

# **2025 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

**CITIZEN DRAFT COPY  
COMMENTS RECEIVED  
July 25, 2025 to August 26, 2025**



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

**JANUARY 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025**

Presented to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
City of Hattiesburg  
Department of Urban Development  
Community Development Division  
200 Forrest Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

**CITY OF HATTIESBURG**  
**2025 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN – NARRATIVE DRAFT**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT**  
**PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

**Executive Summary**

**AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)**

**1. Introduction**

The City of Hattiesburg (COH) 2025 Annual Action Plan is the third Action Plan of the City's 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan. The 2025 Action Plan will continue to address the identified housing, homelessness, supportive services and non-housing community needs as the basis for the City's strategy and its use of the 2025 CDBG and HOME funds granted to the City by HUD. This year's Action Plan is the City's application of the 2025 allocations of the above-mentioned grant funds.

The City of Hattiesburg received notice on May 14, 2025, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announcing its Fiscal Year 2025 allocations for its Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program and Home Investment Partnership Entitlement Program. As per this notice the City of Hattiesburg is required to submit a compliant proposed Annual Action Plan on its desired usage of the funding allocations of \$569,656.00 in Community Development Block Grant and \$296,670.90 in Home Investment Partnership Program funding. The Annual Action Plan is required to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, not later than August 16, 2025.

**2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan**

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

The primary objectives of the 2025 Action Plan are the same as detailed in the 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan. The proposed projects/activities utilizing 2025 CDBG/HOME funding will address housing concerns in a number of areas, with primary focus on: Housing Programs (emergency housing repair and substantial housing rehabilitation, tenant based rental assistance and funding to a local Community Housing Development Organization); and assistance to low-income citizens through local Public Service Non-Profit Agencies.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

As previously stated in prior Action Plans the City has had a turnover in staffing and several projects that were in consideration were fraught with issues of lack of funding, meeting goals with other potential partners for housing projects and meeting timeliness of expenditure goals and processes as defined by HUD.

The City has taken an active approach by working together with the Community Development Manager and Urban Development Director and other departments and HUD Staff on defining and correcting processes and procedures and implementing a substantial amendment for CDBG during the prior year to bring a prior proposed project to project design, construction bidding and contract award for the Katie Dabbs Community Center Renovation (from a church to a community center). The project is now in construction phase with proposed completion by the end of this fiscal year. The City will also set aside \$60,000 in Public Service funding for local Non-Profit agencies to assist Low- and moderate-income residents. These agencies and specific assistance will be determined at a later date.

The City will continue its housing activities in 2025 by utilizing \$395,724 CDBG funds to provide housing rehab and emergency repairs to eligible owner-occupied low-and moderate-income households. The city also plans to utilize \$60,000 to assist local non-profit agencies in providing various services to low- and moderate-income residents. The City proposes utilizing \$152,503 HOME funds for owner-occupied substantial housing rehabilitation for low and moderate-income households. In addition, HOME funds of \$70,000 will provide Tenant-based rental assistance to individual households to help afford housing costs of market rate units. CHDO set aside funds of the required 15% or \$44,500 will be made to an eligible Community Development Housing Organization for use housing acquisition, acquisition and rehab or new construction of housing for sale or rental to low-income households. The balance of funds for CDBG and HOME will be utilized for Administrative and Planning costs.

The city is fully vested in addressing and preventing homelessness and in 2023 employed a full-time Homeless Coordinator to organize volunteer outreach activities, share current information with the local agencies that provide shelter, housing assistance and offer a wide variety of supportive housing services; and work to help prevent near-homeless residents from becoming homeless.

The city was previously awarded a Lead Based Paint Grant and hired a coordinator to run the program, which had numerous goals for 2025 to provide information, test and treat lead issues. However, this grant was eliminated in spring 2025 due to federal budget cuts.

### **4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City of Hattiesburg complies with our Citizen Participation Plan, which contains the City's policies and procedures for public involvement in the 2025 Annual Action Plan. The City's plan dictates a 30-day review and comment period prior to City Council approval of the Annual Action Plan.

A public notice was approved by council to be published in the Hattiesburg Post for two public hearings and the 30-day comment period for the draft of the 2025 Annual Action Plans. The first public hearing was held on May 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 308 Newman Street (Train Depot), Hattiesburg, MS. This hearing was to inform the public of the City's anticipated 2025 CDBG and HOME Funding and receive input from the public, non-profits and neighborhood groups of eligible uses of funds and receive input into the individual and community needs to best serve the low- and moderate-income citizens of Hattiesburg.

The 2nd Public Hearing originally scheduled for June 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. was rescheduled for July 8, 2025, 6:00 pm at the Jackie Dole Sherrill Community Center, 220 W Front Street. The notice described that public comments on the Draft 2025 Action Plan will be accepted for input into the proposed draft of the Annual Action Plan for 30-days. The City also sent notifications, comment sheets Information Flyer to identify needed services, programs and projects, to the Community Development Division Community partners list of Neighborhood Associations and Non-Profits (citizen participation documents). These notices were sent by email on May 7, 2025, and May 29, 2025, June 14, 2025, June 24, 2025, and July 9, 2025. In addition, the notices were published in the local newspaper on June 18, 2025, and posted on the City of Hattiesburg website.

A 3rd public hearing was held on July 24, 2025, 6:00 pm, at the Train Depot, 308 Newman Street. This hearing was to inform the public on the proposed projects, activities and funding utilizing the 2025 CDBG and HOME funding allocations. The City sent notifications, comment sheets and Information Flyer notifications to the Community Development partners list of Neighborhood Associations, Citizens and Non-Profits. These notices were sent by email on June 24, 2025, and July 9, 2025. In addition, the notices were published in the local newspaper on June 18, 2025, and posted on the City of Hattiesburg website.

30-day Notice of Draft of the 2025 Annual Action plan will be available for review and comments from July 25, 2025, through August 26, 2025. Copies of the draft report will be available on the City of Hattiesburg website, City Hall and the Community Development Division.

The Hattiesburg City Council will approve the proposed 2025 CDBG and HOME Annual Plans on September 2, 2025, and the complete plan will be electronically sent to the Department of Housing and Urban Development through its Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) for review and approval.

Copies of all notices, publications, flyers, agendas and handouts will be included in the attached Citizen Participation Section.

## **5. Summary of public comments**

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

Public Hearing – May 14, 2025 - 6:00 p.m. 308 Newman Street (Train Depot). Seven persons attended the public hearing, No written comments were received.

Summary of citizen comments, any written comments. agenda, handouts and sign in sheets will be included in the attached Citizen Participation Section.

Public Hearing – July 8, 2025 – 6:00 pm 220 West Front Street (Jackie Dole Sherrill Community Center). 30 people attended the public hearing. Two written comments were received.

Summary of citizen comments, written comments, agenda, handouts and sign in sheets will be included in the attached Citizen Participation Section.

Public Hearing – July 24, 2025 – 6:00 pm 308 New Man Street (Train Depot). \_\_\_\_\_ people attended the public hearing.

Summary of citizen comments, any written comments, agenda, handouts and sign in sheets will be included in the attached Citizen Participation Section.

## **6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them**

The City of Hattiesburg accepts any and all comments and views.

## **7. Summary**

The City of Hattiesburg recognizes its CDBG and HOME grants as an opportunity to do great things to improve quality of life for low- to moderate-income residents and as a result, for the City as a whole. The City values the citizen participation process and looks forward to doing more to promote participation opportunities in the future. Participation in this process by residents of low-income areas and the organizations that regularly serve low-income households is vital to ensure that funds are directed to areas and programs in which they can make the greatest impact. The City believes that the input from the hearing, other city and public meetings during the year, and daily calls to the city support the priorities in this plan.

The City believes that the strategies and objectives set forth in this Annual Action Plan are feasible and attainable (assuming that funding remains available), and they are in accordance with the needs and desires communicated by the public that these grants are intended to serve and organizations that provide such services.

## PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

### 1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role		Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency		Hattiesburg	
CDBG Administrator	Hattiesburg		Urban Development D/Community Development Division
HOPWA Administrator			
HOME Administrator	Hattiesburg		Urban Development D/Community Development Division
HOPWA-C Administrator			

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

### Narrative (optional)

The City of Hattiesburg's Urban Development Department/Community Development Division is responsible for the administration of both CDBG and HOME funds.

### Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

City of Hattiesburg  
Community Development Division  
P.O. Box 1898  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1898

(601) 554-1006

## **AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(I)**

### **1. Introduction**

The City of Hattiesburg encouraged participation in developing the 2025 AAP by soliciting input from the public, local government representatives, public housing authorities, non-profit agencies and various social service agencies through its traditional advertising method. Additionally, the City promoted public hearings via the City's website and Facebook in an effort to reach as many interested parties as possible.

The City of Hattiesburg's Planning Division encompasses floodplain management for the City. Representatives of county government from Forrest and Lamar counties responsible for the management of water resources, flood areas and emergency management were invited to participate and encouraged to submit comments during the annual action plan process.

The City of Hattiesburg is currently working with Broadband service providers to install and link eligible low income residents with high speed internet access utilizing CDBG-CV funding for 2025.

### **Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(I))**

The City continues to participate quarterly in the Community Advisory Committee to discuss a variety of housing and homelessness issues. Participants are similar to the former Housing Round Table, which included the City's Urban Development Department, Hattiesburg Housing Authority, Hattiesburg Area Habitat for Humanity, R3SM (a non-profit housing organization), as well as the City's Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Participants also include the Salvation Army and Southeast Coalition of Homelessness, which both serve homeless people; the AIDS Services Coalition, which serves the homeless as well as those living with AIDS; the University of Southern Mississippi's Institute for Disability Studies, which addresses housing issues statewide; and the Hattiesburg Board of Realtors.

The Hattiesburg Housing Authority serves approximately 296 residents in its three housing developments, Briarfield Homes, Robertson Place, and Hope Drive. The Authority does not administer a Section 8 Program. Hattiesburg Housing Authority continues to host monthly resident meetings at each of its developments to engage its residents. Guest speakers bring residents valuable information related to the City, the schools, civic service agencies, or others as may be pertinent. The HHA continues to host National Night Out Against Crime events and use them as an opportunity to engage residents.

The City of Hattiesburg continues to require, as a component of its Down Payment Assistance Program, homebuyer education requirements, which are available to attendees at no or minimal cost through

various agencies. The City will continue to work with public housing management to encourage homeownership options through down payment assistance and general self-sufficient training.

The City continues the work to bolster mental health services by way of a Behavioral Health Court partnership with Southeast Coalition on Homelessness, (formerly Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources), and to coordinate efforts toward functionally ending homelessness.

**Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.**

The city works closely with the Continuum of Care operating in Hattiesburg and the surrounding areas. The Southeast Coalition on Homelessness is the lead agency for the implementation of HUD Continuum of Care programs. Generally, individuals requiring assistance are referred to this organization. Further, the City has provided funding to the AIDS Services Coalition and Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services where funds are available. The city also has a full-time Homeless Advocate/Coordinator, who works actively with the coalition as well as other agencies in making proper referrals to appropriate resource agencies. In the last year, the city's coordinator has worked with the coalition to press the issue of the need for a documented plan as well as an adopted standard of care.

**Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS**

The City of Hattiesburg is a part of the 71-county "Balance of State" Continuum of Care. The City works with the Continuum of Care (Mississippi United to End Homelessness), and a representative from the City regularly participates in their meetings. MUTEH and its members establish guidelines, policies, etc. for the Continuum of Care. The City does not enjoy entitlement status under ESG, and as the City does not directly undertake any activities supporting homeless people, the City does not access or input information into HMIS.

**2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities**



**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Hattiesburg Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Public Housing Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Notifications to participate in Agency Needs and Survey and and Public Hearings for input into the planning of the AAP were emailed on May 7 and May 29, 2025. June 13, 2025, June 24, 2025 and July 9, 2025. The City works closely with the agency on a regular basis throughout the year.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	PINE BELT MENTAL HEALTHCARE RESOURCES
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Health Services-Education Health Agency Civic Leaders
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Notifications to participate in Agency Needs and Survey and and Public Hearings for input into the planning of the AAP were emailed on May 7 and May 29, 2025. June 13, 2025, June 24, 2025, and July 9, 2025. The City works closely with the agency on a regular basis throughout the year.

3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	AIDS Services Coalition
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-homeless Services-Health Service-Fair Housing Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy HOPWA Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Notifications to participate in Agency Needs and Survey and and Public Hearings for input into the planning of the AAP were emailed on May 7 and May 29, 2025. June 13, 2025, June 24, 2025 and July 9, 2025. The City works closely with the agency throughout the year and the Director attended the public hearings with oral comments.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Habitat for Humanity in Hattiesburg, MS
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Notifications to participate in Agency Needs and Survey and and Public Hearings for input into the planning of the AAP were emailed on May 7 and May 29, 2025. June 13, 2025, June 24, 2025 and July 9, 2025. The City works closely with the agency on a regular basis throughout the year.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Salvation Army
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Notifications to participate in Agency Needs and Survey and and Public Hearings for input into the planning of the AAP were emailed on May 7 and May 29, 2025. June 13, 2025, June 24, 2025, and July 9, 2025. The City works closely with the agency on a regular basis throughout the year.

### Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

Local Agencies, non-profit organizations, local governments, neighborhood groups that the Community Development Division maintain as their informational contacts were notified by email five times requesting participation and notification of public meetings.

**Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan**

<b>Name of Plan</b>	<b>Lead Organization</b>	<b>How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?</b>
Continuum of Care	MS United to End Homelessness	The goals are consistent, identifying the continued need to develop an effective strategic plan, secure adequate resources & stimulate improved participation of the community in the long-term efforts to address poverty, prevent homelessness and improve the quality of life for Hattiesburg residents.

**Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts**

**Narrative (optional)**

Optional

## **AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)**

### **1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting**

The City of Hattiesburg complies with our Citizen Participation Plan, which contains the City's policies and procedures for public involvement in the 2025 Annual Action Plan. The City's plan dictates a 30-day comment period prior to City Council approval of the Annual Action Plan.

A public notice was approved by council to be published in the Hattiesburg Post alerting the public that the City was seeking public input as to the specific needs, ideas, and projects that will benefit low-moderate income citizens in Hattiesburg with the utilization of the CDBG and HOME funds with the 2025 grant funding.

The City emailed notifications to the Community Development Division Community partners list of Neighborhood Associations and Non-Profits (5/7/25, 5/29/25, 6/13/25, 6/24/25 and 7/9/25) and posted on its website. (citizen participation documents are attached). Information submitted in the notifications were requests to attend the upcoming public meetings, comment form and a flyer notification.

The City held three public meetings, May 14, 2025, July 8, 2025, and July 24, 2025, to receive public input into the community needs.

Draft Review of the plan is available for a 30-day review July 25, 2025, to August 26, 2025. Draft plans are available on the City's Website, City Hall and the Community Development Division.

The City Council to approve the 2025 Action Plan on September 2, 2025, with submittal to HUD electronically thereafter.

## Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	City Website	Non-targeted/broad community	No response received	None	None	
2	Email Notifications	Non-targeted/broad community  Local agencies, Non-profits, local governments, Neighborhood Groups, Citizens	Email notifications - Notice of Public Hearings requesting public participation and surveys sent on May 7, 2025, May 29, 2025, June 13, 2025, June 24, 2025 and July 9, 2025	No comments received	None	
3	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	6/19/25 Proof of Publication of Public Hearings and notice of 30-day comment period of draft.	None	None	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community  Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	May 14, 2025 - Public Meeting -9 persons attended, which included representative of local government, grant writer and housing developer attended along with City Staff.	General questions were on the eligible uses of CDBG and HOME funds for housing development, new construction, eligible uses for businesses and how to become a CHDO. Ms. McCarty and Ms. Johnson answered all questions and encouraged citizens to contact the CD Department for specific documentation and processes.	None	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
5	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community  Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	July 8, 2025 - Public Hearing - 30 people attended the public hearing	Oral Comments during the public hearing include a variety of questions about the eligibility and usage of both CDBG and HOME program funds and the ability of the City to ask for additional funds	None	
6	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community  Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	July 24, 2025 - Public Hearing	Comments to be updated after the meeting	None	



Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
7	City Website, Newspaper Ad, City Hall	Minorities  Persons with disabilities  Non-targeted/broad community  Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	30-Day Public Review of the Draft 2025 Annual Action Plan. Comments will be received from July 25, 2025 to August 26, 2025.	Comments to be updated after the comment period ends	None	

**Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach**

## Expected Resources

### AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c)(1,2)

#### Introduction

May 14, 2025, HUD notified the City of Hattiesburg of its PY 2025 CDBG Funding Allocation of \$569,656.00 and HOME Funding Allocation of \$296,670.90. The City does not anticipate generating any program income during PY 2025. Use of funds for 2025 will primary be utilized for housing programs, (owner occupied housing rehabilitation, emergency and minor housing repairs and tenant based rental assistance, project activity delivery costs, and required CHDO set-aside) using eligible CDBG and HOME funds. In addition, funds will be utilized for Public Service Agencies and Planning and Administration costs.

#### Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	569,656.00	0.00	0.00	569,656.00	1,057,509.00	

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	296,670.90	0.00	0.00	296,670.90	549,137.10	

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

**Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied**

The City has no required matches for either CDBG or HOME. While we do not formally identify leverage resources, our partnerships with other non-profit entities, the city's long term planning in lower income neighborhoods, transit, and the like, and the city's aggressive approach to improving infrastructure throughout the city

**If appropriate, describe publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan**

The City has recently utilized its mapping capabilities to identify City and State-owned property throughout the City of Hattiesburg. These properties are reviewed periodically when need arises for particular projects, and the City intends to continue this approach of utilizing property already in its inventory (when appropriate) before seeking property to purchase. Currently the City is utilizing land acquired with prior year CDBG funds and proposed prior and current year CDBG funding to rehabilitate an old church into a community center, which is now in construction stage and anticipated completion during this fiscal year.

**Discussion**

The City hopes to continue its partnerships through groups such as the MUTEH and the Southeast Coalition on Homelessness in a concerted effort to strategically address problems and mutual concerns. As in the past, the City values these and other such partnerships as community partners and brings differing resources to the table - funding, volunteers, services, etc. - for mutual benefit. The City has hired a Homeless Coordinator to work directly with the Southeast Homeless Coalition to address homeless issues, with a special emphasis on veterans and the chronic homeless population. The City will also continue to seek out funding opportunities such as those available for housing activities through the Federal Home Loan Bank, and the Mississippi Home Corporation.

## Annual Goals and Objectives

### AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

#### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Improve Access to Affordable Housing	2023	2027	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Increase Affordable Housing Inventory/Condition	CDBG: \$395,724.80 HOME: \$222,503.17	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 15 Household Housing Unit Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 40 Households Assisted
2	CHDO Set-aside	2023	2027	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Increase Affordable Housing Inventory/Condition	HOME: \$44,500.64	Homeowner Housing Added: 1 Household Housing Unit
3	Address High Priority Public Service Needs	2023	2027	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development		Public Services- Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$60,000.00	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	CDBG Administration and Planning	2023	2027	administration	Citywide		CDBG: \$113,931.20	Other: 1 Other
5	HOME Administration & Planning	2023	2027	Administration	Citywide		HOME: \$29,667.09	Other: 1 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

## Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Improve Access to Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	Improve Access to Affordable Housing CDBG - Owner occupied Housing Repair and Emergency Repair program (roof, minor repairs, plumbing, etc.) - City Wide HOME - Owner Occupied Substantial Rehabilitation Program - City Wide TBRA - Household Income Eligible Rental Assistance - City Wide All Assistance provided for 100% low and moderate Income
2	Goal Name	CHDO Set-aside
	Goal Description	CHDO Set-aside Funding to be awarded to an eligible CHDO for an affordable housing activity that benefits a low-income household
3	Goal Name	Address High Priority Public Service Needs
	Goal Description	CDBG funding for eligible local non-profits to provide services and needs to low-income citizens of Hattiesburg. - City Wide

4	<b>Goal Name</b>	CDBG Administration and Planning
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Administration and planning funds will pay for eligible costs required to administer the CDBG Entitlement Programs in compliance with federal, state and local regulations and policies. Fair housing educational outreach activities will also be supported with CDBG funds.
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	HOME Administration & Planning
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Administration and planning funds will pay for eligible costs required to administer the CDBG entitlement Programs in compliance with federal, state and local regulations and policies'. Fair housing educational outreach activities will also be supported with CDBG funds.

## Projects

### AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

#### Introduction

The following is a listing of projects that the City of Hattiesburg proposes to undertake using CDBG and HOME funds for 2025.

#### Projects

#	Project Name
1	2025 CDBG Administration and Planning
2	2025 CDBG Housing Programs
3	2025 Public Services
4	2025 HOME Administration and Planning
5	2025 HOME Substantial Rehabilitation
6	2025 HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
7	2025 CHDO Set-Aside

**Table 7 - Project Information**

#### Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

For the 2025 CDBG and HOME Program Years, the City of Hattiesburg's basis for allocation investments into housing needs for low- and moderate-income residents. These projects and activities include CDBG Emergency and Minor Homeowner Housing Repairs, HOME Homeowner Substantial Rehabilitation, Tenant Based Rental Assistance and set-aside HOME funding for a eligible Community Housing Development Organization. The City will also assist several local public service agencies that provide services to the low income citizens of Hattiesburg.



**AP-38 Project Summary**  
**Project Summary Information**

DRAFT

1	<b>Project Name</b>	2025 CDBG Administration and Planning
	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide Low/Mod Census Tracts
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	CDBG Administration and Planning
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Improve Community Resilience/Ability to Respond
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$113,931.00
	<b>Description</b>	CDBG funds will be used to pay eligible cost associated with implementing projects and activities in compliance with applicable federal program regulations and policies.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2027
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	CDBG funds will be used to pay eligible cost associated with implementing projects and activities in compliance with applicable federal program regulations and policies.
2	<b>Project Name</b>	2025 CDBG Housing Programs
	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Improve Access to Affordable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Address and Prevent Homelessness Increase Affordable Housing Inventory/Condition
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$395,725.00
	<b>Description</b>	CDBG funds will be utilized to support housing activities such as homeowner rehab, emergency repairs, and roof repairs.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2027
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	between 5 - 15
	<b>Location Description</b>	Individual low-income households city-wide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	owner-occupied rehab, emergency repairs, and roof repair
	<b>Project Name</b>	2025 Public Services

3	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide Low/Mod Census Tracts
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Address High Priority Public Service Needs
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services- Non-Housing Community Development Public Services- Housing
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$60,000.00
	<b>Description</b>	CDBG funds allowed for a wide range of eligible public service activities that meet a national objective.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2027
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Average of 20-50 households.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Wide range of activities such as fair housing, child care, job training, services for seniors, homeless and homeless.
4	<b>Project Name</b>	2025 HOME Administration and Planning
	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide Low/Mod Census Tracts
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	HOME Administration & Planning
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$29,667.00
	<b>Description</b>	HOME Investment Partnership funds will be used to pay eligible costs associated with implementing projects and activities in compliance with applicable federal program regulations and policies.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2027
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	HOME Investment Partnership funds will be used to pay eligible costs associated with implementing projects and activities in compliance with applicable federal program regulations and policies.

5	<b>Project Name</b>	2025 HOME Substantial Rehabilitation
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Improve Access to Affordable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Address and Prevent Homelessness Increase Affordable Housing Inventory/Condition
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$152,503.00
	<b>Description</b>	Owner-occupied substantial rehabilitation
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2028
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	1 -3
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	owner-occupied rehab
6	<b>Project Name</b>	2025 HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide Low/Mod Census Tracts
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Improve Access to Affordable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Address and Prevent Homelessness Improve Community Resilience/Ability to Respond
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$70,000.00
	<b>Description</b>	The goal of this activity is to assist tenants who are at risk of losing their housing.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2027
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	upwards of 50-60 people
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Goal of this activity is to assist tenants who are at risk of losing their housing.
7	<b>Project Name</b>	2025 CHDO Set-Aside
	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide Low/Mod Census Tracts

<b>Goals Supported</b>	Improve Access to Affordable Housing CHDO Set-aside
<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Increase Affordable Housing Inventory/Condition
<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$44,500.00
<b>Description</b>	Funding to be awarded to a CHDO for an affordable housing activity that benefits a low and/or very low-income household.
<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2029
<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	1
<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
<b>Planned Activities</b>	Funding to be awarded to a CHDO for an affordable housing activity that benefits a low and/or very low-income household.

## **AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)**

### **Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed**

All housing related CDBG and HOME projects and public service projects and assistance are eligible city-wide to low and moderate-income residents. All public facilities and public infrastructure projects are located in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods as per the Census Tract and Block Group designation of a minimum of 51% low and moderate income. All housing related projects are 100% low and moderate income eligible. Funds provided to Public Services agencies will assist eligible low- and moderate-income citizens of Hattiesburg.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
Citywide	100
Low/Mod Census Tracts	

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

The City of Hattiesburg overall meets the 51% low- and moderate-income designation. 100% of the CDBG and HOME funds are eligible city-wide as all proposed residents of the housing units will be low and very low-income households. Public Service Agencies are required to benefit households of a least 70% - 100% low and moderate income. The City is required by HUD to provide at least 70% of its CDBG funding to low- and moderate-income citizens. The City feels these projects and activities will assist the greatest portion of eligible low income citizens in Hattiesburg.

### **Discussion**

not applicable

## Affordable Housing

### AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

#### Introduction

To help achieve its goals of providing suitable living environments and improving access to affordable housing for its low to moderate income residents, the City historically has invested a majority of its CDBG and HOME resources in housing rehabilitation and emergency repair programs. These activities benefit the owner occupants, improve the conditions of the City's housing stock and enhance the general environment of lower income neighborhoods. The City also has a history of supporting first time homebuyers through its down payment assistance program that it will continue as resources and community priorities allow. This year the city will include a program for tenant based rental assistance to assist low income renters in maintaining affordable housing.

The City of Hattiesburg's LeadSAFE Program Grant was eliminated this fiscal year as part of the current federal administration's cuts to grants and programs. The LeadSAFE Hattiesburg Program purpose was to encourage rehabilitation of housing built prior to 1979 by providing no-cost inspections to identify the presence of lead-based paint (LBP) that can permanently impair the health of children ages six and under. Educating and alleviating fears of pregnant women and parents with young children about LBP Hazards is an effective tool for protecting public health and safety while encouraging the acquisition and improvement of older houses located throughout the community. LeadSAFE Hattiesburg also provided a variety of no-cost LBP hazard safety training courses that can lead towards EPA certification that will allow local contractors and others performing residential rehabilitation activities to perform LBP inspections, assessments and abatement. If the program and grant are restored in the future the City of Hattiesburg will re-apply for this needed program.

In Program Year 2025, the city will help build capacity of Community Development Organizations (CHDOs) to assist in meeting the housing needs of Hattiesburg residents.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	51
Special-Needs	0
Total	51

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	10
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	40
Acquisition of Existing Units	1
Total	51

**Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type**

## Discussion

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## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

### **Introduction**

Mississippi Reginal Housing Authority VIII (Now South Mississippi Housing Authority) does not own or operate assisted/public housing in Hattiesburg. The Hattiesburg Housing Authority manages a diverse range of public housing developments with a mix of town homes and single-family homes. The Hattiesburg Housing Authority manages 296 Public Housing units in the City of Hattiesburg.

### **Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing**

Hattiesburg Housing Authority is continuing to seek to secure funding to rehabilitate the 1940s Briarfield Homes development from 120 functionally obsolete public housing units into assisted housing units through the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program and its associated long-term project-based vouchers. Utilizing the City of Hattiesburg's existing HOME funds is no longer a viable option.

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

Hattiesburg Housing Authority encourages residents to be involved in management, which includes participating in development of capital improvement plans and serving on the Resident Advisory Board (RAB). Hattiesburg Housing Authority also encourages residents to participate in homeownership opportunities and to attend on site workshops that include homeowner education and financial literacy programs, among other topics. Resident engagement initiatives include community meetings, social events and volunteer opportunities.

### **If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance**

Not Applicable

### **Discussion**

Optional

## **AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)**

### **Introduction**

In collaboration with MUTEH, the Southeast Coalition on Homelessness and other local, regional and state housing service agencies, the City will continue working to address and prevent homelessness in Hattiesburg. The City will continue to pursue additional resources to support an increased number of transitional housing units and to increase the inventory of and access to permanent affordable housing throughout Hattiesburg.

### **Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including**

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

During PY2025, the City will continue to work with its partner agencies and will support on-going efforts to reach out to homeless people, especially unsheltered persons, and assess individual needs. The City will continue to support the annual Point in Time Count. It also will encourage local agencies and organizations to take advantage of HIMS training opportunities and use the homeless information system to comprehensively improve case management and efficiency in delivery services.

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

Emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless populations are met by various agencies, including MUTEH, ASC-Hattiesburg, the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter and the Shafer Center. The City of Hattiesburg does not receive an annual ESG allocation but provides input regarding use of ESG funds to benefit with emergency and transitional housing needs within the City. The City supports expanding affordable housing options and helping homeless and near homeless individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency.

The City will provide letters of support for grant applications submitted by the Southeast Coalition on Homelessness, ASC, the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter, Inc., the Salvation Army-Hattiesburg and other agencies and organizations to assist in their efforts to provide emergency shelter and transitional housing in the City. The City also will continue working with these agencies to identify opportunities to expand local emergency shelter and transitional housing resources.

**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 supports the on-going work of the agencies and organizations providing housing assistance services for all homeless populations in Hattiesburg, 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. Hattiesburg's Homeless Coordinator will continue working with housing assistance providers to assist homeless and near-homeless populations with access emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing and supportive housing services, as needed, to meet an individual's and a family's needs. The Homeless Coordinator also helps link the near-homeless with available housing resources so they may avoid becoming homeless and helps individuals and families make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, to shorten the period that individuals and families experience homelessness. She also works with MUTEH and the Southeast Coalition on Homelessness to facilitate access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units and to prevent individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

**Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: 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); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.**

During PY2025, the City of Hattiesburg will continue working with MUTEH, the Southeast Coalition on Homelessness, the Lighthouse Rescue Mission, ASC-H, and other housing assistance providers to help meet the housing and supportive services needs of extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are 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, or receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth so they may avoid becoming homeless.

In PY2025, the City will continue working with the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII to expand the number of housing assistance vouchers available to the homeless and near homeless in Hattiesburg and supports the Hattiesburg Housing Authority's plan to rehabilitate one of their multifamily public

housing developments.

## **Discussion**

The City's HOME and CDBG Programs will continue to support housing rehab and repair activities for low- and moderate-income homeowners. Historically, many of the households served by these activities include disabled and/or senior family members. Though there are no activities proposed in the 2025 action plan for the direct purpose of serving special needs populations other than the homeless, all other activities will inevitably provide indirect benefit to other special needs populations such as those with disabilities, people with HIV/AIDS, and the elderly.

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## **AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)**

### **Introduction:**

Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice is a component of the statewide Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, which identifies local barriers to affordable housing that will require considerable resources and many years to eliminate. By working with a growing network of housing agencies, housing assistance providers, faith-based and other nonprofit organizations and residents, the City has begun the process of eliminating affordable housing barriers and is committed to providing suitable living environments for all of its residents, particularly to low- to moderate-income individuals and households.

### **Actions it planned 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**

The City reviews and updates its policies on an on-going basis, including land use and zoning regulations, building codes, schedule of fees and charges, and it has not identified any that need to be removed or ameliorated because they serve as a growth limit, adversely affect the return on residential investment or otherwise serve as barriers to affordable housing in Hattiesburg. The City's official zoning district map allows for a mixture of single- and multi-family residential units on varying lot sizes throughout the City as well as group homes in a variety of areas. Other land use regulations support sustainability and community resilience measures; promote preservation and enhancement of natural resources; and require stormwater management to improve the living environment of residents in every ward. The City complies with current building codes, which requires compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act and Fair Housing Act provisions.

With a large number of housing units in the City constructed prior to 1979, the City not only complies with 24 CFR Part 35 in terms of lead-based paint (LBP) assessment and abatement, it also requires homeowners and rental housing owners who participate in any of Hattiesburg's housing programs likewise to comply.

Historically, lower-income housing tended to be located in areas subject to recurring flooding since they were considered less desirable and thus more affordable. Hattiesburg, like many cities across the USA, requires new housing to be constructed at or above a specified base flood elevation to protect public health and minimize flood damage to property, which generally increases the cost of a home.

In recent years, a barrier to affordable housing was created when FEMA placed a limit on the total cost or value a homeowner may invest in repairs or rehabilitation of his/her home over a specified number of years. In some cases, this precludes homeowners from being able to protect their investment by

repairing or replacing roofs and windows in between storm events. More recently, changes to the

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) now factors in a structure's proximity to water bodies that may flood, regardless of the property's elevation, history of flooding, or whether or not it is located in a flood prone zone. Thus, both FEMA regulations and the new NFIP rating system have decreased the affordability of many residences. FEMA, the insurance industry and lending institutions that require property insurance for houses with mortgages are not able to identify how many years insurance premiums will continue to increase annually for houses not in a flood zone, not at a low elevation and not having previously flooded. As one insurance industry representative stated, the only thing that is known is that the cost of residential insurance premiums will continue to increase. Unlike construction costs and property insurance premiums, which the City has no control over, Hattiesburg property taxes have not been increased recently, and permit fees and related use charges remain reasonable. The City will continue to work with the USM Institute for Disability Studies, the Mississippi Center for Justice, Mississippi Legal Services and other fair housing advocates to remove barriers identified in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

#### **Discussion:**

During PY2025, the City will continue its community outreach efforts to educate residents about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act and will continue to work with local lending institutions, the United Way of SE MS, the Hattiesburg Public School District and volunteers to offer no-cost financial literacy workshops to improve residents' understanding of how to make their money work effectively to achieve their housing goals.

## **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction:**

The City of Hattiesburg will continue working to eliminate duplication of services to maximize benefits from its investment of public resources and will continue to work collaboratively with local, regional and state agencies and organizations to meet the considerable needs of its residences in all income brackets, but particularly the needs of its very low and low-income residents and those with special needs.

### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

The City will continue to work with local faith-based organizations and other community organizations to identify and address obstacles to meeting underserved needs in Hattiesburg. The City also will work with local, regional, state and federal agencies to expand resources available to meet the growing needs of its very low and low-income residents and homeless populations with recent increases in inflation and interest rates.

Efforts to recruit and organize volunteers to help address some of the unmet needs of the underserved, such as assisting low-income special needs residents with minor home repairs, conducting no-cost financial literacy classes, and will be made by the City and its collaborating partners to better meet the needs of the underserved.

Broadband Access for low-income neighborhoods. The City is utilizing CDBG-CV funding and has initiated a program with C-Spire to install broadband access to Nine (9) different low-income neighborhoods within the City. The broadband will be installed on City public park and land within the low-income neighborhoods. Eight of the nine areas have been approved while one is still in environmental review due to flooding area. Funding for the projects will pay for equipment and installation.

The nine areas include: 9th Street Ballpark; C E Roy Walking Trail; Dewitt Sullivan Park; Duncan Lake; Eastside Park; Hattiesburg Boxing Gym and Club; Vernon Dahmer Park; and Tatum Park.

### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

The City will research ownership of vacant lots as a first step toward exploring opportunities for residential infill development, which will depend on resource availability, zoning and overall site suitability among other things. The City will encourage owners of vacant lots with abandoned structures to sell them “as is” to a nonprofit housing organization or developer for redevelopment into affordable rental housing. The City of Hattiesburg will continue to work with housing developers and realtors to encourage housing development and to provide supportive zoning that supports a diverse range of affordable housing units throughout the City, especially to meet the needs of the low-income, elderly

and those with special needs.

The City also will continue to explore the feasibility of developing less traditional housing, including group homes and tiny or small homes. The City will invest its HOME and CDBG resources to maximize benefits provided to residents and it will continue to lobby MRHAVIII for an expanded number of housing vouchers to assist Hattiesburg residents, especially low-income, elderly and special needs populations.

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

The City of Hattiesburg's LeadSAFE Program Grant was eliminated this fiscal year as part of the current federal administration's cuts to grants and programs. Through the hazard reduction program, the City offered no-cost paint inspections for income-eligible households whose homes were built before 1979 to determine if LBP is present. The City worked collaboratively with MSDH and local health service providers to educate parents, pregnant women, landlords and those working in housing rehabilitation or repair businesses about LBP hazards. The City will continue to check for LBP within its housing repair and rehabilitation programs, as required by HUD. No-cost brochures are available in City Hall, identifying typical sources of LBP poisoning and related information to improve awareness of this health hazard, which may permanently impair children ages six and under.

Based on information from MSDH, the public education and outreach efforts that were provided over the last several years appear to be working to decrease the number of LBP poisonings across the state.

### **Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

While the issue of poverty is far more complex than any one symptom or circumstance, financial literacy and an understanding of traditional banking and traditional (non-predatory) lending can at least serve as pieces to the puzzle of fighting poverty. Efforts like this are beneficial to people of any income group.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

The City plans to continue facilitating meetings with various housing agencies, and participating in the Community Action Agency, the Southeast Coalition on Homelessness, and other similar organizations as the opportunity arises. The City will continue to assess the group for gaps in representation and work to close those gaps by bringing other valuable participants to the discussion.

### **Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies**

The City of Hattiesburg will continue to collaborate with the HHA, MRHA VIII, Mississippi Home Corp, local service providers and community groups to eliminate duplication of services, more



comprehensively address public and private affordable housing issues and invest its limited resources to maximize benefits to residents.

The City will continue to collaborate with other agencies and organizations to educate residents, in both public and private housing, about their rights under the Fair Housing Act and responsibilities of landlords to respond to reasonable requests.

**Discussion:**

By continuing to share and efficiently use resources, eliminating duplication of services and expanding the community's network of supportive services agencies, organizations and volunteers, the City of Hattiesburg is making progress toward addressing high priority needs. Through continued collaboration, work will continue to improve and expand delivery of supportive services and housing assistance to Hattiesburg's low- to moderate-income households throughout the City.

The Consolidated Plan development process has re-enforced awareness of the community's extensive needs and prioritization of those needs has been constructive. Implementation of projects and activities identified through this process will improve living environments for residents, particularly the low- and moderate-income households with improved access to affordable housing.

## Program Specific Requirements

### AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(l)(1,2,4)

#### Introduction:

In Program Year (PY) 2025, the City will be awarded a CDBG allocation of \$569,656.00 and a HOME Investment Partnership allocation of \$296,670.90 from HUD. It does not anticipate generating any program income in PY2025. The City identifies its overall benefit period to be one year, 2025.

#### Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

##### Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit people of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	70.00%

#### HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

##### Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is

as follows:

The City has no other forms of investment beyond FY 2025 HOME allocation, \$296,670.90.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

The City of Hattiesburg Utilizes the Recapture Provisions of HOME funds for its Homebuyer Assistance Program. A copy of the Recapture Provisions is attached to this report.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

Not Applicable currently

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

Not Applicable currently

5. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

Not applicable currently.

6. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

Not applicable currently

7. If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that

limits the opportunities of people on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

Not Applicable currently

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## COMMENT SHEET

### City of Hattiesburg Proposed 2025 Annual Action Plan CDBG and HOME Entitlement Programs

The City of Hattiesburg is in the process of soliciting citizen and stakeholder input for its proposed **2025 Annual Action Plans** for use of CDBG and HOME Program funding. Any input you have concerning the housing and/or non-housing community development needs of the City of Hattiesburg is valued and will be considered during this process, and will be included in the final plan for submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Represented (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Comments on the Action Plan will be received until August 26, 2025, 5:00 p.m. Comments may be mailed or delivered to the Community Development Division, 200 Forrest Street, or emailed to [cdbg@hattiesburgms.com](mailto:cdbg@hattiesburgms.com). If you have any questions, please contact Community Development at 601-554-1006.