

# 2014 – 2015 Sarasota County Action Plan

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

### 1. Introduction

In 2011, the Sarasota County and the Sarasota City Commissions approved the 2011 – 2016 Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan is a five-year road map that identifies housing, homeless, community and economic development needs and establishes a strategic plan for addressing these needs. This Action Plan describes the resources that will be used and the activities that will be undertaken during fiscal year 2014 - 2015 to implement the 2011 – 2016 Consolidated Plan.

The funding resources included in this portion of the Action Plan only include the Sarasota County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. The City of Sarasota's Action Plan includes the City of Sarasota CDBG funds, the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) funds.

The 2014 – 2015 Action Plan will begin on October 1, 2014.

### 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 high, medium, and low priorities for the 2011-2016 Consolidated Plan are:

#### High Priorities:

- Public Infrastructure
- Maintaining the Affordable Single-Family Housing Stock
- Homeless Facilities
- Public Services
- Economic Development
- Public Housing Revitalization
- Increasing Supply of Rental Subsidies
- Public Facilities

#### Medium Priorities:

- Increasing Homeownership
- Special Needs Housing
- Maintaining Existing Rental Units
- Increasing the Supply of Affordable Rental Units

### Low Priorities

- Neighborhood Beautification
- Increasing the Supply of new Affordable Single Family Homes

Through this process - along with an analysis of data contained in the Homeless Needs, Special Needs, and Housing Needs and Market Analysis - the following points were highlighted:

- There is a great need for economic development programs and activities;
- Job training is essential to create an improve the economic future of the county;
- There is a large unmet demand for all youth services;
- South Sarasota County requires Homeless Shelters, Prevention, Outreach, and Services to address their growing homeless issues;
- The redevelopment of housing authority properties is an important community priority;
- There is a continual need for general infrastructure improvements countywide;
- Residents throughout the county need assistance to prevent foreclosures; and
- Rehabilitation of both homeowner and rental units is essential to improve countywide housing stock.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

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

The Sarasota Office of Housing and Community Development has made satisfactory progress in accomplishing the priorities list in the 2011-2016 Consolidated Plan using both HOME and CDBG funds. CDBG funds have been used for a variety of activities such as housing and commercial rehabilitation, public housing redevelopment, public facilities, infrastructure improvements and public services. The County and City expended 100% of its CDBG funding for the principal benefit of low and moderate income persons and all public services were in compliance with 24 CFR 570.201 (e) (1) and 24 CFR 570.200 (g).

Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota were able to accelerate several important projects using stimulus funding, including Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) 1, 2 and 3 grants, CDBG-R and Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) funding.

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

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The Sarasota Consortium's lead agency, the Sarasota Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD), developed the five-year Consolidated Plan using a process approved by both the City of Sarasota and County of Sarasota Commissions. OHCD created a Staff Steering Committee (SSC) as a vehicle to hear public input.

The SSC and Sarasota Office of Housing and Community Development staff held the following focus group meetings related to the Consolidated Plan:

- February 3, 2011, City of Venice City Hall, Economic and Community Development Needs;
- February 8, 2011, The Federal Building, Special Needs Housing and Services;
- February 10, 2011, City of North Port City Hall, Homeless Housing and Outreach; and

- February 15, 2011, The Federal Building, Sarasota, Affordable Housing Needs.

In addition to the focus groups, OHCD held two community visioning sessions. These sessions were not focused on a broad topic, but meant to discuss all housing and community development needs throughout the County. They took place at the following dates and locations:

- March 1, 2011, Robert L. Taylor Community Complex, Sarasota; and
- March 10, 2011, City of North Port City Hall.

#### 2014 – 2015 Action Plan

The Action Plan funding strategies were brought before both the City and County Commissions of Sarasota for preliminary approval on April 7, 2014 and April 22, 2014 respectively.

All projects funded by this Action Plan are consistent with the priorities originally selected, located on Page 5 of the 2011-2016 Consolidated Plan.

Two (2) public meetings were held to receive public comment.

- May 13, 2014 - North Port Library
- May 14, 2014 - Sarasota Federal Building

The plan was advertised to receive public comments. The draft Action Plan was placed on the OHCD website. Jurisdictions within the county, adjacent jurisdictions, the State of Florida, public housing agencies, the continuum of care agencies and neighborhood groups were provided with that link to enable them with an opportunity to comment on the draft plan.

#### **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.

One individual stated that she was disappointed that the Marbut study suggested that the homeless shelter be located in Englewood and that she felt that it should be located in the City of North Port. She stated that because the Salvation Army was divided into 2 areas – Sarasota and South County – that she had not been able to access the CDBG prevention funds that had been allocated to the Sarasota agency.

One individual stated that her biggest concern was that the majority of the funds were being used for a homeless complex in south Sarasota County or anywhere for that matter. She is concerned about an agency designated by the City and County as the lead entity to receive these funds, Harvest Housing. She stated that according to 1CPD that the first time that Harvest House received funding was in 2012 and that they are an inexperienced group. The group was serving the near homeless. She felt that the Inspector General would have a problem with the City and County diverting homeless funds from established agencies to dedicating so much of their funding to a homeless facility in South County. She also stated that she had questions about a religious entity receiving federal funds.

One individual stated that he had formed a new nonprofit agency, get ready for school.org. He felt that there was a large unmet need in the community to provide bathrooms and showers for the families of

homeless families. He felt that children who were not able to have access to sanitary facilities could not function as well in school or in life and asked that funding be dedicated to meet this need. One individual stated that he hoped that the City and County would consider creating multi-family rental housing. While he acknowledged the various statutory requirements of the State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP), he hoped that a substantial piece of the SHIP funding that the county and city would receive if the Governor signs the budget would be used for multi-family rental housing. He asked that the 20% special needs set aside be used for rental housing and that when rental housing disappears that the city and county need to make sure that it is replaced. Failure to replace this lost housing will lead more homelessness. He felt that the homeless issue will not be resolved without additional multi-family housing.

Another speaker wanted to express his appreciation that the Action Plan contained funding for homeless prevention. He asked that the rehabilitation guidelines be amended to allow the funds to be used to create accessory dwelling units in residential neighborhoods. He also said that he felt that rehabilitation funding should be used in targeted neighborhoods rather than countywide. He felt that the comment in the plan that stated that 126 special need housing units had been created in the past 10 years and that the need had been met should be reviewed annually to determine if that was still accurate. He asked for a program to be established to provide housing to assist youths who were leaving foster care. He agreed with the previous speaker that affordable housing units that were lost needed to be replaced and those units they should be diversified in location. He asked that the City and County consider allocating general fund to the Office of Housing and Community Development to expand their mission.

One speaker also felt that housing rehabilitation funding should be targeted to specific neighborhoods rather than used countywide. She felt that the definition of special needs should be expanded and that if you only addressed one special need category, such as battered spouses, that there would be less neighborhood resistance.

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

All public comments were provided to the City and County Commissions. A number of the public comments addressed issues that have already been addressed. For example, the south county shelter will be located in North Port and the ESG funds will be competitively awarded. The city and county have awarded the maximum amount of SHIP funding allowed by statute to rental housing.

The remaining funding requests were not accepted because the city and county commission's priorities were not the same as the speakers.

## **7. Summary**

The County advertised the plan as required by federal law, placed the plan on the website and conducted 2 public meetings.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	SARASOTA COUNTY	
CDBG Administrator	SARASOTA COUNTY	Office of Housing and Community Development
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator		
ESG Administrator	SARASOTA COUNTY	Office of Housing and Community Development
HOPWA-C Administrator		

**Table 1 – Responsible Agencies**

**Narrative (optional)**

The City of Sarasota is the lead agency responsible for administering jointly funded programs covered by the Consolidated and Action Plans. The Office of Housing and Community Development was created to administer the programs covered by the Consolidated Plan as a result of the consolidation of the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County's housing and community development programs.

The Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness is designated to be the provider of the Continuum of Care system for both Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

This Action Plan only includes the Sarasota County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funds. The City of Sarasota Action Plan includes the City of Sarasota CDBG, HOME, and SHIP funds. HOME and SHIP funds are included in the City's Action Plan because the City is the lead agency for the consortium and responsible for receiving and administering HOME and SHIP funds.

## **Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

Donald Hadsell  
Director, Office of Housing and Community Development  
111 South Orange Avenue  
Sarasota, Florida 34236  
941-951-3608  
donald.hadsell@sarasotagov.com

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

### **1. Introduction**

The Sarasota Consortium's administrative entity, the Sarasota Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD), developed the Action Plan with input from all of the participating jurisdictions in Sarasota County. Because the Action Plan implements the priorities and goals that were developed during the Consolidated Plan process, there was not a need for the extensive public input that was received in 2011.

#### **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 draft Action Plan was advertised to receive comments from the public. The draft Action Plan was placed on the OHCD website and jurisdictions within the county, adjacent jurisdictions, the State of Florida, public housing agencies, continuum of care members and neighborhood groups were provided with that link to enable them with an opportunity to comment on the draft Action Plan.

#### **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 Sarasota Consortium participates in the Continuum of Care meetings. During the last year, the City and County hired Dr. Robert Marbut to conduct an evaluation of affordable housing needs. Dr. Marbut met with the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness when putting together his report. The City and County asked the Community Alliance to study homeless issues and make recommendations to the city and county.

#### **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**

Sarasota County has not previously received ESG funds and will need to initiate discussions with the Continuum of Care to determine how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds. The Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness is the administrator of the HMIS system. The Partnership oversees the data quality, programming and reporting, trains users and has an HMIS Policy and Procedures Manual that has been approved by the Continuum of Care.

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

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	SARASOTA
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	CITY OF NORTH PORT
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	VENICE
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	CITY OF SARASOTA HOUSING AUTHORITY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Venice Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	
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**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

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

The Sarasota Consolidated Plan was developed with extensive public input. Sarasota is not aware of any agency type that was not contacted and offered the opportunity to participate during the Consolidated Plan process.

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

<b>Name of Plan</b>	<b>Lead Organization</b>	<b>How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?</b>
Continuum of Care	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness	Portions of the 5 year action plan were drafted by the administrator of the organization and the organization was offered the opportunity to make sure that there were no conflicts between the two plans.

**Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts**

**Narrative (optional)**

The five year plan was developed with extensive public input. The one year plan implements the goals in the five year plan. Agencies were provided copies of the draft plan and allowed to comment, however because the one year plan accurately reflects the funding decisions made during the development of the five year plan, the need for extensive public consultation doesn't exist.

**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 five year plan was developed with extensive public input. The one year plan implements the goals in the five year plan. Agencies were provided copies of the draft plan and allowed to comment, however because the one year plan accurately reflects the funding decisions made during the development of the five year plan, the need for extensive public consultation doesn't exist.

**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
1	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Sarasota Herald Tribune	None	N/A
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	1 person attended.	One individual stated that she was disappointed that the Marbut study suggested that the homeless shelter be located in Englewood and that she felt that it should be located in the City of North Port. She stated that because the Salvation Army was divided into 2 areas Sarasota and South County that she had not been able to access the CDBG prevention funds that had been allocated to the Sarasota agency.	The south county shelter will be located in North Port and ESG funds will be competitively awarded.

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons
4	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	6 individuals attended.	One individual stated that her biggest concern was that the majority of the funds were being used for a homeless complex in south Sarasota County or anywhere for that matter. One individual felt that there was a large unmet need in the community to provide bathrooms and showers for the families of homeless families. One individual stated that he hoped that the City and County would consider creating multi-family rental housing. Another speaker wanted to express his appreciation that the Action Plan contained funding for homeless. One speaker also felt that housing rehabilitation funding should be targeted to specific neighborhoods rather than used countywide	The citizen comments were reviewed and not accepted either because of limited funding. The commissions also believe that addressing homeless issues is an appropriate use of CDBG funds.
5	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	None	None	N/A
6	Placement of Draft Action Plan in Libraries	Non-targeted/broad community	None	None	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons
7	Draft Action Plan sent to Adjacent Local Governments	Non-targeted/broad community	None	None	N/A

**Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach**

## Expected Resources

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

#### Introduction

The Sarasota County CDBG and ESG that are expected to be received are described below.

#### Priority Table

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,556,860	0	0	1,556,860	1,556,860	Homeless activity funds will leverage private and public resources.
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	126,151	0	0	126,151	126,151	ESG are being received by Sarasota County for the first time.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
Housing Trust Fund	public - local	Housing	1,750,000	0	0	1,750,000	0	Funds from Sarasota County for the redevelopment of Janie's Garden Phase III.

**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**

CDBG funds do not have a matching requirement. The Homeless Complex is estimated to exceed \$2,000,000 and the public funds will leverage additional private and public resources.

ESG has a 1:1 matching requirement. The county will provide 50% of the funding for the HMIS modules and the service providers that receive homeless prevention funds will match those funds with their own funds.

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

N/A

**Discussion**

The federal budget cuts have reduced the available funding for the Sarasota County. This year marks the fourth straight year of declining revenues and will postpone needed projects in low income neighborhoods and reduce future employment in Sarasota County. For the first time in many years, the State of Florida has allocated funding for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP).

## Annual Goals and Objectives

### AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

#### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Owner Occupied Rehabilitation	2014	2016	Affordable Housing			CDBG: \$175,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 25 Household Housing Unit
2	Homeless Facility	2014	2016	Homeless			CDBG: \$877,688	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 40 Beds
3	Fair Housing	2014	2016	Affordable Housing		Fair Housing	CDBG: \$20,000	Other: 1 Other
4	Public Services	2014	2016	Non-Homeless Special Needs			CDBG: \$97,800	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 250 Households Assisted
5	Homeless Prevention	2014	2016	Homeless		Homeless Prevention	CDBG: \$75,000 ESG: \$76,000	Homelessness Prevention: 75 Persons Assisted
6	Homeless Tracking	2014	2016	Homeless			ESG: \$54,500	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 250 Households Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary<TYPE=[text] REPORT\_GUID=[9B4786E64DDAC839A8E119B13CB7DB46]>

#### Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Owner Occupied Rehabilitation
	<b>Goal Description</b>	
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Homeless Facility
	<b>Goal Description</b>	
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Fair Housing
	<b>Goal Description</b>	
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Goal Description</b>	
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Homeless Prevention
	<b>Goal Description</b>	
6	<b>Goal Name</b>	Homeless Tracking
	<b>Goal Description</b>	

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

20

## AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

### Introduction

During 2013 - 2014, Sarasota County will use the majority of its CDBG funds to create a homeless facility in south Sarasota County. CDBG funds will also be used to fund economic Housing Rehabilitation, Homeless Prevention, Social Service Case Workers and to implement the Impediments to Fair Housing Plan. ESG funds will be used to purchase HMIS modules to better track homeless individuals and families and for homeless prevention.

#	Project Name
1	Housing Rehabilitation
2	South Sarasota County Homeless Facility
3	Fair Housing Activities
4	Homeless Prevention
5	Laurel Social Service Case Workers
6	North Port Social Services Attendants
7	Administration - CDBG
8	Emergency Solutions Grant

**Table 7 – Project Information**

## Projects

### AP-38 Projects Summary

#### Project Summary Information

<b>1</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Owner Occupied Rehabilitation
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Maintaining the Single Family Housing Stock
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$175,000
	<b>Description</b>	
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2016
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	25
	<b>Location Description</b>	Countywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Rehabilitate 25 housing units
<b>2</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	South Sarasota County Homeless Facility
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Homeless Facility
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Homeless Facility
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$877,688

	<b>Description</b>	Creation of a homeless facility in south Sarasota County.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2016
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	40 families.
	<b>Location Description</b>	South Sarasota County
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Construct a homeless facility to assist families in south Sarasota County.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Fair Housing Activities
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Fair Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Fair Housing
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$20,000
	<b>Description</b>	Funds to remove impediments to fair housing choice.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	20 fair housing tests.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Countywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Fair housing education and testing.
<b>4</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Homeless Prevention
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Homeless Prevention
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Homeless Prevention
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$75,000

	<b>Description</b>	Funds to assist individuals and families with rent, utilities and mortgage assistance to prevent homelessness.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	40 families.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Countywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Fund for homeless prevention.
5	<b>Project Name</b>	Laurel Social Service Case Workers
	<b>Target Area</b>	Laurel Community
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$45,000
	<b>Description</b>	Funding for Social Service Case Worker
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
	<b>Location Description</b>	
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Providing case management assistance to lower income Laurel residents
6	<b>Project Name</b>	North Port Social Services Attendants
	<b>Target Area</b>	City of North Port
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services

	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$53,000
	<b>Description</b>	Funding for 3 Social Service Case Workers
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	200
	<b>Location Description</b>	City of North Port
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Funding for 3 Social Service Case Workers
<b>7</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Administration - CDBG
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$311,372
	<b>Description</b>	Funding to administer the CDBG Program
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
	<b>Location Description</b>	
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Emergency Solutions Grant
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Homeless Prevention Homeless Tracking

<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Homeless Prevention HMIS
<b>Funding</b>	ESG: \$126,251
<b>Description</b>	
<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2015
<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
<b>Location Description</b>	
<b>Planned Activities</b>	

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

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

The homeless facility will be constructed in south Sarasota County. Social Service attendants in North Port and Laurel will primarily serve those lower income neighborhoods. The remaining programs will be implemented countywide.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
City of North Port	3
Laurel Community	3

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

The decision to develop a Homeless Facility in South Sarasota County was made because that area lacks facilities to assist homeless families and children.

Housing and homeless prevention programs operate countywide to serve the needs of lower income residents throughout the entire county.

## Affordable Housing

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

#### Introduction

Housing projects are primarily funded with HOME and SHIP funds. The uses of these funds are contained in the City of Sarasota's Action Plan. The one year goals only include the housing projects funded with County CDBG funds.

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported</b>	
Homeless	15
Non-Homeless	5
Special-Needs	0
Total	20

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

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through</b>	
Rental Assistance	15
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	5
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	20

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

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

### **Introduction**

During the FY 2013 - 2014, Sarasota County will work with the Sarasota Housing Authority to redevelop Janie's Garden Phase III public housing development. This development has received tax credit funding and \$1,750,000 in county funds are being used for the construction of this project.

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

While CDBG funds are not allocated to fund public housing developments in 2013 - 2014, the County is providing \$1,750,000 in housing trust funds to the Sarasota Housing Authority to assist with the redevelopment of Janie's Gardens Phase III. In recent years, the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County have funded phases I and II of the Janie's Garden redevelopment project.

Phase I of the Venice Housing redevelopment project was funded by the State of Florida in 2012. County funds were used to provide the match necessary to receive state funding. The county has also awarded \$500,000 in CDBG funds for the redevelopment of Phase II of the redevelopment project. Those improvements are now under construction.

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

No actions are anticipated in 2014 - 2015.

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

The Sarasota Housing Authority and the Venice Housing Authorities are located in Sarasota County. Neither is designated as troubled by HUD.

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

### **Introduction**

The City of Sarasota and Sarasota County work together to address homeless issues. City and County funds have been used to hire Dr. Robert Marbut to develop a strategy to address the needs of the homeless. The plan calls for the construction of 3 homeless facilities, a family shelter in each of north and south Sarasota County and an emergency shelter to serve the chronic homeless adults. In 2014 - 2015, Sarasota County will use the majority of its funding for the development of the south Sarasota County family shelter. CDBG and ESG funding is provided for short term rental assistance and management of the Homeless Management Information Systems.

### **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**

Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota will be developing written standards for providing its ESG and CDBG funds and a process for making sub-awards to nonprofit organizations.

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

The City of Sarasota and Sarasota County work together to address homeless issues. City and County funds have been used to hire Dr. Robert Marbut to develop a strategy to address the needs of the homeless. The plan calls for the construction of 3 homeless facilities, a family shelter in each of north and south Sarasota County and an emergency shelter to serve the chronic homeless adults. In 2014 - 2015, Sarasota County will use the majority of its funding for the development of the south Sarasota County family shelter.

### **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 Sarasota Consortium has implemented an innovative concept to deal with chronic homelessness. The Community Alternative Residential Treatment (CART) Initiative is funded by Sarasota County with in-kind contributions from a number of social service agencies and is designed to address individuals with substance abuse and / or mental issues. The initiative provides medically supervised detoxification at the Addictions Receiving Facility, a 10-week intensive residential substance abuse treatment program and transitional housing. Six (6) non-profit agencies participate in some portion of the program. The specific barrier to achieving the desired result is that some program participants may be unwilling or unable to change their lifestyle.

### **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.**

To strengthen the delivery of services for those at imminent risk of homelessness, the Consortium will be providing direct funding to social service agencies to prevent homelessness. These funds will be used to leverage other funds and resources to both provide services to homeless individuals and families and also to prevent low-income families from becoming homeless.

Funding will be used to assist persons that are homeless or those at risk for becoming homeless with rent, rental deposits, mortgage payments and utilities. Agencies with skilled case managers are integral to the process by teaming the clients up with counseling, job training, food vouchers, household budgeting, credit counseling and other services that highly increase the success rate of the client(s). Homeless prevention has evolved as an important and cost effective priority because it has been shown in national studies that the cost to assist a homeless person is typically seven times more expensive than the cost to prevent homelessness.

The Consortium has also agreed to assist non-profit agencies in the implementation of their emergency shelter grants.

In 2012 - 2013, the City and County initiated a program to assist foster care graduates as well as unaccompanied youth with housing assistance.

The SRQ Community Living for At-Risk Student Success (SRQ CLASS) was established to serve persons who are homeless and enrolled in a full-time education program. The program seeks to assist vulnerable students aging out of foster care or homeless unaccompanied youth age 18-22 with subsidized transitional housing. (17 year old youth that are currently engaged in the SCC's Independent Living Program may also qualify for program consideration.) The funding provides up to 18 months of housing assistance to help youth complete high school, engage in college/ or technical skill training and develop the skills they will need to become self-sufficient. The program is not intended to be a long term housing program or to serve youth who are not engaged in furthering their education and career post-graduation.

To be eligible to receive Youth Independent Housing assistance, the applicant must meet the following conditions:

1. The Applicant must be age 18-22 and not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian. (17 year old youth that are currently engaged in the SCC's Independent Living Program may also qualify for program consideration).
2. The Applicant must be able to document full time enrollment, as defined by the educational program, and attendance in a certified education program (Traditional High School, Alternative Accredited Education Program, College, or Vocation Skills Training Program).
3. The Applicant must meet with a staff member from the Sarasota YMCA's Safe Children Coalition or Schoolhouse Link who will conduct an initial consultation to determine the appropriate assistance for the Applicant.

4. The total household income of all residents that will reside in the home must be less than 50% of median income for Sarasota County as determined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), adjusted by household size. The Section 8 definition of income will be used to qualify the applicant.
5. Certain full or part time students are excluded from participating in the HOME program as provided in 24 CFR 5.612.

## **Discussion**

The SHIP program has been used to develop 126 special needs housing units during the past 10 years. Participants involved in the creation of the 2011-2016 Consolidated Plan informed City and County staff that special needs affordable housing needs have been mostly met in Sarasota County, however this will be revisited when the 2016 - 2021 Consolidated Plan is prepared to determine if this is still accurate.

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

### **Introduction**

In 2012, the City and County formed a committee to develop a Housing Incentive Plan to identify barriers to affordable housing. That report is included by reference in this plan.

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

The City and County have programs in place to give priority processing to affordable housing developments. This requires that all affordable housing development applications are processed ahead of all other applications. The City and County also have a process in place that requires that they consider the impact to the cost of housing before they implement any ordinance, or land use policy.

## **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction**

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

The Sarasota Consortium will continue its advertising campaign to insure that underserved residents are aware of the available housing programs. In addition, meetings will continue with various service providers to search for new funding and better ways to serve eligible families.

#### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota have dedicated HOME and SHIP funds to rehabilitate homes owned and occupied by lower income residents.

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

Lead-based paint hazard reduction will be integrated into all housing policies and programs in Sarasota County. The Sarasota Consortium is taking a number of measures to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards. They include:

- Low-income homeowners who discover lead-based paint in their homes will qualify for a grant to remedy the risks posed by the lead;
- The Health Department will be annually reminded of the grant available to low-income homeowners to remove lead in their home;
- Individuals taking part in the Down Payment Assistance Program and homeless prevention programs receive a copy of *Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home*; and
- Units rehabilitated using Federal funds will be required to abide by the HUD lead-based paint regulations.

The Sarasota Consortium will support and encourage applications for lead-based paint abatement grants that will benefit the residents of Sarasota County, especially those of lower means. The Consortium supports the housing authorities and State, County, and City agencies in efforts to educate and inform the public of the hazards associated with lead-based paint.

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

Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota have adopted a new Section 3 plan will ensure that the community improves its process for awarding contracts to low-income residents of Sarasota County and set up a fund to provide job training for low-income residents countywide. This new plan has been so successful that it has been used by both nonprofit and for profit developers to build facilities that are not receiving federal funds.

In addition, Sarasota County has set aside funding to support an economic development program in the City of North Port to spur economic development and provide training for low-income residents.

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

The Consolidated Plan is being implemented through a combination of public, private and nonprofit organizations. The Sarasota County Commission and this Action Plan have provided funding to the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness.

Nonprofit organizations need consistent funding to be effective. The reduction in federal funding and the elimination of new state funding places the effective institutional structure in Sarasota at substantial risk.

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

As described on page 123 of the 2011 - 2016 Consolidated Plan, OHCD conducts routine meetings with Social Service Agencies to provide feedback on the effectiveness of its various housing programs.

## 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
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100.00%

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)  
Reference 91.220(l)(4)**

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

Sarasota County has been notified that it will receive ESG funds beginning October 1, 2014. Because Sarasota County has not previously received ESG funds it will need to initiate discussions with the Continuum of Care to determine how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted with ESG funds. The two agencies that previously received ESG funds from the State of Florida do have written standards that comply with HUD's requirements.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

The Continuum of Care has established a centralized assessment system using HMIS principles. This year's Action Plan includes funding to purchase additional HMIS modules and these enhancements will streamline the process. The HMIS Committee continues to consider process improvements. Currently, 2-1-1 is able to conduct the initial assessment and referral, and the provider does a more in depth assessment upon engaging the client.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

Sarasota County has not previously received ESG funds and will need to initiate discussions with the Continuum of Care to determine how to allocate ESG funds, develop program standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted with ESG funds. It is anticipated that OHCD will issue a request for proposals (RFP) that will include a set of ranking criteria that carry point values. It is anticipated that the criteria will include the following factors: Project description, Organizational Experience; Coordination and Collaboration; Outcomes; Data Collection; and a Program budget that will demonstrate how they will meet the matching requirements.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

Sarasota County has not previously received ESG funds and will need to develop a plan to meet the requirements of 24 CFR 576.405 (a).

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

Sarasota County has not previously received ESG funds and will need to initiate discussions with the Continuum of Care to determine how to allocate ESG funds, develop program standards for and

evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted with ESG funds.