

# **CLARK COUNTY CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS**

## **CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2014**

(July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)



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# CLARK COUNTY CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2014

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Purpose

The purpose of this Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is to present to the public and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development how Clark County attained the goals and objectives established in the 2010–2014 Clark County Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (ConPlan). This 2014 CAPER also reports how federal funds available for housing and community development were utilized during the program year.

### Program Specific Information Available upon Request

This CAPER is designed to provide a meaningful overview of Clark County's progress in addressing affordable housing needs, in improving the living environment of residents who are low-income, and in expanding economic opportunities. In addition to the narrative summaries in this report, more detailed information about specific projects is available upon request. Additionally, a copy of the 2010-2014 ConPlan is available online at [www.clark.wa.gov/cdbg/documents](http://www.clark.wa.gov/cdbg/documents). Please contact Clark County Department of Community Services, 1601 E. Fourth Plain Blvd, Building 17, Suite A419, Vancouver, WA 98661 (Mail: P.O. Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98666-5000). The telephone number is (360) 397-2130. Any comments on this report should be directed to Peter Munroe, Housing and Community Development Program Manager.

## I. SUMMARY OF RESOURCES AND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

### Federal Funds Made Available for Furthering Objectives of Consolidated Plan

Total funds available for PY 2014 (including estimated program income): \$1,499,447

Total amount of funds committed in PY 2014: \$1,499,447

### Geographic Area Covered by the CAPER

The geographic area is comprised of the incorporated cities of Battle Ground, Camas, LaCenter, Ridgefield, Washougal, Woodland, the town of Yacolt and the unincorporated area of Clark County.

## II. GENERAL PROGRAM NARRATIVE

### Assessment of Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

In program year 2014, Clark County received \$1,429,447 in CDBG entitlement funds and \$428,648 in HOME entitlement funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. These funds were used to address the following objectives and strategies contained in the 2010-2014 ConPlan. Listed below are the projects that were funded under each objective.

## Goal I: Establish and Maintain a Suitable Living Environment and Economic Opportunities

**Strategy I:** Support acquisition of, and improvements to, facilities that provide services to low income, elderly or special needs persons.

In the 2014 program year, Clark County assisted the following projects:

### Projects Completed as of June 30, 2015:

- Columbia River Mental Health Services – Roof Retrofit Phase II Project. Completion of patching and sealing of the 47,000 SF metal roof to extend the life of the roof 20 years.

### Projects Underway as of June 30, 2015:

- Community Services Northwest - Wellness Project Renovation. Renovations to unusable space to increase mental health treatment capacity to serve an additional 335 low-income clients annually. Soundproofing to treatment rooms to improve privacy, and upgrades to reception area for safety and confidentiality. Wellness Center located at 317 E. 39th Street, Vancouver.



**CSNW Wellness Project**

### New Projects not yet under contract as of June 30, 2015:

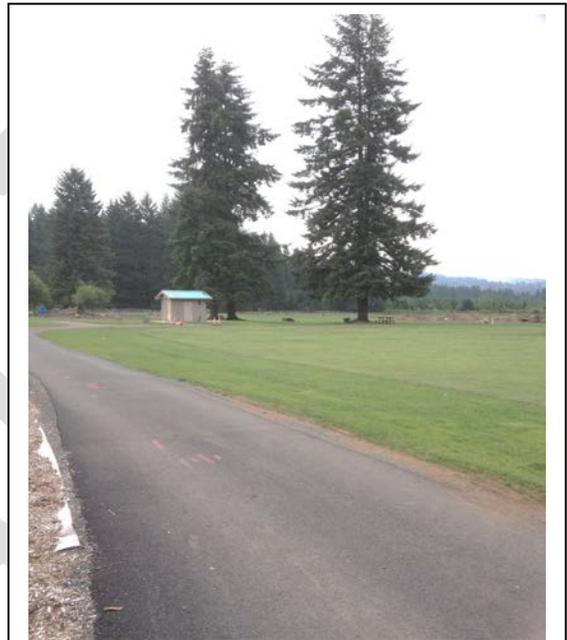
- Bridgeview Housing - Resource and Education Center. Construction of a Resource and Education Center to be sited at 500 Omaha Way, Vancouver, WA 98661. Vancouver Housing Authority's case-managed programs and resident services will be delivered by Bridgeview in 2015.
- Columbia River Mental Health Clinic Rehabilitation. CRMHS Main Clinic is located at 6926 NE Fourth Plain Boulevard. Rehabilitation will include: HVAC control system upgrade, ADA improvements, new child & family-friendly intake and reception area to begin to reconfigure CRMHS facility to accommodate expected growth.
- City of Washougal Community Center Kitchen. Remodel of the kitchen at the Washougal Community Center located at 1701 C Street. The kitchen is used for Meals on Wheels and will be renovated to Clark County Health Code Standards and Washougal Building Code standards.

**Strategy 2:** Revitalize and enhance low-income neighborhoods and communities by improving their physical and social character and eliminating slums and blight.

During the program year, Clark County undertook a number of activities to address Strategy 2. These activities are as follows:

**Projects Completed as of June 30, 2015:**

- City of Ridgefield – North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvements. Construction of sidewalk, curb, curb ramps, and storm water improvements on the west side of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Mill and Division Streets.
- City of Washougal – Pedestrian Improvements. Construction of sidewalks on the west side of Washougal Road from H to F Streets, on south side of I street from Washougal River Road to 14<sup>th</sup> Street, and sidewalks on the west side of 20<sup>th</sup> Street from E Street south to the railroad tracks. Project will include ADA crossing ramps.
- Town of Yacolt – Recreation Area Improvements. Widening of E. Hoag Street to 22 feet at the recreation area entrance, installation of a 6ft cyclone fence, installation of walking path, small restroom facility, and a transformer and electrical panel.



**Yacolt Recreational Area**

**Projects Underway as of June 30, 2015:**

- City of Woodland - Old Town Connections Project. Construction of 1,300 feet of sidewalks on Dale Street from Buckeye to Loves Street, along Loves Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> to Hoffman, and along Robbins from Dale to Goerig Street. ADA ramps will be installed at Loves and Hoffman.
- Town of Yacolt - Park Pavilion. Construction of a 40 by 40 foot open pavilion at the recreational area on E. Hoag Street.

**New Projects not yet under contract as of June 30, 2015:**

- City of Battle Ground - SE 1st Street Sidewalk Improvements. This project places curb, gutter, and sidewalk on the north side of NE 1st Street from N Parkway Avenue to NE 3rd Avenue.
- City of Camas - Franklin Neighborhood Improvements. Improvements on Franklin Street from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Improvements include upgrading water and sewer systems, replacement of two sub-standard fire hydrants, and reconstruction of sidewalks and asphalt roadway.
- City of Ridgefield - N. 4th Place Improvements. Construction of street and storm drainage improvements on N. 4th Place between Division and Mill Streets. The project will re-open the alley to through traffic, improving access for emergency vehicles and residents.
- Town of Yacolt - Recreation Area Improvements. Yacolt Recreation Park is located east of Spruce Ave at the east end of Hoag Street. The project will complete 1,900 feet of asphalt surfacing of the remaining path.

**Strategy 3:** Support economic vitality through activities that build a diverse economic base that enhances the opportunity for low-income persons to become financially independent.

The County continues to support the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC), Vancouver Downtown Association, and other organizations involved in bringing new businesses into the community. The County also continues to support local educational institutions to provide training relevant to the needs of employers in the community, and efforts to enhance their offerings so that the skill level of the local workforce is attractive to businesses considering locating in the Vancouver area. Clark County also supported the following economic activities in 2015:

- As a member of the Clark County Asset Building Coalition, the county has helped determine community needs, identify and target priority asset building strategies, consolidate resources and build an active membership between local non-profits, government agencies and private financial institutions. Specific objectives include: increasing financial education opportunities countywide, establishing a Bank On Clark County effort, EITC outreach, and Individual Development Accounts for low-income participants.
- Partners In Careers (PIC) is a nonprofit organization that works with families, refugees, low-income seniors and adults facing multiple challenges to employment such as homelessness, debt, addiction and mental illness. PIC provides job training, placement and coaching to help people achieve economic independence. They also provide employers with qualified and pre-screened employees. Programs include the Community Jobs Program, senior and refugee programs, and services for veterans through the Veteran Women Program and Homeward Bound.
- The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council provides leadership and resources for WorkSource services and also works closely with the CREDC to broker employment and training services for new and expanding businesses.

## Goal 2: Ensure Decent Affordable Housing

**Strategy 1:** Increase the supply of housing in urban growth areas that is affordable to renter households earning 60% or less of area median income. Projects should serve households with a range of incomes, provide a variety of unit sizes, incorporate universal design and meet recognized sustainability standards.

During the program year, Clark County addressed the supply of affordable housing through its support of the following:

### Projects Underway as of June 30, 2014:

- Vancouver Affordable Housing – Lincoln Place Apartments. New construction of 30 units that will utilize the Housing First model to house chronically homeless tenants. Housing will include 24-hour case management.
- Affordable Housing Solutions - Freedom's Path at Vancouver. Freedom's Path will consist of a four-story building with 14 efficiency and 36 one-bedroom units, each with a private bath. Twenty units will be affordable to households earning less than 30% AMFI, 15 units will be affordable to those earning between 31-40% AMFI and 15 units will be available for households earning 41-60% AMFI. Located on the Veterans Administration campus at 1601 E. 4th Plain Blvd in Vancouver.



**Freedom's Path Rendering**

### Clark County also pursued the following initiatives during the program year:

- Continued to provide information and technical assistance to nonprofit housing developers for the creation of rental housing units. Facilitated workshops on financing, grant writing, and other aspects of affordable housing.
- Continued to assist agencies in obtaining technical support with new HOME Rule, CHDO development and proposal development.
- Supported applications from private and nonprofit housing developers proposing to create rental housing using the Washington State Housing Tax Credit program.
- Continued to work with members of the Continuum of Care Planning Group to develop a network of landlords who were willing to accept high-risk residents.
- Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA) serves approximately 7,500 very low-income children, parents, elderly, and disabled people with 1,054 units of subsidized housing and more than 2,300 Housing Choice Vouchers. The VHA also contributes to the sustainability of Clark County with community development activities and 2,136 units of non-subsidized affordable workforce housing that provide homes for an additional 5,000 people.

- The VHA is one of about 30 housing authorities chosen nationwide by HUD to participate in the Moving to Work demonstration program. Since April 1999, VHA has developed and implemented a variety of alternate ways to deliver housing assistance with increased administrative efficiency, reduced cost, and increased housing choice and self-sufficiency for families with children.

**Strategy 2:** Preserve existing affordable housing threatened with loss due to condition, location, expiring federal contracts, redevelopment efforts, lead-based paint or other situations.

In this program year, Clark County worked to preserve affordable housing through its continued support for the following:

**Projects Completed as of June 30, 2015:**

- Clark County - Mobile Home Repair Program. Grants up to \$5,000 for emergency mobile home repairs or accessibility improvements for households that are over age 62 or disabled. As of June 30, 2015, nine projects were completed. Two grants were for accessibility improvements, two repaired plumbing, one project repaired an electrical panel and four grants were for roof replacements.
- Clark County - Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. Low-interest loans to homeowners in the County outside of Vancouver to rehabilitate single-family, owner-occupied homes. Eleven households received loans for rehabilitation projects, four of which were septic replacement projects, three loans were for roof replacement and three loans were for various needed repairs.

**Projects Underway as of June 30, 2015:**

- REACH – Towne Square Acquisition and Rehabilitation. Purchase and renovation of an existing 40-unit affordable apartment complex in Washougal. Renovations include ADA improvements, and energy and water efficiency improvements.
- Clark County - Mobile Home Repair Program. Multiple project applications underway with no draws yet against the 2014 CDBG funds.
- Clark County - Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. Two projects underway. One septic replacement project and one roof replacement.



**Clark County continued the following initiatives during the program year:**

Clark County continued to integrate the Homeowner Rehabilitation Loan Program with Weatherization, especially in areas targeted in the ConPlan as having a high percentage of at-risk housing units. The following practices/programs are part of the Weatherization program:

- TREAT Energy Audit Software. This is an energy auditing program provided by WA State Department of Commerce that allows housing inspectors to provide a plan for the most cost effective and efficient manner for weatherizing a home.
- In-field client education to directly address individual household energy use. An individualized list of ways to decrease energy consumption is created in the home and will be reviewed 12 months later for energy savings and lifestyle adjustments.

**Strategy 3:** Promote homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income households, including persons with disabilities and first-time homebuyers.

During the program year, Clark County promoted homeownership opportunities through its support for the following projects:

**Projects Underway as of June 30, 2015:**

- Proud Ground Homeownership Program. Funds will be used to purchase and rehabilitate two homes in Clark County, outside the city limits of Vancouver. Funds will lower the purchase price and the homes will be permanently affordable using a land trust model.

**Clark County pursued the following initiatives during the 2014 program year:**

- Continued to support and coordinate with the Community Housing Resource Center, which provides education and counseling to households to create financial security, housing stability, or homeownership opportunities.
- Supported new lending models and techniques to assist low-income households become homeowners.

**Strategy 4:** Create additional housing opportunities for self-sufficiency for low-income elderly and persons with disabilities and special needs. Projects should incorporate universal design and meet recognized sustainability standards.

During the program year, Clark County provided funding to address these issues through its support for the following projects:

**New Projects not yet under contract as of June 30, 2014:**

- REACH - Isabella Court (formally called 62nd Avenue) Senior Housing. Construction of 45 units of affordable senior housing at 3112 NE 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. There will be studio, one-bedroom and two bedroom units leased to seniors earning less than 60% of the area median income. Contract signed as of July 30, 2015.

**Clark County continued the following initiatives during the 2014 program year:**

- Continued to assist in building capacity of local nonprofits to enable them to develop, own, and manage housing units for affordable and supported housing.

- Along with the Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA), continued to advocate for increased state and federal funding for rental housing for persons with special needs, including persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness, physical disabilities, AIDS, and the elderly.
- Continued to work with the Southwest Washington Consortium on HIV and AIDS to develop low-cost housing.
- The VHA owns and/or manages 628 subsidized housing units in 12 apartment communities designated for low-income elderly or disabled residents. In addition, VHA provides Section 8 housing vouchers for an additional 1,649 low-income elderly or disabled households throughout Clark County. Together, these apartments and vouchers house 2,783 elderly or disabled individuals. The VHA employs three full-time Resident Service Coordinators to support these residents who wish to remain independent in their home. Coordinators assess needs, determine eligibility for services and work with other agencies to link residents to supportive or medical services. VHA has numerous waiting lists for its housing communities and programs, with 1,401 unique elderly or disabled applicants waiting for housing opportunities.

**Strategy 5:** Plan for and support strategies and initiatives to promote fair housing and increase access to housing and housing programs.

In 2014, Clark County continued to support Fair Housing Council of Oregon's efforts to disseminate fair housing information to the public through support for Housing Connections, a regional housing search web site, through community agencies, and through support for fair housing conferences. Clark County also provides fair housing technical assistance to housing providers and others as needed.

This year, Clark County also provided a free Fair Housing training on May 14, 2015. Landlords, nonprofit housing providers, and social service providers were invited to attend. The training provided an overview of state and federal laws and an in-depth discussion of fair housing with regard to families with children and those with disabilities.

In June 2012, Clark County updated its Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice. The AI included Clark County and the jurisdictions within the county, excluding Vancouver. This AI was conducted in conjunction with the City of Vancouver; however, a separate AI was produced for the city. This plan is available on the Clark County website at: [www.clark.wa.gov/cdbg/documents](http://www.clark.wa.gov/cdbg/documents).

### **Goal 3: Provide Services to End Homelessness**

Unprecedented low rental market vacancy rates, coupled with increasing monthly rental costs and tighter landlord screening criteria have made obtaining and sustaining a home more challenging in Clark County. Homeless system funding remained stable, but a greater need for rental assistance and a lack of affordable housing has made it more difficult to meet community needs. Local document recording fees are the primary source of homeless system funding, providing over \$2.6 million annually for housing and homeless programs.

#### **Clark County pursued the following initiatives during the 2014 program year:**

- Contracted with the Council for the Homeless to update the community's 10-Year Homeless Plan. This communitywide effort resulted in a more succinct and outcome-focused Homeless Action Plan to guide short and long-term planning.
- People in local emergency shelters were prioritized for rapid re-housing programs.
- A Predictive Factors screening tool was implemented for entry into community prevention rent assistance programs. This means those most likely to become homeless, based on a series of research studies, were determined eligible for the programs.
- The Council for the Homeless and Clark County continued to participate in statewide advocacy and planning activities through the Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance.
- Clark County actively participates in the communitywide Continuum of Care, its Steering Committee and supports implementation of the Continuum of Care Plan. Clark County was also an active participant in the creation and implementation of the program monitoring process.
- Clark County received Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce and allocated these funds to 13 different community programs.
- Clark County participated in the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) regional board.
- The Continuum of Care (CoC), locally termed the Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless, facilitated workgroups to move specific strategies in the Clark County 10-Year Homeless Plan forward. The workgroups were:
  1. Youth Service Integration
  2. Coordinated Assessment Task Force
  3. 10-Year Planning
  4. Data Management and Analysis
  5. Discharge Planning
  6. Prevention
  7. CoC Steering Committee
  8. Coordinated Assessment Workgroup

The strategies shown in Consolidated Plan Objective Three - Provide Services to End Homelessness, are taken directly from the 10-Year Homeless Plan.

**Strategy I: Prevention/diversion/discharge planning:**

Programs aimed to keep people who are at-risk of homelessness in their housing, approaches to divert people from jail into housing and treatment services, and policies/resources that assure people are discharged from correctional facilities, hospitals, residential treatment facilities, and foster care with affordable housing and necessary supporting services in place.

During the program year, Clark County provided funding to help prevent homelessness through its support of the following projects:

**Projects Underway as of June 30, 2015:**

- Share - ASPIRE Transitional Housing Program. This is an ongoing tenant-based rental assistance program that provides assistance to approximately 40 households.
- Share - ASPIRE Administration. Funds for tenant selection, HQS inspections, housing search and placement, periodic review of client qualifications, and management of tenant-based rental assistance.
- Community Services NW - Clark County Homeless Engagement Collaboration (CHEC). Rental assistance program provides short-term tenant-based rental assistance for approximately 40 households.

**New Projects not yet under contract as of June 30, 2014:**

- Share - ASPIRE Transitional Housing Program. This is an ongoing tenant-based rental assistance program that will provide assistance to 40 households.
- Share - ASPIRE Administration. Funds for tenant selection, HQS inspections, periodic review of client qualifications, housing search and placement and management of tenant-based rental assistance.
- Janus Youth Programs - The Nest. This new tenant-based rental assistance program will provide rent assistance to high-risk youth who are homeless between the ages of 18-25. Approximately 15 households will be served through this program.
- Janus Youth Programs - The Nest Administration. These funds will support the case management costs related to tenant selection, HQS inspections, financial assistance administration and housing search and placement.

**Clark County addressed this strategy through the following initiatives:**

- Clark County chairs the Discharge Planning Workgroup, which exists to identify and address the needs of those who may be discharged from systems of care into homelessness. The group includes representatives from hospitals, inpatient mental health facilities, substance abuse treatment centers, the County jail, the Department of Corrections and partner agencies. Stronger partnerships have developed between agencies, creating opportunities for people to access resources while in systems of care and creating respite beds for people who are homeless with acute care needs.

**Projects funded in program year 2014 included:**

- Council for the Homeless – Housing Solutions Center (HSC). HSC serves as a coordinated assessment center that is the access point for those in the community who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness and needing housing assistance. The HSC began providing diversion

assistance to households who are at-imminent risk of homelessness, but have a history of housing stability. This initiative provides a small amount of financial and/or supportive assistance to stabilize people in their housing without entering the homeless system.

- The Housing Solutions Center increased the number of mobile assessments conducted with people who are in systems of care. This means that those needing a housing assessment have fewer barriers and their housing needs and options are understood.
- Columbia River Mental Health Services – The Homeless Employment Navigator Program. Connects families and individuals who are homeless with employment resources to help them obtain employment and educational services. Staff conducts outreach at multiple sites, including shelters, the jail re-entry program and mental health clinics.
- Volunteer Lawyers Program – Homeless Court. Provides free legal services to people who are low-income and homeless in Clark County. Homeless Court, Homeless Clinics, Advice Clinics and Direct Representations are all components of Volunteer Lawyers.
- Salvation Army - Moving Forward Together. Provides a holistic approach to rent assistance, case management and employment support services to households who are at-risk of homelessness.
- Clark County Food Bank – Fresh Alliance. Volunteers retrieve fresh and frozen food items from 18 participating area grocery stores for distribution to all Clark County food banks.
- Share - Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program. IDAs are matched bank saving accounts to assist in the purchase of an asset that will lead to self-sufficiency and move people out of poverty. IDAs offer a 2:1 savings match toward the purchase of a home, obtaining education, or starting a small business. All participants receive case management, money management training and asset-specific education.
- Clark County Veterans Assistance Center – Veterans Emergency Relief Program. Resource center where veterans can be assisted with community reintegration and resource referral. Local property tax funding provides basic needs, including emergency rent, utility, food, transportation, prescription and burial assistance for veterans who earn less than 150% of poverty, after taxes. The Assistance Center also coordinates an annual one-day Veterans Stand Down in late summer.
- Partners in Careers (PIC) - YouthFirst. The PIC YouthFirst program provides support to youth at-risk of not finishing high school. This includes homework support, tutoring, mentorship, skill building, career exploration, internships and sheltered employment.
- Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans Incarceration Project. Engagement and case management of incarcerated Veterans to connect them with needed resources and support. The program seeks to reduce jail recidivism, and increase the housing stability of veterans transitioning from jail.
- Community Services NW - Re-entry Program. Provides permanent supportive and rapid re-housing to prevent people being released from systems of care into homelessness. Program participants receive rent assistance and intensive case management.

- Janus Youth - Bridges Program. Provides prevention assistance to youth ages 18-24 who are at-risk of homelessness. Case management and rental assistance are provided to those in the program.

**Strategy 2: Housing plus supportive services:** Expand affordable housing availability and provide necessary supportive services to assist homeless youth, families, and single adults reach self-sufficiency. For most homeless populations, services will be progressive; more intense initially and tapering off over time. For the chronic homeless/disabled population, ongoing support services linked to affordable housing should be required.

**Clark County addressed this strategy through the following initiatives:**

- Clark County continued to administer the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which provides emergency assistance with utility bills. Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, the total energy assistance provided was over \$1.65 million to 3,668 households.
- The Council for the Homeless worked with providers and members of the Continuum of Care planning group to develop an application for funding through the McKinney-Vento Act. In 2015, 12 programs through six organizations were awarded grants, for a total of over \$1.2 million.
- The Vancouver Housing Authority, in collaboration with the US Department of Veterans Affairs, utilized 70 Housing and Urban Development/Veterans Administration Supported Housing (HUD/VASH) vouchers to permanently house veterans who were homeless. In addition, 40 project-based vouchers were dedicated to Freedom's Path, a new permanent housing facility being built on the Vancouver Veterans Affairs campus.
- Clark County continued to administer the Weatherization Program for rental and homeowner units. One hundred fifty-eight Clark County households who were low-income received improvements, including insulation, ventilation, weatherizing doors/windows and heater repair.

**Projects funded in program year 2014 included:**

- Community Services NW - Welcome Home. Supportive housing with intensive case management for people who are chronically homeless with a dual diagnosis of substance addiction and mental or physical disabilities.
- Share - ASPIRE. A tenant-based housing program, which helps transition families from shelters into permanent supportive housing through the use of rental subsidies and on-going case management.



- Share – ASPIRE Permanent Supportive Housing. Provides low-barrier rental assistance and assertive engagement to households that meet the definition of chronically homeless.

- Second Step Housing – Resident Self-Sufficiency Program. Rent assistance and case management support for 30 households that are identified as homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

- Janus Youth - The Nest Program. Assistance to youth ages 18-24, who are homeless and in need of rapid re-housing assistance, including those transitioning out of foster care, or being released from juvenile facilities. Case management and rental assistance are included.
- Council for the Homeless - Community Housing. Provides outreach, engagement, incentives, and links between landlords and programs that serve households with multiple barriers to renting. The program also maintains an affordable housing inventory for Clark County.
- Ending Family Homelessness (EFH) Programs. Share, Janus Youth and The Salvation Army provide rapid re-housing and prevention assistance to households that are literally homeless or at-risk of homelessness and receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). The program has created new collaborations between housing agencies, DSHS, and local employment agencies.
- Share - Bridging the Gap Program. Through a housing first model, this program provides ongoing rental assistance and supportive services to people who are chronically homeless and highly vulnerable in the community.

**Strategy 3: Short term emergency response:** Quickly identify people who are homeless, assess their needs, and move them into housing with appropriate supporting services. They include outreach, shelter, and rapid access to benefits, services, and affordable housing.

**Clark County pursued the following initiatives during the 2014 program year:**

- Homelessness prevention assistance was targeted for households most like to become homeless based on evidence-based predictive factors.
- The Homeless Navigator program works closely with the Housing Solutions Center (HSC) to meet the immediate basic needs of those who are homeless. Assistance provided includes linkages to food banks, employment support, infant essentials, health/dental care and mobility devices. The program also helps HSC clients obtain necessary housing eligibility documentation, like identification or proof of disability.
- SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) Program. SOAR is an evidence-based practice that streamlines the Social Security application process. SOAR is a key tool to helping households increase their income and housing stability. In the first six months of calendar year 2015, 20 Clark County SOAR applications were submitted, resulting in 5 approvals and awarding over \$22,375 in back-pay.

**Projects funded in program year 2014 included:**

- Share - Shelter Programs and Hunger Response. Share operates three emergency homeless shelters year-round. The Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO) operates nightly from November through March. The Share Backpack program provides food for children in area schools to take home on weekends. The Share meals program provides men, women and children with food at each of the shelters, at summer meal sites throughout the community plus a drop-in meal program for anyone who is hungry.



- Janus Youth - Yellow Brick Road Outreach and The Perch. A street outreach and day center program that engages youth ages 15-24, living on the streets in Clark County and helps connect them with basic needs and resources in the community. This program supports youth transitioning out of street life through a youth empowerment model.
- YWCA - SafeChoice. Serves survivors of domestic violence by providing a 24-hour crisis line, shelter, children's advocacy program, legal advocacy, counseling, support group facilitation, safety planning and community education. The program helps reduce and prevent the number of families who are homeless by maintaining current domestic violence services and connecting shelter residents to the Housing Solutions Center.

**Strategy 4: Systemwide Improvement:** The Clark County 10-Year Homeless Plan contains two strategies that are designed to improve the overall performance, efficiency, and accountability of the homeless system.

**Clark County pursued the following initiatives during the 2014 program year:**

- Council for the Homeless – Housing Solutions Center. The Housing Solutions Center (HSC) serves as a coordinated assessment center that is the access point for those in the community who are homeless and needing housing assistance. The HSC began providing diversion assistance to households who are at-risk of homelessness. This initiative provides a financial and/or supportive assistance to stabilize people in their housing without entering the homeless system.
- The Council for the Homeless continues to work with local agencies to increase the data quality and effectiveness of the local HMIS program which tracks services provided to people who are homeless. The local HMIS system has focused on increasing the data quality score for all programs that enter data in the system. In 2014, the system wide score increased from 96.6% to 98.3%.
- Clark County participated in the creation of a formal monitoring process for the Continuum of Care funded programs. This effort was spearheaded by a subcommittee of the Continuum of Care Steering Committee. This new group of key community stakeholders helps monitor and shape the homeless system.
- Clark County contracted with the Council for the Homeless to create a new Homeless Action Plan for the County. Extensive outreach, engagement and meetings across numerous systems and diverse populations informed the new plan, which was adopted in May 2015.

**Projects funded in program year 2014 included:**

- Council for the Homeless - Community Planning. The Council facilitates the Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless and the Continuum of Care Steering Committee, a consortium of nonprofit agencies, businesses, community groups, government agencies and individuals who are homeless or formerly homeless. The Coalition helps identify gaps in service and prioritizes needs and plans for solutions to reduce homelessness. Annually, the Council produces the Continuum of Care application, and coordinates the Homeless Connect and Point in Time count in January.
- Council for the Homeless - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Coordination of data collection and reporting through Service Point, a system that links homeless programs and gathers long-term unduplicated information. Data is used to gather statistical and categorical information on the local homeless population to be used in the assessment and analysis of needs

and services. HMIS also provides training, technical assistance and ongoing trouble-shooting for users.

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## CONSOLIDATED FIVE-YEAR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

### OBJECTIVE ONE

#### Establish and Maintain a Suitable Living Environment and Economic Opportunities

	Activity	5 Year Goal	Outcomes
<p><b>Strategy 1:</b> Support acquisition of, and improvements to, facilities that provide services to low-income, elderly or special needs persons.</p> <p><b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development</b></p> <p><b>Performance Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Suitable Living Environment</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Sustainability</p>	<p>CD-1.1: Support acquisition of, and improvements to, community facilities to enhance service delivery to low-income persons (consistent with neighborhood/community plans). Facilities should meet sustainability and accessibility standards.</p>	10 activities	1 completed, 1 underway, 3 funded
<p><b>Strategy 2:</b> Revitalize and enhance low-income neighborhoods and communities by improving their physical, social character and elimination of slums and blight.</p> <p><b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development</b></p> <p><b>Performance Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Suitable Living Environment</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Sustainability</p>	<p>CD-2.1: Fund infrastructure improvements (streets, sidewalks, storm drainage, water, sewer) needed in eligible neighborhoods and communities (consistent with neighborhood/community plans).</p>	15 activities	2 completed, 1 underway, 3 funded
	<p>CD-2.2: Fund the acquisition of, and improvements to, parks and recreation facilities to improve the livability of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods (consistent with neighborhood/community plans). Facilities should meet sustainability standards.</p>	10 activities	1 completed, 1 underway, 1 funded
<p><b>Strategy 3:</b> Support community economic vitality through activities that build a diverse economic base that enhances opportunity for low income persons to become financially independent.</p> <p><b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development</b></p> <p><b>Performance Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Economic Opportunity</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Availability/Accessibility</p>	<p>CD-3.1: Support activities that retain or create jobs for low/moderate-income persons.</p>	2 activities	Ongoing support

**OBJECTIVE TWO**  
**Ensure Decent Affordable Housing**

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>5 Year Goal</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>Strategy 1:</b> Increase the supply of housing in urban growth areas that is affordable to renter households, earning 60% or less of AMI. Projects should serve households with a range of incomes, provide a variety of unit sizes, incorporate universal design and meet recognized sustainability standards. <b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development</b> <b>Performance Measures:</b> <b>Objective:</b> Decent Housing <b>Outcome:</b> Affordability	AH-1.1: Support the construction of new affordable rental housing.	40 HHs 0-30% AMI*	50
		35 HHs 31-50% AMI	15
		12 HHs 51-80% AMI	15
		87 HHs total	80
	AH-1.2: Support acquisition and/or rehabilitation of rental housing to increase affordable housing stock.	10 HHs 0-30% AMI	0
		15 HHs 31-50% AMI	0
		5 HHs 51-80% AMI	0
		30 HHs total	0
<b>Strategy 2:</b> Preserve existing affordable housing threatened with loss due to condition, location, expiring federal contracts, redevelopment efforts, lead-based paint, or other situations. <b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development</b> <b>Performance Measures:</b> <b>Objective:</b> Decent Housing <b>Outcome:</b> Affordability/Accessibility	AH-2.1: Support preservation of existing low-income single-family housing.	10 HHs 0-30% AMI	
		15 HHs 31-50% AMI	7
		15 HHs 51-80% AMI	11
		40 HHs total	18
	AH-2.2: Support preservation of existing low-income rental housing.	10 HHs 0-30% AMI	0
		10 HHs 31-50% AMI	0
		10 HHs 51-80% AMI	0
		30 HHs total	0
	AH-2.3: Reduce accessibility barriers in single-family owner occupied and rental housing.	15 HHs 0-30% AMI	0
		15 HHs 31-50% AMI	2
		10 HHs 51-80% AMI	0
		40 HHs total	2

**OBJECTIVE TWO**  
**Ensure Decent Affordable Housing**

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>5 Year Goal</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>Strategy 3:</b> Promote homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income households, including persons with disabilities and first-time homebuyers. <b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development</b> <b>Performance Measures:</b> <b>Objective:</b> Decent Housing <b>Outcome:</b> Affordability/Accessibility	AH-3.1: Support homeowner assistance for first-time or low-income homebuyers and encourage participation in pre- and post-purchase housing education.	1 HHs 0-30% AMI	0
		5 HHs 31-50%AMI	0
		50 HHs 51-80% AMI	2
	AH-3.2: Support techniques to assist low-income households to become homeowners or preserve homeownership.	Ongoing – will report in narrative form	ongoing
<b>Strategy 4:</b> Create additional housing opportunities for self-sufficiency for low-income elderly and persons with disabilities or special needs. Projects should incorporate universal design and meet recognized sustainability standards. <b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development</b> <b>Performance Measures:</b> <b>Objective:</b> Decent Housing <b>Outcome:</b> Affordability/Accessibility	AH-4.1: Support the creation of housing for low-income elderly.	18 HHs 0-30% AMI	0
		16 HHs 31-50% AMI	49
		10 HHs 51-80% AMI	0
		144 HHs total	49
	AH-4.2: Support the creation of housing for disabled and special needs populations.	25 HHs 0-80% AMI	0
<b>Strategy 5:</b> Plan for and support strategies and initiatives to promote fair housing and increase access to housing and housing programs. <b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development</b> <b>Performance Measures:</b> <b>Objective:</b> Decent Housing <b>Outcome:</b> Accessibility	AH-5.1: Work to increase access to housing for households with special needs.	Ongoing – will report in narrative form	
	AH-5.2: Disseminate fair housing information to the public through support for regional housing search services, through community agencies, and support of fair housing conferences.		
	AH-5.3 Provide fair housing technical assistance to housing providers and community.		

\*HH = Household  
 AMI = Area Median Income

**OBJECTIVE THREE**  
**Provide Services to End Homelessness**

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>5 Year Goal</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>Strategy 1:</b> <b>Prevention/diversion/discharge planning:</b> Programs and policies to keep at-risk people in housing, divert people from jail into housing and treatment services, and assure people are discharged from correctional facilities, hospitals, residential treatment facilities, and foster care with affordable housing and necessary supporting services in place. <b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development Performance Measures:</b> <b>Objective:</b> Decent Housing <b>Outcome:</b> Affordability	HS-1.1: Increase housing stability for those at risk of homelessness by supporting and expanding programs that provide rental assistance, eviction prevention, incentives for landlords to rent to low-income households, and other supportive services.	40 HH maintain housing stability through the receipt of financial assistance; 50 HH avoid eviction.	
		100 families will not become homeless as a result of accessing the specific assistance.	
	HS-1.2: Increase coordination among programs that provide care and services to low-income people in order to consistently assess and respond to their housing needs to prevent homelessness, and ensure public institutions discharge people into housing.	Establish and refine a discharge plan and re-entry procedures from hospitals, jails, prisons, treatment programs and foster care of juvenile facilities.	Ongoing
<b>Strategy 2: Housing plus supportive services:</b> Expand affordable housing available and provide necessary supporting services to assist homeless youth, families, and single adults reach self-sufficiency. For most homeless populations, services will be transitional; more intense initially and tapering off over time. For chronic homeless/ disabled population, ongoing support services linked to affordable housing should be required. <b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development Performance Measures:</b> <b>Objective:</b> Suitable Living Environment <b>Outcome:</b> Availability	HS-2.1: Preserve and expand the supply of permanent housing and supportive housing affordable to those with very low incomes.	50 housing units for HH below 30% AMI will be preserved or developed.	30
	HS-2.2: Preserve and expand the supply of transitional supportive housing for individuals and families.	Support current transitional housing programs.	Ongoing
		Create 20 beds of supportive housing for chronically homeless and 25 beds for non-chronically homeless	Completed
	HS-2.3: Increase access to educational and employment programs to increase earning potential for individuals who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and lead to self-sufficiency.	20 persons who are chronically homeless get supported employment	
		30 unemployed people who are at-risk or temporarily homeless get jobs	
	75 people will complete credit building and financial planning training		

**Provide Services to End Homelessness**

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>5 Year Goal</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<p><b>Strategy 3: Short term emergency response:</b> Quickly identify people who are homeless, assess their needs, and move them into housing with appropriate supporting services. They include outreach, shelter, and rapid access to benefits, services, and affordable housing.</p> <p><b>HUD Community Planning &amp; Development Performance Measures:</b>  <b>Objective:</b> Suitable Living Environment  <b>Outcome:</b> Availability/Accessibility</p>	<p>HS-3.1: Maintain an effective outreach program to chronically and non-chronically homeless persons having difficulty accessing services in order to link them to resources.</p>	25 people who are homeless receive detox, mental health and medical services	52
		75 people who are homeless are treated at the free clinic/dental clinic	33
		Funding and location identified for a Resource Center	Completed
	<p>HS-3.2: Ensure availability and access to clearinghouse, emergency shelter and services in the existing shelter system.</p>	Continue to fund and increase access to current shelter and outreach programs	Ongoing
		30-60 youth per year will move toward self-sufficiency through transitional housing and case management	32
<p><b>Strategy 4: System wide Improvement:</b> The Clark County Homeless Plan contains two strategies that are designed to improve the overall performance, efficiency, and accountability of the homeless system.</p>	<p>HS-4.1: Plan and coordinate system-wide to efficiently manage limited resources for ending homelessness.</p>	Report on progress toward meeting goals, and updates to 10-Year plan every 2-3 years	Ongoing
	<p>HS-4.2: Build on successful implementation and expansion of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in Clark County.</p>	Analyze HMIS data to determine where additional exploration is needed to understand homelessness in Clark County	Ongoing
		Incrementally expand the agencies participating in the HMIS and collecting performance outcome measurements	Ongoing

## **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing**

Clark County released its final Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing in June 2012. The AI covers Clark County and the jurisdictions within the county, excluding Vancouver. This AI was conducted in conjunction with the City of Vancouver; however, a separate AI was produced for the city. The AI included 1) a review of a jurisdiction's laws, regulations, and administrative policies, procedures and practices; 2) an assessment of how those laws, policies and practices affect the location availability and accessibility of housing; and 3) an assessment of public and private sector conditions affecting fair housing choice.

The research conducted for the AI found few fair housing concerns and many positive practices related to fair housing within the county. These positive findings include:

*Housing goals.* Clark County and the jurisdictions within the county have land use and zoning practices and planning goals in place to mitigate fair housing barriers and encourage a balance of housing choices. The County's Aging Readiness Plan recommended that the county develop a Universal Design Information Guide. Universal Design is a framework for design of places, things, information, communication and policy usable by the widest range of people operating in the widest range of situations without special or separate design.

*ADA Compliance Office.* Clark County has an ADA Compliance Office that works to ensure businesses are following ADA policies and county services, programs and activities are available to all citizens.

*Few concentrated areas.* An analysis of racial and ethnic concentrations found very few Census tracts in the county with higher than average proportions of minorities. The areas with higher-than-average minority populations are almost all located in Vancouver. The dissimilarity index—a measure of the “evenness” of the geographic distribution of two different population groups—in Clark County is low, although higher than in Vancouver. The index ranges from 0 to 1, with a value of 1 representing full concentration. Clark County's dissimilarity indexes were .20 (White v. Non-White comparison), .22 (Non-Hispanic v. Hispanic), .27 (White v. Asian) and .28 (White v. African American).

*Low volume of complaints and legal cases.* From January 2006 to June 2013, a total of 61 complaints were filed with HUD by Clark County residents; 59 of these were filed by residents of Vancouver. The complaints were largely filed on the basis of disability (38% of all complaints) and race discrimination (28%). About half of the complaints were dismissed because they were not found to have a reasonable cause; one in six was settled.

## **Fair Housing Impediments**

There exist opportunities to improve fair housing conditions in Clark County. The research conducted for the AI found the following impediments to fair housing choice:

*Transit Options.* Stakeholders perceive lack of transit options for low income, disabled and senior residents as a fair housing barrier. In addition to income levels and poor credit histories, stakeholders rated the lack of transit options for low-income, disabled and senior residents as very high. In the fair housing survey, stakeholders expressed a need for enhanced connectivity between Vancouver and destinations within Clark County.

*Information about fair housing is difficult to find;* as such, fair housing knowledge may be low. Few jurisdictions have housing information on their websites and, other than Clark County, none have information about fair housing or who to contact if a resident has fair housing concerns. This creates an opportunity to improve the quality and consistency of fair housing information in the county.

*Rental costs are high and Vancouver has a disproportionate number of subsidized rental units.* The 2010 Census data reports a median rent, including utilities, of \$846 in the county. In Battle Ground, the median gross rent is \$1,029. An examination of the county's public housing units and other subsidized housing found that two-thirds are located within one zip code within the City of Vancouver with few affordable housing developments outside of Vancouver and its immediate environs.

*Minority mortgage loan applicants are denied loans at much higher rates than Whites.* Although the number of mortgage loan transactions is small relative to the county overall, in Battle Ground, Camas and La Center, Hispanic and Asian applicants were denied loans at much higher rates than White applicants. These cities also have some of the highest housing costs in the county.

## **Fair Housing Plan Action Items**

1. **Improve and make more uniform fair housing information on county and jurisdictional websites.**

This action item has already been addressed with a comprehensive Clark County website regarding fair housing. The link is <http://www.clark.wa.gov/commserv/fairhousing/index.html>. In CDBG and HOME contracts, Clark County requires that each jurisdiction include a link to this site on their local website.

2. **Establish fair housing points of contact within jurisdictions and educate landlords about fair housing.** Clark County should take the lead on publicizing and sponsoring training for the small jurisdictions within the county, as needed. Each jurisdiction should have a designated individual to whom residents can be referred when they call with fair housing concerns. In addition, the county should offer fair housing education and training sessions for landlords at least two times per year to increase provider understanding of fair housing laws and be a resource to the private sector on fair housing concerns.

This year, Clark County provided a free Fair Housing training on May 14, 2015 that was open to any interested community members. Landlords, nonprofit housing providers, and social service providers were invited to attend. The training provided an overview of state and federal laws and an in-depth discussion of fair housing with regard to families with children and those with disabilities – the two areas of which the Fair Housing Council of Oregon receives the greatest complaints.

3. **Increase the stock of affordable housing countywide, especially deeply subsidized rentals.** As the housing market improves Clark County jurisdictions should seek opportunities to diversify their housing stock and create more opportunities for residents of all income levels to reside in their communities. To encourage the development of affordable housing in high cost areas, the most expensive jurisdictions within the county should offer fee waivers and other types of development incentives for the production of affordable housing.

4. **Monitor lending disparities.** In Battle Ground, Camas and La Center, Asians and Hispanics were denied mortgage loans at much higher rates than were White applicants. The county has supported the Community Housing Resource Center's financial literacy programs in the past and should continue these efforts to help narrow lending disparities. The jurisdictions and county should also monitor disparities over time and, as needed, engage local lenders and community leaders in discussions about the reasons for the denials.

5. **Examine transit needs.** Clark County should examine the gaps in public transit outside of Vancouver, especially the needs of persons with disabilities, seniors and low income residents. If

significant gaps are found, the county should explore methods to address the gaps and incorporate public transit improvements into its next six-year transportation plan.

### **Affordable Housing Narrative**

Clark County has addressed and worked to meet the four affordable housing objectives identified in the 2010-2014 ConPlan by utilizing the Clark County allocated CDBG and HOME funding dollars available. The numbers shown are projected total units.

Clark County committed the 2014 CDBG and HOME funds accordingly:

<b>Priority Need Category</b>	<b>2014 HOME</b>	<b>2014 CDBG</b>
<b>Renters</b>		
At or below 80% of AMI		0
At or below 50% of AMI	49	0
At or below 30% of AMI	30	0
<b>Owners</b>		
At or below 80% of AMI	0	30
Non-Homeless Special Needs	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total 215 Housing</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>30</b>

Details on these projects are provided in the “Affordable Housing Objectives” section of this report’s “General Program Narrative.”

### **Rental Housing**

During program year 2014, the Towne Square complex in Washougal was assisted with HOME funding.

Originally built in 1977 with funding from USDA Rural Development, Towne Square Apartments is home to very low-income families, seniors and people who are disabled. Nearing the end of its rental subsidy contract, REACH’s subsidiary Affordable Community Environments purchased the building in 2014 in order to preserve and maintain much-needed affordable homes in the community. After purchasing the property, REACH rehabilitated the 40 unit complex. Renovations included new siding, windows, heating and ventilation systems, accessibility improvements and the addition of a community room and play areas. Renovations were completed in spring 2015 and the rental subsidy from USDA will be preserved for 30 years. All units are affordable to those earning less than 60% AMI.

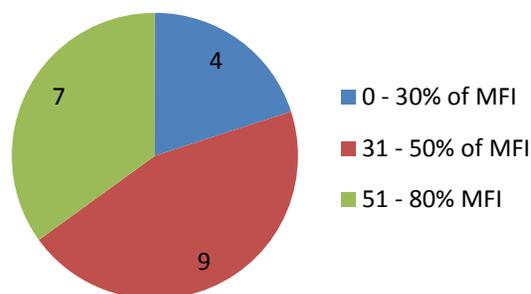
Clark County also funded two rental subsidy programs, Share ASPIRE and Clark Homeless Engagement Collaboration (CHEC) Program, operated by Community Services NW. These programs provide rental subsidies to low-income households to ensure they pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent. Both programs also provide case management to tenants and assist them in finding permanent housing after two years or less in the program.

## Homeownership

Clark County awarded funding to Proud Ground to provide up to three homeownership opportunities using a land trust model. The ownership of the land will be retained by Proud Ground, and the house will be owned by the homeowner. Only households earning less than 80% AMI and living in Clark County (outside of the city of Vancouver), or in the city of Woodland are eligible to purchase a house with this funding.

### Summary of Clark County Housing Rehabilitation Program Accomplishments

Priority Need Category	Owner Households Assisted
0-30% of MFI	4
31-50% of MFI	9
51-80% of MFI	7
Total	20



### “Worst-Case Needs”

“Worst-case needs” are low-income renter households who pay more than half of their income for rent, live in seriously substandard housing, or have been involuntarily displaced. The “worst-case needs” were addressed by the funding of several projects noted in the Affordable Housing section above. Projects include Towne Square and the ASPIRE and CHEC Tenant Based Rental Assistance programs. Each project addresses low-income renters, persons recovering from addiction and/or persons with disabilities.

### Continuum of Care Narrative

Clark County continued to partner with the Council for the Homeless and numerous other service providers, advocates and businesses to enhance the community’s comprehensive Continuum of Care system with a focus on ending homelessness in the County. This group identifies systemic goals and fosters collaborative efforts between community groups, government agencies, concerned citizens, people who were formerly homeless and service providers. In fiscal year 2015, Clark County received a Continuum of Care grant for 12 programs through six organizations, for over \$1.2 million. Below is a listing of each agency receiving a grant(s).

- Community Services Northwest provides housing first programs that include permanent supportive housing subsidies and case management for individuals who are chronically homeless due to psychiatric disorders and long-term substance abuse. Most of the people to be served are frequent users of emergency rooms and detox facilities and have high barriers to housing.
- Second Step Housing provides housing first permanent supportive housing through coordinated case management and supportive services such as education and transportation for individuals who are chronically homeless.
- Share provides housing first permanent supportive housing through rental subsidies and case management for individuals and families who are chronically homeless.
- Share Bridging the Gap proactively reaches out to single adults living on the street who are highly vulnerable and uses a housing first model to offer stable housing with opportunities to engage in services.
- Impact NW provides housing first permanent supportive housing to households who are chronically homeless. Supportive services are holistic, wraparound and voluntary. Services

include regular home visits, person-centered action planning and trauma informed case management.

- Council for the Homeless received funds to administer the Homeless Management and Information System (HMIS) and Community Planning. HMIS is a communitywide data management system that prevents duplication of services and provides an accurate picture of homelessness in the community. Community Planning funds costs related to the Continuum of Care funding application, coordination, planning and monitoring.

The Clark County Continuum of Care group meets during odd numbered months and the eight associated workgroups met during the even numbered months. The 2014 goals and objectives from the Clark County 10-Year Homeless Plan, in priority order are:

### **Summary of Homeless Strategic Plan**

Prevention/diversion/discharge planning

- Prevention
- Diversion/Re-entry

Housing plus supportive services

- Permanent Housing
- Transitional/Supportive
- Employment/Income Support

Short-term emergency response

- Outreach/Access/Linkage
- Access to Shelter

System-wide improvement

- Planning/Coordination
- Data Analysis

### **Other Actions**

#### **Public Policies**

The Clark County 2010-2014 ConPlan serves as the guide for the policies of CDBG and HOME programs.

Agencies requesting funds are asked to respond to general and program-specific policies in their application. The general policies incorporate federal, state, and local requirements. These requirements include, among other things:

- consistency with local codes and policies
- restrictions on change of use of property/buildings assisted with federal funds
- establishment of a legally binding public interest
- minimization of displacement and provision of relocation assistance
- adherence to federal wage rates
- compliance with federal audit requirements
- establishment of affordable rents
- new construction must be within Urban Growth Boundaries

All projects requesting CDBG and HOME funds are evaluated to determine if they are (1) program eligible and a priority based on program policies, (2) consistent with local, state and federal regulations, and (3) viable as submitted.

### **Addressing Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs**

The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs in our community has been, and continues to be, lack of funding. There is a high unmet need for housing and supportive services for the elderly and people with special needs in Clark County and it would cost an estimated \$18 million to address this need. Clark County completed an Aging Readiness Plan in February 2013. It found that as the baby boomer generation reaches retirement age, the number of Clark County residents 60 and older is estimated to have a projected growth rate of 158% from 2005 to 2030. By 2030, one in four Clark County residents will be 60 or older.

To try to meet the needs of the underserved with the current funding available, Clark County operates a homeowner rehabilitation program to provide assistance to disabled and elderly homeowners who live in homes that are not accessible or are in poor condition. Clark County also assisted the following:

- The Clark County Accessibility Modification Program, a program that builds accessibility improvements for those with disabilities, so that they can remain in their homes.
- The Clark County Emergency Home Repair Program repairs housing problems that present an imminent threat to the health and safety of low-income households and the community.
- The Community Builders Program provides small grants (under \$5,000) to homeowners in Washougal that are elderly or have a disability. Volunteers work with contractors to construct accessibility improvements and repair code violations so that residents are able to stay in their home.

### **Foster and Maintain Affordable Housing**

The County also supports affordable housing by:

- Providing funds each year for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing for people of low- and moderate-income,
- Providing low-interest loans through the HOME and CDBG programs assisting in the development of many housing projects creating additional rental units, and
- Preserving the housing stock in Clark County through support of the Clark County Housing Preservation Program.

### **Reduction of Barriers to Affordable Housing**

During the program year, the County made an effort to remove barriers to affordable housing. These barriers include land use regulations and policies that may impede the development of affordable housing, the lack of financing options for private and public housing developers, and the lack of financing programs that enable individual households to buy or rent adequate housing.

The County's efforts include:

- Developed or enhanced programs that financially assist low and moderate-income households in renting or buying affordable and adequate housing; and
- Coordinated application workshops for public and private housing developers to provide funding information and technical assistance for housing development projects.

### **Institutional Structure**

Clark County Department of Community Services maintains overall responsibility for the coordination of the CDBG and HOME programs. The department serves as the lead agency for the preparation of Consolidated Plan submissions as well as the annual Action Plan and CAPER. The VHA has overall responsibility for the coordination of public housing policy in the county and for administration of a number of housing programs. The Council for the Homeless is responsible for policy and funding

recommendations, system planning, and community priority and goal setting for the homeless services in the county.

### **Coordination**

Clark County continues to actively coordinate among public, private, and nonprofit housing and social service providers through the following actions:

- Continued to work with other jurisdictions and agencies within the County, including the VHA, City of Vancouver and Council for the Homeless, to prioritize housing needs, provide services, and maximize the use of philanthropic, federal, state, and local funds. Primary efforts in 2014 were focused on increasing collaborations with a focus on affordable housing and community development throughout the County.
- Continued to participate in coordination efforts initiated by the Council for the Homeless for shelter, housing and services for households who are homeless.
- Worked closely with the Council for the Homeless Coordinated Assessment Workgroup to refine and expand the Housing Solutions Center.
- Used data from the HMIS system to identify service gaps and system trends to adjust or create new initiatives.
- Continued to work with the VHA and public housing residents to identify gaps in housing for renters with low-incomes and special needs populations to develop housing programs/initiatives to meet those needs.
- Chaired the Ending Family Homelessness Collaborative to continuing building strong collaborations between DSHS, housing programs and employment programs in support of the program households.
- Created Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Group to bring together all related partners and reduce barriers for HEN clients to receive assistance.
- Provided support and funding to the Council for the Homeless to coordinate homeless system advocacy activities and training opportunities.
- Created a forum for County Community Funds service providers to share their feedback regarding County business practices.
- Worked closely with Cowlitz County nonprofit and governmental entities to continue a training series collaborative and enhance the regional effort around SSI/SDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) coordination.
- Worked with the local HUD VASH and SSVF programs to ensure Veterans presenting at the Housing Solutions Center are provided a warm hand off to these programs.
- The Clark County Community Action Program celebrated 50 years of services through a movie and panel focusing on poverty in the regional area. Partners, community members, consumers and elected officials were invited.

### **Public Housing Improvements**

The VHA continually strives to maintain, upgrade, and improve the physical condition of Clark County's public housing units. Renovations vary, but include repaving parking lots, replacing siding and roofing, upgrading plumbing, installing new kitchen and bathroom cabinets and countertops, and repainting building exteriors.

The VHA works to comply with Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards. Federally assisted and owned newly developed projects must include units which are accessible to person with disabilities at a rate of a minimum of 5% of the total units, or at least one accessible unit per project, whichever is greater. Residents in need of disability-related modifications may submit a request to VHA's maintenance team and reasonable accommodations to such requests are executed in a timely manner. VHA operates in full

compliance with the transition plan resulting from the Section 504 Needs Assessment conducted in 1990.

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## **Public Housing Resident Initiatives**

The VHA continued the following public housing initiatives over the course of program year 2014:

- The RISE & STARS Community Center is 5,000 square foot space at the Skyline Crest public housing development. The Center is open to all public housing residents and voucher holders and is a hub for youth, adults and families. Youth have access to homework assistance, arts and crafts, a variety of sports camps and games. The Center also offers a mentoring program, a book club and science club for kids as well as multiple field trips and special events. For adults and families, the Center offers opportunities to learn new skills, connect with resources, and meet new friends. There are also many opportunities for residents to get involved as volunteers. Childcare is provided on-site as well as Moving to Work information and referrals to assist residents with achieving their goals. The Computer Lab is available to youth and adults and includes internet access. RISE & STARS will be replaced in 2015 with a new LEED Silver 8,500 square foot building that will be operated by Bridgeview to provide educational and employment resources.
- Community Supported Self Reliance (CSSR) is a pilot project where housing assistance along with intensive wrap around services are made available through partnering agencies to very-low income clients with multiple barriers to self-reliance. Up to 16 participants are provided a Housing Choice Voucher with a time limit of five and a half years (66 months). In addition to the regular HCV program obligations, participants are required to actively participate in their approved self-reliance plans developed with their assigned case manager from a partnering agency.

Other actions and steps taken by the VHA in 2014 to improve the management and operations of public housing units and to enhance the living environments of public housing tenants are described in the 2015 Annual Moving to Work Plan that was approved by HUD January 16, 2015. Actions and steps to encourage resident involvement are also described in the Plan.

## **Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction**

To evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards during the program year, Clark County has:

- Coordinated with public and private efforts to reduce lead-based paint hazards in residential units.
- Participated in the Washington State lead-based efforts to obtain additional funds for testing, and reduction of lead-based paint.
- Integrated lead hazard evaluation and reduction activities into existing housing programs.
- Worked with several companies in Washington and Oregon, which can evaluate and reduce lead-based paint. Clark County rehabilitation staff has received training in Safe Work Practices and Risk Assessment.

## **Compliance and Monitoring**

During the program year, the CDBG/HOME staff completed reviews of all CDBG construction projects that were completed. The staff also conducted HQS inspections of HOME-assisted units and conducted income and rent verification for HOME rental tenants.

## **Anti-Poverty Strategy**

Clark County's anti-poverty strategies focus on the goal of increasing self-sufficiency of individuals and families earning a low-income. In achieving this goal, the County:

- Continued to provide and act as a broker for the delivery of basic services through the Department of Community Services for emergency shelter, transitional housing, domestic violence programs, food assistance, dental services, youth programs, low-income home energy assistance, weatherization programs and other basic needs and essential services. Nineteen agencies receive local, state, and/or federal funds through the County;
- Conducted the 2013 Survey of Needs. The Countywide survey received responses from over 800 people and identified food, dental care, health care, access to prescription medications and clothing as the highest needs;
- In response to the Survey of Needs and Community Action Advisory Board member priorities, a dental program, food programs and youth programs continued to receive funding;
- Continued to provide Veterans Assistance Funds for emergency assistance (including rent, utilities, food and dental services) to veterans earning less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level and other funds to the WDVA to assist incarcerated veterans in the Reintegration Program;
- Continued participation in the Clark County Asset Building Coalition, helping to determine community needs, identify and target priority asset building strategies, consolidate resources and build an active membership between local nonprofits, government agencies and private financial institutions. Specific objectives include: increasing financial education opportunities countywide, EITC outreach, increasing asset building opportunities and Individual Development Accounts for low-income participants;
- Staff provided a SOAR training during the fiscal year and participated in local and statewide planning and coordination efforts; and
- Continued support of 211info referral services in the community to prioritize obtaining accurate/updated information from service providers and outreaching to those living in rural areas that may need social service assistance.

The anti-poverty activities funded by Clark County meet the following Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) criteria:

- Employment and Employment Supports
- Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization
- Community Improvement and Revitalization
- Community Quality of Life and Assets
- Community Engagement
- Community Empowerment through Participation
- Expanding Opportunities through Community-wide Partnerships
- Agency and Advisory Board Development
- Independent Living
- Emergency Assistance
- Child and Family Development
- Family Supports

## **Leveraging Resources**

Clark County has taken action to assist other agencies and organizations in applying for all available funds and leveraging other resources to implement the housing strategies and programs. Clark County has established a network of representatives from the private lending community, financial experts, and private and nonprofit housing developers and consultants who can provide technical expertise in packaging development proposals. Clark County has submitted letters of support and verification of consistency for project applications, which support the goals and objectives, found in the ConPlan.

CDBG and HOME application scoring strongly encourages the leveraging of other funds. CDBG applicants are awarded points based on the match, with additional points for additional match. The HOME application process encourages leveraging additional funds by awarding additional rating points for match exceeding 25%. Some of the HOME projects include Washington State Housing Trust Funds.

Clark County leveraged \$757,100 in additional local, state, and other funds for its Community Development Block Grant program. This is an additional \$0.91 leveraged for each CDBG dollar spent in the County. Many CDBG projects are able to leverage more than 50% of the cost.

**2014 CDBG Leverage Table**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
State	0
Local	\$72,000
Other	\$685,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$757,100</b>

The HOME program was able to leverage an additional \$15,137,025 during the last program year. This is an additional \$21.77 for each HOME dollar spent. This includes funding from the State Housing Trust Fund and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits that were awarded to housing developments funded in part with HOME dollars.

**2014 HOME Leverage Table**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
State	\$2,200,000
Local	\$704,356
Other	\$12,232,672
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,137,028</b>

Clark County Department of Community Services receives an annual allocation of weatherization funds that are matched whenever possible with homeowner rehabilitation funds for specific rehabilitation projects. The weatherization program is funded with a combination of Federal (DOE and BPA), State (EMM) and Local (Clark County and Clark Public Utilities) dollars. The 2014 funding totaled \$1,277,174.04 and was used to assist 158 households.

**Jobs Estimates**

HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) has developed a methodology for estimating the number of jobs created based on the dollars expended on activities under the Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs. Using IMPLAN, an accepted data analysis tool, PD&R created a multiplier of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs for different industry categories.

The FTE multipliers are:

1. Direct jobs, or staff employed by recipients of HUD funds,
2. Indirect jobs supported through the inter-industry purchases of intermediate supplies and services needed, and
3. Induced jobs, reflecting the spending by employees who earn income from businesses affected by the direct and indirect effects.

For example, direct jobs are contractors and subcontractors paid directly with HUD funds (including any matching or leveraged funds), indirect jobs are at building supply companies who provide supplies to the contractors or subcontractors, and induced jobs are at the grocery stores where contractor, subcontractor, and supplier employees spend their salaries.

Based on the expenditure of CDBG, HOME, and Community Funds, Clark County estimates that **243** jobs were created or retained during the 2013-2014 program year. A break out is below:

<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>Direct</b>	<b>Indirect</b>	<b>Induced</b>
Community food, housing, and other relief services	123.42	17.77	38.74
Non-housing Individual/Family Services	23.06	3.65	7.16
Real estate establishments (includes operation of rental housing)	1.73	0.57	0.76
State and Local Govt, Non-Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction of new residential permanent site SF and MF structures	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance and repair construction of residential structures	2.80	0.90	1.72
Services to Buildings (landscaping, pest control)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction of new nonresidential commercial and health care structures	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction of other new nonresidential structures	2.64	1.75	2.53
Management, scientific, and technical consulting services	4.13	5.27	4.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>157.78</b>	<b>29.91</b>	<b>55.04</b>

### **Self-Evaluation**

In 2014, Clark County continued to show a steady progress in meeting the goals and implementation strategies of the Consolidated Plan and developing partnerships for affordable housing. Additional funds were leveraged for projects undertaken in the County.

The Clark County Housing Rehabilitation Program continues to rehabilitate owner-occupied units in conjunction with the Weatherization program. Because of the economy, extremely low vacancy rate, increasing rent costs and changing real estate conditions, homeless prevention assistance continues to be a high priority. Clark County has continued to utilize the coordinated-entry Housing Solutions Center, where people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness can apply for and access the best-fit housing program from among 30 different programs. With the construction of 80 new Housing First units underway in the community, strides are being made to permanently house those who have struggled with homelessness and barriers to traditional housing programs.

In the last year, the County had one active CHDO: Affordable Community Environments, which merged and became a subsidiary of REACH, a CHDO located in Portland, Oregon.

The CDBG and HOME entitlement funds have been disbursed in a timely manner. The County met the timeliness test on May 2, 2015, at 1.01 times the last entitlement amount. Sponsors of projects that are behind schedule are notified that they must increase their efforts to complete projects. The staff reviewed the HOME and CDBG programs with the advisory/funding board and made minor changes to streamline the application process.

### **III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT NARRATIVE**

Clark County maintained its program year objectives throughout 2014. The objectives listed in the Consolidated Plan and the strategies outlined in the 2014 Action Plan to meet those objectives continue to be implemented.

The overall objective for Community Development is to provide livability and economic opportunities within communities, as well as support for growth and development. In March 2015, four new infrastructure and seven social services projects in Clark County were awarded \$1,498,842 in CDBG funds. Information about each project is provided on the Grantee Summary Report.

#### **A. Relationship**

During the last program year, the CDBG program awarded 36.5% to projects addressing infrastructure needs, 46.7% to projects addressing social services/housing needs, with the remaining funds used for contingency, administration and implementation of projects. Funds were allocated to projects with the highest County priority.

#### **B. Program Changes**

The Clark County CDBG and HOME program did not make any changes in the objectives of each effort during the last year. However, Clark County hired a new Program Assistant that will support the homeowner rehabilitation program, LIHEAP services and monitoring and reporting for various funding streams.

#### **C. Completion of Consolidated Plan Actions**

Clark County pursued all available funds for its CDBG projects. The County provided all the certifications of consistency with the consolidated plan that were requested. The County did not hinder consolidated plan implementation by actions or willful inaction.

#### **D. National Objectives**

All non-administrative and planning CDBG funds expended during the program year benefited persons and families with low- and moderate-income.

#### **E. Anti-displacement and Relocation**

Clark County has taken the following steps to minimize the amount of displacement resulting from CDBG/HOME-assisted activities:

- The First Home Loan Program policies only allow acquisition of vacant houses. Currently, the First Home Loan Program is not in operation.
- The County discourages CDBG/HOME-funded rental rehabilitation programs from rehabilitating units requiring permanent relocation, and
- The Urban County Policy Board discourages projects that involve displacement/relocation through a grant application scoring system that deducts points from projects that anticipate displacement/relocation.

#### **F. Low- and Moderate-Income Benefit**

The Homeowner Rehabilitation Program was targeted to families that are low- and moderate-income. This program requires that the participant's income be at or below 80% of AMI. One hundred percent of participants were low and moderate income (as documented through federal tax returns, projecting income for 12 months, and other means prescribed by HUD).

Projects meeting each of the listed Community Development Objectives:

<b>PRIORITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS</b>	<b>Need Level</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Acquisition of Real Property	High	1	1			
Disposition	Low					
Clearance and Demolition	Low					
Clearance of Contaminated Sites	Low					
Code Enforcement	Low					
<b>PUBLIC FACILITY NEEDS (projects)</b>						
Senior Centers	Medium					
Handicapped Centers	Medium					
Homeless Facilities	Low	1		2	1	
Youth Centers	Low					
Child Care Centers	Medium			1		
Health Facilities	Medium					
Mental Health Facilities	Medium			1	1	2
Neighborhood Facilities	High			1	3	2
Parks and/or Recreation Facilities	High	1		2	1	1
Parking Facilities	Low					
Tree Planting	Low					
Fire Stations/Equipment	Low					
Abused/Neglected Children Facilities	Low					
Asbestos Removal	Medium					
Non-Residential Historic Preservation	Low					
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE (projects)</b>						
Water/Sewer Improvements	Medium					
Street Improvements	High			1	3	2
Sidewalks	High	3	3	2	1	1
Solid Waste Disposal Improvements	N/A					
Flood Drain Improvements	Low					
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE NEEDS (people) <sup>1</sup></b>						
All Public Service Activities	N/A					
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>						
C/I Land Acquisition/Disposition	Medium					
C/I Infrastructure Development	Medium					
C/I Building Acq/Const/Rehab	Medium					
ED Assistance for For-Profit	Medium					
ED Technical Assistance	Low					
Micro-Enterprise Assistance	Medium					
<b>PLANNING</b>						
Planning	N/A					

<sup>1</sup> The Clark County Urban County Policy Board does not fund activities eligible under the CDBG Public Services category.

## G. Program Income

Program Income from rehabilitation loans is used for rehabilitation of additional homes.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY ATTACHMENT

a. Program Income		\$252,789.84
1. Total program income to revolving funds:		\$0.00
2. Float-funded activities:		\$0.00
3. Other loan repayments by category:		
Single-unit housing rehabilitation		\$119,109.32
Other loans		\$133,680.52
4. Income received from sale of property:		\$0.00
b. Prior Period Adjustments:		\$0.00
c. Loans and Other Receivables:		
1. Float-funded activities outstanding as of end of the reporting period:		\$0.00
2. Total number of Loans Outstanding and principal balance owed as of end of reporting period:		
a. Single-unit housing rehabilitation:		
Outstanding deferred loans	69 loans	
Principal balance of deferred loans		\$1,075,972.45
Outstanding installment loan	1 loan	
Principal balance of installment loan		\$4,751.65
Principal balance of single-unit housing rehabilitation		<u>\$1,080,724.10</u>
b. Other outstanding CDBG loans:	20 projects	
Deferred		
1. City of Camas Community Center Parking		\$30,000.00
2. Clark County Community Services—first home loans		\$802,163.00
3. Clark County Food Bank		466,128.00
4. Columbia River Mental Health-roof retrofit		114,600.00
5. Community Services Northwest, Wellness project		200,000.00
6. Educational Opportunités for Children & Families, Silver Star Elementary		45,116.00
7. Inland Empire, 59 <sup>th</sup> St		167,483.98
8. Janus Youth – Oak Grove Shelter		66,150.00
9. Longview Housing Authority, Beechwood Terrace		89,273.61
10. Share, Inc. - Share House		18,333.34
11. Share, Inc. – transitional group home		19,100.00
12. Vancouver Housing Authority, Camas Ridge		34,280.87
13. Washougal Social Service Center		387,669.00
14. Woodland Community Center		149,700.76
15. Town of Yacolt, Recreational Area		<u>116,732.00</u>
	Subtotal deferred loans	<u>2,706,730.56</u>
Installment		
1. Educational Service District #112		2,124.64
2. Janus Youth		13,275.00
3. Second Step Housing, St. James Road		31,680.00
4. Second Step Housing, Kauffman Ave Townhomes		35,852.92
5. Vancouver Housing Authority, Orchard Glen		<u>4,166.62</u>
	Subtotal installment loans	<u>87,099.18</u>
Principal balance of other outstanding CDBG loans		<u>\$2,793,829.74</u>
Unexpended balance shown on GPR:		\$1,648,713.89
ADD: LOC		\$2,250,070.13
Balance		
Cash on hand		0.00
Grantee program account		0.00
Subrecipient program account		0.00
Revolving fund cash balances		0.00
Sec. 108 cash balances		0.00
Deduct: Grantee CDBG liabilities		\$0.00
Total Reconciled Balance		\$2,250,070.13
Unreconciled Difference		\$0.00

FINANCIAL SUMMARY ATTACHMENT (continued)

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Calculation of Balance of Unprogrammed Funds:	
Add: Funds available during report period	\$3,330,950.73
Program income expected but not yet realized	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$3,330,950.73
Deduct: Total budgeted amount	3,103,160.89
Unprogrammed Balance	\$227,789.84

**Explanation of Adjustments**

**Part I-Line 7 & Part V-Line 44**

An adjustment of \$875.86 was made to the current year's program income for a timing difference, which includes program income received after year end that was related to the current year.

An adjustment of (\$3,328.71) was made to the prior year's program income for timing differences, which includes program income received after year end that was related to the prior year.

The net adjustment to current year's program income was (\$2,452.85).

**Part IV-Line 34**

An adjustment of \$2,587.85 was made to the prior year's program income for timing differences, which includes program income received after year end that related to the prior year.

## H. Rehabilitation

The 20 completed homeowner rehabilitation projects during the program year had a total value of work of \$295,500.88. All rehabilitation projects are deferred loans at 4% simple interest except mobile homes on rented lots, which cannot be liened. The table below shows the value of completed homeowner rehabilitation units during the program year.

### 2014 Completed CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation (including Mobile Home Repair and Accessibility)

Area	Units	Value of Work
Total (includes lead costs)	20	\$295,500.88

## IV. HOME PROGRAM NARRATIVE

### A. Distribution of HOME Funds

The table below shows how HOME funds were allocated by percentage.

#### Allocation of HOME Funds for Housing Needs during Program Year 2014

Housing Activity	Percentage of Total
Rental Housing Construction (includes housing for the developmentally disadvantaged, elderly, and transitional housing)	0%
CHDO Operating	0%
Tenant Based Rental Assistance	65%
Homeownership	0%
Rental Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation	25%
Administration	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### B. Match Report

HOME Match Report is attached. Although there was no additional match recorded for 2014, Clark County currently has excess match in the amount of \$7,070,764.45.

Excess Match from previous year	\$7,189,158.25
Match Current Year	\$0.00
Total Match Available	\$7,189,158.25
Match Liability	\$118,393.80
Excess Match for next year	\$7,070,764.45

### C. Minority Contractors

Clark County has not had any contracts or subcontracts with Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) or Women's Business Enterprises (WBEs).

#### D. On-Site HOME Rental Inspections

Clark County follows an ongoing monitoring procedure of HOME-assisted units. Annually, income and rent data of all HOME-assisted rental units is collected and units are inspected for Housing Quality Standards (HQS) every one to three years depending on the total number of units in the project. During the last program year, the Clark County Housing Preservation staff inspected the following projects:

Development	Total Occupied Units	Results of Inspection of HOME-Assisted Units
ACE – Gateway Gardens	4	Passed Inspection
CNPH – Englund Manor	23	Passed Inspection
CNPH – Walnut Grove	3	Passed Inspection
Hazel Dell – Arbor Ridge Senior Apts	3	Passed Inspection
Second Step – Hyde Park	1	Passed Inspection
Second Step – Kauffman Townhomes	10	Passed Inspection
Second Step – McLoughlin House	1	Passed Inspection
VHA – Camas Ridge	1	Passed Inspection
VHA – Esther Short Commons	6	Passed Inspection
VHA – Mill Creek Apartments	3	Passed Inspection
VHA – Orchard Glen	4	Passed Inspection
VHA – SRO Central Park Place	5	Passed Inspection

#### E. Affirmative Marketing

- An assessment of affirmative marketing activities shows that Clark County has made progress in marketing housing assisted with HOME funds. Clark County requires that all HOME-funded project agreements have language requiring that owners affirmatively market their units. Many units assisted with HOME funds house tenants with disabilities; within this group the units are available to anyone.
- Clark County requires the Equal Opportunity logo or slogan be used in all ads, brochures and written communications to potential owners and tenants by the Rehabilitation staff. Owners of rental property assisted with HOME funds are required to display the fair housing poster in rental offices or other appropriate locations.
- The County continues to distribute its “Housing Discrimination” brochure to tenants and landlord/property managers. The brochure gives details of the federal fair housing laws and telephone numbers to call for help. Fair Housing brochures were provided to direct services agencies and other community organizations for distribution to the public.

#### F. Minority Outreach

- An analysis of the minority outreach efforts during the last year demonstrates that Clark County used the same number of minority contractors on HOME-assisted projects as the previous year.
- Clark County will continue to involve minorities in all aspects of projects assisted with HOME funds. Specifically, Housing Rehabilitation staff will continue to distribute flyers explaining the Rehabilitation and Weatherization program to local contractors. The Rehabilitation staff continues to work with the Property Owners Association and various minority groups to try to identify minority rental property owners. The County Weatherization staff also provides Weatherization clients with rehabilitation program information.
- Clark County has made available housing discrimination brochures and fair housing information available in Chinese, Spanish and Russian.

- The Department of Community Services requires all advertisements for bids to be placed in a local minority-owned newspaper. However, there is only one minority firm listed in the Washington State Directory of Certified Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises directory for remodeling/rehabilitation in Clark County.
- All HOME agreements have language requiring activities that encourage the participation of minority- and woman-owned business.
- The Council for the Homeless Resource Guide is available in Spanish and Russian.
- The Housing Solutions Center and associated housing programs have access to a language line, which provides translations for over 200 languages. This ensures Limited English Proficiency households can be connected to a translator during their interactions with programs.

### **Citizen Comments**

The CAPER was available for a 15-day public review and comment period that was announced through Clark County's Facebook and Twitter account, the stakeholder mailing list and posted at the Clark County CDBG website, [www.clark.wa.gov/cdbg](http://www.clark.wa.gov/cdbg). A public hearing will be held before the Board of County Councilors on September 22, 2015.