

# CITY OF HOPEWELL

## Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report



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## **Introduction**

The following Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) documents the accomplishments of the City of Hopewell in carrying out the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for program year (PY) 2013-2014. This report contains performance information for the third year of the 2010-2015 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. The CDBG Program represents a critical resource that facilitates local efforts to address community development, affordable housing, public service and homeless assistance needs in the City of Hopewell.

During the reporting period from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, notable accomplishments included:

### **Community Development/Neighborhood Revitalization**

- ❖ Funded one activity to provide infrastructure improvements to correct long time drainage and accessibility issues.

### **Public Services**

- ❖ Funded activities that provided child care as well as educational and cultural resources to low-and-moderate income children.
- ❖ Funded activity that provides screening, pre-natal care and referral for low-and-moderate income families, mostly single-parent mothers, who are said to be “at risk” for child abuse.
- ❖ Funded activities that provided emergency rental assistance and utility payments for families that were facing homelessness.

### **Homelessness Assistance**

- ❖ Funded and promoted homelessness prevention activities.
- ❖ Supported the continuation of the provision of safe and sanitary emergency shelter that meet basic needs and provides necessary supportive services for homeless women and children.

- ❖ Funded and supported the coordination of services and programs for persons in danger of becoming homeless.

### Administration

- ❖ Fair Housing, Continuum of Care expenses, and office supplies.

In documenting the accomplishments of the CDBG Program, this CAPER contains the following components:

Parts I –V contain narrative statements and a review of the City’s actions taken to meet housing and community development needs identified in its Five-year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plan.

Part VI provides computerized reports created by the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Questions regarding information contained in this document may be directed to:

City of Hopewell  
Department of Neighborhood Assistance and Planning  
300 North Main Street, Room 321  
Hopewell, Virginia 23860  
(804) 541-2220

### Citizen Participation

The CAPER remains in the public comment review period. Any comments received after the submission of the CAPER to HUD will be forwarded to the Richmond Field Office. The CAPER 15 day review period was advertised in the Hopewell News, the local newspaper. Copies of the CAPER are available on the City’s website, in the City Municipal Building (Department of Neighborhood Assistance & Planning), the Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority, the Hopewell Community Center, and the Appomattox Regional Library.

## **I. Analysis of Consolidated Plan Activities**

### **A. ASSESSMENT OF FIVE-YEAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

In the 2013-14 Consolidated Plan the City addresses priorities established in the 2010-2015 Consolidated Plan. The priorities of the Consolidated Plan are listed below.

#### **HOUSING NEEDS**

##### **1. Stabilize Neighborhoods/Increase Homeownership Opportunities**

**The City seeks to stabilize neighborhoods through the improvement of the condition of owner occupied and renter occupied units and support low-to-moderate homeowners with the following:**

- Priority I<sup>1</sup>: Assist low income owner occupied households with emergency repairs and minor rehabilitation /adaptation.
- Priority II: Support rehabilitation and maintenance of owner-occupied units.
- Priority III: Support programs that bring dwelling units to code standards.
- Priority IV: Rehabilitation of rental housing
- Priority V: Home purchase activities
- Priority VI: Create in fill housing through partnerships with CHDO's and/or State Development agencies.
- Priority VII: Support programs that acquire build or rehabilitate owner occupied units for purchase for low-income families and single parent households.
- Priority VIII: Support services for persons with disabilities.
- Priority IX: Support programs that provide rehabilitation for renter occupied units.
- Priority X: Increase private sector involvement and investment.

##### **2. The City Homeless Individuals and Families:**

**The City seeks to support homeless persons and those at risk of homelessness through the following activities:**

- Provide assistance to emergency shelters for operational costs and supportive services to clients.
- Support the formation of a permanent regional supportive housing building.

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<sup>1</sup> Priority I-V are considered high priority projects and will be considered before Priorities VI-X.

- Support the formation of a homeless shelter within City limits.
- Increase number of transitional bed units.
- Increase and diversify the amount of supportive services offered in emergency shelter and transitional housing to meet the needs of various homeless sub-groups.
- Provide emergency financial assistance to low income households threatened by homelessness. Improve the Continuum of Care system to transition the homeless to self-sufficiency.

## **NON-HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

### **1. Public/Human Services:**

**The City seeks to support the following types of Public/Human Services:**

- Priority I<sup>2</sup>: Employment Services
- Priority II: Health Services
- Priority III: Crime Prevention
- Priority IV: Recreational Programs
- Priority V: Substance Abuse Services (counseling and treatment)
- Priority VI: Senior Services
- Priority VII: Services for the Disabled
- Priority VIII: Initiatives that resolve and prevent child abuse and domestic violence services
- Priority IX: Family Services

### **2. Public Facilities:**

**The City seeks to support the following types of Public Facilities:**

- Priority I: Street Improvements
- Priority II: Parks (playgrounds/walking parks) and in low-to-moderate neighborhoods.
- Priority III: Sewer Lines/Water Lines
- Priority IV: Facilities for persons with special needs
- Priority V: Recreational Facilities
- Priority VI: Storm water lines/drainage

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<sup>2</sup> Priority I-V are considered high priority projects and will be considered before Priorities VI-IX.

**3. Economic Development:**

**The City seeks to support economic development with the following activities:**

- Business retention and expansion
- Support Enterprise Zone Activities
- Support revitalization of HUD designated low-to-moderate income portion of the City's downtown through rehabilitation, streetscape improvements, facade
- Micro-enterprise/Develop diverse economic opportunities

**4. Administration and Planning:**

**The City seeks to support the following types of Administration and Planning projects:**

- Accessing City planning issues
- Neighborhood planning and preservation
- Planning resources allocation
- The coordination of services among City agencies
- Administration of Program
- Fair Housing Initiatives/Training

The CAPER will discuss each priority and how the City worked to fulfill the priority during the 2013 program year. The first priority that will be discussed is Housing Needs.

## Priority I: Housing Needs

The narrative will begin with a discussion of the City's efforts to meet housing needs identified in the Consolidated Plan.

### A. Stabilizing neighborhoods and increasing homeownership

#### Rehabilitation of owner occupied homes

Stabilizing neighborhoods and increasing homeownership opportunities is one of the top priorities of the City. The City has partnered with **Project:homes and Rebuilding Together-Tri Cities** to provide home repair for eight (8) low and moderate owner occupied families.

**Project:homes** will provide rehabilitation for three (3) homes in the City located at 303 Bull Run Drive, 902 Elm Street, and 2504 Wakefield Street. Electrical work, upgrades to bathrooms with handicapped accessibility are some of the work that will be complete. The Environmental Review Record has been complete. An ad as required by HUD guidelines must be advertised and forwarded to the proper agencies. Once the City receives the Release of Funds documentation, work will begin. It is anticipated that work will begin in November 2014.

**Rebuilding Together Tri-Cities** provided rehabilitation to five (5) homes. Rebuilding Together works with volunteers and contractors to complete work on owner occupied homes. Volunteers

work on jobs that don't require permits and licensing such as painting and small repair jobs. The CDBG dollar is able to go further in this model because contractors are only

<b>Rebuilding Together-Tri Cities</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
402 Memorial Avenue	Replaced rotten floor around toilet and installed a handicap toilet
203 South 4th Avenue	Installed new toilet and repaired shower, installed two new storm doors and handrails
508 North 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Replaced roof, installed vinyl over soffit and back area
101 North 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Replaced Roof
403 North 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue	Installed handrails

used for larger jobs such as roof replacement and electrical upgrades.

Table 1

No CDBG funds have been committed to this project (Funds shown in IDIS are carryover from the 2012 Rebuilding Together Tri-Cities project). The last element of the ERR to be complete is the project review from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The total cost of the work to include administration cost is \$20,000 for Project:homes and \$15,000 for Rebuilding Together.

## **B. Affordable Housing**

The City attempted to further its commitment to affordable housing by providing rehabilitation to owner occupied dwelling units at no cost to the homeowner. This program was discussed in Section A of this Report. **Project:homes** will provide construction rehabilitation to four (4) owner occupied houses throughout the City while Rebuilding Together provided this service to five (5) owner occupied homes. Over fifty percent (50%) of these homeowners are seniors on a fixed income without the means to make repairs without assistance. The assistance provided to these low income homeowners decreased the amount of funds the owner would need to provide toward costly rehabilitation.

The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study completed April 2010 by Bay Area Economics suggests that housing costs are not restricting housing choice for many of the City's households. The study examines rents for households earning at least the median income (\$40,615) at the time the document was complete. The study contends that the proportion of rental housing found in local listings that were offered for less than \$500 per month suggests that affordable rental choices are available for households earning around \$25,000 annually (*Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, page 24*).

The study did conclude, however, that those households earning below \$25,000 annually, were supported by unemployment insurance, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), or disability income will be limited in finding affordable housing options in the private marketplace. This finding highlights a need for affordable housing for households that would be categorized as extremely low-income households.

### For-Sale Housing

In analyzing the affordability of the homes for sale it was concluded that at the time of research (2009/2010), about eighty percent (80%) of homes advertised on the MLS were offered at under \$200,000, with a median of \$139,700. The lower priced homes would require repairs and renovations. According to the study, local realtors report that the credit crisis has created uncertainty in the market and has resulted in lending institutions requiring at minimum a twenty percent (20%) down payment. Lenders are also requiring higher credit scores than before the mid-2000 housing crisis.

Down payment assistance and credit counseling for households interested in homeownership may be meaningful projects to re-implement in the City. In the past, the City contracted with Virginia Supportive Housing and Housing Opportunities Made

Equal to offer credit counseling classes. Such classes were not offered this program year but funds were concentrated in housing rehabilitation and public service programs that helped children, seniors and victims of domestic violence.

**C. Homeless Individuals and Families & Families Near Homelessness**

In an effort to reduce the frequency and duration of homelessness, and to provide for those currently experiencing homelessness, CDBG funds were provided to **C.A.R.E.S** (Crisis Assistance Response Emergency Shelter), and the St. Joseph’s Villa at the Flagler House.

C.A.R.E.S.

**C.A.R.E.S** is a women and children’s emergency homeless shelter to include boys under the age of thirteen. The shelter provided a total of 63 bed nights of shelter for 4 women and 12 bed nights of shelter to one (1) child. The following demographics were submitted for C.A.R.E.S this year.

**C.A.R.E.S Demographics for PY 13-14**

Number of Households	Number of Participants		Race of Participants			Household Income		
			Black	White	Hispanic (within White)	Extremely Low	No Income	Low Income
8	17		11	6	0	8		
	Adults	12						
	Children	5						

Table 2 (note: IDIS Reports count clients for each month in the shelter)

The Petersburg CoC

The City is also a member of the Petersburg Continuum of Care (VA 509) locally known as the Crater Area Agency of Homelessness (CACH). The Continuum has secured funds for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), required for all continuums. Both the Salvation Army Homeless Center and C.A.R.E.S currently operate a HMIS. This computer database allows homeless care providers to communicate with other homeless care providers and follow the progress of homeless persons. The City’s Department of Social Services and the Hopewell Prince George Healthy Families were considered as prospects to receive the HMIS but did not see the need based on their frequency of contact with the homeless.

The following objectives have been met through the support of CARES and The James House:

- Support and coordination of emergency housing
- Provide services to meet the needs of Hopewell's homeless population
- Provide assistance to emergency shelters
- Improve the Continuum of Care system to transition the homeless to self-sufficiency

As of February 2013 CACH has adopted a Board that works to accomplish the objectives of the 2012 Hearth Act. The Petersburg Continuum is now a member of the Balance of State. Both the Vice Chair and Chairman participate on the Balance of State Steering Committee. The Director of Neighborhood Assistance & Planning is the Past Chair of the Steering Committee and currently a member of the Board. The Board is working to increase membership in CACH. The Board has experienced frequent turn-over in the past three months as various Board members have secured positions that take them outside the scope of the CACH. The Board is working hard to fill these vacancies.

The Board is dedicated to attending training, seminars, etc. that provide insight into the Balance of the State criteria and other guidelines as provided by the VA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and HUD.

**The Flagler House**, an extension of St. Joseph's Villa, provided rapid rehousing to Hopewell citizens in danger of becoming homeless. The Flagler House provided rental payments for three households. While there are several emergency shelters in the Tri-Cities area and charities that provide funding to help those in danger of becoming homeless, the Flagler House is the only organization that has been awarded funding specifically for rapid rehousing through the Continuum of Care. Despite this funding, the City wanted a funding stream that insured Hopewell citizens were priority in times of crisis, such as a fire, or evacuation of a structure due to life, safety issues. For this reason \$4,500 was set aside through CDBG to guarantee help for Hopewell citizens in such situations.

## **Priority II: Non- Housing Community Development Needs**

### **A. Public Human Services: Initiatives that resolve and prevent child abuse and domestic violence.**

Reducing the number of at-risk youth is a high priority goal for the City of Hopewell. Unfortunately, according to the Hopewell Needs Assessment Phase II Report published by the John Randolph Foundation in November 2002, the rate of births to Hopewell teens was almost twice the State rate and a third higher than the Planning District Rate in 1999. Furthermore, statistics showed that Hopewell had a high percentage of low weight births in association with teenage pregnancies. For these reasons the CDBG program along with resources from the City and the John Randolph Foundation supported the efforts of

**Hopewell Prince George Healthy Families**, a non-profit organization offering pre-natal care and referral services to mothers who are at-risk for child abuse/neglect as accessed by a physician.

Healthy Families provides family education, counseling and referral services to promote positive parenting, to encourage health and development of the child, and to prevent child abuse and neglect. Healthy Families works in close collaboration with the John Randolph Foundation to provide the national model upon which this program is built. The Healthy Families model has been empirically demonstrated to effectively reduce juvenile delinquency over time and to reduce child abuse and the staggering costs associated with the maltreatment of children. There have been no cases of child abuse among families enrolled in the Healthy Families program since its establishment in the City.

This year Healthy Families serviced 114 households. Eighty eight percent (88%) are considered extremely low, twenty-eight percent (28%) are considered low income, while the remaining twelve percent (12%) of households are considered low-and-moderate income. Forty four (44) participants were Caucasian, sixty six (66) were African American and four were Multi-racial.

#### **B. Public Human Services: Youth Services**

The City recognized the need for educational, recreational and cultural activities for low income children during the school year and summer. To this end the City funded the Rainbow Enrichment Program, and Boys and Girl Club, and the Hopewell Youth Sports League. Reports PR- 23, located in the Appendix of this document will provide the number of children served for each program. The following paragraphs describe each program.

**The Rainbow Summer Program** operates for seven weeks during the summer. Hopewell Recreation and Parks organize this collaborative effort with various organizations, and businesses to provide reduced or no fee access for children and teenagers to various cultural and recreational activities throughout the City. Children and teens have the opportunity to receive additional help in past and upcoming school educational exercises.

**The Youth Sports League** allows children to participate in summer sports activities sponsored by Hopewell Recreation and Parks. The league consists of baseball, softball, basketball and fall and spring soccer for kids ages 4-17 year of age. In the past program sponsors have noticed over seventy (70) percent of the participants are from single family households and receive government assistance or their child is on free or reduced lunch through the public school system. This project will enable youth from low income families that could not pay registration cost to participate in the Sports League. Eligibility is based on household size and income.

**The Boys and Girls Club-** Power Hour Program provided programming in the core areas of Education & Career Development and Leadership Development. The Hopewell Boys and Girls Club is one of the most successful youth programs in the City. The Boys and Girls Club provides homework help, tutoring, and out of school learning activities created by consultation with school professionals, educational supply stores, education institution web pages, and current computer software. The program, better known as the “Power Hour” is facilitated by high school and college age students in the surrounding community and educational institutions such as Virginia State University. This collaboration of various community entities works extremely well to help foster community involvement and it shows these children alternatives to life that may not be seen in their everyday lives. The “Power Hour” program, which takes place in an in kind donated gymnasium from the Hopewell School System, is run from 2:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. These hours of operation are excellent for parents or guardians who are at work and it provides a safe haven for children who may otherwise have no supervision.

**The Community Action Reading Program-** The Community Action Reading Program provides books to children in the Hopewell Public School system where over 70% are on free or reduced lunch. The books are provided to elementary and head start students. Volunteers read the books to the children in school and the books are sent home so that parents can reiterate reading in the home. This program year, over 2,000 elementary children received books for home reading.

### **C. Public Human Services: Senior Services**

The CDBG also funded senior activities this program year. Twenty-nine (29) percent of the City’s population is comprised of persons who are fifty (50) years of age and older (*Source: 2000 Census*). This percentage will continue to grow as baby boomers move towards retirement and people are living longer lives than in previous years. A large proportion of these seniors will live on fixed incomes and will need assistance in areas of home repair, health needs, and nourishment (food/water). To help seniors and their caregivers meet these challenges the City funded the Hopewell Respite Care Group, The Foster Grandparents Program, and the Hopewell Food Pantry for the 2011 program year.

**The Hopewell Respite Care Group** is a program that operates in the City Community Center. It offers educational, crafts, and recreational opportunities for seniors with and without disabilities. The Respite Care Group serviced ninety nine (99) seniors. Sixty nine percent (69%) of participants were African American and thirty one percent (31%) were Caucasian. Fifty seven percent (57%) had incomes that were considered extremely low; the remaining forty three percent (43%) had incomes categorized as either very low or low to moderate. The Respite Care Group offers a variety of activities for seniors and their caregivers. Programs provide exercise, entertainment, and education.

**The Foster Grandparents Program** provides tutoring and emotional support to at risk youth in all elementary schools and a two child development centers in the City. Senior citizens act as tutors and are provided with reduced health care screenings, transportation and a small stipend. Both the seniors and children benefit from this program. Each Foster Grandparent is assigned to work directly, one-on-one, with up to four children to improve academic skill, reading levels, social interactions, and general behavior. The City has not received any correspondence or reimbursement request from the Foster Grandparents Program. No CDBG funds have been expended for this project. The City will cancel this project and provide the funding of \$1,250 to another public service organization as approved by the Community Development Block Grant Committee.

#### The James House

**The James House** is a non-profit organization that provides free services and counseling to victims of domestic violence. The James House is located in the City of Hopewell and services City residents as well as residents from surrounding localities. The James House provided in-person counseling, and referral services to thirty four clients. The James House also operates a hotline that is useful to victims of domestic violence.

Clients were helped with creating a safety plan and process options for shelter, counseling and support. An average of 62% of persons calling into the hotline became active clients. They are receiving case management, counseling and on-going support. Clients also participate in support groups, and financial literacy classes. The clients learn about relationships, coping skills and communication.

#### **D. Infrastructure Projects: Sustainable Communities**

The Trenton Street project was awarded in 2011. It took two years to program sufficient funds to begin the project. Once work began it was evident that the project would take longer and be more extensive than first engineered. For this reason the project was divided into two phases. Phase I is complete and includes the intersection of Trenton Street and Carolina to Pennsylvania Avenue. This was seventy-five (75%) percent of the project. Phase II is from Trenton Street at Carolina Avenue to Lincoln Place. Phase II of the project will be financed and completed this year by reprogramming funds from the 2013 Freeman Street project.

In order to deter thoughts that Freeman Street would never be complete because Trenton Street took longer than anticipated, funds were found in the City fund to complete the project.

## E. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

A regional fair housing seminar was held in Petersburg, Virginia on May 28, 2014 at the Historic Train Station in downtown. Guest speakers included Sylvia Berry, Director of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity in the HUD Richmond Field office and Mahalia “Mally” Dryden-Mason, Fair Housing Trainer from the Virginia Fair Housing. This seminar provided fair housing credits and was a time of learning and reflection on current fair housing policy and new laws recently enacted that dealt with hoarding. Over sixty persons participated.



*Sylvia Berry, Guest Speaker*

Participants ranged from contractors, redevelopment and housing authority employees, housing providers, planners, and relators. The seminar was a partnership between the City of Hopewell, City of Colonial Heights, County of Chesterfield, City of Richmond, and the City of Petersburg. Brochures, pamphlets on fair housing were provided by the VA Fair Housing Office.



*An attentive audience at the Fair housing Seminar*

The City of Hopewell completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) in April 2010. The purpose of the AI was to identify potential fair housing issues and impediments, and recommend possible action the City can implement in order to alleviate these impediments.

One of the major impediments identified in the AI was accessibility of job centers. The report stated that 17 percent of renter household have no vehicle available to them and that at that in 2010 no public bus service existed. The AI suggested the City consider job accessibility in

actions related to job attraction, new affordable housing, and public transportation investments.

The City has been in partnership with the City of Petersburg with the Petersburg Area Transit since 2011. The City now has a public bus system that runs from the western portion of the City to the eastern. The bus route provides users with access to the library, hospital, and other possible employment agencies. Funding for the bus route was received through grant funds. These funds will be expended in full next year. The City Council will soon discuss how to pay for public transportation after the grant expires. A decision must be made at the beginning of 2014.

#### **F. Continuum of Care**

HUD has required a comprehensive community-based Continuum of Care strategy as a common exhibit in McKinney Program Homeless Assistance funding applications since 1996.

The City of Hopewell is a participant in the Southside Continuum of Care (CoC) which is comprised of nine (9) localities that make up Planning District 19: Hopewell, Petersburg, Colonial Heights, Prince George, Dinwiddie, Emporia, Greenville, Surry, and Sussex County. The Southside CoC was formed four years ago with the United Way as the lead agency to establish a regional community plan for Southside Virginia that provides a full range of services for persons experiencing homelessness including preventative, emergency, and support services, as well as transitional and permanent housing. Both The James House and C.A.R.E.S are members of the CoC.

Members of the Continuum have recently been asked to consider uniting with the Richmond Continuum of Care. At a meeting held in May of this year, the members present decided against joining the Richmond Continuum and suggested ways to remain as the Southside Continuum of Care. The lack of capacity of the Petersburg United Way to act as lead agency was given for the possible merge with the Richmond Continuum. The City of Hopewell is partnering with United Way and Homeward to determine if the Crater Planning District Commission could act as the lead agency. It was also suggested at the meeting that Hopewell or The Salvation Army may be interested in acting as the lead agency. Talks are still underway and a resolution to the matter should be reached by the end of the year.

## **G. Underserved Needs**

As part of the Consolidated Plan, the City indicated other actions that may address various community and housing needs to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs; such as 1) foster and maintain affordable housing; 2) maintain and eliminate barriers to affordable housing; 3) overcome gaps in institutional structures and enhance coordination; 4) improve public housing and resident initiatives; 5) evaluate and reduce lead based paint hazards; 6) ensure compliance with program and comprehensive planning requirements; and 7) reduce the number of persons living below the poverty level.

### **1. Foster and Maintain Affordable Housing**

The City has met this objective by funding rehabilitation for nine (9) low income owner occupied homes in one targeted code enforcement improvement area (B Village).

### **2. Maintain and Eliminate Barriers to Affordable Housing**

The City maintained affordable housing in the City by providing rehabilitation to owner occupied single family residents. By helping with repair needs, homeowners were able to use their already limited income for mortgage, groceries, and other essential needs.

### **3. Enhance Coordination and Overcome Gaps in Institutional Structures**

In efforts to enhance the City's Housing and Community Development delivery system through collaboration of the City and other entities the City worked to improve the Community Development Block Grant web page.

All meetings, workshops, and public hearings were advertised in local newspapers and posted throughout the City. Citizens also had the opportunity to view public hearings on the local cable network.

Fair housing brochures and complaint forms are located throughout several public buildings in the City.

### **4. Improve Public Housing and Resident Initiatives**

The number of rental units supplied by the HRHA has remained constant over the last year. The City of Hopewell continues to consult with the Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) as part of the City's consolidated planning process. During the program year, HRHA provided housing services to over 800 low-income families through Section 8 housing assistance and low-income public housing. The Authority

owns and administers 490 units of public housing at a 95 percent occupancy rate. In addition, HRHA administers 347 Section 8 vouchers which were applied towards 200 houses and 47 apartments during the reporting period. Section 8 had a utilization rate of about 98 percent.

As part of HRHA's strategy for providing revitalization and restoration to its public housing facilities, the Authority in 2010 the HRHA provided new lights to the Piper Square public housing community. These improvements have provided a heightened sense of security in dark areas in the housing community and there has been a noticeable decline in crime. Interior lighting in the hallways have also been upgraded. In addition, mold, and algae have been removed from the outside of buildings in this development.

The Thomas Rolfe and Bland Court public housing community is located in the center of Hopewell. It is central to several business areas but walkways do not link the housing community to these places. Sidewalks have been added in the Thomas Rolfe Court housing community to link residents with the exterior community.

HRHA administers a community oriented policing program that has helped facilitate a substantial reduction in crime throughout the Authority's properties. Two officers from the Hopewell Police Department are permanently assigned to HRHA properties. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the program continues to have a residual benefit. HRHA has also implemented the "one -strike" lease enforcement initiative which threatens to terminate or evict residents for criminal activity/substance abuse in HRHA households.

It is important to let the voice of the residents of HRHA communities be heard. This is accomplished through the Resident Advisory Board (RAB). Comprised of at least one resident from each housing development, the group meets several times throughout the year to consider and make recommendations pertaining to the formation of the Authority's Annual Plan. The Authority also has a monthly newsletter that is distributed monthly to all public housing residents.

#### 5. Lead Base Paint Hazards

This year the ElderHomes, Inc. conducted proper lead based testing of the homes receiving rehabilitation.

The Housing Authority continues to ensure that lead-based hazards are eliminated in public housing. The entire public housing inventory has been tested per HUD requirements. Based on these results all lead base paint was either abated or encapsulated from public housing. The Health Department and the HRHA dispense information to at-risk residents warning them of the hazards posed by housing-related lead-based paint, especially for low-income families and children.

According to the latest statistics from the Virginia Department of Health- Epidemiology, of the 2,773 children tested from 2005 to 2009, seventeen (17) had elevated blood lead levels.

#### 6. Compliance with Program and Consolidated Planning Requirements

Compliance with program and comprehensive planning requirements is an ongoing endeavor with the City. The CDBG program is administered by the City of Hopewell's Department of Development whose staff on an annual basis monitors the programs. Each sub-recipient submits quarterly reports with income and race information as well as funding balances. Staff is in ongoing contact with the sub-recipients and all are welcome to call or visit the Development office with questions or concerns.

Public meetings were held in the development stage of the Consolidated Plan as well as the 2013 Action Plan to solicit public comment and program review. Additionally, outside auditors and HUD staff monitor the City for compliance with federal regulations and certifications. All plan and reporting documents are made available at the Department of Development, HRHA, the Community Center, and the Appomattox Regional Library for the required review periods.

#### 7. Reduce the Number of Persons Living Below the Poverty Level

The final action, to reduce the number of persons living below the poverty level, has been instigated through various programs and activities sponsored by the City.

*Downtown Revitalization Plan* - The City adopted a Downtown Revitalization Plan, which makes recommendations based on a detailed market analysis that identifies economic development opportunities for the City, including new housing development.

*Hopewell Urban Enterprise Zone* – The City of Hopewell offers regulatory and tax relief to businesses and industries that locate or expand within the City's designated Urban Enterprise Zone. In conjunction with local economic incentives, applicable State incentives that provide job grants to businesses where at least 40% of the new business' permanent full-time employees must have incomes at or below 80% of the area's median income, create employment opportunities for all the citizens of Hopewell including low and moderate-income residents.

## **Leveraging Resources**

The City of Hopewell used Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to address its Consolidated Plan priorities. The Sub-recipients makes every reasonable effort to bring in financial support in addition to the funds they receive from CDBG. The John Randolph Foundation and the Cameron Foundation continue to be significant sources of funding for activities that parallel the City's priorities. Several of the CDBG Sub-recipients receive funding from at least of these foundations if not both.

## **Self Evaluation**

Overall, the City's Consolidated Plan vision is consistent with HUD's overall goal of the community planning and development programs covered by 24 CFR Part 91 to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities for low and moderate income persons. However, there are four issues that should be addressed in future years:

1. More effort needs to be put into the housing aspect of the CDBG program. Secure successful and stable partnerships with Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's).
2. The infrastructure projects should also be executed in a more-timely manner.
3. The City and HRHA should continue to collaborate to bring fair housing education and housing education to citizens.
4. The City's capacity to administer the CDBG program has lessened over several years. There is not one person solely dedicated to the administration of the grant. This will change with the hiring of a part time CDBG administrator in October 2014.

## **II. Community Development Block Grant Narrative**

### **A. ASSESSMENT OF RELATIONSHIP TO CONSOLIDATED PLAN PRIORITIES**

During FY 13/14, CDBG funds were used exclusively to address plan priorities and objectives. All fund expenditures met the broad national objective of benefiting low and moderate income persons. The resources available from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development contributed greatly to the City's ability to carry out its housing and community development objectives.

B. MODIFICATION OF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND IMPACT ON PROGRAMS

There was no modification of program objectives.

C. ASSESSMENT OF PLANNED ACTIONS

The City regularly reviews the progress in its Action Plans and is following the current HUD approved Action Plan. The City pursued all resources as indicated in the Action Plan by obtaining CDBG funds during the FY 13/14. The City did not hinder Consolidated Plan Implementation by action or willful inaction.

D. MEETING NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The City used its CDBG funds to meet national objectives, and the City complied with the overall benefit requirement for the activities completed during FY 13/14

E. ACTIVITIES INVOLVING OCCUPIED REAL PROPERTY

The City did not purchase or demolish occupied real property with CDBG funds during FY 13/14.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION FOR LOW AND MODERATE INCOME PEOPLE

To date, CDBG funds were not utilized to undertake economic development activities.

G. ACTIVITIES BENEFITING LIMITED CLIENTELE

All activities benefiting limited clientele participants are for individuals presumed to meet the low and moderate-income requirements as defined by HUD. Examples of such activities include assistance to the James House (abused women and children), the Flagler House (in danger of becoming homeless), and C.A.R.E.S. (homeless persons.) Documentation and data concerning the beneficiary family size and income was obtained to validate that at least 51 percent were low and moderate- income.

H. CDBG PROGRAM INCOME

There was no program income generated during FY 13/14.

I. DESCRIPTION OF CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

The City did not expend CDBG funds on 2013/14 awarded housing rehabilitation programs in this program year. The City, however, anticipates spending these funds by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the 2014 program year.

#### HUD APPROVED NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION STRATEGIES

The City does not have a HUD sponsored neighborhood revitalization strategy in place. However, the City is moving forward on the Strategic Plan adopted by the City Council in 2014. The City has also hired an Assistant City Manager for Development that is working hard to bring new economic development prospects into the City. The City Council also approved funding to update the City's 2003 Comprehensive Plan. This is an exciting venture that will bring community leaders and citizens together in dialogue about the future of the City, its economy, housing and infrastructure, and other important factors that affect the quality of life for residents.

### **III. – V. HOME, HOPWA, AND ESG PROGRAM NARRATIVES**

The City of Hopewell does not receive HOME, HOPWA nor ESG Program funds. Therefore, program narratives for these sections are not applicable.

## VI. Financial Summary Reports

The following reports generated by HUD's Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) will provide a complete summary of all accomplishments.

- **Financial Summary Report (C04PR26)** provides key CDBG program indicators. This report shows the obligations, expenditures which the grantee has made for a specific program year. The expenditures are summarized to determine relevant indicators for low and moderate income, planning/administration, public service activities and economic development.
- **Activity Summary Report (C04PR03)** lists each CDBG activity which was open during a program year. For each activity the report shows the status, accomplishments program year narrative and program year expenditures. For each activity the report also shows the activity code, regulation citation and characteristics of beneficiaries.
- **Summary of Accomplishments Report (C04PR23)** presents data on CDBG/HOME activity counts and disbursements by priority need categories. It also contains data on CDBG accomplishments by various units of measure and housing units by racial/ethnic categories and HOME housing units by various income groups.
- **Summary of Consolidated Plan Projects Report (C04PR06)** tracks progress in implementing projects identified in the Action Plan. The report lists all projects for a plan year in sequence by project number. Disbursements are summarized by program for each project's activities. Accomplishments reported for the program year are summarized for each program year.

Addendum to PR-26

Line 10: Adjustment to Compute Total Amount Subject to Low Mod Benefit  
(excluding Program Administration)

#273	Rainbow Summer Program	\$3,000
#270	Flagler House (Rapid Rehousing)	\$4,500
#269	The James House	\$441.96
#275	CARES	\$3,000
#266	Respite Care Group	\$1,082.06
#266	Respite Care Group	\$1,113.04

TOTAL \$13,137.06

Line 14: Adjustment to Compute Total Expenditures  
(to include Planning Administration)

#265	Administration	\$3,504.05
	All of the above	\$13,137.06

TOTAL \$16,641.11

## APPENDIX

### 2013 CAPER Performance Measurement Outcomes Table

The United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) has developed a performance measurement system to be utilized by all localities receiving CPD funds. This system will enable HUD to collect information on the outcomes of activities funded with Community Planning and Development (CPD) formula grant assistance, and to aggregate that information at the national, state and local level. The outcome performance measurement system has three overarching objectives: (1) Creating Suitable Living Environments, (2) Providing Decent Affordable Housing. And (3) Creating Economic Opportunities. There are also three outcomes under each objective: (1) viability/Accessibility, (2) Affordability, and (3) sustainability. The program is set up that the three objectives, each having three possible outcomes, will produce nine possible outcome/objective statements within which to categorize grant activities.

All activities funded by City of Hopewell CDBG funds must meet at least one of these objectives and outcomes. HUD has offered a definition and example for each objective and outcome.

#### **Objectives**

##### *Suitable Living Environment:*

In general, this objective relates to activities that are designed to benefit communities, families, or individuals by addressing issues in their living environment.

##### *Decent Affordable Housing:*

The activities that typically would be found under this objective are designed to cover the wide range of housing possible under HOME, CDBG, HOPWA or ESG. This objective focused on housing programs where the purpose of the program is to meet individual family or community needs and not programs where housing is an element of a larger effort (such as would be captured above under Suitable Living Environment).

##### *Creating Economic Opportunities:*

This objective applies to the type of activities related to economic development, commercial revitalization, or job creation.

## **Outcomes**

The outcomes are defined as follows:

### *Availability/Accessibility:*

This outcome category applies to activities that make service, infrastructure, housing, or shelter available or accessible to low-and-moderate income people, including persons with disabilities. In this category accessibility does not refer only to physical barriers, but also to making the affordable basics of daily living available and accessible to low- and -moderate income people.

### *Affordability:*

This outcome category applies to activities that provide affordability in a variety of ways in the lives of low-and-moderate income people. It can include the creation or maintenance of affordable housing, basic infrastructure hook-ups, or services such as transportation and day care.

### *Sustainability/Promoting Livable or Viable Communities:*

This outcome applies to projects where the activity or activities are aimed at improving communities or neighborhoods, helping to make them livable or viable by providing benefit to persons of low-and-moderate income people or by removing or eliminating slums or blighted areas, through multiple activities or services that sustain communities or neighborhoods.

The projects for 09-10 all meet the performance measurement objectives. All activities met one or more of the performance measurement objectives. Each activity's objective(s) and proposed outcome(s) are provided in the table below.

Name of Project	Objectives			Outcomes		
	Suitable Living Environment	Decent Affordable Housing	Creating Economic Opportunities	Availability & Accessibility	Affordability	Sustainability: Promoting Livable or Viable Communities
Boys and Girls Club	X				X	
C.A.R.E.S.	X			X	X	
Community Action for Reading	X			X		X
Project: homes		X			X	X
Foster Grandparents	Project cancelled					
Hopewell/Prince George Healthy Families	X			X		
Hopewell Respite Care Program	X			X	X	
James House	X	X		X	X	
Rainbow Summer Program	X			X	X	
St. Joseph's Villa/The Flagler House	X	X			X	
Youth Sports League	X			X	X	
Rebuilding Together Tri-Cities	X			X	X	
Blackstone Street (not underway)	X			X		X
Freeman Street	Project cancelled, but completed through City dollars					
Trenton Street (Phase I complete)	X			X		X