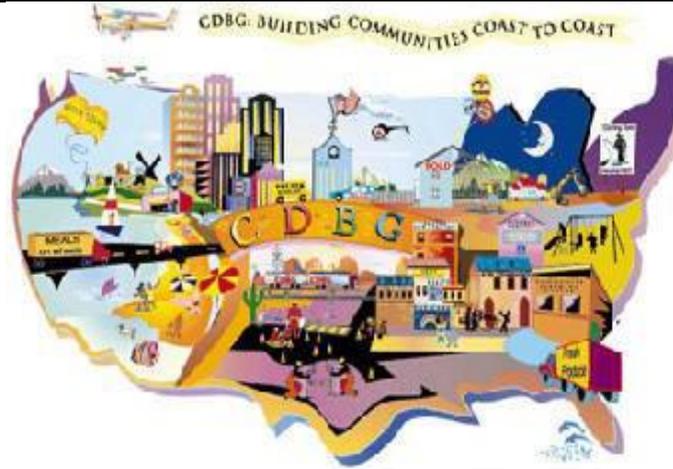


CITY OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 2016 ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN CITIZEN DRAFT COPY



**A Component of the 2012 -2016 Consolidated Plan
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)**

JANUARY 1, 2016 – DECEMBER 31, 2016

**CITY OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**



Prepared by
City of Gulfport
Community Development Division
1410 24th Avenue
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

**CITY OF GULFPORT
2016 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
CDBG ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM
HOME CONSORTIUM ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2016 One Year Action Plan

A. Executive Summary	3
B. Sources of Funds	5
C. Statement of Specific Annual Objectives	8
D. Description of Activities	9
E. Outcome Measures	9
F. Allocation Priorities and Geographic Distribution	10
G. Annual Affordable Housing Goal	14
H. Homeless and Other Specific Populations	15
I. Public Housing	20
J. Other Actions	21
K. Program Specific CDBG Requirements	25
L. Program Specific HOME Requirements	25
M. Monitoring Plan	30
N. Citizens Participation	31
O. Proposed Activities and Descriptions for 2016	32

Exhibit 1	Citizen Participation
	Citizen Comment Form

**CITY OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI
2016 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

A. Executive Summary

This plan is the City of Gulfport's fifth action plan of the five-year 2012-2016 Consolidated plans and serves as the City's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Entitlement Grants. Program Fiscal Year 2016 begins January 1, 2016 and ends December 31, 2016. On February 19, 2016 the HUD published the 2016 formula allocations on its website, HUD Exchange, however, as of this date, the City has not received official notification. The proposed formula allocation for Fiscal year 2016 is \$581,068.00 in Community Development Block Grant Funds (a 6% increase over 2015 funding) and the required 30-day public notification, the City will submit its annual plan to HUD for review.

The City of Gulfport is the designated Lead Agency for the Harrison County HOME Consortium, as an Entitlement Participating Jurisdiction. The participating members of the consortium are City of Gulfport, and Harrison County (specifically its unincorporated areas). Notification of the 2016 funding allocation will be \$444,134.00 (a 8% increase over 2015 funding). Eligible activities include homebuyer assistance, homeowner housing rehabilitation, new construction, tenant based rental assistance, acquisition of property for new construction or rehabilitation of existing housing for purchase or rental to low and moderate income, with emphasis on assisting homeless and homeless veterans.

The City of Gulfport is not a formula entitlement recipient under HUD's Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) or Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Programs.

The actual amount of funding and the actual receipt of 2016 funding is determined by the U. S. Congress in its annual budgets. Actual funding for program activities can be received anywhere from April to August of 2016. Neither the City nor Consortium can commit or expend these funds until actual receipt of funding allocation. The City and the Consortium are still mandated to meet certain program commitment and expenditure regulations and deadlines regardless of the date of receipt of funding, and this puts the City and Consortium at a severe disadvantage of meeting those deadlines and the threat of losing funding as the result. Example, 2014 funding was not received until the first of August 2014 and the city cannot have more than 1.5 times its current CDBG allocation unexpended as of November 2, 2014. The city did not meet its deadline compliance in 2014, but must meet its expenditure requirements by November 2, 2015 or it automatically will lose the amount of funds it fell short of meetings its requirement. The City did meet its commitment and expenditure deadlines for both the CDBG and HOME Programs, however, the City will expect the same disadvantages for 2016 as it has in the prior years, as actual funding is not anticipated until late summer.

In evaluating the City's Past Performance, the City has strived to meet its annual goals, objectives, CDBG expenditure deadlines and HOME commitment and expenditure deadlines as stated above. Through substantial amendments, adjusting priority needs and continually re-evaluating existing projects and services each year the city has ultimately met its deadline, if not each year but enough to retain its funding. The Community Development Department has gone from a high of seven staff to three, with the increased requirements, not only from the CDBG and HOME regulations but all other Federal and State rules and regulations, with reduced staff and significantly reduced administrative funding. It has continued to meet its overall goal of providing housing, but the focus of the City is to provide decent

infrastructure in streets, water, sewer and drainage by utilizing CDBG funds in eligible low and moderate income areas. The City in the past provided funding to up to thirteen public service agencies and neighborhood non-profits to provide local assistance to local neighborhoods, such as after-school tutoring, neighborhood summer programs, local health assistance. Due to reduced funding, the economy and trying to meet a greater number of eligible low moderate income citizens of Gulfport, the city elected to provide funding to larger non-profits that serve a greater number of persons and have the ability to meet the federal reporting requirements and that meet the basic needs overall of financial, medical, health and special needs assistance.

The activities described in the Plan are intended to primarily benefit low-income and moderate-income residents in the City of Gulfport for the CDBG Allocation (minimum of 70% of expenditures of a three year period must expended on low/mod eligible projects), and 100% of HOME funds must benefit low-income and moderate-income eligible households for eligible housing projects within the jurisdiction of the Home Consortium. The Plan describes the resources available, the programs and projects to be funded, and the proposed accomplishments for the 2016 Action Plan.

The 2016 Action Plan was developed in a manner to insure participation by citizens, citizen groups, and agencies, particularly those agencies comprising the institutional structure delivering housing and supportive services to Gulfport's low- and moderate-income residents. The agencies were encouraged to submit written applications and projects to the City. In order to insure that all citizens and agencies had an opportunity to participate in the development of the Action Plan, the City undertook the following:

1. The City maintains a continuous and open informational mailing list that consist of non-profit and for-profit agencies, civic and neighborhood organizations, private citizens, partners who have requested information and/or funding request are automatically included in the list at any time.
2. Published "Notice of 2016 Application for Funding" in the Sun Herald on September 11, 2015. Notices were also sent to those on the maintained mailing list, and posted on the City of Gulfport website. Application period was September 11 – September 25, 2015.
3. After notification from HUD on the actual 2016 allocation of funding, the City Published "Notice of Availability of Draft and 30-day comment period" and Public Hearing on March 14, 2016, for 2016 Action Plan in the Sun Herald newspaper, City of Gulfport Website and notification at the March 8, 2016 City Council meeting with is both televised on local TV and the City of Gulfport Website.
4. Public Hearing scheduled for March 21, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 2309 15th Street, Gulfport, MS.
5. 2016 Action Plan was originally scheduled to be submitted to City Council for approval on November 3, 2015 with normal submittal of the plan to HUD by November 15, 2015.

6. Again, as with fiscal 2014 and 2015, the City was notified by HUD not to submit its 2016 annual action plan prior to official notification from HUD of the actual funding allocations for each program and entity. (All previous years Action Plans were estimates based on prior year funding and changes to the plan would have to be completed by amendment if the funding actuals were substantial.)

The City was notified on February 24, 2016 of the CDBG and HOME 2016 funding allocations posted by HUD Exchange. The City is now able to begin its public notification and public hearing of the proposed 2016 Action Plan.

Actual grant award and receipt of funding may not occur until late summer 2016; however, the requirements to expend the funds by the deadline date of November 2, 2016 remains, and any remaining unexpended funds will be lost.

The City will utilize CDBG funds as a first phase of a street improvements project tentatively proposed on 19th Street between 25th Avenue and 33rd Avenue, with environmental assessment review and engineering planning proposed.

A portion of CDBG funds will be utilized to remove, replace and/or upgrade architectural barriers in City Public Buildings, at 2309 15th Street (City Hall and Council Chambers), 1410 24th Avenue (Depts. Of Urban Development, Community Development, Human Resources, Finance and Procurement) and 1422 23rd Ave (Depts. of Water and Utility Billing and Leisure Services). Purpose is to bring existing elevators into compliance with ADA standards, such as signage, braille, two-way communication, hand-rails, lighting, etc.

The city has proposed allocating a portion of its funding for public service agencies and projects. The city continues the fifth year of funding only those agencies or projects that deliver basic needs to its low and moderate income residents, such as food, health, financial, medical, and special needs and those agencies that can reach the greatest number of residents. This decision has been made due to the declining economy, higher food and gas cost, loss of jobs and rising housing costs.

The City of Gulfport will allocate its 2016 HOME funds to both homebuyer assistance and homeowner housing rehabilitation and a portion of CDBG funds for emergency and minor housing repairs.

The City as Lead Agency for the Harrison County HOME Consortium, also reports on the projects and services of the City of Biloxi and Harrison County, as subrecipients, and its CHDO, Gulf Coast Housing Initiative, Inc. All funds, at this time, will be allocated for Homebuyer Assistance for the unincorporated areas of Harrison County.

The minimum 15% CHDO Set-aside has not been identified as of this writing as per requirements of the HOME Final Rule 2013, funds must be obligated on a specified project and specific location along with the re-certification of the CHDO per project.

B. Sources of Funds

This section of the Action Plan attempts to identify resources that may be available during the program year to address the non-housing, housing, and supportive service needs of Gulfport's families who are principally low/moderate income.

CDBG Funding Available

The following is a list of CDBG funds expected to be available to the City of Gulfport for implementation of activities in the 2016 Action Plan program year. It should be noted that entitlement funds and program income; must be spent in accordance with CDBG rules and regulations.

- CDBG funds and program income available for the Action Plan Program Year

- 2016 Entitlement Allocation Estimate \$581,068.00

Program Income: The City of Gulfport does not anticipate income in excess of the \$25,000 limitations for reporting requirements. All program income is reported as received and disbursed prior to reimbursement from the Treasury. The City of Gulfport does not have any set programs that are designed to generate continual program income during the next fiscal year.

HOME Funding Available

Harrison County HOME Program Consortium

The City of Gulfport is the lead entity for the Gulfport-Biloxi-Harrison County HOME Program Consortium and as such is responsible for administrative duties and overall compliance with HOME program rules and regulations. The Federal Allocation for 2016 for the HOME Consortium is \$444,134.00, of which the City of Gulfport will receive \$269,256.00 funding for homeowner housing rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, includes administrative and project delivery cost. By HOME regulations and Consortium Agreement, a maximum 10% of allocated funds are utilized for administrative and operating costs, a minimum 15% of allocated funds are set-aside for eligible CHDO's, and a maximum of 5% of allocated funds may be utilized for CHDO operating expenses. The remaining funding allocations for 2016 will be divided as follows: 67.5% to Gulfport and 32.5% to un-incorporated Harrison County. The City of Gulfport contracts with Harrison County to administer their Homebuyer Assistance Program. Under the new HOME Final Rule of August 2013, funding commitments and agreements must be project specific with identified address or location. The City of Gulfport has always committed its HOME funding to project specific locations through agreements with homeowners, homebuyers and CHDO project site specific. The City of Gulfport, as Lead-Agency, reserves the right to reallocate any unused funding from any participating partner annually to any other participating partner or subrecipient or CHDO in order to ensure compliance with HOME Program regulations in meeting commitment and or expenditure deadlines.

HOME Program funding allows participating jurisdictions to fund programs and/or project to carry out multi-year housing strategies through assistance to first-time homebuyers and existing homeowners, property acquisition, housing rehabilitation, and new construction of site improvements, tenant base rental assistance, demolition, related relocation expenses, and other reasonable and necessary expenses related to the development of affordable housing.

HOME Matching Requirements

The HOME Consortium is responsible for match requirements of 12.5% of HOME expenditures during the Federal Fiscal Year, which is October 2014 to September 2016. The 12.5% match requirement of the Consortium expenditures will be funded by in-kind match provided by non-profit and faith-based organizations providing housing to low income households that meet the HOME qualifications, seller contribution to affordable housing in the homebuyer assistance program, etc. The match is the responsibility of all funding entities, subrecipients and CHDO of the HOME Consortium.

The Biloxi-Gulfport-Harrison County HOME Consortium is the only HOME funded agency in the State of Mississippi that is required to provide matching funds for HOME expenditures, this includes the Entitlement Cities of Hattiesburg and Jackson and the entire State of Mississippi.

CHDO Funds

The Home Consortium is required to set aside a minimum of 15% of its total allocation for use by a CHDO Community Housing Development Organization to provide eligible housing to low and moderate income persons within the jurisdiction of the Home Consortium. As of this writing, the Home Consortium has one certified CHDO, Gulf Coast Housing Initiative, Inc., which currently has projects in the City of Gulfport and the City of Biloxi funded by the City of Gulfport as Lead-Agency.

2016 minimum CHDO set-aside - \$66,621.00, which will be allocated to the Consortium's only CHDO, Gulf Coast Housing Initiative, however, at this writing, the project has not been identified.

City of Gulfport

The City proposes to use HOME funds available to address the priority need of affordable housing. The HOME funds will be used to provide homeowner housing rehabilitation and/or re-construction, homebuyer assistance, housing delivery cost, CHDO set-aside and administration.

Total HOME Funds available to the City of Gulfport for the 2016 Action Plan Program Year, based on the anticipated funding allocation.

2016 HOME Proposed Allocation – Gulfport Proposed 2015 Projects	\$ 269,256
Homebuyer Assistance and Housing Rehabilitation(67.5%)	\$ 224,843
Administration (10%)	\$ 44,413

Harrison County

HOME funds available to Harrison County through the HOME Program Consortium will be used for down-payment assistance up to \$30,000.00. 2-3 homebuyers will be assisted based on actual assistance. The City of Gulfport proposes to sign a Subrecipient agreement with Harrison County to utilize HOME funds for a down-payment assistance program.

2016 Harrison County HOME Allocation (32.5%)	\$ 108,257
--	------------

Support of Applications by Other Entities

During the 2016 Program Year, the City of Gulfport may support applications for federal and state funding from programs identified in the following HUD-prescribed chart when said applications are made by entities that serve Gulfport residents, whose purposes and objectives are consistent with the Gulfport Consolidated Plan for the CDBG and HOME Programs, and which are deemed by the Mayor and City Council to be in the best interest of the citizens of Gulfport.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Planning and Development Consolidated Plan Gulfport Support of Applications by Other Entities Report

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Support Application by Other Facilities?</u>
Formula/Entitlement Programs	
Emergency Shelter Grants	Yes
Public Housing Comprehensive Grant	Yes
Competitive Programs	
Emergency Shelter Grants	Yes
Supportive Housing	Yes
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
Safe Havens	Yes
Rural Homeless Housing	Yes
Sec. 202 Elderly	Yes
Sec. 811 Handicapped	Yes
Moderate Rehabilitation SRO	Yes
Rental Vouchers	Yes
Rental Certificates	Yes
Public Housing Development	Yes
Others (as identified as eligible)	Yes

C. Statement of Specific Annual Objectives

The City of Gulfport's summary of priorities and specific annual objectives to be addressed by the end of the program year are: The City of Gulfport anticipates assisting approximately 10 low and moderate income homeowners with housing rehabilitation and emergency housing repairs within the city limits utilizing licensed contractors and/or partnerships with local non-profits utilizing contract and volunteer labor. Again the City is in a dilemma of funding projects that can be started and completed in a very short time frame, due to the continued late receipt of funding allocations. As stated previously, the fiscal year starts January 1, however, funding is received anywhere from April to August of each year and in order to ensure that the funds are not recaptured by HUD, the majority of funds received must be expended prior to November 2 of each year, which is sometimes only 2 to 3 months. The greatest need of the city is to replace and improve its water, sewer and drainage systems and street improvements

citywide, sustainable housing through housing repairs and down-payment assistance for affordable existing housing, replacing and improving its aging public facilities and parks, providing services and financial assistance to its low income through support of local agencies and non-profits that provide basic health, financial, medical, and special needs. The City will again identify and propose several projects that will be considered for 2016 funding, however, based on the amount of allocation and time of allocation, the actual funded projects will be determined at that time. Due to the time constraints of expending CDBG only environmental review costs and engineering costs are proposed for this years funding for a proposed street improvements on 19th Street from 25th Avenue west to 33rd Avenue, which may include in future funding street improvements, sidewalks, lighting, etc. The majority of public facilities and parks within the low and moderate income neighborhoods have not been updated in up to 20 years. For the past three years and this fiscal year, The Department of Leisure Services and the Community Development Department are working on plans to create several family friendly parks scattered throughout the eligible low and moderate income areas in existing parks and public facilities or existing city land qualified for such use, such as the old Bayou View FEMA Buyout land which has been vacant for 15 years and can only be utilized for parks or open space. Some of the proposed projects areas to be considered, but not limited to are 28th Street Park and Gaston Point Park in Ward 1, Isaiah Fredericks Ball field Fence and Concession Replacement and East North Gulfport Park in Ward 3,. Three non-profit agencies will receive funding utilizing \$35,000.00 of CDBG funds to provide services to low and moderate income citizens of Gulfport. Due to continuous funding cuts and increased federal requirements for such programs the City selected public service agencies that provide basic living, health and financial assistance and services to eligible low and moderate income residents. All of the public service programs are open to all low and moderate income citizens city wide. All public service agencies and programs must document their assistance to low and moderate income citizens of Gulfport. Housing has always been a high priority of the City of Gulfport and its Consolidated Plan and the city will concentrate to housing rehabilitation and Homebuyer Assistance. In 2016 the City will utilize a portion of its CDBG funds for emergency and minor housing repairs as an addition to its existing prior year's allocation for this program. The city will continue to utilize its existing CDBG funds for emergency and minor housing repairs and its HOME funds for complete housing rehabilitation, reconstruction, new construction of veterans housing, and homebuyer assistance. Even though not funded this year, the city will be reviewing the feasibility and capacity of tenant based rental assistance.

D. Description of Activities

The City of Gulfport's summary of eligible programs or activities to be undertaken during the program year to address the needs and specific objectives identified in the Strategic Plan are outlined in Pages 32-37.

E. Outcome Measures

Exhibit II Table 3C, Consolidated Plan Listing of Projects, includes a form on each activity or project to be undertaken by the City of Gulfport during the 2016 Action Plan program year. Each form includes the following information on the activity or project to be undertaken:

1. The objective (Suitable Living Environment, Decent Housing, and Creating Economic Opportunities) that best describes the purpose of the activity.

2. The outcome (Available/Accessibility, Affordability, and Sustainability) that best reflects what the City hopes to achieve by funding this activity.

3. Outcome performance indicators, i.e., number of persons assisted, number of units rehabilitated, etc.

F. Allocation Priorities and Geographic Distribution

The priority needs listed in the 2016 Action Plan were selected due to the imminent need to address the problems. Activities undertaken are mainly located in predominantly low- and moderate-income areas including minority concentration locations, and/or aid in the elimination of slum and blight. Gulfport's highest priority continues to be Housing and housing related issues, Capital projects such as public facilities, parks, drainage and sewer, street improvements with some in extreme disrepair or non-existence, both as a result of damage from Hurricane Katrina and old systems; and services and programs that assist the low and moderate income citizens of Gulfport.

Geographic Distribution of Funding and Projects – In March 2015, HUD/IDIS updated its Census Tract and Block Group designations of Low and Moderate Income areas with over 51% Low/Mod. This resulted in a significant increase of eligible CDBG areas and the loss of several prior eligible L/M areas.

The majority of eligible low and moderate income areas of Gulfport are south of the interstate. The areas include North Gulfport, East North Gulfport, Gaston Point, Magnolia Grove, Anniston, south central Gulfport (8th Ave to Courthouse Rd on (east/west), Brickyard Bayou to Railroad St (north/south), Rippy Road/south to Jefferson St, Martin L King Jr (east/west). There are three new areas north of the interstate in Wards 6 & 7, these includes an area north of Dedeaux Road to O'Neal, Three Rivers Rd on the east to Mays Rd on west. Dedeaux Rd south to I-10 from Hwy 605 (east) to Sharp Blvd. Unlike prior years every Ward in the City now has eligible Low and Moderate income neighborhoods or Census Tracts and Block Groups. This is due to the relocation of persons after Hurricane Katrina with the trend move from south of the interstate especially near the coast to closer to or above the interstate.

CITY OF GULFPORT

LOW AND MODERATE INCOME SUMMARY DATA Eff. 7/1/14

Updated 3/17/15 - as per HUD/IDIS - Integrated Disbursement and Information System

Low/Mod Percent Eligible Service Areas = 51% or greater

CENUS TRACT	BLOCK GROUP	POPULATION	POPULATION LOW/MOD	LOW/MOD PERCENT
001400	1	215	110	51.16
001400	3	700	415	59.29
001501	2	2120	1340	63.21
001502	1	700	470	67.14
001502	2	985	670	68.02
001700	1	1515	845	55.78
001700	4	690	420	60.87
001700	5	795	495	62.26
001800	1	660	375	56.32
001800	2	475	425	89.47
001800	3	1505	770	51.16
001900	1	1305	705	54.02
002000	2	740	635	85.81
002300	1	650	530	81.54
002300	2	780	440	56.41
002400	1	1045	850	81.34
002400	3	600	430	71.67
002500	1	1365	895	65.57
002600	1	830	685	82.53
002600	2	385	305	79.22
002600	3	1435	955	66.55
003101	1	605	395	65.29
003204	2	1115	590	52.91
003205	1	2645	1410	53.31
003208	1	1360	825	60.66
003208	3	920	630	68.48
003504	2	865	680	78.61
003800	1	305	165	54.1
003800	2	540	335	62.04

CDBG 2016 ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM ALLOCATION DISTRIBUTION

Housing and Housing Related	17%
Capital and Public Facilities Improvements	57%
Public Service Agencies	06%
Administration	20%

HOME 2016 ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM ALLOCATION DISTRIBUTION

Homebuyer/Rehabilitation/New Construction	75%
CHDO Set-aside	15%
Administration	10%

HOUSING (all programs are eligible to Low and Moderate Income households below the 80% median income. Housing is not designated to specific locations or neighborhoods. For CDBG within the City Limits of Gulfport, for HOME within the City Limits of Gulfport, and the Unincorporated Limits of Harrison County.) The majority of housing repairs and housing rehabilitation are located in low and moderate income areas of Gulfport, such as North Gulfport, East North Gulfport, Gaston Point, Magnolia Grove, etc. The Geographic locations of assistance will be reported in the CAPER.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES -

The City will utilize CDBG funds as a first phase of a street improvements project tentatively proposed on 19th Street between 25th Avenue and 33rd Avenue, with environmental assessment review and engineering planning proposed.

A portion of CDBG funds will be utilized to remove, replace and/or upgrade architectural barriers in City Public Buildings, at 2309 15th Street (City Hall and Council Chambers), 1410 24th Avenue (Depts. Of Urban Development, Community Development, Human Resources, Finance and Procurement) and 1422 23rd Ave (Depts. of Water and Utility Billing and Leisure Services). Purpose is to bring existing elevators into compliance with ADA standards, such as signage, braille, two-way communication, hand-rails, lighting, etc.

Utilizing prior year funding, the City is will continue to make a concentrated effort for family friendly public facilities and neighborhood parks. The Department of Leisure Services and the Community Development Division are developing plans to upgrade several scattered site locations within low and moderate income areas that are designated existing recreational public facilities, parks, and land designated as parks and open land use. CDBG funds may be used for installation of playground equipment, walking tracks, fencing, benches, and concession stands, installation of security lighting, pavilions, trash receptacles, picnic tables, permanent grills, beautification, tree planting and signage.

Some of the Parks and recreational facilities that are in consideration, but not limited to are:

28th Street Park – Location on 34th Ave (between 28th Street and 22nd Street) – Ward 1 81.54% L/M;

Gaston Point Park – Location 155 Mills Ave – Ward 1, 66.5% L/M;

Isiah Fredericks Ball field – Location 3312 MLK, Jr Blvd – Ward 3, 71.67% L/M.

East North Gulfport Park - Location MLK, Jr Blvd (between Florida Ave and Georgia Ave) – Ward 3, 56.34% L/M;

East Gulfport Park – North St (between West Ave and East Ave) – Ward 2 , 63.21% L/M.

The City will also partner with Harrison County with their existing parks and facilities to prevent duplication of services in one area.

PUBLIC SERVICES - 24 CFR 570.201(e) *Public services*. Provision of public services (including labor, supplies, and materials) including but not limited to those concerned with employment, crime prevention, child care, health, drug abuse, education, fair housing counseling, energy conservation, welfare (but not excluding the provision of income payments identified under 570.207(b)(4).

24 CFR 507.309 *Restriction on location of activities*. CDBG funds may assist an activity outside the jurisdiction of the grantee only if the grantee determines that such an activity is necessary to further the purposes of the Act and the recipient's community development objectives, and that reasonable benefits from the activity will accrue to residents within the jurisdiction of the grantee.

Since 2010 the City of Gulfport selected to utilize its option to provide up to 15% of its CDBG annual allocation to assist those non-profit agencies that provide basic living, health, financial assistance and special needs services that can meet the greatest number of Gulfport's low and moderate income citizens. Even though Gulfport is the second largest city in the State of Mississippi, it does not have available services needed for low and moderate income citizens or special needs citizens in each of its low and moderate income neighborhoods, nor in some instances, within the city itself. Because of the close proximity of the surrounding cities of Biloxi, Long Beach, Pass Christian, D'Iberville and the unincorporated areas of Harrison County, we all share in services provided by each.

Documenting services to Gulfport's low and moderate income and special needs citizens: Each public service agency provided CDBG funding must document the assistance to citizens of Gulfport. With each subrecipient agreement the public service agency is provided a CDBG/HOME Compliance Manual that includes documents that must be completed. These documents include: Current HUD income guidelines, Client Intake Information Form, Quarterly Summary Report, Request for Reimbursement Form, and Annual Summary of Expenditures. All subrecipients are on a reimbursement basis, receipts for expenditures, documentation of clients served must be submitted for reimbursement for eligible expenses. Subrecipients may also utilize their own Client Intake Information Form if it contains the same vital information.

Seven programs and agencies selected to provide basic living, health, financial assistance and special needs services to the low and moderate income citizens of Gulfport. All of the programs provide services to eligible low and moderate income citizens within the City of Gulfport. Those agencies and programs include

Catholic Social Services (Morning Star Pregnancy Center – diapers, formula, baby food, baby furniture, etc.) –

Physical Location – 2204 24th Avenue, Gulfport, MS – Ward 3

Geographic Location – Census Tract 02300 Block Group 2 (56.41% L/M)

Program Eligibility Documentation – Low Mod Limited Clientele – Client Intake documentation (address, household income and size, racial characteristics)

Services assist clients within the areas of North Gulfport, East North Gulfport, Gaston Point, Soria City, Magnolia Grove, all predominately low and moderate income minority neighborhoods.

De L'Epee Deaf Center – Provides the only deaf center and interpreter services on the coast.

Physical Location – 1450 North Street, Gulfport, MS – Ward 2

Geographic Location – Census Tract 1501 Block Group 2 (63.21% L/M)

Program Eligibility Documentation – Presumed Low Mod due to nature of program – disabled individuals. Client Intake documentation (address, household income and size, racial characteristics).

Open Doors Homeless Coalition – Rapid Rehousing for Persons Experiencing Homelessness – Direct Financial Assistance.

Physical Location – 11975 Seaway Road, Suite B220, Gulfport, MS 39503

Geographical Location – Census Tract 3208 Block Group 1 (61% L/M)

Program Eligibility Documentation – Presumed Low Mod due to nature of program – Homeless Persons and Low Mod Limited Clientele Low Mod Limited Clientele – Client Intake documentation (address, household income and size, racial characteristics).

G. Annual Affordable Housing Goals

The City of Gulfport's annual affordable housing goals to be accomplished during the Action Plan program year are outlined.

Housing Repairs, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, New Construction – CDBG/HOME

The City of Gulfport and its subrecipients anticipates assisting 10 households during fiscal year 2016 with existing and new CDBG and HOME funding through its emergency housing program, homeowner substantial rehabilitation program, existing homeowner reconstruction program, and existing homebuyer assistance programs, and new construction of housing through its CHDO. The city is continuing to assist low income homeowners in providing access to city water and sewer by connecting eligible households to water and sewer lines as mandated by city ordinance utilizing its CDBG funding. The city will set aside a portion of its existing minor housing repair funds for a housing safety program for the purchase and installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The City's fire fighters will install the battery operated detectors; approximately 300 households may be assisted.

Homebuyer Assistance - HOME

The HOME Consortium anticipates assisting up to 6 homebuyers during the fiscal year. The program has been so successful in the past two years, that all available funds in the City of Gulfport were utilized and applications for Gulfport had to be halted until 2016 funds become available.

Gulf Coast Housing Initiative, Inc., a certified CHDO is continuing to utilizing prior existing funds for acquisition and rehabilitation of existing housing in Gulfport for resale to low and moderate income homebuyers. All HOME funds are project specific and funds will be allocated to a specific eligible project at the time of eligibility of the CHDO and project.

CHDO-Set-Aside Funds – The 15% minimum CHDO Set-aside funds and the applicable CHDO has not been identified for 2016 funding. Under the New HOME 2013 Final Rule, a project location must be identified, CHDO re-certified, market analysis and all funds allocated prior to commitment of funding. At such time, the City of Gulfport will notify HUD of the CHDO and proposed project.

All HOME programs, projects and agreement must now follow the New HOME Final Rule of 2013, which has put greater restrictions on all programs, projects, eligible activities, agreements, commitments and expenditures.

Other organizations and non-profits will also provide affordable housing in the City of Gulfport. Habitat for Humanity will also assist low and moderate income residents with energy efficiency, new construction and homebuyer assistance and Renaissance Corporation through its homebuyer assistance program will provide financial assistance for citizens up to 120% annual median income. A hurricane retrofit program to residents through a grant from the Department of Finance and Administration are available to residents (no income requirements) with a 25% match to residents. Habitat for Humanity, Back Bay Mission, Mercy Housing and Human Development, Visions of Hope provides homebuyer assistance and homeowner rehabilitation with volunteers.

H. Homeless and Other Special Populations

This portion of the 2016 Action Plan attempts to identify what the City of Gulfport and agencies serving its jurisdiction will do to address the needs of the homeless and others with special needs as outlined below.

- Emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families;
- To prevent low-income individuals and families with children from becoming homeless;
- To address the problems of chronic homelessness;
- To help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living;
- To address the special needs of persons who are not homeless.

1. Activities To Address Emergency and Transitional Housing

The City of Gulfport and agencies serving the community expect to undertake the following activities to address the emergency and transitional housing needs of Gulfport during the 2016 program year:

- Entities such as South MS AIDS Task Force, Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, Salvation Army, Gulf Coast Women's Center, Coastal Family Health, Harrison County Health Department, Back Bay Mission, Seashore Mission, and others will continue to seek funding for the establishment of additional emergency shelter and transitional housing offering a full continuum of services.
- The City will support the efforts of the South MS AIDS Task Force to expand its capacity to provide transitional housing to persons with HIV/AIDS and their families. The Task Force's efforts to obtain HOPWA, ESG, HUD Supportive Service Grant, and other funding to expand its Client House and to fund operation of the full continuum of services are clearly consistent with the goals and objectives of the Consolidated Plan.
- The City will support efforts of the Gulf Coast Women's Center to continue and expand existing programs for victims of domestic abuse. The city proposes to assist the Gulf Coast Women's Center with CDBG public service funding.
- The City will support the Gulf Coast Women's Center in its efforts to continue funding its transitional housing and supportive service program.

- The City will support efforts of the following agencies to continue operation of emergency shelters to accommodate the homeless:
 - Salvation Army in Gulfport
 - Gulf Coast Rescue Mission
 - Open Doors Homeless Coalition
 - South MS AIDS Task Force
 - Gulf Coast Community Action
 - Gulf Coast Women’s Center
 - Mental Health Association of MS.

- The City will support the operation of the South MS AIDS Task Force Emergency and Transitional Housing facilities and programs and will endorse efforts of the agency to expand housing and supportive services for persons with HIV/AIDS and their families. The agency’s efforts to obtain HOPWA funding for expansion of facilities and programs are clearly consistent with the goals and objectives of the Consolidated Plan.

- The City will support the MS Center for Legal Services in their efforts to educate and fight housing discrimination for the homeless, persons with disabilities and special needs, and persons with HIV/AIDS.

- The City will support the Open Doors Homeless Coalition in its efforts to provide needed permanent housing opportunities and the full continuum of supportive services for the homeless. Agencies comprising the Continuum of Care are the United Way, Gulf Coast Women’s Center, South MS AIDS Task Force, Salvation Army, Mental Health Association of South Mississippi, Gulf Coast Mental Health, and others.

- The City will support the efforts of the Salvation Army (Gulfport) to expand its capacity to provide transitional housing for the homeless with particular emphasis on women with children.

2. Activities To Prevent Low-Income Persons From Becoming Homeless

- The City supports agencies in their efforts to obtain increased funding from sources such as FEMA and LIHEAP to provide emergency assistance such as rental assistance, utility assistance, etc., to help persons and families to avoid homelessness.

- The City supports the Gulf Coast Women’s Center in the agency’s efforts to provide shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence. The program will aid in efforts to prevent families with children from becoming homeless.

- Gulfport supports the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast in its efforts to provide recreation, counseling, and drug abuse prevention to at-risk youth.

- The City supports the efforts of the MS Center for Legal Services in educating and fighting housing discrimination and homelessness.

- The City supports the efforts of agencies operating programs that support low-income persons and families with children in crisis. Agencies such as the Coastal Plains Public Health-District IX, Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Gulf Coast Community Ministries, Feed My Sheep, Loaves and Fishes, Gulf Coast Rescue Mission, South MS AIDS Task Force, Back Bay Mission, Salvation Army, Gulf Coast Women's Center, Catholic Social Services, Visions of Hope and others will continue programs to support families in crisis and help them to avoid homelessness.
- The City will implement its CDBG housing repairs program to assist owner-occupants in their efforts to maintain the affordability of their homes and to provide adaptability for access for persons with disabilities.
- The City continues support of Back Bay Mission's emergency home repair program in an effort to enable families to remain in homes they already own that need extensive rehabilitation and repair. The City will provide financial assistance on a case by case basis for these services.
- The City continues to support the South MS AIDS Task Force. The agency can be instrumental in assisting persons with HIV/AIDS and their families to avoid homelessness resulting from the effects of HIV/AIDS.
- The City supports and endorse the efforts of the South MS AIDS Task Force to obtain funding to increase the capacity of the Client House to provide transitional housing and supportive services for persons with HIV/AIDS and their families.
- The City supports agencies such as the Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, Back Bay Mission, and others to address the training needs of the working poor. Efforts will focus on broadening programs to enhance job skills for the working poor.
- The City supports the efforts of the Biloxi-Gulfport-Harrison County HOME Program Consortium to broaden much needed affordable housing opportunities for owners and renters.
- The City supports the efforts of Mississippi Development Authority in its efforts to provide affordable housing to the Gulf Coast and the City of Gulfport by providing funding for numerous and various projects and programs that support and create affordable housing.

2a. To address the problems of Chronic Homelessness:

Chronic homelessness is defined as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either: 1) been continuously homeless for a year or more, or 2) has had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years.

The 2012-2016 Consolidated Plan stated that the City of Gulfport identifies that there is clearly a need for emergency shelter for the homeless and for support services to assist the homeless. According to the 2015 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program Point In Time Count Report and Housing Inventory Count Report for the six coastal counties, there were a total of 412 homeless persons of which 343 were individuals (without children) and 69 were families (at least one adult and one child). 263 were unsheltered, 149 sheltered (transitional housing and emergency shelters). The City supports the following agencies in their efforts to address the problems of chronic homelessness.

- Gulf Coast Continuum of Care

- Salvation Army
- Gulf Coast Women’s Center for Non-Violence
- Back Bay Mission
- Mental Health Association of Mississippi
- Gulf Coast Community Action Agency
- Gulf Coast Rescue Mission
- South MS AIDS Task Force
- Hancock Resource Center
- United Way

The City of Gulfport not only supports these agencies in carrying out their mission of assisting the chronically homeless, but provides financial assistance with CDBG and/or city funds to some of these agencies to address the chronic homelessness.

3. Activities To Help Homeless Persons Make the Transition to Permanent Housing

Helping homeless persons to make the transition from homelessness to permanent housing involves addressing the need for transitional housing, permanent housing, and support services.

- The Back Bay Mission, the Gulf Coast Women’s Center, Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, Salvation Army (Gulfport), South MS AIDS Task Force, Gulf Coast Rescue Mission, and other agencies serving people within Gulfport will work with the homeless through outreach assessment programs to identify and meet the short-term needs of the homeless. The agencies will also seek to identify the long-term needs of homeless persons and families.
- The City of Gulfport support agencies such as the Gulf Coast Women’s Center, the Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, the Salvation Army, South MS AIDS Task Force, and the Gulf Coast Rescue Mission in their efforts to provide transitional housing to accommodate those making the transition from homelessness to permanent independent living.
- The City will support and endorse efforts of the South MS AIDS Task Force to obtain HOPWA, ESG, and other funding to increase the agency’s capacity to provide emergency and transitional housing and supportive services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their families with particular emphasis on women with children.
- Agencies in the jurisdiction will work with the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Gulf Coast Business Services, the Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, and others to seek training programs in connection with the Workforce Training Act to assist those in transition to find gainful employment that will lead to self-sufficiency and economic independence.
- The City supports the Climb CDC, Gulf Coast Community Action Agency and Mercy Housing and Human Development, Inc., and other agencies in their efforts to provide homebuyers education and counseling, which affords prospective homebuyers pre-purchase, post-purchase, and follow-up consultation services.

4. Activities To Address Needs of Non-Homeless Persons With Special Needs

Activities anticipated during program year 2016 to address the needs of the non-homeless population with special needs are identified in accordance with regulations governing the Consolidated Plan. The categories of homeless with special needs are as follows:

- Elderly
 - Frail elderly
 - Persons with disabilities
 - Mental, Physical and Developmental
 - Persons with alcohol or drug addictions
 - Persons with HIV/AIDS and their families
 - Public housing residents
- a. *Activities To Address the Special Needs of the Elderly and Frail Elderly*
- The City of Gulfport supports the efforts of the Harrison County Health Department, Coastal Family Health, LIFE of South MS, and the Meals On Wheels Program for addressing the needs of the elderly and frail elderly who are homebound.
 - The City of Gulfport and other entities will support agencies such as the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII, Catholic Community and Social Services, the Back Bay Mission, the Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, and others in efforts to obtain more housing assistance for the elderly through such programs as HUD HOPE VI, Public Housing Development Grants, Section 8 certificates and vouchers, HUD Section 202 and 811 Housing, and others.
 - The jurisdiction will support applications for funding to assist agencies such as the Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, with programs to help the elderly and people with disabilities with reducing utility costs and paying utility bills (i.e., Weatherization, LIHEAP). Coastal Home Health and other home health programs will be supported in their efforts to assist the elderly and frail elderly with services in their homes.
 - The City supports efforts of area agencies such as the MS Regional Housing Authority, and others to obtain funding to assist people with disabilities to adapt existing housing for accessibility.
 - The City supports efforts of the Mental Health Association of South Mississippi and will provide funding to assist in the operation of a HOMEBASE Program and drop-in center for the mentally ill, both homeless and non-homeless.
 - The City works with advocacy groups such as the South MS AIDS Task Force, Harrison County Health Department, and Coastal Family Health to seek legislative change to keep people with disabilities, including persons with HIV/AIDS, from losing health care, housing and other benefits when they become employed.
- b. *Activities To Address the Special Needs of Persons With Disabilities*
- Agencies such as the South MS AIDS Task Force, the South Mississippi Regional Center, LIFE of South Mississippi, Gulf Coast Mental Health, Mental Health Association of South Mississippi, Harrison County Health Department, and Coastal Family Health will continue to operate programs providing housing, counseling, and other support services to the mentally, developmentally, and physically disabled. The agencies will seek funding to continue existing programs and to expand facilities and programs to accommodate the unmet needs of disabled persons.

- The City will support efforts of the Mental Health Association of South Mississippi to broaden the facilities and services in the drop-in center for mentally ill, a large part of which are homeless.

- The City will endorse efforts of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Continuum of Care and its members to provide permanent housing and support services for homeless people with disabilities.

c. *Activities To Address the Special Needs of Persons With Alcohol or Drug Addictions*

The following actions will be taken to address the special needs of persons with alcohol or drug addictions:

- Gulfport and services agencies supports efforts to continue and expand programs and facilities to address the needs of persons who have alcohol or drug addictions. Agencies such as the South MS AIDS Task Force, Gulf Coast Mental Health, Mental Health Association of South Mississippi, Gulf Coast Rescue Mission, the County Health Department, and others will be supported in their efforts to develop new facilities to house and counsel persons addicted to drugs and alcohol.

- The City will endorse efforts of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Continuum of Care and Mental Health Association of MS to provide permanent housing and support services for homeless people with alcohol or drug addictions.

d. *Activities To Address the Special Needs of Persons With HIV/AIDS and Their Families*

Activities to address the special needs of persons with HIV/AIDS and their families are listed below:

- The City of Gulfport continues to support the South MS AIDS Task Force and will endorse the agency's efforts to develop housing capabilities for persons with HIV/AIDS and their families. Efforts to expand the agency's capacity to house and provide an expanded comprehensive approach for assisting persons with HIV/AIDS and their families with food, housing assistance, medicines, transportation, home health care, and other related services will be encouraged and supported. The agency will continue its programs and will seek funding for added capacity.

- The City endorses and actively support efforts to develop broad educational programs focused at AIDS prevention and helping persons with HIV/AIDS and their families to cope with the trauma of the disease.

- The City supports efforts of the South MS AIDS Task Force to obtain funding for the expansion of its transitional home to accommodate persons with HIV/AIDS and their families.

- The City supports the Coastal Family Health Center in its delivery of medical and counseling services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their families.

e. *Activities To Address the Special Needs of Public Housing Residents*

Activities to address the special needs of public housing residents are as follows:

- The jurisdiction supports efforts of the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII to implement programs such as resident initiatives, economic development training, comprehensive day care programs, and youth programs if funding is available.

I. Needs of Public Housing

Even though the Plan does not budget any CDBG and HOME funds to address the areas of public housing, the City will attempt to take the following actions:

- (1) Support the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII efforts to repair and renovate public housing.
- (2) Support the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII efforts to improve the living environment at all public housing sites.
- (3) Support the efforts of the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII to redevelop assisted housing sites.
- (4) Support the efforts of the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII to get public housing residents to become more involved in management and participation in homeownership.

J. Other Actions

This portion of the Action Plan identifies and describes other actions that the City of Gulfport and agencies serving Gulfport residents propose to accomplish in program year 2016 relative to the following:

- *Actions to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.*
- *Actions to foster and maintain affordable housing.*
- *Actions to remove barriers to affordable housing.*
- *Actions to develop institutional structure.*
- *Actions to enhance coordination between public and private housing, health and social service agencies.*
- *Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.*

Actions to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

The City of Gulfport with the assistance of the appropriate agency or agencies will attempt the following actions to remove obstacles to meeting underserved needs of the community:

- To support housing and support service agencies in their efforts to obtain funding to continue and expand existing facilities and services.
- To encourage active solicitation of every known funding source and to support applications for funding from federal, state, and local funding sources including HUD programs.
- To facilitate ongoing cooperation and coordination between agencies such as the Gulf Coast Women's Center, Back Bay Mission, Salvation Army, South MS AIDS Task Force, and others.
- To improve the public housing living environment at all public housing sites.
- To increase transitional housing and supportive services particularly for women with children.
- To increase affordable housing opportunities for owners and renters through the Harrison County HOME Program Consortium, and other programs.
- To ensure fair housing and eliminate barriers to fair housing and housing discrimination through education and enforcement by the Mississippi Center for Justice.

Actions to foster and maintain affordable housing and remove barriers to affordable housing.

To foster and maintain affordable housing and remove barriers to affordable housing, the City of Gulfport and the appropriate agency or agencies will seek to accomplish the following:

- The City is beginning the process of compiling its five year Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Plan, utilizing HUD new guidance effective December 2015 for the Plan years 2017-2021 due September 30, 2016. The City is currently working under its 2012-2016 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing completed in June 2012. The Consulting firm of Urban Design Ventures, LLC (solicited by RFP). The analysis identified nine impediments to Fair Housing. Those impediments include:
 1. Lack of Fair Housing Education and Outreach –
 - a. (Strategy) The City will update its website to include links to the HUD’s Fair Housing, local fair housing centers.
 - b. City will continue to provide homebuyers and homeowners with fair housing brochures through its CDBG/HOME programs.
 - c. City will continue to require all potential homebuyers requesting HOME funds to attend homebuyer education classes.
 2. Areas of Low/Mod Income Concentration – develop new affordable housing outside of areas of low/mod income concentration
 - a. (Strategy) The city’s homeowner rehabilitation program and homebuyer assistance programs are eligible for assistance city-wide and do not limit assistance in selected areas.
 3. Lack of Affordable Homebuyer Units
 - a. (Strategy) The city has numerous affordable housing units outside of low/mod impacted areas
 - b. The city will continue to utilize a portion of its HOME funds in 2016 for homebuyer assistance to low/mod homebuyers for purchase of their choice city-wide.
 - c. The city will continue its homeowner housing rehabilitation programs, emergency, minor and substantial rehabilitation utilizing both CDBG and HOME funds.
 - d. Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII will continue to utilize its Housing Voucher Program to assist low income homebuyer for purchase of their choice.
 4. Lack of Affordable Rental Units
 - a. Mississippi Regional Housing Authority will continue to provide vouchers to low income households for affordable housing.
 5. Housing Accessibility
 - a. The city will continue its emergency repair assistance for accessibility housing needs.
 6. High Property Insurance Cost
 - a. The City and other agencies will support and provide down payment assistance to homebuyers to lower their overall housing costs.
 7. Housing Problems – safe, decent, sanitary
 - a. City will continue its housing emergency, minor and substantial housing repair programs for low income households
 - b. City will continue code enforcement efforts to address housing problems within the city
 8. Zoning Ordinance – Provisions for group homes
 - a. Zoning definitions will be updated to include correct wording.

9. Lack of public transportation in areas north of the city
 - a. City continues to work with Coast Transit Authority to identify routes.

Actions to develop institutional structure and enhance coordination between public and private housing, health and social service agencies.

The development of an effective institutional structure and enhancement of coordination for the sake of meeting the needs of Gulfport cannot be separated. HUD requirements for preparation of the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan have fostered the improvement of the Gulfport institutional structure and have enhanced coordination. Interaction between local jurisdictions and between the City and public and private agencies is a Plan requirement. In an effort to improve institutional structure and enhance coordination, the City will seek to accomplish the following:

- The adherence to the Citizens Participation Plan will assist the City in its efforts to strengthen the institutional structure within the jurisdiction.
- The City will support the coordinated efforts of the agencies such as the Gulf Coast Women's Center, Salvation Army, Gulf Coast Rescue Mission, Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, South MS AIDS Task Force, Back Bay Mission, and others as the agencies move forward to address the full continuum of care.

Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participation in homeownership.

To foster public housing residents to become more involved with management and participate in homeownership, the City of Gulfport will seek to accomplish the following:

- The City and Mississippi together and separately will work to provide homebuyer assistant to eligible low income homebuyers through the Home Consortium Homebuyer Assistance programs and Mississippi Regional Housing VIII Housing Choice Voucher Program.
- The MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII has encouraged and will continue to encourage residents to take a more active role in residential management. The individual home developments have created resident councils to work with the on-site managers and the Housing Authority. This relationship will help foster a better understanding of management and the decision-making process. The resident councils' primary purpose is to encourage the community programs to come into their individual sites. In turn, the residents are being encouraged to seek out education and job training opportunities in their local communities. The Housing Authority, through the Comprehensive Grant Program, has set aside funding to provide such training opportunities.

The resident councils have representatives that are members of the umbrella council of Harrison County. This council functions as an advisory group for the entire area, and its purpose is to help give further guidance to the development of job training programs and other opportunities. The County Council was trained through a technical assistance training grant, which encouraged the formation of the resident council umbrella program.

The MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII will continue to implement its resident initiative programs. The City will support the resident initiatives.

- The City will support the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII in its efforts to obtain funding under the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program, Youth Sports Program, and the Public Housing Comprehensive Grant Program.
- The City will support efforts of the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII to expand homeownership for minorities.
- The City will support minority and low- and moderate-income homeownership initiatives of the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII.

Antipoverty Strategy

The City of Gulfport recognizes that its actions have a direct impact on the economic and social well being of its citizens, while it has little control over their poverty status. It is a long-standing policy of the City of Gulfport to be pro-active in encouraging economic development and redevelopment in the community. This policy has been developed to encourage private investment and job creation. The City is aware that by taking a pro-active approach to economic development and redevelopment, its citizens benefit both directly and indirectly from increased private investment and job creation.

As part of its antipoverty strategy, the City proposes to take the following actions during the 2016 Action Plan program year:

- The City will continue its policy of encouraging investment and job creation.
- The City will continue its commitment to maintain existing infrastructure to serve business and industry and will continue its policy of upgrading and improving infrastructure to accommodate, encourage, and induce development.
- The City will support agencies such as the Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, Gulf Coast Business Services, Small Business Administration and others as appropriate to address the training needs of the working poor.

Lead-Based Paint

The City and agencies will undertake the following measures to reduce the incidence of lead-based paint hazards in Gulfport.

- The Harrison County Department of Health will continue use of its programs and resources to test children for lead contamination.
- The MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII will abate lead-based paints in public housing units with Public Housing Comprehensive Grant funds.
- The City of Gulfport addresses lead-based paint in its housing rehabilitation programs and follows all HUD regulations as described under 24 CFR Part 35 and 24 CFR 207.608.
- The MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII will continue its program for abatement of lead-based paints in units rented under the Section 8 Rental Assistance Payments Program. The agency will

continue to require that dwellings inspected and found to have paint peeling, scrape and repaint the walls.

Additionally, the MS Regional Housing Authority No. VIII will continue its education program wherein education pamphlets are provided to new Section 8 certificate and voucher holders. The program is designed to inform residents of the hazards of lead-based paints.

K. Specific CDBG Submission Requirements

1. *Sources of Funds* – Other sources of funds available during the 2016 Action Plan Program year include the following:

For CDBG Projects:

City of Gulfport General Funds

City funds will assist in the demolitions and preparation of the basketball courts located at 28th Street Park;

CDBG funds will be utilized to replace the basketball courts, lighting, fencing, picnic tables and benches, etc. utilizing 2014 and 2015 funds).

Harrison County Board of Supervisors – will provide funding for replacement of pavilions and park improvements at East North Gulfport Park and Isiah Fredericks Ballfield.

Department of Human Services – provides funding to several of the subrecipients.

For HOME Projects:

Individual private funds, donations and loans for homebuyer assistance

FHA – homebuyer assistance

Housing Choice Vouchers – homebuyer assistance

Habitat for Humanity – homeowner housing rehabilitation/reconstruction

2. *Float-Funded Activities* – The City of Gulfport will not carry out CDBG float-funded activities during the program year.
3. *Program Benefit and Location* – The estimate amount of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low- and moderate-income is listed by activity in Table-3C, Consolidated Plan Listing of Projects, which is attached.
4. *Contingency* – The Action plan does not include any funds budgeted for contingency.
5. *Urgent Needs* – There are no activities that address the urgent needs objective.

L. Specific HOME Submission Requirements

1. *Resale/Recapture Provisions*

HOME program regulations governing resale and recapture when a HOME participating jurisdiction (Gulfport) uses HOME funds to assist homebuyers are set forth in 24 CFR Part 92.254(a)(5). By virtue of the fact that Gulfport is a participating jurisdiction in the Gulfport-Biloxi-Harrison County HOME Consortium and uses HOME funds to assist homebuyers, all homebuyers programs provided by

Gulfport and its sub-recipients must include guidelines for resale and/or recapture as require by HUD.

The 2013 HOME Program Final Rule updated the requirements of Resale and Recapture. As per 24 CFR Part 92.254(b) the requirements set forth for resale/recapture will be provided in a separate written agreement between the City of Gulfport, as Lead Agency for the Harrison County Home Consortium and the sub-recipient and/or beneficiary.

Homebuyer Assistance Programs - The City of Gulfport as well as all sub-recipients and CHDO's that utilize Homebuyer assistance will utilize the same Recapture requirements.

Funds subject to *recapture* - include direct subsidy of HOME investment that enabled the homebuyer to purchase the property. This includes down payment assistance, closing costs or other HOME assistance provided directly to the homebuyer.

Net proceeds are defined as the sales price minus superior loan repayment (other than HOME funds) and any closing costs.

The *Recapture* requirements of the all consortium homebuyer assistance programs that utilize direct financial assistance include the following provisions and is included in the Program Written Participation Agreement and the Deed of Trust and Promissory Note:

- The Deed of Trust and Promissory Note (lien), attached to the property to enforce recapture will be executed at loan closing and recapture guidelines adhered to by the home buyer. The lien also restricts the home buyer's ability to refinance during the period of affordability without approval. (see refinance/subordination policy).
- The lien will depreciate annually in equal increments based on the affordability period, 5 years (20 % per year), 10 years (10% per year) 15 years (6.66% per year).
- Shared Net Proceeds - If net proceeds are insufficient to repay the HOME funds in full, the Consortium will accept the current net proceeds less any documented homeowner investment, and share the net proceeds with the homeowner.
- Once the HOME funds are repaid (if any), the property is no longer subject to any HOME restrictions. The HOME funds netted will be utilized for any other HOME eligible activity.
- As per the New 2013 HOME Program Final Rule – Recapture provisions permit subsequent low-income homebuyers to assume HOME loans and recapture obligations, if not additional HOME assistance is provided.

<u>HOME Investment</u>	X	Net proceeds	= HOME Funds Recapture
HOME Investment + Homeowner Investment			
<u>Homeowner Investment</u>	X	Net proceeds	= Amount to Homeowner
HOME Investment + Homeowner Investment			

Resale Provisions – For projects that receive only a development subsidy and are sold at or below fair market value and no direct homebuyer subsidy, the resale provisions must be utilized and is included in the Program Written Participation Agreement, Deed of Trust, Promissory Note and/or Deed Restriction.

- If the housing is transferred, voluntary or otherwise, during the period of affordability, it must be made available for subsequent purchases only to a buyer whose family qualifies as low-moderate income, and will use the property as its principal residence for the duration of the affordability period, as per HOME rule 92.254(a)(3).
- Fair Return on Investment – If the property is sold during the period of affordability, the price at resale provides the original HOME-assisted homebuyer a fair return on investment (including the original homebuyer’s initial investment and any capital improvements).
- Calculating Fair Return on Investment – The percentage of change in Consumer Price Index over the period of ownership.
- Basis for calculating fair return includes 1) the HOME assisted homebuyer’s original investment (i.e., any down payment), plus 2) the specific capital improvements made by the original homebuyer that may add value to the property, times the consumer price index percentage,

Note: complete definition, calculations and specific capital improvements are listed in the HOME Consortium Resale/Recapture Policy.

Homebuyer Assistance Program

- For Fiscal Year 2016, the Homebuyer Assistance Program jurisdiction includes the City limits of Gulfport and the unincorporated areas of Harrison County.
- The Consortium utilizes the HOME affordable homeownership limits for the area provided by HUD annually.
- Income is determined by utilizing the IRS 1040 adjusted gross income for total household of persons the age of 18 or older.
- Homebuyer cannot have owned a home within the past three years, with the exception of documented displaced homemaker.
- Eligible homes for purchase must meet the following qualifications:
 - Existing homes built prior to 1980
 - Not in a flood zone
 - Sales price/appraisal price cannot exceed the current HOME Affordable homeownership limits
 - Home must be in good condition (no rehabilitation needed) Property inspections conducted by city/county building inspectors and homebuyer provided current home inspection by a certified license inspector.
 - Completion of Homebuyer Education class provided by HUD approved Homebuyer Education Provider
 - Debt-to-income ratio cannot exceed 33% (housing cost, PITI) and 45% (total debt (PITI + all other debts).
 - Home must be unoccupied, with the following exception: homebuyer is the current rental occupant or the current occupants are the property owners who are selling the property. Program does not displace occupants and no funds are available for relocation.
- Needs analysis conducted to determine amount of HOME funds needed to make the home affordable.
- Deed of Trust and Promissory Note is recorded to ensure the affordability period and resale/recapture period not to exceed the required HOME affordability requirements for HOME funds provided.

Homeowner Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Programs

- Program is only eligible for low/moderate income homeowners within the city limits of Gulfport.
- Program provides construction cost up to \$50,000.000 per household, with a case-by-case exception up to \$65,000.00 for those homes that require reconstruction, extensive lead abatement, or unforeseen issues during construction.
- Feasibility analysis conducted to determine if home can be brought up to current housing rehabilitation code to meet HOME regulations.
- Voluntary Assistance Program – All housing programs are voluntary in nature and assistance is requested by the homeowner. No funds are available for relocation.

Home regulations do not require an affordability period on homeowner rehabilitation. However, the City of Gulfport will utilize a 5 year affordability *recapture* period secured by Deed of Trust and Promissory Note with the same terms as the homebuyer program, with the following exception: City of Gulfport is not liable for repayment to the U. S. Treasury of non-compliance funds. All recaptured funds or program income funds will be identified in IDIS and utilized before drawdown of new funds.

Relocation Assistance

The HOME Consortium housing programs are all voluntary assistance programs. The HOME Consortium makes funds available to eligible low and moderate income homeowners for assistance in providing safe, sanitary and decent housing. The HOME Consortium does not have funds available to assist with relocation expenses in the event the homeowner may vacate their home during the rehabilitation/repair process. The Uniform Relocation Act requires that any person that is displaced, not by their choice, due to any project receiving federal funds must be fully compensated.

Lease-Purchase Programs

The affordability period commences when the ownership of the unit is conveyed to the home buyer and all home buyer requirements are followed. Under the new HOME Rule of 2013, the Consortium must initiate a Lease-Purchase Program upfront and cannot transfer a homebuyer assistance project to a lease-purchase project if it does not sell within the applicable period.

Rental Housing Projects

New construction of rental projects will be secured by a 20 year affordability period by a deed of trust and promissory note and a deed restriction. The affordability period remains in force regardless of the transfer of ownership. The number of rental housing units shall be limited to a maximum of twelve units per project.

Refinancing/Subordination

The approval to refinance/subordinate of senior debt is subject to the following policy guidelines:

- No approval of refinancing/subordination within the first year of affordability;
- No adjustable rate refinancing;
- Request to refinance/subordinate is subject to the following requirements
 - Original homeowner securing better terms to reduce monthly housing costs;

- Maintain reasonable debt-to-income ratio (within 33 % (housing) and 45% (total debt);
 - No Cash Out, (exception of documented “immediate” property repairs or “catastrophic” expenses).
 - All Participating Jurisdictions of the HOME Consortium, it’s subrecipients and CHDO’s shall follow the same refinancing/subordination Policy.
2. CHDO Requirements – A Community Housing Development Organization must be classified per project and demonstrate capacity in relation to its role as either a 1) Owner, 2) Developer or 3) Sponsor as per CFR 92.300(a)(2)-(6).
 3. HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance
The City of Gulfport is currently not using HOME funds for rental assistance.
 4. Other Forms of Investments
At this time, no other forms of investments are anticipated. However, other forms of investments will be considered for specified projects.
 5. Affirmative Marketing
An Affirmative Marketing Plan is required when HOME funds will be used on housing containing five or more units. All projects and developments containing five or more units will follow the City of Gulfport’s Affirmative Marketing Plan.
 6. Minority/Women’s Business Outreach
The City of Gulfport’s Community Development Department makes every effort to include participation of women and minority businesses in it’s Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership Programs. The Department maintains on file the current Women and Minority Business Directory by the Mississippi Development Authority. Housing contractors are advertised to be included in a contractor pool, either annually or when new programs are initiated, whichever comes first. All other services are advertised through the “the Sun Herald”, the main newspaper circulation, as there is no local minority publication that publishes on a regular or timely basis.
 7. Refinancing
No HOME funds will be used to refinance existing debt.
 8. Minority Homeownership
The City and HOME Consortium will utilize existing prior years funding for homebuyer assistance in the City of Gulfport. Both new and existing homebuyer assistance funds are utilized in the City of Biloxi and Harrison County. One CHDO is proposing to acquisition two existing housing units, rehabilitate and sell to eligible low-mod income homebuyer with existing CHDO set-aside funds. All programs and funding are eligible to low and moderate income for purchase of affordable housing. Historically 60-70% of all HOME funds are provided to minority homeowners or homebuyers.

Specific ESG Submission Requirements

The City of Gulfport does not receive ESG funding.

Specific HOPWA Submission Requirements

The City of Gulfport does not receive HOPWA funding.

M. Monitoring

- Reports for the Consortium partners and will meet or confer with HUD officials on a regular basis to insure that proper record keeping and documentation is maintained.

In compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations, the City of Gulfport, as a CDBG Entitlement Community and as lead agency for the Consortium, has and will:

- Established the standards and procedures that will be used to monitor program progress and compliance. The Community Development Department of the City will be the responsible agency for carrying out the programs of the Plan. The procedures for monitoring sub-recipients are on file in the Community Development Department of the City of Gulfport.
- Prepare Consortium partners formally meet a minimum of annually to review funding, policies and procedures. Each consortium partner is responsible for their respective program policies and procedures, including verification, eligibility and approval process. The Lead-Agency reviews the individual documentation submitted for payment request and reviews for eligibility.
- As Lead-Agency for the HOME Consortia, Gulfport is responsible for monitoring consortium members, sub-recipients and CHDO's. The Lead-Agency has not developed a formal written policy on monitoring of consortia members, but has monitored, assisted and provided technical support on an as needed basis. The CHDO's and sub-recipients are monitored under the regular CDBG/HOME monitoring guidelines.
- "Desk" monitoring is completed during the year on the funded agencies. Agencies must provide complete documentation and receipts of expenditures and provide a monthly or quarterly report on type and number of persons assisted prior to approval of reimbursement. A select number of agencies are provided on-site monitoring each year based on current circumstances (new agency, timeliness, or irregularities with submittal request). discrepancies (lack of documentation, invalid request for reimbursement, etc. are handled monthly and are either corrected at that time or denied reimbursement).
- The City of Gulfport provides funding to subrecipients on a reimbursement basis. A "desk" monitoring is conducted prior to each approval of payment. Subrecipients are also required to submit at least quarterly and annual reports of eligible persons assisted.
- Work closely with sub-recipients and CHDO partners to insure compliance with program regulations and will provide technical assistance to the entities as needed to insure success. Proper documentation has a significant role in skilled administration, and this will be a priority for the staff of the Community Development Department of the City of Gulfport.

- Carefully monitor the progress towards meeting goals identified in the strategic plan over the five-year period of the Plan.
- The City's home rehabilitation department insures long-term code compliance by including the City's building inspectors on the initial feasibility inspection, consultations between the job specification writer and the building code department, progress and final inspection approval by the City building code department prior to payments to contractors for work completed.

N. Citizens Participation

The 2016 Action Plan was developed in a manner to insure participation by citizens, citizens' groups, and agencies, particularly those agencies comprising the institutional structure delivering housing and supportive services to Gulfport's low- and moderate-income residents.

Thirty-day public review of draft Action Plan (March 14 to April 13, 2016). Comments are accepted written or oral by contacting Community Development at communitydevelopment@gulfport-ms.gov, telephone 228-868-5705, ext. 6548 or completing attached Citizen Comment Form.

Public Hearing scheduled for March 21, 2016, 5:30 p.m., at Gulfport City Hall Council Chambers, 2309 15th Street.

Notification from HUD not to submit Action Plans to HUD for Fiscal Year 2016 until notice of funding allocations. – by email on November 14, 2015.

Notification received from HUD of funding allocations and deadline for Action Plan Submittal – February 29, 2016, by email, and letter received from HUD Washington, on March 7, 2016.

Remittance to the City Council for acceptance of proposed plan – April 5, 2016.

Submittal to the Department of Housing and Urban Development on April 14, 2016.

Citizen Participation: (to be attached after Public Hearing and 30-day expiration).

Notifications, Comments and Minutes of Public Hearings – (to be attached after Public Hearing and 30-day expiration).

2016 ACTIVITIES FOR CDBG AND HOME

CDBG-HOME ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016		AMOUNT	
		CDBG FUNDING	HOME FUNDING
PUBLIC SERVICES			
Catholic Social Services (Morning Star Center)	Diapers, formula, clothes, bsssinets,	\$ 10,000.00	
de l'Epee Deaf Center	Hearing Impaired Center - Utility costs and interpretor services	\$ 12,000.00	
Open Doors Homeless Coalition	Financial Assistance, rent, utilities, deposits (3 month max)	\$ 10,000.00	
CAPITAL PROJECTS - PUBLIC FACILITIES - PUBLIC SAFETY			
Actual projects and funding for public facilities and park improvements in low/mod areas will be determined upon acutal funding and date of funding to ensure timeliness of expenditures.			
19th Street Infrastructure Improvements (25th Ave to 33rd Ave) Funding proposed for environmental and engineering fees).	Environmental and engineering study fees for propesd infrasturcture project). Proposed projects may include street paving, sidewalks, lighting, boulevards, etc) actual scope and costs will be decided based on engineering study)	\$ 232,855.00	
ADA Compliance for Elevators - 2309 15th St, 1410 24th Ave, 1422 23rd Ave.	Provide ADA required upgrades to public elevators in City buildings. May include buzzers, signs, braille, two-way communication, rails, etc. Budget is estimate.	\$ 125,000.00	
HOUSING CITY OF GULFPORT			
HOUSING - CDBG			
Emergency/Minor Housing Repairs	City of Gulfport -city wide	\$ 75,000.00	
HOUSING - HOME			
Gulfport	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation		\$ 124,843.00
	Homebuyer Assistance		\$ 100,000.00
CHDO Set-aside - 15%	Gulf Coast Housing Initiative		\$ 66,621.00
Harrison County	Homebuyer Assistance		\$ 108,257.00
ADMINISTRATION			
Program Administration (20%)	CDBG - Operating/Salary Cost	\$ 116,213.00	
Program Administration (10%)	HOME - Operating/Salary Cost		\$ 44,413.00

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES CITY OF GULFPORT ACTIVITIES – PROGRAM YEAR 2016

The City of Gulfport received over \$1,260,000.00 in request for funding for fiscal year 2016. All proposed projects and programs are deemed essential to the citizens and services of Gulfport and the jurisdiction of the HOME Consortium, unfortunately funding restraints prevents funding to all.

HOUSING INITIATIVES

Residential Substantial Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Programs

Program Year 2016	\$124,843.00	(HOME)
Prior Year Funds 2014	\$300,000.00	(HOME)

Description:

Funds can be used to provide loans/grants to income eligible homeowners to correct code violations and general property improvements (if funds allow) in their owner-occupied homes.

Residential Rehabilitation Funds – HOME funds will be used city-wide to repair or rehabilitate existing homes of low and moderate income households. This will be accomplished by both licensed contractors in the city’s homeowner substantial HOME Rehabilitation Program and subrecipient agreement with Habitat for Humanity. The total cost per project up to \$50,000 to correct all code violations, general property improvements, project delivery cost, with a priority to the elderly and physical handicap accessibility needs. The department anticipates assisting 8 homeowners during the fiscal year. Additional cost may be required to adhere to Lead-Base Paint and environmental costs and unforeseen rehabilitation costs that is deemed detrimental to health and safety during the rehabilitation process.

Residential Reconstruction Funds – HOME funds will be utilized for re-construction of existing housing where it is deemed infeasible to correct all code related items under the current code statues within the maximum amount allowed for housing rehabilitation. HOME funds may be increased up to \$65,000 if reconstruction is feasible under these guidelines and if the homeowner agrees and provides its own temporary relocation, as all housing programs are voluntary and no HOME or CDBG funds are provided for relocation.

The City and HOME Consortium partners and sub-partners will comply with lead hazard reduction regulations as prescribed in 24 CFR Part 35 and CFR 50.608 and other HUD regulations as they refer to funds used for this activity.

Eligibility Determination: Low-Mod Housing income eligibility for total household.

(The City reserves the right to waive the maximum funding amount for health, safety, emergency and/or other unique circumstances).

Homebuyer Assistance Programs

Program Year 2016		
City of Gulfport	\$100,000.00	(HOME)
Harrison County	\$108,257.00	(HOME)

Description:

Homebuyer assistance up to \$30,000.00 is provided to low and moderate income homebuyers for purchase of homes within the City limits of Gulfport and Unincorporated Harrison County. A deed of

trust for the amount of the HOME assistance is provided to secure the recapture affordability period. The HOME Consortium proposes to assist up to 5 homebuyers within the year.

Emergency and Minor Housing Repairs

Program Year 2016	\$ 75,000	(CDBG)
Prior Years Funds 2015	\$101,925	(CDBG)

Description:

Emergency Grant Funds (CDBG) will be used city-wide to provide assistance for single code violations that pose an immediate threat to the health and/or safety of homeowners and or minor repairs that do not require a full HOME substantial rehabilitation. Assistance will be provided up to \$20,000 for eligible repairs, including plumbing, electrical, roof replacement/repairs, project delivery cost, etc utilizing existing project funds. The city anticipates assisting 5 homeowners with new and existing budgeted funds.

(The City reserves the right to waive the maximum funding amount for health, safety, emergency and/or other unique circumstances).

CHDO SET-ASIDE

Program Year 2016	\$66,621.00	(HOME)
Prior Program Year 2015	\$61,586.00	(HOME)
Program Year 2014	\$27,080.00	(HOME)

Description:

CHDO set aside will be obligated to a Gulf Coast Housing Initiative, a qualified Community Housing Development Organization. Under the new 2013 HOME Rule regulations, a project must have a specific property address identified to commit funds. At this time, no specific property address or usage of funds have been identified.

Eligibility Determination: 570.208(a)(3) Low-mod housing income eligibility for total household.

Open Doors Homeless Coalition – Rapid-Rehousing Program

Program Year 2016: \$10,000

Description:

New CDBG funded program “Rapid Rehousing for Persons Experiencing Homelessness”, assist participants to move out of homelessness to safe, decent, affordable housing. CDBG funds will be used to assist up to 13 homeless by paying first month’s rent, deposit and utility deposits.

Eligibility Determination: 570.208(a)(2) Low-income limited clientele, individual assessment

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - PUBLIC SAFETY AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

Program Year 2016: \$357,855

Description:

HUD defines “public facilities” and “public capital improvements” as all improvements and facilities that are either publicly owned or traditionally provided by the government, or owned by a nonprofit and operated to serve the general public. Examples are: drainage improvements, street improvements, sewer and water facilities, police or fire station (includes fire trucks, ambulances, and rescue equipment) in which services to the public are actually provided, jails or prisons, senior citizen centers, recreation centers, day care center, library, streets and sidewalks, curbs and gutters, parks and playgrounds, parking lots, utility lines and aesthetic amenities on public land such as landscaping and fountains.

Three tentative projects are proposed, however, the actual project selected and completed will be based on the actual the date in which the 2016 CDBG allocation is received. Per Department of Housing and Urban Development CDBG regulations, regardless of the date of receipt of funding, (April-August), the City is obligated to have no more than 1.5% its current funding allocation unexpended as of 45 days prior to the end of the fiscal year, which is November 2. The City’s CDBG fiscal year is January to December, and the last several year’s funds are received between late June to early August, which does not allow for start or completion of projects such as drainage, sewer, water and street improvements, as the City cannot commit funds until funds are available.

ADA Compliance – Increasing Public Access for the Handicapped.

Program Year 2016: \$125,000

Description:

Remove, replace and/or upgrade architectural barriers in City Public Buildings, at 2309 15th Street (City Hall and Council Chambers), 1410 24th Avenue (Depts. Of Urban Development, Community Development, Human Resources, Finance and Procurement) and 1422 23rd Ave (Depts. of Water and

Utility Billing and Leisure Services). Purpose is to bring existing elevators into compliance with ADA standards, such as signage, braille, two-way communication, hand-rails, lighting, etc.

Eligibility Determination: 570.614 Architectural Barriers Act and American with Disabilities Act
570.208(a)(1) Low/Mod Areas based on 2010 census

Eligible Ward: 2

19th Street Infrastructure Improvements (Environmental/Engineering)

Program Year 2016: \$232,855

Description:

CDBG funds provided for environmental review and engineering planning costs this fiscal year. Proposed project includes street paving, sidewalks, boulevards, lighting on 19th Street, starting from 25th Avenue to 33rd Avenue. This scope of work is estimated based on estimated costs and funding as determined by the engineering estimates.

Eligibility Determination: 570.208(a)(1) Low/Mod Areas based on 2010 census

Eligible Ward: 1

Exhibit 1

Citizen Participation

CITIZEN DRAFT



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT AND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CDBG AND HOME ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS
FY 2016 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD
(March 14, 2016 to April 13, 2016)
NOTICE OF 15-DAY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
2015 FISCAL YEAR END CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT**

A draft copy of the 2016 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Entitlement Programs are available for review and comment by the public and other interested groups. This annual plan contains the short-term goals and strategies, including specific activities recommended for funding in the next fiscal year and proposed amendments under the City's federal entitlement programs.

The thirty (30) day review and comment period for the 2016 Action Plan is March 14, 2016 to April 13, 2016. The (15) day review and comment period for the CAPER is March 14, 2016 to March 29, 2016.

A public hearing to review and comment on the Proposed Action Plan and Substantial Amendment will be held on March 21, 2016, 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 2309 15th Street.

Those persons needing assistance, or with special needs, must contact the Community Development Department at 228-868-5736 at least three days prior to the hearing.

Copies are available at the Community Development Division located at 1410 24th Avenue and City Hall, 2309 15th Street and on the City of Gulfport website www.gulfport-ms.gov. Written comments may be sent to: Community Development Division at (228) 868-5705, ext. 6545 or email communitydevelopment@gulfport-ms.gov.

CITY OF GULFPORT

2016 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME PROGRAMS
--

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ email: _____

COMMENTS:

Please mail or deliver to: Community Development Department
1410 24th Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501

Telephone: 228-868-5705, ext. 6548

Fax: 228-868-5760

Email: communitydevelopment@gulfport-ms.gov

COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH APRIL 13, 2016, 5:00 P.M.
All comments will be included in Action Plan submission to HUD.