

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

Elyria, Ohio, receives an annual entitlement allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Consolidated Plan provides direction on the investment of CDBG dollars over five years, from 2025 – 2029. Each year, the City will produce an Annual Action Plan that details how the City will carry out the goals and objectives identified in this Plan.

HUD provides a broad range of eligible activities that can be utilized with CDBG funding. A key feature of these grants is the City's ability to choose how to use the funds. The City must determine which eligible activities will best serve the community's needs. HUD requires grantees to develop a Five-Year Consolidated Plan to determine the most pressing needs and effective, place-based market-driven strategies to meet those needs. The Annual Action Plan addresses these needs.

The **Housing Needs Assessment (NA)** and **Housing Market Analysis (MA)** in the Consolidated Plan outline levels of relative need in affordable housing, homelessness, special needs, and community development. This information is gathered through several methods, including consultation with local agencies, public outreach, a review of demographic and economic data sets, and a housing market analysis.

The **Strategic Plan (SP)** details how the City will address its priority needs and utilize funding over the next five years. The strategies must reflect the current market condition, expected funding availability, and local capacity to administer the plan. The **Annual Action Plan (AAP)** describes funding and projects in 2026 and gives a more specific look into how the program will operate.

Consistent with HUD's mission, the City works to support community development priorities and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination. The City will embrace a high standard of ethics, management, and accountability in undertaking this work. The City will continue to form new partnerships that leverage resources and improve HUD's effectiveness at the community level.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

The City of Elyria’s PY 2026 CDBG activities are designed to further the goals established in the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan by providing decent housing, creating a suitable living environment, and expanding opportunities for low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents. The proposed activities respond directly to priority needs identified through the housing and homeless needs assessment, housing market analysis, stakeholder consultation, and citizen participation process.

The 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan identifies four primary strategic priorities:

- Provide Decent Housing
- Create a Suitable Living Environment
- Expand Opportunities for LMI Persons
- Support public services and neighborhood revitalization activities for vulnerable populations

The 2026 activities (refer to Project Summary) support these priorities through housing preservation, public services, youth programming, senior services, homelessness prevention, legal assistance, neighborhood revitalization, and public infrastructure improvements. The activities also address key findings from the housing market analysis, including aging housing stock, neighborhood disinvestment, housing cost burden, and the need for accessibility and public facility improvements.

The proposed activities are consistent with the Consolidated Plan goals for Public Services, Housing, and Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements. The projects also support the City’s anti-poverty strategy by improving housing stability, expanding access to supportive services, and increasing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents. Additionally, the public infrastructure improvements proposed for Ely Square Park directly support the Strategic Plan objective of creating safe, accessible public spaces and addressing deteriorated conditions within designated target areas.

Overall, the PY 2026 activities continue Elyria’s long-term strategy of leveraging CDBG resources to improve housing conditions, expand public services, strengthen neighborhoods, prevent homelessness, and improve quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the city.

3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

The City of Elyria has demonstrated strong performance in administering its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and complying with HUD requirements.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City of Elyria utilized an extensive citizen participation process to develop the PY 2026 Annual Action Plan and guide the establishment of funding priorities and community development goals.

As part of the citizen participation process, the City conducted multiple public hearings, public notices, stakeholder outreach and a formal public comment period. Public hearings were held throughout the planning process to review community needs, discuss funding availability, present proposed projects, and receive public input regarding priorities for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

In addition to public hearings and surveys (from the Consolidated Plan), the City sent citizen participation memorandums and funding requests to numerous local agencies and organizations requesting feedback on community needs and proposed activities. Agencies contacted included housing providers, youth service organizations, senior service providers, legal aid organizations, nonprofit agencies, and community development partners.

Feedback received through the citizen participation process directly influenced the City's goal-setting and project selection for the PY 2026 Annual Action Plan. Community input reinforced the need to prioritize:

- Housing preservation and rehabilitation;
- Public services for youth, seniors, and vulnerable households;
- Homelessness prevention and housing stability programs;
- Public facility and infrastructure improvements;
- Accessibility improvements; and
- Neighborhood revitalization activities

The City also utilized stakeholder consultation and public input to ensure that proposed projects aligned with the priorities identified in the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan and addressed the most pressing housing and community development needs within Elyria.

5. Summary of public comments

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

Public comments will be incorporated into the Plan as they are received.

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

TBD.

7. Summary

The proposed PY 2026 Annual Action Plan continues the goals and priorities established in the Consolidated Plan by funding activities that support housing stability, public services, youth development, senior services, neighborhood improvement, and community revitalization. Proposed 2026 activities include:

- Housing stabilization and legal assistance programs;
- Youth and after-school enrichment activities;
- Summer camps and recreation programming;
- Senior wellness and meal delivery services; and
- Educational programming for youth;
- Community garden and workforce development initiatives;
- Public infrastructure and accessibility improvements at Ely Square Park

The proposed Ely Square Park Improvements project supports downtown revitalization and addresses deteriorated public infrastructure, accessibility concerns, and pedestrian safety issues within the City's designated Slum and Blight Area. The City's prior performance also informed the development of the PY 2026 Action Plan. HUD's recent performance review acknowledged that Elyria has successfully administered its CDBG program, met reporting requirements, and demonstrated the capacity to carry out HUD-funded activities effectively. Overall, the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan and proposed PY 2026 Annual Action Plan reflect Elyria's ongoing commitment to improving housing conditions, supporting vulnerable populations, revitalizing neighborhoods, enhancing public infrastructure, and expanding opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the community.

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	ELYRIA	Office of Community Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Elyria Office of Community Development is the lead agency responsible for preparing the PY 2026 Annual Action Plan and administering the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Department coordinates the planning process, citizen participation activities, environmental review procedures, financial management, project monitoring, and compliance with all applicable HUD regulations.

The City works closely with nonprofit agencies, public service providers, and community organizations that carry out eligible CDBG-funded activities. These organizations may include agencies providing youth services, senior services, legal assistance, housing stabilization, public facility improvements, and neighborhood revitalization activities. However, the City of Elyria remains the responsible entity for overall grant administration and compliance with HUD requirements.

The City also maintains responsibility for ensuring that all activities funded under the Annual Action Plan are eligible under HUD regulations and meet the national objectives of benefiting low- and moderate-income persons, preventing or eliminating slum and blight, or addressing urgent community needs.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

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 Elyria continues to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health, and social service agencies through ongoing consultation, collaborative planning, and partnerships with regional service providers. The City works closely with the RaiseUp (fka Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA)), nonprofit organizations, Continuum of Care (CoC) agencies, and other community stakeholders to identify housing and supportive service needs and improve access to services for low- and moderate-income residents, homeless individuals, seniors, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations. As part of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan development process, the City consulted with agencies including RaiseUp, United Way of Greater Lorain County, Catholic Charities, Neighborhood Alliance, and other organizations that provide housing assistance, homeless services, youth services, senior services, disability services, and supportive programming. These consultations focused on affordable housing needs, homelessness prevention, supportive services, anti-poverty strategies, and opportunities for improved coordination and resource leveraging. The City also coordinates with the Continuum of Care and local nonprofit partners to support homelessness prevention activities, housing stabilization services, utility assistance, legal assistance, and supportive services for special-needs populations. Public service activities funded through the CDBG program are primarily implemented through nonprofit subrecipients and community agencies. Additionally, the City maintains an ongoing working relationship with RaiseUp to support affordable housing opportunities, public housing accessibility, resident engagement, and coordination of housing-related services throughout Elyria.

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.

The City of Elyria coordinates closely with the Lorain County Continuum of Care (CoC), nonprofit service providers, the local public housing agency, and regional stakeholders to address the needs of homeless persons and individuals at risk of homelessness. The City works collaboratively with agencies serving chronically homeless individuals, families with children, veterans, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, and unaccompanied youth to improve access to housing, supportive services, and homelessness prevention resources. The City also supports homelessness prevention and housing stability efforts through CDBG-funded public service activities, including legal assistance, utility

assistance, youth services, senior services, and other supportive programs administered by nonprofit subrecipients and community partners. Through these coordinated efforts, Elyria continues to strengthen partnerships among housing providers, service agencies, and community organizations to improve housing stability, prevent homelessness, and increase access to supportive services for vulnerable residents throughout the community.

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 of Elyria does not receive Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding directly and does not administer ESG funds or operate the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). However, the City coordinates closely with the Lorain County Continuum of Care (CoC) and regional service providers that administer homelessness assistance programs and supportive services throughout the jurisdiction.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy 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?	RaiseUp (LMHA) is a key partner in the discussion of critical housing needs.

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

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		

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

The City of Elyria implements its Consolidated Plan through a collaborative and regionally coordinated approach that emphasizes partnerships, resource leveraging, and interagency cooperation. By participating in countywide and regional planning efforts, the City works to align CDBG-funded activities with broader community development and housing strategies, reduce duplication of services, and strengthen the overall impact of federal investments for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the region.

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 of Elyria utilized an extensive citizen participation process to develop the PY 2026 Annual Action Plan and guide the establishment of funding priorities and community development goals.

As part of the citizen participation process, the City conducted multiple public hearings, public notices, stakeholder outreach and a formal public comment period. Public hearings were held throughout the planning process to review community needs, discuss funding availability, present proposed projects, and receive public input regarding priorities for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

In addition to public hearings and surveys (from the Consolidated Plan), the City sent citizen participation memorandums and funding requests to numerous local agencies and organizations requesting feedback on community needs and proposed activities. Agencies contacted included housing providers, youth service organizations, senior service providers, legal aid organizations, nonprofit agencies, and community development partners.

Feedback received through the citizen participation process directly influenced the City's goal-setting and project selection for the PY 2026 Annual Action Plan. Community input reinforced the need to prioritize:

- Housing preservation and rehabilitation;
- Public services for youth, seniors, and vulnerable households;
- Homelessness prevention and housing stability programs;
- Public facility and infrastructure improvements;
- Accessibility improvements; and
- Neighborhood revitalization activities

The City also utilized stakeholder consultation and public input to ensure that proposed projects aligned with the priorities identified in the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan and addressed the most pressing housing and community development needs within Elyria.

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 Hearing	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The City held its first public hearing on March 9, 2026. See sign-in sheets in the Exhibits section of the Plan.	See public hearing comments in the Exhibits Section of the Plan.	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 Hearing	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The City held its second public hearing on May 11, 2026. See sign-in sheets in the Exhibits section of the Plan.	See public hearing comments in the Exhibits Section of the Plan.		
3	Public Hearing	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The City held its second public hearing on May 26, 2026. See sign-in sheets in the Exhibits section of the Plan.	See public hearing comments in the Exhibits Section of the Plan.		

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)
4	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Public comment period notice advertised in the Chronicle Telegram on April 27, 2026.	NA	NA	
5	Internet Outreach	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The Plan was posted on the City's website June 1, 2026-July 6, 2026. The City requested public input.			

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)
6	Email	Stakeholder Agencies	The City requested input from multiple stakeholders that work directly with LMI, vulnerable and homeless populations.			

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The City of Elyria anticipates utilizing 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, prior year resources, program income, and leveraged public and private investments to address priority housing and community development needs identified in the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan. These resources will support activities that provide decent housing, create a suitable living environment, and expand opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the community.

Anticipated resources will be directed toward housing rehabilitation and preservation, public services, slum & blight, fair housing efforts, and program administration. In addition to federal entitlement funding, the City will continue to coordinate with nonprofit agencies, local organizations, state programs, and private-sector partners to maximize available resources and strengthen the impact of community development investments.

The City also seeks to leverage additional funding opportunities, including housing rehabilitation assistance through the Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) program and other local and regional partnerships, to expand the number of households served and improve overall project effectiveness. Through strategic coordination and responsible administration of funds, Elyria will continue working to address community priorities and improve the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	692,349.00	15,000.00	0.00	707,349.00	2,222,055.00	The City anticipated receiving \$728,601 (2025 Allocation) annually in the ConPlan. In 2026, the City received \$692,349.

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 of Elyria utilizes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding as a catalyst to leverage additional local, state, federal, and private resources that support housing, public service, and community development activities throughout the community. Although the City does not receive additional HUD entitlement funding sources that require formal matching contributions, such as HOME, HOPWA, or ESG, the City works closely with nonprofit agencies, service providers, and community partners to maximize the impact of federal investments.

Projects implemented by outside agencies are expected to leverage CDBG funding with other financial resources, including local fundraising, private donations, grants, volunteer support, and state and federal funding opportunities. Affordable housing and housing rehabilitation activities may also utilize additional public and private funding sources to expand the number of households assisted and address broader community development needs.

The City requires subrecipients to document and report matching funds, leveraged resources, and in-kind contributions associated with funded

activities. This coordination helps maximize program effectiveness and ensures that limited CDBG resources are used strategically to address the greatest community needs.

In particular, the City continues to leverage housing rehabilitation activities with funding from a competitive Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) grant program. By coordinating CDBG and CHIP resources, the City can target rehabilitation assistance more effectively, address critical housing conditions, and increase the total number of low- and moderate-income households served.

Additionally, many proposed public service activities are administered through nonprofit organizations that contribute staffing, volunteer labor, operational support, and other resources to supplement CDBG funding. These partnerships strengthen the delivery of services for youth, seniors, homeless persons, and vulnerable households while expanding the overall impact of the City's community development efforts.

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

The City of Elyria owns multiple vacant lots throughout the jurisdiction that may be utilized to help address housing and community development needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. The City continues to work with developers and community partners to encourage redevelopment opportunities and incentivize the construction of affordable housing on suitable publicly owned properties.

These efforts support the City's goals of expanding access to safe and affordable housing, reducing vacancy and blight, encouraging neighborhood revitalization, and increasing housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents. Publicly owned land may also provide opportunities for future residential development, neighborhood stabilization activities, or other eligible community development projects consistent with the priorities outlined in the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

Discussion

The City of Elyria recognizes that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding alone is not sufficient to address all identified housing, infrastructure, and community development needs within the jurisdiction. As a result, the City emphasizes leveraging federal funds with additional local, state, private, and nonprofit resources to maximize the overall impact of community investments and expand the number of residents served.

The City works closely with nonprofit organizations, service providers, public agencies, and private-sector partners to coordinate funding sources and encourage collaborative project implementation. Many subrecipients receiving CDBG assistance contribute additional financial support through grants, fundraising activities, volunteer labor, donated materials, operational support, and in-kind services. These leveraged resources help strengthen program delivery and improve the sustainability of public service and neighborhood improvement activities.

The City also coordinates housing rehabilitation activities with additional state and regional funding opportunities, including the Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) program. By combining CDBG and CHIP resources, the City can more effectively address critical housing conditions, improve energy efficiency, preserve affordable housing, and expand the number of low- and moderate-income households assisted through rehabilitation programs.

In addition, public infrastructure and community facility projects are often coordinated with local capital improvement efforts, departmental resources, and outside partnerships to maximize long-term neighborhood impact and support broader revitalization goals. The City's ongoing coordination with regional organizations, housing agencies, and service providers further strengthens its ability to align resources, reduce duplication of services, and address the community's most pressing needs.

Through these leveraging efforts, Elyria continues to promote efficient use of federal funding while expanding opportunities for affordable housing, neighborhood stabilization, public services, and community development activities that benefit low- and moderate-income residents.

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	Planning and Administration	2025	2029	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Provide Decent Housing Create A Suitable Living Environment Expand Opportunities for LMI Persons	CDBG: \$134,349.00	Other: 1 Other
2	Public Services	2025	2029	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Create A Suitable Living Environment	CDBG: \$88,500.00	

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements	2025	2029	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG Target Area	Create A Suitable Living Environment	CDBG: \$170,000.00	Other: 1 Other
4	Housing	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	City-wide	Provide Decent Housing	CDBG: \$299,500.00	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Planning and Administration
	Goal Description	<p>The Planning and Administration goal supports the effective management, oversight, and implementation of the City of Elyria’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and related community development activities. Administrative funding will be used to support planning, financial management, environmental review, fair housing activities, citizen participation, reporting, project monitoring, and compliance with applicable federal regulations. The City is committed to maintaining a community development program that is efficient, transparent, and responsive to local needs. Administrative activities will help ensure that federal resources are managed responsibly and that funded projects are implemented in accordance with HUD requirements and the goals established in the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan. Planning and administration activities also support coordination with nonprofit organizations, housing providers, regional agencies, and community stakeholders to strengthen partnerships, leverage resources, and improve the delivery of housing and community development programs. Through ongoing planning efforts, public outreach, and performance evaluation, the City will continue to identify priority needs and direct resources toward activities that benefit low- and moderate-income residents throughout Elyria.</p>
2	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	<p>The Public Services goal supports programs that address the immediate needs of low- and moderate-income residents and strengthen the overall quality of life in Elyria. Public service activities are an important part of the City’s community development strategy because they provide direct assistance to vulnerable populations, including youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, households at risk of homelessness, and residents experiencing financial hardship.</p> <p>During PY 2026, the City anticipates funding public service activities that may include youth enrichment, after-school and summer programming, senior services, food access, emergency assistance, legal services, and other supportive programs that promote housing stability and self-sufficiency. These activities are intended to complement the City’s housing, infrastructure, and neighborhood revitalization efforts by addressing individual and household needs that affect long-term stability.</p> <p>The City will continue to work with nonprofit agencies and community partners to deliver public services efficiently, avoid duplication of efforts, and maximize the impact of limited CDBG resources. Public service funding will be targeted to eligible activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons and support the goals of creating a suitable living environment and expanding opportunities for Elyria residents.</p>

3	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements
	Goal Description	<p>The Public Infrastructure Improvements goal focuses on enhancing publicly owned infrastructure and facilities that improve neighborhood conditions, increase accessibility, and support the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the City of Elyria. Public infrastructure investments are intended to address deteriorated conditions, improve public safety, support accessibility, and strengthen community stability through targeted neighborhood and public facility improvements.</p> <p>Eligible activities may include sidewalk improvements, ADA accessibility upgrades, park and playground improvements, streetscape enhancements, curb cuts, and improvements to publicly owned facilities or nonprofit facilities open to the general public. These improvements help create safer, more accessible, and more livable neighborhoods while supporting long-term community revitalization efforts.</p> <p>During PY 2026, the City anticipates undertaking a public facility project that address aging public improvements, pedestrian safety concerns and accessibility barriers. Particular emphasis is placed on a project located within the designated slum and blight area.</p> <p>The City will continue coordinating with local departments, community organizations, and regional partners to maximize the impact of infrastructure investments and ensure that projects support the goals established in the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan. Through these improvements, Elyria seeks to promote community pride, neighborhood sustainability, and improved public amenities for residents throughout the community.</p>

4	Goal Name	Housing
	Goal Description	<p>The Housing goal focuses on preserving and improving the supply of safe, decent, and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the City of Elyria. The City recognizes that maintaining housing stability and improving housing conditions are critical to neighborhood sustainability, economic opportunity, and overall quality of life.</p> <p>During PY 2026, the City anticipates supporting housing preservation and rehabilitation activities that address deteriorated housing conditions, code deficiencies, accessibility concerns, and energy efficiency needs within Elyria’s aging housing stock. Eligible activities may include single-family rehabilitation, emergency home repairs, code enforcement, lead-based paint hazard reduction, housing rehabilitation program delivery, and other housing-related assistance that benefits income-eligible households.</p> <p>The City will continue implementing the emergency home repair program that help preserve existing affordable housing, reduce the impacts of deferred maintenance, and improve the health and safety of residential properties.</p> <p>Through these efforts, the City seeks to reduce housing instability, preserve neighborhood character, address blighting conditions, and improve living conditions for low- and moderate-income residents. The City will continue coordinating housing activities with local and regional partners, including nonprofit organizations and state-funded housing programs, to maximize available resources and expand the number of households assisted.</p>

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City of Elyria’s PY 2026 Annual Action Plan outlines the projects and activities that will be undertaken using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to address priority housing and community development needs identified in the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan. The proposed projects are intended to benefit low- and moderate-income residents by providing decent housing, creating a suitable living environment, and expanding community and economic opportunities throughout the City.

For Program Year 2026, the City anticipates receiving a CDBG entitlement allocation of approximately \$692,349, along with an estimated \$15,000 in program income, for total anticipated resources of approximately \$707,349. Final funding amounts may be adjusted based on HUD allocation notices and actual program income received.

The PY 2026 funding allocation is organized into four primary project categories:

- Administration and Planning activities that support program management, environmental review, citizen participation, fair housing activities, compliance, and overall administration of the CDBG program;
- Public Services activities that provide direct assistance to low- and moderate-income residents through youth programming, senior services, legal assistance, housing stabilization, food access, and other supportive services;
- Public Facility and Infrastructure Improvement activities that address slum and blight; and
- Housing Rehabilitation activities that preserve and improve the City’s housing stock through rehabilitation assistance for low-moderate income households.

The projects included in the PY 2026 Annual Action Plan were developed through citizen participation, stakeholder consultation, community needs assessment, and coordination with nonprofit agencies, housing providers, and community partners. The City will continue to leverage additional local, state, federal, and private resources to maximize the impact of CDBG investments and address the most critical housing and community development needs within Elyria.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	General Administration
2	Public Services
3	Housing Rehabilitation
4	Public Facility & Infrastructure Improvements

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The City of Elyria's project allocation priorities are based on the needs identified through the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan, citizen participation process, stakeholder consultation, housing and market analysis, and ongoing evaluation of local community development needs. Priority is given to projects that principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons, preserve affordable housing, improve neighborhood conditions, enhance public infrastructure, and provide supportive services to vulnerable populations.

For PY 2026, funding priorities emphasize four primary areas: Administration and Planning, Public Services, Public Facility and Infrastructure Improvements, and Housing Rehabilitation. These priorities reflect the City's commitment to addressing aging housing conditions, neighborhood revitalization needs, accessibility improvements, homelessness prevention, youth and senior services, and public safety concerns throughout the community.

Housing Rehabilitation activities are prioritized due to the age and condition of Elyria's housing stock and the ongoing need for emergency repairs, code enforcement, accessibility improvements, and housing preservation assistance for low- and moderate-income homeowners. Public Service funding is prioritized to support programs serving youth, seniors, households experiencing financial hardship, and other vulnerable populations through educational, recreational, legal, wellness, and supportive service activities.

Public Infrastructure Improvement projects are prioritized to address deteriorated public facilities, pedestrian safety concerns, ADA accessibility barriers, and revitalization needs within eligible low- and moderate-income areas and designated slum and blight areas. Planning and Administration funding supports the City's ability to effectively manage, monitor, and implement federally funded activities in compliance with HUD regulations.

The primary obstacle to addressing underserved needs is the limited amount of available funding compared to the significant housing, infrastructure, and service demands within the community. The City continues to experience substantial need for housing rehabilitation, public services, neighborhood improvements, and homelessness prevention assistance, while rising construction costs and economic challenges further impact the ability to fully address identified needs.

Additional obstacles include aging infrastructure, limited affordable housing inventory, increasing maintenance costs, and growing demand for supportive services among low- and moderate-income households. To address these challenges, the City continues to leverage partnerships with nonprofit agencies, public service organizations, housing providers, and state and regional funding sources to maximize available resources and expand the impact of CDBG-funded activities.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	General Administration
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Planning and Administration
	Needs Addressed	Provide Decent Housing Create A Suitable Living Environment Expand Opportunities for LMI Persons
	Funding	CDBG: \$134,349.00
	Description	General Administration activities support the effective oversight, coordination, and implementation of the City of Elyria Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Administrative funding will be utilized to ensure compliance with HUD regulations and to support the planning, management, and delivery of eligible community development activities identified in the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and PY 2026 Annual Action Plan. Eligible administrative activities may include financial management, environmental review procedures, fair housing activities, citizen participation, labor standards compliance, project monitoring, reporting requirements, grant administration, and preparation of required HUD planning documents, including the Annual Action Plan and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). General Administration funds also support coordination with nonprofit agencies, housing providers, public service organizations, and regional partners to strengthen program delivery and maximize the impact of federal resources. Through ongoing planning, monitoring, and technical assistance, the City seeks to maintain a community development program that is efficient, transparent, compliant, and responsive to the needs of low- and moderate-income residents.
	Target Date	9/30/2027
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
2	Project Name	Public Services
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services

	Needs Addressed	Create A Suitable Living Environment
	Funding	CDBG: \$88,500.00
	Description	The City of Elyria’s proposed PY 2026 public service activities are intended to address a wide range of community needs affecting low- and moderate-income residents, including youth development, senior services, housing stability, food access, education, recreation, and supportive services. Public service funding will support programs that improve quality of life, promote self-sufficiency, prevent homelessness, and provide safe and supportive environments for vulnerable populations throughout the community. Proposed activities include youth-focused educational and enrichment programs, after-school tutoring and mentoring services, summer recreation and camp programming, arts and cultural activities, legal assistance, senior wellness and nutrition programs, and housing stabilization services. These programs are designed to provide direct assistance to residents while complementing the City’s broader housing, neighborhood revitalization, and anti-poverty efforts.
	Target Date	9/30/2027
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Overall, the City estimates that several hundred low- and moderate-income persons and households will benefit directly or indirectly from the proposed PY 2026 activities. Specific beneficiary numbers will vary based on final project implementation, funding availability, and program participation levels.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Detailed descriptions of the proposed PY 2026 activities, including project scope, beneficiaries and, funding amounts are included in the Activity Narratives & Budget contained within the Exhibits section of this Annual Action Plan. The Activity Narratives provide additional information regarding each proposed public service, housing, public infrastructure, and administrative activity recommended for funding under the City of Elyria’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
3	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Housing
	Needs Addressed	Provide Decent Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$313,000.00

<p>Description</p>	<p>The Housing Rehabilitation project will support the City of Elyria’s ongoing efforts to preserve safe, decent, and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents. During PY 2026, the City anticipates supporting housing preservation and rehabilitation activities that address deteriorated housing conditions, code deficiencies, accessibility concerns, and energy efficiency needs within Elyria’s aging housing stock. The City will continue operating its Emergency Owner-Occupied Home Repair Program, which provides assistance to eligible low- and moderate-income homeowners for specific repairs that eliminate conditions detrimental to the safety and health of residents. Eligible repairs may include electrical and plumbing repairs, removal of architectural barriers for disabled residents, replacement of inoperable or unsafe hot water tanks and furnaces, and roof replacement. Assistance is available for single-family, owner-occupied homes located within the City of Elyria. Homeowners must occupy the home as their primary residence, meet income eligibility requirements, provide proof of ownership, maintain homeowners insurance, and be current on property taxes. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis as funding is available.</p>
<p>Target Date</p>	<p>9/30/2027</p>
<p>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</p>	<p>The City anticipates assisting a minimum of 10 low- and moderate-income homeowner households through housing rehabilitation and emergency repair activities during PY 2026. These improvements will help preserve the existing affordable housing stock, improve health and safety conditions, support aging in place, reduce the risk of displacement, and promote long-term neighborhood stability.</p>
<p>Location Description</p>	<p>The Housing Rehabilitation and Emergency Home Repair Program will be available to eligible low- and moderate-income homeowners residing within the City of Elyria corporate limits. Activities may be undertaken throughout the jurisdiction on an as-needed basis, and there is no designated target area for the program. Assistance will be provided to eligible households meeting program requirements and income eligibility guidelines.</p>

	Planned Activities	<p>The City will continue operating its Emergency Owner-Occupied Home Repair Program, which provides assistance to eligible low- and moderate-income homeowners for specific repairs that eliminate conditions detrimental to the safety and health of residents. Eligible repairs may include electrical and plumbing repairs, removal of architectural barriers for disabled residents, replacement of inoperable or unsafe hot water tanks and furnaces, and roof replacement.</p> <p>Assistance is available for single-family, owner-occupied homes located within the City of Elyria. Homeowners must occupy the home as their primary residence, meet income eligibility requirements, provide proof of ownership, maintain homeowner’s insurance, and be current on property taxes. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis as funding is available.</p>
4	Project Name	Public Facility & Infrastructure Improvements
Target Area	CDBG Target Area	
Goals Supported		
Needs Addressed		
Funding	:	
Description	<p>During PY 2026, the City anticipates undertaking improvements that address deteriorated public infrastructure, improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, and support slum and blight efforts. Public infrastructure investments are intended to create safer and more accessible public spaces while supporting long-term community sustainability and economic vitality. These improvements will benefit residents throughout the community by enhancing public amenities, encouraging community engagement, improving pedestrian safety, and addressing conditions that negatively impact neighborhood appearance and functionality. Public infrastructure activities will be implemented in accordance with the goals and priorities identified in the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and will primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons or eligible target areas within the City.</p>	
Target Date		
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities		

<p>Location Description</p>	<p>The proposed Ely Square Park Improvement project is located within the City of Elyria’s designated Slum and Blight Area. The project area includes downtown Elyria and surrounding public spaces that serve residents, visitors, and businesses throughout the community. Improvements are intended to address deteriorated public infrastructure, enhance accessibility and pedestrian safety, and support ongoing neighborhood and downtown revitalization efforts within the designated area.</p>
<p>Planned Activities</p>	<p>The Elyria Parks and Recreation Department is requesting \$170,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to renovate deteriorated public infrastructure within Ely Square Park, located in the City’s designated Slum and Blight Area.</p> <p>The project will address deteriorated conditions within the downtown public square, including aging and damaged concrete sidewalks, deteriorated planter areas, and obsolete site amenities. Existing sidewalks have cracked, shifted, and settled over time, creating tripping hazards, drainage issues, and barriers to accessibility. These deteriorated conditions contribute to blighting influences within the downtown area.</p> <p>Funding will be used for the removal and replacement of deteriorated concrete sidewalks, ADA accessibility improvements, reconstruction of planter areas, installation of updated landscaping materials, and replacement of outdated site furnishings with permanent concrete picnic tables and seating areas. The project includes approximately 24,560 square feet of sidewalk replacement, reconstruction of approximately 615 linear feet of planter beds, replacement of 12 deteriorated planters, and installation of 4 permanent concrete picnic tables with associated seating areas. These improvements will remediate visible conditions of deterioration, improve public safety and accessibility, and support ongoing revitalization efforts within downtown Elyria.</p> <p>Ely Square Park serves as a central public gathering space utilized year-round for community events, recreational activities, and daily pedestrian use. Improvements to this public facility will enhance the appearance, safety, and functionality of a highly visible public space within the certified Slum and Blight Area.</p>

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 funded through the PY 2026 Annual Action Plan are intended to benefit low- and moderate-income residents citywide through housing rehabilitation, public services, public infrastructure improvements, and neighborhood enhancement activities. Several neighborhoods within Elyria contain concentrations of low-income households, aging housing stock, and minority populations that experience higher levels of housing cost burden, deferred maintenance, infrastructure deterioration, and economic hardship. These areas generally include older residential neighborhoods and portions of the downtown area where public investment and revitalization activities are needed to improve housing conditions, accessibility, public safety, and neighborhood stability. Public service activities funded through the CDBG program are available to eligible low- and moderate-income residents throughout the City. Housing rehabilitation and emergency repair programs are also administered citywide and are available to income-eligible households residing within Elyria corporate limits. There are no specific target areas for these housing programs. The City has also designated a Slum and Blight Area within portions of the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods where deteriorated infrastructure, aging public facilities, vacancy, and blighting conditions exist.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
CDBG Target Area	25
City-wide	75

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City of Elyria does not primarily allocate investments based on specific geographic target areas. Instead, funding decisions are generally based on the type of activity proposed, the eligible beneficiaries served, and compliance with HUD national objective requirements. Many activities funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program are citywide programs that are available to eligible low- and moderate-income residents throughout the jurisdiction.

For activities qualifying under the Low- and Moderate-Income Area Benefit (LMA) national objective, the City considers the geographic service area and the population that will benefit from the proposed improvement. Examples may include public infrastructure or park improvement projects where the primary beneficiaries are residents within an eligible low- and moderate-income service area.

The City also considers regulatory requirements and HUD compliance standards when allocating investments geographically. This includes ensuring compliance with HUD limitations related to activities

qualifying under the Slum and Blight national objective. The City monitors funding allocations to ensure that activities undertaken within designated Slum and Blight Areas remain within allowable HUD thresholds, including maintaining compliance with the overall limitation that such activities not exceed 30 percent of the City's CDBG allocation.

Through this approach, the City seeks to balance community-wide service delivery, neighborhood improvement needs, and regulatory compliance while ensuring that CDBG resources principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons throughout Elyria.

Discussion

The City of Elyria allocates CDBG funding based primarily on community needs, eligible beneficiaries, and HUD national objective requirements rather than specific geographic target areas. Many activities are offered citywide to benefit eligible low- and moderate-income residents, while certain public infrastructure projects are directed toward eligible Low- and Moderate-Income Area (LMA) service areas or designated Slum and Blight Areas. The City also ensures compliance with HUD regulations, including limitations on activities qualifying under the Slum and Blight national objective.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Consistent with the priorities identified in the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan, the City continues to focus on housing preservation, rehabilitation, emergency repairs, accessibility improvements, and housing stability activities that address the needs of low- and moderate-income households. Elyria’s aging housing stock, housing cost burdens, deferred maintenance issues, and ongoing demand for affordable housing assistance remain significant community concerns. Through the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and leveraged resources, the City anticipates supporting activities that preserve existing affordable housing, improve housing conditions, reduce health and safety hazards, and assist eligible homeowners in maintaining stable housing. The City also coordinates with the Lorain County Continuum of Care (CoC) and regional service providers that deliver key services for homeless and at-risk populations. These services include emergency shelter, coordinated entry, case management, housing stabilization, supportive services, homelessness prevention assistance, and referrals to permanent housing resources for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	10
Special-Needs	0
Total	10

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	10
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	10

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

Discussion

The City will continue coordinating with nonprofit organizations, housing agencies, regional partners, and state-funded housing programs to maximize available resources and expand affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the community.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) is one of the largest landlords in Lorain County and offers various affordable housing programs. LMHA housing programs include Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), Elderly Housing (LCEHC), Market Rate, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).

LMHA currently maintains and manages 1376 public housing units, including 80 scattered units, 200 Section 8 New Construction units, 51 Low Income Housing Tax Credit units, and 11 Market Rate units (seven 0 bedroom/1-bedroom apartments and four single-family 3-bedroom ranch homes), all located in Lorain, Elyria, Amherst, Oberlin, and Sheffield Township.

LMHA also manages 2974 Section 8 Vouchers in the Housing Choice Voucher Program, including 75 VASH vouchers for homeless veterans qualified by the VA, and 175 NED vouchers for Non-Elderly Disabled individuals.

LMHA has 674 units designated for elderly/persons with disabilities located in Lorain, Elyria, Oberlin, and Amherst. Two buildings (200 units) located in Lorain and Elyria are designated solely for the elderly and persons with disabilities. Family developments consist of 702 units located in Lorain, Elyria, Oberlin, and Sheffield Township.

Eligible applicants pay 30% of their adjusted gross income toward rent. All utilities are provided in the high-rise units. High rise residents are responsible to pay for their own telephone and cable television services. Residents in family developments are responsible for payment of gas and electricity.

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

The City of Elyria maintains a close working relationship with the PHA.

We will continue to explore opportunities for further cooperation and coordination.

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

The Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority communities have an elected Resident Council. The council addresses community challenges and questions and acts as the link with LMHA staff. LMHA recognizes the importance of coordination between residents and staff, allowing residents more connection to day-to-day management of communities.

LMHA administers two programs that seek to improve participants' ability to be self-sufficient. Both

programs, described below, have successfully helped many Lorain County residents improve not only their living environments but also their overall quality of life.

Family Self Sufficiency Program:

The LMHA administers the Family Self-Sufficiency program. This program is designed to remove barriers participants experience when working towards self-sufficiency and to decrease dependency on public assistance. The participant sets goals that he or she would like to achieve in the next 5 years. The FSS Case Manager helps the participant identify barriers and methods for overcoming the obstacles that are keeping them from achieving their goals. This is accomplished by maintaining multiple partnership with service agencies in Lorain County. Participants are connected to the appropriate agency to meet their need. As an incentive for achievement, the participant earns money managed by the LMHA in an interest bearing escrow account. As the participant's rent portion increases because of their earned income increasing, deposits are made into this account. The participant is given the money in their escrow account upon graduation. Graduation happens when the participant achieves all of their goals.

This program has been incredibly successful since its inception over 15 years ago. Many FSS program graduates received checks over \$20,000. The average check ranges from \$2,000 to \$8,000. Most participants use their money for a down payment on a home, the purchase of a car, and other responsible ways that increase their financial well-being.

Housing Choice Voucher Program's Home Ownership Option Program:

The LMHA administers the Housing Choice Vouchers Program's (HCVP) Home Ownership Option. This program gives the HCVP participant the ability to pay a house payment for a home they own instead of paying a rent payment. Eligible HCVP participants are educated and counseled by a HUD certified Housing Counselor. If a participant is not immediately mortgage ready, the counselor will work with them on improving items such as money management, credit score, debt-to-income ratio, reserves, and other areas that require improvement so they participant can secure approval for a home loan.

Once the participant secures pre-approval for a mortgage, they will hire a realtor and search Lorain County for their perfect home. The home must pass LMHA's Housing Quality Standards as well as receive a satisfactory independent inspection. Once the prospective homebuyer closes on their home, LMHA will make housing assistance payments to the homeowner so they can pay their house payment. The HUD Housing Counselor will continue to work with the homeowner after the purchase to ensure a smooth transition from renting into homeownership.

Housing assistance payments are made for up to 15 years for homeowners who are able to work and 30 years for homeowners who are elderly or with a disability. Most working homeowners leave the Homeownership program before the 15-year mark because their earnings exceed the programs limit. The homeownership program has helped 179 families purchase a home of their own.

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

NA

Discussion

LMHA offers, hosts, coordinates, and/or manages numerous robust programming to assist residents. These enrichment opportunities assist households in maintaining strong social connections, increasing self-sufficiency, and supporting the greater development of key life skills. Programs include the following:

Family Developments

- After-School Tutoring Program
- Lorain County Health and Dentistry on-site
- Summer Program
- Girl Scouts
- Family Focus Group
- Child Care
- Job Fairs
- After-School Nutrition Program
- Tuition Assistance
- Green Thumb Beautification Program
- Boys & Girls Club of Lorain County
- Boy Scouts
- Family Self-Sufficiency Program
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Teen Programs
- Food Pantries
- Recreational Programs
- Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB)

High-Rise Developments

- Computer Kiosk
- Social Activities
- Exercise Equipment Available
- Resident Assistance Watch

- Transportation Program (limited)
- Tuition Assistance
- Green Thumb Beautification Program
- Arts & Crafts
- Medical Screenings
- Resident Councils
- Group Outings (limited)
- Recreational Programs
- Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB)

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

Introduction

The Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities section of the PY 2026 Annual Action Plan describes the City of Elyria's efforts to support homeless persons, individuals at risk of homelessness, and persons with special needs through coordination with regional service providers, nonprofit organizations, and the Lorain County Continuum of Care (CoC). Although the City does not receive additional HUD entitlement funding sources specifically targeted toward homelessness activities, including HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), or Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds, the City continues to collaborate with agencies that provide housing assistance, supportive services, homelessness prevention, and coordinated care throughout the region.

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

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

The City of Elyria will continue to work collaboratively with the Lorain County Continuum of Care (CoC), Neighborhood Alliance, United Way of Greater Lorain County, and other local service providers to reach homeless persons, particularly unsheltered individuals and families, and assess their individual housing and supportive service needs. The City remains committed to helping residents maintain stable housing, preventing homelessness whenever possible, and assisting individuals and families who are already experiencing homelessness in transitioning into permanent housing and supportive services. The City recognizes that the availability of year-round emergency shelter options remains limited within the region, and addressing this unmet need continues to be a high priority among local stakeholders and CoC partners. While discussions regarding additional shelter solutions and expanded housing resources are ongoing through the Continuum of Care planning process, the City acknowledges that development of long-term solutions may require multiple years of coordination, planning, and resource development. Outreach and supportive services for homeless persons are coordinated primarily through the Continuum of Care and its partner agencies. Neighborhood Alliance administers the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program, which provides intensive outreach services to Lorain County residents who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness and who suffer from mental illness. Through PATH, outreach workers engage unsheltered individuals and families, assess their needs, and connect them with mental health treatment, supportive services, housing resources, case management, and other assistance intended to help end homelessness and improve housing stability. In addition, City representatives participate in monthly Continuum of Care meetings and maintain ongoing communication with local service agencies to identify emerging needs, coordinate referrals, and improve access to housing and supportive services for vulnerable populations throughout Elyria and Lorain County.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Coordinated Entry, operated through the St. Elizabeth Center, serves as the primary access point for individuals and families throughout Lorain County seeking emergency shelter and housing assistance. Coordinated Entry serves men, women, and children and works to connect individuals with the most appropriate shelter placement, housing resource, or supportive service based on their unique needs and circumstances. The system accepts referrals and requests for assistance through phone calls, online communication, and walk-in appointments, helping to ensure accessibility for persons experiencing homelessness. Through the Coordinated Entry process, individuals are assessed and referred to emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, supportive services, case management, mental health resources, and other housing stabilization programs available within the region. The system also helps prioritize households with the greatest needs and improves coordination among service providers throughout Lorain County.

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

The City's efforts to support the transition of persons experiencing homelessness will be broad and flexible so that service providers can adapt to clients' needs as economic and housing conditions change.

This support may include funding:

- Creation of affordable rental and ownership housing,
- Support for the development of transitional and permanent supportive housing units,
- Emergency repairs and rehabilitation to preserve existing affordable housing and improve the housing conditions of existing low-income residents, and

Nonprofit organizations provide supportive services to help stabilize residents at risk of and experiencing homelessness. These include, but are not limited to, emergency assistance, job training and skill development, and transportation assistance.

Lorain County Continuum of Care is a collaborative of multiple service providers, including emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, permanent support housing, and other supportive services to create a network of resources for homeless individuals and families, families with children, and their families, and unaccompanied youth. The Continuum of Care is a funding and planning organization that helps partner communities plan for and provide, as necessary, a full range of emergency, transition, permanent housing, and other resources to address the various needs of homeless persons. The

Continuum of Care meets monthly to discuss housing options for those who have completed the coordinated entry process. Using the prioritization list generated by HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), housing options are discussed and arranged. HMIS prioritizes residents based on the chronicity of homelessness and the severity of needs demonstrated through a common assessment tool -the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Assistance Tool). There is a separate meeting with the same process to discuss veterans. This group is coordinated with Valor Home, the local shelter for veterans, as well as other providers who serve veterans.

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.

Diversion Screening is a key part of the Coordinated Entry process. Diversion Screening determines if persons experiencing a housing crisis can be/remain housed or if they absolutely must enter the homeless system. Quality screening helps to reduce needless entries into the homeless system and standardizes access to program referrals. Coordinated Entry is aware of the many programs and resources available in our County. Coordinated Entry works with 211. Continuum of Care has a relationship with Citizen’s Circle for Recovery and The Lorain County Re-Entry Coalition to address the needs of those being released from correctional programs and institutions. Within the Continuum of Care, there are partnering agencies that represent healthcare facilities, mental health facilities, programs, and facilities. The Continuum of Care also has a relationship with housing providers who address the needs of those aging out of foster care.

The City of Elyria does not directly participate in the discharge planning or protocols for persons leaving publicly funded institutions or healthcare systems or receiving assistance from public and private agencies (health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or correction programs and institutions).

All of the local agencies serving the homeless population work together to ensure that people receive the appropriate services. The agencies also maintain ties with institutions that release people from their care or custody, whether publicly or privately funded.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) employs Community Linkage Social Worker (CLSW) staff who work with adult offenders in Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) prisons and juvenile offenders at Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) facilities. They provide qualifying offenders with appointments and referrals to support services that promote successful re-integration into the community after discharge, such as housing and health care services.

OhioMHAS also plays a crucial role in overseeing and providing leadership for high-quality mental health and addiction treatment and recovery services across the state. This includes setting standards and guidelines for discharge planning and care coordination from mental health facilities to ensure continuity of care and successful transitions back into the community.

Discussion

The City works closely with the Lorain County Continuum of Care and participating stakeholders to identify local homelessness needs, improve coordination among service providers, and support programs that assist homeless individuals, families, veterans, youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Continuum of Care funding decisions and priorities are developed collaboratively with input from regional stakeholders, housing providers, nonprofit organizations, and supportive service agencies to ensure resources are directed toward the areas of greatest need. Through ongoing consultation, participation in monthly CoC meetings, and coordination with community partners, the City supports a regional approach to addressing homelessness, housing instability, and supportive service needs for vulnerable populations throughout Elyria and Lorain County.

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

Introduction:

The Barriers to Affordable Housing section identifies public policies, market conditions, and local challenges that may affect the development, preservation, and availability of affordable housing within the City of Elyria. Access to safe and affordable housing remains a priority for the City, particularly for low- and moderate-income households, seniors, persons with disabilities, families with children, and residents at risk of housing instability. Elyria continues to face barriers related to aging housing stock, rising construction and rehabilitation costs, limited affordable rental supply, household cost burden, and the need for accessible housing options. The City also recognizes that local regulations, development costs, infrastructure needs, and broader market conditions can influence the ability to create or preserve affordable housing. Through the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan and PY 2026 Annual Action Plan, the City will continue to evaluate these barriers and support activities that preserve existing affordable housing, improve housing conditions, encourage rehabilitation, and coordinate with public and private partners to expand housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents.

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

The City of Elyria continues to evaluate and address public policies that may negatively affect the availability, development, and preservation of affordable housing within the community. The City recognizes that land use regulations, zoning requirements, development costs, building standards, and administrative procedures can influence housing affordability and residential investment opportunities for low- and moderate-income households. To help address these issues, the City recently completed a Comprehensive Land Use Plan that evaluated existing development patterns, housing needs, neighborhood conditions, infrastructure, and future growth opportunities throughout the community. Following completion of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the City adopted a new zoning code to modernize and replace outdated zoning regulations. The updated zoning code was intended to improve consistency with current development practices, encourage appropriate residential development and reinvestment, support neighborhood revitalization, and provide greater flexibility for future housing opportunities. In addition, the City regularly reviews local fee structures, ordinances, development procedures, and policies that may affect residential investment, housing rehabilitation, and redevelopment activities. These reviews are intended to ensure that local regulations remain reasonable, transparent, and supportive of community development goals while maintaining appropriate health, safety, and property maintenance standards.

Discussion:

The City continues to support affordable housing preservation through housing rehabilitation programs, emergency repair assistance, infrastructure improvements, and coordination with nonprofit organizations, housing agencies, developers, and regional partners. Through these efforts, Elyria seeks to reduce barriers to affordable housing, encourage reinvestment in existing neighborhoods, and expand access to safe, decent, and affordable housing opportunities for residents throughout the community.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs in Elyria is the limited availability of financial resources compared to the level of need within the community. To address this challenge, the City will continue to pursue creative partnerships with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, service providers, and private-sector partners to leverage available funds and expand the impact of CDBG investments.

The City will also continue seeking opportunities to improve outreach and communication with underserved residents regarding available financial assistance, housing resources, public services, and other information related to the CDBG program.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Elyria will continue to support efforts to foster and maintain affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents through housing preservation, rehabilitation, and community development activities. The City will continue exploring opportunities to leverage Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding with other local, state, federal, and private resources to encourage the development and preservation of affordable housing units throughout the community.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City has implemented program procedures and documentation requirements that incorporate lead-safe practices, including notification requirements, identification of lead hazards, lead hazard reduction activities, safe work practices, and post-construction clearance testing. These procedures are intended to minimize exposure to lead-based paint hazards during housing rehabilitation and repair activities funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Elyria's strategy for reducing the number of families living in poverty focuses on increasing economic opportunity, expanding access to affordable housing, and providing supportive services that promote long-term self-sufficiency.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Elyria will continue to strengthen and maintain the institutional structure necessary to effectively administer and implement the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and related community development activities. City staff are responsible for developing and monitoring the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) reporting, and subrecipient compliance monitoring activities.

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

The City of Elyria will continue to actively encourage coordination and collaboration among public agencies, private housing providers, nonprofit organizations, social service agencies, and community stakeholders to improve the delivery of housing and supportive services throughout the community. The City recognizes that effective coordination between housing, public service, healthcare, mental health, and community development organizations is essential to addressing the complex needs of low- and moderate-income residents and vulnerable populations.

Discussion:

The City supports housing rehabilitation, affordable housing preservation, public services, economic opportunity initiatives, homelessness prevention efforts, lead hazard reduction, and public infrastructure improvements designed to create safer and more suitable living environments. Elyria also continues to strengthen coordination among housing and social service providers, improve public outreach, support fair housing activities, and pursue opportunities to leverage additional public and private resources.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
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.	70.00%

Annual Action Plan

AP-23 Annual Goals Summary

Goal	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding		
Planning and Administration	Affordable Housing	City-wide	Provide Decent Housing Create A Suitable Living Environment Expand Opportunities for LMI Persons	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>CDBG :</td> <td>\$134,349.00</td> </tr> </table>	CDBG :	\$134,349.00
	CDBG :				\$134,349.00	
	Public Housing					
	Homeless					
	Non-Homeless Special Needs					
Non-Housing Community Development						
	Start Year: 2025	End Year: 2029	Outcome: Sustainability	Objective: Create suitable living environments		
Narrative:						

	<p>The Planning and Administration goal supports the effective management, oversight, and implementation of the City of Elyria’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and related community development activities. Administrative funding will be used to support planning, financial management, environmental review, fair housing activities, citizen participation, reporting, project monitoring, and compliance with applicable federal regulations.</p> <p>The City is committed to maintaining a community development program that is efficient, transparent, and responsive to local needs. Administrative activities will help ensure that federal resources are managed responsibly and that funded projects are implemented in accordance with HUD requirements and the goals established in the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan.</p> <p>Planning and administration activities also support coordination with nonprofit organizations, housing providers, regional agencies, and community stakeholders to strengthen partnerships, leverage resources, and improve the delivery of housing and community development programs. Through ongoing planning efforts, public outreach, and performance evaluation, the City will continue to identify priority needs and direct resources toward activities that benefit low- and moderate-income residents throughout Elyria.</p>		
	Goal Outcome Indicator	Quantity	UoM
	Other	1	Other

Public Services	Homeless	City-wide	Create A Suitable Living Environment	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>CDBG :</td> <td>\$88,500.00</td> </tr> </table>		CDBG :	\$88,500.00
	CDBG :					\$88,500.00	
	Non-Homeless Special Needs						
Non-Housing Community Development							

	Start Year: 2025	End Year: 2029	Outcome: Sustainability	Objective: Create suitable living environments						
<p>Narrative:</p> <p>The Public Services goal supports programs that address the immediate needs of low- and moderate-income residents and strengthen the overall quality of life in Elyria. Public service activities are an important part of the City’s community development strategy because they provide direct assistance to vulnerable populations, including youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, households at risk of homelessness, and residents experiencing financial hardship.</p> <p>During PY 2026, the City anticipates funding public service activities that may include youth enrichment, after-school and summer programming, senior services, food access, emergency assistance, legal services, and other supportive programs that promote housing stability and self-sufficiency. These activities are intended to complement the City’s housing, infrastructure, and neighborhood revitalization efforts by addressing individual and household needs that affect long-term stability.</p> <p>The City will continue to work with nonprofit agencies and community partners to deliver public services efficiently, avoid duplication of efforts, and maximize the impact of limited CDBG resources. Public service funding will be targeted to eligible activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons and support the goals of creating a suitable living environment and expanding opportunities for Elyria residents.</p>										
Goal Outcome Indicator			Quantity	UoM						
Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Homeless</td></tr> <tr><td>Non-Homeless Special Needs</td></tr> <tr><td>Non-Housing Community</td></tr> </table>	Homeless	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Non-Housing Community	CDBG Target Area	Create A Suitable Living Environment	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>CDBG :</td> <td>\$170,000.00</td> </tr> </table>		CDBG :	\$170,000.00
Homeless										
Non-Homeless Special Needs										
Non-Housing Community										
CDBG :	\$170,000.00									

	Development			
	Start Year: 2025	End Year: 2029	Outcome: Availability/accessibility	Objective: Create suitable living environments
	<p>Narrative:</p> <p>The Public Infrastructure Improvements goal focuses on enhancing publicly owned infrastructure and facilities that improve neighborhood conditions, increase accessibility, and support the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the City of Elyria. Public infrastructure investments are intended to address deteriorated conditions, improve public safety, support accessibility, and strengthen community stability through targeted neighborhood and public facility improvements.</p> <p>Eligible activities may include sidewalk improvements, ADA accessibility upgrades, park and playground improvements, streetscape enhancements, curb cuts, and improvements to publicly owned facilities or nonprofit facilities open to the general public. These improvements help create safer, more accessible, and more livable neighborhoods while supporting long-term community revitalization efforts.</p> <p>During PY 2026, the City anticipates undertaking a public facility project that address aging public improvements, pedestrian safety concerns and accessibility barriers. Particular emphasis is placed on a project located within the designated slum and blight area.</p> <p>The City will continue coordinating with local departments, community organizations, and regional partners to maximize the impact of infrastructure investments and ensure that projects support the goals established in the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan. Through these improvements, Elyria seeks to promote community pride, neighborhood sustainability, and improved public amenities for residents throughout the community.</p>			
	Goal Outcome Indicator		Quantity	UoM
Other		1	Other	
Housing	Affordable Housing	City-wide	Provide Decent Housing	CDBG : \$299,500.00

Start Year: 2025	End Year: 2029	Outcome: Affordability	Objective: Provide decent affordable housing
<p>Narrative:</p> <p>The Housing goal focuses on preserving and improving the supply of safe, decent, and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the City of Elyria. The City recognizes that maintaining housing stability and improving housing conditions are critical to neighborhood sustainability, economic opportunity, and overall quality of life.</p> <p>During PY 2026, the City anticipates supporting housing preservation and rehabilitation activities that address deteriorated housing conditions, code deficiencies, accessibility concerns, and energy efficiency needs within Elyria’s aging housing stock. Eligible activities may include single-family rehabilitation, emergency home repairs, code enforcement, lead-based paint hazard reduction, housing rehabilitation program delivery, and other housing-related assistance that benefits income-eligible households.</p> <p>The City will continue implementing the emergency home repair program that help preserve existing affordable housing, reduce the impacts of deferred maintenance, and improve the health and safety of residential properties.</p> <p>Through these efforts, the City seeks to reduce housing instability, preserve neighborhood character, address blighting conditions, and improve living conditions for low- and moderate-income residents. The City will continue coordinating housing activities with local and regional partners, including nonprofit organizations and state-funded housing programs, to maximize available resources and expand the number of households assisted.</p>			
Goal Outcome Indicator		Quantity	UoM
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated		10	Household Housing Unit

CDBG PY 2026 BUDGET

Applicant / Program	Suggested Funding Amount
Administration	\$134,349
Housing Rehabilitation	\$299,500
Ely Square Park Improvements	\$170,000
Lorain County Community Action Agency – Project Feed	\$9,500
Salvation Army – Subsistence Payments	\$9,500
Neighborhood Alliance – Senior Home Delivered Meals	\$9,500
Elyria Parks & Rec – The Active People (TAP)	\$9,500
Elyria Parks & Rec – After School Open Recreation	\$9,500
Elyria Parks & Rec – Summer Camps	\$9,500
Save Our Children – Elyria Teens Achieve Success	\$9,500
Adopt A School – Child Enrichment Services	\$1,500
Adopt A School – Senior Enrichment Services	\$1,500
Spark Theater – Spark Elyria Arts	\$9,500
Legal Aid Society – Legal Services	\$9,500
TOTALS	\$692,349



PY 2026 CDBG Applications Received

The following applications were submitted for consideration under the City of Elyria's PY 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

1 LC Community Action Agency (LCCAA) - Community Garden and Youth Workforce Initiative

LCCAA applied for funding to support a community garden and youth workforce initiative located at the proposed Pocket Park (near the Elyria Public Library South Branch). The program would engage youth and community members in gardening activities including planting, maintenance, and harvesting while helping provide fresh produce to nearby residents. The project is intended to address food insecurity and provide hands-on learning opportunities.

2 Salvation Army – Emergency Services Program

The Salvation Army applied for assistance to continue its Emergency Services Program, which provides utility assistance, rent assistance, and related emergency aid to Elyria residents experiencing financial hardship. The program is intended to help stabilize households and prevent homelessness.

3 Neighborhood Alliance -Senior Home Delivered Meals

Neighborhood Alliance requested funding to continue its home-delivered meals program for seniors throughout Elyria. The program provides daily hot meals to older adults and also offers wellness checks and social interaction for isolated seniors.

4 Elyria Parks & Rec - The Active People (TAP) Program

The TAP Program application seeks funding for senior programming at the City's recreation centers. Activities include yoga, exercise classes, pickleball, volleyball, social activities, educational speakers, and group trips designed to promote healthy aging and social engagement among seniors.

5 Elyria Parks & Recreation – After School Open Recreation

The Parks & Recreation Department applied for funding to operate its after-school open recreation program at East Recreation Center. The program provides students with a safe place after school for recreational activities, sports, social interaction, and quiet study time during the hours when juvenile crime rates are traditionally highest.

Third Public Hearing May 26, 2026 Elyria City Hall Council Chambers 6:00 pm



PY 2026 CDBG Applications Received

The following applications were submitted for consideration under the City of Elyria's PY 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

6 Elyria Parks & Recreation – Summer Camps

Parks & Recreation also applied for funding for summer camp programming at the South, East, and West Recreation Centers. Camps would provide children with supervised summer activities, educational programming, meals, and themed enrichment opportunities including STEM, fitness, and arts activities.

7 Save Our Children of Elyria – Elyria Teens Achieve Success (ETAS)

Save Our Children applied for funding for the ETAS after-school and summer enrichment program serving high school students. The program provides transportation, tutoring, homework assistance, meals, mentoring, and structured activities for teens in grades 9–12.

8 Second Baptist Church Adopt A School Initiative

Second Baptist Church submitted a multi-part application that includes: After-school tutoring and homework assistance for children, and Senior enrichment activities including sewing and social programming. The programs are intended to serve residents on Elyria's south side by expanding educational and enrichment opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors.

9 Spark Theater – Spark Elyria Arts Program

Spark Theater applied for funding to provide performing arts classes and school assemblies for Elyria youth. Programming would include theater instruction, drama activities, music, and performances at recreation centers and Elyria City Schools.

10 The Legal Aid Society - Legal Services

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland will provide the Shelter, Safety, and Economic Security for Elyria Residents Program to assist residents facing housing, health, and financial challenges. The program will help LMI households access legal assistance and long-term solutions to improve stability and self-sufficiency.



PY 2026 CDBG Applications Received

The following applications were submitted for consideration under the City of Elyria's PY 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Elyria Parks & Recreation – Ely Square Park Improvements

Capital Improvement Project

Parks & Recreation is proposing improvements to Ely Square Park, a highly visible public gathering space located within the downtown district. The project will address aging and deteriorated public infrastructure, including damaged sidewalks, deteriorated planter areas, accessibility concerns, and outdated site amenities. These improvements are intended to enhance pedestrian safety, improve ADA accessibility, and support the continued revitalization of downtown Elyria.

As part of the City's designated Slum and Blight Area, the project is eligible for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding under HUD's Slum/Blight Area national objective. The proposed improvements will help remediate deteriorated public conditions while preserving Ely Square Park as an attractive and functional community space for residents, visitors, and downtown events.