

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan.

91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) meets the performance reporting requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as set forth with the Consolidated Plan Regulations at 24 CFR 91.520. This report describes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded activities undertaken by the Village of Oak Park during the Program Year 2023, beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024. These grants fund community development efforts to improve housing, economic, and social conditions, as well as opportunities for low-income and moderate-income residents of the Village. This report summarizes the accomplishments of Program Year 2023 (PY23), the fourth year of the Village's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

The PY 2023 Annual Action Plan focused heavily on public improvements and facilities, public service, and infrastructure. The Village completed sewer and street projects initiated during the current year. The sidewalk replacement project in low- and moderate-income areas was also completed during the 2023 program year.

Affordable & Safe Housing: \$87,123

Improved safe and affordable housing for both renter- and owner-occupants remains a priority for the Village of Oak Park by preserving the existing housing stock and improving the overall quality of the community's low- and moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods. The following housing programs were covered by CDBG in PY 2023. The Village's Single Family Rehabilitation program completed 2 projects, Small Rental Rehabilitation program completed 2 projects, Lead Hazard Reduction completed 2 projects.

Public Facility & Improvement: \$218,093.51

The Village maintained and improved the quality of Oak Park's existing public facilities through six (6) organizations: UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago, Way Back Inn, Y.E.M.B.A., Hephzibah Children's Association, Infant Welfare Society Children's Clinic, and Thrive Counseling Center.

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Infrastructure: \$1,271,648.20

Created a safer, more livable, and equitable community through improvements to neighborhood

infrastructure by improving alleys, sidewalks and replacing private-side lead water lines for low- and moderate-income households. Sidewalk improvements were made in accordance with ADA compliance throughout South Oak Park. Private-side lead water line replacement was made available through CDBG to 13 qualifying households at no cost.

Public Service: \$215,283.47

Expanded the availability of and increased access to needed public services including mental health, fair housing, emergency food provision and nutrition, developmental disabilities, dentistry, parent education, supported employment training, domestic violence and substance use recovery services, and supported services that prevent homelessness and assist those currently experiencing homelessness. These services included homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing and street outreach. Public service and homelessness activities helped improve the lives of Oak Park residents through ongoing community support, made available through CDBG funds.

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
Affordable & Safe Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	20	9	45.00%
Affordable & Safe Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	20	16	80.00%
Affordable & Safe Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Housing for Homeless added	Household Housing Unit	0	0	
Affordable & Safe Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Housing for People with HIV/AIDS added	Household Housing Unit	0	0	

Affordable & Safe Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	0	148	
Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	0	0	
Homelessness Assistance	Homeless	CDBG: \$ / ESG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	112	
Homelessness Assistance	Homeless	CDBG: \$ / ESG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	0	0	
Public Facilities and Improvements	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	29	7461	25,727.59%
Public Facilities and Improvements	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0	
Public Infrastructure	Public Infrastructure	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	11750	16363	139.26%
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	2	
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	99005	70117	70.82%

Public Services	Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	330	
Public Services	Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added	Beds		192	
Public Services	Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	0	0	

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.

Accomplishments for each of these programs are described in greater detail in the CDBG Activity Summary Report (PR03) report in the appendix. In addition to directly funding programs, the Village, which does not receive Emergency Solutions Grant funding, also addresses homeless priorities through its engagement with the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County. The Alliance coordinates the assessment and outreach to homeless persons throughout several surrounding jurisdictions. See CR-25 -Homeless and Other Special Needs below for additional information.

Use of Funds - Public Services, Public Facilities, Admin

There was also a strong demand for services and facilities to meet the needs of youth, seniors, and working parents in need of childcare. Many participants expressed a desire to see multiple services integrated into one common space. During PY 2023, these programs are limited to 15% of the total annual grant for a total of \$230,878 Public Services allocation in PY 2023. Of the Public Services allocation, 99% of funds were expended, supporting organizations that provide behavioral health counseling, youth services, senior services, food insecurity resources, developmental disability respite services, and interim and emergency shelter programs for individuals experiencing homelessness. A total of \$204,855.78 was spent in PY 2023 on public social services. The Village supported high priority public service activities identified in the Consolidated Plan, including:

- Children's Dental Clinic Program provided 564 Oak Park children with in-clinic preventative and restorative dental care
- NAMI Metro Suburban provided 46 Oak Park adults with peer guided mental health support.
- Community Support Services provided 30 Oak Park residents with case management and resources assisting with various needs related to I/DD
- Hephzibah Children's Association provided education and support to 29 foster children.

Public Facilities and Public Improvements emerged as some of the highest rated priorities. Improving a broad range of public infrastructure was a high priority for PY 2023. The Village targeted most funds for enhancing the viability of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods through alley, sidewalk, and lead waterline programs.

Public Facility Improvement: Six nonprofits participated in separate activities totaling \$218,093.51. Public Infrastructure: An allocation of \$1,400,000 for infrastructure work to be completed by the Village's Public Works Department consisting of ADA Sidewalk Improvements, Water Line Improvements, and Alley Improvements. During PY 2023 Water Line Improvements, Alleys and ADA Sidewalk Improvements were completed throughout the Oak Park community.

- Sidewalks: The Village replaced a total of 45,000 sq ft of CDBG sidewalks.
- Lead waterlines: 13 households received private-side lead water line replacement.
- Alleys: The 2023 Village Street Project replaced 3 deteriorated alleys

Program Administration: The department is committed to administering its programs effectively and equitably and ensuring that all eligible community members can benefit from program activities. Capped at 20%, CDBG funds Village CDBG Staff which included activities such as contacting subrecipients, agreement preparation and execution, quarterly reporting, reimbursement processing, monitoring, and on-site pre-construction meetings. Additionally, administration funds are used for one organization, the Oak Park Homeless Coalition, to further fair housing initiatives.

Timeliness: PR-56, on August 2, 2024, the Chicago HUD Office conducted an annual timeliness test of Oak Park expenditures. It was determined that the Oak Park timeliness ratio was within the ratio of 1.33 resulting in Oak Park being in compliance with HUD's performance standards. In PY 2021, on

February 8, 2022, the Village of Oak Park decided to deobligate from Section 108 funds and submitted a formal letter to CPD, Donald Kathan. The Village of Oak Park received confirmation of the deobligation in February 2023. The Village of Oak Park received \$1,259,754.00 in CDBG-CV funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020. The Village of Oak Park has spent most of the funds, with \$444.00 remaining, and met the requirement of spending 80% of the funds by November 2023.

CDBG-CV Spent:

- Public Service: \$300,000 through nine (9) organizations
- Administrative Service: \$66,503
- Rental Assistance: \$400,000
- Business Loan: \$492,485

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
White	13,039
Black or African American	10,768
Asian	577
American Indian or American Native	902
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	63
Total	25,349
Hispanic	9,626
Not Hispanic	15,723

Describe the clients assisted (including the racial and/or ethnicity of clients assisted with ESG)

	HESG
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	0
Asian or Asian American	0
Black, African American, or African	0
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	0
Middle Eastern or North African	0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0
White	0
Multiracial	0
Client doesn't know	0
Client prefers not to answer	0

Data not collected	0
Total	0

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

Narrative

The table above provides an overview of racial and ethnic status. However, HUD requires the Village to identify additional levels of info. The multiracial overview includes the following: 122 Asian & White; 510 Black/African American & White; 184 American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African American; 8,053 Other Multi-Racial. This information is provided by the PR23 Report.

The Village of Oak Park has not received ESG since 2019 and therefore does not have any data to reflect in the racial and ethnic populations table.

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	2,896,971	\$2,054,596.08
ESG	public - federal	0	

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The Village expended \$2,054,596.08 of CDBG Funds during PY 2023, which included reallocated prior year funds as well as program income.

The Village met or exceeded all CDBG standards during the program year:

- 80% of funds were expended on activities that benefited low and moderate-income residents
- The Village expended or obligated 20% during PY 2023 year grant for planning and administration, meeting the 20% statutory cap for these activities.
- Total expenditures for public service activities was 12% of the annual grant, under the 15% statutory cap on public service activities.
- The Village met its timeliness test obligation, with a 1.33 ratio, below the 1.5 CDBG standard, on August 2, 2024. The Village also continued to expend funds on large infrastructure projects through the remaining program year.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
CDBG Target Area	40		
Entire Jurisdiction	60		

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

In the table above, the Village's available resources included \$1,539,187.00 in annual allocation and \$1,357,784 in unallocated prior year resources from PY 2022 and PY 2020. The Village's CDBG allocation is devoted to serving Oak Park's low- to moderate-income population. CDBG Public Improvements and Facilities activities are in and targeted exclusively to neighborhoods and Census Tracts where most residents are low- to moderate-income. Low- and moderate-income census tracts are dispersed through Oak Park's area of less than five square miles.

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.

Fund leveraging was encouraged among the Village's CDBG partners. The Village especially benefitted from additional resources that local and regional nonprofit organizations brought to the Village to provide a wide range of services to residents with low or moderate incomes and special needs. Subrecipient-leveraged funding sources included organizational fundraising, private donations, Cook County and State of Illinois funds, other Federal resources, and in-kind contributions. For PY 2023, subrecipient organizations awarded CDBG funds anticipated leveraging approximately \$1.5 million. No publicly owned land within the Village of Oak Park is utilized for CDBG.

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	24	9
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	24	9

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	24	9
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	24	9

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

The Village has not met its Single Family Rehabilitation goals for the year. The Rehabilitation Program was impacted first by the COVID-19 pandemic stay-at-home orders and subsequently by the reluctance of homeowners to allow home inspection visits. Although the Village actively markets and receives requests for housing rehabilitation assistance, challenges remain in identifying income-qualified households that are eligible for the program. The Village's Single Family Rehabilitation program completed 3 projects in PY23.

The Village continually seeks new ways to inform residents about the Single-Family Rehabilitation Program by assessing promotional efforts quarterly and incorporating feedback from the Housing Programs Advisory Committee and Oak Park residents.

During PY 2023, 30 homeowners contacted the Neighborhood Services Department seeking more information on the Single Family Rehabilitation program. Of these, 30 homeowners requested and received applications. 9 applications were submitted for consideration. Of the PY23 applicants, 21 were over income, and their applications were rejected, 9 applicants were approved, and 2 projects were completed in PY 2023.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The Village remains committed to the Single-Family Rehabilitation program as both a means to allow low- and moderate-income residents to remain in safe and suitable housing and maintain the viability of its many residential neighborhoods. The Village continues to aggressively expand outreach to boost participation in the program and has taken a more active role in working with smaller contractors. The Village evaluated pre-pandemic demand for housing rehabilitation loans when developing its 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and will amend if necessary programming continues.

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	3	0
Low-income	1	0
Moderate-income	4	0
Total	8	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

The share of unassisted households with severe problems increased more than in many other regions between 2019 and 2021. HUD's [Worse Case Housing Needs 2023 report](#) showed that the Chicago region's households with 0-50% HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) continued to struggle with housing problems. Due to limited resources as a small Entitlement grantee, the Village supports regional partners to address residents' worse housing case needs. The Village of Oak Park is a member of the Cook County Consortium and continues to support affordable housing development. Needs are addressed through public service funded activities with a variety of subrecipients and local COC coordination.

Through the Single Family Rehabilitation program and the North West Housing Partnership, funds are available for the homes of people with disabilities and seniors who need assistance in modifying their homes.

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

Oak Park has made significant strides in addressing homelessness by collaborating primarily with Housing Forward and various non-profit organizations to support unhoused individuals. The Village has allocated funding to Housing Forward, which provides a comprehensive range of services, including Emergency Shelter, Interim Housing, Program Case Management, Street Outreach, Coordinated Entry, Medical Respite, and other critical support services. In 2023-2024, Housing Forward sheltered 123 individuals, offering essential resources such as food, mental health services, and case management, helping them transition from substandard living conditions to long-term housing stability.

In the past year, Oak Park further demonstrated its commitment by participating in a 100-Day Challenge cohort aimed at reducing barriers to housing for unhoused residents. This initiative achieved notable outcomes, with over 123 individuals transitioning to permanent supportive housing and 310 individuals connected to shelters throughout Suburban Cook County.

The Village also plays an active role in the Oak Park Homeless Coalition, fostering interagency collaboration to ensure personalized services for those experiencing homelessness. The Coalition has set goals for 2024, including the creation of a By Name Referral list managed by Housing Forward to prioritize housing assistance for families and individuals. In addition, Housing Forward aims to enhance the effectiveness of short-term stability case management and shelter diversion services, further improving outcomes for those in need.

These collaborative efforts, along with ongoing partnerships with local taxing bodies such as schools, the Park District, the Library, and social services organizations, ensure that unhoused individuals receive the comprehensive support necessary to secure stable housing and improve their overall well-being.

As a small CDBG-only Entitlement community that does not receive ESG funding, the Village provides referrals and supports the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County and Housing Forward, which coordinates the assessment and outreach to homeless persons throughout several surrounding jurisdictions. The Village continued leveraging federal and state resources to assist provider agencies through services.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The Village of Oak Park continues to address the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of its unhoused residents, primarily through its partnership with Housing Forward. Since January 2022, the operation of an emergency overnight shelter at St. Catherine-St. Lucy Rectory has provided consistent

shelter for 20 individuals each night. This collaboration has offered a critical lifeline to unhoused individuals in the community, fulfilling the Village's objective to provide emergency shelter.

However, since June 2023, Oak Park has experienced a significant increase in the number of unhoused individuals, which has resulted in the formation of encampments. Housing Forward's street outreach team has played a pivotal role in engaging with these individuals and helping them navigate available housing resources. Despite these efforts, the availability of housing remains insufficient, and the number of unhoused individuals has continued to grow, with an estimated 40 people sleeping in the train station each night, even with the emergency shelter in place.

In response, the Village has taken steps to address these growing needs by expediting zoning changes to increase the capacity of the current shelter to 40 individuals. Unfortunately, fire and safety regulations present barriers to this expansion, and there is currently no identified funding to support necessary renovations. Housing Forward is actively exploring alternative shelter options and seeking additional funding to bring the current space up to code.

Over the last year, the Village of Oak Park collaborated with the Suburban Alliance on the 100-Day Challenge, aimed at accelerating housing placements and removing barriers for unhoused individuals. During this initiative, 123 individuals were successfully placed into permanent supportive housing using HUD vouchers. Despite this achievement, the number of unhoused individuals in Suburban Cook County grew from 283 to 315 during the 100-day period, reflecting an increasing demand for both housing and shelter. This surge has further strained the Village's resources and highlighted the ongoing challenge of meeting the needs of the unhoused population in the region.

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

To respond to the CAPER question for the Village of Oak Park regarding how low-income individuals and families are assisted in avoiding homelessness, particularly those at risk after being discharged from institutions or systems of care, and those receiving assistance from public or private agencies, you can structure your response in the following way:

The Village of Oak Park, in collaboration with Continuum of Care (CoC) partners, takes a comprehensive approach to preventing homelessness among low-income and extremely low-income individuals and families, particularly those vulnerable after discharge from publicly funded institutions. Our initiatives include:

Coordination with Institutions of Care: The Village works closely with local health care facilities, mental

health agencies and foster care systems to ensure individuals at risk of homelessness after discharge are identified early. Through coordinated entry processes, case management, and discharge planning, community partners work to connect them with housing assistance, mental health support, and social services that prevent a return to homelessness.

The Village of Oak Park collaborates with agencies such as Housing Forward, Thrive Counseling Center, Hephzibah Children's Association, New Moms and other CoC partners to provide critical services like emergency housing, rent assistance, and supportive housing solutions. These services target individuals transitioning from institutions or systems of care, ensuring they have stable housing and access to necessary supports.

Programs are in place to assist extremely low-income individuals and families, particularly those receiving services from agencies addressing health, social services, employment, education, and youth needs. These agencies work together to ensure housing stability by addressing underlying issues such as unemployment, mental health, substance use, or educational gaps.

Preventive measures, including outreach, financial literacy programs, and case management, are designed to identify those at risk of homelessness and provide early interventions. Families and individuals receive financial support through rent subsidies, utility assistance, and food programs, along with access to health services to maintain stability in housing.

The Village of Oak Park works with employment agencies and educational institutions to help low-income individuals secure stable employment and improve their job skills, which are crucial in maintaining housing. These programs not only focus on immediate housing needs but also aim to provide long-term solutions through employment and education, reducing the likelihood of homelessness.

The Continuum of Care operates a coordinated entry system that ensures the most vulnerable, especially those discharged from institutions, are prioritized for housing and services. This system ensures that individuals have a single point of entry to access the full range of available services, including housing, mental health care, and employment support.

Through these partnerships and strategies, Oak Park and the Continuum of Care work together to ensure that low-income and at-risk populations receive the necessary support to avoid homelessness, achieve stability, and regain independence.

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 Village of Oak Park, in collaboration with its Continuum of Care (CoC) partners, is committed to supporting homeless individuals and families, especially those who are chronically homeless, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth, in their transition to permanent housing and independent living. Our efforts focus on reducing the time spent in homelessness, facilitating access to affordable housing, and preventing a return to homelessness. These initiatives include:

The Village and CoC partners, such as Housing Forward, prioritize the rapid rehousing of homeless individuals and families to shorten their experience of homelessness. Through the use of HUD funds and other local resources, we provide funding for rental assistance and case management to quickly place individuals and families in stable housing. Permanent supportive housing options are offered to chronically homeless individuals, with integrated services tailored to their long-term needs, such as mental health care and substance use treatment.

Our community partners, like Housing Forward, adopt a Housing First philosophy, which focuses on placing homeless individuals and families into permanent housing as quickly as possible without preconditions like sobriety or participation in treatment programs. This approach is essential for reducing the length of time people experience homelessness and provides them with a stable foundation from which to access support services and achieve self-sufficiency.

The Village collaborates with various service providers to ensure that individuals and families have access to a wide range of supportive services that are critical for maintaining housing stability. This includes partnerships with organizations like Thrive Counseling Center for mental health services, and other agencies for employment assistance, education, and health care. Case managers work closely with each household to create individualized service plans that address barriers to housing and employment, as well as any underlying challenges such as mental health or substance use issues.

Facilitating access to affordable housing is key to preventing homelessness recurrence. The Village works with local housing authorities and landlords to make affordable units available to formerly homeless individuals and families. This includes leveraging housing vouchers, landlord engagement, and incentives to increase the supply of affordable units. Additionally, community development efforts support the creation of new affordable housing options for both the homeless and low-income populations.

Continued

Preventing formerly homeless individuals and families from becoming homeless again is a priority. Through ongoing case management, Housing Forward monitors the progress of these individuals and families, offering continued rental assistance, utility assistance, and connections to employment services to ensure their long-term stability. This includes follow-up support to address any emerging challenges and prevent them from falling back into homelessness. The Continuum of Care operates a Coordinated Entry System (CES) that streamlines access to housing resources for the most vulnerable populations. The CES prioritizes individuals and families based on their level of need, ensuring that those experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, families with children, and unaccompanied youth are

rapidly connected to housing options and services that can best support their transition to permanent housing and independence. Through these targeted efforts and strong collaboration with community partners, the Village of Oak Park and its CoC partners work to ensure that homeless individuals and families are able to move into permanent housing quickly, access the necessary resources to maintain their housing, and avoid future episodes of homelessness. The Village also allocated CDBG funds to support essential social service programs in PY 2023, aiding those with incomes below the poverty level. These initiatives are aimed to enhance the well-being of individuals and families, potentially reducing both short- and long-term costs. Specifically:

- The Children's Clinic utilized CDBG funds to provide low-cost or free dental services to low-income youth, preventing financial strain on their families. This program served 4275 0-18 years old young individuals, 564 of whom are Oak Park residents,
- In PY 2023 Community Support Services used CDBG funds to offer respite services for 287 individuals, 30 of whom are Oak Park residents, with intellectual developmental disabilities and their families, empowering families to create stable and nurturing home environments for children with developmental disabilities to lead independent lives.
- Housing Forward assisted 123 homeless individuals, 48 of whom are Oak Park residents. Housing Forward reports individuals within their organization experiencing homelessness. The wait for housing is approximately 180 days for permanent placement due to the limited amount of available affordable housing, not just in Oak Park, but the entire West Suburban Cook County area. Housing Forward implemented the WRAP program in PY23 to support 8 individuals as they transition from shelter/street to permanent placement to ensure the successful placement and need for continued resources.
- NAMI Metro Suburban allocated CDBG funds for psychosocial services to benefit 124 low-income individuals, 46 of whom are Oak Parkers, with mental health challenges. This resulted in breaking social and financial barriers for some clients.
- Beyond Hunger used CDBG funds to combat hunger among low-income individuals, serving 2658 Oak Park residents and a total of 4345 individuals regionally.
- New Moms used CDBG funds to operate the Parenting and Family Support program, serving 40 Oak Park mothers in PY 2023.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Village of Oak Park works closely with the Oak Park Housing Authority (OPHA) and continues to take significant actions to address the needs of public housing, focusing on improving living conditions, providing access to affordable housing, and ensuring that public housing units remain safe, accessible, and well-maintained for the community's most vulnerable populations.

OPHA remains committed to providing affordable, safe, and sanitary housing for very low-income households, families, and seniors, as mandated by HUD Federal Regulations. The cornerstone of OPHA's public housing efforts is Mills Park Tower, a 198-unit building that serves primarily elderly residents and individuals with disabilities. The Village supports OPHA's efforts in maintaining and improving these units to ensure that public housing remains a reliable source of affordable housing for Oak Park's low-income residents.

Recent upgrades (2018) at Mills Park Tower include renovations to the ground floor, which now houses laundry facilities, a community room, a computer lab, and a library, all aimed at enhancing the quality of life for residents. Furthermore, bathroom upgrades in 21 units include modern fixtures and accessibility improvements, and two new accessible units were added to meet HUD's Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards.

Addressing Public Housing cont'd

Working alongside OPHA, has been instrumental in ensuring that public housing is maintained to high standards. A recent renovation to Mills Park Tower's ground floor added several amenities that promote resident engagement and provide access to essential services, such as a computer lab to support digital literacy and a community room for social activities. The addition of protective awnings at entrances and modernization of unit bathrooms reflects the OPHA's commitment to creating comfortable and accessible environments for residents. Furthermore, the Village has encouraged the development of accessible units within the public housing stock to meet the needs of residents with disabilities, ensuring compliance with HUD's accessibility standards. OPHA administers the Federal Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, which provides rent subsidies to income-qualified participants, enabling them to lease privately owned rental housing in the community. This program is an essential tool for reducing housing insecurity among low-income families, and the Village continues to support its expansion and effectiveness. By offering financial support to renters, the HCV program plays a critical role in addressing the housing needs of vulnerable populations in Oak Park. The Village of Oak Park is committed to creating and preserving affordable housing through various initiatives. In addition to supporting OPHA's efforts, the Village promotes policies that encourage the development of affordable housing units in the private sector to incentivize affordable housing developments. This creates additional housing opportunities for low-income families, thereby reducing the pressure on public housing resources. The

Village works closely with OPHA to ensure that public housing policies align with broader housing and community development goals. The Village also fosters collaboration with local housing organizations, nonprofits, and developers to maintain and expand affordable housing stock in Oak Park. The Village and OPHA prioritize resident engagement by fostering a sense of community within public housing developments. Programs and services are offered to enhance the quality of life for public housing residents, including social services, digital literacy training in the newly upgraded computer lab, and activities in the community room that promote social inclusion and well-being. These services aim to improve residents' quality of life and ensure that public housing is more than just a place to live, but also a supportive environment that fosters community engagement.

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

OPHA actively encouraged resident participation in public housing management. The agency received guidance from two Resident Advisory Boards, one dedicated to Mills Park Tower and the other focused on the HCV Program. OPHA maintained regular communication with the elected council of Mills Park Tower, seeking their input on upcoming facility enhancements, the coordination of subsidized entertainment by OPHA, and the formulation of policies related to tenant-managed activities and other operational aspects of the facility. To support these vital tenant-driven initiatives, OPHA allocated budget resources for management and participation in homeownership.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

We partnered with Oak Park Housing Authority to ensure public housing is made available to the community. The Housing Authority has not been designated as "troubled."

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)

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

The Village is committed to the equitable distribution of CDBG funding to organizations striving to address the unmet needs of the community. The Village's Consolidated (Con) Plan development process effectively outlined barriers to addressing the underserved population and their needs. Conducted every five years, with the most recent plan covering PY 2020-2024 (including the PY 2023 Action Plan). The Con Plan establishes a strategy for identifying and allocating federal funding to areas and individuals within the community. In PY 2023, which marked the fourth year of the 2020-2024 Con Plan, the chosen Priorities guided the distribution of Federal funds to effectively meet the underserved community's needs. These Priorities were determined through a participatory process, data analysis, surveys, and input from various experts.

In PY 2023, The Village chose to allocate the full 15 percent to support public service initiatives undertaken by local non-profit subrecipients, contributing to the Oak Park community. In the 2023 Program Year, from the CDBG Program funded 15 public service activities led by diverse not-for-profit service providers and one Village department. These projects aided teenage and young-adult parents, supported individuals in need, provided nourishment for the hungry, improved nutrition for low-income individuals, expanded housing counseling and fair housing services, extended homeless assistance with job readiness programs, offered case management to individuals in low-income housing, aided seniors, and delivered dental care for low-income youth.

Furthermore, an allocation from the CDBG Program funded facility improvements managed by seven not-for-profit service providers, enhancing two group homes through UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago and the Way Back Inn, and a youth mentoring facility through Y.E.M.B.A, Hephzibah Children's Association foster home, Housing Forward's interim housing, IWS Children's Clinic medical and dental facility, and Thrive Counseling Center's therapeutic offices.

In PY 2023, CDBG funding supported Single-Family Rehabilitation Program activities and Lead Hazard Reduction activities, improving housing stock for low- to moderate-income individuals and addressing the needs of underserved residents. Housing staff has flyers, given to households who have undergone routine inspections, that provide information about housing rehab opportunities through CDBG and the Revolving Loan Fund. Staff also works with relevant non-profits as another method to touch could-be grant recipients with information about housing rehab opportunities.

To enhance community awareness of available programs and services for underserved individuals, the Village disseminated essential information on the Federal Grants page of its website and advertised PY 2023 grant application availability in a local newspaper and through social media. Additionally, this information was communicated to all individuals on the community development mailing list.

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

based paint hazards in homes, particularly for low- and moderate-income households. Oak Park is considered a high-risk area for lead exposure based on Illinois Department of Public Health data, which identified all three of Oak Park's ZIP codes as high-risk for pediatric blood lead poisoning. This high-risk designation is based on housing data and family economic status derived from the latest census.

The Village recognizes the critical health risks associated with lead exposure, particularly in young children, and has implemented a series of actions to evaluate, mitigate, and reduce these hazards in homes. The following summarizes the Village's key efforts and activities for lead hazard reduction and prevention during PY 2023.

In response to HUD's lead-based paint regulations, the Village has significantly increased its efforts to educate the public, prevent lead exposure, and abate lead hazards. Federally funded housing programs, such as those under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Village's Single Family Rehabilitation Program, require compliance with lead-safe work practices outlined in 24 CFR Part 35.

Contractors working within the Single Family Rehabilitation Program are required to be lead-certified, ensuring that all renovation and rehabilitation activities involving homes with lead-based paint hazards are conducted safely. The program offers financial assistance to very low-, low-, and moderate-income homeowners to address lead hazards as part of broader rehabilitation efforts, including lead paint remediation.

The Village actively works to educate residents on the dangers of lead-based paint, particularly in older homes. Participants in Village housing programs receive educational materials that inform them of the potential for lead hazards and the steps they can take to mitigate exposure. Homeowners are required to sign a form acknowledging the potential risks of lead exposure and are provided with an advisory sheet that includes key lead awareness information and resources to learn more about the dangers and remediation strategies.

Lead Based Hazards cont'd

In addition, the Village collaborates with other organizations to raise awareness about the dangers of lead poisoning and provide information on how to safely renovate and maintain Oak Park's historic homes, which are often at higher risk of containing lead-based paint. The Village's website also offers resources on lead safety, including information on federal funding available to assist with testing and

remediation. Committed to eliminating elevated lead levels in children, the Village's Public Health Department has an agreement to provide comprehensive case management services for children with elevated blood lead levels. The Village's Health Department participates in public awareness campaigns, provides nursing case management for affected children, and conducts environmental investigations as required under the Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Act and Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Code. Nursing case management begins for children with blood lead levels of 5 µg/dL or higher. Case managers contact the families of affected children to provide education on the health risks associated with lead exposure, emphasize the importance of follow-up testing, and ensure that ongoing monitoring takes place until lead levels reach a safe range. Children are referred for developmental screenings, and cases are referred to the Health Department's Environmental Health Division for further environmental investigation and remediation of the child's home. During PY 2023, the Village continued its efforts to reduce lead hazards in Oak Park homes. The Health Department, in partnership with local and state agencies, conducts environmental investigations when children with elevated lead levels are identified. Homes with lead-based paint hazards are inspected, and remediation efforts are initiated to remove or contain the lead hazards. The Village has extended its lead hazard remediation efforts by including lead-safe work practices in its housing rehabilitation programs. These practices are designed to ensure that renovations are conducted in a manner that minimizes the risk of lead exposure for both workers and residents. The Village continues to assist homeowners in replacing lead service lines to ensure safe, clean water in Oak Park homes. To promote lead service line replacement, the Village has waived tap connection fees for owner-occupied homes with three units or fewer, encouraging homeowners to replace lead-contaminated pipes. Additionally, the Village has committed to restoring streets after lead service replacement inspections, ensuring that public infrastructure is properly maintained after work is completed.

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

The Village has made persistent efforts to expand and preserve affordable housing. Oak Park is committed to curbing costs by financing programs and services specifically aimed at the demographic groups that are most vulnerable to falling into poverty.

In PY 2023, the Village provided funding for the Housing Forward Interim Housing CDBG initiatives, which not only offered essential shelter to 123 homeless individuals, but also furnished them with food, case management, mental health services, and referral services. These comprehensive services empowered clients to escape from severely substandard housing conditions in the long term.

Oak Park also continued its partnerships with its subrecipients and others in providing direct services, referrals, and mentoring to residents in poverty or on the brink of poverty. The Village addressed the physical safety and improved health of residents threatened with isolation and exclusion, including those with disabilities, Veterans, seniors, persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and victims of domestic violence and HIV/AIDS. While this may not reduce the level of poverty for some, it will ensure that resources are used to their maximum benefit and may provide enough assistance to change their circumstances permanently for the better.

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

The Village of Oak Park remains committed to enhancing its institutional structure through ongoing efforts to strengthen both internal operations and external collaborations with partner organizations. Village staff maintain regular communication with partner agencies, offering support through referrals for funding, training opportunities, and technical assistance. This includes providing guidance on grant applications, ensuring that community programs are well-supported and aligned with federal, state, and local goals.

To maintain expertise in grant and project management, Village staff actively participate in virtual training sessions and conferences. These opportunities allow staff to stay current with best practices and regulatory changes, ensuring that programs are administered effectively and efficiently. Additionally, staff provide technical assistance to subrecipients throughout the program year, including pre-construction meetings, assistance with quarterly reporting, and annual on-site monitoring visits. This proactive engagement helps ensure that funded programs and projects are successful and comply with HUD regulations.

Internally, the Village is dedicated to refining its policies and procedures. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) procedures are regularly updated to reflect changes in regulations and internal practices. Village staff, including those in the CDBG Administration, consistently seek operational efficiencies and improvements in program management. This includes working with a HUD consultant to revise CDBG program manuals, reporting mechanisms, and processes. The updated documents were approved by HUD and have been successfully implemented.

Public input remains an essential component of the Village's institutional structure. The Village Board relies on recommendations from the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC), a group of nine Oak Park residents with diverse professional backgrounds. The CDCAC reviews how CDBG funds are used to meet the goals outlined in the Village's Consolidated Plan and provides recommendations on future funding allocations. Nonprofit subrecipients of CDBG funds are subject to a risk-based monitoring process, with their past performance considered during the funding decision-making process.

Many of the Village's primary service providers receive a combination of funding from local Village resources, government grants, private grants, user fees, and other sources. This diverse funding structure enhances their capacity to deliver services effectively and align with the Village's goals for community development.

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

To enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies, the Village of Oak Park has implemented several strategies. This focus on coordination was identified as a crucial

priority during the Consolidated Plan consultation process, reflecting the commitment of the Village and its partners to improving collaborative efforts.

CDBG Public Service applicants were required to include a discussion of their coordination efforts with other community agencies in their written narrative. If applicants did not have pre-existing connections, they were asked to outline their detailed plans and timelines for establishing collaborative processes. This proactive approach not only strengthens coordination among awarded agencies, but also allows the Village to identify additional areas for potential collaboration.

Furthermore, many of the agencies funded by the Village actively participate in the Continuum of Care, working closely with other nonprofit organizations to identify opportunities to assist individuals within the community. The Village plays an active role by attending meetings of the Continuum of Care Prevention Committee, Oak Park Coalition to End Homelessness, and the West Suburban Council on Homelessness. Additionally, the Village contributed to the core committee that evaluated the request for proposal (RFP) for comprehensive Coordinated Entry services and operations in Suburban Cook County.

The Village of Oak Park remains firmly committed to expanding community partnerships and investing in economic and neighborhood development. These concerted actions serve to reinforce this commitment, ultimately increasing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents to access essential services and affordable housing options.

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

In 2015, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) implemented a new rule mandating entitlements and public housing authorities to create an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH). This assessment is designed to analyze the local fair housing landscape, establish fair housing priorities and objectives, and ensure equitable housing opportunities. According to the AFH Rule, the next AFH was scheduled for submission by 2020. HUD strongly encouraged local entities to collaborate on a regional AFH to streamline the AFH production process and facilitate a comprehensive analysis of fair housing at the regional level.

The AFH is currently in the process of being developed, with the active involvement of Enterprise Community Partners, who are providing technical assistance and overseeing the participation of other civic organizations. Although the official HUD deadline for completing the AFH was set for October 31, 2020, the performance period was initially planned to span from November 2018, through March 2022. As of now, the AFH has not been finalized, which is the reason the 2018 Planning and Administration activity will remain open until the AFH is completed. This continued effort signifies the Village's dedication to addressing impediments to fair housing choice and promoting inclusive housing practices in the community.

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

The Village of Oak Park Neighborhood Services Department serves as the primary agency responsible for monitoring CDBG program compliance. The department has established comprehensive procedures to oversee all program activities, including a mandate that ensures subrecipient compliance and timely project implementation. To achieve this, CDBG Staff at the Village of Oak Park adhere to HUD's monitoring handbooks, guidelines, and technical assistance publications to confirm that funded programs adhere to applicable rules and regulations. Subrecipients are required to submit quarterly and annual reports, which are reviewed by CDBG Administrators. For Public Facility and Public Infrastructure Improvement Projects, pre-construction meetings are held to clarify expectations with contractors, subrecipient staff, and payroll personnel; this also includes review of compliance documentation with the Village and ensuring contractors are in good standing with the Village and HUD.

Public Service subrecipients receive additional monitoring, especially when they are new to the Village, have new staff, or when discrepancies are detected in their quarterly reporting. Staff conduct annual monitoring which reviews policies, processes and supporting material that is submitted during the year. All finances, including invoices, are reviewed through checks and balances or different levels of staff review prior to authorization of payment.

Fiscal Monitoring: The Village Finance Department has implemented internal control systems that prevent delays and inaccuracies in the expenditure of CDBG resources. The Village undergoes an annual audit, which encompasses CDBG funds, ensuring fiscal responsibility and accountability. During the recent PY23 HUD Monitoring, the Village of Oak Park developed several policies, including an Internal Self-Assessment and Reconciliation and Internal Improper Payment Policy. These policies will serve as excellent guidelines to ensure future compliance for the program.

Performance & Monitoring Subrecipients: In PY 2023, the Village continued its diligent monitoring of all CDBG Subrecipients to ascertain their compliance with HUD's rules, regulations, and expenditure deadlines. The Village adopted the HUD-recommended risk assessment approach to monitoring by referring to monitoring handbooks, guidelines, and technical assistance publications. Subrecipients submitted quarterly reports detailing their activities in the preceding quarter, culminating in a comprehensive annual report summarizing their accomplishments and progress for the entire year, which was necessary for drawing down funds. The department's monitoring activities encompass various aspects, such as income eligibility verification, accounting procedures, and on-site inspections for funded agencies. Staff reviews all reports on a quarterly basis and offers technical assistance throughout the year to ensure compliance and an understanding of requirements.

Timeliness: PR-56, August 2, 2024 the Chicago HUD Office conducted an annual timeliness test of Oak Park expenditures. It was determined that Oak Park timeliness ratio was within the ratio of 1.33 resulting in Oak Park being in compliance with HUD's performance standards.

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.

The Village provides workshops, publishes all required legal advertisements, and conducts at least two public hearings every year. The Village's recent CDBG plans and reports are available at all times through the Village's website: <https://www.oak-park.us/village-services/housing-programs/community-development-shelter-grants>. Notice of the Village of Oak Park Program Year 2023 CDBG CAPER was given to the public through the local newspaper, *Wednesday Journal*, for citizen participation on December 5, 2024, and ran through December 20, 2024. The CAPER was made available on the same day at the Village of Oak Park, 123 Madison St. Oak Park, IL 60302. Reasonable accommodations were made for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking persons as needed. No public comment was received during this time period. The completed final CAPER document will remain available for review on the Village website and in the Neighborhood Services Department.

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.

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

No

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

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.

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

No

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

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	2	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours	0				
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	0				
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0				

Table 8 – 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					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.	2				
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
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.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					

Other.					
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Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative