inspection, the City of Columbus has chosen to expand on this by requiring our developers and owners to conduct additional in-house inspections. This policy has been adopted into all our written agreements as a means of mitigating potential increased repair and maintenance costs due to negligence or ignorance of issues with rental properties. During the 2023-2024 program year, NeighborWorks inspected 23 HOME rental units and all but six unit passed inspection. The six units that didn't pass their inspection had the issues resolved the same day. These issues included the need for a smoke detector battery, exterior light bulbs being replaced, and getting a new kitchen faucet. These inspections included evaluation of conditions in the kitchen, dining room, living room, all bedrooms and bathrooms, laundry area, and exterior. At the time of inspection, routine maintenance, such as replacing HVAC filters, smoke detector batteries, and lightbulbs, and application of pest control was typically performed.

2024 HOME Rental Inspections		
Address	Inspection Date	Inspection Result
526 Walnut Street	10/17/2024	Fail / Pass
705 Church Avenue	10/17/2024	Pass
1490 Rochester Avenue	10/17/2024	Pass
2587 Harwich Circle	10/17/2024	Pass
3829 6th Avenue	10/17/2024	Fail / Pass
4803 13th Avenue, # A	10/16/2024	Pass
4803 13th Avenue, # B	10/16/2024	Pass
4806 13th Avenue, # A	10/16/2024	Fail / Pass
4806 13th Avenue, # B	10/16/2024	Pass
4811 13th Avenue, # A	10/16/2024	Pass
4811 13th Avenue, # B	10/16/2024	Pass
4814 13th Avenue, # A	10/16/2024	Pass
4814 13th Avenue, # B	10/16/2024	Pass
4831 13th Avenue	10/16/2024	Pass
4907 11th Avenue, # A	10/16/2024	Pass
4907 11th Avenue, # B	10/16/2024	Fail / Pass
4909 11th Avenue, # A	10/16/2024	Pass
4909 11th Avenue, # B	10/16/2024	Pass
5027 12th Avenue	10/16/2024	Pass

5031 12th Avenue	10/16/2024	Fail / Pass
425 Walnut Street	10/17/2024	Pass
426 Central Circle	10/17/2024	Fail / Pass
506 23rd Street	10/17/2024	Pass

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)

In accordance with 24 CFR Part 92.351, the City of Columbus and its subrecipients adhere to Affirmative Marketing Rules. All recipients of HOME funds are obligated to comply with these affirmative marketing requirements. Every printed material intended to inform the public, property owners, or prospective tenants about the HOME Program includes a statement regarding the Columbus Consolidated Government's Affirmative Marketing Plan and fair housing laws. This information is prominently featured in all media releases and reports related to the HOME Program. Furthermore, all newspaper announcements and printed materials carry the Equal Housing Opportunity logo, slogan, or statement, and Fair Housing Posters are displayed in the offices of all City subrecipients.

To promote various housing programs available to the public, all initiatives are advertised through the City's website at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/> and on social media platforms. The Community Reinvestment Department uses Facebook to engage a wider and more diverse audience in publicizing its events, leading to increased attendance at public meetings and forums.

The City of Columbus conducts periodic assessments of its Affirmative Marketing Policy to evaluate its effectiveness and implement any necessary corrective actions. This assessment is performed annually as part of the City's evaluation of housing programs outlined in its Annual Action Plan.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

The City did not use any HOME program income for projects in PY 2023.

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)

The City of Columbus has actively sought to strengthen its partnerships with nonprofit housing organizations and private agencies to enhance the supply of affordable housing. This includes engaging with LIHTC developers and other entities exploring housing projects within the city. Additionally, the City has made strides in improving housing affordability through various initiatives, such as the homebuyer down payment assistance program, tenant-based rental assistance, the Continuing Hope Program (which provides critical repairs and installations like heating and air conditioning systems, roofs, flooring, plumbing, electrical updates, and windows and exterior doors), and the Home Access Program (which offers Americans with Disabilities Act modifications for improved accessibility).

Moving forward, the City will continue to assess its current HOME Program activities and take a

proactive approach in funding projects that address the affordable housing needs of the Columbus community.

CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours	0	0	0	0	0
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	0	0	0	0	0
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0	0	0	0	0

Table 14 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers	0	0	0	0	0
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.	0	0	0	0	0
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).	0	0	0	0	0
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.	0	0	0	0	0
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).	0	0	0	0	0
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.	0	0	0	0	0
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.	0	0	0	0	0
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.	0	0	0	0	0
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.	0	0	0	0	0
Held one or more job fairs.	0	0	0	0	0
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.	0	0	0	0	0
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.	0	0	0	0	0
Assisted residents with finding child care.	0	0	0	0	0
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.	0	0	0	0	0
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.	0	0	0	0	0
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.	0	0	0	0	0
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.	0	0	0	0	0
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.	0	0	0	0	0
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.	0	0	0	0	0
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.	0	0	0	0	0
Other.	0	0	0	0	0

Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

We have recognized the importance of integrating Section 3 activities into our framework for HUD Entitlement funding. Consequently, this program year has focused on raising awareness through targeted training sessions. As a result of this training, we have developed and incorporated Section 3 policies into

our existing procedures to strengthen our external governance and ensure regulatory compliance. Looking ahead, we have plans for Section 3 initiatives in the coming years. To support these efforts, the City is collaborating with Truth Spring, a nonprofit trade school and workforce development organization, to enhance its capacity for successful partnerships on Section 3 initiatives.