

Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER)

CITY OF AUBURN

Program Year 2023

On behalf of:

The Auburn-Lewiston Home Consortium & City of Auburn CDBG program

Prepared by Auburn Community Development Office

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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 Auburn receives entitlement funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership programs. The CDBG program aims to strengthen urban communities by enhancing housing quality, improving living environments, and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals. Similarly, the HOME program is dedicated to creating affordable housing solutions for low-income households, aligning with national objectives to assist those in greatest need.

This Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) encompasses the utilization of HOME funds for both Auburn and Lewiston, along with CDBG funds specific to Auburn, as well as leveraged funding for the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The objectives and anticipated outcomes for the deployment of HOME and CDBG funds are informed by the Consolidated Plan developed for the program years 2020-2024. The Annual Action Plan outlines specific 1-year performance measures and strategies to achieve these objectives.

This program year, a key focus has been the deployment of HOME-ARP funds across both Auburn and Lewiston. This one-time funding is specifically aimed at addressing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness or those at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Through the HOME-ARP program, new initiatives have been launched, including public service sub-grants that are vital to meeting the increasing demands of vulnerable populations.

Since these activities were not outlined in the original Five-Year Consolidated Plan, they are not reflected in the data tables within this report. However, their significance and the substantial staff resources dedicated to their success will be highlighted in the narrative sections. This will provide a comprehensive overview of the initiatives, detailing their impact, the staff efforts involved, and the allocation of resources to support these critical programs.

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 |
|---|--|-----------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Improve Infrastructure and reduce blight | Non-Housing Community Development | CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ | Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 3000 | 7215 | 240.50% | 1000 | 3625 | 362.50% |
| Improve Infrastructure and reduce blight | Non-Housing Community Development | CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ | Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Promote Economic Opportunities | Non-Housing Community Development | CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ | Jobs created/retained | Jobs | 10 | 11 | 110.00% | 5 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Promote Economic Opportunities | Non-Housing Community Development | CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ | Businesses assisted | Businesses Assisted | 10 | 7 | 70.00% | 5 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Provide Essential Services | Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ | Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 1200 | 3915 | 326.25% | 500 | 1650 | 330.00% |

| Provide Essential Services | Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ | Homeless Person Overnight Shelter | Persons Assisted | 0 | 5 | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|---|------------------------------|-----|---|-------|----|---|--------|
| Provide Essential Services | Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ | Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added | Beds | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Provide Safe and Affordable Housing | Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$ / HOME: | Rental units constructed | Household Housing Unit | 0 | 2 | | 7 | 2 | 28.57% |
| Provide Safe and Affordable Housing | Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ | Rental units rehabilitated | Household Housing Unit | 100 | 6 | 6.00% | 25 | 0 | 0.00% |

| Provide Safe and Affordable Housing | Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$ / HOME: | Homeowner Housing Added | Household Housing Unit | 0 | 0 | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|---|------------------------------|----|----|--------|----|---|--------|
| Provide Safe and Affordable Housing | Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ | Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated | Household Housing Unit | 50 | 19 | 38.00% | 10 | 3 | 30.00% |
| Provide Safe and Affordable Housing | Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$ / HOME: | Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers | Households Assisted | 0 | 0 | | | | |

| Provide Safe and Affordable Housing | Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$ / HOME: | Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing | Households Assisted | 125 | 28 | 22.40% | 15 | 3 | 20.00% |
|--|--|---------------------|--|------------------------------|-----|----|--------|----|---|--------|
| Provide Safe and Affordable Housing | Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non- Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ | Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care | Household Housing Unit | 0 | 2 | | | | |

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.

The PY23 Action Plan identifies four specific objectives, and this section assesses how the City of Auburn's use of CDBG funds aligns with these priorities, with a particular focus on the highest priority activities.

1. Safe and Affordable Housing: CDBG funds were utilized to rehabilitate homes for low- to moderate-income residents in Auburn. This initiative was supported by additional resources from a grant received from the Office of Lead Hazard Control & Health Homes. Of the 82 applications initiated during PY23, three rehabilitation projects were completed by the end of the program year. Additionally, the city

launched an affordable housing program targeting smaller developers with HOME funds, initiating four applications in PY23; however, none advanced to the shovel-ready stage by year-end. Furthermore, the Auburn Community Development Office (ACDO) allocated \$155,550 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide energy efficiency rebates to 181 residents, demonstrating a complementary funding strategy outside of HUD resources.

- 2. Infrastructure Improvement and Blight Reduction: In 2022, a project to remove lead-based paint from the Community Little Theatre in Bonney Memorial Park was completed at the beginning of PY23. Additionally, a significant project to replace sidewalks and enhance pedestrian safety in the downtown area (a qualified low- to moderate-income neighborhood) was successfully completed. CDBG funds were also used to demolish a dilapidated building along the Little Androscoggin River to facilitate the expansion of the Auburn Riverwalk. Moreover, renovations commenced at the Police Activities League (PAL) Center, located in the Union Street neighborhood, which serves as a hub for afterschool activities for at-risk youth and houses the city's grab-and-go food pantry program. This project includes the demolition of 15 substandard residential units and will be reported in detail in the PY24 CAPER.
- 3. **Promotion of Economic Opportunities**: While no economic development projects were funded through CDBG or HOME during PY23, the city utilized ARPA dollars to provide \$308,880 in business loans to ten local businesses, thus supporting economic stability and growth in Auburn. Additionally, the city has also approved 6 new Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts which dedicated \$2,715,200 towards capital infrastructure projects, creating 24 new full-time and 30 new part-time jobs while saving 36 additional jobs from relocating outside of the city.
- 4. **Provision of Essential Services**: This program year saw CDBG funds allocated to three essential public service programs targeting low- and moderate-income residents of Auburn. These included support for Safe Voices, scholarships for Auburn Recreation's summer camp, and the SeniorsPlus Meals-on-Wheels program. Notably, the Recreation Scholarship Program received \$20,000 to enable 31 local youth from low- and moderate-income families to participate in summer camp, fostering diversity and allowing parents to seek employment opportunities. SeniorsPlus was awarded \$25,000 to provide meals and educational resources to 694 seniors. Safe Voices received \$20,000 to offer resources and shelter to 57 victims of homelessness and domestic violence.

Furthermore, through HOME-ARP funds, Auburn provided financial support to three subrecipients—Rumford Group Homes, Community Concepts Inc., and Housing Resources for Youth—offering critical services to households experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. In a similar vein, the City of Lewiston allocated funds to three subrecipients—Trinity Jubilee Center, Safe Voices, and New Beginnings Shelter—to support

residents facing similar challenges.

Please note that the HOME-ARP, and ARPA projects are not detailed in Table 1 but will be provided in more detail below.

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 | HOME |
|---|-------|------|
| White | 1,931 | 4 |
| Black or African American | 1,052 | 9 |
| Asian | 4 | 0 |
| American Indian or American Native | 6 | 0 |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 10 | 0 |
| Total | 3,003 | 13 |
| Hispanic | 36 | 0 |
| Not Hispanic | 2,967 | 13 |

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

Narrative

According to the 2020 Census, Auburn's population stands at 24,061. The demographic breakdown indicates that 87.7% of residents identify as White, 4.5% as Black or African American, and 0.4% as American Indian or Alaskan Native. Among the beneficiaries of the CDBG program, 64% identified as White, 35% as Black or African American, 0.1% as Asian, 0.3% as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 0.2% as American Indian. For recipients of HOME funds, 30% were White, while 70% identified as Black or African American.

It is important to note that the CR-10 reporting system does not account for individuals or households with mixed racial backgrounds. For example, individuals identifying as both American Indian/Alaskan Native and Black are classified under the primary race indicated, which may lead to underreporting in some categories. Furthermore, 65 individuals or households with multiple racial identities were excluded from the CDBG program data.

In Program Year 2023, three activities funded through CDBG were classified as "area-wide benefit." While these activities have a significant impact, they do not collect data on the racial and ethnic composition of beneficiaries. These projects are in census tracts primarily composed of low- to moderate-income households, which tend to be more racially and ethnically diverse than the city's overall population. As a result, these initiatives serve a broader and more diverse range of individuals.

Lastly, accomplishments related to HOME-ARP activities are not represented in the data table above.

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 | 1,877,316 | |
| HOME | public - federal | 1,267,595 | |

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

In Program Years 2021 and 2022, the city received a substantial amount of Program Income, which has carried over into the current year.

During this period, significant efforts were made to meet key objectives by utilizing new funding sources, allowing the city to reserve valuable entitlement funds for priority projects. This strategy included using Lead & Healthy Homes funds for housing rehabilitation, HOME-ARP funds for delivering essential services to at-risk residents, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for economic development initiatives.

The city also made a concerted effort to invest its available CDBG funds into high-impact infrastructure projects, as outlined above. Although the city was deemed untimely for the second consecutive year, the outstanding balance was significantly reduced, with the remaining funds committed to ongoing projects, including the development of the PAL Center and related Urban Renewal Authority (URA) activities. These larger public improvements are expected to fully align with program goals by 2025.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

| Target Area | Planned Percentage of | Actual Percentage of | Narrative Description |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Allocation | Allocation | |
| | | | |

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan employed a city-wide approach for categorizing activities, without a specific target area of focus. Consequently, the IDIS reporting system did not capture detailed demographic data. However, the most recent Action Plan introduced a targeted focus area for Public Infrastructure projects. This area encompasses Census tracts 101, 103, and 105, which were identified as having a population with 51% or more Low-to-Moderate Income status, according to the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) data derived from the 2010 Census.

During the current program year, three Public Infrastructure projects were successfully completed. Additionally, one project commenced this year but was not finished by June 30, 2024; it is expected to be

completed in early FY 2025.

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.

The city diligently monitors the carry-forward of available matching funds from prior years. In the current year, there was a carry-forward of \$1,433,509.27 in matching funds. It's noteworthy that no matching funds were required for HOME projects in 2020-2022.

HUD funded programs augment their financial resources by stipulating that owner-investors of rental properties contribute matching funds. Specifically, Lead projects entail matching funds from investor/owners' projects of up to \$2,000 per unit.

Public Service funds were leveraged with other federal, state, and local funding. These funders include:

- MaineCare
- EFSP (Emergency Food and Shelter Program)
- Maine Housing
- Individual donors
- United Way
- John T. Gorman Foundation
- Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- Lewiston Adult Education
- Auburn school system

Numerous public facilities were employed for various public service initiatives. For instance, the Auburn Senior Center at 48 Pettengill Park Road served as a location for the Auburn Recreation Summer Camp. The Grab-N-Go Food Pantry operated from the PAL Center at 24 Chestnut Street. Additionally, 6 service provider partners utilize space donated by the city at their 95 Main St. office to meet with clients and deliver services to Auburn residents.

| Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year | 1,333,949 | | | | |
| 2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year | 0 | | | | |
| 3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2) | 1,333,949 | | | | |
| 4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year | 11,819 | | | | |
| 5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4) | 1,322,130 | | | | |

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

| | Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------|--|--|
| Project No. or Other ID | Date of Contribution | Cash (non-Federal sources) | Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges | Appraised Land/Real Property | Required Infrastructure | Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor | Bond Financing | Total Match | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

| Program Income – Enter the | Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Balance on hand at beginning of reporting period \$ | Amount received during reporting period \$ | Total amount expended during reporting period \$ | Amount expended for TBRA \$ | Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$ | | | | | |
| 13,374 | 123,613 | 1,840 | 0 | 135,147 | | | | | |

Table 7 – Program Income

| | • | | | prises – Indicat reporting peri | | and dollar |
|----------------|-------|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| value of conti | Total | | | ess Enterprises | | White Non- |
| | | Alaskan Native or American Indian | Asian or Pacific Islander | Black Non- Hispanic | Hispanic | Hispanic |
| Contracts | | | | | | |
| Dollar | | | | | | |
| Amount | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sub-Contracts | S | | | | | |
| Number | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dollar | | | | | | |
| Amount | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | Women Business Enterprises | Male | | | |
| Contracts | T | | | | | |
| Dollar | | | | | | |
| Amount | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Number | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Sub-Contracts | s | | | | | |
| Number | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Dollar | | | | | | |
| Amount | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted

| | Total | | Minority Prop | perty Owners | | White Non- |
|------------------|-------|--|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|
| | | Alaskan Native or American Indian | Pacific Hispanic Islander 0 0 0 | Hispanic | Hispanic | |
| Number | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dollar Amount | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition

| Parcels Acquired | 0 | 0 |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Businesses Displaced | 0 | 0 |
| Nonprofit Organizations | | |
| Displaced | 0 | 0 |
| Households Temporarily | | |
| Relocated, not Displaced | 0 | 0 |

| Households | Total | | Minority Prope | rty Enterprises | | White Non- |
|------------|-------|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------|------------|
| Displaced | | Alaskan Native or American Indian | Asian or Pacific Islander | Black Non- Hispanic | Hispanic | Hispanic |
| Number | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cost | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table 10 - Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

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 | 5 | 0 |
| Number of Non-Homeless households to be | | |
| provided affordable housing units | 5 | 3 |
| Number of Special-Needs households to be | | |
| provided affordable housing units | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 3 |

Table 11 - Number of Households

| | One-Year Goal | Actual |
|--|---------------|--------|
| Number of households supported through | | |
| Rental Assistance | 0 | 3 |
| Number of households supported through | | |
| The Production of New Units | 10 | 0 |
| Number of households supported through | | |
| Rehab of Existing Units | 0 | 0 |
| Number of households supported through | | |
| Acquisition of Existing Units | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 3 |

Table 12 - Number of Households Supported

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

In the context of the HOME programs, **goals** refer to the specific objectives outlined in the 2023 Annual Action Plan, such as increasing access to affordable housing through initiatives like Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and security deposit assistance. **Outcomes**, on the other hand, measure the actual results of these programs, such as the number of households assisted and the overall effectiveness of the initiatives. It is important to note that the data table above includes ONLY HOME program data, excluding activities funded by CDBG or HOME-ARP.

The Auburn-Lewiston Consortium operates three key programs to help low-income residents secure and maintain decent, safe, and affordable housing:

- **TBRA Program**: Provides security deposit assistance to low-income households seeking affordable housing.
- Auburn Lead Hazard Program: Removes lead hazards in income-qualified units for low- to moderate-income homeowners and tenants. Landlords are required to create or maintain affordable housing for at least three years.
- **HOME Funds**: Allocated to the development of new affordable housing in both cities.

During the program year, security deposit assistance and ongoing rent support were provided to low- and moderate-income households in both Auburn and Lewiston through gap-financing programs operated by community nonprofits. The Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (IRC), in collaboration with Auburn General Assistance, assisted 161 households (364 individuals) in Auburn with rent payments totaling \$51,108. In Lewiston, IRC supported 1,114 households (2,071 individuals) with an investment of \$357,559.

The **Auburn Housing and Urban Development (AHUD)** program generated significant interest; however, applicants are required to act as their own developers, with projects needing to be shovel-ready for approval. This requirement caused delays between initial interest and formal applications, and by yearend, no shovel-ready projects had been completed.

All housing programs, except TBRA, are subject to an affordability period and rent maximums. TBRA rent caps are aligned with the Fair Market Rents (FMR) published by HUD, while newly created units using HOME funds are subject to a 20-year affordability period, with rent rates adjusted annually to account for rising housing costs.

Several challenges are hindering the achievement of these goals:

- Rent Caps vs. Market Rent: TBRA clients face increasing difficulty finding rental units that comply
 with rent limits, especially when considering utility costs. Landlords must weigh potential loan
 funds against possible rent differentials to determine profitability. Raising rent caps could help
 alleviate this barrier.
- Low Rental Vacancy Rates: A July 9, 2023, report from the Sun Journal indicated a nearly 0% vacancy rate in Lewiston and Auburn. This severe shortage of available rental units further complicates efforts for TBRA clients to secure affordable housing.

To address these challenges, the city plans to ramp up marketing efforts in 2025 for its rental assistance, rehabilitation, and new unit creation programs, anticipating an increase in both project numbers and overall impact.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Securing safe, quality, and affordable housing continues to be an escalating challenge across Maine. As the Auburn-Lewiston Consortium develops future action plans, there is an urgent need for more comprehensive research aimed at reducing barriers to affordable housing programs. To address this, the Community Development Office has partnered with a statistics program at Bates College to assess impediments to fair housing. The assessment revealed that average rents have nearly doubled since 2011, significantly worsening housing affordability.

A key policy recommendation from this research is to increase subsidy caps to help prevent evictions. However, it is important to note that the High HOME Rent caps are set by HUD, making this solution beyond local control.

The availability of HOME-ARP funds also provides an opportunity to enhance support for individuals experiencing homelessness. These funds can cover a broader range of housing-related expenses, such as moving costs, storage fees, and utility payments. The Community Development Office has partnered with local nonprofits to leverage HOME-ARP funds, offering new and enhanced support to low- and extremely low-income residents. In Auburn, partners include Community Concepts Inc., Housing Resources for Youth, Rumford Group Homes, and Preble Street, while in Lewiston, partners include New Beginnings, Safe Voices, and Trinity Jubilee Center. The City of Auburn has also collaborated with Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services (MEIRS) and the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (IRCM) to address additional housing barriers. This partnership provides immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking families with training on their rights and responsibilities as tenants.

Moreover, these organizations are equipped to assist with workforce development by offering referrals to English Language Learning classes, State benefits, and support with employment applications and interview skills. By equipping families with these essential tools, the likelihood of sustained housing stability post-assistance is greatly improved. These critical insights will shape the objectives of the forthcoming 2025 Action Plan, ensuring that the Consortium effectively responds to the evolving needs of the community.

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 | 1 | 1 | |
| Low-income | 2 | 2 | |
| Moderate-income | 0 | 0 | |
| Total | 3 | 3 | |

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

In Program Year 2023, no HOME rehabilitation or unit creation projects were completed. However, HOME funds were effectively utilized to assist three low-income households with security deposits, helping them transition into affordable housing. It is important to note that the table above does not include activities funded by HOME-ARP, ARPA, or other non-HUD-funded programs managed by the Business & Community Development Office.

Ongoing efforts are focused on preserving and maintaining affordable housing through the Lead & Healthy Homes program. This initiative provides grants to homeowners and landlords, enabling them to address lead hazards and improve living conditions. All units benefiting from the program must either be occupied by low- to moderate-income families or made available to such tenants in the future.

Additionally, the Lead & Healthy Homes program leverages CDBG funds to cover the required matching funds for income-qualified homeowners, ensuring an affordability period of three years. During this time, rent rates are monitored to maintain affordability. Each newly rehabilitated unit also adds one affordable housing unit to the city's stock, supporting the community's broader housing needs.

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 Auburn-Lewiston Consortium has demonstrated leadership in the early implementation of the HOME-ARP (American Rescue Plan) Program, securing approval for its allocation plan of many other communities. Collaborative efforts with nonprofit service providers focused on assisting individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness have been crucial in preventing service duplication and building a robust referral network.

With HOME-ARP funds, Auburn provided support to three subrecipients—Rumford Group Homes, Community Concepts Inc., and Housing Resources for Youth—who directly engaged with 359 households facing homelessness or the risk of homelessness. Of these households, 32 successfully transitioned into stable housing with assistance from program staff. Community Concepts Inc. and Rumford Group Homes conducted direct outreach to unhoused individuals, connecting with them at local drop-in centers and encampments. Housing Resources for Youth focused on unhoused students, collaborating with the school department and receiving referrals from the district's McKinney-Vento liaison.

Community Development staff actively participated in provider sessions at the Pleasant Street Drop-In Center, establishing connections with potential clients. Residents at risk of homelessness received comprehensive assistance, including housing searches, apartment applications, housing subsidy applications, and referrals to employment training programs, shelters, and food assistance.

The Community Development Department continued its collaboration with the General Assistance program and the Public Health Manager, both of whom share office space. During this reporting period, the General Assistance team saw a dramatic increase in demand, receiving a total of 1,645 applications—a 386% increase compared to the previous period. Notably, 521 of these applications were related to pending asylum requests, reflecting a 465% rise from the previous year. The City's General Assistance budget amounted to \$850,450 annually, a 364% increase from the prior year, with the majority allocated to housing-related expenses, including housing, utilities, and food aid. Due to program income requirements, all residents receiving funds through General Assistance qualify as extremely low income.

Additionally, the City Council allocated resources from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support the Project Support You (PSY) program, which introduced a dedicated co-responder specializing in mental health and substance abuse. This individual collaborated closely with the Auburn police and fire departments, enhancing care during 555 rescue calls. Over the first two quarters of PY23, city-contracted staff, in partnership with Tri-County Mental Health, provided services to 125 Auburn residents. Unfortunately, the position became vacant in December 2023, following a mass shooting in Lewiston in

October 2023, which stretched many providers thin. In spring 2024, Tri-County Mental Health was acquired by Spurwink, resulting in the transfer of the contract for this program. A second co-responder position was added to ensure both the Auburn Fire Department and Police Department had dedicated support, although both positions remained unfilled by the end of June 2024.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Maine continues to address the critical needs for emergency shelter and transitional housing for individuals experiencing homelessness. This effort is coordinated through the leadership and advocacy of the Maine Continuum of Care, the Maine Statewide Homeless Council, and various regional homeless councils.

In response to the homelessness crisis, the cities of Auburn and Lewiston established Mayoral Ad-hoc Committees on Homelessness. These committees have been actively working to identify resources, recommend locations, and develop proposals for establishing warming centers and permanent homeless shelters within their jurisdictions.

During the winter months, Maine Housing provided funding to a local nonprofit organization to operate a warming shelter in Lewiston. The City of Auburn supplemented this initiative by allocating \$89,306 in non-HUD funds to support the shelter's overnight operations, ensuring the availability of critical services during harsh weather conditions.

It is important to note that many local shelters do not receive direct financial support from the Maine Housing Authority. As a result, the City of Auburn allocates a portion of its Public Service funding to support these essential services. A key beneficiary of this support is Safe Voices, an organization dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking. Safe Voices offers a range of services, including re-housing and homelessness diversion programs, aimed at providing safety and stability for vulnerable populations.

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

The City's Community Development and General Assistance programs have formed partnerships with various housing-focused organizations to enhance service delivery. These community partners embed staff within city facilities, facilitating the sharing of resources and clients across multiple programs. Services provided through this collaboration include housing navigation, gap financing to cover rental costs exceeding General Assistance maximums, and English language instruction and job training programs for new Mainers. These efforts target a wide range of individuals and families experiencing or

at risk of homelessness, including those fleeing domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, and individuals discharged from public institutions or systems of care.

Additionally, both Auburn and Lewiston's HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) programs support individuals based on income eligibility, serving many recently discharged individuals who meet the income requirements. These programs provide Auburn residents with a broad array of services aimed at preventing or alleviating homelessness. Through the TBRA programs, eligible residents receive assistance with security deposits equivalent to two months' rent, as outlined in program guidelines.

The Housing Resources Program extends further assistance to those ineligible for TBRA, including:

- Security deposits
- First and last month's rent
- Housing application fees
- Relief for utility arrears and short-term payments for ongoing utility costs
- Support for rent arrears
- Moving expenses and temporary storage fees
- Financial aid for non-housing expenses, such as childcare, transportation (bus passes or gas vouchers), supplies and testing for HiSET (high school equivalency) classes, certification courses and exams, credit repair services, and outpatient medical care not covered by MaineCare or private insurance.

Both programs also offer referrals to additional services, including:

- Housing navigators to assist clients in securing homes in a competitive rental market
- Employment and job training programs
- Educational resources, including adult education programs
- Case management services
- Credit counseling

A significant challenge faced by these programs is the distribution of move-in costs for rental units. HUD's Fair Market Rent (FMR) caps limit the rent that can be covered, leading to hesitation among landlords who are often reluctant to participate in programs that cap rental income at below-market rates, particularly in a climate of rising market rents. To address this issue, General Assistance, in collaboration with GAP funding from IRCM, has filled the need for income-qualifying families as the contracted rental rates frequently exceed TBRA allowable amounts.

Moreover, the Statewide Homeless Council, in partnership with the Department of Corrections, is implementing the Maine Criminal Justice System Blueprint for Ending and Preventing Homelessness. This initiative aims to prevent individuals from being released from incarceration into homelessness. A similar Blueprint for Ending Homelessness, developed in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), focuses on discharge planning for individuals leaving state-run mental health facilities,

further addressing homelessness prevention at the systemic level.

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's Community Development staff, including the Public Health Manager and General Assistance Administrator, collaborate closely with the School Department, Police and Fire Departments, and local non-profits such as Safe Voices and New Beginnings. This coordinated approach ensures seamless referrals for residents in need, connecting them with appropriate service providers.

The HOME-ARP Housing Resources Program and HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) programs offer vital financial support for move-in costs, including security deposits and utility connections, directly benefiting individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Program staff are trained to mediate between tenants and landlords, helping to ensure stable housing situations. Additionally, they provide referrals to organizations that assist recently unhoused families in rebuilding essential life skills, such as home management, budgeting, financial literacy, credit repair, and other skills crucial for long-term housing stability.

In the upcoming year, Auburn and Lewiston plan to expand their collaboration with local non-profit organizations to broaden the scope of HOME-ARP projects. A key initiative includes a new partnership with Preble Street Inc., a prominent shelter operator in Portland. Under this expansion, Preble Street will establish a base of operations in the Auburn-Lewiston area, staffed by four case managers dedicated to serving the local homeless population.

Additionally, utilizing Auburn's HOME-ARP funds, the City has contracted with a specialist from Community Concepts Inc. to serve as a Homeless Encampment Outreach Coordinator. This individual visited over 65 homeless encampments within the City of Auburn, providing services and making referrals before the sites were cleaned up by a private contractor. By the end of the fiscal year, 29 encampments remained, with 10 still active and utilized by more than 21 homeless individuals.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The City of Auburn continues to make significant progress in promoting and developing affordable housing in partnership with the Auburn Housing Authority (AHA). As part of the city's efforts to implement LD 2003, Auburn has introduced a 2.5X bonus density allowance across all residential zones, further incentivizing the creation of diverse, high-density housing options. This policy is intended to address the growing demand for housing and advance the city's goals of increasing both accessibility and affordability.

At the close of the program year, the Auburn Housing Authority reported an occupancy rate of 94% across its 13 developments, which encompass 564 housing units. These units consist of Section 8 vouchers, public housing units, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) subsidized units. According to 2024 ESRI data, Auburn has a total of 10,030 households, with renters comprising 59.5% of this total, equating to approximately 5,967 rental units. AHA's low-income or subsidized units account for 9.5% of the city's total rental units, highlighting the crucial role it plays in providing affordable housing options for Auburn residents.

This year, in response to rising rental rates and limited housing availability, AHA increased payment standards within its Section 8 voucher program to 110% of Fair Market Rent. This adjustment aims to help low-income renters secure affordable housing and reflects AHA's ongoing commitment to adapting to local market conditions and ensuring housing stability for families in need.

Maine Housing's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) staff continue to lead statewide initiatives to improve program processes and evaluation across Public Housing Authorities (PHAs). Working closely with other FSS staff, Maine Housing is navigating new HUD regulations to maintain consistent and effective service delivery. In collaboration with Compass Working Capital, Maine Housing is also an active member of the National FSS Network, partnering with the Portland Housing Authority to advance these goals.

In line with its strategic priorities, AHA is also focusing on shifting operations toward a voucher-based model. This approach encourages the development of privately constructed housing that accepts housing vouchers, broadening affordable housing opportunities and integrating low-income households into a wider range of community environments.

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

The City of Auburn is dedicated to expanding affordable housing opportunities and supporting low-income residents in their journey toward homeownership. To help achieve this, the city actively refers low-income individuals, including public housing residents, to Community Credit Union (CCU) and Community Concepts Inc. (CCI). These organizations provide critical programs that assist residents in securing mortgages and offer down payment support, essential components for families seeking to achieve stable and sustainable housing.

One key program prepares residents to meet the qualifications for a \$5,000 grant from Maine Housing, which can be applied toward down payments or closing costs. This initiative reduces financial barriers to homeownership for low-income families, making stable housing more accessible.

Despite these proactive efforts, the city's recent application for the Pathways to Remove Obstacles to Housing (PRO HOUSING) program was not successful. The \$9.5 million grant would have funded infrastructure for a proposed mixed-income neighborhood comprised of 100 affordable units. While this was a setback, the city remains committed to exploring alternative funding sources and partnerships to meet its housing development goals.

Looking ahead, the City of Auburn has initiated a collaboration with a non-profit developer to utilize HOME funds in the creation of 15 new affordable housing units within the Union Street neighborhood. This project aims to replace substandard housing being removed from Chestnut Street, ensuring continued access to safe, quality housing for low-income residents. This development highlights Auburn's commitment to revitalizing neighborhoods and improving living conditions for all its residents.

Actions taken to aid troubled PHAs

Neither the Lewiston Housing Authority nor the Auburn Housing Authority (AHA) are classified as troubled. In fact, Auburn Housing Authority's Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) submission for the year ending March 31, 2024, earned the designation of **High Performer**, the highest rating awarded by HUD.

On August 14-15, HUD conducted a Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) inspection at AHA, using the new National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) paradigm. AHA received a score of 90, equivalent to an "A" grade. The NSPIRE inspection places a greater emphasis on the condition of individual housing units, in contrast to the previous focus on common areas and mechanical facilities. This inspection included 177 Public Housing units at Towne House, Family Development, Merrill Estates, Broadview Acres, and Lincoln School developments.

In September 2023, AHA was awarded a \$988,220 grant through HUD's Capital Fund Program (CFP) Emergency Fund. This grant will fund the replacement of domestic hot water, cold water, and heating pipes within the crawlspaces of eight buildings at AHA's Family Development facility, impacting 44 of the 50 units. This two-year project is crucial for extending the life of these units. Notably, approximately 84% of the grant dollars were awarded to two companies based in the Lewiston/Auburn community, injecting new federal dollars into the local economy and supporting local workers.

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 of Auburn continues to take proactive steps to eliminate barriers to housing development through several key initiatives over the past three years. One of the most impactful changes has been the implementation of LD 2003, which allows for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in all residential zoning districts. This legislation enables the construction of up to four units on a single lot, significantly enhancing housing flexibility and density throughout the city.

In addition to these reforms, Auburn has introduced a form-based code across approximately 3,300 acres of core city land. This approach represents the city's most flexible zoning framework for housing, focusing on the physical form and scale of buildings rather than the number of units. By establishing parameters for lot design, building height, and parking requirements, the form-based code encourages greater creativity and diversity in residential development, facilitating multi-unit housing projects without imposing unit restrictions.

These zoning changes are specifically designed to encourage infill development, promote multi-unit housing in residential zones, and provide incentives such as waivers or reductions in permit fees for targeted demographics.

In a notable policy update, the Auburn City Council removed the income requirement for building homes on rural land. Previously, ordinances mandated that 30% of a household's income be derived from farming activities in rural zones. The revised ordinance now requires landowners to demonstrate a connection to the land and possess a minimum of 10 acres to build homes. While this policy faced significant public opposition, it marks a step toward increasing housing opportunities in rural areas.

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

The General Assistance Administrator and Public Health Manager continue to be crucial members of Auburn's Community Development team. Additionally, new contracted team members have been hired under the HOME-ARP program to provide direct services to underserved residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

These staff members play vital roles in weekly team meetings and significantly contribute to the development of both the Action Plan and the CAPER reporting. Their community-facing roles enable them to interact daily with underserved populations, allowing for swift communication of program challenges and changing community needs to the broader team. This flexible approach facilitates rapid adjustments to program delivery when necessary.

A strategic addition this year was the hiring of a Project Support You (PSY) staff member. This position collaborates closely with the police and fire departments to engage individuals in crisis, including those who are unhoused and individuals with substance use or mental health disorders, ensuring they receive appropriate support and connections to housing services.

Furthermore, the city has initiated the establishment of a "hub" within the Community Development Office, inviting several non-profit organizations to co-locate their staff in the same physical space. This initiative aims to streamline referrals, improve client updates, and foster a greater understanding among staff about each step of a client's housing journey. The goal is to have staff from five non-profit organizations operating out of the Community Development Office, thereby enhancing collaboration and service delivery to those in need.

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

The City of Auburn secured a three-year Lead Hazard Control & Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) grant commencing in November 2021. To complement this grant, CDBG funds are employed as matching resources to offer supplementary subsidy grants to residents who meet income qualifications.

In 2022, a total of eleven housing units underwent lead assessments, and subsequent remediation efforts were undertaken for six of these units. During 2023 there was 100% turnover of staff working on this program, so there was a delay in project development. As of the end of PY23 16 new units were enrolled in the program and abatement work slated to be completed within the first half of PY24.

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

The City of Auburn administers four key programs designed to directly support individuals and families facing poverty:

- General Assistance (GA): This program provides emergency and ongoing support to low-income families, including food vouchers, temporary lodging in hotels or motels, and continuous rent aid. In 2023, GA assisted 1,396 cases, offering: 1,059 with housing assistance, 502 with utility support, 153 with food assistance, 33 with medical aid, 15 with burial or cremation assistance, 44 with baby supplies and 436 with misc. household items.
- Project Support You (PSY): Funded through ARPA, this frontline initiative works closely with the
 police and fire departments to provide immediate assistance to individuals in crisis. During PY23
 the PSY worker responded to 555 emergency calls, including 125 who were unhoused. Due to the
 vacancies left by staff departures, all these impacts were seen within the first 6 months of PY23.
- 3. **HOME TBRA (Tenant-Based Rental Assistance):** Auburn and Lewiston together supported 2 families through HOME funded TBRA. This program helps low-income families by covering the security deposit required when moving into a new rental unit. Due to the average rental rates exceeding HUDs High Home rent maximums, General Assistance, augmented with GAP financing from local nonprofits, provided most of the rental assistance during PY23.

4. **HOME-ARP Housing Resources Program:** This program assists individuals and families living in unstable housing situations, including those in encampments, vehicles, and emergency shelters. The residents serviced by the city of Auburn and their contractors totaled over 359 with 32 individuals moving from homelessness to housed.

Additionally, Auburn Community Development continues to allocate resources to support various public services and housing programs. These services include food pantries, homelessness prevention, housing navigators, domestic violence support, neighborhood centers, Meals on Wheels, and youth programs.

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

Internally, the City of Auburn has undertaken a comprehensive redevelopment of its Community Development department. This overhaul includes the integration of the General Assistance program with the Public Health Manager role, fostering a more team-based approach to service delivery. This restructuring has enabled staff to offer a more comprehensive and holistic range of services tailored to specific communities.

This redevelopment aligns with broader city initiatives aimed at streamlining application, approval, and service delivery processes. These efforts have significantly reduced response times and improve the program's ability to address identified needs more effectively. The success of this program has precipitated in the relocation and expansion of the city of Auburn Homeless Resource Center to a larger, 5,500 square foot facility by the end of PY24.

In tandem with these internal changes, Maine Housing and the Maine Continuum of Care (CoC) have continued their collaboration to revamp and enhance the Coordinated Entry system. The Maine CoC has also made progress in addressing issues identified in the 2019 gaps and needs analysis, further supporting the city's goal of improving service delivery and resource allocation.

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

The Community Development Staff is collaborating closely with Auburn Housing Authority (AHA) staff and regional nonprofit housing developers to formulate plans for the creation of new affordable housing units. Additionally, they are jointly managing the Security Deposit assistance and Housing Resources programs.

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 City of Auburn has dedicated significant effort to overcoming obstacles hindering the development of new affordable housing units. Initiatives include adopting a form-based code, revising density standards in residential zones to permit accessory dwelling units, and reducing required road frontage to facilitate infill development. Additionally, considerable attention has been directed toward identifying and

addressing impediments to fair housing, as highlighted by the Maine Housing Authority.

In 2019, the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) issued an analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, recognizing that community opposition to planning and zoning improvements designed to promote affordable housing is discriminatory. MSHA committed to supporting affordable housing projects despite such opposition. The City of Auburn shares this commitment, advancing fair housing not only as a federal funding requirement but also as a fundamental principle of community equity and justice. Restricting access to specific types or locations of housing development for low-income populations limits opportunities and fairness for our most vulnerable residents.

Moreover, concentrating subsidized housing exclusively in downtown urban areas often encounters the opposition identified by MSHA. Therefore, the city embraces development models that expand housing choices across all neighborhoods, recognizing the unique value each area and resident brings. Ensuring that all families, regardless of income, have the freedom to choose their homes and the environment in which to raise their children is a fundamental right.

The Community Development Department supports the inclusive zoning efforts led by the Planning & Permitting Department and remains committed to creating affordable housing in Auburn with a focus on increased inclusion, accessibility, and choice. This approach aligns with MSHA's recommendations to promote economic diversity through mixed-income housing and the increased utilization of housing choice vouchers in low-poverty areas.

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 Community Development staff, in collaboration with the Auburn-Lewiston Consortium, has implemented a comprehensive monitoring program to ensure that fund recipients adhere to program guidelines throughout the federally mandated affordability period. This program includes an annual desk monitoring, risk assessment, and on-site inspection process to verify and document compliance with income levels, fair market rental rates, and the city's housing standards.

Enhanced oversight and technical assistance have been established for Public Service and HOME-ARP grant recipients. The city requires subrecipients to submit quarterly demographic and impact reports for preliminary review before requesting fund disbursements. These reports include demographic information on low- and moderate-income program recipients, as well as administrative data such as payroll records and financial expenditure reports. This rigorous review process ensures that grant recipients are not only able to deliver essential services but also effectively track and report their impact.

However, there are a few action items that were not completed in the past year:

- 1. Conducting required HOME inspections for two Auburn properties has now been completed.
- 2. Reviewing updated affirmative marketing plans for HOME units and programs has now been completed.

The city of Auburn is still working with Lewiston staff to facilitate the inspection of Lewiston HOME project and expects these to be completed by December 30, 2024, with results to be reported in the PY2024 CAPER.

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 draft 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) was made available for public comment in compliance with statutory requirements from October 11th to October 26th. A notice was published in the Sun Journal on October 11th, with the original comment period set to end on October 28th to align with a Public Hearing conducted by the Auburn City Council on October 21st.

Public notification was carried out in accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan, and documentation of the public hearing notice was maintained on the administration screen. The city also utilized social media platforms to solicit input and directly emailed the CAPER to the 2,041 individuals subscribed to email alerts through the city's marketing department.

Enhanced outreach initiatives included posting CAPER notices with direct access links and QR codes in key public facilities across the city, such as city hall, the public library, senior housing facilities, and food pantries. Additional outreach efforts featured a multilingual website, social media notifications, and a press release, all of which provided information on language translation services and access to printed versions of the report.

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.

No changes were made to the city's program objectives during the program year

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-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

The city has begun utilizing the Code Enforcement office to assist in the completion of HQS and property standard inspections.

Activity #904, Vincent Square: Desk monitoring was conducted on the property. On-site inspection reports were provided for the 6 units.

Activity #1175, Tedford Housing: desk monitoring was conducted on the property. On-site inspection was conducted for 5 units.

Activity #1821, Gauvreau Place: units 202 and 211 were inspected post-construction. No deficiencies were found to remedy.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)

Property owners are required to develop and maintain both a Management Plan and a Marketing Plan that actively promote Fair Housing objectives. These plans must ensure the impartial selection of residents and adherence to nondiscriminatory practices. Property owners are also responsible for maintaining a documented waiting list of applicants and ensuring that their resident selection policies and criteria comply with all federal and state regulations prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental handicap, sexual orientation, familial status, ancestry, and receipt of public assistance.

In response to the evolving needs of the community, the city has recently revised its affirmative marketing plan. The updated plan introduces new outreach methods, translation services, and enhanced accessibility provisions to better meet the needs of all residents and promote equitable housing opportunities.

This year, eight properties were obligated to implement an affirmative marketing plan, 2 in Auburn and 6 in Lewiston. The two-organization located in Auburn have provided updated affirmative marketing plans for review. However, the city of Lewiston did not effectively monitor these properties' affirmative marketing activities. This oversight will be addressed, and compliance will be ensured by December 31,

2024.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

This year two TBRA projects were funded with HOME funds.

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)

The cities of Auburn and Lewiston are dedicated to supporting the construction and maintenance of affordable housing through their Housing Development and Rehabilitation programs. These initiatives provide federal funding to developers and property owners to cover eligible costs, with the condition that the units created or refurbished adhere to strict affordability standards.

Affordability criteria for these units are established according to HUD guidelines, with rent limits set at either the Fair Market Rent (FMR), Low HOME Rent, or High HOME Rent levels. These measures ensure that the housing remains accessible and affordable to low- and moderate-income residents.

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 | | | | | |
| Total Section 3 Worker Hours | | | | | |
| Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours | | | | | |

Table 14 – 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 | | | | | |
| Targeted Workers | | | | | |
| Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding | | | | | |
| Targeted Workers. | | | | | |
| Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships). | | | | | |
| Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training. | | | | | |
| Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching). | | | | | |
| Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns. | | | | | |
| Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts. | | | | | |
| Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns. | | | | | |
| Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment | | | | | |
| including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job | | | | | |
| opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services. | | | | | |
| Held one or more job fairs. | | | | | |
| Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals. | | | | | |
| Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation. | | | | | |
| Assisted residents with finding childcare. | | | | | |
| Assisted residents to apply for or attend community college or a four year educational institution. | | | | | |
| Assisted residents to apply for or attend vocational/technical training. | | | | | |
| Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching. | | | | | |
| Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns. | | | | | |
| Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online | | | | | |
| technologies. | | | | | |
| Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses. | | | | | |
| Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as | İ | İ | | | |
| designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and | | | | | |
| Opportunity Act. | | | | | |

| Other | | | |
|--------|--|--|--|
| Other. | | | |

Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

The city did not have a project which required Section 3 tracking. Outreach efforts continued during the program year, including hosting lead hazard control and RRP training for local contractors and their employees.