



2023-2024 Annual Action Plan

MAY 10, 2023

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Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The Rancho Santa Margarita 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan serves as the City's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. It also identifies the City's activities to address community needs identified in the City's Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan is a five-year strategic plan that identifies and prioritizes housing and community needs, lists programs and activities to address needs, and establishes five-year goals. The City Council approved the current 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan in May 2020.

HUD has notified the City it will receive \$216,552 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 CDBG funds. The FY 2023-2024 Fiscal Year begins July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2024.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The five-year CDBG program objectives and goals identified in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan are summarized below. Also included are the corresponding goals for FY 2023-2024:

- Public Improvements: CDBG: \$600,000 - Activities to benefit 3,500 individuals. FY 23-24 Goal: 1 project (ADA sidewalk ramps TBD).
- Affordable Housing: CDBG: \$50,000 – Rehabilitate 5 housing units. FY 23-24 Goal: rehabilitate 2 housing units.
- Public Services: CDBG: \$50,000 – Activities to assist 2,500 individuals. FY 23-24 Goal: Assist 646 individuals.
- Homelessness Prevention (including homeless assistance): CDBG: \$100,000 – Activities to assist 1,650 individuals. FY 23-24 Goal: Assist 203 individuals.
- Program Administration (including Fair Housing services): CDBG: \$200,000 - Activities to assist 250 households (Fair Housing services). FY 23-24 Goal: Assist 57 households (160 individuals).

Non-CDBG Funded High Priority Objective & Outcomes

In addition to the CDBG objectives and outcomes listed above, the City has identified three additional funding sources that will be available during the next five-year period in support of the City's Consolidated Plan objectives:

- Housing Assistance Vouchers: Rental Housing Choice vouchers and certificates to be provided by the Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA). The level of assistance will vary yearly, as determined by HUD and OCHA. The five-year goal is to provide rental assistance to 125 Rancho Santa Margarita renter households annually.

- City Social Service Programs: The City funds various social services that benefit Rancho Santa Margarita residents. Specifically, the City directly assists senior and youth services at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center.
- Permanent Local Housing Allocation: State funds used to fund homeless outreach services.

3. Evaluation of past performance

FY 2022-2023 (the current fiscal year) is the third year of the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan cycle. Most planned activities will be completed by June 30, 2023. A table that summarizes the City's Consolidated Plan goals over two completed years (FY 2020-2021 and FY 2021-2022) is provided in Attachment 1.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita encourages community involvement in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the Consolidated Plan as described in the City's Citizen Participation Plan. The City implemented the following measures to encourage public participation for the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan:

- The City's Community Development Block Grant Public Service Grant Advisory Committee (CDBG Committee) took public input to evaluate public service grant proposals and develop funding recommendations for the City Council's consideration.
- A public review/comment period allowed the community to review and shape the Annual Action Plan.
- The Draft Annual Action Plan was presented to the City Council at a public meeting at the outset of the public review/comment period.
- A public hearing before the City Council provided a final opportunity for public input.

5. Summary of public comments

See Attachment 2.

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

See Attachment 2.

7. Summary

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita has prepared the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan to receive CDBG funds from HUD. The City implemented a community-based public input process to help determine how to allocate CDBG funds. This process included the input of local service providers and residents.

The City will receive \$216,552 in CDBG funds for FY 2023-2024. The Action Plan is a one-year expenditure plan for FY 2023-2024 CDBG funds.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	Rancho Santa Margarita	Development Services

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita's Development Services Department is primarily responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, year-end performance report, and the overall administration of CDBG funds.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

The primary contact is Mike Linares, 22112 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688, (949) 635-1800 X6702 – mlinares@cityofrsm.org.

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

1. Introduction

Pursuant to HUD regulations, the City took several steps to solicit the input of community residents and stakeholders as it prepared the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan. Consultation efforts included a public meeting and hearing. The City also consulted with regional agencies, special districts, and neighboring cities. Residents were also notified of the opportunities to review and comment on the draft 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan using the City's internet webpage and local newspaper.

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

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita consulted with the County of Orange Housing Authority (OCHA) to assess the needs of lower-income Rancho Santa Margarita renters. In recent years OCHA has obtained *Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)* vouchers, which provide rental assistance for homeless veterans. The Veterans Administration (VA) provides participating veterans with clinical and supportive services through its health care system. OCHA also manages *Continuum of Care Housing Vouchers* – these vouchers are reserved for homeless households transitioning to permanent supportive housing. More recently, OCHA has initiated the administration of *Emergency Housing Vouchers*, which HUD has issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the annual public service grant funding process, the City can ascertain if there are services City residents require. CDBG funding can focus on existing and emerging service needs through this process. Examples of services assessed include senior services, youth services, disabled adult services, and programs to assist households at risk of becoming homeless and the homeless. City staff also consulted with established housing service providers regarding the housing rehabilitation needs of lower-income seniors and disabled homeowners.

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

211 Orange County and the Orange County Community Services Department coordinate the Orange County Continuum of Care (OC-CoC) planning process. This nonprofit-public partnership helps ensure comprehensive, regional coordination of efforts and resources to reduce the number of homeless and persons at risk of homelessness throughout Orange County. This partnership is also the regional coordinator of the year-round CoC planning process and is a catalyst for the involvement of the public and private agencies that make up the County's homeless system of care.

The City supports the OC-CoC planning process by providing information regarding the activities it will fund to address local homeless issues. The OC-CoC uses this information to prepare the County's

application to HUD for Homeless Assistance Grant funds. City staff will also expedite certifications of consistency with the Consolidated Plan and other forms of support for the OC-CoC. The City also supports the biennial Point-In-Time Survey of the County's homeless.

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

The City does not receive Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds; therefore, it does not assist the OC-CoC with determining ESG allocations, evaluating the outcomes, or developing policies and procedures for administering the regional Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities (see Table 2):

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Orange County Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Public Housing Authority (PHA)
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Provided data regarding households receiving HUD rental assistance and households on the waitlist for rental housing assistance
2	Agency/Group/Organization	211 Orange County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Provided data regarding regional homeless, and the County's coordinated entry system HMIS
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Fair Housing Council of Orange County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Impediments to Fair Housing

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Provided data regarding fair housing issues in the community and input related to impediments to fair housing and assisted in developing action steps to address obstacles to fair housing
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Age Well Senior Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Provided input regarding the housing and service needs of seniors, including homebound seniors
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Families Forward
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Families with children Anti-poverty Strategy Needs of Low/Mod persons
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Provided input regarding the housing and service needs of homeless families with children and families that are at risk of becoming homeless
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Family Assistance Ministry
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-homeless

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Families with children Anti-poverty Strategy Needs of Low/Mod persons
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Provided input regarding the housing and service needs of homeless households and households at risk of becoming homeless
7	Agency/Group/Organization	RSM Cares
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services- Low/Mod persons
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy Needs of Low/Mod persons
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Provided input regarding the service needs of households at risk of becoming homeless
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Habitat for Humanity - Orange County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Provided input on residential housing units in need of minor home repairs

9	Agency/Group/Organization	Vocational Visions
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Provided input regarding the needs of adults with developmental disabilities, specifically economic opportunities for this special needs population

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

The City held an open consultation process and did not knowingly exclude any agency from the consultation process.

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Orange County 211	Provides regional and local point-in-time homeless survey data, develops the regional Plan to End Homelessness, and develops the regional Discharge Plan
City of Rancho Santa Margarita Housing Element	City of Rancho Santa Margarita	Provides housing priorities and program goals
City of Rancho Santa Margarita Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	City of Rancho Santa Margarita	Identifies priority capital improvement projects which may be CDBG-eligible
5-Yr. & 1-Yr. Public Housing Plan (PHA) Plan	Orange County Housing Authority	Identifies OCHA resources to address the housing needs of lower-income renter households in the County and City
2020-2024 Orange County Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing	Orange County HUD Grantee Cities and the County of Orange	This countywide document identifies fair housing impediments within participating cities and outlines a plan to address fair housing issues

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

The City took several steps to obtain public input regarding the Annual Action Plan:

Public Meetings and Hearings: The City's CDBG Committee held a public meeting on March 2, 2023. Committee members accepted public testimony from service providers regarding social services needs in the community. The City Council held a meeting on April 12, 2023, and a public hearing on May 10, 2023, to provide additional opportunities for comment on the draft Annual Action Plan (see Attachment 1).

Notices/Website: The public comment period and the public hearing were noticed in the local newspaper. The draft Annual Action Plan was also posted on the City's website for public review and comment. A hard copy was also available during the required 30-day public comment period, which was held from April 10, 2023, to May 10, 2023 (see Attachment 1).

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	3/2/23: Members of the City's CDBG Committee	The Committee accepted information regarding social service needs and developed funding recommendations for Council consideration	None	NA

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	4/12/23: City Council meeting to obtain input regarding the preliminary 2023 CDBG expenditure plan	See Attachment 2	None	NA
3	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Public notice of the 30-day public comment period and public hearing	See Attachment 2	None	NA
4	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	5/10/23: City Council public hearing	See Attachment 2	None	NA

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Fluctuations in CDBG funding make it difficult to estimate funds that will be available over the five-year Consolidated Plan cycle. The City anticipates receiving an annual allocation of \$200,000 in CDBG funds from HUD during the Consolidated Plan cycle. The City does not fund activities that generate CDBG program income. Additional funds available to implement the Consolidated Plan are City General Fund resources for senior and youth programs (i.e., Bell Tower Regional Community Center programs), state funds for homeless outreach, and housing voucher/certificate resources via the Orange County Housing Authority. The City anticipates that OCHA will assist approximately 125 Rancho Santa Margarita households annually.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 4				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin & Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	216,552	0	0	216,552	200,000	Annual allocation of CDBG funds from HUD

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The City leverages CDBG funding with General Fund resources to fund the Boys and Girls Club's after-school recreation and education services for elementary-age children and Age Well Senior Services (e.g., congregate meals and home-delivered meals). In recent years these contracts have totaled approximately \$195,000 per year. Information from the Boys and Girls Club indicates that most youths accessing the Youth Center are from low- and moderate-income households. Seniors age 62 plus are presumed to be eligible for CDBG-funded programs; therefore, General Fund resources allocated to these programs can be considered CDBG leveraging resources. Additionally, the City will use state Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) funds for homeless outreach services (approximately \$40,500 per year).

CDBG does not have a match requirement.

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

Rancho Santa Margarita is a master-planned community that is built out. Currently, no vacant land is identified that can support any development that may address the needs identified in the Consolidated Plan.

Discussion

Funding resources to implement the City's Consolidated Plan are limited. It is anticipated that CDBG funding will continue to fluctuate in future years. OCHA has aggressively pursued new housing assistance vouchers and certificates resources; the City will continue to support OCHA's efforts to secure new rental assistance resources. Additionally, the City will continue to support seniors and youths with programs offered through the Bell Tower Regional Community Center with local funds and homeless services with state funds for the foreseeable future.

As outlined above, Rancho Santa Margarita has no vacant land suitable for development; therefore, no publicly owned land (or other property) within the City has been identified for housing development during FY 2023-2024. However, the recently updated Housing Element identifies properties that may be suitable for future development.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Housing Preservation	2023	2024	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$20,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 2 Household Housing Unit
2	Public Infrastructure Improvements	2023	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG Eligible Area Citywide	Public Facilities	CDBG: \$127,152	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: Persons Assisted 120
3	Public Social Services	2023	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Public Services	CDBG: \$20,900	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 646 Persons Assisted
4	Homeless Continuum of Care	2023	2024	Homeless	Citywide	Homeless Support Services and Housing	CDBG: \$11,500	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 190 Persons Assisted Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing: 3 Persons Assisted Rapid Rehousing: 5 Households Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 5 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Administration and Planning	2023	2024	Administration	Citywide	Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$37,000	Other: 57 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing Preservation
	Goal Description	Improve or expand the supply of housing affordable to lower-income households
2	Goal Name	Public Infrastructure Improvements
	Goal Description	Street, sidewalk, landscape, and other public improvements
3	Goal Name	Public Social Services
	Goal Description	Provide or improve access to public social services for low- and moderate-income persons and persons with special needs
4	Goal Name	Homeless Continuum of Care
	Goal Description	Provide a continuum of supportive and housing services for the homeless and the near homeless
5	Goal Name	Program Administration
	Goal Description	Provide for administration and planning activities to carry out actions that address needs identified in the Consolidated, including services to address impediments to fair housing

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.215(b):

The City does not receive HOME funds; however, CDBG funds are allocated to assist lower-income senior and disabled homeowners in undertaking minor repairs to their primary residence through the City's Minor Home Repair Program. All assisted homeowners will meet HUD's definition of a low and moderate-income household.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the City will allocate CDBG funds for the following nine activities.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Age Well Senior Services
2	Families Forward
3	Family Assistance Ministries
4	RSM Cares
5	Vocational Visions
6	Fair Housing
7	Program Administration
8	ADA Curb Ramp Installation FY 23-24
9	Minor Home Repair Grants (Habitat for Humanity)

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The City will allocate a portion of its CDBG funds for activities that address the service needs of the elderly and extremely low-income households at risk of becoming homeless. According to data from the Consolidated Plan, these households contribute a significant portion of their income toward housing. Consistent with the City's Homeless Strategy, the City will allocate resources to help households remain housed in place rather than fall into homelessness. Additionally, the City will encourage and support OCHA's efforts to obtain additional rental assistance funding for Rancho Santa Margarita senior and disabled households. Public infrastructure improvements planned for the year will also serve special needs populations (ADA improvements). Funding is also provided to help adults with developmental disabilities access employment opportunities.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

Table 8 – Project Summary

1	Project Name	Age Well Senior Services
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Social Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	Services for seniors
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	15 seniors
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Various services for homebound seniors, including in-home support services and case management
2	Project Name	Families Forward
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Homeless Continuum of Care
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Support Services and Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,400
	Description	Rapid rehousing for homeless families with children
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	5 homeless individuals
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Housing navigation/placement and support services for homeless families with children

3	Project Name	Family Assistance Ministry
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Homeless Continuum of Care
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Support Services and Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$6,100
	Description	Homelessness prevention assistance
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	198 individuals
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	A continuum of housing and support services, including emergency/transitional shelter (3 individuals), rent/utility assistance to prevent eviction/utility shut-off (5 individuals), and food/case management (190 individuals)
4	Project Name	RSM Cares
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Social Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,900
	Description	Foodbank
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	622 individuals
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Foodbank services for individuals in need
5	Project Name	Vocational Visions
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Social Services

	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	Community integration employment services for adults with developmental disabilities
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	9 adults with developmental disabilities
	Location Description	26041 Pala, Mission Viejo CA
	Planned Activities	Job development for services for adults with developmental disabilities
6	Project Name	Fair Housing Services
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$3,500
	Description	Fair housing outreach, education, and enforcement services
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	57 households (160 individuals)
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Fair housing outreach, education & enforcement services to address impediments to fair housing
7	Project Name	Program Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$33,500
	Description	CDBG program oversight and coordination
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of	NA

	families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	22112 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita CA, City Hall
	Planned Activities	CDBG program oversight and coordination, including preparation of applications, reports, and program planning documents
8	Project Name	ADA Curb Ramp Installation FY 23-24
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Infrastructure Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$127,152
	Description	Installation of sidewalk curb ramps that comply with current ADA regulations
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Estimated 120 Individuals with disabilities that reside within the project area
	Location Description	TBD
	Planned Activities	Installation of sidewalk curb ramps that comply with current ADA regulations
9	Project Name	Minor Home Repair Grants (Habitat for Humanity)
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Housing Preservation
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	Minor home improvement grants
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2 low- and moderate-income homeowners
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Minor home improvements to address basic health, safety, and accessibility concerns - work to be carried out in partnership with a community nonprofit

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

Activities slated for CDBG funding during Fiscal Year 2023-2024 will primarily be available citywide to income-eligible individuals (i.e., limited clientele). Activities that are limited clientele in nature will ensure that all recipients are income-eligible.

A list of Census Tract Block Groups where CDBG resources may be used on an "area-wide" basis is provided in Attachment 3.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
CDBG Eligible Area	0
Citywide	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City intends to use CDBG funds to serve lower-income households that need assistance regardless of where they live in the City.

Discussion

As indicated above, in FY 2023-2024, CDBG funds will benefit lower-income residents regardless of where they live in the City.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

With limited CDBG funding, the City will implement its housing rehabilitation program during the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. For FY 2023-2024, \$20,000 in CDBG funds will be allocated to Habitat for Humanity – Orange County to administer the City's Minor Home Repair Program. It is anticipated that two lower-income homeowners will be assisted.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	2
Special-Needs	0
Total	2

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	2
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	2

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

The City will support OCHA's administration of HUD's rental assistance program during the program year. Additionally, CDBG resources are allocated to assist eligible homeowners to undertake minor home repairs. CDBG funding is also allocated to support shelter and rapid rehousing programs for homeless individuals.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

Rancho Santa Margarita does not own or manage public housing.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

Discussion

Rancho Santa Margarita does not own or manage public housing.

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

Introduction

As the Consolidated Plan outlines, the City's homeless strategy emphasizes preventing homelessness. HUD's Strategies for Preventing Homelessness states, "Homelessness prevention is an essential element of any effort to end homelessness either locally or nationwide." HUD states it is less expensive and disruptive to keep a household housed in place. To this end, the City will fund public service programs that provide services to help households maximize the income they can contribute toward housing. A limited amount of housing/utility assistance will be available for households at risk of eviction/foreclosure or utility shut-off. The City will also use CDBG funds to support food banks and case management services. For individuals experiencing homelessness, housing and support services may be available to address their immediate needs.

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

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

No program solely focusing on homeless outreach is proposed for CDBG funding during FY 2023-2024. It is important to note that the homeless service providers funded by the City have well-established and comprehensive outreach services that assess and link homeless persons to appropriate services and housing. In addition, Mercy House will receive non-CDBG funding to support its street outreach and engagement program. The Mercy House Street Outreach Team will partner with the OC Sheriff to implement this program.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City will allocate FY 2023-2024 CDBG funds to Family Assistance Ministries (FAM). FAM will offer a continuum of housing and support services for individuals facing homelessness or experiencing homelessness. FAM may use CDBG resources to provide emergency or transitional housing to homeless families with children.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

FY 2023-2024 CDBG funds will be allocated to Families Forward to provide rapid rehousing and support services for homeless families with children. Families Forward estimates that 5 individuals will be assisted with CDBG funds. The City will also continue to support OCHA's efforts to obtain housing

assistance vouchers for lower-income households, including veterans. OCHA reports that in January 2023, 135 Rancho Santa Margarita households are participating in the federal Housing Voucher Rental Assistance program. Seven of these households are veterans that receive special Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. The VASH program combines Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance for homeless veterans (provided by HUD) with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. OCHA also reports that nine disabled homeless households reside in the City and benefit from CoC Permanent Supportive Housing Certificates. Ten RSM families benefited from a COVID-19 Emergency Housing Voucher.

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

As previously outlined, the City homeless strategy states it is less expensive and disruptive to keep a household sheltered in place. To this end, the City will use FY 2023-2024 CDBG and local resources to support agencies that provide various safety net services that may help prevent households from becoming homeless. Examples of safety net services include food banks, rent/utility assistance, and senior services. The City will also support regional homeless planning efforts, including the OC CoC's Discharge Plan, which aims to prevent individuals leaving institutions such as jails and hospitals from becoming homeless.

Discussion

The City's homeless strategy emphasizes support for safety net and homelessness prevention services. FY 2023-2024 CDBG funds are allocated for services that help prevent homelessness. Additionally, Families Forward will use a portion of the City's CDBG funds to provide rapid rehousing assistance to homeless families with children. The City will also continue to support regional efforts to address homelessness.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)

Introduction:

Barriers to affordable housing and actions to overcome barriers are listed in the City's Housing Element and are summarized in the Consolidated Plan.

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

State law requires the City's Housing Element to address, where appropriate and legally possible, the removal of governmental constraints affecting the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing. The City's Housing Element identifies implementing the following programs to help lessen governmental constraints on housing development.

- Expedited Project Review: Rancho Santa Margarita will prioritize any project with an affordable housing component to minimize holding costs incurred by developers during the plan review process. The City will also expedite permit processing for projects targeted for persons with disabilities, including persons with developmental disabilities.
- Parking: The City's Zoning Code offers reduced parking standards for affordable housing projects and parking requirements for special needs housing. Additionally, the Planning Commission can grant reduced parking for senior housing and affordable housing projects through the conditional use permit or alternative development standard process.
- Other Time and Cost-saving Actions:
 - Permit processing guidelines are prepared to assist residential builders in applying for development permits
 - "Early consultation" or pre-application process to identify issues as soon as possible and reduce processing time
 - Allow processing fees to be reduced, postponed, or supplemented with housing funds for affordable projects meeting City priorities
 - Provide a GIS application on the City's website with land use information and hyperlinks to important information, such as General Plan and Zoning Code documents

Discussion:

Rancho Santa Margarita is a master-planned community that is built out. No parcels are identified for housing development in FY 2023-2024; however, the City's updated Housing Element identifies actions the City can take to support and facilitate future affordable housing development.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Outlined below are additional actions the City will implement during FY 2023-2024 to address the sub-strategies of the Consolidated Plan.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City will allocate a portion of its CDBG funds for activities that address the service needs of special needs populations and extremely low-income households at risk of becoming homeless. Consistent with the City's Homeless Strategy, CDBG resources are allocated to help households remain housed in place rather than fall into homelessness. Additionally, the City will encourage and support OCHA's efforts to obtain additional rental assistance funding for Rancho Santa Margarita households. Public infrastructure improvements planned for the year will also serve special needs populations (ADA improvements).

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita has identified the activities it will undertake during Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to foster and preserve affordable housing. The Consolidated Plan identified programs such as the Minor Home Repair Program as the means to maintain and improve housing currently available to low- and moderate-income senior or disabled homeowners. Habitat for Humanity Orange County will administer the program and projects; two homeowners are expected to be assisted during FY 2023-2024.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

According to Consolidated Plan, 1,030 housing units in the City were constructed before 1980 – approximately 45% of these units are owner-occupied. The City's Minor Home Repair program requires lead-based paint testing for all housing units built before 1980 that participate in the program.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 4.5% of Rancho Santa Margarita residents live in poverty, including 5.9% of children under 18 years old and 3.6% of individuals age 65 plus. To address the needs of these households, The City will support several programs and services that help combat poverty. During Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the City will support the following activities to implement this strategy:

- Rental assistance for very low-income renters via the OCHA
- Homeless prevention assistance
- Public services that provide free or reduced-cost services to lower-income households to help improve the quality of life or provide a social safety net for Rancho Santa Margarita residents

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City has developed an institutional structure to help identify and access resources to improve the community. For example, the City will continue to work with nonprofit entities to deliver social services. As a supporter of the Continuum of Care, the City provides critical homeless resources information to the County for the region's Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance grant application to HUD. Additionally, the City supports the biennial countywide homeless Point In Time Survey and will continue to assist the OCHA in implementing its Five-year PHA Plan.

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

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita does not operate public housing. The Orange County Housing Authority provides rental assistance in the community. Federal regulations require that OCHA prepare a five-year and one-year Public Housing Authority (PHA) Plan highlighting its mission, goals, and objectives related to public and assisted housing programs. The City will review the Authority's PHA Plan and certify that it is consistent with the City's Consolidated Plan. The City will also provide OCHA with the opportunity to review and comment on the City's Consolidated Plan. This cross-consultation aims to provide consistent and coordinated housing services for City residents. Ongoing consultation with local nonprofits also assists the City in coordinating the efficient and effective use of limited federal resources.

Broadband: According to BroadbandNow.com, Cox Communications is the top broadband service provider in the City, covering 97.9% of the City. AT&T Internet and EarthLink are also available via DSL or fiber optic cable to 95.6% and 94.8% of Rancho Santa Margarita properties, respectively. Several additional providers offer satellite or 5-G-based broadband service.

Most broadband service providers in Orange County participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP was created with the passage of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2021. The purpose of the ACP is to provide eligible households with a \$30 discount on monthly broadband internet service. ACP eligibility is based on household income (200% of federal poverty or less) or participation in specific government assistance programs, such as SSI, Medicaid, or WIC. Funding may also be available to provide "discounts" for connective devices such as laptops, desktop computers, or tablets. Information about the ACP is readily available online; however, many of the City's nonprofit service providers will inform clients of this program and may also assist clients in applying for benefits. Additionally, the City will continue encouraging developers and property owners to incorporate broadband infrastructure into new or substantially rehabilitated housing projects, especially affordable housing projects.

Resiliency: The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires the State of California and local governments to prepare mitigation plans to document their hazard mitigation planning process and to identify hazards, potential losses, mitigation needs, goals, and strategies. Each state and local government must have a

federally approved mitigation plan to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding (e.g., FEMA). The City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) sets out to:

- Protect the general population from natural hazards
- Avoid damages to Rancho Santa Margarita's critical facilities, public infrastructure, and private property
- Reduce the potential impact of natural disasters on the environment
- Promote hazard mitigation measures as an integrated policy

The LHMP assesses the impact of approximately 30 potential natural and human-caused hazards. Not all hazards evaluated will impact the City; however, hazards such as changing weather patterns, drought, earthquakes, floods, wildfires, and human-caused (e.g., hazardous materials, terrorism) hazards are included in the LHMP. The LHMP contains a comprehensive list of regulatory, administrative, technical, and financial steps the City can take to inform the public about potential hazards and protect residents and vital community resources. The LHMP also includes a strategy to ensure ongoing plan evaluation and periodic updating.

Discussion:

HUD-funded grant recipients are required to not discriminate in housing or services directly or indirectly based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability. Grant recipients such as Rancho Santa Margarita are required to: (1) examine and attempt to alleviate housing discrimination within their jurisdiction; (2) promote fair housing choices for all persons; (3) provide opportunities for all persons to reside in any given housing development, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, and other personal or familial attributes; (4) promote housing that is accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities; (5) and comply with the non-discrimination requirements of the Fair Housing Act.

HUD encourages jurisdictions to consult with one another and initiate metropolitan-wide fair housing planning. The **Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice** is the primary document for this purpose. In addition to identifying impediments, a strategy to overcome barriers must be developed and implemented - accomplishments are reported annually. The City participated in developing a countywide AI, which the City Council adopted in May 2020. A summary of impediments to fair housing and the action steps the City will take during FY 2023-2024 are found in Attachment 4.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The program-specific requirements that apply to the City are listed below.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan.	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income	0

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100%

Discussion

The City will meet the overall 70% benefit for low- and moderate-income expenditure requirement of the CDBG program over one program year – **FY 2023-2024**.

CDBG funds for FY 2023-2024 will be allocated to the abovementioned activities. Community service activities will be qualified as "low- and moderate-income area benefit" or "limited clientele benefit." "Public facility/infrastructure improvements will be eligible under "low- and moderate-income area benefit" or "limited clientele benefit" (e.g., ADA improvements). Housing rehabilitation will be available citywide to qualified low- and moderate-income households.

No CDBG program income will be received during FY 2023-2024. The City does not have surplus funds from urban renewal settlements, nor does the City have grant funds returned to its line of credit. The City will not undertake float-funded activities; therefore, it does not anticipate program income from this type of activity. Finally, the City does not anticipate undertaking urgent need activities during FY 2023-2024, nor will it undertake any actions that may result in the involuntary displacement of businesses or residents.

Five-Year and One-Year Summary of Accomplishments

Grantee Name: City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Decent Housing						
Objective: Housing Preservation	Source of Funds	Year	Performance Indicators	Expected Number	Actual Number	Percent Completed
Housing <u>rehabilitation loans and grants</u> to improve or expand the supply of housing affordable to lower-income households	CDBG	2020	Housing Units	2	1	50.0%
		2021	Housing Units	0	1	0.00%
		2022	Housing Units			
		2023	Housing Units			
		2024	Housing Units			
		5-Yr Con Plan Goal		5	2	40.00%
Housing Choice Vouchers (Administered by OCHA): Improve or expand the supply of housing affordable to lower-income households	HUD Housing Vouchers	2020	Housing Units	125	128	102.40%
		2021	Housing Units	125	125	100.00%
		2022	Housing Units			
		2023	Housing Units			
		2024	Housing Units			
		5-Yr Con Plan Goal		125 (Annual Avg)	127 (2 Yr Avg)	101.60% (2 Yr Avg)
Suitable Living Environment						
Objective: Public Social Services Objective: Infrastructure and Facility Improvements	Source of Funds	Year	Performance Indicators	Expected Number	Actual Number	Percent Completed
Provide or improve access to <u>public social services</u> for low- and moderate-income persons and persons with special needs	CDBG	2020	Individuals	1,365	2,449	179.41%
		2021	Individuals	1,236	1,449	117.23%
		2022	Individuals			
		2023	Individuals			
		2024	Individuals			
		5-Yr Con Plan Goal		2,500	3,898	155.92%
Improve and expand <u>public infrastructure and facilities</u> that benefit low- and moderate-income neighborhoods and residents	CDBG	2020	Projects	0	0	0.00%
		2021	Projects	350	365	104.29%
		2022	Projects			
		2023	Projects			
		2024	Projects			
		5-Yr Con Plan Goal		7,500	365	4.87%

Five-Year and One-Year Summary of Accomplishments

Economic Opportunity						
Objective: Economic Opportunities	Source of Funds	Year	Performance Indicators	Expected Number	Actual Number	Percent Completed
On September 1, 2020, added small business assistance grant for businesses impacted by the Coronavirus (<u>CDBG-CV funding</u>)	CDBG-CV	2020	Businesses	0	13	NA
		2021	Businesses	0	0	0.00%
		2022	Businesses			
		2023	Businesses			
		2024	Businesses			
	5-Yr Con Plan Goal			3	13	433.33%
Continuum of Care						
Objective: Homeless Continuum of Care	Source of Funds	Year	Performance Indicators	Expected Number	Actual Number	Percent Completed
Provide a continuum of supportive and housing services for the homeless and households at risk of homelessness	CDBG	2020	Individuals	606	276	45.54%
		2021	Individuals	263	88	33.46%
		2022	Individuals			
		2023	Individuals			
		2024	Individuals			
	5-Yr Con Plan Goal			1,650	364	22.06%
Other						
Objective: Administration and Planning	Source of Funds	Year	Performance Indicators	Expected Number	Actual Number	Percent Completed
Provide for administration and planning activities to carry out actions that address needs in the Consolidated Plan, including <u>fair housing services</u> to address local impediments to fair housing	CDBG	2020	Year of Admin	45	43	95.56%
		2021	Year of Admin	52	57	109.62%
		2022	Year of Admin			
		2023	Year of Admin			
		2024	Year of Admin			
	5-Yr Con Plan Goal			250	100	40.00%
Provide for <u>administration and planning</u> activities to carry out actions that address needs in the Consolidated Plan	CDBG	2020	Households	1	1	100.00%
		2021	Households	1	1	100.00%
		2022	Households			
		2023	Households			
		2024	Households			
	5-Yr Con Plan Goal			5	2	40.00%

**CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita anticipates receiving an estimated \$187,900 in CDBG funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The primary objective of the CDBG program is the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income.

CDBG-eligible activities include a wide range of programs including social services provided activities primarily benefit low- and moderate-income households, that is, households with an income less than 80% of the County median income. Funding for social service programs is limited to 15% of the City's CDBG allocation for a given year – approximately \$28,180 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

At this time, the City is accepting applications from existing tax-exempt nonprofit organizations that provide eligible CDBG services that benefit low- and moderate-income Rancho Santa Margarita residents. **Applications must be submitted to the City of Rancho Santa Margarita Development Services Department by 3 PM, Friday, January 27, 2023.** Rancho Santa Margarita City Hall is located at 22112 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688. Late applications will not be accepted.

Questions regarding this notice or to obtain an application should be directed to Mike Linares at (949) 635-1800 X6702 or via email at mlinares@cityofrsm.org.

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ORANGE**

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid. I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the below entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of **The Coto de Caza News**, a newspaper that has been adjudicated to be a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Orange, State of California, on August 23, 1995, Case No. A-178404 in and for the South Orange County Judicial District, County of Orange, State of California; that the notice, of which the annexed is a true printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates to wit:

04/07/2023,

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Coto de Caza, Orange County,

Date: APRIL 7, 2023

Witness my hand and official seal



Signature
Legal Advertising Officer

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23472 Vista del Verde, Suite 6
Coto de Caza, California 92679
MAILING ADDRESS: 520 E AVENIDA PICO,
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(949) 589-9990, Fax: (949) 589-6429



**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
AND PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD BY THE
CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA
REGARDING SUBMISSION OF THE 2023-2024
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Rancho Santa Margarita City Council will hold a public comment period and a public hearing for the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan. This action is taken in compliance with federal regulations [24 CFR 91].

As a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the City must prepare a Consolidated Plan every five years. The City is also required to update the related Action Plan on an annual basis. The Consolidated Plan is a five-year strategic plan that identifies housing and community needs, strategies to address needs, and programs/resources to address these needs. The Action Plan delineates proposed activities funded under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) CDBG program.

30-Day Public Comment Period

The required 30-day public comment period for the documents listed above will commence April 10, 2023, and will end May 9, 2023. The draft document will be available for public review on the City's website (www.cityofrsm.org) and upon request by contacting staff. Written comments regarding the draft documents may be submitted to Mike Linares at Rancho Santa Margarita City Hall – 22112 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, California, 92688 or by email mlinares@cityofrsm.org. The City must receive all written comments no later than 5 PM, May 9, 2023.

2023-2024 Action Plan

HUD has notified the City that it will receive \$216,552 in CDBG funds for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The proposed use of CDBG funds for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 includes the following:

<u>Proposed Activity</u>	<u>Proposed CDBG Allocation</u>
• Public services for lower-income persons and special needs populations	\$32,400
• Minor Home Repair Grants	\$20,000
• Public facility and infrastructure improvements	\$127,152
• Program administration (including Fair Housing counseling)	\$37,000

Public Hearing

The City must also hold a public hearing to obtain public comments regarding the FY 2023-2024 Action Plan. Notice is hereby given that the City of Rancho Santa Margarita City Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, for this purpose. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers located at 22112 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, California, 92688. The City Council meeting will be held at 7:00 PM or soon thereafter. For additional information regarding the hearing (including reasonable requests for special accommodations for persons with disabilities), please contact the City Clerk at (949) 635-1806.

If you wish to challenge the City's decision in court, the challenge will be limited only to those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing, prior to the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk's Department prior to, the public hearing described in this notice.

The agenda report for this item will be available Friday, May 5, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. on the City's website at www.cityofrsm.org. Additionally, a copy of the report may be obtained at City Hall during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. It is recommended that you contact City Hall to ensure a copy of the report is available for distribution. For further information you may wish to call City Hall at (949) 635-1800.

Amy Diaz, City Clerk

Published: Coto de Caza News, April 7, 2023

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

APRIL 12, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING

No public comments were received.

30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments were received.

MAY 10, 2023, PUBLIC HEARING

No public comments were received.

**CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA
CDBG-ELIGIBLE CENSUS TRACTS BLOCK GROUPS 2022**

CITY	CENSUS TRACT	BLOCK GROUP	LOW/MOD RESIDENTS	LOW/MOD UNIVERS	PERCENT LOW/MOD
Rancho Santa Margarita	032055	2	1,340	1,555	86.17%
Rancho Santa Margarita	032051	4	1,010	1,305	77.39%
Rancho Santa Margarita	032054	2	500	805	62.11%
Rancho Santa Margarita	032051	3	715	1,230	58.13%
Rancho Santa Margarita	032051	2	585	1,030	56.80%
Rancho Santa Margarita	032054	3	465	830	56.02%
Rancho Santa Margarita	032053	4	820	1,610	50.93%
Rancho Santa Margarita	032049	3	910	2,025	44.94%
Rancho Santa Margarita	032050	1	265	595	44.54%
Rancho Santa Margarita	032048	2	615	1,390	44.24%

ORANGE COUNTY ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE

August 6, 2020

REGIONAL PROPOSED AI GOALS AND STRATEGIES

To address the contributing factors described above, the AI plan proposes the following goals and actions:
Regional Goals and Strategies”

Goal 1: Increase the supply of affordable housing in high opportunity areas.¹

Strategies:

1. Explore the creation of a new countywide source of affordable housing.
2. Using best practices from other jurisdictions, explore policies and programs that increase the supply of affordable housing, such as linkage fees, housing bonds, inclusionary housing, public land set-aside, community land trusts, transit-oriented development, and expedited permitting and review.
3. Explore providing low-interest loans to single-family homeowners and grants to homeowners with household incomes of up to 80% of the Area Median Income to develop accessory dwelling units with affordability restrictions on their property.
4. Review existing zoning policies and explore zoning changes to facilitate the development of affordable housing.
5. Align zoning codes to conform to recent California affordable housing legislation.

Goal 2: Prevent displacement of low- and moderate-income residents with protected characteristics, including Hispanic residents, Vietnamese residents, other seniors, and people with disabilities.

Strategies:

1. Explore piloting a Right to Counsel Program to ensure legal representation for tenants in landlord-tenant proceedings, including those involving the application of new laws like A.B. 1482.

Goal 3: Increase community integration for persons with disabilities.

Strategies:

1. Conduct targeted outreach and provide tenant application assistance and support to persons with disabilities, including individuals transitioning from institutional settings and individuals who are at risk of institutionalization. As part of that assistance, maintain a database of housing that is accessible to persons with disabilities.
2. Consider adopting the accessibility standards adopted by the City of Los Angeles, which require at least 15 percent of all new units in city-supported Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects to be ADA-

¹The term “high opportunity areas” generally means locations where there are economic and social factors and amenities that provide a positive impact on a person’s life outcome. This is described in more detail in Section iii, Disparities in Access to Opportunity.

accessible, with at least 4 percent of total units to be accessible for persons with hearing and/or vision disabilities.

Goal 4: Ensure equal access to housing for persons with protected characteristics, who are disproportionately likely to be lower-income and to experience homelessness.

Strategies:

1. Reduce barriers to accessing rental housing by exploring eliminating application fees for voucher holders and encouraging landlords to follow HUD's guidance on the use of criminal backgrounds in screening tenants.
2. Consider incorporating a fair housing equity analysis into the review of significant rezoning proposals and specific plans.

Goal 5: Expand access to opportunities for protected classes.

Strategies:

1. Explore the voluntary adoption of Small Area Fair Market Rents or exception payment standards in order to increase access to higher opportunity areas for Housing Choice Voucher holders.
2. Continue implementing a mobility counseling program that informs Housing Choice Voucher holders about their residential options in higher opportunity areas and provides holistic support to voucher holders seeking to move to higher opportunity areas.
3. Study and make recommendations to improve and expand Orange County's public transportation to ensure that members of protected classes can access jobs in employment centers in Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Irvine.
4. Increase support for fair housing enforcement, education, and outreach.

CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA PROPOSED AI GOALS AND STRATEGIES

1. In collaboration with the Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA):
 - a. Attend quarterly OCHA Housing Advisory Committee to enhance the exchange of information regarding the availability, procedures, and policies related to the Housing Assistance Voucher program and regional housing issues.
 - b. Support OCHA's affirmative fair marketing plan and de-concentration policies by providing five-year and annual PHA plan certifications.
 - c. In coordination with OCHA and fair housing services provider, conduct landlord education campaign to educate property owners about State law prohibiting discrimination based on household income.
2. Through the City's fair housing contractor:
 - a. Provide fair housing education and information to apartment managers and homeowner associations on why denial of reasonable modifications/accommodations is unlawful.
 - b. Conduct multi-faceted fair housing outreach to tenants, landlords, property owners, realtors, and property management companies. Methods of outreach may include workshops, informational booths, presentations to community groups, and multi-lingual fair housing literature distribution.

- c. Provide general fair housing counseling and referrals services to address tenant-landlord issues, and investigate allegations of fair housing discrimination and take appropriate actions to conciliate cases or refer to appropriate authorities.
 - d. Periodically monitor local newspapers and online media outlets to identify potentially discriminatory housing advertisements.
 - e. Include testing/audits within the scope of work with a fair housing provider.
- 3. In cooperation with the Orange County Transportation Authority:
 - a. Provide community education regarding transport services for persons with disabilities.
 - b. Explore bus route options to ensure neighborhoods with a concentration of low-income or protected class populations have access to transportation services.
- 4. Monitor FBI data to determine if any hate crimes are housing-related and if there are actions that may be taken by the City's fair housing service provider to address potential discrimination linked to the biased motivations of hate crimes.
- 5. Support local eviction prevention strategies to reduce the number of homeless individuals and families (homelessness prevention services).
- 6. Seek funding through State programs (SB2/PLHA) to expand affordable housing and or homelessness prevention services.
- 7. Prepare a new Housing Element that is compliant with all current State laws and is certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.
- 8. Update zoning ordinance to comply with current State law.