

Fiscal Year 2023
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
City of Columbus
Draft Annual Action Plan Summary

Introduction

The City of Columbus Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Section, solicited project proposals for the use of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funding in the summer of 2022.

The City receives annual allocations from HUD for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which has a 15% public service cap¹ and a 20% administration cap², the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program, the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program which funds affordable housing opportunities and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program which provides homelessness prevention and shelter assistance.

This summary of the 2023 Draft Annual Action Plan provides an overview of the projects the Grants Management Section plans to include in the City's submission of the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan to HUD. The projects are expansions of existing programming and new programming to serve low-to-moderate income Columbus residents. Expenditures must be consistent with community needs, priorities and strategies stated in the City's HUD 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

Projects are listed in the sections below under a City of Columbus Strategic Plan Goal which are identified in the City's HUD 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The Strategic Plan Goals are:

- 1.) Preserve and expand affordable housing
- 2.) Program Management, capacity building and/or admin
- 3.) Ensure safe and sanitary property conditions
- 4.) Provide housing for special needs populations
- 5.) Provide homebuyer education and other counseling
- 6.) Ensure equal access to housing
- 7.) Foster business expansions in areas of need
- 8.) Foster development of skills for residents in need
- 9.) Provide educational/recreational youth programs
- 10.) Improve health outcomes
- 11.) Provide housing and services for persons with HIV
- 12.) Increase access to housing and emergency shelter
- 13.) Public facilities/Infrastructure improvements

¹ Public Service is defined in 24 CFR Part 570.201 (e) as services including but not limited to those concerned with employment, crime prevention, child care, health, drug abuse, education, fair housing counseling, energy conservation, welfare, homebuyer downpayment assistance, or recreational needs.

² Administrative cost is defined in 24 CFR Part 570.206 and is related to the planning and execution of community development activities.



FY 2023 HUD Allocations

In September 2022, Grants Management estimated the below amounts to be the total grant awards for each HUD grant allocation for 2023. The total budget available for each program for the 2023 program year may be larger than the annual allocation when accounting for program income, returned funds, or unexpended funds from past years. Those funds will be outlined in each program-specific section to follow.

FY 2023 Program	Estimated Entitlement Award
Community Development Block Grant	\$7,500,000
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	\$2,275,000
HOME Investment Partnership	\$5,000,000
Emergency Solutions Grant	\$600,000

Citizen Participation Process for the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan

During each year of the City's HUD Annual Action Plan development process, the City follows its Citizen Participation Plan which is approved within the City's HUD 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The section below outlines the efforts made to date by the City to engage with the public throughout the development of the City's FY 2023 Annual Action Plan.

CDBG Application Workshops

The Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Section hosted a public workshop on May 19th at 4:00 PM to announce the opening of the FY 2023 CDBG grant application and assist prospective applicants in understanding the CDBG program and refining their project ideas. The meeting was held at 141 N. Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, in the conference room located on the bottom level of the City of Columbus' parking garage. The meeting was advertised through social media and email.

The Grants Management Section also hosted four public workshops at local libraries to allow prospective applicants to receive assistance with their applications and technical support in person. These workshops were held at the following times and locations:

June 1, 2022 at 1 PM at the Columbus Metropolitan Library Parsons Branch – 1113 Parsons Ave

June 2, 2022 at 1 PM at the Columbus Metropolitan Library Hilltop Branch – 511 S Hague Ave

June 7, 2022 at 9 AM at the Columbus Metropolitan Library Barnett Branch – 3434 E Livingston Ave

June 10, 2022 at 9 AM at the Columbus Metropolitan Library Karl Road Branch – 5590 Karl Rd

First Public Comment Period

The City of Columbus started a fifteen (15) day public comment period on October 9th, 2022 when a notice was published in the Columbus Dispatch and a summary of project proposals was made available on the City's Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management webpage. The summary provided an overview of every project proposed for FY 23 CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG. The Grants Management Section accepted comments through October 24, 2022, 5:00 PM. A total of 38 comments were received via email during the period.

First Public Meeting

The Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Section hosted a public meeting on October 18th, 2022 at 5:30 PM. Each project proposal for HUD funding that was received by Grants Management was shared and available for discussion, and representatives for applicant organizations were invited to speak on behalf of their project(s). The meeting was held at 141 N. Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, in the conference room located on the bottom level of the City of Columbus' parking garage. The meeting was advertised through email and a legal advertisement in the Columbus Dispatch newspaper, which was published on October 9th, 2022. More than 28 individuals attended the meeting, and 14 spoke to represent an application or offer comment on priorities. Comments were recorded by Grants Management staff.

Second Public Comment Period

The City of Columbus started a thirty (30) day public comment period on October 26th, 2022. A notice was published in the Columbus Dispatch and a summary of the draft 2023 Annual Action Plan was made available on the City's Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management webpage. The document summarizes projects that have been budgeted for FY 23 CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG. The Grants Management Section accepted comments via email at grantsmgmt@columbus.gov through November 28, 2022, 5:00 PM. No public comments were received during the comment period.

Second Public Meeting – Columbus City Council Finance Committee Hearing

The Finance Committee of Columbus City Council and the Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Section hosted a public hearing on November 2nd, 2022 at 4:00 PM. Projects that have been selected for inclusion in the draft 2023 Annual Action Plan were be discussed, as was a draft budget. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at 90 W Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The meeting was advertised through social media, email, and a legal advertisement in the Columbus Dispatch newspaper, which was published on October 26th, 2022. The meeting was live-streamed by CTV, the City's local government TV station. No public comments were received during the meeting.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The draft FY 2023 CDBG budget for eligible activities is \$10,143,940. This total budget is made up of the FY 2023 allocation from HUD awarded to the City, the City's prior year Returned Funds, Revolving Loan Fund and Program Income generated from HUD funded programs, and past years unexpended funds. The table below notes each funding resources' total dollar amount contributing to the whole FY 2023 CDBG budget.

Projects included in the 2023 draft budget are listed below, categorized by project type. Strategic goals from the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan are provided for each project type.

Funding Resources (estimated)	Budget
2023 CDBG Entitlement Budget	\$7,500,000
Past Year Funding & Program Income	\$2,643,940

Fair Housing – Budget: \$200,000

Strategic goal: Ensure equal access to housing

1.) City of Columbus Fair Housing

- The Department of Finance and Management will contract with local civil rights organizations and other qualified organizations to provide education, marketing and outreach, and collect and investigate complaints of housing discrimination. A separate grant application process is ongoing and will be completed by December 31, 2022.

Housing repair and homeowner assistance – Budget: \$910,000

Strategic goals: Preserve and expand affordable housing; Ensure safe and sanitary property conditions

1.) City of Columbus Chores Program

- The Chores program serves senior and disabled homeowners at 80% AMI and below with minor home repairs up to \$2,000 per unit. In doing this work, these homeowners are able to remain safely in their homes.

2.) City of Columbus Roof Replacement Program

- The Department of Finance and Management will contract with qualified professionals to deliver a roof replacement program. This program assists LMI homeowners with repairs that constitute a critical condition, and when such condition is not corrected, could cause the homeowner to vacate their home.

3.) Renew Homes Ohio – Low-income home ownership maintenance and preservation

- Funding will be used to assist in start-up costs of the organization and program. The program goal is to provide 30-50 low-income homeowners with free maintenance services in the following categories: lawn care, tree removal, gutter/soffit maintenance, exterior paint, HVAC repair, minor roof repair, and plumbing.

Housing and family services - Budget: \$436,500

Strategic goals: Preserve and expand affordable housing; Ensure safe and sanitary property conditions; Provide homebuyer education and other counseling; Foster development of skills for residents in need

1.) Rebuilding Together Central Ohio, dba Modcon Living - Tool Library Home Ownership Sustainability Program (HOSP)

- This project will allow LMI households in the City of Columbus to borrow quality tools at no charge to maintain their homes. The measurable outputs of the project will include; 1) Increased HOSP membership; 2) Increased loans to HOSP members; and 3) increased HOSP members served through the purchase of new tools.

2.) Legal Aid Society of Columbus Housing Conditions Project

- The objective of the project is to improve conditions of low-income housing stock in Columbus by using legal tools to encourage landlords to invest in the maintenance of their rental properties. The project's goal is to assist 250 tenant families and investigate the improvement of at least 250 rental units in one year.

3.) City of Columbus Housing Counseling

- The Department of Development will contract with HUD approved housing counseling agencies to provide homebuyer and homeowner counseling to include pre-purchase counseling, tenant counseling and foreclosure prevention. HOME funded homeownership purchasers are required by regulation to have pre-purchase counseling.

4.) Franklinton Development Association - Financial Life-skills Program

- The program is broken up into six classes that review the participants' relationship with money, budgeting, banking, credit, loans, debt management, job-training, entrepreneurship, taxes and insurance. CDBG funding will expand the program to serve an additional 90 people. 90% of participants are from the Westside of Columbus, including the Franklinton and Hilltop neighborhoods.

Youth programming - Budget: \$723,440

Strategic goal: Provide Educational / Recreational Youth Programing

1.) Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) Capital Kids

- The CRPD Capital Kids program for Columbus youth incorporates trained staff, state of the art technology, high expectations and high performance standards designed to gauge students' academic achievement and to also provide participants with a safe place to learn and play when school is out.

2.) Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) Fitness Camps

- CRPD provides a camp for children ages 6 to 14 years that operates during the summer & winter when school is not in session. The program is designed to especially benefit the children of working parents. As part of the program, the School's Out camp offers a day

long, well supervised camp that allows children to take part in a variety of recreational, educational, cultural and physical fitness activities in a safe and secure environment.

Infrastructure and public facility improvements – Budget: \$2,550,000

Strategic goal: Public facilities / infrastructure improvements

- 1.) 2023 Neighborhood Curb Ramp Improvements
 - DPS will design and construct ADA compliant curb ramps at approximately 60 intersection locations eligible for CDBG funding where there are no ramps or ramps not compliant with ADA standards.
- 2.) 2023 Neighborhood Sidewalk Gaps Improvements
 - DPS will design and construct sidewalk necessary to fill in the gaps in the sidewalk network in approximately 34 locations eligible for CDBG funding.
- 3.) Columbus Park and Tree Canopy Improvements Program
 - This funding allows Recreation and Parks to carry out major park improvements at parks primarily benefitting lower-income neighborhoods. The park improvements are centered on the full replacement of existing playgrounds, site furnishing replacement and a shelter renovation, and the milling and resurfacing of basketball courts, walking paths and tennis courts and site restoration. A portion of the funding will also be used to install trees in locations prioritized through the City’s Urban Forestry Master Plan.

Non-profit facility upgrades and acquisition – Budget: \$4,280,000

Strategic goals: Provide Educational / Recreational Youth Programing; Public facilities / infrastructure improvements; Improve health outcomes; Ensure safe and sanitary property conditions

- 1.) All THAT - Teens Hopeful About Tomorrow - All THAT Center of Excellence
 - This project will upgrade the All THAT Center of Excellence to create an engaging safe environment for LMI teens and their families. The renovation will allow All THAT to expand their current education and employment services and social and emotional learning (SEL) programming.
- 2.) Star House - Drop-in Center Renovations
 - Star House's drop-in center requires reconfiguration of the main entrance to better accommodate the flow of foot traffic and improve safety and security.
- 3.) Reeb Avenue Center Kitchenette and Boilers Replacement
 - This funding would cover a full renovation of the Reeb Avenue Center’s kitchenette area. The area is currently used as part of the center’s charitable food services. The heating and cooling in the facility require replacement of boilers.

- 4.) Refuge, Inc - Balcony Code Enforcement - 1601 Sullivant Ave.
 - 1601 Sullivant Ave houses all men in The Refuge's 13-month alcohol and drug addiction recovery program. This project will repair the property's balconies deemed unsafe by the City of Columbus. The program serves roughly 100 men each year.
- 5.) Carol Stewart Village Property Improvements
 - Carol Stewart Village provides transitional housing for 18-24 year olds along with on-site programs and services. The proposed funding will complete needed property renovations to increase security and safety as well as improve property conditions.
- 6.) Maroon Arts Group - Acquisition of the York Mason Building
 - CDBG funds will allow Maroon Arts Group to acquire the York Mason Building - a historical staple in the underserved, majority Black King-Lincoln/Bronzeville neighborhood. This ensures the venue's preservation during a time where much of King-Lincoln/Bronzeville's history has experienced erasure by gentrification. The site will host events and performances, house local arts organizations, connect the community, and empower talented artists, designers, and performers by providing them with much-needed economic and educational opportunities.

Housing development - Budget: \$420,000

Strategic goal: Increase access to housing and emergency shelter

- 1.) Columbus Next Generation Corporation / Ours Brothers Keepers
 - Ours Brothers Keeper owns the mixed used building at 2918 E. 5th Avenue which the organization would like to rehab for efficiency, single and two bedroom temporary, transitional housing for low income persons. The units will target newly homeless individuals and persons exiting the justice system. Columbus Next Generation Corporation will operate as the project's fiscal sponsor and construction manager.

Administration and planning - Budget: \$624,000

Strategic goal: Program management, capacity building and / or administration

- 1.) Department of Finance and Management Grants Management Administration
 - Grants Management Section staffing and contracting in the Department of Finance and Management for administration of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant.

HOME Investment Partnership (HOME)

The total FY 2023 HOME budget for eligible activities is \$5,650,000. The total budget is made up of the FY 2023 allocation from HUD awarded to the City and program income generated from HOME funded programs. The table below notes each funding resources total dollar amount contributing to the whole FY 2023 HOME budget. Projects are summarized by strategic goal from the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

Funding Resources	Budget
2023 HOME Entitlement Budget	\$5,000,000
2022 HOME Program Income	\$650,000

Goal: Preserve and Expand Access to Affordable Housing

- 1.) Community Housing Development Organization Set Aside
 - HOME Budget: \$750,000
 - Required set aside of 15% of HOME fund allocation for awards to city certified CHDOs.
- 2.) Rental Housing Development
 - HOME Budget: \$3,420,000
 - Providing gap financing for new construction and substantial renovation rental projects.
- 3.) Downpayment Assistance
 - HOME Budget: \$135,000
 - Up to \$7,500 for downpayment and closing costs for low or moderate income homebuyers.
- 4.) Homeowner Housing Development
 - HOME Budget: \$375,000
 - HOME funds will be utilized for the development and affordability assistance for new homeowner housing units.
- 5.) Rebuilding Lives Tenant Based Rental Assistance
 - HOME Budget: \$325,000
 - Tenant Based Rental Assistance for those who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.
- 6.) Community Housing Development Organization Operating Support
 - HOME Budget: \$200,000
 - Operating support provided to the Community Housing Development Organizations by the Community Development Collaborative.

Goal: Program Management, Capacity Building and /or Administration

- 1.) Department of Development Housing Division Staff
 - HOME Budget: \$400,000
 - Housing Division staffing in the Department of Development for administration of HOME Investment Partnership funded programs.

- 2.) Community Development Collaborative Operating Support (Administration)
 - HOME Budget: \$45,000
 - Community Development Collaborative funding for administration of CHDO operating support.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

The total FY 2023 HOPWA budget for eligible activities is \$2,275,000. The total budget is the FY 2023 allocation from HUD. The estimate listed below is based on the previous year's allocation. Projects are summarized by strategic goal from the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

Funding Resources	Budget
2023 HOPWA Entitlement Budget	\$2,275,000

Strategic goal: Provide Housing and Services for Persons with AIDS

- 1.) Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
 - HOPWA Budget: \$1,149,560
 - Funding will be used for Tenant Based Rental Assistance for those who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.
- 2.) Permanent Housing Placement (PHP)
 - HOPWA Budget: \$73,948
 - Funding will be used for Permanent Housing Placement to assist eligible households to secure stable housing.
- 3.) Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility (STRMU) Assistance
 - HOPWA Budget: \$377,642
 - Funding will be used to prevent homelessness of individuals and families by helping them remain in their own dwellings and increasing their access to supportive services.
- 4.) HOPWA Supportive Services
 - HOPWA Budget: \$471,716
 - Funding will be used to provide supportive services such as case management, housing counseling, and resource identification.

Goal: Program Management, Capacity Building and / or Administration

- 1.) HOPWA Administration
 - HOPWA Budget: \$68,250
 - Staffing and other costs for HOPWA grant administration.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

The total FY 2023 ESG budget for eligible activities is \$600,000. The total budget is made up of the FY 2023 allocation from HUD awarded to the City. Projects are summarized by strategic goal from the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

Goal: Increase Access to Housing and Emergency Shelter

1.) Emergency Solutions Grants Programs

- ESG Budget: \$600,000
- Emergency shelters provide access to beds for men and women in Columbus and Franklin County. Beyond providing a secure and clean place to sleep, shelter programs provide access to basic services such as showers, meals, healthcare and material assistance, along with supportive services, referrals to additional supportive services as needed, and crisis assistance. Shelter programs have resource centers that provide internet access, telephones, employment leads, job training resources and other community resources. ESG-funded Direct Housing programs provide services and financial assistance to families exiting emergency shelter programs into their own homes, with the goal of long-term stabilization.