

CITY OF MUSKEGON
ACTION PLAN 2014
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

GENERAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary is required. Include the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan and an evaluation of past performance.

The City of Muskegon Community and Neighborhood Services office has experienced success in meeting our established annual goals that were created in the 2011 – 2016 Consolidated Plan. To provide its residents with the ability to live in safe, decent, sanitary and attractive housing situations with assurance that neighborhood preservation and enhancement is the City's mission. In addition, we will assist local nonprofits and social agencies in delivering their services to low/moderate income residents as an example of annual activities enlisted by the City of Muskegon to promote the overall well-being of this community. This Plan will describe eligible programs, projects and activities funded and expected to be made available during the (4th) fourth program year.

In recent years, our allocation has diminished to the level of funding that supports programs administered by City of Muskegon staff. However, because of a slight increase we now have funds to support another sub-recipient to provide services in the target area for our blight fight efforts.

Additionally, some of our neighborhood associations have created positive programs within their community to bring neighbors together and provide positive outlets for the youth.

Our Planning and Economic Division is spearheading the changes we are continuing to see as our downtown re-blossoms into a “place” centered area for education, arts, and potential housing opportunities for moderate income families.

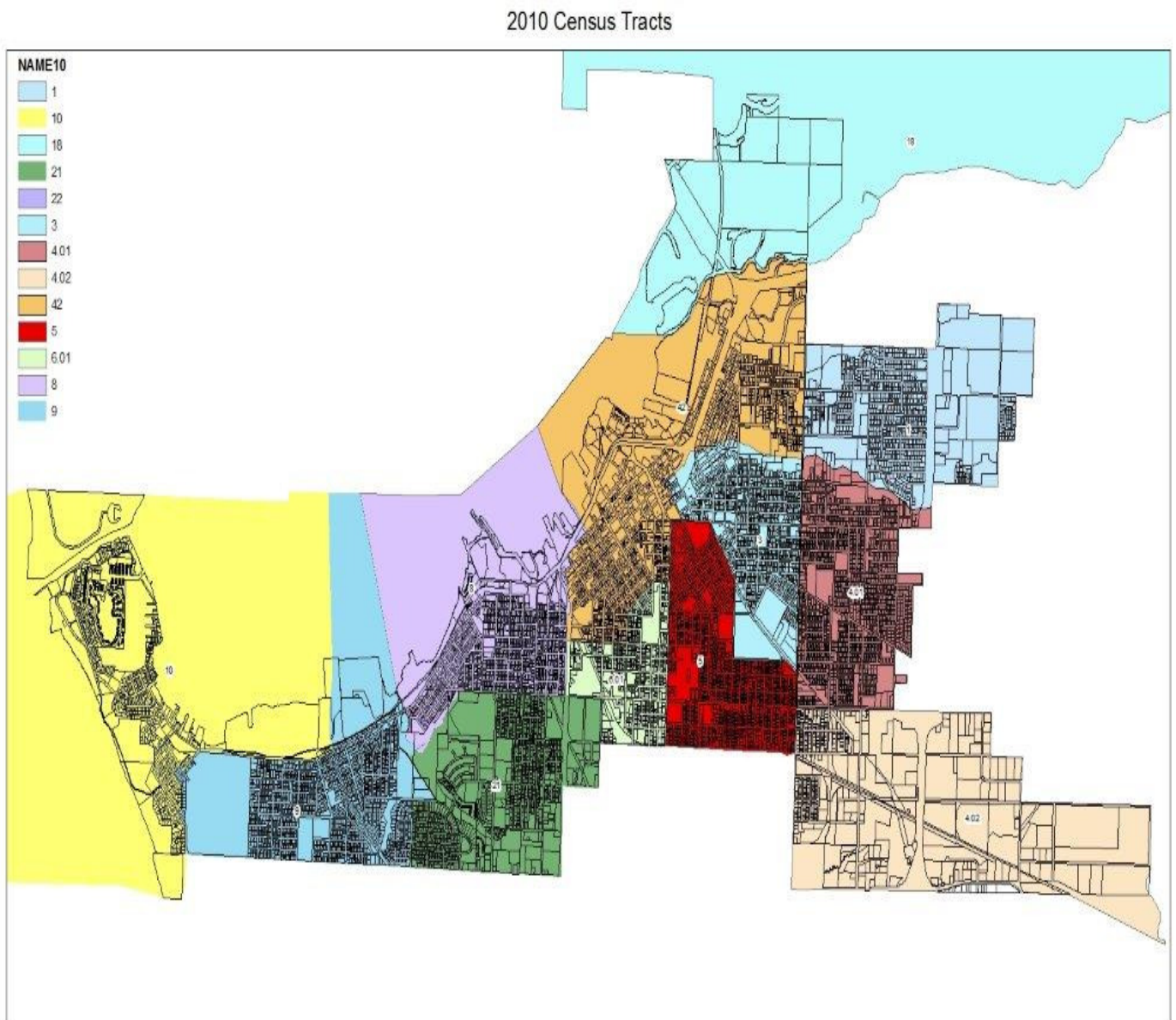
GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low-income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed during the next year. Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.**

A large portion of the City has been declared a low/moderate-income eligible area. Roughly 11 square miles of a City that is 18 square miles in total dimension is classified as a low/moderate-income area.

In other words, these areas within the City of Muskegon have at least 51% low/moderate-income residents living in the specific neighborhoods of the City. For the last 10 years, the City of Muskegon has allocated its CDBG/HOME funding by need, not by area jurisdiction; although the significance of the funding is still allocated to persons who have low/moderate incomes.

Since the 2010 Census, it is evident that the low-moderate population has continued to increase throughout the City. No one will be surprised to see that the minority concentration exists in most of our neighborhoods but the areas where we see a greater need are in Census Tracts: 1, 3, 4.01, 5, 6.01, 8, 9 and 42.



2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1) during the next year and the rational for assigning the priorities.

The distribution of funding in the City of Muskegon is not targeted to a particular area or neighborhood. The funding is allocated on an availability basis and need. In other words, any household that meets the income guidelines of their total household income, low/moderate is eligible for services and in most instances an owner-occupied single family dwelling.

CDBG PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES – 2014

REHABILITATION

Priority Housing Repair	\$200,000
Vinyl Siding	\$ 50,000
Service Delivery	\$ 60,000
Sub Recipient Target Neighborhood/Blight Flight	\$ 18,332
Sub-recipient-Ramps	\$ 3,500

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

General Administration	\$179,405
Affirmative Action	\$ 10,000

BOND REPAYMENT

Fire Station	\$156,288
--------------	-----------

PUBLIC SERVICES

Youth Recreation Programs	\$ 70,000
Sub-recipient-Utility Assistance	\$ 4,500
Summer Interns	\$ 5,000
Neighborhood Grants	\$ 25,000

CODE ENFORCEMENT – NEIGHBORHOODS

Code Inspections	\$ 50,000
Residential Clearance	\$ 55,000
Board-ups	\$ 10,000

TOTAL \$897,025

3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

The City will continue to allocate funding to the underserved population of the City through several different mechanisms. The first is housing, which includes the Priority Housing Repair and Vinyl Siding programs.

Both of these activities address low/moderate-income households. The second component is the funding allocated to other City of Muskegon departments that assist the underserved population of the community. The Planning Department offers recreational activities to low/moderate-income youngsters and their families. Another neighborhood component that Planning offers will assist neighborhoods with the demolition and securing of blighted and accessible structures.

Throughout the five-year planning period, the City will collaborate when possible with service agencies in our community to help address many of the social issues and obstacles that the underserved residents encounter for basic needs.

Some areas are health, housing, food, utilities, employment, accessibility but most importantly neighborhood redevelopment activities and youth services. Love In The Name of Christ has helped families with rent, utilities, and in most cases, financial counseling. This is an important factor to aid struggling families in financial distress.

4. Identify the federal, state and local resources expected to be made available to address the needs identified in the plan. Federal resources should include Section 8 funds made available to the jurisdiction, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds expected to be available to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the Strategic Plan.

The City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is annually funded to address the City's short and long-term goals, needs and priorities. The City of Muskegon proposes to undertake activities during the 2014 – 2015 program year described as follows and based on a CDBG fund amount of \$897,025:

Housing Priorities #1 Proposed Projects

\$200,000 Housing Rehab – Priority Housing Repair Program.

Assist low-moderate income homeowners for the repair of single-purpose housing deficiencies that pose a serious threat to health and safety.

Locations: City/Community Wide

Targeted Outcome: 30 Housing Units

\$50,000 **Housing Rehab – Vinyl Siding Program.**

To provide vinyl siding to low-moderate income owner-occupants of single-family housing units and target households within our Blight Fight neighborhood boundaries.

Locations: City/Community Wide

Targeted Outcome: 6 Housing Units

\$60,000 **Housing Rehab - Service Delivery Costs.**

For the administration of housing rehab programs associated with the housing rehab activities: applications/liens/inspections/file maintenance

Location: City/Community Wide

Targeted Outcome: 50-60 Households

\$15,000 **Target Neighborhood/Youth-Vinyl Siding**

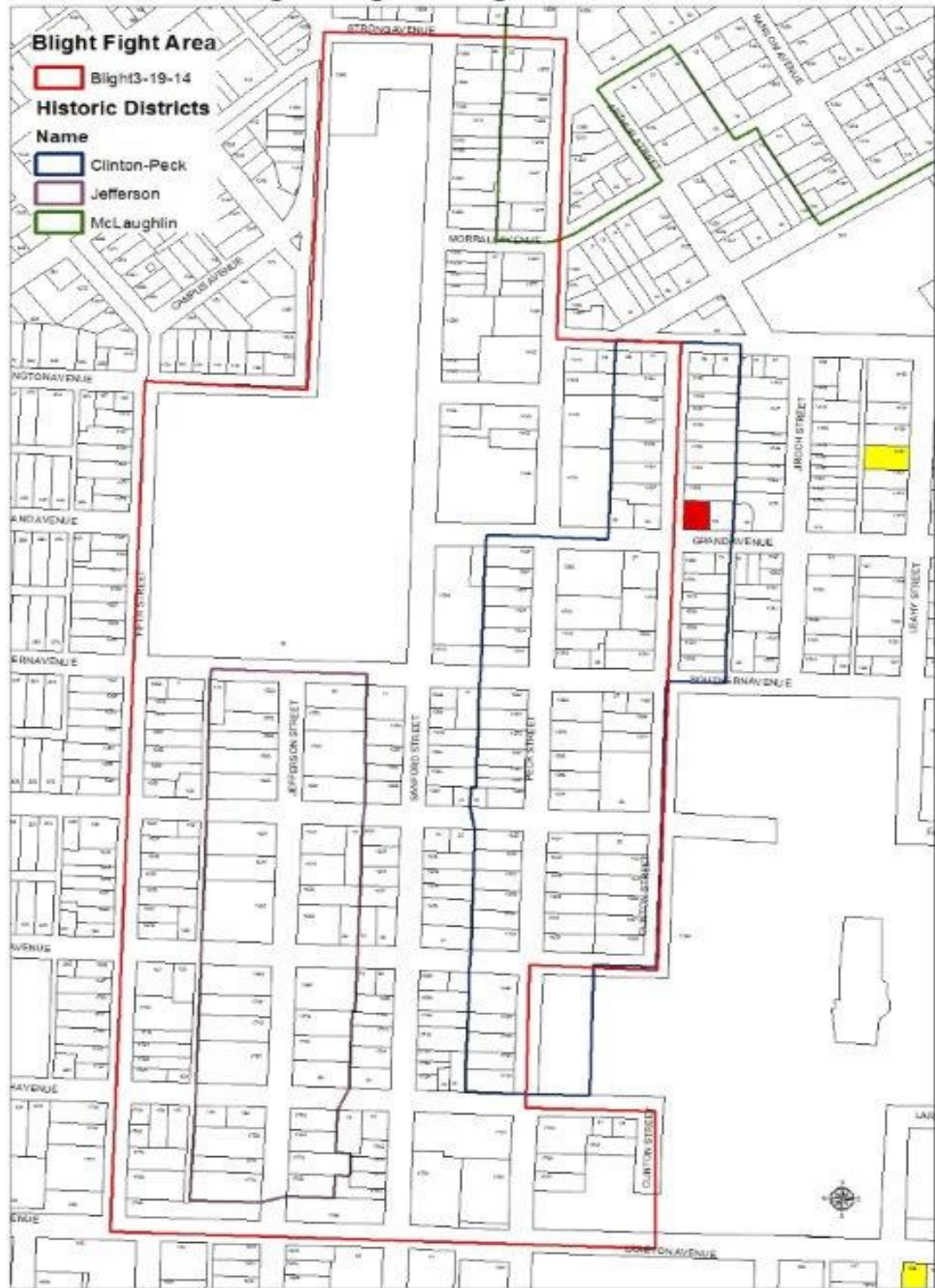
Our City of Muskegon has identified a target area for what we call a Blight Fight. Nelson Neighborhood between Sanford west to 5th Street along Laketon Avenue to the northern border at Strong. This area is directly within blocks of the city's Muskegon High School and home to our Big Red Football and Basketball events. We want to greatly impact the look and feel of this neighborhood so utilizing our Vinyl Siding funds to provide house painting as an option to these residents as well as taking our Demolition program to get rid of vacant structures on our dangerous building list. All efforts and designed programs will be available in a set-aside manner to rid this area of any blighting situations from which our borders will increase until we have addressed the entire neighborhood.

As we look at other programs, HOME projects will be identified in this area to stimulate revitalization to salvage any abandoned home leaning toward dangerous. Ultimately, the target area will result in an obvious improvement seen by its residents but especially those who come to our sporting events at the High School. It will build this neighborhood and establish our stabilization efforts for other blighting neighborhoods.

Location: Nelson Neighborhood (See Target Area Boundary Map)

Targeted Outcome: 5

Blight Fight Target Area 2014



Boundaries (in red) are Strong Avenue on the North; Fifth Street on The West; Laketon Avenue on the South; Clinton Street on East

\$ 3,500 **Sub-Recipient - Ramps**

Programs for low-income residents with housing needs specific to ramps.

Location: City/Community Wide

Targeted Outcome: 8 households

Non-Housing Priorities & Proposed Projects

\$55,000 **Residential Clearance.**

Demolition of vacant, sub-standard structures that are not suitable for rehabilitation in accordance with City ordinances with respect to property maintenance and neighborhood blighting influences

Locations: Census Tract 1- Marquette; 2 – Jackson Hill; 3 – Angell; 5 – McLaughlin; 6.01 - Nelson Neighborhood; and 42 – North Nelson/Jackson Hill

Targeted Outcome: 5-7 Housing Units demolished

\$10,000 **Board-ups**

Funding for the board-ups of deteriorated structures that are vacant

Locations: Census Tract 1- Marquette; 2 – Jackson Hill; 3 – Angell; 5 – McLaughlin; 6.01 - Nelson Neighborhood; and 42 – North Nelson/Jackson Hill

Targeted Outcome: 18- 20 Housing Units boarded

\$50,000 **Code/Rehab Inspector**

The enforcement of Code compliance issues relative to neighborhood stabilization and sustainability specific to targeted neighborhoods of (1) one Code Enforcement Officer/Rehabilitation Officer for CDBG/HOME projects

Locations: Census Tract 3 – Angell Neighborhood; Census Tract 5 – McLaughlin; Census Tract 42 – Jackson Hill; Census Tract 1 – Marquette; Census Tract 6.01 and 42 Nelson Neighborhood

Targeted Outcome: 100 Households

\$156,288 **Fire Station Bond Repayment.**

For payment of bond authority funds toward completion of the Shoreline Drive project, to be used for real property acquisition of affected properties

Location: Census Tract 7 – Central Business, high-rise Senior Apartment

Targeted Outcome: Area Redevelopment

Public Services

Proposed projects will support community-based organizations by promoting neighborhood self-sufficiency and meet the under-served needs of special needs populations such as youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities and the homeless and low-income residents.

\$70,000 Youth Recreation Programs.

Funding of core-city youth recreation programs. Activities include summer/winter swimming, gym activities, basketball, family recreation, indoor soccer, and summer playground programs

Location: Census Tract 42 – Jackson Hill; 3 – Angell; 4 – East Muskegon; 5 – McLaughlin; 6.01 – 6.02 Nelson

Targeted Outcome: 500 Youth

\$ 4,500 Sub-recipient-UtilityAssistance

Programs for low-income residents with housing needs specific to utility/rent assistance

Location: City/Community Wide

Targeted Outcome: 16 Households

\$ 5,000 Summer Interns

Support college students during the summer months with job experience and wages for economic job creation

Location: City of Muskegon resident

Targeted Outcome: 1-2 students

\$25,000 Neighborhood Grants

Our neighborhoods have survived because of a strong partnership of individuals who want to make their neighborhood the best place to live and enjoy family. Through our Neighborhood Associations, we are pleased to offer grants that would fund a neighborhood activity to benefit the whole group and/or foster camaraderie.

An application of ideas and projects will be reviewed and selected for funding if the group has established goals, budget and savings from sources outside of the City of Muskegon.

Location: City Wide

Targeted Outcome: 15 Neighborhoods

MANAGEMENT

\$179,405 Management & Coordination

Management, oversight and coordination of CDBG activities. Funding includes cost of staff salaries and fringe benefits, office supplies, equipment and contingency

\$ 10,000 Affirmative Action Activities

Cover time, operations and assistance for economic development for City of Muskegon businesses, Davis-Bacon projects, Employment and Recruitment

MANAGING THE PROCESS

1. Identify the lead agency, entity, and agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.

The Community and Neighborhood Services Department is the administering entity for the City of Muskegon's CDBG/HOME programs.

2. Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.

The development of the initial plan consisted of agency meetings, some surveys, neighborhood meetings and organized citizen groups. Annually, our collaboration has included entitlement cities, and together we organize a community agency meeting to obtain information, as well as discuss our future funding limitations and trends identified as service organizations.

3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to enhance coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies.

The City of Muskegon Community and Neighborhood Services office has representation on varied service coalitions/boards within the county. Those platforms include:

- a. Continuum of Care
- b. Call 2-1-1
- c. Housing Affordability Committee
- d. Muskegon Housing Commission Board

It is the goal of the City to gather information and to coordinate services in our community. This always encompasses other agencies with like-minds, dedicated to serving low-income households.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.

The City of Muskegon's citizen participation process begins with a Citizen's District Council (CDC). We meet monthly, excluding the summer months of July and August, to discuss our programs and review reports for CDBG/HOME Programs. The group is a volunteer board made up of local citizens representing the 4 voting ward precincts. Minutes from the CDC meetings are available online at the City's website.

In early to late April, public notices advertise the availability of the next fiscal year Action Plan in an effort to obtain comments and feedback from the public concerning the proposed activities for the coming fiscal year. Prior to City of Muskegon Commission approval, a hearing is scheduled to offer the public an opportunity to speak prior to Commission approval.

Later in September, the CNS office holds another public hearing to discuss the activities and accomplishments of the past fiscal year. The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) is prepared and publicized in our local paper for public comment.

2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.

At the May 13, 2014 City Commission meeting, the plan will be approved with comments received.

During the public comment period from April 6, to May 6, 2014 there were no comments received.

Prior to the Plan Review, CNS conducted two public meeting to receive comments about what the citizens would like to see happen in the City of Muskegon. The following are the comments received:

**PLANNING 2014
JANUARY 23, 2014**

11:00 a.m.

2 Citizens Commented

5 Representatives from Agencies Commented

Citizen Comments:

1. Provide funding for improvements to the McGraft Park band shell; landscaping and walkway improvements at the park for more accessibility.
2. Return the breakfast/lunch program to Joe Clifford Park in the summer and the youth recreation program there. Children have to cross Laketon Avenue or Getty Street to get to another park.

Agency Comments:

1. Steward in Action:
 - a. Better pooling of resources between government, business and citizens to provide a positive place for prospective employers to look at; create an unmet niche, such as sharing a building where people can get hands-on skills, volunteer to teach basic skills, possible provide a stipend to those who are unemployed but volunteer to work there; provide budgeting training, meal planning.
 - b. Creativity maximization of unemployable youth; providing leadership
 - c. Creating economic value; welcoming companies even of similar business to work together as partners and would draw more workers and suppliers to the area.
2. Senior Resources
 - a. Provide a friendly and accessible downtown area, particularly around the Frauenthal and surrounding areas in the winter; snow removal problems making mobility difficult, especially for seniors.
3. Chamber of Commerce
 - a. Heating sidewalks/street in downtown area would help with accessibility.
 - b. Work to make neighborhoods more inviting, possibly relocating or removing houses; color-code diagram neighborhoods to show vibrancy and inviting areas for prospective residents.
 - c. Possible creation of artist neighborhoods.
4. Community Encompass
 - a. Partnership with City as leverage to receive matching dollars from MSHDA to provide more affordable/decent housing.
5. Kids Food Basket
 - a. Organizing events in the City is getting more difficult; policy should be reviewed, including costs of application. Tenured organizations should be looked at differently than new ones. Partnership with them rather than be a moneymaker for the City.

- b. Bridge gap from Peer Marquette to downtown, i.e. Fatty Lumpkins on Washington was chosen by the owner to bridge the gap between Lakeside and downtown.

5:30 p.m.

2 Citizens Commented

5 Agencies Represented w/Comments

Citizen Comments

1. Help with teen homelessness
2. Stipend for teens to work in the neighborhood.
3. Partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Allow citizens to borrow equipment to fix things in their home without having to pay.
4. Invest in neighborhoods-Neighborhood Associations to band together to help each other build community relationships and partnerships.

Agency Comments

1. Community enCompass
 - a. Home funds to match MSHDA home ownership and Rehab
 - b. Security cameras at St. Joe Park
 - c. Better security for 3rd Street
 - d. Develop 3rd Street
 2. Nims Neighborhood Association – building a playground at old Nims School.
 - a. City to purchase the land and help purchase equipment
 - b. Nims Neighborhood would provide the upkeep.
 3. Muskegon County Health Department
 - a. Promote healthy living
 - b. Complete sidewalks and make them more accessible
 - c. Demo dangerous homes and build neighborhood/community gardens
 4. East Muskegon Little League
 - a. Build a baseball diamond for the mentally and physically challenged near Sheldon Park so it can be centrally located.
 5. Volunteer Organization-Time Banking
 - a. Citizens would volunteer to help out in the community and the time they spend is banked with the City
 - b. Later if the citizen that had time banked needed some help they could receive some assistance without costing anything
- 3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.**

The City of Muskegon attempts to outreach to the minority community through several media outlets which include the local radio and newspapers, and as an alternative method, we have offered workshops, trainings, open houses and fairs to broaden public participation.

- 4. Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.**

No comments have been refused. However if we receive vulgar messages and what is perceived inappropriate input, we will not accept those kind of comments.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

- 1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to develop institutional structure.**

The CNS office is continuing to develop its institutional structure by reviewing its policies and procedures and revising them when needed. Consistency in delivery of services is required in delivering quality programming and frequent updates strengthen our structure.

MONITORING

- 1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.**

All subrecipients are required to submit quarterly or semi-annual reports throughout the fiscal year. If a serious occurrence is discovered, by reviewing the reports, a telephone call is made to the subrecipient to discuss the issue. If the issue cannot be corrected through a telephone call, a special monitoring visit will be scheduled to 'clear' the issue as promptly as possible. If no issues arise during the fiscal year, a monitoring visit is scheduled in May of each year for all subrecipients/CHDO's.

LEAD-BASED PAINT

- 1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards in order to increase the inventory of lead-safe housing available to extremely low-income, low-income and moderate-income families, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.**

In October 2011, it was announced that the Public Health Muskegon County agency was the recipient of a Lead Hazard Reduction Program (MCLHRP) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We agreed to partner with them to satisfy match funding.

For the past 2 years, the County has been able to leverage projects utilizing both funding sources, CDBG and HOME. When available, the City can cover homeowner's extra costs and offer 50% match to landlords through our HOME Rental Rehab.

As a requirement, any HOME funded project requires lead testing, and abatement is preferred if any lead hazards are found. It has been beneficial for our applicants to start with the MCLHRP to stretch our grant dollars. To date, we have assisted 14 households through our programs.

HOUSING

SPECIFIC HOUSING OBJECTIVES

- 1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve during the next year.**

HOME PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES – 2014

HOME CHDO's		\$70,000
Community Encompass	\$51,000	
Habitat for Humanity	\$19,000	
HOME Rental Rehabilitation		\$ 40,000
HOME Administration		\$ 27,542
HOME Infill Housing/New Construction		\$120,000
HOME Rehab Construction		\$ 9,879
HOME Homebuyer Incentive Program		\$ 8,000
TOTAL		\$275,421

Recapture provisions

The City elects to adopt the recapture of the homebuyer subsidy. The homebuyer subsidy will be forgiven by the City at a rate based on an annual term of the affordability period. Upon sale of the property within the affordability period, the homeowner will be required to repay a prorated portion of the HOME funds used to subsidize the purchase of the home.

- Affordability is based on the amount of investment per HOME regulations

- 2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.**

The majority of the expected funding will be directed in a variety of ways to attack the issues of concern to the Muskegon community. The main focus will be targeted in areas that are in correlation with the established objectives suggested in the 2011- 1016 Consolidated Plan: housing maintenance, youth services and neighborhood redevelopment. The City of Muskegon has no match requirement.

NEEDS OF PUBLIC HOUSING

- 1. Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of the public housing and activities it will undertake during the next year to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.**

Working with the Muskegon Housing Commission (MHC) staff, the City of Muskegon promotes our current programs to the tenants at their apartment facility in hopes that more public housing residents will offer suggestions and input.

We also highlight homeownership opportunities for Voucher assisted families to partner in the Homebuyer's Program offered by MHC.

As much as possible, we want to present interested public housing residents with employment options through Section 3 policies enforced to construction project contractors. Improving relationships between us will ensure the success of the authority.

- 2. If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation during the year.**

Recently, the Muskegon Housing Commission is not listed as a 'Troubled' housing authority. The City has agreed to offer assistance to the Muskegon Housing Commission; a staff person is now a member of their Board of Commissioners and other departments have provided counsel to the interim director.

BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to remove barriers to affordable housing.**

The CNS office will continue to offer its' new and rehabilitated housing at significantly reduced prices.

In addition, as long as funding is available, we will assist low/moderate-income households with opportunities to purchase a home and housing counseling to make the transition successful.

We are hoping to reduce the stress of purchasing a decent, affordable home by offering down-payment assistance to these buyers at closing.

The office has a Lease with Option to Purchase program for some of our houses, and counseling referrals for mortgage ready families through our HOME program.

FAIR HOUSING

The City of Muskegon and the CNS office continue to affirmatively advocate fair housing in the City of Muskegon.

The 2009 Analysis of Impediments Study suggested that the City of Muskegon participate within an interagency agreement to enlist the resources of the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan. Since 2010, we have partnered with the County of Muskegon taking the lead role with FHCWM who investigate, test and report bi-annually our individual community's citizen complaints.

This partnership has increased collective activities that benefit county residents: homebuyers, tenants, and businesses looking for additional opportunities in our county communities. The FHCWM conducted a total of 149 tests during a six-month period; four of which involved people and/or property located within the Cities and were handled under the terms of the contract signed by Cities of Muskegon, Muskegon Heights and Norton Shores. Of the four tests, three were conducted in the City of Muskegon and all three yielded conclusive results and were conducted on a survey basis on the basis of race.

All three conclusive tests were deemed to reveal evidence of significant difference in the treatment of the testers potentially attributable to race. The FHCWM will follow up with subsequent investigation as deemed appropriate and necessary.

Also during this six month reporting period, the FHCWM provided 16.5 hours of fair housing education and outreach to persons or groups within the County and/or Cities. Many participants responded to the trainings with positive comments and they viewed the information as helpful for them and their community.

As partners, we embrace working together as a tool to accomplish common goals resulting in a true excitement and expectation of growth as we commission our next Analysis of Impediment (AI) Study. Before the start of summer 2014, we will solicit bids and authorize an agency to conduct our AI study requiring financial support this year with the past practice pay scale below:

Municipality	Population - Percentage	Analysis/Impediment Study	Fair Housing Agreement
City of Muskegon	38,000- 30%	\$6,500	\$4,675
City of Norton Shores	24,000- 18%	\$3,500	\$2,635
City of Muskegon Heights	10,000- 9%	\$2,500	\$1,190
County of Muskegon	172,000- 43%	\$7,500	\$6,500
TOTALS	100%	\$ 20,000	\$15,000

HOMELESS

SPECIFIC HOMELESS PREVENTION ELEMENTS

1. **Sources of Funds – Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction’s plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.**

State Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds are allocated to three non-profits: Every Woman’s Place, West Michigan Therapy and Bethany Housing-Community enCompass. Additional funds are made available for Emergency Shelter agents from time to time, but the group does not receive direct assistance from the City of Muskegon.

2. **Homelessness – In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.**

The 2013 Action Plan is in correlation with the City’s objectives and goals documented in the 2011 – 2016 Consolidated Plan. At this time the only obstacle that the CNS office will address refers to the needs of the potential homeless and the homeless population of the community is the continued reduction of available funding.

3. **Chronic homelessness – The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this goal.**

Some of the specific plans that the City of Muskegon intends to use to eliminate chronic homelessness have been to work and participate as a member of several local coalitions whose main objective is to end homelessness. Some of those coalitions are the Muskegon County Continuum of Care, the Human Service Group, Call 2-1-1 and the Housing Needs Council.

Along with working with the above mentioned coalitions, the City will continue to offer assistance to homeowners for housing repairs that could possibly cause them to become homeless.

4. Homeless Prevention – The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

The City of Muskegon is attempting to market its Rental Rehabilitation program to landlords. The CNS office was very successful in marketing both the Rental Rehab program along with the Muskegon County Lead Hazard Reduction Program and will continue to promote this opportunity to produce decent, safe and affordable units for families. The combining of the grants not only improves the aesthetics of the dwellings, it also makes the housing units Lead safe and more affordable for renters because of the affordability statute.

Producing these types of units is a win- win for housing service agencies who are looking for placements for their ESG clients. Available units will prevent this population from becoming homeless.

5. Discharge Coordination Policy – Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.

It was stated in the previous Action Plans that our Continuum of Care agency is in partnerships with housing service agents to establish a county Community Discharge Coordination Policy. The coalition is currently designing and will develop a policy for the community to adhere to.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Identify the jurisdictions priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.**

We have provided funding for the resurfacing of Merrill Street in Census tract # 6.01. Unfortunately, the amount of funding needed for streets exceeds the available funds, so we will re-organize and shift these dollars to neighborhood development

- 2. Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in Section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.**

At this time, the short and long-term Community Development objectives are the same as those created in the Consolidated Plan managed through our Planning department. More than 70% of our CDBG funds are invested in neighborhoods and for families of low to moderate incomes.

This year we want to encourage our citizens, through neighborhood associations, to take a leading role in affecting change in their housing environments. Through our Neighborhood Grants, we hope to boost economic development activities that enhance safer living situations by allowing neighborhoods to creatively describe what they need to be successful.

Additional funds, governed by neighborhood associations, empower individuals to be an active participant of the change they want to see. The increase and support of the City should expand the opportunities to create and sustain decent neighborhoods, while empowering people to participate in the decisions effecting their living environment.

ANTIPOVERTY STRATEGY

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

In addition, the CNS office is working on several other initiatives to try and attack the unemployment problem in the community, especially as it relates to our youth.

We will continue to sponsor Job Fairs for under-employed, public housing residents, and youth who live in our low-income census tract neighborhoods and are enrolled in our public school system.

We want to strengthen, promote and encourage participation from minority and women contractors. This aim is reached when we publicize announcements for job fairs, in papers and publications read by specific minority populations: Spanish speaking, African American, etc. Cinco de Mayo, Muskegon Business Association.

As mentioned before, the City continues to work with other service providers and youth programs within our neighborhoods by providing grant dollars. If available funding is accessible, we want to create employment opportunities for our youth while empowering them to interact with others in a positive manner. This strategy will work through our support of YEP (Youth Employment Program) in 2014.

Youth Empowerment Project is a division of Community enCompass to enlist neighborhood teens with a year-long learning journey that will prepare them for their future. Stipends are provided to the youth and they can perform amazing neighborhood development projects that will greatly enhance our target neighborhood. Volunteer based in its approach to making neighborhoods a great learning ground for the development of youth.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS (91.220 (c) AND (e))

- 1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve for the period covered by the Action Plan.**

It is hoped that the CNS office can establish partnerships to address non-homeless special needs but at this time, the opportunity has not presented itself. If situations occur where our resources can assist, the City of Muskegon will take the priorities of our Plan into account for specific objectives set by our goals of activities.

- 2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.**

As stated earlier, the funding available in the community, especially the funding that is funneled through the CNS office, will be used to address the needs identified in the 2011 – 2016 Consolidated Plan and subsequent Action Plans.

Reasonable expectations are that the Public Health Muskegon County agent will continue to apply for Lead grants for the Muskegon County Lead Hazard Reduction Program (MCLHRP) for which we have been a match partner. In addition, we hope to continue our Rental Rehabilitation Program for MCLHRP applicants as a 50% match for necessary rehabilitation outside the scope of lead.

We will coordinate resources with our Human Resource agency for our citizens, as we have done with DTE Energy. Our community's service agencies assist residents in need or primary resources to keep and maintain a safe living environment. Reimbursement proceeds will be used to address housing needs of qualified homebuyers.