



# El Paso County, Colorado

## 2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

*The 2024 Annual Action Plan is a comprehensive strategic plan to support the goals of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program administration for the 2024 program year.*

**Prepared for**  
United States Department of Housing & Urban Development  
El Paso County, Colorado Residents

**Prepared by**  
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**EL PASO COUNTY**  
Department of  
Economic Development



## Executive Summary

### AP-05 Executive Summary – 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.22(b)

#### 1. Introduction

Since 1974, the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has provided a flexible source of annual funding to communities nationwide. The CDBG program offers local governments, in conjunction with citizen participation, the opportunity to address a wide range of unique community development needs. An Annual Action Plan is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from all jurisdictions receiving Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). El Paso County is submitting its 2024 Annual Action Plan as the third Annual Action Plan of the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan. This Action Plan was developed in accordance with HUD guidelines 91.220. This document addresses the general issues relating to citizen involvement and planning necessary to address community needs. The Action Plan also includes information on the anticipated \$1,109,577 in CDBG funds allocated for the 2024 program year, which runs from April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025, as well as an additional \$26,435 which will be pulled from prior year resources.

Additionally in 2024, 2020 CDBG-CV funds will be reallocated from El Paso County's discretionary budget to Tri-Lakes Cares in the amount of \$70,515. These additional CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funds will be utilized to meet a residual/present need within Tri-Lakes Cares' Utility and Rental Assistance program which is an activity that was identified in the FY20 Annual Action Plan.

The CDBG activities, which are outlined in this plan, strictly adhere to the three main national objectives established by HUD. Those objectives include:

- Activities principally benefitting low- and moderate-income residents
- Aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- Meeting an urgent community need

All activities in this Plan are based on defined priorities and quantified by level of need. By addressing these priorities, the County hopes to meet the local objectives stated in the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan. Additionally, El Paso County's CDBG goals are consistent with the federal CDBG goals and the County's Strategic Plan. The County's CDBG goals aim to develop viable communities by ensuring a range of affordable housing choices, supporting essential services, strengthening the local economy, and mobilizing community resources to enhance collaboration and community partnerships. Additionally, the County's CDBG program aims to provide effective and efficient planning and program administration.

The approach that the County will take in meeting its goals is not singular, rather it is a comprehensive and holistic approach that realizes that all housing, community, and economic development elements are interconnected. Meeting the needs of the community must be addressed holistically in efforts to create a vibrant community, a vigorous economy, and a healthy environment. This document, along with the Consolidated Plan, will assist the County in completing its CDBG programmatic goals. Specifics about the County's strategies and goals are noted throughout this Plan.

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

After much analysis leading to the creation of the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan, the following ten high priority needs with accompanying goals and strategies were developed:

- H1: Improve access to transportation services and infrastructure, remove impediments to mobility and increase access to opportunities  
Strategy: Utilize CDBG allocation to annually fund activities related to transportation accessibility which will serve to strengthen regional collaboration and transportation connections that increase access to opportunity



- H2: Rehabilitation of pre-existing housing inventory to increase affordable, accessible housing choices  
Strategy: Utilize CDBG allocation to annually fund activities that rehabilitate income-eligible, owner-occupied housing and publicly supported housing to increase the number of accessible units
- H3: Increase fair housing education, outreach, and enforcement  
Strategy: El Paso County CDBG staff will regionally coordinate semi-annual fair housing outreach and educational opportunities
- HM1: Assist in ensuring that homelessness is brief, rare, and non-recurring  
Strategy: Utilize CDBG allocation to fund activities that assist eligible residents who are experiencing homelessness
- SN1: Help special needs residents obtain housing and remain housed while living independently as they choose  
Strategy: Utilize CDBG allocation to fund activities that assist special needs residents with housing needs
- SN2: Reduce accessibility barriers (ADA compliance)  
Strategy: Utilize CDBG allocation to fund activities that reduce accessibility barriers and assist with ADA compliance
- SN3: Provide for and improve access to services to stabilize living situations and enhance quality of life, particularly for seniors, youth, and special needs populations  
Strategy: Utilize CDBG allocation to provide for and improve access to services to stabilize living situations and enhance quality of life, particularly for seniors, youth, and special needs populations
- CD1: Improve infrastructure to foster accessible and livable neighborhoods and improve access to public amenities  
Strategy: Utilize CDBG allocation to improve infrastructure which fosters accessible and livable neighborhoods and improves access to public amenities
- CD2: Develop or improve facilities that provide services to low- to moderate income residents and special needs populations  
Strategy: Utilize CDBG allocation to develop or improve facilities that provide services to low- to moderate income residents and special needs populations
- CD3: Expand economic opportunities for low- to moderate income residents  
Strategy: Utilize CDBG allocation to expand economic opportunities for low- to moderate income residents

### 3. Evaluation of past performance

In evaluating past performance, CDBG program staff were able to determine the following:

- Subrecipients of infrastructure activity dollars were generally pleased with the results and sought funding again in subsequent years, although rural projects typically struggle to attract a variety of contractors during the open RFP process.
- Subrecipients of public facility activity dollars were generally pleased with the results but rarely seek similar funding in subsequent years. This is because many public facility projects have been focused on ADA compliance and no longer require additional funds once the public facility has become ADA compliant.
- The Public Service allocation cap restricts many potential applicants yet remains El Paso County's most popular category for applications received. Subrecipients of the public service activity dollars were generally pleased with the results, but some subrecipients find the requirements of federal funding to be too onerous, specifically clientele tracking and activities related to homelessness.
- CDBG subrecipients continue to praise our program for providing extensive technical assistance and frequent public meetings, including one-on-one consultation meetings with agencies and in-person training opportunities. Additionally, Community Outreach initiatives have proven successful within underserved areas of El Paso County. This external-focused approach allows our program to be easily accessible and readily open to public feedback and collaborative opportunities with community stakeholders.

Feedback from subrecipients has helped the El Paso County CDBG program develop a deeper understanding of which projects are the most mutually beneficial for all parties involved. After extensive community outreach efforts and in conjunction with evaluation of past program years, community needs, and goals met, it was determined that three main areas of focus needed to continue: housing goals and priorities, homelessness and special needs goals and priorities, and community development needs goals and priorities. Particular attention was given to creating tangible, measurable strategies to attain goals in these three main areas—with a lens of ensuring equitable rural development was also considered.



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

The 2024 Annual Action Plan is a result of comprehensive public outreach efforts. These efforts include Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) meetings, citizen participation meetings, solicitation of funding proposals from throughout El Paso County, and a public review of the Annual Action Plan, with a 30-day comment period. In addition, the County consulted with staff of the participating jurisdictions, as well as various local agencies and organizations to discuss program priorities, available funding, and the proposal process. The following groups and organizations summarized below participated in the development of the Annual Action Plan and are involved in various aspects of the CDBG program.

- **The Public:** To make the program as responsive as possible to local community needs, the public was encouraged to participate in all phases of program and Plan development.
- **Participating Jurisdictions, Various Non-Profits, and Service Organizations:** These groups were fundamental in determining the needs of the community. Their participation in the development of the Plan was essential and beneficial. Public Outreach events, promoting housing and community development, were also hosted in outlying communities.
- **Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB):** CDAB was established as a volunteer community board to make recommendations on matters pertaining to the CDBG program, such as community needs, issues, and fund allocations. The board was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and is composed of one member from each of the participating jurisdictions and one member chosen from each Commissioner District (12 members total). CDAB is a dedicated, hard-working volunteer group and an integral part of the program.
- **El Paso County Economic Development Department (CDBG Staff):** The El Paso County Economic Development Department is the lead agency and administers the County's CDBG program.
- **El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC):** The County is the recipient of CDBG funds and, as such, is responsible for program administration and the use of funds. The BoCC has the final approval for the CDBG plans and makes final decisions on funding allocations.

In addition to standard publications and consultations as delineated in our Citizen Participation Plan (in the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan), the El Paso County CDBG program has taken advantage of our website to increase outreach. The El Paso County CDBG webpage continually undergoes staff improvements to create a streamlined, efficient experience for the user. The first page that is automatically displayed when the user reaches the CDBG pages pertains to public notices, public comment periods, and upcoming public meetings. The website was intentionally redesigned to ensure visitors are immediately informed of any participation opportunities coming up or currently in progress.

Another way in which El Paso County has increased participation outreach is with the use of Constant Contact email campaigns. These email campaigns utilize one-page flyers created within Canva, giving notice of different CDBG events to County constituents and stakeholders. These email flyers provide all participants with easily accessible ways to be involved in the CDBG process.

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

Please see Appendix B for a full record of public comments received during the Annual Action Plan open comment period.

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

No comments were refused.

#### **7. Summary**

Efforts to educate citizens and empower their participation were a continuous part of the planning process. Opportunities to comment on and participate in the creation of this plan were provided throughout the County. The following public notification, outreach efforts, and opportunities for citizen involvement were employed during the process:



- All public notices were published in newspapers of general circulation prior to all public hearings and other meetings. These notices were also made available online in advance. Additionally, coordinated email campaigns were distributed to community partners, constituents as well as past subrecipients about upcoming public events.
- Handouts were created which gave general information on the CDBG program, the planning process, opportunities for participation, and available funding. Interested parties were able to utilize the handouts to request further information and notification on CDBG activities. The handouts were available at each public meeting and online during public comment periods. Additionally, the Plan was shared with all available municipalities, to encourage localized citizen participation.
- Our Annual Action Plan and associated materials were arranged in a display in the main lobby of the El Paso County Economic Development Department, located at 9 E Vermijo Ave. See Appendix A for additional examples.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	El Paso County, CO	
CDBG Administrator	El Paso County, CO	Economic Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

#### Narrative (optional)

El Paso County’s Economic Development Department is the CDBG Administrator for this program. Contact information is listed below:

#### Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Any residents or agencies interested in learning more about our Consolidated Plan have access to the plan online at [www.elpasoco.com](http://www.elpasoco.com) and in person at our office located in downtown Colorado Springs at 9 E Vermijo Avenue Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Note this location is open during normal business hours, five days a week, is ADA-accessible, and open to the public.

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

### **1. Introduction**

The County, through its Economic Development Department and CDBG staff, will act as the lead agency for the El Paso County CDBG program and for the development of the 2024 Annual Action Plan. El Paso County's housing and community development strategies are only feasible through the variety of public, private, and nonprofit organizations that work collaboratively in our region. Throughout the Annual Action Plan, lists of actual and potential partners for the CDBG program are mentioned as they play key roles in delivering and managing housing and community development programs throughout the County.

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

As the lead agency, the administration of the CDBG program is performed by the El Paso County Economic Development Department. The program is administered with other local governments, nonprofit agencies, and both public and private entities. This department also provides technical assistance to nonprofits and other local governments that receive CDBG funds from the County. The County is dedicated to taking the appropriate steps, within HUD guidelines, to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and requirements. All public and assisted housing providers, governmental health, mental health, and service nonprofit agencies are invited to participate in our annual action planning process and apply for funding on an annual basis. Not all organizations choose to participate, which may be due in part to the fifteen percent cap on public services. Insights and consultations with these organizations are described in detail later in AP-10.

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

Randi Davis, Housing Analyst at the El Paso County Economic Development Department, serves on the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care board. As a member, she works to create the 3-year Strategic Plan to make homelessness in our community rare, brief, and nonrecurring. This community-wide group meets monthly to review goals and objectives and to create a flexible fund that leverages existing funding sources, such as CDBG. This support can be crucial to nonprofit agencies as they build their programs and services.

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

Currently, El Paso County does not receive ESG funds. With Economic Development staff on our local COC Board, we are quickly able to see any issues with the funding and operation of the HMIS system. Staff can provide technical assistance and support if necessary.



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

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Ascending to Health Respite Care Inc
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Venita Pine with Ascending to Health attended our public meeting on January 18, 2024. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Bring It Home, Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Employment
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Needs - Veterans Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but we hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Brothers Redevelopment Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Kathryn McMichael with Brothers Redevelopment did express appreciation for the information. We hope that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our agencies.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Calhan Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing PHA Services-Persons with Disabilities
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. The Calhan Housing Authority and El Paso County CDBG program continue to enjoy a strong working relationship.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Education Services-Employment
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy





	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Baz Nixon with CEO attended a first-time applicant 1:1 on January 24, 2024, as well as our public meeting on January 18, 2024. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	City of Colorado Springs
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Our respective agencies share resources and each other's contact information with new agencies in the area that are interested in community development. Additionally, we meet several times a year to discuss emerging issues within the region, as well as any relevant data or research we have found.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	The City of Fountain
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Agency - Emergency Management Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Carl Spengler with the City of Fountain did express appreciation for the information. We hope that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our agencies
8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	City of Manitou Springs
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Agency - Emergency Management Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Our respective agencies share resources and each other's contact information with new agencies in the area that are interested in community development. Additionally, our agencies meet several times a year to discuss emerging issues within the region, as well as any relevant data or research we have found. The last such meeting occurred on November 28, 2023, to determine viability of their application for 2024.
9	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	CDAB- Community Development Advisory Board
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Volunteer Board



	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Community Development Advisory Board is the all-volunteer board that reviews and recommends CDBG applications to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval. The volunteers reviewed the 2024 program year applications in February and March of 2024. Their recommendations are included in the Annual Action Plan and were brought to the Board of County Commissioners during a regularly scheduled meeting for approval.
10	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	CPCD
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Education Child Welfare Agency
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Amanda Rogers with CPCD took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, as well as participate in the January 18, 2024, webinar. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
11	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	EL PASO COUNTY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Agency - Emergency Management Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Resilience/Emergency management/Broadband
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Consultation with El Paso County Public Works, Community Services, Emergency Management, and Public Health departments is ongoing for our program as we stay in communication regarding floodplain/wetland issues and major improvements to public lands and natural resources. Greg Stachon with the Community Services Department asked for consultation multiple times, as well as attended our January 18, 2024, public meeting. El Paso County has also developed a regional emergency management system that continues to grow and respond proactively to potential threats. Our program also had the opportunity to review the Pikes Peak Regional Emergency Management Plan.
12	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	El Paso County Economic Development
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - County



	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	El Paso County's Economic Development Department is responsible for the administration of the entitlement funding from HUD for the CDBG program. As such this office is heavily involved and consulted during all plan preparations.
13	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	El Paso County Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The El Paso County Housing Authority was consulted several times during the preparation of the 2024 Annual Action Plan. While the Authority remains focused on providing access to homeownership through the Turnkey Program, the CDBG program will remain committed to maintaining already existing homeownership and assisting senior residents with aging in place. Randi Davis, staff liaison to the Housing Authority, also attended the 2024 Annual Action Plan public meetings.
14	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Exponential Impact
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Education Business Leaders
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Rachael Maxell with XI attended our public meeting on January 18, 2024. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
15	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Forge Evolution
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Education Child Welfare Agency
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Anti-poverty Strategy



	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Morgan Mote with FE attended our public meeting on January 18, 2024. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
16	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Fountain Valley Senior Center
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Mark Bowers with the FVSC requested consultation on their 2024 application on multiple occasions. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
17	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Goodwill Industries
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Jessica Jenkins & Kirstin Howley with Goodwill of CO attended a first-time applicant 1:1 on January 5, 2024, as well as our public meeting on January 18, 2024. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
19	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Mt Carmel Veterans Service Center
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Employment
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Needs - Veterans Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. We hope that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
20	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Town of Palmer Lake
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
21	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities



	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Economic Development staff reached out to PPACG about Fair Housing resources specifically for the local senior population. They provided several Yellow Books for Seniors. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
22	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Pikes Peak Housing Network
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Economic Development staff attend monthly meetings for the Network to hear specifically about workforce housing initiatives. We hope continued participation will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
23	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Pikes Peak United Way
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Health Services-Education Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Strategy Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Amy Husted with PPUW was consulted multiple times on their areas of funding eligibility. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
24	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Project Angel Heart
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Nic Soucy with PAH attended a first-time applicant 1:1 on January 4, 2024, as well as our public meeting on January 18, 2024. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
26	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Serenity Recovery Connection
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Health Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy



	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Trudy Hodges with SRC attended a 1:1 meeting on February 9, 2024, as well as our public meeting on January 18, 2024. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
27	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	The Place
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities Child Welfare Agency
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. It is not known if the agency took advantage of this invitation to view materials online, but we hope that continued invitation to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
28	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Town of Calhan
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. Marna Booker with Ellicott/Calhan attended a 1:1 meeting on January 8, 2024, as well as our public meeting on January 18, 2024. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.
29	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Town of Green Mountain Falls
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Our respective agencies share resources and each other's contact information with new agencies in the area that are interested in community development. Additionally, our agencies meet several times a year to discuss emerging issues within the region, as well as any relevant data or research we have found. The last such meeting occurred on February 7, 2024, to determine viability of their application for 2024.
30	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Town of Monument
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Market Analysis



	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Our respective agencies share resources and each other's contact information with new agencies in the area that are interested in community development. Additionally, our agencies meet several times a year to discuss emerging issues within the region, as well as any relevant data or research we have found.
31	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Town of Ramah
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Our respective agencies share resources and each other's contact information with new agencies in the area that are interested in community development. Additionally, our agencies meet several times a year to discuss emerging issues within the region, as well as any relevant data or research we have found.
32	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Tri-Lakes Cares
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This agency was invited to participate in all public meetings. Invitations were sent out in a mass email. We hope that continued invitations to participate will bolster a stronger partnership between our respective agencies.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

All agencies within the Pikes Peak region were welcome to comment and submit a suggestion, and no organizations were categorically or singularly excluded. If an agency did not participate, it was of their own volition and not through any selective exclusion.

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

<b>Name of Plan</b>	<b>Lead Organization</b>	<b>How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?</b>
Continuum of Care	Community Health Partnership	Both agencies seek to end homelessness in the Pikes Peak region. Shared tactics include the support of the rapid transition from unsheltered to permanent supportive housing, as well as preventative measures to act as safety nets for persons at high risk of entering homelessness for the first time or returning to it.
Pikes Peak Regional Emergency Management Plan	Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management	The PPROEM plan covers a variety of environmental, chemical, and other hazards and the plans associated with potential emergencies in the area. The PPROEM goal to develop a resilient community overlaps with our program's goals to build resilient, self-sufficient communities.

Table 3 – Other local/regional/federal planning efforts

**Narrative (optional)**



AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation

For the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan, the El Paso County CDBG program has continued to build upon grassroots efforts to encourage community engagement and involvement. The additions of hybrid meetings and multi-media outreach have resulted in increased participation and community involvement as seen through attendance at events and public comments submitted. Please note that proofs of publication, agendas, website printouts, and copies of emails are attached in the citizen participation section of the appendix.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Table with 6 columns: Sort Order, Mode of Outreach, Target of Outreach, Summary of response / attendance, Summary of comments received, Summary of comments not accepted and reasons. It contains 6 rows of outreach activities.





		Non-targeted/broad community			
7	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	A public notice was published on the El Paso County CDBG website and distributed via email to community partners on February 28, notifying the public of the upcoming Annual Action Plan public hearing dates and times. 426 individuals received the email.	No comments received	No comments refused
8	Public Hearing	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community	Two public hearings were held on March 15 for community members to learn about the Annual Action Plan goals and provide insights into community priorities. These meetings were hybrid (virtual and in-person) to provide accommodations to individuals with disabilities and those in need of translation services. Due to weather, these hearings shifted to virtual only.	No comments received	No comments refused
9	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community	A public notice was published in the Gazette and shared with neighboring municipality partners on March 27, notifying the public of the upcoming Annual Action Plan public hearing dates and times. The notice was published in both English and Spanish.	No comments received	No comments refused
10	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	A public notice was published on the El Paso County CDBG website on March 22 and distributed via email to community partners on March 28, notifying the public of the upcoming Annual Action Plan public hearing dates and times. 433 individuals received the email.	No comments received	No comments refused
11	Internet Outreach	Minorities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	On April 1, the Fair Housing event notice was published via El Paso County's internal and external channels, posted on our website, and distributed via email to inform the public about the event and provide housing and CDBG-specific resources. 438 individuals received the email.	No comments received	No comments refused
12	Public Hearing	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community	Two public hearings were held on April 15 for community members to learn about the Annual Action Plan goals and provide insights into community priorities. These meetings were hybrid (virtual and in-person) to provide accommodations to individuals with disabilities and those in need of translation services.	No comments received	No comments refused
13	Public Meeting	Minorities Non-targeted/broad community	On April 22, EPCED partnered with the Hanover Community Center and Brothers Redevelopment, Inc. to host to the Fair Housing event, providing education and resources related to housing and	No comments received	No comments refused



		Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	community outreach in alignment with the goals of our Annual Action Plan. 15 individuals attended the event.		
14	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community	A public notice was published in the Gazette and shared with neighboring municipality partners on May 1, notifying the public of the upcoming Annual Action Plan public hearing dates and times, as well as the open comment periods for the 2023 CAPER and 2024 AAP. The notice was published in both English and Spanish.	No comments received	No comments refused
15	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	A public notice was published on the El Paso County CDBG website and distributed via email to community partners on May 1, notifying the public of the upcoming Annual Action Plan public hearing dates and times, as well as the open comment periods for the 2023 CAPER and 2024 AAP. 449 individuals received the email.	No comments received	No comments refused
16	Public Comment Period	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The public comment periods for the 2023 CAPER and the 2024 AAP were widely distributed via email, website, and newspaper ad to ensure accessibility and accommodations for any public member wishing to submit a comment. Comments were collected virtually and in-person. The CAPER open comment period was from May 8 to May 24, and the AAP open comment period was from May 8 to June 7. TBD comments were received for the CAPER. TBD comments were received for the AAP.	See Appendix B for a full record of comments received	No comments refused
17	Public Hearing	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community	Two public hearings were held on May 17 for community members to learn about the 2024 Annual Action Plan, recommendations for CDBG funding, and to provide public comments. These meetings were hybrid (virtual and in-person) to provide accommodations to individuals with disabilities and those in need of translation services. TBD comment received for the AAP.	See Appendix B for a full record of comments received	No comments refused
18	Board of County Commissioners Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	The El Paso County Board of County Commissioners met on July 9 to formally approve the submission of the 2024 Annual Action Plan via Resolution TBD.	No comments received - TBD	No comments refused

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach



## Expected Resources

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

#### Introduction

CDBG funds are a primary funding source for El Paso County’s housing, community, and economic development needs throughout the County. This grant will be used to address the priority needs, goals, and objectives outlined in the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan. The funds support activities consistent with the National Objectives for the CDBG program, as established by HUD. No program income is anticipated to be created from prior year projects.

#### Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,109,577	0	96,950	1,206,527	2,219,154	This is the third year of our 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan.

Table 1 – Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The CDBG allocation on its own will not be able to address all the needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. It is important to leverage both financial and intellectual resources to accomplish the goals of the program. In addition to utilizing the sources mentioned above, the County will take prudent actions to assist other agencies and organizations in applying for all available funds and leveraging other resources to implement the strategies and programs. Also, while there is no Federal match requirement for the CDBG program, the County will find more weight in applications that do propose to match funds. Smaller applicants who do not have the financial resources necessary to provide match funding will often provide in-kind services through the donation of staff time, equipment, or leftover resources from other projects.

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

Not applicable.

#### Discussion

The County will take financially prudent actions to assist other agencies and organizations in applying for all available funds and leveraging other resources to implement the strategies and programs. Also, while there is no federal match requirement for the CDBG program, the County will find more weight in applications that do propose to match funds. For the 2024 program year, \$1,109,577 will be allocated to our program from HUD. An additional \$26,435 will be pulled from prior year resources as a result of projects coming in under budget or being canceled. Together, the total budget for the 2024 El Paso County CDBG Program Year will be \$1,136,012. Additionally in 2024, 2020 CDBG-CV funds will be reallocated from El Paso County’s discretionary budget to Tri-Lakes Cares in the amount of \$70,515. These additional CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funds will be utilized to meet a residual/present need within Tri-Lakes Cares’ Utility and Rental Assistance program which is an activity that was identified in the FY20 Annual Action Plan.



## Annual Goals and Objectives

### AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

#### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Housing 1 Goal	2022	2026	Affordable Housing		H1 Transportation Needs		Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted
2	Housing 2 Goal	2022	2026	Affordable Housing		H2 Housing Rehabilitation Needs		Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 5 Household Housing Unit
3	Housing 3 Goal	2022	2026	Affordable Housing		H3 Fair Housing Education Needs		Other: 2 Other
4	Homelessness 1 Goal	2022	2026	Homeless		HM1 Homelessness Need		Homelessness Prevention: 100 Persons Assisted
5	Special Needs 1 Goal	2022	2026	Non-Homeless Special Needs		SN1 Special Needs (Housing)		Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 10 Persons Assisted
6	Special Needs 2 Goal	2022	2026	Non-Homeless Special Needs		SN2 Special Needs (ADA)		Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted
7	Special Needs 3 Goal	2022	2026	Non-Homeless Special Needs		SN3 Special Needs (Special Needs Populations)		Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted
8	Community Development 1 Goal	2022	2026	Non-Housing Community Development		CD1 Improve Infrastructure		Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted
9	Community Development 2 Goal	2022	2026	Non-Housing Community Development		CD2 Improve Facilities		Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted
10	Community Development 3 Goal	2022	2026	Non-Housing Community Development		CD3 Expand Economic Opportunities		Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 40 Persons Assisted

Table 2 – Goals Summary



**Goal Descriptions**

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Housing 1 Goal
	<b>Goal Description</b>	No applications were received in support of this goal.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Housing 2 Goal
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Brothers Redevelopment - Home Repair Program intends to provide emergency and accessibility rehabilitation services to 11 eligible households within El Paso County.
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Housing 3 Goal
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This goal is internally tracked; no applications were received in support of this goal.
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Homelessness 1 Goal
	<b>Goal Description</b>	No applications were received in support of this goal.
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Special Needs 1 Goal
	<b>Goal Description</b>	No applications were received in support of this goal.
6	<b>Goal Name</b>	Special Needs 2 Goal
	<b>Goal Description</b>	No applications were received in support of this goal.
7	<b>Goal Name</b>	Special Needs 3 Goal
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Community Partnership for Childhood Development (CPCD) - Early Childhood Education for Disadvantaged Children program intends to provide supportive behavioral health and developmental services for 8 clients and their families. Forge Evolution (FE) - Expansion of Behavioral Health Services program intends to provide adjudication services to 60 eligible, at-risk individuals. Project Angel Heart (PAH) - Home-Delivered, Medically Tailored Meals service intends to provide free home-delivered meals to 42 eligible/food-insecure residents. Serenity Recovery Connection (SRC) - Peer Recovery Support Services in Rural Areas program intends to provide peer recovery support services to 30 rural EPC residents and families who are victims of addiction and substance abuse.
8	<b>Goal Name</b>	Community Development 1 Goal
	<b>Goal Description</b>	City of Fountain - Bonita Drive Sidewalk Improvements (Phase II) project intends to improve ADA-sidewalk accessibility, removing barriers, while providing 1,400 LMI individuals with greater access. El Paso County Parks & Community Services - Widefield Community Park ADA (Phase III) project intends to create additional ADA sidewalk pathways and provide greater accessibility for 825 LMI individuals. Town of Ramah - Street Drainage Improvements project intends to utilize CDBG funds to provide street drainage improvements throughout the municipality, benefiting 70 individuals.
9	<b>Goal Name</b>	Community Development 2 Goal
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Ellicott Open Door Church - ADA Accessible Restroom Renovations project intends to improve ADA-restroom accessibility, removing barriers, while providing 1,248 LMI individuals with greater access to their community center.
10	<b>Goal Name</b>	Community Development 3 Goal
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Exponential Impact - Survive & Thrive Program intends to create 25 LMJs through small-business owner mentorship, education, training, community network and capital campaign programming.



## Projects

### AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

#### Introduction

The 2024 program year is the third year that the El Paso County CDBG program selected projects under the guidance of the 2022-2026 El Paso County Consolidated Plan. All ten projects selected for the 2022-2026 program years meet at least one of ten goals listed in the Consolidated Plan and address the associated priority need.

- Community Partnership for Childhood Development (CPCD): Initial request \$25,000. Allocation \$25,000, 100% of requested amount. Approx. 8 LMC will be served in Unincorporated EPC.
- Forge Evolution (FE): Initial request \$50,000. Allocation \$50,000, 100% of requested amount. Approx. 60 LMC will be served in Unincorporated EPC, Fountain, Palmer Lake, Manitou Springs, Calhan, and Monument.
- Project Angel Heart (PAH): Initial request \$38,641. Allocation \$38,641, 100% of requested amount. Approx. 42 persons will be served in Fountain, Manitou Springs, Calhan, and Monument.
- Serenity Recover Connection (SRC): Initial request \$50,000. Allocation \$25,000, 50% of requested amount. Approx. 30 persons will be served in Fountain, Calhan, and Ramah.
- Exponential Impact (XI): Initial request \$55,000. Allocation \$55,000, 100% of requested amount. Approx. 25 LMJ clients will be served in Unincorporated EPC, Fountain, Palmer Lake, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Calhan, Ramah, and Monument.
- City of Fountain: Initial request \$148,000. Allocation \$148,000, 100% of requested amount. Approx. 1,400 persons will be served in Fountain.
- El Paso County Parks and Community Services: Initial request \$195,000. Allocation \$195,000, 100% of requested amount. Approx. 825 persons will be served in Unincorporated EPC.
- Ellicott Open Door Church: Initial request \$203,500. Allocation \$203,500, 100% of requested amount. Approx. 1,248 persons will be served in Unincorporated EPC.
- Town of Ramah: Initial request \$65,000. Allocation \$65,000, 100% of requested amount. Approx. 70 persons will be served in Ramah.
- Brothers Redevelopment: Initial request \$125,000. Allocation \$108,956, 87% of requested amount. Approx. 11 LMH clients will be served in Unincorporated EPC, Fountain, Palmer Lake, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Calhan, Ramah, and Monument.



**Projects**

#	Project Name
1	2024 PY: Public Services
2	2024 PY: Public Facilities
3	2024 PY: Housing
4	2024 PY: Public Infrastructure
5	2024 PY: Economic Development
6	2024 PY: Administration

Table 3 – Project Information

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

The County will take prudential action to assist other agencies and organizations in applying for all available funds and leveraging other resources to implement the strategies and programs. While there are no federal match requirements for the CDBG program, the County will find more weight in applications that do propose to match CDBG funds. For the 2024 program year, \$1,136,012 was allocated to our program from HUD.

A frequent obstacle to addressing underserved needs is a lack of applicants willing to apply for federal funding. Prospective applicants have echoed similar concerns regarding hesitation to undertake federal funds that require them to restructure client intake processes and implement extensive documentation and reporting requirements. As a result, some eligible agencies choose not to submit applications. Additionally, agencies that meet underserved needs will often seek non-federal sources as their first choice, only utilizing federal funds as a last resort. For this reason, our program continues to offer extensive technical assistance to reduce the administrative burden of the funding, as well as seek out new agencies of CDBG applicability.



**AP-38 Project Summary**

**Project Summary Information**

<b>1</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	2024 PY: Public Services
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Special Needs 3 Goal
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	SN3 Special Needs (Special Needs Populations)
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$138,641
	<b>Description</b>	Public Service Projects
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	140 persons
	<b>Location Description</b>	Unincorporated El Paso County, Fountain, Calhan, Ramah, Palmer Lake, Monument, and Manitou Springs
<b>Planned Activities</b>	<p>Community Partnership for Childhood Development (CPCD) - Early Childhood Education for Disadvantaged Children            HUD Matrix Code: 05L Child Care Services            Projected Allocated Funds: \$25,000            Households/Persons Assisted: 8 clients            Service Areas: Unincorporated El Paso County</p> <p>Forge Evolution - Expansion of Behavioral Health Services            Projected Allocated Funds: \$50,000            HUD Matrix Code: 05D Youth Services            Households/Persons Assisted: 60 clients            Service Areas: Unincorporated El Paso County, Fountain, Palmer Lake, Manitou Springs, Calhan, Monument</p> <p>Project Angel Heart - Home-Delivered, Medically Tailored Meals Service            HUD Matrix Code: 05Z Other Public Services            Projected Allocated Funds: \$38,641            Households/Persons Assisted: 42 clients            Service Areas: Unincorporated El Paso County, Fountain, Manitou Springs, Calhan, Monument</p> <p>Serenity Recovery Connection - Peer Recovery Support Services in Rural Areas            HUD Matrix Code: 05F Substance Abuse Services            Projected Allocated Funds: \$25,000            Households/Persons Assisted: 30 clients            Service Areas: Fountain, Calhan, Ramah</p>	





2	<b>Project Name</b>	2024 PY: Public Facilities
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Community Development 2 Goal
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	CD2 Improve Facilities
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$203,500
	<b>Description</b>	Public Facilities Improvements
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	1,248 persons
	<b>Location Description</b>	Unincorporated El Paso County
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Ellicott Open Door Church – ADA Accessible Restroom Renovations HUD Matrix Code: 03E Neighborhood Facilities Projected Allocated Funds: \$203,500 Households/Persons Assisted: 1,248 clients Service Areas: Unincorporated El Paso County
3	<b>Project Name</b>	2024 PY: Housing
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Housing 2 Goal
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	H2 Housing Rehabilitation Needs
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$108,956
	<b>Description</b>	Housing Projects
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	11 households
	<b>Location Description</b>	Unincorporated El Paso County, Fountain, Palmer Lake, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Calhan, Ramah, Monument
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Brothers Redevelopment – Home Repair Program HUD Matrix Code: 14A Rehabilitation: Single-Unit Residential Projected Allocated Funds: \$108,956 Households/Persons Assisted: 11 households Service Areas: Unincorporated El Paso County, Fountain, Palmer Lake, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Calhan, Ramah, Monument



<b>4</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	2024 PY: Public Infrastructure
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Community Development 1 Goal
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	CD1 Improve Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$408,000
	<b>Description</b>	Public Infrastructure Projects
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	2,295 persons
	<b>Location Description</b>	Unincorporated El Paso County, Fountain, Ramah
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	<p>City of Fountain - Bonita Drive Sidewalk Improvements (Phase II)            HUD Matrix Code: 03L Sidewalks            Projected Allocated Funds: \$148,000            Households/Persons Assisted: 1,400 clients            Service Areas: Fountain</p> <p>El Paso County Parks and Community Services – Widefield Community Park ADA (Phase III)            HUD Matrix Code: 03L Sidewalks            Projected Allocated Funds: \$195,000            Households/Persons Assisted: 825 clients            Service Areas: Unincorporated El Paso County</p> <p>Town of Ramah – Street Drainage Improvements            HUD Matrix Code: 03K Street Improvements            Projected Allocated Funds: \$65,000            Households/Persons Assisted: 70 clients            Service Areas: Ramah</p>



<b>5</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	2024 PY: Economic Development
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Community Development 3 Goal
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	CD3 Expand Economic Opportunities
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$55,000
	<b>Description</b>	Economic Development Projects
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	25 persons/jobs
	<b>Location Description</b>	Unincorporated El Paso County, Fountain, Palmer Lake, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Calhan, Ramah, Monument
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Exponential Impact – Survive & Thrive Program HUD Matrix Code: 18B Economic Development: Technical Assistance Projected Allocated Funds: \$55,000 Households/Persons Assisted: 25 clients Service Areas: Unincorporated El Paso County, Fountain, Palmer Lake, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Calhan, Ramah, Monument

<b>6</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	2024 PY: Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$221,915
	<b>Description</b>	
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
	<b>Location Description</b>	
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	



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

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

Geographic areas of entitlement are based on HUD recognized low-to-moderate income area (LMA) census tract block groups within the jurisdiction. Geographic areas where multiple LMA groups are identified are given higher priority than smaller, isolated ones. A summary of these high priority areas is as follows:

- Security-Widefield: The unincorporated area of El Paso County has several LMA block groups, many of them immediately adjacent to the Fort Carson Army Base or the city of Fountain. An unincorporated portion of the county, it has some of the highest percentages of persons of Black and Hispanic race/ethnicity, as well as elderly persons.
- City of Fountain: This municipality south of Colorado Springs has several LMA block groups, including a large elderly population. Additionally, some of the block groups are located relatively close to the Security-Widefield area. Racial/ethnic minority representation is higher in this municipality than in the majority of the county.
- Cimarron Hills: This community on the east side of Colorado Springs, in relatively close proximity to the Colorado Springs Airport and Schriever Air Force Base, consists of pockets of unincorporated El Paso County of varying size and nature (some commercial, some residential). Our jurisdiction's highest low-to moderate income area is also located here.

Examining the newest LMSID data and comparing it to past datasets revealed that the areas mentioned above have not seen significant improvement since the last round of data was released.

### Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds

Table 4 – Geographic Distribution

### Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The rationale behind priority locations in El Paso County is based on the number of LMA block groups in the area, and the amount of special population concentrations. Other LMA block groups in the county are also considered of strategic importance, specifically in improving ADA-accessibility and transportation. However, priority locations are considered our highest needs areas. During deliberations of the El Paso County Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB), the determination was made to distribute funding across the county, rather than focusing all funding exclusively on one geographic area of entitlement. This process allows for projects in areas such as Fountain or Security-Widefield to be phased in over time across multiple funding years. This typically results in a more holistic approach to community development and increases support from residents and local agencies, allowing for public feedback between phases. Projects aimed to improve low-to-moderate income area block groups are given priority.

### Discussion

Given that El Paso County is over 2,000 square miles, spreading out an annual allocation to address a wide variety of issues can be a daunting task. This technical obstacle is further complicated by the unique makeup of each community's strengths, obstacles, and underserved needs. Some areas of the county face issues of substandard or lack of affordable housing, while other areas face overcrowding and lack of access to quality schools. By distributing funds across El Paso County within multiple communities, we hope to improve the quality of life for all low-to-moderate income and special needs persons within the county. To ensure the needs of low-to-moderate income residents continue to be addressed, the El Paso County CDBG program utilizes our Assessment of Fair Housing goals when prioritizing projects in these geographic areas of entitlement. This increases access to economic opportunities and acts as a catalyst for long-term improvements for designated areas. Key investments in public infrastructure, public facilities, public services, and housing will have multifaceted, far-reaching improvements for the areas served.



## Affordable Housing

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

#### Introduction

Given the high cost of construction in our community, it would be cost prohibitive for the El Paso County CDBG Program to build new affordable housing units. There is simply not enough CDBG funding available. Support of affordable housing continues through our program in a variety of ways to include homeowner rehabilitation assistance, emergency rent and utility assistance, and infrastructure improvements in affordable housing areas. Homeowner rehabilitation assistance helps maintain affordable homes in our community so low-income homeowners continue enjoying the benefits of homeownership. Emergency rent and utility assistance provide struggling families with a support system to prevent homelessness. Infrastructure improvements help affordable housing areas maintain serviceability for disabled persons while increasing their access to transportation and other opportunities.

Additional educational housing efforts have been made with El Paso County residents through Community Outreach events. The Community Development Analyst and Housing Analyst have been tasked with providing outreach events within each County Commissioner District, providing information on housing options and Fair Housing resources as needed. Flyers about Affordable Housing options are also disseminated, with contact information. Our office feels that meeting the public in their own districts is the best way to learn their specific needs and provide the most relevant information.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	100
Non-Homeless	400
Special-Needs	210
Total	710

Table 6 – One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	10
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	5
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	15

Table 7 – One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

#### Discussion

Affordable housing is an ongoing need in our community. Through the strategic use of funding, the El Paso County CDBG Program aims to address the need in a holistic, multi-pronged approach. Continued collaboration with municipalities and public housing agencies is necessary to increase the leveraging power of CDBG dollars. This is especially true since our CDBG program lacks the financial and regulatory capacity to develop new units. Regional collaboration and investment in key areas of the community are important aspects of our continued success.

Since the start of the El Paso County CDBG Program, we have worked closely with the El Paso County Housing Authority (EPCHA). This collaboration will continue in the 2024 program year. In 2023, the EPCHA issued \$1,910,970 in low-interest loans as gap financing for the development of 348 affordable multifamily units. This includes 80 units of Senior housing at Paloma Gardens, 50 units of housing for homeless youth at The Launchpad, 50 units of Senior housing at Silver Key Apartments, and 168 new units of family housing at Bentley Commons II. Another \$1,500,000 has been committed in 2024 for 232 units of family housing at Royal Pine Apartments, 104 units of family housing at Homewood Point Apartments, and 83 units of Senior housing at Village at Homewood Point II. The EPCHA staff has also been in talks with developers for Private Activity Bond financing for large multifamily projects but does not have anything currently in the pipeline.



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

### **Introduction**

Public housing is a scarce resource in El Paso County, specifically outside of the Colorado Springs city limits. For this reason, maintaining a good working relationship with the Calhan Housing Authority has been an ongoing commitment of ours. By providing technical assistance for both the agency and their subcontractors, the El Paso County CDBG program is able to support the extremely low-income seniors who reside at the Calhan Housing Authority's Silvercrest Villas.

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

The El Paso County CDBG program has partnered with the Calhan Housing Authority to increase ADA accessibility in public areas. It is both an accessibility and a safety concern to allow seniors to live independently and access all areas of the building. Although the CHA did not apply for funding in 2024, improving the quality of public housing in El Paso County is still an important step to ensuring low-income individuals have equitable access to safe and quality homes in our jurisdiction.

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

Due to the increasing cost of homeownership in our community, there is not enough funding to make market rate homes affordable. As such, the El Paso County CDBG program does not undertake any specific actions to assist public housing residents in participating in homeownership. However, the El Paso County Housing Authority offers the Turnkey Plus Down Payment Assistance program, which provides a 0% deferred loan that is fully forgivable after 30 years. Many El Paso County residents interested in homeownership are well within the income eligibility requirements of the Turnkey Plus program.

The Calhan Housing Authority's board has open public meetings as part of its processes, and residents can attend if they so wish. Residents also enjoy an open line of communication with Barry Richards, the director of the Calhan Housing Authority. Barry has shared with the CDBG program that residents of the community are always open to sharing any concerns they have regarding the housing authority and communicate current events with them on a regular basis.

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

There is currently no PHA designated as troubled in our jurisdiction.

### **Discussion**

There are a very limited number of public housing authorities in El Paso County. These public housing authorities are also limited in scope and capacity, which hinders their ability to manage additional federal funding. While the El Paso County CDBG program continues to offer extensive technical assistance to subrecipients, not all projects are a good fit for CDBG funding. We will continue to seek best-fit opportunities with local public housing authorities to ensure their residents receive quality amenities and housing.



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

### **Introduction**

The El Paso County CDBG Program continues to support homeless outreach and homelessness prevention. However, we do not receive a large volume of homelessness-related applications due to the nature of the programs and our region. The majority of homeless assistance providers are located within the City of Colorado Springs, and the majority of homeless clients remain within the city as well to be close to those providers. As our funds cannot be used to serve clients within Colorado Springs city limits, our efforts are limited to providers who are willing to adjust their client intake process and increase outreach to outlying areas.

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

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

The El Paso County CDBG program typically partners with a service provider called Mt Carmel Veterans Service Center, which provides outreach and vocational training for Veterans to help them avoid experiencing homelessness long-term. We also meet with the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care monthly to discuss the large spectrum of efforts currently being undertaken to address homelessness. We seek opportunities to fund homeless services that are focused on the needs of outlying areas and rural residents. As discussed in our Consolidated Plan, rural homelessness can be difficult to identify as it does not present in the same format as urban homelessness. We continue to meet with regional homeless support providers and advocates to develop new relationships with agencies that may eventually have the capacity to focus more intentionally on rural homelessness.

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

The El Paso County CDBG program typically does not partner with emergency shelter and transitional housing programs, mostly due to their location within the city of Colorado Springs. This limits our program's ability to assist with the operating expenses and other aspects of emergency and transitional housing. Fortunately, the city of Colorado Springs has been a continued partner in supporting homeless service providers.

#### **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**

Long-time partner of the El Paso County CDBG program, Bring It Home Inc., provides services at an affordable housing development for formerly homeless Veterans. These services include individual/group counseling, nutrition training, personal hygiene and self-care, crisis intervention, and educational/physical evaluations. Their programs seek to stabilize the living situations for Veterans and help them transition to independent living. Mt Carmel Veterans Service Center, another partner agency, was created to prevent homelessness for the most at-risk Veterans by providing intensive care management, employment assistance, and vocational training. This is a safety net for Veterans so they, and their families, may avoid experiencing homelessness long-term. The El Paso County CDBG Program continues to work with the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care to find new programs and assistance providers that are working in more rural locations. We intend to work with these agencies throughout 2024.



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

El Paso County uses two methods to help low-income individuals and families, including those discharged from publicly funded institutions of care, to avoid becoming homeless: provide affordable units for them to live in and provide assistance and services through local partnerships. By working with developers, like Greccio Housing and the Colorado Springs Housing Authority, and funders, like the El Paso County Housing Authority, we can increase the number of units provided to extremely low-income households. The El Paso County CDBG program also partners with several organizations to provide resources to various groups at risk for homelessness and those seeking a home after time spent at institutions of care. Mt. Carmel Veterans Center works with the local veteran population, providing not only housing, but also offering educational programs, case management, mental health services, and employment training. Tri-Lakes Cares and Catholic Charities are partners who assist families in danger of losing their home due to a missed payment and who would otherwise become homeless. Many of the veterans, youth, and families helped by these partnerships also receive assistance from public or private agencies.

### **Discussion**

Homeless needs are described in detail in El Paso County's 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan. The main obstacle to meeting all the identified community needs is a lack of funding and resources. In addition, the high cost of housing, lack of knowledge of social services, few service providers in the County for low-income residents, and lack of living wage jobs are also challenges in meeting needs. Our program will continue to collaborate with the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care and other community partners to further the discussion on best addressing the needs of homeless persons in the region.





## **AP-75 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.220(j)**

### **Introduction**

Barriers to affordable housing generally include restrictive policies, administrative rules and regulations, market conditions, public or private systems, and economic conditions that impede access. Two barriers to affordable housing in El Paso County that were identified in the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan are:

- Market constraints such as land costs, construction costs, and access to financing. The County and individual jurisdictions have little influence over market constraints but can provide incentives or assistance to overcome the impacts.
- Social constraints such as various social beliefs and standards that impede affordable housing, including social perceptions, industry standards, and discrimination.

El Paso County has little influence over social perceptions and industry standards, but we try to educate the community about discrimination through our Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing efforts and outreach events.

### **Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment**

We do not have the ability to remove or control market forces or eliminate social perceptions that act as barriers to affordable housing. We can, however, lead by example in reforming public policies and regulations that serve as barriers. Some steps that have been taken in El Paso County include:

- Creating a streamlined permitting system to make reviews more user-friendly without diminishing environmental, public health, or safety standards
- Adopting an expedited system to process permits for affordable housing projects
- Supporting programs that provide Fair Housing education and services

Currently, El Paso County has a permit process that has received national attention and awards, which is the Electronic Development Application Review Process (EDARP). This process has not only resulted in a more user-friendly process but also a more transparent process for all. This process:

- Allows the public to view online, both active and archived development applications
- Enables a registered applicant login access to their application review project(s)
- Allows applicants to initiate both major and minor development applications online
- Allows for Early Assistance Meetings (EA) to make major applications run smoothly

Additionally, the El Paso County CDBG Program provides semi-annual fair housing events throughout the county. The content of these fair housing events is derived from the needs identified in our 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan. These events are designed to make safe, accessible, and affordable housing easier for residents to obtain through education and empowerment. The events are a successful tool for public outreach and engagement, gaining more attendance year over year.

### **Discussion**

El Paso County addresses barriers to affordable housing by offering programming and funding that ensures our region is leveraging state and federal resources. This approach is done by looking at the entire housing continuum and offering programming to address multiple areas. In addition to the federal CDBG funding, the El Paso County Economic Development acts as staff to the non-traditional El Paso County Housing Authority which administers a local housing trust fund. The federal resources, as well as the local housing trust fund resources, provide incentives and assistance to overcome the impacts of market constraints. Recent examples of this assistance are:

- Loan commitments that help leverage federal and state housing tax credits for the development of new affordable rental housing



- Grant rental assistance, utility assistance, and grants for homeowners needing emergency housing rehabilitation
- Continuation of a down payment assistance program that has ensured residents can still attain the dream of homeownership

Social constraints are also being positively impacted by the CDBG Program's continuous outreach through semi-annual fair housing events as well as the partnership with Colorado's Housing Connects Program.

Specifically, when looking at the barriers to affordable homeownership, the market conditions of El Paso County are still overwhelming. Interest rates have held steady since the summer of 2023, but that has caused real estate prices to only drop about 1% in the past year. The median sales price is still \$450,000, which is out of reach for many low-income families. Developers are buying land as fast as possible and trying to build homes even faster. El Paso County continues to be a top-ranked location to live with families moving to the region from all over the country. The result of this movement is an ever-increasing number of working-class families being priced out of homeownership. Homeownership is the foremost way families build equity and wealth; rather than putting money into a rental, a homeowner can get a portion of their monthly payment back when they sell.

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## AP-85 Other Actions – 91.229(k)

### Introduction

The CDBG allocation on its own cannot address all the needs identified in the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan. It is important to leverage both financial and intellectual resources to accomplish the goals of the program. The County will work with a network of representatives from the private lending community, financial experts, and private and non-profit developers and consultants who can provide technical expertise as needed. CDBG program staff will also note programs of exceptional merit and competency to the Community Development Advisory Board in the interest of maintaining an effective, efficient program.

The County will continue to focus on HUD-designated Opportunity Zones as well. The potential economic benefits of working in these Opportunity Zones:

- Promoting economic vitality in areas that experienced uneven recovery over the past few years
- Funding the development of workforce and affordable housing
- Supporting new infrastructure or broadband to support population and economic growth
- Investing in startups businesses that have the potential for rapid increases in sales
- Upgrading the capability of existing underutilized assets through capital improvement investments

For the 2024 Annual Action Plan, we will continue to review the Opportunity Zones in the area and see how we can effectively leverage their use in partnership with our program. Our program has also participated in phone calls with HUD staff in Washington, DC to discuss any suggestions or best practices recommended by their experts. We await future guidance from HUD regarding changes to economic development projects and how we can use those changes to leverage Opportunity Zones.

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

An ongoing, underserved need in our community is providing accessible opportunities for persons with disabilities. All public facility and infrastructure activities for 2024 will be directly addressing ADA improvements, providing access to neighborhood amenities, transportation, and schools.

### Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The El Paso County CDBG program has a long-standing partnership with Brothers Redevelopment to help low-income residents age in place and address emergency repairs in their homes. This allows seniors to fix things, such as broken water heaters or inaccessible entryways, while still maintaining the current affordability of their home. Homeowner rehabilitation programs like this allow residents to address health and safety issues within the already affordable home, rather than having to move to a new (and potentially not as affordable) home. It also helps keep the residents rooted in their already existing community, which has been shown to help communities maintain resiliency and even slows the onset of dementia in the elderly.

We also have a long-time relationship with the Calhan Housing Authority to improve their 20-unit public housing complex for extremely low-income seniors in rural Calhan, Colorado. CDBG funds have allowed this Housing Authority to make their facility ADA compliant and assist residents in aging in place while addressing important safety concerns.

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

We plan to continue support of the Brothers Redevelopment Homeowner Rehabilitation Program as the primary form of reducing lead-based paint hazards in the county. Necessary abatement work is completed as needed, depending on the scope of the project, cost of the project, and age of the structure. An ideal aspect of this program is that it helps those who are least able to handle the lead-based paint abatement on their own. The El Paso County CDBG program will also continue to participate annually in the National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, which is typically held in October.



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

While poverty cannot be fully eliminated, El Paso County strives to make every effort possible to reduce poverty through partnering with agencies to effectively serve the community.

Our poverty level families are significantly impacted through the tireless efforts and hard work of our subrecipients and their community-based programs. CDBG activities/projects provide a better quality of life for many and support our overall goals of economic growth. Our Public Service projects and activities will serve several rural areas to include Calhan, Green Mountain Falls, Fountain, Palmer Lake, Manitou Springs, Monument, Ramah, and Unincorporated El Paso County. Project examples include:

Community Partnership for Child Development provides disadvantaged children with behavioral health services.

- Forge Evolution provides behavioral health programs for low-income families with troubled teenagers.
- Project Angel Heart, a new subrecipient in 2024, delivers medically tailored meals for families living with cancer, kidney disease, HIV/Aids, and other severe illnesses.
- Serenity Recovery Connection provides peer recovery support services in rural areas of our community for those being treated for addictions.

All of these activities work to ensure vulnerable populations are given resources to better their lives and lift their families out of poverty.

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

El Paso County's housing and community development strategies will be implemented by a variety of public, private, and non-profit organizations. There is, overall, good coordination and little duplication of services locally, in part because subrecipients are mostly small communities. The local nonprofit infrastructure is diverse and active in the community. The local public housing authorities are reputable and provide leadership in the community. Additionally, there is strong coordination and cooperation between the public housing providers in the County. There also are coordinated efforts for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless, as well as streamlined information services, such as the United Way 2-1-1 information system. Furthermore, El Paso County works closely with the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care to coordinate policy, addressing homelessness and developing coordinated intake/assessment procedures.

There is, however, always room for improvement in eliminating barriers to access services, and in better outreach and communication to residents and providers. The service delivery structure is also weakened by the year-to-year unpredictability of operational funding and the uncertainty of state and federal funding. There are needs and demands that exceed available resources/funding, which is regionally disproportionate. Differing levels of management and development experience from agency to agency contribute to a weakened delivery system. Private sector partners, who are not always well informed on low-income and poverty issues, can exacerbate the problem.

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

CDBG staff is accountable for the necessary coordination and communication to identify and manage the CDBG program. It is essential that staff coordinate with other agencies to implement, enhance, and bring success to the County's CDBG program. To enhance overall coordination, CDBG staff will continue consultations, opening lines of communication, and attending meetings that will enrich the program. While all funds are allocated according to program requirements, dialogue with agencies, advisory committees, subrecipients, and the public will ensure the program goals are in line with community needs. We will maintain an accessible program that is readily available to all agencies, and any new housing and social services agencies that emerge will have the opportunity to coordinate as well.

## **Discussion**

The El Paso County Economic Development Department has developed a robust partnership across the county, including nonprofits, local government agencies, and public housing authorities. Moving forward, the CDBG program will continue to pursue new partnerships to increase the effectiveness of our program, leveraging new sources of



funding, and fulfilling our obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. Seeking new resources for quality projects to serve LMI residents and special needs populations is critical to improving the county as a whole. This year the El Paso County CDBG program received new interest from nonprofits seeking to expand into El Paso County, as well as nonprofits interested in increasing outreach to rural areas. Not all nonprofits are a good fit for a program, but it is a promising sign to see so many new agencies express interest.

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## Program Specific Requirements

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

#### Introduction

The County's CDBG activities are intended to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income residents and the underserved communities within the County by addressing affordable housing, homelessness, and non-housing community development needs. These activities seek to provide decent affordable housing, create suitable living environments, and expand economic opportunities. Expected outcomes include: (1) new or improved affordability through creation or maintenance of affordable housing; (2) availability or improved accessibility of infrastructure, public facilities, housing, or shelter to low- and moderate-income residents, including persons with disabilities and special needs populations; and (3) sustainability resulting from improved communities or neighborhoods, making them livable or viable, thereby providing benefit to low- and moderate-income persons.

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

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

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed: \$0.00
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan: \$0.00
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements: \$0.00
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan: \$0.00
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities: \$0.00

Total Program Income: \$0.00

#### Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities: 0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income: 80%

Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.

Specific annual objectives and priority needs that will be addressed by activities using CDBG funds, including proposed accomplishments and outcomes, are discussed earlier within this AAP. The projects and programs that will take place during the program year to address priority needs and goals are detailed in the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan.



# Appendix A

## Citizen Outreach & Public Hearing Notices

### **Application Cycle**

Constant Contact Email (1.29.24)

Webpage Posting Flyer

Webinar Slides (1.18.24)

### **CDAB Meetings**

Agendas & Minutes (2.21.24, 3.20.24, 4.17.24)

Webpage Posting

### **Affordable/Fair Housing Events**

Constant Contact Emails (2.6.24, 4.1.24)

Webpage Posting Flyers

Presentation Slides (2.27.24, 4.22.24)

### **Public Hearing 1**

English/Spanish Notice, Affidavit, Proof, & Publication Snip (2.28.24)

Constant Contact Email (2.28.24)

Webpage Posting Flyer

Presentation Slides (3.15.24)

### **Public Hearing 2**

English/Spanish Notice, Affidavit, Proof, & Publication Snip (3.27.24)

Constant Contact Email (3.28.24)

Webpage Posting Flyer

Presentation Slides (4.15.24)

### **Public Hearing 3 & CAPER/AAP Public Comment Period**

English/Spanish Notice, Affidavit, Proof, & Publication Snip (5.1.24)

Constant Contact Email (5.1.24)

Webpage Posting Flyers

Presentation Slides (5.17.24)

### **BoCC Public Meeting**

BoCC Public Meeting Agenda (7.9.24)

CDAB 2023 Recommendation Packet for BoCC

BoCC Resolution



# Appendix B

## Public Comments Received

Comments Received During Comment Period: May 8 – June 7  
Date: Person (TBD)

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# Appendix C

## SF-424 & Certifications

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