



# **PY 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)**

**DRAFT**

**City of Bridgeport**  
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## **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 City of Bridgeport is an entitlement city receiving an annual allocation of CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG program funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These funds help the City address the housing and community development objectives outlined by HUD, which include: affirmatively furthering fair housing, development and preservation of affordable housing, homelessness prevention, public facilities and infrastructure improvements, support for small businesses and vital services for low- to moderate-income (LMI) and special needs populations. This PY 2023 CAPER reports on the fourth year of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The program year ran from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and the following highlights the accomplishments made in that time period.

**Affordable Housing:** This priority includes the homeowner rehab program, which administers housing rehabilitation activities such as roof repair, chimney replacement, furnace replacement, and other minor structural issues. The City is currently working with seven LMI households, however these are still in development and will be reported in future CAPER reports as they are completed. The City also works to reduce lead-based paint hazards through the City's Health Department Lead Program and there is currently one open activity that has not been completed yet.

**Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements:** Through these activities the City had a citywide low/mod benefit. Public facilities improvements were made at Career Resources, Inc. Isaiah House and the Lucy Baney Center, Hall Neighborhood House, Jerome Orcutt Boys & Girls Club and the McGivney Community Center.

**Public Services:** The City target two groups for public services. There were 14,828LMI persons assisted with various services such as youth prevention and enrichment, employment training, subsistence payments, and food programs. There were also 8,228 special need persons assisted with homeless programs, senior services, substance abuse services, services for victims of domestic violence, and services for abused and neglected children.

### **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
1A Expand Public Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	50000	0	0.00%	10000	0	0.00%
1B Improve Public Infrastructure Capacity	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	50000	285330	570.66%	10000	0	0.00%
1C Improve Access to Public Facilities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	50000	286455	572.91%	10000	0	0.00%
2A Increase Homeownership Opportunities	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	10	0	0.00%	2	0	0.00%
2A Increase Homeownership Opportunities	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	0	0		10	0	0.00%

2B Increase Affordable Rental Hsg Opportunities	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$144241 / HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	25	0	0.00%	3	0	0.00%
2B Increase Affordable Rental Hsg Opportunities	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$144241 / HOME: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	0	0.00%	40	0	0.00%
2B Increase Affordable Rental Hsg Opportunities	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$144241 / HOME: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	75	113	150.67%			
2C. Provide Code Enforcement in LMI Neighborhoods	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	100	0	0.00%	20	0	0.00%
2D. Provide Removal of Slum/Blight in ResidentArea	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	10	0	0.00%			
2E. Provide for Owner Occupied Housing Rehab	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	26	52.00%	10	5	50.00%

3A Provide Supportive Services for Special Needs	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	50000	8228	16.46%	10000	0	0.00%
3B Provide Vital Services for LMI Households	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	50000	14828	29.66%	10000	0	0.00%
3B Provide Vital Services for LMI Households	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	0	0				
3B Provide Vital Services for LMI Households	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	0	25				
4A Provide Homeless Rapid Re-Housing Assistance	Homeless	ESG: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	250	28	11.20%	50	0	0.00%
4B Provide Assistance to Homeless Shelters	Homeless	ESG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	125	155	124.00%	25	0	0.00%
4C. Provide for Street Outreach & Homeless Prevent	Homeless	ESG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	1250	800	64.00%	250	0	0.00%

5A. Provide Hsg Opportunities Persons w HIV/AIDS	Non-Homeless Special Needs	HOPWA: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	600	144	24.00%	90	20	22.22%
5A. Provide Hsg Opportunities Persons w HIV/AIDS	Non-Homeless Special Needs	HOPWA: \$	Housing for People with HIV/AIDS added	Household Housing Unit	180	83	46.11%	30	0	0.00%
5B. Provide Medical & Supportive Services HIV/AIDS	Non-Homeless Special Needs	HOPWA: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	43				
5B. Provide Medical & Supportive Services HIV/AIDS	Non-Homeless Special Needs	HOPWA: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	0	10				
5B. Provide Medical & Supportive Services HIV/AIDS	Non-Homeless Special Needs	HOPWA: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	0	0				
5B. Provide Medical & Supportive Services HIV/AIDS	Non-Homeless Special Needs	HOPWA: \$	HIV/AIDS Housing Operations	Household Housing Unit	540	78	14.44%	120	23	19.17%

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.**

The City of Bridgeport only uses HUD Entitlement funding to address the housing and community development needs as identified in the City’s 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan (ConPlan). In particular for CDBG, each of these priorities must fall within the framework of HUD’s national objectives for the program, which are to benefit low- to moderate-income (LMI) persons, aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight and/or meet a need having an urgent need. The priority needs identified in the ConPlan were: Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities, Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing, Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements, Homelessness Housing and Support Services, and Housing/Supportive Services for Persons w HIV/AIDS. For grant expenditures by priority, 100% of HOME funds went towards affordable housing, 100% of ESG funding went towards homeless housing and supportive services and 100% of HOPWA funds went towards housing and supportive services for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The CDBG program expenditures addressed several priorities, which are listed below:

Public Services and Quality of Life Improvements: \$469,445.51 (14.50%)

Public Facility and Infrastructure Improvements: \$388,066.21 (12%)

Affordable Housing Preservation and Development: \$136,431.22 (4.2%)

Administration of the CDBG Program: \$634,619.50 (19.61%)

Total CDBG in PY 2023: \$1,628,562.44

**CDBG-CV**

The City continued to monitor LMI residents still impacted by COVID-19. LMI residents continue to have a disproportional need as a result of the pandemic. The City assisted LMI persons with emergency subsistence payments through the Social Services Utility Shut Off Protection. The City also continued to provide funds to the Health Department to provide increased access for vaccinations at mobile sites, and provide for PPR expenses to help enhance and support City public services and COVID-19 testing in low/mod areas. All these activities were funded through the CDBG-CV program and had a citywide low/mod benefit. The following is a description of expenditures by priority in PY 2023 for the CDBG-CV

program. A detailed summary of overall expenditures for the life of the program is located in the CR-15.

CV Public Services: \$259,721.60 (91.2%) For CDBG-CV, the public services grant cap of 15% has been waived.

CV Economic Development: \$5,000 (1.8%)

CV Administration: \$19,929.20 (7.0%)

### **ESG and ESG-CV**

In PY 2023, the ESG program assisted individuals and families experiencing homelessness with homeless prevention activities, homeless overnight shelter operations and rapid rehousing rental assistance. By program activity there were 109 households consisting of 177 persons assisted with homeless prevention, 103 persons assisted with homeless overnight shelter operations and 10 households consisting of 12 persons with rapid rehousing. A summary of ESG expenditures is provided in the CR-15 Resources and Investments. The ESG-CV program has reported accomplishment by quarter from the start of the program in 2020, and to date has assisted 894 homeless persons impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of Quarter 11 ending June 30, 2023 there have been 82 homeless households (consisting of 110 individuals) assisted with rapid rehousing rental assistance, 439 at-risk of homeless households (570 persons) assisted with homeless prevention rental assistance, and 214 persons assisted with emergency shelter operations. These accomplishments are not included in the table above as those outcomes are reserved for regular ESG. Full details of ESG-CV accomplishments are reported in the quarterly Sage ESG-CV reports, and the most recent report aggregator has been uploaded to the CR-00. A summary of ESG-CV expenditures is provided in the CR-15 Resources and Investments.

### **HOWPA and HOPWA-CV**

HOPWA and HOPWA-CV accomplishments are reported in detail in the annual HOPWA CAPER report. The accomplishments in this PY 2023 CAPER report highlight the accomplishments made from the annual HOPWA CAPER report. HOPWA Program Sponsors assisted 82 individuals and their families living with HIV/AIDS in PY 2023 with a housing subsidy assistance. The services provided include 34 households with Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, 23 households with Permanent Housing and 25 households with Transitional Housing placement. More details on HOPWA specific accomplishments are reported in the CR-55 and HOPWA and HOPWA-CV expenditures are reported in the CR-15 Resources and Investments.



## 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)

### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

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

### Narrative

**DATA NOTE:** The table above does not include a category for people that identify as “other” or “multiple races”, people who “refused/or did not know” nor those assisted through area-wide benefit projects so the data in the above table does not necessarily match the number of people actually served by HUD CDP programs. Due to this, the totals reported in this section do not necessarily represent the totals served in each program. Please also note that CDBG data above is generated from the PR23 summary report, however the reported persons above are lower than what the PR reports. This is because the PR23 also captures activities that were previously reported and have been removed for the purposes not duplicating accomplishments for PY 2023. This discrepancy is due to the summary report including activities that were still open in the program year, even if there were no new benefits added. They are only removed from the PR23 once the activity has been marked completed and closed.

Bridgeport is the most populous city in the state of Connecticut and is a diverse community. According to the most recent 2017-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the population was 148,529 and 34.0% were white, 34.7% were black and 4.5% were Asian. “Some other” race were 18.7% and “Two or more” races were

7.6%, while all other minority races were less than 1%. Persons who identified ethnically as Hispanic were 441.7% of the citywide population. In general, persons assisted in these programs were generally representative of the city's demographic population.

CDBG: Please note that due to the IDIS table limitation, there was not a category for other multi-racial. As reported by race, the table above has a total of 18,323 persons assisted, however the actual total of persons assisted was 19,919 as there were 1,596 other multi-racial persons assisted. The following accounts for all persons assisted in the CDBG program. Approximately 54.9% of CDBG funding went towards assisting Black or African Americans and 0.6% went towards Asians. Persons who were "Other multi-racial" was approximately 9.8% of all persons assisted in the CDBG program. About 43.4% of CDBG funding went towards assisting Hispanic persons.

## 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	3,236,610	1,628,562
HOME	public - federal	1,478,268	549,726
HOPWA	public - federal	1,146,713	908,076
ESG	public - federal	289,890	164,194

**Table 3 - Resources Made Available**

### Narrative

In PY 2023, the City of Bridgeport had Federal grant resources from the CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG programs. The table above details the resources made available as well as funds expended during the program year. All entitlement funds were allocated to eligible activities. The City also had CARES Act funds that were available, and these are summarized further below in this section.

**CDBG:** In PY 2023, the City was allocated \$3,236,610 from the CDBG annual allocation. Funds were spent on housing rehab, public services, public facilities and infrastructure improvements, and admin of the CDBG program. CDBG fund expenditures by priority are listed in the CR-05.

**HOME:** For HOME funds, the City was allocated \$1,478,268 from the HOME annual allocation. The City expended a total of \$549,726. The City has started a development project at 430 John Street. The City is working on several development projects in the HOME program as well as completing current TBRA rental assistance activities.

**HOPWA:** Funds in the amount of \$1,146,713 were made available in PY 2023 and \$908,076 was expended. Expenditures included funds that were made available from previous grant years, which were already programmed, but not yet spent. Funding was provided for housing assistance and supportive services for individuals and their families living with HIV/AIDS. The following lists expenditure totals by HOPWA Sponsor.

APEX: \$130,274.92 (Facility Based Housing, Supportive Services, Permanent Housing)

Recovery Network of Programs: \$103,014.74 (TBRA, Supportive Services)

Chemical Abuse Agency Services: \$272,393.90 (TBRA, Facility Based Housing, Supportive Services, Permanent Housing)

Inspirica: \$186,827.20 (TBRA, Supportive Services)

Mid Fairfield AIDS Project: \$201,421.49 (TBRA, Facility Based Housing, Supportive Services)

Catholic Charities: \$73,646.75 (TBRA)

City of Bridgeport: \$23,180.16 (Admin)

**ESG:** Funds in the amount of \$289,890 were made available in PY 2023 and \$164,193.76 was expended. These included funds that were programmed in previous program years. Funds went towards homeless prevention, emergency shelter operations, rapid re-housing projects and admin of the program. The following is a list of expenditures by activity:

Homeless Prevention: \$107,600.49

Emergency Shelter: \$35,151.52

Rapid Rehousing: \$0.00

Admin of ESG Program: \$21,441.75

**NOTE:** CARES Act fund expenditures are discussed at the end of this section.

**Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments**

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
LOW MODERATE INCOME AREAS	100	100	Citywide low/mod income areas and eligible individuals

**Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments**

**Narrative**

The geographic target areas of the City continue to be the low/mod-income block group tracts throughout Bridgeport, and all funds were directed to either low/mod areas or eligible individuals and households which met the income criteria of HUD CPD programs. Low/mod block group tracts were identified in the City’s 2020-2024 ConPlan in section SP-10 Geographic Priorities.

As the regional administrator for HOPWA, these funds were targeted to individuals and their families with HIV/AIDS throughout Fairfield County. HOPWA funding was used to support six sponsor organizations that provide housing and case management for this special need group. These sponsors were: Recovery Network of Programs, Chemical Abuse Agency Services, Inspirica, Mid Fairfield AIDS Project, APEX Community Care and Catholic Charities.

## 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.**

Activities funded with CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG allocations continue to leverage private, state and local resources. Funded organizations continue to and must depend on private, state and local funding to operate in addition to entitlement funds. The overwhelming request for entitlement funds make it impossible for any activity to be funded 100%, due to limited funding. CDBG funding continues to be used to close gaps or enhance an activity.

### Publicly owned land/property located used to address the needs in Bridgeport

The City, acting through its Office of Planning and Economic Development, works to transfer City-owned parcels - where/when appropriate - to developers and/or property abutters looking to provide economic development, neighborhood revitalization and affordable housing and or neighborhood stabilization opportunities for Bridgeport residents. Decisions are made on a project-by-project basis and will occasionally incorporate HOME/CDBG funds to leverage additional investment. Many current and pending HOME projects have used HUD funding as part of a larger redevelopment project on formerly City-owned parcels and buildings. In some cases of properties being sold to abutters, federal funds are not used.

### HOME Match Report

There was no HOME match to report for PY 2023. The 25% HOME Match requirement has been reduced to \$0 (zero) in the program year due to Fiscal Distress.

### HOME Program Income

As reported by the PR-09, the City had a balance on hand at the beginning of the program year of zero (\$0.00) in HOME program income (PI). This report was generated with all historical program years up to 6/30/2023. Also utilizing the PR-09, within the reporting period of 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024, the City did not report receiving or expending any HOME program income funds. This leaves a remaining balance of zero at the end of the program year. Also note that as reported by the PR-07 the City did not expend any HOME funds towards TBRA during PY 2023.

### MBE/WBE Businesses

There were no HOME agreements executed for construction activities in the program year. No contracts were awarded to any businesses in PY 2023.

<b>Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match</b>	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	0
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	0
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	0
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	0

**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 Infrastructure	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 begin-ning 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	0	0	0	0

Table 7 – Program Income

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

**Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises**

<b>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</b>						
	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**



<b>Relocation and Real Property Acquisition</b> – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0		0		
Businesses Displaced		0		0		
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0		0		
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0		0		
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	50	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	57	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	120	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	170	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	7	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	50	0
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

The table above details the program goals or PY 2023 and the actual accomplishments made by the City affordable housing programs. In general, affordable housing goals that targeted the homeless were accomplished from the ESG program, special needs housing programs targeting persons living with HIV/AIDS were accomplished in the HOPWA program and non-homeless LMI households from the HOME TBRA program. While there are still several LMI households currently being assisted with housing rehab activities, there were none completed in PY 2023.

**Table 1:**

Homeless households and those that are at-risk of homelessness are provided affordable housing units through the ESG program. Rapid rehousing rental activities help those households that are already homeless with housing first so they can establish stability as they work towards self-sufficiency. Homeless prevention rental assistance is targeted towards those at-risk of homelessness. There were 109 households assisted with homeless prevention rental assistance, and 10 households with rapid rehousing rental assistance.

Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units are through the CDBG and HOME programs. The City CDBG program assists LMI non-homeless households through homeowner-occupied housing rehabilitation activities. These mainly involved roof replacement, sewer improvements and replacement, plumbing, furnace removal and replacement and other minor home repair and maintenance issues. The City is currently working with seven (7) LMI households, however these have not been completed yet and will be reported in future CAPER reports. HOME TBRA rental assistance activities assisted 113 LMI households. This assistance provides vital financial support to keep vulnerable low-income households in stable housing as they work towards self-sustainability.

Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units are through the HOPWA program. There were 88 households assisted with a housing subsidy in the program. This assistance can come through tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), short term rent, mortgage or utility assistance (STRMU), facility based housing or permanent housing placement activities.

**Table 2:**

Rental Assistance: There were a total of 119 homeless or at-risk of homeless households assisted with rapid rehousing and homeless prevention activities through the ESG program.

HOME TBRA rental assistance activities assisted 113 LMI households. Through the HOPWA program there were 88 households assisted with TBRA rental assistance, and other permanent or transitional housing placements.

New Unit Production: The City had a goal to assist 2 potential homebuyers and to construct 5 rental units for LMI households. Unfortunately, these goals were not accomplished in PY 2023. The City is working to identify CHDO activities that would benefit LMI households with new units.

Rehab: The City with the CDBG Residential Rehab Program is working with 7 LMI households however these have not been completed yet. The City anticipates reporting these accomplishments in the next program year.

**Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.**

The City will analyze and take into consideration the overall outcomes of the current ConPlan, including the PY 2023 outcomes and previous years of the 2020-2024 ConPlan period. Prior year outcomes from 2020 to 2021 were greatly affected by COVID-19, as the pandemic severely limited housing activities. The City continues to recognize the high need for affordable housing in Bridgeport, and will continue to set new goals in future Annual Action Plans, while working to complete the the established goals of previous plans.

**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.**

<b>Number of Households Served</b>	<b>CDBG Actual</b>	<b>HOME Actual</b>
Extremely Low-income	0	0
Low-income	0	0
Moderate-income	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 13 – Number of Households Served**

### **Narrative Information**

Data in the table above are households reporting income from the HOME program. The City with the CDBG Residential Rehab Program is working with 7 LMI households however these have not been completed yet.

#### *Worst Case Needs*

Worst case needs are extremely low-income households that are at imminent risk of homelessness and are in need of affordable housing or emergency assistance. The City assisted 71 extremely low-income households in the TBRA rental assistance program. This assistance provides vital financial support to keep extremely low-income households in stable housing as they work towards self-sustainability.

ESG rapid-rehousing and homeless prevention rental activities assisted 119 homeless and at-risk of homeless households. The ESG-CV program has reported accomplishment by quarter from the start of the program in 2020, and as of Quarter 11 ending June 30, 2023 there have been 82 homeless households (consisting of 110 individuals) assisted with rapid rehousing rental assistance. Another 439 at-risk of homeless households (570 persons) have also been assisted with homeless prevention rental assistance.

Through the HOPWA program there were 88 special needs households (individuals and their families living with HIV/AIDS) assisted with TBRA rental assistance, and other permanent or transitional housing placements. These were not recorded in the income table above.

There were no households with a disability that were reported to have been assisted however if the City identifies a household with a disability in need of affordable housing, it will work to accommodate and provide accessibility for the household.

## **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 the Regional Administrator of the HOPWA and ESG Funds, the Office of Housing and Community Development works closely with Opening Doors Fairfield County, the lead agency for the Continuum of Care (CoC) to understand and provide for the needs of the chronically homeless, homeless and those in jeopardy of becoming homeless. The HOPWA/ESG program manager meets monthly with CoC representatives to discuss the ongoing working relationship and trends that may affect program policy. The City releases an annual RFP which includes CoC input in December to plan, allocate, distribute funds. With guidance received from the CoC, the City allocated its non-administrative PY 2023 ESG funds to Rapid Re-housing, shelter support, and homeless prevention.

Agencies and organizations that address the needs of the households experiencing homelessness and other special needs populations are prioritized for funding. The funding allocations continue to alleviate homelessness and the risks of becoming homeless, include Emergency Shelter Grant funds which provide stability to those that are transitioning from a shelter to their own apartment; energy assistance; meals; food staples; and counseling.

### **Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

To address emergency and transitional housing in Bridgeport, the City and CoC partners are committed to:

- Providing transitional housing for pregnant teens, women and children of domestic violence; social services to homeless households and / or preventing at risk households from becoming homeless; rental assistance, security deposits and foreclosure prevention assistance for households that have received an eviction notice or to transition from shelter to permanent housing.
- Providing funds to rapidly rehouse individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis in efforts to shorten the duration of shelter occupancy and to support transition into permanent housing; providing the housing relocation, stabilization and diversion support services and/or rental assistance necessary to prevent individuals and families from moving into an emergency shelter; providing assistance to the only family shelter in Bridgeport to cover costs of fuel costs and provide funding for operational support services; providing funding to support the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

### **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**

CDBG-CV funds were provided to the Social Services Utility Shut Off Protection program to provide subsistence payment assistance to individuals facing homelessness. Assistance was provided to 69 persons in the program year.

The City operates a housing repair program for low income homeowners. The repairs include, but are not limited to, sewer emergencies, building and health code violations, energy efficient windows and doors, furnace repairs, structural repairs due to damage (exterior siding, ceiling, roof, walls, and chimneys), plumbing, handicap accessibility, and lead abatement. The City is currently working with 7 households with home repairs to avoid homelessness and allow them to stay in their homes. These will be reported in next year's CAPER when they have been completed.

The City will continue to work with partners to explore and support improvement of discharge plans. Housing and support services will be coordinated and accessible for those being discharged from hospitals, prisons, and residential care facilities, eliminating the need for discharge into shelters and homelessness. The following are the specific measures and actions now in place:

Measures:

Implementation of zero tolerance policy by all local institutions for discharge into homeless shelter or homelessness. Reduction in number of individuals and families entering homeless service system who self-disclose a hospital, residential healthcare facility, or prison as last address. Implementation of effective prioritization processes to prioritize the most vulnerable households for housing and services resources via the use of standardized assessment tools and criteria.

Actions:

Add standards of service for discharge planning to system-wide standards for caregivers who serve the homeless in institutions. Local coordinated access and statewide 211 system assists in the identification and system-wide coordination in assisting the homeless and at-risk population. Established additional supportive housing units for youth aging out of foster care system to be funded through a collaboration funded by the CT Department of Children and Families. Created coordinated access network navigators, housing specialist position to work in hospitals, prisons and courts. Established pilot project to provide supportive services to inmates at risk of homelessness utilizing funding from the Department of Corrections.

**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 receives ESG and HOPWA funds to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing. ESG provided stable housing to 119 homeless households in the program year, and HOPWA provided a housing subsidy for 88 households who were at-risk of homelessness.

Below are program the City supports to help homeless persons' transition to permanent housing and independent living through the Continuum of Care:

- Supportive housing programs that provide housing units and congregate living units which include supportive services.
- Shelter Plus Care Programs provide grants for rental assistance for homeless individuals, families and persons with disabilities through many components, such as: Tenant, Sponsor, and Single Room Occupancy (SRO) rental assistance
- Single Room Occupancy provides rental assistance to homeless individuals in connection with moderate rehabilitation in SRO units.



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

### **Actions taken to address the needs of public housing**

The City refers to the Housing Authority of the City of Bridgeport, d/b/a/ Park City Communities (PCC) to address the needs of public housing in Bridgeport. PCC manages nearly 2,600 public housing equivalent units and 2,800 Section 8 vouchers and is committed to developing new housing opportunities to meet the growing need. PCC works cooperatively with the community, public and private partners to provide quality housing opportunities and to promote and/or secure supportive services for eligible persons with limited incomes, through a variety of federal, state, local and private resources. The City is working to resume its partnership with the housing authority and encourages PCC to create CDBG eligible programs that encourage and empower residents.

PCC will be directing its' efforts to maximizing the number of affordable units available to the Agency and increasing the number of affordable housing units by (1) Leveraging affordable housing resources in the community through the creation of mixed-finance housing; (2) Applying for additional Housing Choice Vouchers should they become available and (3) Pursuing housing resources other than public housing or HCV tenant-based assistance.

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

The PCC pursues homeownership opportunities for residents through the continued leverage of partnerships with public and private enterprises. The components of this strategy were developed in consultation with the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) and other public/private for profit and non-profit housing agencies and reflect the mission of the PCC in utilizing all available resources as efficiently as possible to accomplish its overall goals and objectives which include self-sustainability and independent living for its residents. The RAB facilitates resident involvement by encouraging input on programming and operations matters. By addressing issues pertaining to the community, the RAB promotes public safety, self-sufficiency, and help create a more positive living environment for families.

### **Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs**

PCC has been designated and continues to be a troubled authority. The housing authority did not make application for CDBG funding this program year, however the City encourages PCC to create CDBG eligible programs that support and improve the quality of life of public housing residents.

## **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)**

Through the City's, Office of Planning and Economic Development, and departments under its oversight (Housing and Community Development, Zoning, Building and Land Use and Construction Review), the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) provides comment and testimony to the City Council to adapt public policies that facilitate a supportive environment that will provide incentives to further the needed development of affordable housing. Discussions to streamline permitting processes that will reduce administrative overhead and provide mutually beneficial tax abatement incentives that will not burden the city residents are continuous.

The City continues its work that cultivates relationships with developers and non-profits like Habitat for Humanity to transfer vacant and/or blighted City-owned properties for the development of affordable homeowner housing units. In addition, the City continues to meet one-one-one with developers interested in the development of affordable and supportive housing. HOME funds are used as leverage and incentive.

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

The greatest obstacle to meeting underserved needs in the City of Bridgeport continues to be the availability of funding, both through HUD entitlement programs and other public/private sources. The City has changed its policy related to the allocation of HOME Funds. All HOME funds awarded to developers for a project will be a debt/loan that must be repaid. The program income will allow the city to have additional funding in future years; to continue development of new and affordable housing.

HOME funds have leveraged investor capital to increase the number of affordable units citywide. The City will continue to transfer/sell vacant and/or blighted City-owned properties for the development of affordable homeowner occupied units.

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

In PY 2023, CDBG funds were again programmed to support the City's Department of Health and Social Services meet matching requirements for the successful application and submission of lead remediation grant. The Lead Remediation grant represented \$3.0 million in lead abatement funding to be used throughout the City. The Lead Grant award will help to remediate homes where families with children 6 years or under resided and were tested positive for lead. In addition, HSS will purchase carbon dioxide/smoke detectors that will further create safe living environments for low/moderate Bridgeport residents.

The Housing and Community Development's inter city department partnership with HSS is an excellent example of developing a local coalition that works to mobilize support and leverage resources for preventing lead poisoning. This program is an intervention and preventive program aimed to reduce lead hazards for low and very low-income children age 6 and under in targeted neighborhoods throughout the City. Community outreach, widespread lead screenings, education to families and their landlords, risk assessment, and low-cost interim controls and abatement plans are used in eligible households in accordance with the HUD Lead-Safe Housing Rule. The program continues to target five (5) neighborhoods with high poverty rates, increased incidence of lead poisoning, and much of the housing stock built prior to 1980.

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

The activities in this CAPER work to directly reduce the number of poverty-level families in Bridgeport. City funded public services agencies continue to provide vital service activities with positive results that have significant impact in the communities they serve. The organizations include citywide youth services, health services, emergency utility payment services and senior center programs. CDBG funds are utilized to offer LMI Bridgeport citizens services such as access to develop relevant job skills and workplace capabilities, encourage secondary education, emergency financial assistance, improve life skills, provide nutritional awareness and a variety of other vital services.

The City continues to make progress with emergency repairs for owner occupied housing. Housing cost burdens have been identified as a serious impediment to a family's ability to escape poverty, the construction and rehabilitation of housing units are important components to escaping poverty. The city provides funding assistance to rehabilitate homes and assist first time homebuyers through acquisition of properties for the purpose of affordable housing. In PY 2023, the City is working with seven (7) LMI households, and when completed these accomplishments will be reported.

CDBG-CV funds were provided to the Social Services Utility Shut Off Protection program to provide subsistence payment assistance to individuals facing homelessness. Assistance was provided to 69 persons in the program year.

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

The Office of Housing and Community Development (HCD) administers the all HUD Community and Planning Development programs (CPD), awarded to the City of Bridgeport, including HOME, CDBG, HOPWA and ESG. In previous years there were programs and staffing changes in the HCD department, however the City has strategically restructured the department. HCD received support from the HUD Hartford Field Office to be fully staffed, trained and actively administering, with all HUD programs in accordance with required federal rules and regulations. The City continues to work with a technical assistance provider to ensure it is compliant in implementation of these grant programs.

The City worked with consultants to assist with the development of the 2020-2024 Consolidated

Plan. The goal of the contracted services is to develop a plan that improves and maximize performance and service of all HUD Programs and addresses the needs and wants of the residents. Each Program (CDBG, HOPWA, ESG) is evaluated and revised to ensure the programs are operating in the most streamlined manner to maximize the grant performance period, and to ensure the office of Housing and Community Development is aligned with the City's Office of Planning and Economic Development and other relevant departments, including citywide and regional stakeholders.

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

As the lead office charged with managing and administering HUD entitlement funds used to support housing and social services in Bridgeport, the Office of Housing and Community Development continued to take steps in PY 2023 to better enhance coordination and communication with recipients.

- Efforts were made to provide consistent site visits, technical assistance and monitoring.
- Reviewing, updating and revising program materials to reflect HUD program changes and updates.
- Better communication and involvement by the Citizen's Union
- Identifying gaps in programs that might lead to miscommunication and/or failure to remain in compliance.
- Identify training opportunities for staff and funded recipients

The Bridgeport Housing Authority (Park City Communities) is now under the oversight of HUD. The City's plan and MOU to jointly submit an AFFH plan approved by HUD however, the submission of a joint AFFH has be put on hold indefinitely by HUD. The city will continue to investigate ways in which we can work with Park City to ensure programs, services, clean, decent, affordable housing, for those in need.

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

As mentioned above, the City's plan was to jointly submit an AFFH plan with Park City Communities, however the submission of a joint AFFH has be put on hold by HUD. The City has not updated the current AI to match the 2020-2024 ConPlan cycle, however the City is planning to wait for guidance for the upcoming AFH Equity Plan that was noticed by HUD on February 9, 2023. This Equity Plan will provide a fair housing analysis, goals and strategy as well as community engagement. The Equity Plan will answer questions on demographics, segregation and integration, racially/ethnically concentrated areas of poverty (R/ECAP), access to community assets, access to affordable housing opportunities, access to homeownership and economic opportunity, and local/state policies and practices that impact fair housing in the City of Bridgeport.

Even without a new AI, the City recognizes the need for planning and assessment that needs to take place to ensure that there is equal and affordable housing for a growing healthy community. In 2019 the

City of Bridgeport released, Plan Bridgeport, the City's plan of conservation and development over the next 10 years. Plan Bridgeport provides an outline of the current realities of resources and constraints of the City and establishes a strategy for policy and funding decisions that will work to improve the quality of life for the City's citizens through prioritization of resources towards the areas of waterfront, transit development, neighborhoods, and housing.

As documented in Plan Bridgeport, the housing situation is complex as there are contradicting policy problems. Housing is too expensive and not affordable for a large segment of the population. At the same time, housing is not expensive enough to generate a profit for real estate developers. The lack of profit incentive has led to an aging housing stock and overall shortage of housing in the City, which in turn is increasing demand for housing at all price points.

Plan Bridgeport also reports that older housing stock is more likely to have lead and asbestos hazards, more expensive to heat and cool and more prone to require costly repairs. Older housing is also generally less expensive to buy than newer housing, meaning that households with lower incomes tend to live in housing that has an increased risk of causing health problems and is more costly than newer housing to properly maintain. A set of housing related strategies were developed as part of the implementation plan of Plan Bridgeport, and is listed below. A full detailed strategy of the City is outlined in Plan Bridgeport.

#### Plan Bridgeport: Equitable City Goals and Strategies (Housing)

1. Stabilize housing cost by supporting the development of new units for sale and rent at all price points.
2. Encourage mixed-income housing development near transportation resources and job centers to reduce the commuting burden and promote integrated communities.
3. Support the preservation of existing subsidized housing units and the integration of subsidized housing units within mixed-income developments.
4. Ensure high quality of subsidized housing units throughout the city.
5. Work with MetroCOG and surrounding towns to promote a regional approach to the provision of affordable housing.
6. Coordinate with housing advocates and related Non-Profits to explore interest in establishing a Community Land Trust.
7. Continue to support the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTCs) to rehabilitate housing.

## Action Taken

There are currently 7 LMI households being assisted through the homeowner rehab program with housing rehabilitation activities such as roof repair, chimney replacement, furnace upgrades, sewer improvements and lead abatement. The City also works to reduce homeowner housing with removing lead-based paint hazards through the City Health Department Lead Program. HOME TBRA rental assistance activities assisted 113 LMI households. This assistance provides vital financial support to keep vulnerable low-income households in stable housing as they work towards self-sustainability. The City continues to address fair housing issues case-by-case in Bridgeport. HCD staff remains in contact with the with the Center for Fair Housing. In past years, issues related to fair housing were outsourced to local non-profits; however, the City is now the first point of contact for people facing discrimination or other fair housing-related issues. A liaison for fair housing has been identified and will continue to be available to residents, working to eliminate the unfair treatment of individuals as it relates to fair housing and ensure that residents have equitable access to affordable, clean and safe housing of their choice.

## **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**

## **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 draft will be available for a fifteen (15) day public review and comment period from November 11, 2024 through November 27, 2024. Any citizen wishing to review the report may do so by visiting the City of Bridgeport website at [www.bridgeportct.gov](http://www.bridgeportct.gov) and selecting the Office of Housing and Community Development page. Comments should be submitted via email to Anjerice Miller at [Anjerice.Miller@Bridgeportct.gov](mailto:Anjerice.Miller@Bridgeportct.gov).

*There were no comment received from the public during the public comment period.*

A citizen participation attachment including the published public notice and affidavit for proof of publishing has been uploaded to the CR-00.

## **Citizen Participation for PY 2022**

The City held several public hearings throughout the year with the purpose to inform citizens and interested parties about grant program basics, the progress of the the housing and community development programs and the development and planning of programs. For the development of the 2023 AAP, the City held two joint virtual public hearings on March 23, 2023 and on March 23, 2023 with the Citizen's Union Members and City Council Special Committee to review and deliberate proposed programs and activities for the 2023 AAP (PY49). A notice was made on June 7, 2023, in the CT Post that the City would hold a 30-day public comment period for the plan. The public comment period was held starting June 7, 2023 to July 7, 2023. There were no comments received at either of the public hearings nor during the public comment period.

On February 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM, HCD hosted a Citizen's Union Orientation meeting regarding program basics as well as information on the progress of each grant program. This meeting served as an

orientation to the housing and community development programs, and also kicked off the new funding cycle. There were no comments made the public hearing.



## **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.**

PY 2023 is the fourth year of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, and there were no changes made to the original Consolidated Plan goals and objectives. The City continues to prioritize affordable housing development and residential rehab, public services and public infrastructure and facilities improvements.

### CDBG-CV

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal CARES act was signed into law to assist communities in their efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. Federal funds were awarded in three rounds, of which the City as a CDBG-CV recipient was awarded funds in Round 1 and Round 3 of the grant allocations. The City amended its 2019 Annual Action Plan to include CDBG-CV funds to address the needs of Bridgeport's LMI residents affected by the pandemic. CDBG-CV funds were to support public services and small businesses affected negatively by the pandemic.

In PY 2023, the City also provided funds to the Health Department to provide increased access for vaccination mobile site, provide for PPR expenses to help enhance and support City public services and COVID-19 testing in low/mod areas which had a citywide benefit. The City also supported 69 LMI households with subsistence payments through the Social Services Utility Shut Off Protection program. This brings total expenditures for CDBG-CV to \$1,852,032.08 and leaves a balance of \$1,586,076.92 remaining. A PR26 CDBG Financial Summary Report has been uploaded to the CR-00 to confirm.

The City continues to closely monitor the impact of COVID-19 on residents in Bridgeport, in particular LMI individuals and households. Addressing these needs of LMI households impacted by COVID-19 remain a high priority for the City of Bridgeport HCD.

**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-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.

There were no rental housing units under the affordable period inspected in PY 2023. The City is working to resume inspections and will report these once they have been scheduled in the upcoming year.

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

Each HOME developer must adopt affirmative marketing procedures and requirements for rental and homebuyer projects containing 5 or more HOME- assisted housing units. HOME developers shall use the Equal Housing Opportunity Slogan, logo, or statement must in all advertisements, public service announcements, press releases, and information mailings. The HUD Fair Housing poster must be displayed in offices where rental activity takes place for all properties with five or more units. Affirmative marketing steps consist of actions to provide information and otherwise attract eligible without regard to: Race, Color, National origin, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Religion, Familial status and Disability. The affirmative marketing procedures do not apply to families with Section 8 tenant-based rental housing assistance or families with tenant-based rental assistance provided with HOME funds.

The City's affirmative marketing requirements and procedures are provided in the City's HOME Policies and Procedures which was updated in July 2020.

#### *MBE/WBE Businesses*

There were no HOME agreements executed for construction activities in the program year. No contracts were awarded to any businesses in PY 2023.

### **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**

As reported by the PR-09, the City had a balance on hand at the beginning of the program year of zero (\$0.00) in HOME program income (PI). This report was generated with all historical program years up to 6/30/2024. Also utilizing the PR-09, within the reporting period of 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024, the City did not report receiving or expending any HOME program income funds. This leaves a remaining balance of

zero at the end of the program year. Also note that as reported by the PR-07 the City did not expend any HOME funds towards TBRA during 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)**

In addition to the HOME programs detailed in this report, the City also provides housing resources for LMI residents in Bridgeport. Housing support resources provide assistance to those who are experiencing difficulties with housing, including homelessness, housing insecurity, and unsafe living conditions. These services include the relocation and housing hardship program offered by the Bridgeport Health and Social Services department, which aims to aid individuals who have received an eviction notice or are encountering hardship cases that may lead to eviction.

**HOME-ARP**

In September 2021, HUD announced an allocation of \$4,671,199 to the City of Bridgeport for a new grant called the Home Investment Partnerships Grant American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP). The purpose of HOME-ARP funds is to provide homelessness assistance and supportive services through several eligible activities. Eligible activities include acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter, tenant based rental assistance, supportive services, HOME-ARP rental housing development, administration and planning, and nonprofit operating and capacity building assistance.

HOME-ARP funds must assist people in HOME-ARP "qualifying populations", which include: sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations; those currently housed populations at risk of homelessness; those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence or human trafficking; other families requiring services or housing assistance or to prevent homelessness; and those at greatest risk of housing instability or in unstable housing situations.

After an assessment of the needs of "qualifying populations" in the City, a robust citizen participation process and consultation with local stakeholder agencies, the City developed a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. During consultation, many stakeholders concluded that due to the shortage of housing stock and extremely high rent cost in the community, the development of affordable housing units where rent will be based on income would be the most efficient approach to housing individuals and families who are on fixed, at or below poverty income levels. For homeless populations, priority needs include rapid re-housing and supportive services to achieve housing stability.

The City's goal with HOME-ARP funding is to upgrade or expand the stock of shelter for people experiencing homelessness and other populations by creating non-congregate shelter, provide much needed rental assistance to households that need immediate and ongoing assistance to avoid being evicted along with other supportive service, and provide TBRA rental assistance to households that need are unable to afford market rate rents without a rental subsidy. The funds to develop NCS will provide

an estimated 40-60 more units in Bridgeport and the City estimates to assist 100-130 eligible households with TBRA.

## CR-55 - HOPWA 91.520(e)

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

Table for report on the one-year goals for the number of households provided housing through the use of HOPWA activities for: short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance payments to prevent homelessness of the individual or family; tenant-based rental assistance; and units provided in housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds.

Number of Households Served Through:	One-year Goal	Actual
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	120	0
Tenant-based rental assistance	90	34
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	30	23
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0	25

Table 14 – HOPWA Number of Households Served

### Narrative

During PY 2023 HOPWA sponsors funded through the City assisted households with HIV/AIDS with housing subsidy assistance and supportive services. These HOPWA sponsors were: Recovery Network of Programs, Chemical Abuse Services Agency, Inspirica, Mid Fairfield AIDS Project, APEX Community Care and Catholic Charities of Fairfield County. The City of Bridgeport was the regional administrator for HOPWA funds. Funding was used for supportive services, tenant based rental assistance, permanent and transitional housing, administrative costs and facilities-based operations.

A total of 82 households with HIV/AIDS were assisted with HOPWA Housing Subsidy Assistance. By program categories, there were 34 households assisted with tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), 25 households assisted with transitional/ short-term facilities, and 23 households with permanent housing facilities. There were no households assisted with short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance payments (STRMU) as program sponsors focused on other housing subsidy assistance.

Most programs are having difficulty with assisting clients with finding affordable housing units that are within the fair market rent as there are fewer and fewer affordable units available.

Of the households receiving housing subsidy assistance, there were 33 households that were also

provided non-housing related supportive services that included case management, health services and other social services. These supportive services were provided by project sponsors and were not included in the totals for housing subsidy assistance above.

## CR-58 – Section 3

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

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

**Table 15 – Total Labor Hours**

<b>Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program</b>	<b>CDBG</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ESG</b>	<b>HOPWA</b>	<b>HTF</b>
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers	0	0	0	0	
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.	0	0	0	0	
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).	0	0	0	0	
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.	0	0	0	0	
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).	0	0	0	0	
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.	0	0	0	0	
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.	0	0	0	0	
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.	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	
Held one or more job fairs.	0	0	0	0	
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.	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	
Assisted residents with finding child care.	0	0	0	0	
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.	0	0	0	0	
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.	0	0	0	0	
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.	0	0	0	0	
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.	0	0	0	0	
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.	0	0	0	0	
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.	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	

Other.	0	0	0	0
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**Table 16 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program**

**Narrative**

On October 29, 2020 HUD made effective the Final Rule, which set new benchmarks for Section 3 under 24 CFR 75. Section 3 helps to establish more economically sustainable communities by ensuring that employment and other economic opportunities generated by Federal assistance for development programs are directed towards very low- and low-income persons to the greatest extent possible, and in particular to those who are recipients of the Federal assistance. The Final Rule changes tracking the number of qualified new hires in Section 3 projects, to tracking the total labor hours worked.

As applicable to the City, the benchmark for Section 3 workers was set at 25 percent or more of the total number of labor hours worked by all workers on a Section 3 project. The benchmark for Targeted Section 3 workers was set at 5 percent or more of the total number of labor hours worked by all workers on a Section 3 project.

Section 3 Projects cover housing rehab/construction and public improvement construction activities assisted under HUD grant programs that provide housing and community development financial assistance that exceeds a threshold of \$200,000. A \$100,000 project threshold applies to grants under HUD's Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes programs. In PY 2023, there were no activities that met the Section 3 threshold.