

### **Barriers**

The greatest barriers are always the economy, capacity, and funding. Washtenaw County struggles with a lack of good paying jobs, and especially jobs with benefits, for unskilled or low skilled workers. The County has adopted a Living Wage ordinance that requires contractors with the County to provide a living wage for their employees. However, this ordinance impacts a fraction of the employers in the area and local nonprofits often experience a negative impact from this requirement because they cannot afford to pay living wages to their own employees.

The lack of employment opportunities caused by the economic downturn, which has hit Michigan hard and has had a severe impact on jobs both with and without benefits, is an obstacle. Although we support a housing first model in our community, it is very difficult to house those with 0-200 dollars per month in income as individuals and the 15% median income level for families. These folks are more disadvantaged than ever in the job market. The number of jobs without benefits is a barrier because many of the needs would be reduced if households had adequate health care, disability, unemployment, retirement and other benefits through their employer. The needs would still exist but the cost would be borne by the private sector instead of the public sector. The County only has the financial capacity to address a fraction of the need in the community. And finally, service providers are overwhelmed by the need and do not have sufficient staff or the ability to offer attractive financial packages to maintain their staff.

The federal, state and local governments are all experiencing budget cuts. Because community development is not a core service (i.e., police and fire services), this department tends to be a relatively lower funding priority and thus more at-risk for funding cuts. Washtenaw County, the city of Ann Arbor and the State of Michigan have always contributed general funds for housing and homelessness activities. In the current budget crisis for governments, this general fund money is at great risk and is therefore threatening our safety net.

Additionally, access to transportation is an obstacle to gainful employment and access to services. The City of Ann Arbor has a good public transportation system, but many of the lowest income residents in the Urban County area live outside the more reliable bus routes and do not have access to good public transportation. In addition, the hours of availability severely limit the ability for low-income working households to rely on it completely; this is especially true for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift jobs, many of which are filled by low income people.

### **ITEM 4. LOCAL DISCHARGE PLAN**

The Continuum of Care Board recently adopted the Discharge policy included below, and will continue to implement this plan during the period July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011.

#### **Foster Care**

The Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI) is a Casey Foundation-funded local initiative whose mission is to help youth in and exiting foster care make successful transitions to adulthood. Youth served are 14-23 years old. MYOI works to bring together people and resources needed to help youth make the connections they need to education, employment, healthcare, housing, and supportive personal and community relationships. Goals are to:

- Expand access to opportunities in employment, education, housing, and healthcare for youth in foster care.

- Expand significantly the capacity of private and public organizations and communities to support these young people.
- Involve young people themselves in making the important decisions required for a successful national effort.
- Create opportunities for community engagement and encourage young people to help others.
- Provide links to personal networks of caring adults and other young people.

The Initiative supports community-based efforts that create opportunities and build assets for youth leaving foster care. It also supports youth engagement through a local Youth Leadership Board, which serves as a network that connects youth in, or formerly in, foster care both to resources and to each other. Our community's local group of the MYOI is called Changing Today for the Youth of Tomorrow.

In May 2007, the State of Michigan launched a new website developed by the Michigan Department of Human Services with support from MYOI Youth Leaders. The site, MICHIGAN FOSTER YOUTH IN TRANSITION, is a comprehensive crossroads of information, opportunities and resources for current and former foster youth. The website showcases programs, such as MYOI, for youth who are in transition or have aged out of the foster care system.

Other programs featured on the site include Youth in Transition, a funding source available to cover expenses related to developing independent living skills (e.g., first month's rent and security deposit and transportation), and programs that provide funding for educational expenses for youth in/formerly in foster care. The website is a particularly useful resource for foster care workers, foster parents, and youth in transition.

### **Health Care**

In September of 2009, the County's Continuum of Care, in coordination with the University of Michigan Hospital systems and Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital system approved a Hospital Discharge Planning Protocol. The protocol is intended to help prevent discharge from systems providing health care to the street. In part it provides for:

- As part of each patient's initial assessment, discharge planners will determine if a patient has housing options upon leaving the hospital. This could be family support or other housing.
- If the patient has no housing options or resources, s/he will be referred to the hospital social work department for assistance in addressing housing and related follow-up concerns.

Once referred to a hospital social worker/case manager, staff will assess whether or not the person is connected to the community-based social services system. Both hospital-based social workers and community-based case management staff will collaborate in case-specific problem solving and will utilize any resources available in both the hospital system and community-based systems to achieve the best feasible outcome for addressing patient needs.

### **Mental Health**

Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS), Washtenaw County's agency serving individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse issues, has an official discharge planning policy that initiates discharge planning processes at the earliest feasible point during service delivery based upon the client's level of functioning. Upon discharge or transfer of clients, CSTS case managers and a

placement coordinator are responsible for ensuring that the client has a viable housing option available. This process is supported by a full-time housing coordinator. Project Outreach Team (PORT), a division of CSTS, collaborates with the University of Michigan Hospital psychiatric unit to identify housing options for discharged patients. PORT also participates in ongoing work groups to address discharge planning issues.

Additionally, section 330.1209b of the State Mental Health Code, effective March 28, 1996, requires that “the community mental health services program shall produce in writing a plan for community placement and aftercare services that is sufficient to meet the needs of the individual...” In addition, R 330.7199(h) of the Administrative Code says that the written plan must minimally identify “strategies for assuring that recipients have access to needed and available supports identified through a review of their needs.” Housing, food, clothing, physical healthcare, employment, education, legal services, and transportation are all included in the list of needs that must be appropriately addressed as a function of mental health discharge planning.

### **Corrections**

*Jail Discharge:* Judges in Washtenaw County commonly use a split sanction (jail followed by probation). Common conditions of probation include services designed to control issues related to anger management, substance abuse, employment, etc. These services are provided by Community Corrections, a division of Trial Court. Also, a committee of the Washtenaw Criminal Justice Collaborative Council ([cjcc.ewashtenaw.org](http://cjcc.ewashtenaw.org)) has identified several barriers that make reintegration difficult. Examples of gaps in our community that hinder successful reintegration include a lack of substance abuse services and employment, a difficult process to obtain identification, etc. The committee has prioritized these issues and is in the process of developing protocols for some of them. In addition, CSTS and PORT are implementing a new Discharge Plan and Procedure based on the recommendations for best practices of the National GAINS Center (a subsidiary of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). PORT also provides pre-jail and post-jail diversion programs that provide advocacy for chronically homeless individuals within the court system. However, jail overcrowding with early release of inmates without support services remains a problem in Washtenaw County. In 2009-2010, PORT, the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County and the Sheriff’s Department have worked together to begin a discharge planning process that begins to address homelessness with community resources currently available. It is our goal to have specific protocols by the end of 2010.

*Prison Discharge:* The State of Michigan has begun a state-wide effort known as the Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI). Participating in this effort, Washtenaw County has developed and is implementing (under the auspice of Catholic Social Services) a comprehensive community plan and services funded through the Michigan Department of Corrections. Under this concept, all qualifying parolees will have a Transition Accountability Plan (TAP) that will be developed while in prison and identify a prisoner’s strengths, needs, and services available in the community. Approximately 250-300 returning citizens benefit from this effort each year.

### **Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)**

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In FY 10, the Washtenaw Urban County will receive an allocation of ESG funding for \$97,539.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Community Development

\*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.
2. Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

\*Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

### Program Year 3 Action Plan Community Development response:

#### ITEM 1. IDENTIFY THE JURISDICTION'S PRIORITY NON-HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE BY CDBG IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS TABLE

##### Community Development Priorities

The Washtenaw Urban County has assigned a **high priority** for services to the following types of community development projects:

- Senior & Youth Services
- Transportation
- Child Care
- Health Services
- ADA Accessibility
- Energy Improvements
- Legal Services & Tenant/Landlord Counseling (General Fund)
- Fair Housing Activities
- Rental Code Enforcement
- Lead Hazard Remediation
- Sidewalks/Bike Paths

Community planning efforts and interviews with Urban County Executive Committee leadership revealed these highest priority community development needs. In addition, since many of these programs can be offered on a case-by-case basis, the OCD is then able to ensure that lower-income households are served from all jurisdictions of the Urban County, rather than in just one concentrated area. High priority projects are those that the community **plans to fund** over the period of the plan. However, OCD or other agencies may utilize CDBG, HOME, HOPWA or other sources of funding to support any of these priorities.

In addition to the high priority projects, the Urban County prioritized a wide variety of **medium priority** community development projects, which **may be funded** over the course of the 5-year plan:

- Public Facility/ Infrastructure projects in LMI neighborhoods
- Senior &/or Community Center Improvements
- Park Improvements
- Microenterprise Assistance/Economic Development
- Other Public & Human Services for LMI households and Special Populations

These and other project types were given a medium priority because the Urban County has prioritized projects to address a wide range of needs across diverse communities. In addition, the need for community development activities far exceeds the budget in the CDBG program. Therefore, despite apparent needs, all project types could not be given a high priority.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** CDBG funds are generally not used for economic development activities as those activities are generally funded through other sources such as the SPARK, Community Action Agency, Workforce Development Council, Michigan Economic Development Council, Michigan Works, local Chambers of Commerce, Washtenaw County Energy and Economic Development Department, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and local Downtown Development Authorities.

**PUBLIC SERVICES (HUMAN SERVICES):** Washtenaw County supports a variety public services with multiple funding sources. These include City of Ann Arbor General Funds, Washtenaw County General Funds, and the maximum allowable for public services (15% percent) in CDBG funds. The City and the County contract with over 50 nonprofit organizations which in turn leverage a significant amount of other funding to provide a full range of human services to the community. These activities all serve LMI Limited Clientele, as documented by tracking the family size and income of the recipients. Both the City and the County funded the following agencies on a two-year cycle, the second year of this funding cycle starting on July 1, 2010 and ending on June 30, 2011.

2,670 individuals will benefit from the following CDBG funded public service programs and projects:

**Northfield Human Services, 9101 Main St, Whitmore Lake, MI, 48189**, \$40,885 in CDBG funds to provide low-cost, reliable, safe, flexible, and efficient transportation to Washtenaw County and participating township residents. The "Dollar to Ride" program allows individuals in need of transportation—particularly seniors and disable individuals—access to transportation at an affordable cost. Northfield Human Services passengers are income-verified and nearly all are low-income.

**Ozone House, 1705 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104**, was allocated \$51,700 in CDBG funds to provide transitional housing and support services to homeless youth. Ozone House seeks to increase housing stability for homeless youth, ages 16 through 20 by providing them with transitional housing and intensive support services. Services include on-going individual and family counseling, case management and advocacy, life skills training, employment support, opportunities for leadership, financial assistance, health care, and aftercare. Ozone House serves a clientele that are presumed to be statistically low and moderate income persons.

The **Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, 312 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103**, was allocated a total of \$241,815 in CDBG funds to provide three homelessness-related programs in Washtenaw County. The Service Center program (\$58,300) provides extreme weather related emergency shelter that addresses the immediate basic needs of individuals who are experiencing homelessness, and supportive services to assist them in finding sustainable permanent housing. The Delonis Center Health Clinic (\$32,500) is designed to educate, diagnose, and treat homeless men and women before their conditions progress to the point of becoming a barrier to stable housing or, worse yet, an emergency situation. The Night Shelter Program (\$151,015) provides temporary shelter (up to 90 days) with intensive case management—addressing barriers to stable income and housing—for homeless adults. The Shelter Association will serve over 1000 homeless individuals per year—a clientele that is presumed to be statistically low and moderate income.

**SOS Community Services, 101 South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI, 48197**, was allocated \$8,600 in CDBG funds (supplementing a \$46,400 award of Washtenaw County General funds) to provide homelessness prevention services and access to shelter and/or housing for at-risk and homeless families and individuals through their “Housing Crisis Services” program. Services include working with the client to identify barriers to housing stability, create action plans to address barriers, and take positive concrete steps toward implementing their plans. SOS Community Services clientele is income-verified (for financial assistance) or statistically presumed low and moderate income (homeless clients).

In addition, the City of Ann Arbor allocated \$1,275,744 in general funds and the County allocated \$1,115,000 in general funds to human service activities (see Attachment B). For both the City of Ann Arbor and the Urban County, funding priorities for human services are those services provided to individuals or families experiencing difficulty in meeting their basic human needs. Services shall be targeted to residents the appropriate jurisdiction, depending on funding source, who are low, very low and extremely low-income as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Services may also be targeted geographically, by age group, or by specific need.

The Urban County & the City of Ann Arbor have approved four main human services priorities, including: Housing Stability, Family Economic Stability, Access to Health & Well-Being & Success of At-Risk Youth. Annual outcomes to support these goals are as follows:

**A) Increase Housing Stability**

- The Barrier Busters Emergency Assistance Fund will provide financial assistance to prevent 60 households from becoming homeless;
- Washtenaw County CSTS Port Program will provide 280 homeless individuals with mental health and employment services.
- Avalon Housing Inc. will assist 243 low-income renters with housing stability;
- Catholic Social Services will provide support services and transitional housing for 10 previously homeless parenting teens and their children through the Father Patrick Jackson House; and will provide housing stability & support services to 20 frail, cognitively impaired, older adults at “The Oaks.”
- Community Action Network will provide eviction prevention services for 50 resident households of public housing sites;
- Community Housing Alternatives will provide support to 15 individuals to maintain housing or increase housing stability;

- The Domestic Violence Project will provide shelter and supportive services for 30 survivors of domestic violence and their children;
- The Fair Housing Center of SE Michigan will respond to 6 new fair housing complaints with investigations;
- HIV/AIDS Resource Center will assist 45 persons with housing stability;
- Home of New Vision will provide transitional and housing support services to 20 women and their children;
- University of Michigan Regents' Housing Bureau for Seniors will assist 225 seniors in maintaining housing stability;
- Interfaith Hospitality Network – Alpha House will assist 15 formerly homeless families with housing stability;
- Legal Services of South Central Michigan will provide eviction prevention legal services for 480 households;
- Michigan Ability Partners will provide support services to 40 low-income individuals to increase housing stability; MAP will also provide 48 residents with payee services to assist with bill payment, managing personal care funds, budgeting, and credit repair, in order to increase their housing stability;
- Ozone House will provide transitional housing and support services for 22 youth;
- Shelter Association of Washtenaw County will provide emergency shelter and/or services for 1000 people;
- SOS will assist 75 people with maintaining housing stability.

#### B) Increase Access to Health and Well-being

- Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels will provide weekday home delivered meals to 140 extremely low-income residents and weekend home delivered meals to 60 extremely low-income residents;
- The University of Michigan Regents' Community Family Health Center will provide healthcare for 225 low-income individuals.
- Community Action Network will provide food and opportunities for healthcare for 52 low-income resident households at a public housing site;
- The Corner Health Center will provide healthcare for 1,100 low-income residents—usually uninsured youth and their children—and assist 175 patients in enrolling in health insurance.
- Catholic Social Services will provide emergency food to 1000 people and will assist 425 seniors with tax forms, healthcare financing counseling, and resources for raising their grandchildren;
- HIV/AIDS Resource Center will provide education, testing and access to health-care services to 200 individuals to reduce Hepatitis-C transmission;
- Food Gatherers will provide food to over 152 programs serving low-income households and 80,000 free meals to Washtenaw County residents;
- Neighborhood Senior Services will provide support services for 450 seniors to maintain housing stability;
- Packard Community Clinic will provide healthcare to 500 very low-income persons;
- Planned Parenthood of Mid-Michigan will assist 171 women with reproductive healthcare;
- Shelter Association of Washtenaw County will serve 300 homeless men and women through the Delonis Center Health Clinic;
- The Women's Center of America will offer support and mental health counseling services to 225 low-income persons and will provide job coaching, financial education, tax-preparation services, legal seminars, or divorce workshops to 40 low-income persons;
- Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels will provide home delivered meals to 50 residents.

C) Increase Long-term Success of At-Risk Youth

- Ann Arbor YMCA will provide job training for 20 youth with special needs through the Chain of Plenty Program;
- Community Action Network will provide after-school enrichment activities and facilitate parent-teacher communication for 65 youth in public housing;
- The Center for Occupational and Personalized Education will provide education and drug- and violence-prevention programs for 70 low-income at-risk youth;
- Family Learning Institute will provide reading and writing skill-building services for 75 low-income youth and math skills for 25 youth;
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Washtenaw County will provide adult mentoring for 313 children from low-income and/or single-parent homes;
- SOS Community Services will provide 20 at-risk, homeless youth with after-school and educational enrichment programs;
- Student Advocacy Center will provide support services to assist 60 low-income households to access appropriate education and maintain their child's enrollment in school.

D) Increase Family Economic Stability

- Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living will assist 150 people with disabilities to achieve greater independence and economic stability;
- Catholic Social Services will provide 150 homeless and ex-offenders education about violence/aggression to increase their employment opportunities;
- Child Care Network will provide 110 childcare scholarships for low-income households;
- Jewish Family Services will provide 344 seniors with supportive services to increase economic and housing stability;
- Northfield Human Services will provide 6000 bus rides to low-income residents that will connect them to needed medical appointments, work and more;
- Washtenaw Literacy will provide one-on-one and ESL group literacy training for 296 low-income individuals.

## Attachment B FY 2010-2011 Human Services Investments (DRAFT)

City of Ann Arbor General Fund Investment		
Agency Name	Project Name	Recommended Funding 2010-11
Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, Inc.	<i>Independent Living: People with Disabilities, their Families and Economic Stability</i>	\$25,500
Ann Arbor YMCA	<i>Youth Volunteer Corps-Chain of Plenty</i>	\$5,850
Avalon Housing, Inc.	<i>Avalon Supportive Housing Program</i>	\$80,750
Barrier Busters Action Group	<i>Emergency Financial Assistance</i>	\$20,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washtenaw County	<i>Big Brothers Big Sisters</i>	\$9,000
Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw	<i>Fr. Patrick Jackson House</i>	\$12,100
Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw	<i>The Oaks- Stabilizing Care for Families and Older Adults</i>	\$10,000
Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw	<i>Maximizing the Independence, Resources and Coping Skills of Older Adults</i>	\$22,000
Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw	<i>Emergency Food Program</i>	\$6,300
Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw	<i>Employment Skills/Goal Setting Workshops/Aggression Intervention Workshops</i>	\$17,550
Child Care Network	<i>Family Support Program</i>	\$210,000
Community Action Network	<i>Stabilizing Housing: Preventing Evictions of Hikone &amp; Green Baxter Court Public Housing Families</i>	\$20,400
Community Action Network	<i>School Comes First! at Hikone and Green Baxter Court Public Housing</i>	\$23,800
Community Action Network	<i>Food &amp; Health Care for Hikone and Green Baxter Court Public Housing Families</i>	\$8,500
Community Housing Alternatives	<i>Housing and Tenant Services</i>	\$8,500
COPE	<i>COPE At-Risk Youth Education and Prevention Program</i>	\$19,295
Domestic Violence Project, Inc.	<i>Emergency Shelter Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence</i>	\$38,250
Family Learning Institute	<i>Year Round Academic Intervention to Improve Math and Reading Skills</i>	\$26,076
Food Gatherers	<i>Food Gatherers' Food Distribution Program</i>	\$123,200
HIV/AIDS Resource Center	<i>HIV/AIDS Housing Assistance Program</i>	\$13,200
HIV/AIDS Resource Center	<i>Harm Reduction Program</i>	\$5,000
Home of New Vision	<i>"START" Support, Tools, Advocacy, Resources Together</i>	\$25,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network of Washtenaw Co.	<i>Shelter and Home-Based Support for Families Experiencing Homelessness</i>	\$38,500
Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County	<i>JFS Senior Stability Program</i>	\$10,000
Legal Services of South Central Michigan	<i>Free legal services in civil cases to achieve housing stability</i>	\$73,000
Michigan Ability Partners	<i>Housing Supports Team-Permanent Supported Housing for High Risk Individuals</i>	\$34,000
Michigan Ability Partners	<i>Representative Payee</i>	\$18,121
Neighborhood Senior Services	<i>Senior Support Services</i>	\$50,000
Packard Health Inc.	<i>Packard Health Care Access Program</i>	\$38,250
Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan	<i>Family Planning Services for Low Income Women 2009-2011</i>	\$15,000
The Regents of the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels	<i>Meal Delivery to the Under Age 60 Homebound</i>	\$10,000
The Regents of the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels	<i>Weekend Meal Delivery</i>	\$16,000
The Regents of the University of Michigan - Nurse Managed Centers	<i>Maple Meadows Outreach Clinic - Primary and Mental Health Care Services</i>	\$16,250
The Regents of the University of Michigan - The Housing Bureau for Seniors	<i>Housing Stability for Older Persons</i>	\$24,000
The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan	<i>The Student Advocacy Program</i>	\$19,500
The Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan	<i>Filling the Gaps in the Mental Health Safety Net</i>	\$30,000
Washtenaw County Community Support and Treatment Services	<i>Project Outreach (PORT)</i>	\$117,700
Washtenaw Literacy	<i>RFP #6437 Adult Literacy Tutoring for Family Economic Stability</i>	\$27,500
<b>Total General Fund Contracts</b>		<b>\$1,268,092</b>
<b>Human Services Contingency</b>		<b>\$7,652</b>
<b>Total General Fund Investment</b>		<b>\$1,275,744</b>

CDBG Public Services Investment		
Agency Name	Project Name	Recommended Funding 2010-11
Northfield Human Services	Dollar to Ride-Moving On	\$40,885
Ozone House, Inc.	Transitional Housing & Support for Homeless Youth	\$51,700
Shelter Association of Washtenaw County	Shelter Association Service Center	\$58,300
Shelter Association of Washtenaw County	Night Shelter Program	\$151,015
Shelter Association of Washtenaw County	Delonis Center Health Clinic	\$32,500
SOS Community Services	SOS Housing Crisis Services 2009/2011 <i>(Partially Funded--See WC General Funds)</i>	\$8,600
Total CDBG Public Services Investment		\$343,000
Washtenaw County General Fund Investment		
Agency Name	Project Name	Recommended Funding 2010-11
SOS Community Services	SOS Homeless School-Aged Children's Program 2009/2011	\$13,200
The Corner Health Center	Health Services for Washtenaw County Adolescents and Their Children	\$20,000
Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels	Home delivered meals	\$20,400
SOS Community Services	SOS Housing Crisis Services 2009/2011 <i>(Partially Funded--See CDBG)</i>	\$46,400
Total CDBG Public Services Contracts		\$100,000
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES INVESTMENT		\$1,718,744

**ITEM 2. IDENTIFY LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATUTORY GOALS IN SECTION 24 CFR 91.1**

The specific local objectives for community development are listed below for the program year. Note: All specific objectives are numbered from the Summary of Specific Annual Objectives Worksheet included with this plan.

**Specific Objective: Suitable Living Environment**

**Outcome: Availability/Accessibility**

- 345 households will receive transitional housing and housing crisis services to promote housing and community stability.
- 2200 individuals with special needs will receive night shelter, services, and medical care to improve safety and livability.
- 125 residents will receive transportation to promote community inclusion and increase economic opportunities.
- Montibeller Park in Pittsfield Township will be rehabilitated to improve the functionality of this public facility.

**Outcome: Sustainability**

- 20 ADA Curb cuts will be constructed in the City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township will improve 3 roads, Superior Township will improve 1 road, Northfield Township will provide façade improvement grants, and Pittsfield Township will improve 1 sidewalk in order to increase the safety and sustainability of public infrastructure.
- 4 Community Based Development Organizations will be created to revitalize neighborhoods.
- 3 properties will be demolished to increase the livability and sustainability of target neighborhoods.

## **Antipoverty Strategy**

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.

### **Program Year 3 Action Plan Antipoverty Strategy response:**

#### **ITEM 1. ANTI-POVERTY ACTIVITIES**

In the coming year, the County and other public and private organizations will work to reduce the number of persons living below the poverty level by enhancing their opportunities for self-sufficiency through the following activities.

- The County will enforce its living wage ordinance that applies to all companies contracting with the County, which requires that all employees of these companies be paid at least \$12.28 or \$10.48 with benefits.
- The County will continue to fund SPARK (Washtenaw Development Council) to support their efforts to encourage the development and maintenance of economic opportunities in the County.
- The County will encourage CHDOs and other nonprofits to hire participants and local contractors for work in CDBG, HOME and NSP I funded activities. This employment may take the form of property management, landscaping, childcare, elder care, etc.
- The County and City of Ann Arbor will continue to fund a variety of outside human service programs that serve residents of the Urban County through approximately \$2,400,000 in annual general fund expenditures, including permanent supportive housing services, food distribution, health prevention for young mothers and families, medical services, shelter services for families, medical access for older adults, and transportation, youth mentoring, youth volunteering, child care, , early learning & intervention, and prenatal programming. These programs will assist families to reach their full potential, increase self-sufficiency, and work to address gaps in other mainstream programs for individuals below the poverty line.
- The County will make efforts to assist those living below the poverty level by promoting affordable housing and by requiring coordination of services of all sub-recipients of CDBG and HOME funds to lessen the financial burden on this population.
- Low-income housing providers will maintain and increase their current stock of affordable housing that is reserved specifically for low-income households.
- The Washtenaw County Department of Employment Training & Community Services administers Community Services Block Grant dollars specifically on projects that reduce poverty and revitalize neighborhoods.
- The United Way of Washtenaw County will continue to fund human service organizations that provide in the areas of: Housing and Shelter; Alleviating Hunger; Early Childhood Education & Care; Access to Health Care; and Aging in Place.
- The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation will continue to fund a variety of human services in the County.
- The Office of Community Development will continue to work with existing human services coalitions in Washtenaw County to develop community-wide outcomes in coordination with community stakeholders that help funders and service providers alike evaluate and improve service delivery in a variety of sectors. The Office of Community Development has also taken over the administration of the Barrier Busters program for Washtenaw County. This program is a network of over 50 social service provider agencies that agree to “reduce barriers” in the provision of social services to Washtenaw County consumers. This is completed through monthly meetings where program information is shared and difficult cases are discussed and problem-solved. The Community Development Office staffs this program and provides oversight to the Barrier Busters Unmet Needs Fund—a collection of

nearly \$300,000 in annual funding that is available to support the one-time, emergency unmet needs of consumers of the member agencies.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> More information on the Barrier Busters Action Group can be found here:  
[www.ewashtenaw.org/barrierbusters](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/barrierbusters)

## NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

### **Non-homeless Special Needs (91.220 (c) and (e))**

\*Please also refer to the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve for the period covered by the Action Plan.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

### **Program Year 3 Action Plan Specific Objectives response:**

#### **ITEM 1. DESCRIBE THE PRIORITIES AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES THE JURISDICTION HOPES TO ACHIEVE OVER A SPECIFIED TIME PERIOD**

The Urban County proposes to serve each of the special needs populations through allocations to nonprofit entities. The Urban County typically does not prioritize based on special needs populations but has established the following overall ten (10) goals for all of its affordable housing and community development activities:

- To improve the quality, management, and supply of existing rental property available to low-income households.
- To increase homeownership opportunities for low-income households.
- To increase homeowner rehabilitation opportunities for low-income households.
- To promote housing and community stability by addressing identified gaps in public/human services.
- To promote access to mainstream resources, improve safety and livability, reduce isolation, encourage employment, and support special populations and the homeless.
- To promote community inclusion and accessibility to public transportation, fair housing choice, and economic opportunities for low-income households.
- To promote community and neighborhood stability through the improvement of existing or the construction of new community facilities, parks, and green spaces in low-income neighborhoods.
- To promote the safety and health of residents by providing and/or addressing infrastructure and other public facility needs in low-income neighborhoods.
- To encourage the development of jobs and economic opportunities for low-income populations or areas.
- To create community assessments and plans that identify and address regional and local housing and community development needs.

#### **Persons with Disabilities**

In addition to community efforts to build and sustain permanent supportive housing, there are numerous community organizations that provide support services to individuals with special needs, including the following: Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, Michigan Ability Partners, Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy, Avalon Housing, Catholic Social Services, Community Support and Treatment Services (formerly Community Mental Health), Home of New Vision, Dawn Farm, the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, Synod Residential Services, Community Housing Alternatives, Community Residence Corporation, POWER, Inc., Ozone House, Food Gatherers, Meals on Wheels, Family Independence Agency (home health aides), Family Support Network, and others.

### **Individuals with HIV/AIDS**

Housing Services to persons with HIV/AIDS are provided through the HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) and their Housing Specialist. HARC provides assistance with housing location, eviction prevention, and permanent housing plans. While the HOPWA certificate program is no longer available, HARC continues to provide limited direct financial housing assistance for eligible clients. Through HARC's case management services and collaborative agreements with other service providers, HOPWA clients also receive residential supportive services, including: medication adherence, transportation to medical appointments, financial management, payee services, and in-home assistance when necessary. HARC also provides HIV/AIDS testing, supplemental food, health education and risk reduction, and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS. HARC receives a HOPWA grant in the amount of \$97,695 for direct housing assistance, support services, and housing placement assistance.

### **Elderly**

Neighborhood Senior Services, the Housing Bureau for Seniors, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels, and the County ETCS Department together provide outreach, support services, meal delivery, home repair services, West Nile prevention, ramp building services, foreclosure prevention, and other support services to the elder residents of Washtenaw County to help them stay in their homes and increase the safety of their residences. In addition, over forty (40) public, private and non-profit organizations recently developed a "Blueprint for Aging", in order to more effectively serve the older adult residents of Washtenaw County. For more information on these efforts, please see their website: <http://www.blueprintforaging.org>.

## **ITEM 2. DESCRIBE HOW FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES WILL BE USED**

The Office of Community Development (CD) administers and monitors the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and City and County General Fund Human Services allocations. CD coordinates funding decisions with Washtenaw County, MSHDA, LISC, FHLB, the City of Ann Arbor DDA and other funders of affordable rental housing. CD is establishing relationships with Fannie Mae and local banks for homeownership housing. CD staff attend HUD, MSHDA, MCDA, SEMCOG and CEDAM trainings to network with other funders, learn about new products and programs and learn about resources to address the identified needs.

CD will maintain regular contact with area services providers and citizen groups through participation in various task forces, and by providing staff assistance to the Urban County Executive Committee, the City of Ann Arbor Housing and Human Services Advisory Board, and the Washtenaw Housing Alliance (HMIS). CD will also continue its cooperation with Washtenaw County, the City of Ann Arbor, the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authorities, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, Washtenaw United Way, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and other local entities in addressing housing and human service funding needs. This includes participation on the local Continuum of Care Board, the Blueprint on Aging Services Partnership, the Blueprint to End Homelessness, Eviction Reduction Coalition, the Funders Forum, Lead Task Force, Interagency Coordination Meeting, Michigan Housing Rehabilitation Specialists Network, Poverty Task Force, and Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Committee, Washtenaw County Human Services Community Collaborative, and the Washtenaw Housing Education Partners.

## **Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS**

This section is not applicable because the County does not administer HOPWA funding.

## Other Narrative/Citizen Participation Plan

### **Introduction**

The purpose of the citizen participation plan is to provide a framework for the Washtenaw Urban County to use in order to assure that community members have an opportunity to provide meaningful input in the design and review of programs and activities addressed in the most current Washtenaw Urban County Consolidated Strategy & Action Plan.

### **Community Outreach Procedures**

In order to assure meaningful community involvement and comply with federal regulations, the Urban County has adopted the following process to ensure maximum community outreach activities in developing and implementing the most current Consolidated Strategy and Annual Action Plan.

- Identify low- and very low-income as well as visibly distressed target areas through the use of Census Block data and windshield surveys.
- Contact community leaders and stakeholders throughout the Urban County areas and particularly in targeted areas. Those community leaders may include: Ministers, Civic Leaders, Block Captains, Leaders of Neighborhood Organizations, School Officials and Local Small Business Owners.
- Urban County representatives will participate in community forums and meetings pertaining to the issue of decent, safe and/or affordable housing.
- Ensure adequate and timely notification of public hearings as to maximize community attendance. A Notice of Public Hearing will be published in the Washtenaw Legal News. An announcement of the hearing will also be posted on the Community Television Network (CTN), the local public access television station. Notice of the availability of the draft document and the dates of public hearings will be mailed to the aforementioned community leaders as well as churches and public service agencies in the Urban County areas. The County will include a notice in all postings that assistance will be provided to citizens with special needs at these hearings, given a notice of seven days. In addition, the County has access to interpreter services for a variety of non-English speakers, should those services be required to assist a resident at these hearings.
- Hold at least two public hearings that are conveniently timed and located to provide access for all communities, including minorities and persons with disabilities, especially for those who might or will benefit from program funds.
- Provide citizens a period of not less than 30 days (15 days for performance reports) to review and submit comments on the draft Annual Action Plan. A summary of comments will be attached and submitted with the final Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As appropriate, comments and suggestions will be incorporated into the plan. Community input submitted in writing will receive response, when requested, from the Urban County within 10 working days.
- Urban County Executive Committee meetings are held monthly and meeting notices are posted in the Ann Arbor News and on the County Online Calendar of Events at [www.ewashtenaw.org](http://www.ewashtenaw.org) to invite public participation regarding the use and management of these funds.

### **Publication of Consolidated Plans, Action Plans, and Performance Reports**

The Urban County will distribute its draft Consolidated Plans, Action Plans and Performance Reports so that affected communities will have adequate time and opportunity to review them and participate effectively in developing the final version. Copies of this document will be distributed to Urban County public offices, some Washtenaw County offices, and to some previously identified local leaders. The plan will also be posted on the Washtenaw County Office of Community Development website.

Notice of the availability of each plan or report will be posted in the Washtenaw County Legal News at least two weeks before each document is ready for review.

### **Complaints**

The Urban County staff members will provide a timely (10-15 working days) and responsive written reply to every written community complaint regarding the consolidated plans, action plans for the CDBG Program, the HOME Program, the NSP grant, plan amendments, and performance reports.

### **Public Information about Programs and Services in the Plan**

The Office of Community Development will provide interested communities and community groups with information about eligible programs and activities, given due regard to privacy and confidentiality. The Office of Community Development will also keep a list of the names and addresses of interested groups and communities and will use the file to distribute information.

### **Retention of Records**

The following records will be maintained for the duration of the plan (2010) and will be available to the public at the Office of Community Development:

- Records of public hearings
- Mailings and other promotional materials
- Written and other records of the efforts made to involve communities in the development of HOME grant applications
- Copies of all relevant program applications
- Copies of Grantee Performance Reports (Annual Performance Report)
- Copies of prior applications, letters of approval, grant agreements, progress reports, Regulations and other pertinent documents
- Environmental review records and notices

### **Technical Assistance**

Office of Community Development staff members will provide technical assistance to group representatives of low-income persons that request such assistance in developing proposals for funding assistance under the consolidated plan.

### **Amendments/ Modifications**

CD will follow the requirements of 24 CFR 570.305 if there is a substantial modification to this Plan. A substantial amendment is any modification that completely eliminates a project from the Plan or any change that is greater than 10% of the fiscal year entitlement. If a substantial amendment to the Strategy or Action Plan is proposed, public notice will provide for a 30-day public comment period to allow review and comments on the proposed changes. This public notice will be advertised using the same procedure as a Notice of Public Hearing.

### **Performance Reports**

Every year, the Office of Community Development will produce a Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for submission to HUD. Notice of the availability of this report will be published in the Washtenaw County Legal News, and the County will notify the public that they have 15 days to comment on the report. In addition, the report will be sent to the Urban County government offices, various human service and housing agencies, the Housing Commissions, and various other interested parties.

### **Relocation/Displacement**

The Urban County intends to cause no displacement to persons receiving assistance from the CDBG and HOME programs. However, the Urban County recognizes that while it intends no displacement, situations may arise wherein displacement and/or relocation or temporary relocation is the only viable method for providing assistance. The Urban County will therefore provide for reasonable benefits to any person involuntarily and permanently displaced as a result of the use of CDBG, HOME or NSP I funds to acquire or substantially rehabilitate residential and nonresidential property in accordance with the Urban County Relocation Plan, which was developed in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Act. This document may be reviewed at the Office of Community Development, 110 N. Fourth, Suite 300, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645.

## ATTACHMENTS

The following documents are attached to the Annual Plan:

- Attachment A: Housing & Community Development Needs Tables/Market Analysis
- Attachment B: 2010-11 Summary of Annual Objectives & Goals Tables
- Attachment C: 2010-11 Housing & Community Development Project Workbook
- Attachment D: HUD 424/Certification Forms
- Attachment E: 2010-11 Summary of Activities Planned

