

CITY OF CHEYENNE

CDBG Community Development Block Grant

DRAFT

Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report

Program Year 2023



ADMINISTERED BY: THE DIVISION OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Date: November 8, 2024

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

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

The City of Cheyenne's activities indeed align with the Consolidated Plan goals. The Consolidated Plan is a crucial document that outlines the city's strategy for addressing affordable housing and community development needs over a five-year period. Here's how Cheyenne ensures alignment with these goals:

Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan

The City of Cheyenne develops a Five-Year Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) and an Annual Action Plan (AAP) to guide the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. These plans are designed to:

- 1. Support projects that provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing
- 2. Address homelessness
- 3. Expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons

The 2024 Annual Action Plan represents the final year of Cheyenne's 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

Alignment with Goals

Cheyenne's activities align with the Consolidated Plan goals in several ways:

Housing and Community Development

- The Housing & Community Development (H&CD) Division leverages CDBG resources to promote sustainable community development efforts, including housing, public improvements, and essential services for those in need.

Citizen Participation

- The city implements a Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) to ensure public involvement in developing Cheyenne's CDBG program[1].

- A nine-member H&CD Advisory Council oversees the grant process, conducts site visits, and evaluates sub-grantees[1].

Specific Objectives

The 2023 Annual Action Plan outlines specific objectives that align with the Consolidated Plan goals[2]:

- 1. Provide Safe, Decent, Affordable Housing:
- Assist 15 low-income homeowners with needed rehabilitation
- 2. Promote Self-Sufficiency Through Service Provision:
- Assist 1,146 low-income persons with public service activities
- 3. Public Facilities Assistance:
- Assist 12 homeless persons with homeless facilities rehabilitation
- 4. Preserve and improve low-income neighborhoods:
- Assist 1,700 low-income persons with public facilities or infrastructure activities

Evaluation and Improvement

Cheyenne continuously evaluates its performance and adjusts its strategies:

- The H&CD Division analyzes past performance to identify areas of improvement[1].
- The city explores new ways to utilize CDBG funds to address the needs of Cheyenne's low- and moderate-income residents[1].
- Past programs have focused on community needs that continue to exist, including aging housing, public facility rehabilitation, neighborhood improvements, and social service support for low-income residents[2].

By adhering to these processes and continuously aligning its activities with the Consolidated Plan goals, the City ensures that its CDBG-funded programs effectively address the community's needs and meet HUD's National Objectives.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected - Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected - Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Job training and opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development		Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	60	16	26.67%			
Job training and opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development		Jobs created/retained	Jobs	3	0	0.00%			
Preserve and improve low income neighborhoods	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG:	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	4500	0	0.00%	1120	0	0.00%
Preserve and improve low income neighborhoods	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	2	0	0.00%			

Preserve and improve low income neighborhoods	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	5	0	0.00%			
Preserve and improve low income neighborhoods	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	50	0	0.00%			
Preserve and improve low income neighborhoods	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	2	0	0.00%			
Preserve and improve low income neighborhoods	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	2	0	0.00%			
Program Administation	Program Administration	CDBG:	Other	Other	5	4	80.00%	1	1	100.00%
Promote self- sufficiency through service provision	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG:	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	10000	3692	36.92%	1146	3692	322.16%

Promote self- sufficiency through service provision	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG:	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	20	0	0.00%			
Promote self- sufficiency through service provision	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG:	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	575		0	572	
Promote self- sufficiency through service provision	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG:	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added	Beds	0	0		0	0	
Promote self- sufficiency through service provision	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG:	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	50	0	0.00%			
Provide safe, decent affordable housing	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$60500	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	35	3	8.57%	15	3	20.00%
Provide safe, decent affordable housing	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$60500	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	2	0	0.00%			

Public Facilities Assistance	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG:	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	2000	0	0.00%			
Public Facilities Assistance	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG:	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	100	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%
Public Facilities Assistance	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG:	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	45	0	0.00%			
Public Facilities Assistance	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	500	0	0.00%			

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction's use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

Assess how the jurisdiction's use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

The City of Cheyenne has effectively utilized its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to address high-priority needs identified in its Consolidated Plan goals and objectives. Here's an assessment of how the city's use of CDBG funds aligns with its priorities:

Alignment with Consolidated Plan Goals

The city's CDBG-funded activities for Program Year 2023 directly support the goals outlined in the 2020 Comprehensive Consolidated Plan:

Promoting Self-Sufficiency

Three public service activities were funded to serve city residents with critical assistance:

- Needs Inc. Food Pantry
- Comea Homeless Shelter
- Domestic Violence Shelter

These projects fall under the "Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit" category.

Providing Safe, Decent, Affordable Housing

Progress was made on this priority goal through:

• Habitat Home Repairs Program: Completed three critical home repair projects, assisting three household units.

Program Administration

The city achieved its goal of responsibly administering CDBG funds.

Addressing Highest Priority Activities

The city focused on high-impact projects that align with its top priorities:

Sound Barrier Wall Project

- \$68,052 in CDBG funds used
- Benefited 58 victims of domestic violence
- Enhanced safety and security for a public facility serving vulnerable populations

Pioneer Park Picnic Structure

- This project was completed in the fall of 2023 and used 2022 funds to \$72,045 in CDBG funds to complete an Area benefit project improving a park in a low to moderate-income neighborhood.
- Added one new public facility, supporting the "Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit" goal.

CDBG-CV Response

The city also ensured that CDBG-CV (Coronavirus) projects aligned with Consolidated Plan goals:

• Provided training and opportunities to eight Climb Wyoming clients, promoting self-sufficiency.

Efficient Use of Funds

The City of Cheyenne is committed to using CDBG funds effectively and efficiently. The city maximizes the impact of its limited resources by simultaneously targeting projects that address multiple priorities, such as improving public facilities in low-income areas and supporting vulnerable populations.

By consistently aligning its CDBG-funded activities with Consolidated Plan goals and focusing on high-priority needs, the City of Cheyenne is making meaningful progress toward improving the quality of life for its low—and moderate-income residents.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted). 91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	2,436
Black or African American	299
Asian	1
American Indian or American Native	105
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	303
Total	3,144
Hispanic	606
Not Hispanic	3,086

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

Narrative

In Program Year 2023, the City of Cheyenne utilized Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to serve a diverse population of 3,747 residents. The demographic breakdown of those assisted reveals a comprehensive approach to community support.

Demographic Overview

Racial and Ethnic Composition

Most beneficiaries were White (2,436), followed by African Americans (299), Others (303), American Indians (105), and Asians (1)—additionally, 398 individuals identified as Hispanic.

Special Population Groups

Among the total served:

- 528 were elderly
- 752 were disabled
- 633 were Single Heads of Households
- 11 identified as Female Heads of Households

Income Distribution

The program primarily focused on low-income residents:

- 3,231 (86.16%) were below 30% of Area Median Income (AMI)
- 307 (8.19%) were between 30% and 50% AMI
- 107 (2.85%) were between 50% and 80% AMI
- 42 (1.12%) were over 80% AMI

Program Highlights

Public Service Grants

- <u>Food Assistance:</u> The Needs Food Pantry utilized public service funds to provide food boxes to 3,109 beneficiaries, addressing food insecurity in the community.
- <u>Domestic Violence Support:</u> Safehouse provided emergency funds for 48 victims of domestic violence, offering crucial support to vulnerable individuals.
- <u>Utility Assistance:</u> Funding provided to the Comea homeless shelter supported utility assistance for 590 beneficiaries, helping to ensure access to essential services.
- Employment Training: The CDBG CV-Climb Health Care Training project utilized \$20,000 in CDBG-CV funding to provide health care training for low-income single mothers to assist with the COVID-19 response. Eight Climb participants benefited from this specialized training program.

Housing Rehabilitation for LMI Homeowners

• Habitat home rehabilitation funds were used to assist three households, improving the living conditions of low-income families.

<u>Infrastructure Improvement</u>

- Domestic Violence Shelter Barrier Wall: This project utilized \$62,052 in CDBG funds to construct a sound barrier wall for a public facility serving domestic violence victims and their children. While initially reported to benefit 58 temporary shelter residents, the wall will continue enhancing privacy and security for shelter occupants for years.
- The Pioneer Picnic Shelter project, funded by Program Year 2022 CDBG allocations, reached completion during Program Year 2023. The project involved the construction of a picnic shelter, utilizing \$72,457.00 in CDBG funds. Strategically located in a Low-to-Moderate Income area, the shelter serves a neighborhood where 77.7% of residents fall within LMI categories.
- The Lincoln Park ADA Sidewalk Improvement Project has replaced a previously planned Habitat

^{**}All beneficiaries were residents of the City of Chevenne. **

for Humanity Acquisition & Rehabilitation project for a future Habitat family. This new initiative will utilize \$290,000 in CDBG funds to install sidewalks and ADA-compliant ramps, enhancing safety and accessibility for residents in an LMI neighborhood surrounding a local community park. The project is slated for completion by December 2024. As an area benefit project, it will serve Low-to-Moderate-Income residents within Census Tract 2, Block Group 2.

This comprehensive use of CDBG funds demonstrates the City of Cheyenne's commitment to addressing various community needs, from necessities like food and utilities to infrastructure improvements and support for vulnerable populations.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	555,102	169,337

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The City of Cheyenne's strategic allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in Program Year 2023 demonstrates a commitment to addressing critical community needs and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The CDBG-funded activities included housing improvements, public services, and enhancement of community facilities. A portion of the funds, \$89,602, was allocated to program administration, ensuring efficient operation of the Housing & Community Development Division. This investment in administrative capacity is crucial for effectively implementing CDBG-funded activities.

The City's allocation of \$64,800 was divided between three essential services: \$38,750 for Comea Shelter's utility reimbursement, \$10,000 for the Domestic Violence Shelter's Victim's Fund, and \$16,050 for Needs Inc. Food Pantry. These investments strengthened the community's safety net by addressing homelessness, supporting domestic violence survivors, and combating food insecurity.

A substantial investment of \$150,000, supplemented by an additional \$47,250 in CDBG-CV funds, was made towards the Comea Women's Dormitory Expansion Project. This project, set to be completed by February 2025, will significantly increase the shelter's capacity to accommodate homeless women, addressing a critical need in the community.

The city also allocated \$60,500 to Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County's Home Repair Program, of which \$14,935.37 has been utilized to complete three projects. This investment in housing rehabilitation supports low-income homeowners and contributes to maintaining the City's housing stock.

These CDBG-funded investments, address diverse community needs while promoting inclusivity and resilience. By strategically allocating funds to housing, public services, and community facilities, Cheyenne is meeting immediate needs and laying the groundwork for long-term social and economic benefits.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
City of Cheyenne	100	100	

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

All funding was utilized within the City of Cheyenne, benefiting various low-moderate income (LMI) areas and populations:

Habitat for Humanity

- Main office: Census Tract 7, Block 3 (61.28% LMI)
- Home Repair clients: Qualify as LMI, the majority between 30% and 50% Area Median Income (AMI)
- Client residences: Distributed throughout Cheyenne neighborhoods

Comea Shelter

- Location: 1504 Stinson Avenue, Census Tract 7, Block 1 (61.28% LMI)
- Clients: Shelter residents

Needs, Inc.

- Main office: Census Tract 2, Block 2 (55.83% LMI)
- Clients: Scattered throughout Cheyenne

Local Domestic Violence Shelter

- Main office: Census Tract 3, Block Group 2 (53.32% LMI)
- Clients: Homeless victims of domestic violence

Program Administration

Main office: Census Tract 7, Block 1 (61.28% LMI)

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

By leveraging federal CDBG funds with various other funding sources, Cheyenne expanded the reach and impact of its community development efforts in Program Year 2023. While the City of Cheyenne Housing & Community Development Division did not require a match for CDBG funds, all awarded organizations leveraged their allocations with additional funding sources.

- Needs Inc Food Pantry leveraged \$16,050 in CDBG funds with \$75,000 from other sources, including \$65,000 from Food Bank of the Rockies and \$10,000 in private donations.
- Comea Shelter leveraged \$38,750 in CDBG funds, with \$75,000 from donations and other grant funding.
- The domestic violence shelter leveraged \$10,000 in CDBG funds, with an additional \$10,000 from fundraisers and other grants.
- Habitat for Humanity leveraged \$65,000 in CDBG funding for homeowner rehabilitation with additional funds from ReStore Revenue, donations, volunteer support, in-kind contributions, and foundation grants.

All awarded organizations maximized the impact of CDBG funds by covering their staffing and operating costs through private donations, fundraising income, and other grants. This approach allowed CDBG funds to be directed towards direct services and programs for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The Housing & Community Development Division utilized the administrative portion of the annual allocation to manage the City's CDBG program.

No publicly owned land or property was used within the jurisdiction to address the needs identified in the plan. By leveraging federal CDBG funds with various other funding sources, Cheyenne expanded the reach and impact of its community development efforts in Program Year 2023.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be		
provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be		
provided affordable housing units	15	3
Number of Special-Needs households to be		
provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	15	3

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through		
Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through		
The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through		
Rehab of Existing Units	15	3
Number of households supported through		
Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	15	3

Table 6 - Number of Households Supported

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

Habitat for Humanity faced challenges in meeting its 2023 goal of rehabilitating 15 homes. Many applicants were ineligible for CDBG funds as they lived outside the city, and organizational changes led to project delays. To adapt, Habitat shifted focus to smaller maintenance projects, which were easier to manage with limited staff and simpler to process through HUD. Recently, six projects were approved under this new approach. While the original goal wasn't met, Habitat is optimistic about 2024. They also organized a successful Repair Blitz day in October 2024, completing several rehabilitation and maintence

projects. This strategy allows their coordinator to concentrate on CDBG projects, potentially improving their ability to meet future goals.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The 2023 outcomes have significantly influenced the future outcomes the City of Cheyenne will include in annual action plans, particularly for the next Consolidated Plan. Habitat has decided to pause its application for home rehabilitation funding for the 2025 Program Year to allow the new program coordinator time to facilitate existing projects and focus on spending the remaining balance of funds from 2023 and 2024. Despite this pause in funding applications, housing rehabilitation remains a key priority for Cheyenne. Habitat has made substantial progress in addressing previous barriers by successfully identifying Sam.gov contractors for rehabilitation and maintenance projects and shifting focus to projects that fall under the HUD Maintenance-Rehabilitation category, enabling more timely project completions.

Looking ahead, Habitat plans to reevaluate the effectiveness of this transition to maintenance-rehabilitations, which will inform their decisions regarding future funding applications and overall program direction. The City of Cheyenne anticipates that this shift to a maintenance-focused approach will reduce the administrative burden on Habitat and potentially lead to continued partnership opportunities in providing critical home repairs for low and moderate-income (LMI) homeowners in Cheyenne.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	2	0
Low-income	1	0
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	3	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

The following rehabilitation projects were completed using 2023 CDBG funds, significantly impacting residents' lives by enhancing safety, maintaining property values, and improving accessibility. On Bent Avenue, \$6,600 in CDBG funds were utilized to repair a hole in a basement wall that had been temporarily filled with blankets. This essential repair benefited a disabled resident at 35% of the Low to Moderate Income (LMI) threshold, providing a safer and more secure living environment.

At Kelly Drive, \$9,600 in CDBG funds were allocated to install a wheelchair lift and an ADA-compliant cement pad, as the steep grade of the driveway made a traditional ramp unfeasible. This low-income household, at 50% of Area Median Income (AMI), is owned by two seniors whose disabled daughter resides with them; the new lift replaced an unsafe makeshift pallet ramp they had created for her wheelchair.

A critical roof maintenance rehabilitation project costing \$16,350 was completed on Broken Wheel Court for two disabled residents whose incomes fall below 30% AMI. This prevented further weather-related damage to their homes. These projects demonstrate the significant impact of CDBG funds on improving the quality of life for low-income and disabled residents and ensuring their homes are safe, accessible, and well-maintained.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

The City of Cheyenne has demonstrated its commitment to reducing homelessness through strategic resource allocation and partner coordination to maximize collective impact. In Program Year 2023, the city utilized \$38,750 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service funds to reimburse the Comea Shelter for utility expenses, benefiting 552 shelter residents by ensuring essential services provision. This assistance allowed the shelter to redirect more of its budget toward other critical services, creating a stable environment for individuals experiencing homelessness and fostering opportunities for self-sufficiency.

Preparation for Point-In-Time Count

The Housing & Community Development Manager (CDM) has taken a leadership role as secretary for the 2025 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count Committee. This involvement includes:

- Coordinating with local agencies for a registration event for unhoused individuals
- Developing a locations list for conducting interviews
- Planning participation in the "After Hours" count
- Arranging distribution of essential items during the count

Direct Engagement and Needs Assessment

The CDM has prioritized direct engagement with the unhoused population by attending Homeless Luncheons at Saint Joseph's Church. These interactions have highlighted:

- Physical and mental health issues as significant challenges
- The need for increased day shelter accessibility, especially during winter months

Healthcare Access Initiatives

Recognizing the importance of healthcare access, the CDM has:

- Worked closely with local clinics to learn about available services
- Consulted with Healthworks clinic about their upcoming relocation to address transportation barriers
- Engaged with Crossroads Health Clinic to gain insights into available services

Consulted with both clinics about potential CDBG funding opportunities

Both organizations submitted multiple letters of intent to apply for CDBG funds for the 2025 Grant Cycle.

Shelter Services Assessment

The Housing & Community Development Division has assessed shelter services availability:

- Identified operational challenges at the Welcome Mat Day Shelter through feedback from the unhoused community
- Consulted with the Welcome Mat, who addressed temporary closure issues promptly
- Highlighted the need for expanded and reliable shelter services in Cheyenne

These concerted efforts demonstrate an intentional approach to addressing homelessness by assessing needs, enhancing access to essential services and healthcare, and identifying gaps and opportunities for improving support systems within the community.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City allocated \$150,000 in 2023 funds to COMEA to expand its Women's Dormitory. This funding, combined with 2020 CDBG-CV funds, will increase the facility's capacity from 12 to 16 beds and include improved hygiene facilities. The initiative specifically targets the growing need for shelter among women experiencing homelessness, particularly those with chemical addictions or untreated health issues.

While the project deadline has been extended, and the number of beneficiaries served cannot be reported until the 2024 CAPER is completed, the City's commitment to addressing both immediate emergency shelter needs for its homeless population is evident through its CDBG funding priorities. These efforts align with the city's goal of helping low-income individuals and families avoid homelessness and assisting homeless persons in transitioning to permanent housing and becoming self-sufficient.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Given our modest HUD allocation, the City was unable to allocate 2023 CDBG funds for direct homelessness prevention services targeting extremely low-income individuals, families, or those being discharged from various institutions.

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 of Cheyenne allocated \$10,000 to an emergency victims fund to support survivors of domestic violence. This fund provides crucial financial assistance by covering the first month's rent and security deposit, enabling families to transition from shelter accommodations into stable rental housing. By offering this timely support, the program plays a vital role in preventing homelessness among vulnerable individuals and families. Rental assistance is particularly effective in preventing homelessness because it addresses one of the most significant barriers to housing stability - the upfront costs of securing a new residence. For low-income families fleeing domestic violence, these initial expenses can be insurmountable without assistance. By removing this financial obstacle, the program provides immediate housing security. It creates a foundation for long-term stability, allowing beneficiaries to focus on rebuilding their lives and working towards self-sufficiency.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Cheyenne Housing Authority (CHA) has implemented various initiatives to address the needs of public housing effectively. Each year, the CHA receives an annual allocation of Capital Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which are utilized to maintain and improve public housing properties. These funds are competitively bid and allocated for essential upgrades and replacements, including roofing, siding, windows, flooring, cabinets, HVAC systems, concrete, and blacktop. This ongoing investment ensures that properties remain well-maintained, operate efficiently, and adequately meet the housing needs of tenants.

In addition to capital improvements, the CHA administers the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program, which provides rental assistance to low-income families, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. This program enables qualifying households to secure suitable housing in the private market while the CHA subsidizes a portion of the rent paid to landlords. Furthermore, CHA operates specialized housing programs such as Indian Hills Manor and Pine Bluffs, which offer apartments specifically designed for seniors aged 62 and older and individuals with disabilities. These targeted initiatives are crucial in addressing the unique housing requirements of vulnerable populations within the community.

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

The Cheyenne Housing Authority (CHA) has implemented several strategies to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership. One key approach is engaging tenants in planning by inviting them to review and provide feedback on the agency's 5-year and Annual Plans. This initiative allows residents to voice their concerns and needs, which CHA considers when developing plans and allocating Capital Funds, ensuring that improvements are aligned with the community's actual needs.

Additionally, each multifamily public housing property has a Resident Council that provides a formal structure for tenant participation in management. These councils empower residents to collectively address concerns, propose ideas, and serve as liaisons between tenants and CHA administration, fostering a sense of ownership and involvement in their communities.

Regarding homeownership initiatives, CHA launched the Welcome Home Wyoming program in 2014, which offers down payment assistance to eligible households. While this program has successfully helped over 1,600 households become homeowners, participation by public housing residents has been minimal to date. CHA recognizes the challenges and continues exploring ways to make homeownership more accessible for public housing residents. By maintaining ongoing resident engagement and developing targeted programs, CHA aims to increase participation in homeownership in the future.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The Cheyenne Housing Authority (CHA) is not designated as a troubled housing authority. There are no troubled housing authorities within the City of Cheyenne's jurisdiction.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

The City has taken significant steps to remove barriers to affordable housing through a series of targeted zoning code amendments and policy changes. Responding to Affordable Housing Task Force recommendations, the Planning and Development Department implemented several critical modifications to the Unified Development Code between December 2023 and May 2024.

These amendments included removing minimum lot sizes for residential properties in non-agricultural zones, eliminating minimum land-area-per-unit requirements for multifamily housing, reducing parking space requirements for studio and one-bedroom apartments, relaxing window requirements for ground-floor residential units in certain zones, and easing material requirements for income-restricted housing. Additionally, the City increased the maximum height for houses to three stories, allowing for greater density and flexibility in residential development.

To further support affordable housing initiatives, the City passed an ordinance in September 2023 establishing a building permit fee reimbursement program for income-restricted properties, with caps of \$10,000 per multifamily project and \$5,000 per single-family project, up to an annual limit of \$150,000. This financial incentive aims to reduce development costs for affordable housing projects.

Recognizing the importance of childcare accessibility in housing affordability, the City also amended its zoning code in June 2024 to expand opportunities for childcare facilities, addressing a critical barrier to housing and income stability for many residents.

While these changes are expected to take time to show their full impact, the City is optimistic that they will encourage development, increase housing stock, and make the development process more affordable across all unit types. The cumulative effect of these housing-specific zoning code amendments is anticipated to positively impact Cheyenne's low- to moderate-income residents over time.

Furthermore, Cheyenne's participation in the third iteration of the Peer Cities Network, a national peer learning initiative organized by the Housing Solutions Lab at New York University's Furman Center, demonstrates the City's commitment to developing innovative solutions to pressing housing challenges. This eight-month initiative, which includes collaboration with other cities facing similar issues, provided valuable support to local housing officials as they address urgent housing policy challenges in Cheyenne.

These actions collectively represent a comprehensive approach to removing barriers to affordable housing and fostering a more inclusive housing market in Cheyenne. The city continues to evaluate and

implement additional measures to further its affordable housing goals and improve housing accessibility for all residents.

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

The City of Cheyenne is taking significant steps to address the needs of underserved populations through various initiatives and collaborations. In partnership with Laramie County and United Way, Cheyenne has established a grant program called Collaboration Grants, allocating \$750,000 for the 2023-2025 cycle. This funding supports local nonprofit organizations such as HealthWorks, Comea, and the Boys and Girls Club of Cheyenne, focusing on healthcare services, homeless shelter support, and youth programs. These efforts are part of a broader Human Services Agreement to enhance community impact in critical areas like education, economic mobility, and health. Additionally, the city has secured \$1.8 million from the State Land and Investment Board to fund water and sewer infrastructure for a Habitat for Humanity multifamily project.

In June 2023, Cheyenne launched a co-responder program that pairs behavioral health therapists from Cheyenne Regional Medical Center with local law enforcement officers to respond to mental health-related calls. This three-year pilot program seeks to provide more effective and compassionate responses to individuals experiencing mental health crises, potentially reducing unnecessary arrests while improving access to appropriate mental health services. Although it is still early to evaluate specific outcomes, similar initiatives in other communities have demonstrated positive results in decreasing the use of force and minimizing strain on law enforcement resources.

The Cheyenne Housing & Community Development Manager is actively involved in the Housing Action Team, which includes representatives from various organizations such as Healthworks and Habitat for Humanity. This team meets regularly to exchange updates, share resources, and collaborate with the Mayor's Task Force on Affordable Housing. The task force works to educate legislators and policymakers about issues impacting affordable housing locally and statewide, address landlord-tenant issues, and address other housing-related challenges.

On September 26, 2024, Cheyenne hosted a Community Partners Listening Session focused on the needs of unhoused populations. Facilitated discussions included city officials and agency representatives who identified significant barriers faced by this community. Major concerns included a lack of affordable housing units, long wait lists for housing assistance, high costs associated with hotels and application fees, landlords refusing housing vouchers, and insufficient overnight shelters. Mental health and healthcare-related barriers were also highlighted, particularly the lack of resources for recovery and the absence of Medicaid expansion.

The session revealed that housing affordability consistently ranks the highest priority among community needs, followed by mental health issues and communication challenges among service providers. Key insights emphasized the importance of collaboration between organizations to improve resource access and coordination. Proposed solutions include expanding transitional housing programs, enhancing

partnerships with landlords to accept housing vouchers, increasing mental health services, and leveraging technology for better service coordination.

Overall, while efforts exist to support Cheyenne's unhoused population, many solutions remain limited in scope. Prioritizing collaboration among agencies and expanding transitional housing options are critical strategies for alleviating homelessness. The city plans to utilize feedback from the listening session to inform future actions to improve conditions for underserved communities.

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

The City of Cheyenne has collaborated with Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County to expand the project timeline for rehabilitating a property acquired for a Habitat family. This project necessitated two rounds of testing and remediation to ensure the property was safe and lead-free, allowing Habitat volunteers and subcontractors to renovate the home on 10th Street in South Cheyenne for a low-to-moderate income (LMI) family. These actions have significantly reduced lead paint hazards in Cheyenne by permanently removing lead from the local housing stock, contributing to the city's ongoing efforts to create safer living environments.

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

The City of Cheyenne Housing & Community Development Division took several actions to reduce family poverty in the past year:

- 1. Allocated \$10,000 to Safehouse Services for emergency rental assistance, helping domestic abuse victims transition to stable homes.
- 2. Invested \$16,050 in CDBG funds to support Needs Inc.'s monthly food box program, addressing food insecurity among struggling families.
- 3. Provided \$60,500 in CDBG funding to Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County for critical home repairs, benefiting three families and preserving affordable housing.
- 4. Funded healthcare training for eight single mothers through Climb Wyoming, enabling them to secure better-paying jobs.

These initiatives addressed immediate needs while promoting long-term economic stability, demonstrating the city's commitment to alleviating poverty and fostering community resilience.

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

The City of Cheyenne's Housing & Community Development (H&CD) Division has implemented several strategic measures to enhance its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and preserve

institutional knowledge. These actions aim to ensure a seamless transition of leadership and maintain program effectiveness.

Leadership Transition

The H&CD Division took a proactive approach by hiring a new manager before the current manager's retirement. This overlap allowed for:

- Foundational training of the incoming manager
- Preservation of valuable institutional knowledge
- Continuity in program operations

Comprehensive Training

The new Community Development Manager underwent extensive training to build expertise in various aspects of CDBG management:

Online courses covering:

- CDBG grant management
- Davis Bacon and BAP regulations
- Environmental review procedures
- HUD NEPA requirements

Attendance at regional training sessions and federal funding summits

These training initiatives serve multiple purposes:

- Keeping the manager up-to-date with current practices
- Learning industry best practices
- Networking with other CDBG Grant Managers

Ongoing Communication

To ensure smooth operations and facilitate the transition, the division established:

Regular check-in calls with the HUD Region Representative

Benefits of These Actions

The measures taken by the H&CD Division are expected to yield several positive outcomes:

1. Smoother leadership transition

- 2. Maintained program continuity
- 3. Enhanced staff expertise
- 4. Improved communication with HUD

By focusing on preserving institutional knowledge and promoting continuous learning, the H&CD Division has positioned itself to more effectively manage CDBG funds and address Cheyenne's housing and community development needs.

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

The Housing & Community Development Division's efforts to enhance coordination among public and private housing and social services in Cheyenne significantly improve the lives of low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents. By fostering collaboration among a diverse group of key stakeholders, including housing authorities, medical centers, community action agencies, and various non-profit organizations, the H&CD Division is creating a comprehensive support network for those in need. This coordinated approach allows for a more efficient allocation of resources and a broader range of services for LMI residents.

The Community Development Manager's (CDM) active participation in the Laramie County Community Partnership's Housing Task Force meetings is crucial in this effort. These meetings serve as a platform for ongoing dialogue and collaboration, enabling stakeholders to share information, identify gaps in services, and develop innovative solutions to address the complex housing needs of LMI residents. By participating in these discussions, the CDM helps ensure that all relevant parties work together towards common goals, reducing duplication of efforts and maximizing the impact of available resources.

Furthermore, the CDM's involvement with the Wyoming Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (WyoNAHRO) Board extends the reach of these coordination efforts beyond Cheyenne to the entire state. This broader perspective allows for the exchange of best practices and innovative ideas from across Wyoming, which can be adapted and implemented in Cheyenne. The WyoNAHRO's mission to provide adequate housing and foster sound communities aligns perfectly with the goals of enhancing services for LMI residents. By serving on this board, the CDM can advocate for Cheyenne's needs at the state level while bringing back valuable insights and resources to benefit local initiatives.

This intentional approach to coordination—combining local stakeholder collaboration, active participation in community task forces, and involvement in state-level organizations—creates a framework for addressing the housing and social service needs of LMI residents in Cheyenne. It ensures that resources are used effectively and services meet the community's needs better. Ultimately, these coordinated efforts have the potential to significantly improve the quality of life for LMI residents by providing better access to housing, healthcare, and other essential services.

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

The Housing & Community Development Division is collaborating with the University of Wyoming's Center for Business and Economic Analysis to update the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Study, which will serve as a vital resource for enhancing future coordination between public and private housing and social services. This updated study will be completed in the Spring of 2025 and aims to identify barriers to fair housing and promote equity, ultimately guiding policy decisions and fostering stronger partnerships in the community.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

The Housing & Community Development Division employs a comprehensive monitoring system to ensure compliance with HUD program requirements and track the progress of activities outlined in its action plans. These monitoring guidelines, detailed in the Sub-Grantee Procedures, provide a framework for ongoing oversight to maintain CDBG program integrity and support sub-grantee development.

For General Service Projects, the Community Development Manager conducts a minimum of two on-site visits. Ideally, The initial visit before project commencement focuses on reviewing the accounting system, assessing their understanding of program financial requirements, examining required policies and procedures, and evaluating their record-keeping system for programmatic documentation. The second monitoring visit, taking place approximately halfway through the project, is more comprehensive and encompasses both financial and programmatic aspects. This visit includes reviewing financial and programmatic records, assessing accomplishments and progress relative to original expectations, and evaluating adherence to programmatic and federal objectives.

Continuing projects and experienced sub-grantees are subject to on-site visits at least once every other program year. These visits mirror the content of the second visit for new projects, focusing on financial and programmatic compliance. The on-site monitoring process is tailored to each project type but generally includes compliance checks with appropriate regulations, verification of required documentation, examination of file completeness, and a reasonableness test for expenditures. All sub-recipients are required to provide project status reports.

The monitoring process ensures compliance with CDBG program requirements and provides constructive feedback to sub-grantees on their performance and areas for improvement. Additionally, the Housing and Community Development Advisory Council may conduct supplementary visits to subgrantees during the program year, offering an extra layer of oversight and support.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

The city's engagement strategy centers around public meetings and hearings, both in-person and virtual, where citizens can learn about and provide input on the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and other related documents. These meetings are announced 5 days in advance, and accommodations are made for non-English speakers and those with hearing impairments. Draft plans are made available for public review, with comment periods ranging from 14 to 30 days, depending on the document.

The City of Cheyenne has established a Citizen Participation Plan to provide citizens with reasonable notice and opportunities to comment on performance reports related to the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, substantial amendments, AI, and CAPER. This plan involves multiple channels of communication and engagement to ensure broad participation from diverse groups within the community.

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The city utilizes various communication channels, including its website, social media platforms, traditional media outlets, and partnerships with local organizations to inform and involve residents. Special efforts are made to reach underserved populations, including low-income individuals, non-English speakers, and people with disabilities. The Public Comment period for the Program Year 2023 CAPER will begin on Friday, November 8th, and end on Friday, November 22, 2024. A public Hearing will be announced in a public notice in the Wyoming Tribune Eagle. The public notice will be published on or before Thursday, November 7, 2024.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

The original Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan included a project funded at \$190,000 to preserve and improve low-income neighborhoods. The Goal Outcome Indicator was to assist 1,700 low-income persons with public facilities or infrastructure activities other than low-moderate income housing benefits. This project aimed to address the need for "Neighborhood Improvements or Infrastructure."

Unfortunately, after the program year had begun, it was determined that the project was an ineligible activity. During this time, the Housing & Community Development Division was undergoing a significant transition, onboarding a new Community Development Manager. In late spring, a replacement project was identified. An amendment was submitted to HUD to include this new project, which involves providing ADA-compliant sidewalks in a low-income neighborhood park.

The new project aligns with the original goal of preserving and improving low-income neighborhoods and addresses the "Neighborhood Improvements or Infrastructure" need. It is expected to assist 1,120 LMI (Low to Moderate Income) persons. Construction is scheduled to begin soon, with completion anticipated this winter.

Despite this experience, the Housing & Community Development Division does not plan to change its program structure. This situation was unusual and not indicative of typical operations. The Division remains committed to its established processes while ensuring compliance with eligibility requirements for future projects.

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

No

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

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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CR-58 - Section 3

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

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

Table 8 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing	0				
Targeted Workers	U				
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding	0				
Targeted Workers.	Ŭ				
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).	0				
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for,	0				
off-site training.	U				
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g.,	0				
resume assistance, coaching).	Ů				
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business	0				
concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and	0				
bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section	0				
3 business concerns. Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment					
	0				
including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job	U				
opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.	0				
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide	0				
direct services or referrals.	U				
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one					
or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview	0				
clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.	0				
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year	0				
educational institution.	U				
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.	0				
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.	0				
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids	_			<u> </u>	
from Section 3 business concerns.	0				
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online	0				
technologies.	U				
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities	0				
for disadvantaged and small businesses.	"				
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as					
designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and	0				
Opportunity Act.					

Other.	0		
Other.	O		

Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

There are no Section 3 activities to report for 2023, as both construction projects have been delayed. The relevant numbers will be provided in the 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER).

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF CHEYENNE CONSOLIDATED PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) FOR 2023 15-Day Review Period

The City of Cheyenne Housing and Community Development (H&CD) Division announces that a draft of the 2023 Consolidated Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is available for a 15-day review period starting November 8, 2024. The CAPER evaluates the goals and objectives described in the Program Year 2022 Annual Action Plan submitted to HUD in May 2023.

A Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at 2101 O'Neil Avenue, Room 104.

The Draft CAPER can be viewed at:

- Mayor's Office, 2101 O'Neil Avenue, Room 310.
- City Clerk's Office, 2101 O'Neil Avenue, Room 101.
- Laramie County Library, 2200 Pioneer Avenue.
- H&CD website Housing & Community Development Division City of Cheyenne

Cheyenne residents are encouraged to review and comment on the CAPER—email written comments to Amy Gorbey at agorbey@cheyennecity.org by November 22, 2024.

All locations are accessible to persons with mobility impairments for special accommodations or interrupting services. Please call 637-6255 or agorbey@cheyennecity.org. For TDD/TTY communication, use Wyoming Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-877-9975 during regular business hours.

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CITY OF CHEYENNE CH CC 2101 ONEIL AVE CHEYENNE, WY 82001

AD#	DESCRIPTION	START	STOP	TIMES	AMOUNT
578274	CAPER) FOR 2023	11/06/24	11/06/24	1	\$85.01

Payments:

Date Method Card Type Last 4 Digits Check Amount

 Discount:
 \$0.00
 Gross:\$85.01

 Surcharge:
 \$0.00
 Paid Amount:\$0.00

 Credits:
 \$0.00

Amount Due: \$85.01

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CITY OF CHEYENNE
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November 6, 2024
NO. 578274