

## City of Battle Creek 2024 Annual Action Plan



# **Executive Summary**

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

### **1. Introduction**

The City of Battle Creek's Community Development Division supports neighborhoods by administering federal, state, and local grant programs and coordinating planning around community development efforts within the City. It administers the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) formula grant programs. It is also responsible for administering a HUD-funded Lead Hazard Control Program, a Lead Safe Program funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and a Battle Creek Public School (BCPS) Teacher Housing Incentive Program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Every five years the City of Battle Creek coordinates a community-wide planning and needs assessment process to develop a five-year Consolidated Plan which governs the spending of these federal funds. This is the last year of the existing 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the City is planning the public process for developing priorities for 2025-2029.

The Consolidated Plan calls for a community-wide planning process to identify needs and create a plan to address them. It includes consulting with individuals and organizations in both the private and public sectors. It involves the collection and analysis of data concerning the needs of households, as well as the market conditions that shape where we live, work, and play. The result is a plan that accounts for community development-related activities throughout the city, sets measurable goals for meeting specific community needs, and gives direction for how City-administered federal dollars will be spent.

For each year of the five-year plan, the City prepares an Annual Action Plan, which updates priorities; details one-year goals and outcomes; and explains how funds will be allocated to achieve local goals. Other federal funds provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), not administered by the City of Battle Creek, but included in the planning process, include Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance, and public and assisted housing provided by the Battle Creek Housing Commission.

### **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 goal of the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan is to ensure safe, prosperous, and equitable communities by creating strong, sustainable, and inclusive neighborhoods and quality affordable homes for all people of Battle Creek.

In order to achieve this goal, the plan has six strategic priorities.

#### **Local Priority 1: Ensure Housing is Affordable, Accessible, and Safe**

Communities are stronger when people have access to quality affordable and safe housing. This priority encompasses preserving current affordable housing, developing new units, increasing the diversity of housing options, and ensuring that low and moderate-income neighborhoods benefit from housing resources and that rental housing is safe.

#### **Local Priority 2: Activate Underutilized Land in Low-Income Neighborhoods**

The City will encourage the activation of public, vacant, and/or underutilized land in low income areas, consistent with the City's master plan. Activation of these spaces enables communities to preserve natural resources for public use; promote higher densities and a wider range of land uses around downtown and major corridors; assemble property for larger-scale developments and improve connectivity between neighborhoods and the downtown.

#### **Local Priority 3: Alleviate Poverty**

Individuals and families can be said to be in poverty if they have resources far below those of an average individual or family and if the impact is that they are essentially excluded from ordinary patterns, customs, activities, or quality of life. This priority encompasses strategies that raise income, reduce the impact of being low-income, and break up concentrated poverty.

#### **Local Priority 4: Community Engagement through Collaboration and Empowerment**

This priority promotes engagement and empowerment at all levels of the community. Empowerment refers to the process by which people gain control over the factors and decisions that shape their lives. To that end, this priority emphasizes projects that promote ownership, create or clarify pathways for community members to access and utilize resources; and/or engage them in community decision-making processes.

Other objectives in this priority promote organizing at the institutional and organizational level to create a sense of shared purpose, increase capacity, coordinate planning, partner across sectors, and build coalitions.

#### **Local Priority 5: Affirmatively Further Fair Housing**

Fair housing is the right to choose housing free from unlawful discrimination. Federal, state, and local fair housing laws protect people from discrimination in housing transactions such as rentals, sales, lending, and insurance. When accepting grant funds from HUD, the City agrees to use the funds affirmatively further fair housing.

## **Local Priority 6: Restore Vitality in Low-Income Neighborhoods**

Vibrant and strong neighborhoods make a strong city. They possess a sense of place and a feeling of safety and familiarity. Houses are occupied and well-maintained and public spaces are inviting, walkable, and lively. Strategies and projects that successfully address this priority create, facilitate, ensure, or enhance these conditions.

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

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

In the 2022-2023 Program Year the City CDBG and HOME programs funded code enforcement, CDBG administration and neighborhood planning, minor home repair, homeowner rehabilitation, acquisition/development/resale for one property, and tenant-based rental assistance. Most of these activities were targeted in CDBG low- and moderate-income target areas. Some Minor Home Repair projects occurred in other areas of the City but all households assisted were at or below 80% of the area median income.

**Special CDBG-CV funds**, allocated to the City via the CARES Act, were used to fund rental assistance, housing case management, and eviction diversion. CDBG-CV funds were received in 2020, mostly used in 2020 and 2021 to fund nonprofit organizations work to address increases in homelessness and the need for people experiencing homelessness to socially distance during the COVID pandemic. CDBG-CV funds were fully expended by March 2024.

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### **1st continuation of 3. Evaluation of past performance**

#### Local Priority 1: Ensure Housing is Affordable, Accessible, and Safe

- The City's Minor Home Repair program completed 28 projects for low- and moderate-income homeowners.
- The City's Lead Safe Programs completed lead abatement of 29 residential units.
- Code Compliance completed 601 rental property inspections within CDBG target areas.
- Identified City-owned land for a private developer of permanent supportive housing, Upholding, to apply for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) for 55 units of one-bedroom apartments. Committed \$360,000 of HOME-ARP funds to this development. Funding announcements will be made in the spring of 2024 to see if the project will move forward.



## Local Priority 2: Activate Underutilized Land in Low-Income Neighborhoods

Calhoun County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA) continued efforts to support the community garden at Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area, with plans to install a hydrant at Fremont Gardens. The First Congregational Church has partnered on this project and will continue to pay for the service once installation is completed. The garden will serve and be available to Fremont/McKinley neighborhood members.

CCLBA continued to be engaged in Post/Franklin (NPC1) and Central BC (NPC3) and attended meetings with discussion of the land reuse strategy of vacant properties in these areas. These will be addressed by CCLBA in the future with community engagement. Staff also plans to replace the pop-up selfie station murals in time for this summer's Color the Creek festival.

CCLBA has continued and progressed work in the Northcentral (NPC 2) area also known as the Washington Heights Neighborhood (WHN) with their Advisory Committee (AC). The AC worked diligently in 2023 to decide the disposition of 167 or 257 properties that are owned the CCLBA. The end use of the properties activated land for development, side lots to adjacent owners, beautification, and other uses of the properties in the community.

## Local Priority 3: Alleviate Poverty

- The Battle Creek Shelter expanded shelter hours to provide safe and socially distanced indoor space during evening and weekends where consistent shelter hours were not available prior to COVID-19 resulting in the provision of shelter for 283 individuals.
- Voces provided housing advocacy and interpretation services to 52 Hispanic and Latino families to help them access resources.
- HOME funded Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) provided through Neighborhoods, Inc. of Battle Creek
- Legal Services Eviction Diversion program.

## Local Priority 4: Community Engagement through Collaboration and Empowerment

- City staff serve as members of the "Beyond Separation" Design Team of the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) Initiative. TRHT is a community-wide collaborative initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation focused on creating a racial equity movement in Battle Creek. The Beyond Separation team is focused on housing and addressing segregation and is comprised of representatives from the City, the Battle Creek Area Association of Realtors, the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan, the Urban League, and community members.
- City staff continue to serve on the Battle Creek Homeless Coalition, as well as the Housing Solutions and Human Relations Boards.

## **2nd continuation of 3. Evaluation of past performance**

### Local Priority 5: Affirmatively Further Fair Housing

Fair housing is the right to choose housing free from unlawful discrimination. Federal, state and local fair housing laws protect people from discrimination in housing transactions such as rentals, sales, lending, and insurance. When accepting grant funds from HUD, the City agrees to use the funds affirmatively further fair housing.

- The City is in negotiations with the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan on a new contract for \$75,000 from CDBG funds reserved in 2021, 2022 and 2023 for fair housing trainings and to test the real estate and rental housing markets following up on previous testing conducted in 2015 and 2018.
- Subrecipient of CDBG and HOME funding will continue to use the Affirmation Marketing Report created by the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) in October 2020 for implementing outreach to underserved groups of people in the City.
- Based on findings of the Affirmative Marketing Report, the City funded a position at VOCES to provide housing case management for Spanish speaking individuals and families affected by the COVID pandemic. This is an ongoing public services grant funded by the CDBG program.
- The City completed an internal Equity Audit in 2021, which led to the hiring of the City's first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer in the fall of 2023. This officer will be consulting with Community Development on its fair housing strategy.
- Community Development employs three bilingual Spanish speaking staff that are trained interpreters to provide better service and outreach to the Hispanic and Latino community.
- Increased Hispanic/Latino participation in Community Development housing programs. Over the past ten years, between one and three percent of Minor Home Repair resources have gone towards assisting Hispanic and Latino clients, depending on the year. Because Hispanic and Latino families make up 8.1% of the Battle Creek population, they have been considered underserved. Last year 11% of Minor Home Repair resources were used in projects benefiting Hispanic or Latino clients.

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

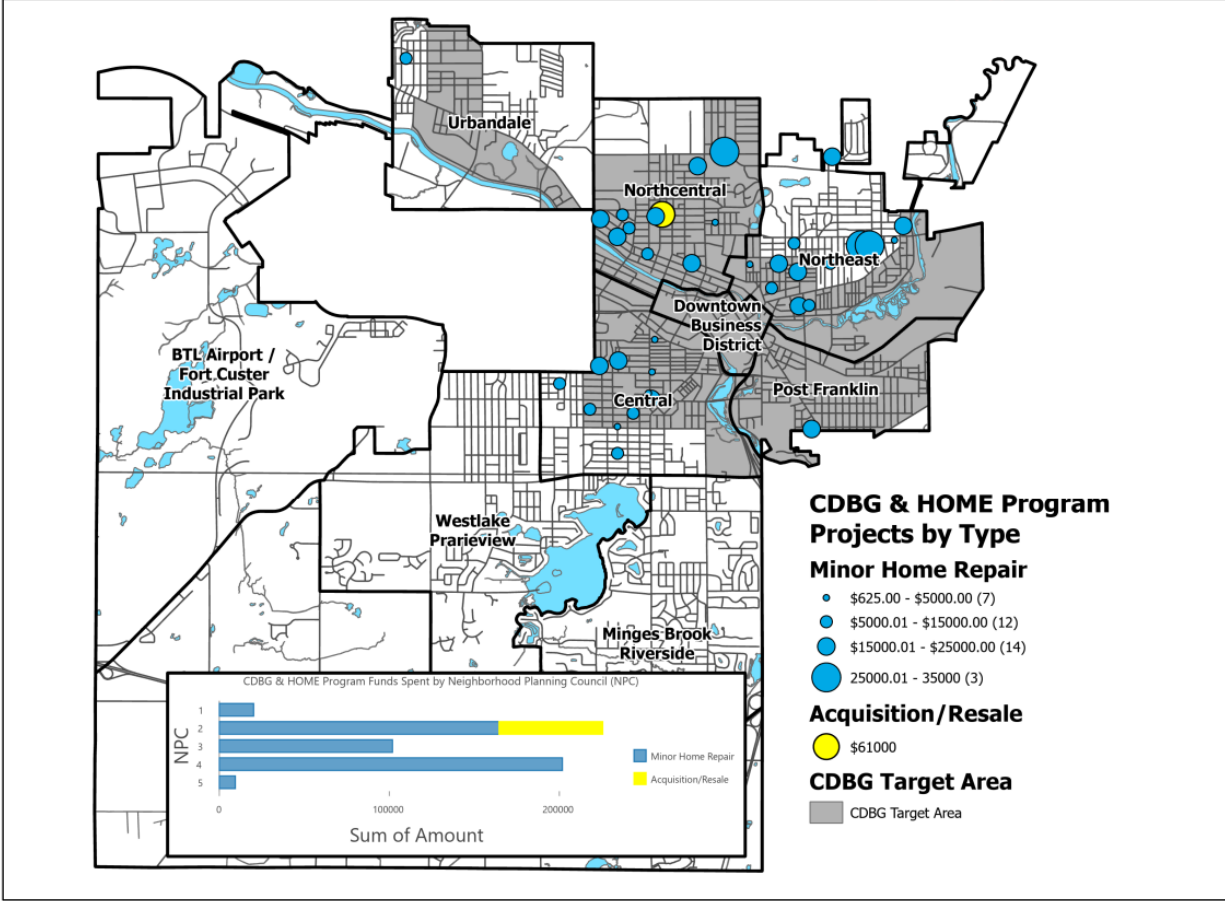
### Local Priority 6: Restore Vitality in Low Income Neighborhoods

- Calhoun County Land Bank Authority's (CCLBA) concentrated work in the Northcentral (NPC 2) area with W.K. Kellogg Foundation funding continues to be driven by the community engagement of the Washington Heights Neighborhood Advisory Committee. CCLBA staff with this 14-member group of residents, property, and business owners, elected official and community leaders has had success in providing a platform for citizens to engage in the use of the property that is vacant in their neighborhood. This engaged group has promoted community

forums and involved stakeholder including the Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity, and many City divisions including Community Development, the Historic District Commission, Code Compliance and Planning and Zoning. CCLBA has a memorandum of understanding with Washington Heights United Methodist Church for a future housing development on CCLBA property and formerly City of Battle Creek owned parcels. Work has been done to clear titles and conduct predevelopment work to prepare to build in-fill housing.

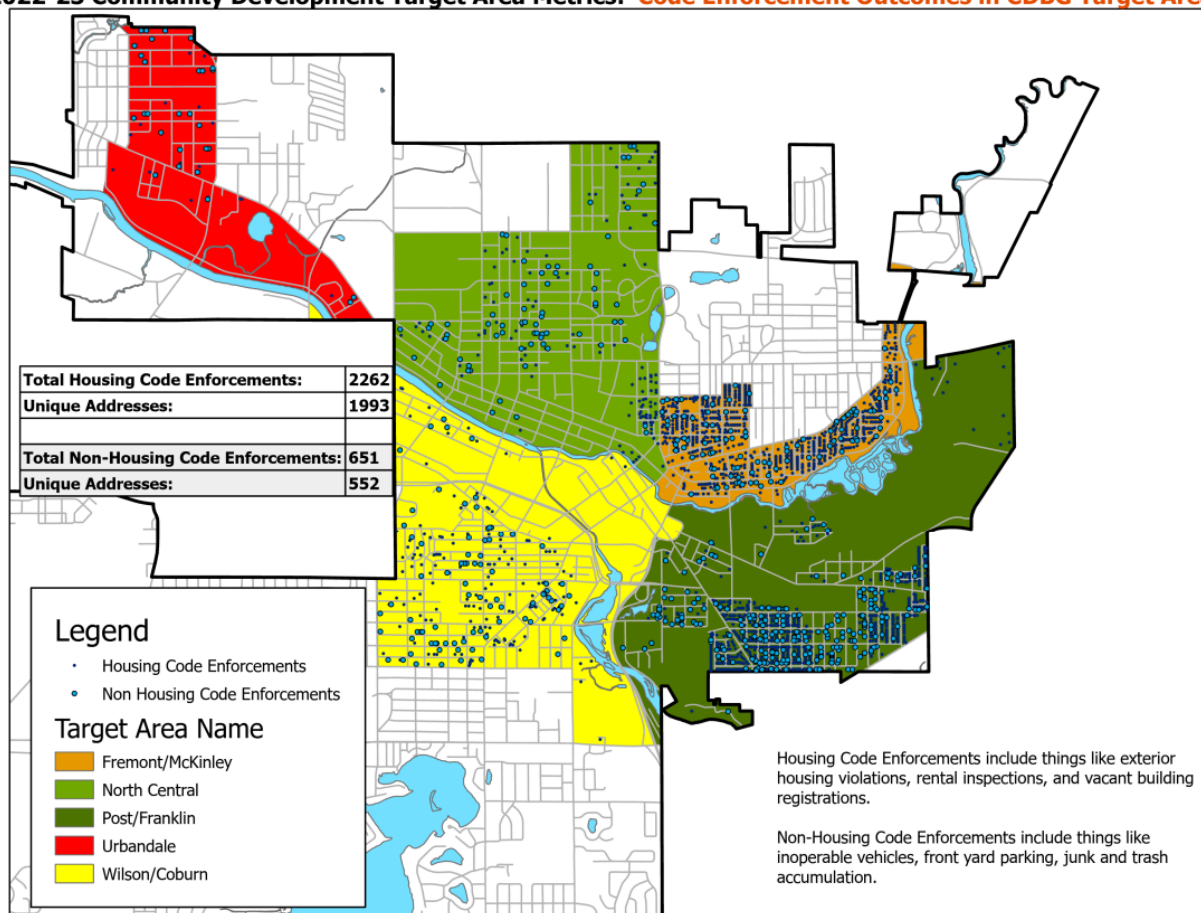
- In addition, with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the CCLBA is now able to provide clear title on properties being sold through its Side Lot Program and help owners combine the new lot with their existing home so long as there are no other barriers like an existing mortgage. The pilot program provides the new owner with clear title, and when possible, a combined property resulting in a better asset and investment. This is helping neighbors solve problems like shared driveways and to add to their property. This effort help return publicly owned land back to individual homeowners who then can mow and maintain the property.
- CCLBA also made investments in a handful houses in its portfolio to return them to productive use so that they can be sold affordably to homeowners who then can start paying taxes on these properties. Code compliance completed 2,262 enforcements in CDBG target areas to address health and safety issues
- Code Compliance completed 66 new vacant building enforcements and issued 87 citations to secure vacant buildings that were previously identified.

2022-23 Community Development Target Areas: CDBG and HOME Funded Projects by Type, Amount and NPC



2022 CDBG and HOME Projects

## 2022-23 Community Development Target Area Metrics: Code Enforcement Outcomes in CDBG Target Areas



## 2022 Code Outcomes in CDBG Target Areas

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

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City had substantial citizen participation in the creation of its 2020 Consolidated Plan, including more than 20 consultations with community leaders, 950 responses to a community survey, and 9 public meetings to gather public input. The Community Development Supervisor has participated in meetings with all six NPCs as a component of the Citizen Participation and consultation initiative.

As part of the citizen participation process, staff from Community Development attend meetings to discuss housing and community development needs with members of the six Neighborhood Planning Councils in January – April 2024. A public hearing on housing and community development needs was held at the April 16, 2024, City Commission meeting. The invitation to the public hearing was published in the SHOPPER News and the Spanish language newspaper, Nueva Opinion two weeks before this

hearing. The Community Development Supervisor's phone number and email were listed in the public notice for receiving comments. Listed in the public notice was how accommodations for disabilities and how language interpretation could be arranged.

A draft proposed 2024 Use of Funds and Annual Action Plan was published to the City's webpage on April 4, 2024, to start a 30-day public comment period which should have ended at the scheduled public hearing at the May 7, 2024, City Commission meeting. The May 7, 2024, City Commission meeting was cancelled because of a tornado warning and was rescheduled for May 14, 2024. The City posted this rescheduled meeting in its building and at the local library. It also posted a summary of the proposed use of funds and the rescheduled meeting on social media. City Commission listened to public comment at the May 14, 2024 meeting and approved the proposed use of funds.

## **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 comment was received at both the April 16, 2024 public hearing on housing and community needs, and at the May 14, 2024 public hearing on the 2024 Annual Action Plan. A document is attached that summarizes these comments and includes the minutes of these two public meetings.

A Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing public comment on the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the proposed use of federal funds through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership programs. Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing open, inviting attendees to share public comment. Helen Guzzo, Community Development Manager, noted \$1.2M of CDBG monies funded the Minor Home Repair Program, while the HOME funding supported the tenant based rental program facilitated by NIBC. Ms. Guzzo also shared that some of the HOME funding supports the building of 3 homes in Urbandale by Habitat for Humanity. Reece Adkins questioned whether the CDBG and HOME funding would help with housing for persons with felony convictions. John Kenefick noted federal funds come from taxpayers, building the national debt. Kathy Antaya expressed support of the CDBG and HOME funding, stating it was important to develop customer informed and community supported programs. David Moore commented on the need for additional housing in the community. Nadine Bradshaw noted many young adults still live with their parents due to the lack of housing, stating many people feel left out. Becky Holmgren asked about the general administration expenses of the CDBG and HOME funding, questioning whether those employees were already paid with city funds. Ms. Holmgren also commented on infill housing, expressing concern new construction projects should be similar to current housing. Autumn Smith agreed with the previous speaker, also questioning administrative costs. Hearing no additional public comments, Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing closed.

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

All comments and views expressed in the consultations, public survey, public meetings and public hearings were accepted.

## **7. Summary**

All proposed activities and budgets are published in the weekly local free distribution newspaper, The SHOPPER News, and translated into Spanish to be run in a bi-weekly Spanish-language newspaper, Nueva Opinion. The City of Battle Creek holds three annual public hearings about federal community development funding. The first public hearing is held in the fall of each year to solicit citizen input on Battle Creek's Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). Then, in the late winter/early spring, a second public hearing is held on housing and community development needs. A third public hearing is held in the spring to obtain citizen comments and review of the proposed budget and use of funds in the Annual Action Plan, or the Consolidated Plan every five years.

## 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		BATTLE CREEK	City of Battle Creek Community Development
HOME Administrator		BATTLE CREEK	City of Battle Creek Community Development

**Table 1 – Responsible Agencies**

### Narrative (optional)

The City of Battle Creek is an entitlement grantee for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership funds. Battle Creek is located in southwest Michigan, approximately 115 miles west of Detroit and 160 miles northeast of Chicago. It is the largest city in Calhoun County, encompassing an area of 44 square miles, with a current estimated population of 52,123. (American Communities Survey, 2022).

The administration of federal community development funding is conducted by the Community Development Division which is part of the Community Services Department comprised of Inspections, Planning, Code Compliance, and Community Development. The Community Development Division is staffed with a Supervisor, a Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator, a Lead Inspector, a Lead Grant Coordinator, two Community Development Specialist, a Construction Specialist, and an Intake Specialist. The Community Development Supervisor reports to the Director of Community Services who reports to the Assistant City Manager.



The city has operated under the commission-manager form of government since 1961. Policymaking and legislative authorities are vested in the City Commission, which is comprised of nine members, including the mayor. The governing council is responsible, among other things, for passing ordinances and resolutions, making public policy decisions, adopting the budget, appointing boards, commissions, and committees, approving contracts, authorizing real estate transactions, awarding bids, selling property, and hiring the government's manager and attorney. The City Manager is the chief administrative officer of the City and is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the City Commission. The City Manager is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the City Commission, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the government and appointing the government's department heads.

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for the administration of each grant program and funding source.

### **Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

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

### **1. Introduction**

Community Development staff have taken a leadership role in initiatives to elevate and address housing issues within the community, raise awareness of lead paint poisoning risks, and advance the efforts of the Calhoun County Continuum of Care to improve services for people experiencing homelessness. These activities included both informal and formal consultations with numerous community organizations and are crucial for meeting the objectives of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. Staff participate in a number of organizations that are doing fair housing work including the Coalition for Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT), an effort to improve racial justice and equity funded by the WK Kellogg Foundation and the Battle Creek Area Association of REALTORS (BCAAR) Committee for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI), which is dedicated to establishing equitable homeownership opportunities for people of color, fostering a more diverse association and leadership to better serve the Battle Creek community, and championing fair housing practices among members and within the community. The CDI committee was established in response to the Fair Housing investigations into real estate market discrimination, funded by Community Development in 2015 and 2018. On June 5, 2024, the City of Battle Creek was a sponsor on a special event organized by TRHT and BCAAR on housing equity that was attended by over 150 people at a historically black church, Washington Heights United Methodist Church. The event featured book authors documenting housing and neighborhood inequity nationally. Leah Rothstein presented her book, *Just Action: How to Challenge Segregation enacted under the Color of Law*, and Sheryll Cashin, presented her book *White Space, Black Hood: Opportunity Hoarding and Segregation in the Age of Inequality*.

### **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 Battle Creek participates in a number of collaborative relationships that enhance coordination between housing and service organizations. Collaborative work includes support to Neighborhood Planning Councils, the Greater Battle Creek Homeless Coalition, the Calhoun County Lead Task Force, TRHT (Truth, Racial Healing, & Transformation). The Calhoun County Land Bank Authority is a key partner in efforts to address vacant buildings, maintenance on vacant properties and other efforts to improve neighborhood conditions. Summit Pointe, the Calhoun County Community Mental Health Authority, is a member of the Calhoun County Continuum of Care. Summit Pointe was that lead planning body and fiduciary for the Calhoun County Continuum of Care until March of 2024 when this responsibility switched to the United Way of South Central Michigan. Summit Pointe was the Housing Access Resource Agency (HARA) until 2022 when it was transferred to Neighborhoods, Inc. Community Development staff serve on the Board of the Battle Creek Housing Commission and Battle Creek Pride. Community Development staff also participate in the Population Health Alliance which is a community health initiative of the Battle Creek Community Foundation. Through the Population Health

Alliance collaborative work is done with Bronson Health System (Battle Creek's hospital) and Grace Health (Battle Creek's Federally Qualified Health Center). Through the Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition, Community Development works closely with the Calhoun County Department of Public Health. Through its lead poisoning prevention work and its Minor Home Repair program, Community Development works closely with the staff of Community Action. Community Development also works collaboratively with Calhoun County Senior Millage and CareWell Services, the Senior Millage and the Area Agency on Aging organizations serving Calhoun County.

Neighborhood Planning Councils (NPCs) are six resident groups representing different geographic areas of Battle Creek. NPCs provide a forum for residents, City staff and City Commissioners to discuss neighborhood concerns. The City educates members about City programs and pending decisions, opportunities or changes. NPCs decide which recommendations or strategies they would like to develop. Meetings are open to all and take place once a month.

**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 Greater Battle Creek Homeless Coalition is the Continuum of Care coordinating body for the City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County. It is a community collaboration with an executive board, the Housing Solutions Board, which manages HMIS and funding applications. Staff from the City's Community Development Department participates in the Homeless Coalition attending monthly meetings and serve on the Housing Solutions Board.

Working together members of the Homeless Coalition address the needs of homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness. The inventory of homeless services and facilities described in MA-30 Homeless Facilities details the array of services that are provided to help prevent homelessness and to help people recover from a housing crisis.

City staff have been particularly engaged with the Continuum of Care during the pandemic. Just over \$1 million of CDBG-CV CARES Act and HOME TBRA funds were sub-granted to CoC agencies for the purpose of providing rent assistance, utility assistance, housing case management, eviction diversion, and translation services. The city hired Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) of Battle Creek to create an affirmative marketing plan for CDBG-CV grantees. This plan identified populations least likely to access resources during the pandemic, barriers to access, and proposed strategies to address them. This resulted in the creation of a racial equity task force made up of people-of-color-led community organizations, a marketing campaign targeted at the African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Burmese populations, and the creation of a part-time interpreter/housing advocate position to help families connect with resources.

Staff worked with the Homeless Coalition and its executive board, the Housing Solutions Board, to create a strategic value scorecard using the Homeless Coalition strategic plan. The scorecard uses the Allowance planning process (the same process used to create the City's Consolidated Plan) to create a weighted matrix to assess the strategic value of project ideas. The scorecard was used by the City to develop its HOME-ARP allocation plan and evaluate the impact of proposed projects on the Homeless Coalition goals. The exercise also created an opportunity for the Coalition to educate new members about its plan, make some updates and prioritize goals. Six HOME-ARP sub-recipient grants have been awarded using the scorecard. The housing and service needs of people experiencing homelessness is great and only by working together can these needs be addressed.

**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**

Battle Creek receives Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding through MSHDA and its balance of state program for ESG non-entitlement jurisdictions. The Housing Solutions Board (HSB), part of the Battle Creek Homeless Coalition, runs the application process for ESG funding and for HUD Continuum of Care homeless assistance funding.

Throughout the year, Community Development staff met with numerous representatives of the Homeless Coalition to discuss their priorities and alignment with the Annual Action Plan. The consultations focused on permanent supportive housing, facilities improvements, overcoming housing access barriers, eviction diversion, increased need for rent and utility as and providing ongoing case management and other supportive services to the homeless were listed as priorities.

**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	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Anti-poverty 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>	Habitat runs a Re-store storefront that recycles building materials, providing them at low cost to Battle Creek residents and providing a source of funding for projects. Habitat has been specializing in building handicapped ramps in partnership with Community Action. Habitat has responded to changes in the housing market with the limited supply of housing available, Habitat rehabilitating vacant houses purchased from the Calhoun County Land Bank to constructing modest newly built homes. They will soon complete the first new build that they have stick-built in 15 years. Habitat also builds ramps for people in need and conducts some exterior minor home repair work.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF SCM
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy 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>	Community Action is a key partner in the City's work around lead abatement for both state-funded and HUD-funded lead remediation. In Battle Creek, it runs Head Start, Early Head Start, a Foster Grandparent program, and Emergency Food Assistance and Commodity Supplemental Food programs. Community Action also administers utility assistance and weatherization. CA provides 3,000 rides per month for seniors and the disabled. Transportation is still the number one need of parents participating in Head Start and is a big need in Battle Creek. The City and Community Action regularly coordinate minor home repair services. Community Action and Community Development staff meet regularly on issues surrounding lead in housing and supportive services.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	NEIGHBORHOODS, INC
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty 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>	The City continues to meet monthly with Neighborhoods, Inc. regarding housing needs. City staff meet regularly with Neighborhoods, Inc. to discuss program progress and emerging needs. Neighborhoods, Inc. homeless housing program is funded by the HUD Continuum of Care; NIBC serves at the Housing Access Resource Agency (HARA) for the Battle Creek Continuum of Care. They use a Housing First model as much as possible in a limited resource environment. NIBC receives HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) funds for the purpose of providing rent assistance and housing case management.

4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	New Level Sports
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Anti-poverty 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>	New Level Sports Ministries is a Non-profit Student Athlete Support Service, for ages 8- 18. New Level Sports assists student-athletes to develop purpose-driven lives through participation in educational enrichment, personal growth, and physical development activities. New Level Sports is also the lead agency behind the development of the Youth Village, a multigenerational, mixed-use neighborhood development in the Washington Heights neighborhood. Community Development staff consulted with New Level on multiple occasions during the winter of 2022-23, discussion covered the planning and pre-development phases of the Youth Village Learning Center and New Level work to create a CDC organization to oversee community engagement and development work.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Battle Creek Homeless Coalition
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing PHA Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Regional organization

	<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 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>	Community Development staff attended Homeless Coalition meetings throughout the year. Staff keep the coalition apprised of the City Annual Action Plan process and receive updates from area agencies regarding current trends. The Homeless Coalition is a sub-group of the Housing Solutions Board. Members of the Homeless Coalition span a variety of partners who serve the homeless population with wide-ranging services. Community needs are a regular topic of conversation at coalition meetings.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	SHARE Center
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless Services - Victims
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless 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>	The SHARE Center is a drop-in day program for homeless people. It offers services for those who are ready to make positive life changes and offers peer support specialists to provide services. SHARE Center is the primary meal provider for the community at large. Consultation with the SHARE Center Executive Director focused on priority needs including having Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) in the city, a shelter option for youth and families, and a program that covers background checks to help with tenant application costs. SHARE Center was one of the ARPA recipients in the city of Battle Creek. The ARPA funds are covering the installation of new showers and additional office space for case managers focused on employment and family case management as well as a new recovery coach. The case managers and recovery coach will be covered by the HOME-ARP grant SHARE Center received from Community Development.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	GRACIOUS HOMES
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Victims
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness 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>	Gracious Homes, Inc. was founded in 2003 and they focus on transitional housing for women providing them with up to 120 days of structured support services that include therapy, counseling, education, and healing from dysfunctional behaviors. Consultation with the founder and director of Gracious Homes focused on the need for more women's shelters in the city and supportive services for women such as safe, affordable housing and employment opportunities for women without a high school diploma or college degree.
8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	THE HAVEN OF REST MINISTRIES
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless

	<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 Strategy Anti-poverty 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>	Haven of Rest Ministries has served the Battle Creek community since 1956. They are a key stakeholder among homeless service providers. Consultation with the Haven of Rest Executive Director focused on the need for providing recovery programs to the residents of the Haven as well as case management services to assist in finding and maintaining housing. The Haven of Rest received HOME-ARP funds from Community Development to continue to offer case management services and the Men's and Womens Life Recovery Programs.
9	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Battle Creek Homeless Shelter
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness 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>	The Battle Creek Shelter is a barrier-free homeless shelter in Battle Creek. Opened in late 2020, the shelter is one of only a few low-barrier shelters in the state. The City provided HOME-ARP funding to BC Shelter to support a second case manager. Consultation with shelter staff focused on the need for more shelter space for women and children, hotel vouchers, and transit vouchers.
10	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Housing Solutions Board
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing PHA
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness 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>	The Housing Solutions Board is the Calhoun County Homeless Coalition executive board and represents the broad interests of all stakeholders whose goal is to create self-sufficient individuals and families. Community Development staff are represented on the board, as are local government representatives from Calhoun County, Albion, and Springfield.

1 1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness 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>	Legal Services provides the only free legal services in the county. Legal Services prioritizes cases for homelessness prevention, victims of domestic violence, seniors, and loss of benefits. Community Development staff consulted Legal Services about best practices for eviction diversion and continued partnership.
1 2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty 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>	TRHT's work related to housing and community development is focused on closing the 20% homeownership rate gap between whites and people of color in Battle Creek through advocacy, creation, and dissemination of a homebuyer guide, and homebuyer workshops to African American and Hispanic/Latino homebuyers.
1 3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	VOCES
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty 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>	VOCES is a community center for Latino/Hispanic families to link to opportunities and engage the community. VOCES provides English language classes, access to GED training and testing, and provides translation services. Community Development staff consulted VOCES to discuss barriers to access housing resources during the pandemic. There is a need for continued awareness of available housing resources among the Hispanic and Latino populations. VOCES received a CDBG-funded case management grant to help bring awareness to this population. That position will continue to be funded through the end of 2024. There has been a significant increase in Hispanic/Latino applicants across many housing programs including Community Developments Minor Home Repair and Lead Safe programs.

1 4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Calhoun County Broadband Task Force
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Other government - County Planning organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development Expanding broadband to underserved areas
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This group meets monthly and is mapping out the underserved areas of the county and underserved populations. It is leading the area in marshalling and applying for federal grants to expand board band services. It is working with broadband internet service providers to map out areas where services should be expanded and to document to the FCC areas that are not served.
1 5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Battle Creek Housing Commission
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing 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>	The Community Development Supervisor serves as the Board President for the Battle Creek Housing Commission and the Community Services Director serves as member of the Board also. The Battle Creek Housing Commission owns and operates 320 units of housing that is in the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) process converting from the Public Housing HUD platform to the Multi-Family funding platform. The Housing Commission operated over 635 housing choice vouchers including 150 HUD-VASH vouchers with the VA Medical Center located in Battle Creek in the Fort Custer industrial park area. Community Development conducts environmental reviews for the Battle Creek Housing Commission.
1 6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Summit Pointe
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-homeless Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Community Mental Health Authority
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Mental Health
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Summit Pointe is the Community Mental Health Agency serving Calhoun County. It is a member of the Calhoun County Continuum of Care. It is a partner with the City of Battle Creek Police Department in training officers with Critical Crisis Intervention Team skills and works with the County Jail to assist with supportive services for inmates. To receive services from Summit Pointe, participants must be enrolled in Medicaid. Summit Pointe will be the service provider for the proposed 55 units of permanent supportive housing that Updholds will develop if funded through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program. The City is holding HOME-ARP funds to assist with this proposed rental housing development.

1 7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Calhoun County Response Consortium
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Agency - Emergency Management
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Coordination of Emergency Response
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Calhoun County Response Consortium (CCRC) was formally founded as the Battle Creek Response Consortium in February 2013 following the experiences from the straight-line winds of May 2011. It was clear to all responding nonprofit & governmental organizations that a greater degree of pre-event coordination and collaboration was needed to ensure more effective, efficient community responses to emergencies, crises, or disasters. Since then, in alignment with the Calhoun County Office of Emergency Management & City of Battle Creek Emergency Management, the CCRC has worked to establish a framework to help guide nonprofit response to critical incidents at a local level.
1 8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Battle Creek PRIDE
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Civic Leaders
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	LGBTQ+ Community Coalition



	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The mission of Battle Creek Pride is to serve, support, educate, and unite our LGBTQ+ community with pride, integrity, and inclusion. Battle Creek Pride are members of, and serve the LGBTQ+ Community in the Greater Battle Creek Area. Battle Creek Pride provides a safe and welcoming Resource Center for the LGBTQ+ Community and Allies. It provides education, support groups, community outreach programs, referrals and social activities, and advocates for LGBTQ+ issues and concerns and advocate against discrimination for all marginalized people. One of Community Development staff serves on the Board of Directors and is a regular volunteer.
1 9	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Washington Heights United Methodist Church
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Service-Fair Housing Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Housing Development

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Washington Heights United Methodist Church (WHUMC) was established in 1909 as a Sunday School on the corner of Roseneath and Hubbard. In 1976 the church was renamed to Washington Heights United Methodist Church and Community Ministry. The Community Ministry provided services to the Washington Heights area in the form of Nutrition, Education, Counseling, Seniors, Youth and Children Programs, Job Development Services, Emergency Assistance, Human Enrichment, and Health for over 30 years. Currently, Washington Heights considers itself to be a Hub of H.O.P.E. for the Washington Heights community, city of Battle Creek, state of Michigan and the World. Washington Heights is leading the development of 17 market rate in-fill housing units to help rebuild the community in Washington Heights by providing new homeownership opportunities to the residents of the historically black neighborhood. Washington Heights has been leading conversations with the community about restoration efforts for the community.
20	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Trinity Neighborhood Center
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Economic Development Anti-poverty 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>	<p>Trinity Neighborhood Center was born as part of a three-church merger of Trinity, Birchwood, and Chapel Hill United Methodist congregations in July 2018. Worship and administrative functions were combined at Chapel Hill, Birchwood was purchased by a Burmese congregation, and Trinity was retained with the goal of creating a connectional place in the mid-town Battle Creek neighborhood. The TNC facility remains under Chapel Hill ownership and physical support. Trinity Community Development Inc. was created as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2020. TCDI staff manage the care and use of TNC</p> <p>and develop programming, events, and connections in the neighborhood and community. As a non-profit, we also seek and request grants to support the mission of the organization. Trinity Neighborhood Center provides space for community groups: 12-step recovery meetings, Community Inclusive Recreation, American Red Cross, Senior Health Partners, Summit Pointe Mental Health (to name a few) meet at little/reduced cost. Community members may rent space for celebrations, family reunions, holiday parties, and other events. It supports programming that includes a monthly Fresh Food Distribution, interior free Clothes Closet, on-going community art projects, exterior Free Pantry &amp; Library, and a Community Garden. It collaboratively sponsors events like Earth Day, a Summer Party, and a Back-to-School Fair in collaboration with the Neighborhood Planning Council, building users, and Battle Creek community partners. It supports affordable housing through a multi-faceted approach in renovating houses for sale to first-time homebuyers, connection to various housing resources, and implementation of home repair grants.</p>
21	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Calhoun County Land Bank Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Other government - County Land Bank Authority
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Vacant buildings and community revitalization

<p><b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b></p>	<p>The Calhoun County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA) is a catalyst for community stabilization by creating equitable, inclusive opportunities through sustainably repurposing challenged properties. In the Washington Heights neighborhood, the CCLBA owns over 250 properties; they are a neighbor, property owner, and a vested community partner. As Battle Creek's largest neighborhood at almost 2,500 square miles, Washington Heights is also known as Neighborhood Planning Council 2 (NPC2). The CCLBA has worked continuously here since 2007. The following examples showcase positive synergies the Land Bank has fostered over the years: The current Sunlight Gardens urban farm evolved from a leasing relationship between Sprout Urban Farms and the CCLBA in 2012. The Neighborhood Mow &amp; Maintenance program originated in the Washington Heights neighborhood in 2015 and was an invaluable program for relationship building before the pandemic. Additionally, 153 blight elimination demolitions, 16 Transform This Home (TTH) projects, 3 Habitat for Humanity partnership rehabilitation projects, and one Rock the Block cleanup have happened in Washington Heights with the Land Bank leadership. The Land Bank is also working in the Post Addition Neighborhood, Neighborhood Planning Council #1 on a plan to utilize and reuse its vacant parcels remaining from the demolition of vacant and abandoned homes.</p>
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**Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting**

City staff are planning consultations with nearby local governments of Albion and Springfield but were unable to complete the consultations before the completion of the Annual Action Plan. Both municipalities are engaged in their community development efforts and have expressed an interest in a meeting to discuss common issues and community needs more generally. Community Development could coordinate with local banks and credit unions about local investment in housing.

**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	United Way of South Central Michigan	Community Development has used CDBG-CV and HOME-ARP funding to provide housing case management, tenant-based rental assistance, and outreach services to many organizations that provide services to homeless people. The Community Development Supervisor was elected as co-chair of the Housing Solutions Board, the decision making body for the Continuum of Care, in May 2024.
City of Battle Creek Master Plan	City of Battle Creek Planning and Zoning Division	The Master Plan is a guide for growth and development over the next twenty years. A public engagement effort to add a housing plan is being undertaken and will be done in conjunction with the citizen participation plan for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan.

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

**Narrative (optional)**

## AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The citizen participation process for the creation of the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan included consultations with community stakeholders and two public hearings. The purpose of the citizen engagement was to obtain citizens' views, respond to proposals, address questions, and provide important program information. Information gathered added to what was learned during the preparation of the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, which included over 50 consultations, 10 public meetings, and a community survey which resulted in 950 responses.

#### 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	Newspaper Ad	Minorities  Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish  Non-targeted/broad community	Notice of the April 16, 2024, Public Hearing on community needs in the Shopper, a local newspaper, on April 4, 2024, and the Spanish Language newspaper, Nueva Opinion on March 14, 2024.	No comments received.	No comments were received.	

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	Non-targeted/broad community	Public hearing on housing and community development needs at a regular City Commission meeting on April 16, 2024.	Public comment received is summarized in the Citizen Participation attachment.	All comments were accepted.	<a href="https://battlecreekmi.gov/420/Agendas-Minutes-Videos">https://battlecreekmi.gov/420/Agendas-Minutes-Videos</a>
3	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish	Notice of 2024 Proposed CDBG and HOME budget and the May 7, 2024, Public Hearing on proposed budget and 2024 Annual Action Plan published in the SHOPPER News, on April 4, 2024; and the Spanish-language, New Opinion on April 10, 2024.	No comments received.	No comments were received.	

4	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	<p>As the May 7, 2024, City Commission meeting was starting, severe weather/tornado warnings were issued, and the meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for May 14, 2024. The City posted notices of the meeting change at City Hall and at the local library, Willard Library. The City also made a social media post about the 2024 proposed budget for the CDBG and HOME programs and the reschedule public hearing. The public hearing on</p>	No comments were received.	No comments were received.	
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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)
			the 2024 CDBG and HOME programs and the 2024 Annual Action Plan was held on May 14, 2024, during a regular City Commission meeting.			

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)
5	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Public hearing at the May 14, 2024, City Commission to hear public comment on the 2024 Annual Action Plan and the proposed use of funds. This meeting was rescheduled from May 7, 2024, because of severe weather, a tornado warning. 10 residents spoke at the May 14 meeting	Comments are summarized and City Commission meeting minutes attached in the Citizen Participation attachment.	All comments were accepted.	<a href="https://battlecreekmi.gov/420/Agendas-Minutes-Videos">https://battlecreekmi.gov/420/Agendas-Minutes-Videos</a>

**Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach**

## Expected Resources

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

#### Introduction

The City of Battle Creek's Community Development Division administers the federal Community Development (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs to benefit low- and moderate-income residents of the City. Community Development works closely with the Calhoun County Land Bank to coordinate land use and reuse strategies. The City uses a large portion of the CDBG program to provide a Minor Home Repair program citywide to help low- and moderate-income homeowners make health and safety repairs that they can't afford, and to fund Code Compliance in targeted areas of the City to help improve and maintain positive neighborhood conditions.

Other federal funds provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), not administered by the City of Battle Creek but considered in the creation of the five-year Consolidated Plan include Continuum of Care assistance provided to organizations addressing homelessness in Battle Creek and the greater Calhoun County, and Emergency Shelter Grant funds provided through the Balance of State program administered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). The Battle Creek Housing Commission, the public housing authority in Battle Creek, and housing choice voucher administrator for the cities of Battle Creek and Albion, also administers federal housing funds to benefit Battle Creek residents. The Battle Creek Housing Commission in collaboration with the Veteran Affairs Medical Center

located in the Fort Custer area of Battle Creek jointly administer a HUD-VASH (Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing) program.

### 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: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,228,110	60,000	0	1,288,110	0	CDBG funds Minor Home Repair, Code Compliance, Public Services, City Administration and Planning, and Housing Rehabilitation Project Delivery Costs. The City is not using prior year resources for these activities and is estimating receiving \$60,000 in program income during the program year. PY2024 is the last year in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan

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: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	267,572	0	0	267,572	0	No program income is expected to be received. This budget does not include the use of prior year resources. Program Year 2024 is the last year of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan so expected amount available for the remainder of the Con Plan is zero.

**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**

In the Minor Home Repair program, program staff make referrals to other programs to increase the amount of rehabilitation assistance available, referrals are made to Community Action for its Senior Minor Home Repair program through Senior Millage funding, for water and plumbing funds and for the federal weatherization program. Minor Home Repair also partners with the two lead remediation program that the City administers with funding from the State of Michigan through the Childhood Health Improvement Program (CHIP) Lead Remediation program using Medicaid funds and a Lead Hazard Remediation program grant from HUD.

When it established the HOME Investment Partnership Program, Congress intended to establish a partnership between the federal government, states, units of local government and nonprofit organizations to expand the supply of affordable housing for low-income families according to 24 CFR§92.218, contributions must be made to qualified housing in an amount equal to 25% of appropriated HOME funds drawn down for housing projects. These contributions are referred to as match. Because of the COVID pandemic and the economic distress of the Battle Creek community, the Congress has reduced the expected match contribution to zero since 2019. The amount of HOME funds subject to match is \$240,814.37; the amount of match required based on 25% would be \$60,203.59.

Historically the City of Battle Creek's HOME match has been reduced to 0 based on poverty and per capital income as recently as Program Year 2023. Match documentation is collected from the volunteer hours that the City's CHDO contributes to building or rehabilitating homes. Battle Creek Habitat for Humanity documents its volunteer hours with a volunteer sign-in and sign-out log. These hours contributed volunteer hours are valued at \$15.00 per hour and these hours are recorded as match for the City of Battle Creek HOME program.

**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 Calhoun County Land Bank Authority owns the majority of vacant residential property in CDBG Revitalization Target Areas and are a key partner in the implementation of the plan. Battle Creek Unlimited, an economic development corporation that receives TIFA funds and whose board is appointed by the City Commission, purchased a closed Kmart located in a LMI neighborhood close to downtown. The Kmart was demolished and the land is being promoted for affordable housing development. MSHDA made an award of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to the Blue Light development which as a Phase 1 of a multiphase redevelopment plan will build 48 units of workforce housing at this location, the housing is targeted to families with income 80% to 120% of the area median income.

The City is working with Upholdings, a developer of permanent supportive housing, to apply to the LIHTC program to fund the development of 55 units of one-bedroom apartments to serve single people or couples who have experience chronic homelessness. Upholdings scored highly in the competitive request for proposals that was held to distribute HOME-ARP funds. Upholdings is calling this development, Northern Pines. Summit Pointe, the mental health authority for Calhoun County, will be providing service funds through the Medicaid program, to fund services for the housing development. This development would be build on vacant land that the City of Battle Creek owns along with a parcel that the Battle Creek Housing Commission owns.

## **Discussion**

Because of staffing changes and impacts from the COVID pandemic, the City of Battle Creek has significant unspent funds for which plans have been developed to spending funding while making an impact in the community and ensuring compliance with HUD's timeliness standards. In Program Years 2022 and 2023, the City made a commitment of CDBG funds to New Level Sports and the development of a Childcare and Preschool facility. Construction of this facility has been delayed because of contaminated soil and enviromental concerns, during the program year complaince with environmental standards will be completed and decisions made about how to utilized the \$490,000 that has been committed to this project.

The City also has a nonperforming rental rehabilitation project at 614 NE Capital. Remaining rental rehabilitation funds have been reprogrammed to the Minor Home Repair program. The City is working with the developer to complete the rehabilitation of the rental housing or to have the City take over the project to bring it to completion. The City's Minor Home Repair program continues to be in high demand and to perform well to assist low-and moderate-income homeowners with necessary health and safe repairs to help stabilize neighborhoods.

## 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	Attainable Housing	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area	Ensure safety of rental housing Increase the diversity of housing options Preserve and maintain existing affordable housing Increase access to affordable housing Help underserved groups access and use resources Improve property conditions in LMI neighborhoods	CDBG: \$652,488 HOME: \$240,815	Homeowner Housing Added: 1 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 36 Household Housing Unit Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 48 Households Assisted



Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
2	Housing Code Enforcement	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area	Ensure safety of rental housing Preserve and maintain existing affordable housing Reduce the effects of low income on life quality Improve property conditions in LMI neighborhoods	CDBG: \$210,000	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 2000 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Public Service Grants	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area	Increase access to affordable housing Reduce the effects of low income on life quality Reduce areas of concentrated poverty Help underserved groups access and use resources Support efforts around homelessness prevention Improve fair housing awareness and accountability	CDBG: \$180,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 75 Households Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 75 Persons Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

## Goal Descriptions

<b>1</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Attainable Housing
	<b>Goal Description</b>	<p>CDBG and HOME funds will be utilized to help low- and moderate-income residents have attainable housing.</p> <p>CDBG funded Minor Home Repair, Program Income and Housing Rehab Activity Costs = \$652,489. This amount consists of \$502,489 of CDBG funds, \$60,000 in expected program income, and \$90,00 of CDBG funds for MHR Activity Delivery Costs. CDBG funds + Minor Home Repair provides home repair for health and safety required items that do not disturb lead paint services. The average cost per project in 2023 was \$14,000 which will result in 36 households being assisted in PY 2024.</p> <p>HOME Investment Partnership funds of \$267,572 for Program Year 2024 will fund:</p> <p>Battle Creek Habitat for Humanity, CHDO in-fill housing development: \$85,338 for new construction of one 3-bedroom home, one low income households will be assisted.</p> <p>Neighborhoods, Inc. Tenant Based Rental Assistance, \$155,477 of 2024 HOME funds will assist approximately 48 households. Average amount of assistance in previous years is \$3,185 for three to six months of rental assistance including security deposits.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Housing Code Enforcement
	<b>Goal Description</b>	<p>CDBG pays a portion of City Code Officers who work in the five CDBG target areas. These areas are represented by five of the City's Neighborhood Planning Councils, Code Officers attend these monthly meetings and coordinate with law enforcement in their service areas. Depending on the service area, a different percentage of each of the five City Code Officers time is charged to the CDBG program depending on the percentage of low- and moderate-income residents in the boundaries of the Neighborhood Planning Councils.</p>

3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Service Grants
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The Use of Funds for the PY 2024 CDBG program includes \$180,000 for public service grants (less than 15% of the total CDBG allocation), these funds will be distributed by a Request for Proposal to support housing related services for low- to moderate-income people including eviction diversion; outreach and housing casemanagement for people experiencing homelessness; Fair Housing education and testing; and other community services. An estimated 150 households will be assisted.

## Projects

### AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

#### Introduction

The City of Battle Creek will receive \$1,228,110 in CDBG funding and \$267,572 in HOME Investment Partnership funds in Program Year 2024. The 2024 Program Year is from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The City runs the Minor Home Repair program and funds its Code Compliance program in the five target areas with CDBG funds. The City will run a request for proposals to select subrecipients for public service grants. For the HOME program, the City will fund a subrecipient, Neighborhoods, Inc, to administer a Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program and a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity, to construct one three-bedroom home in the Urbandale neighborhood for a low-income first-time homebuyer.

#### Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Administration
2	Neighborhood Planning Administration
3	Code Enforcement
4	Housing Rehabilitation - Minor Home Repair
5	Housing Rehab. Administration (Activity Delivery Costs)
6	Public Services
7	HOME Administration
8	In-fill Housing CHDO Set-Aside
9	Tenant Based Rental Assistance

**Table 7 - Project Information**

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

The Minor Home Repair program continues to experience strong demand for its services and a waitlist exists for services. There continues to be unmet need for housing both homeownership and rental in Battle Creek. A number of core neighborhoods have an abundance of vacant lots from deteriorated housing being torn down, in-fill housing would provide needed housing and help neighborhoods stabilize housing values. The cost of construction vs. the value of homes when construction is completed prevents private construction and developers from investing in building housing in neighborhoods. The CDBG and HOME investments help address underserved housing needs.



**AP-38 Project Summary**  
**Project Summary Information**

1	<b>Project Name</b>	CDBG Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Attainable Housing Housing Code Enforcement Public Service Grants
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Ensure safety of rental housing Increase the diversity of housing options Preserve and maintain existing affordable housing Increase access to affordable housing Better connect LMI neighborhoods and downtown Promote dense, mixed-use development downtown Reduce the effects of low income on life quality Reduce areas of concentrated poverty Help underserved groups access and use resources Support efforts around homelessness prevention Improve fair housing awareness and accountability Improve property conditions in LMI neighborhoods
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$122,811
	<b>Description</b>	The function of this City activity is to provide necessary staffing to develop, implement and monitor the overall performance of all Community Development Block Grant programs.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2025



	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	This funding supports the CDBG program whichs ensure program compliance and the directing of funds to the highest needs in the community. Code Complainece will touch over 2,000 households and ensure stable or improving neighborhood conditions for many low- and moderate-income households living in the City's core neighborhoods. The Minor Home Repair program will assist at least 36 households. Public Service grants will benefit at least 150 households. Staffing will also help resolve the implementation challenges stalling projects funded from previous years funding including the Youth Village Child Care project and the rental rehabilitation project at 614 NE Capital. Early in the program year, the Transit project funded in PY 2023 will complete its work to reconstruct four bus stops to make them handicapped accessible.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Community Development activities are provided citywide.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The function of this City activity is to provide necessary staffing to develop, implement and monitor the overall performance of all Community Development Block Grant programs. The City uses 10% of the total CDBG allocation for general administration functions.
<b>2</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Neighborhood Planning Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Attainable Housing Housing Code Enforcement Public Service Grants
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Ensure safety of rental housing Increase access to affordable housing Improve fair housing awareness and accountability
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$122,811
	<b>Description</b>	This City function provides the necessary management to conduct specific studies related to the overall program design of the comprehensive planning process and the development of the Consolidated Plan, involving Neighborhood Planning Councils, participation in the Continuum of Care through the Housing Solutions Board, civic organizations, individuals, and other boards, commissions and committees.

	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	This function provides citywide benefit to activities conducted under strategic planning and neighborhood planning including developing the Consolidated Plan, ensuring consultations around community development and housing needs in Battle Creek, conducting housing and marketing studies, facilitating the citizen engagement process, supporting the effectiveness of Neighborhood Planning Councils, supporting collaborative efforts to address homelessness and other community initiatives.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Activities occur citywide.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The City of Battle will be developing the Consolidated Plan for 2025-2029 during the 2024 Program Year this will involve developing a public survey, conducting a housing needs study and developing a community engagement/public meeting strategy. Neighborhood Planning Administration provides the necessary management to conduct specific studies related to the overall program design of the comprehensive planning process and the development of the Consolidated Plan, involving Neighborhood Planning Councils, civic organizations, individuals, and other boards, commissions and committees.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Code Enforcement
	<b>Target Area</b>	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Housing Code Enforcement
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Ensure safety of rental housing Preserve and maintain existing affordable housing Improve property conditions in LMI neighborhoods
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$210,000

	<b>Description</b>	The purpose of this activity is to provide effective staffing for the City Neighborhood Compliance Division to continue its efforts to provide the citizens of Battle Creek with effective code enforcement, and to complement other Community Development activities in blighted and distressed areas. This activity will serve to arrest a decline in targeted areas due to housing code violations, vacant and abandoned properties, citizen complaints regarding refuse and weed control and health and safety issues related to rental properties.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Area benefit is calculated as the number of low-and moderate-income individuals living in the targeted areas for code compliance. The population estimate for these five areas is 22,935 with 14,545 being low-and moderate-income people. It is expected that Code Compliance will impact 2,000 housing units. Code Compliance implements the City's rental registration ordinance and conducts rental property inspections in addition to exterior violations and junk accumulation for houses in neighborhoods.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Code Compliance is undertaken in the five CDBG target areas.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Code enforcement activities include exterior of housing and property inspections; write up and resolution of housing code violations; partnerships with community groups and the police department to address vacant housing and nuisances in neighborhoods, and rental registration and rental inspections.
<b>4</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Housing Rehabilitation - Minor Home Repair
	<b>Target Area</b>	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Attainable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Preserve and maintain existing affordable housing Reduce the effects of low income on life quality Help underserved groups access and use resources Improve property conditions in LMI neighborhoods
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$562,488

	<b>Description</b>	This City of Battle Creek activity will provide grants to homeowners for necessary repairs. The primary focus will be exterior repairs for cited code violations and health and safety issues. The City provides up to \$15,000 for repairs that do not disturb lead paint surfaces and up to \$25,000 for roofs.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The average amount of Minor Home Repair assistance in PY 2023 was \$14,000. Its estimated that 36 households will be assisted in PY 2024 with \$502,489 of 2024 CDBG funds and an estimate amount of program income of \$60,000 from the repayment of mortgages from previous years of rehabilitation funding. The Minor Home Repair program serves Battle Creek homeowners who meet the income guidelines, the program is first come, first served through an application system. Because of the cost of labor and materials have increased, less people are being served and the average costs for each project has increased.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The program is available citywide to low- and moderate-income households that meet the eligibility guidelines. Often repairs are made to homes located in the CDBG target areas.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	This City of Battle Creek activity will provide grants to homeowners for necessary repairs. The primary focus will be exterior repairs for cited code violations and health and safety issues.
5	<b>Project Name</b>	Housing Rehab. Administration (Activity Delivery Costs)
	<b>Target Area</b>	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Attainable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Preserve and maintain existing affordable housing Improve property conditions in LMI neighborhoods
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$90,000
	<b>Description</b>	This activity funds the costs to staff the Minor Home Repair program including conducting intake, documenting income eligibility, conducting home inspections, developing cost specifications, working with contractors and processing payments.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2025

	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The average amount of assistance provided in program year 2023 was \$14,000 per Minor Home Repair project. So with \$502,489 in funding available, approximately 36 households will be assisted.
	<b>Location Description</b>	This activity supports the delivery of Minor Home Repair services citywide.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The 2024 Annual Action Plan makes \$502,489 available in the Minor Home Repair program. This activity provides the staffing or project delivery costs for the Minor Home Repair program.
6	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Target Area</b>	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Service Grants
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Increase access to affordable housing Reduce the effects of low income on life quality Help underserved groups access and use resources Support efforts around homelessness prevention Improve fair housing awareness and accountability
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$180,000
	<b>Description</b>	Provides funds for social services to serve low- and moderate-income residents with a wide range of possible public services including housing case management and eviction diversion services.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	It is estimated that public services will benefit at least 150 households.
	<b>Location Description</b>	All public services will be available citywide.

	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Specific public services funded will be set up as separate activities. Subrecipients will be determined through an Request for Proposal process. Provides funds for social services to serve low and moderate income residents with a wide range of possible public services including housing case management and eviction diversion services.
7	<b>Project Name</b>	HOME Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Attainable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Increase the diversity of housing options Preserve and maintain existing affordable housing Increase access to affordable housing Reduce the effects of low income on life quality Help underserved groups access and use resources Improve fair housing awareness and accountability Improve property conditions in LMI neighborhoods
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$26,757
	<b>Description</b>	The function of this City activity is to provide necessary staffing to develop, implement and monitor the overall performance of all HOME programs.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	This project supports all the HOME funded projects. In PY 2024, an estimated 152 households will be assisted.  Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity, In-fill housing developed by a CHDO: 2 households assisted  In-fill Housing RFP: 2 households  Neighborhoods Inc, Tenant Based Rental Assistance: 122 households with 2024 funds written agreement, and ageeement funded with previous years allocations.  Down Payment Assistance: 26 households
	<b>Location Description</b>	Services will be available citywide.

	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Staffing for HOME program oversight, compliance and implementation. City staff will hold two Requests for Proposals to allocate in-fill housing funding and down payment assistance.
8	<b>Project Name</b>	In-fill Housing CHDO Set-Aside
	<b>Target Area</b>	Urbandale Revitalization Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Attainable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Increase the diversity of housing options Increase access to affordable housing Reduce the effects of low income on life quality
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$85,338
	<b>Description</b>	This activity will provide gap funds for development of one or more new built single-family homes within the City. Upon completion of construction, these properties will be made available for purchase to low- to moderate income homebuyers.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Two families will obtain homeownership through this funding combined with CHDO funding from previous years.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The new homes are being built in the Urbandale Neighborhood Planning Council, #5. The house are being built on Cedar Street and Woodlawn Avenue on land purchased from the Calhoun County Land Bank on land from a church that burnt down a number of years ago. It is located across from Lamora Park Elementary School, part of Battle Creek Public Schools.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	This funding will be used with funds available from past years to build a modest three bedroom home. Habitat for Humanity estimates the cost to build using volunteer labor and some contributed materials to be \$130,000 along with \$13,000 in down payment assistance for each of the two houses that are proposed to be built.
	<b>Project Name</b>	Tenant Based Rental Assistance

9	<b>Target Area</b>	Post/Franklin Revitalization Area Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area Northcentral Revitalization Area Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area Urbandale Revitalization Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Attainable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Ensure safety of rental housing Increase access to affordable housing Reduce the effects of low income on life quality Reduce areas of concentrated poverty Help underserved groups access and use resources Support efforts around homelessness prevention
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$155,477
	<b>Description</b>	This activity provides short-term rental assistance of three to six months to eligible low-income households experiencing a housing emergency and also participating in housing case management, employment training or another self-sufficiency program.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2025
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	It is estimated that 48 households will be assisted with three to six months of rental assistance along with security and utility deposits.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Assistance will be citywide.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Tenant Based Rental Assistance will provide short-term rental assistance to help prevent, and help families recover from, homelessness to help households live in safe, quality housing.



## **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 City has identified five geographic areas for targeted investment. These areas are called CDBG Revitalization Areas and are listed below.

While the boundaries are not coterminous, there is a correlation between poor housing conditions, minority race/ethnicity status and low- and moderate-income households in Battle Creek neighborhoods. These poor conditions are concentrated in portions of the Fremont/McKinley, North Central, Post/Franklin, and Wilson/Coburn Neighborhood Planning Council areas. The City has identified revitalization areas within each of these NPC areas that are at risk of decline (as is discussed in the section MA-50 "Needs and Market Analysis Discussion" of the Consolidated Plan).

These areas will be targeted with resources and programs intended to arrest neighborhood decline. This includes CDBG- funded City programs like Minor Home Repair and Code Compliance, as well as programs and activities operated by the Police Department, Parks and Recreation, the Department of Public Works, the Calhoun County Land Bank, community groups, and local non-profits. The proposed target areas encompass 7,183 residential parcels (of 17,000 citywide).

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
Post/Franklin Revitalization Area	20
Fremont/McKinley Revitalization Area	10
Northcentral Revitalization Area	50
Wilson/Coburn Revitalization Area	20
Urbandale Revitalization Area	10

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

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

Market analysis and survey data show the Post/Franklin, Wilson/Coburn and Northcentral Revitalization Areas to have the greatest need. Resources targeted to these areas build on investments from previous years. The Urbandale Revitalization Area has improved significantly and will likely be removed as a target area (based on the data) sometime during the next five years. However, distribution of funds to the Urbandale neighborhood is expected to increase by 10% compared to last year due to the investments in transit stops adjacent to affordable housing developments and a grocery store located in

Urbandale.

### **Discussion**

The City has been targeting resources in these neighborhoods for a long time. Each area is represented by a Neighborhood Planning Council where neighborhood residents, police officers, City Commissioners, and City staff meet monthly to discuss neighborhood and city issues and initiatives. Each Neighborhood Planning Council was part of the citizen engagement process for the 2020-24 Consolidated Plan.

## Affordable Housing

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

#### Introduction

In 2024-2025, the majority of people and families that will benefit from affordable housing resources will be homeowners seeking assistance with home repairs and individuals in need of financial assistance to purchase a home or access rental housing. The City's Minor Home Repair program will focus on smaller projects that address housing code violations and other housing deficiencies related to health and safety. A Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program will be offered that provides rental assistance to individuals facing eviction or housing instability.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	48
Non-Homeless	37
Special-Needs	0
Total	85

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	48
The Production of New Units	1
Rehab of Existing Units	36
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	85

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

#### Discussion

As discussed in the needs assessment, the most common housing problem in the City is severe housing cost burden, where residents pay more than 50% of their household income for housing and utility costs. This problem is more prevalent among renters (2,245 households) than home owners (1,260). However, this is largely the result of renters generally having lower incomes than homeowners.

Many of the target revitalization areas have older homes in need of repair. Housing cost burden contributes to the lack of upkeep. Another factor has been the low return on investment for homeowners that do repairs on their homes due to low sales prices. However, values are beginning to rise in CDBG Revitalization Areas with some areas of Washington Heights and the Post/Franklin areas seeing 60 to 90 percent increases in residential prices over the last five years—outpacing the City as a whole. This is creating incentives for property owners to invest in these neighborhoods and is creating

wealth-building opportunities for some low and moderate-income families.

The affordable housing activities will meet the definition of 92.252 for rental housing and/or 92.254 for homeownership, as applicable. Affordable housing meeting the HOME definition for both rental and homeownership.

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

### **Introduction**

The Battle Creek Housing Commission is a medium-sized housing authority which owns and manages 320 units of public housing with family units at Parkway Manor and Northside Homes and older adults and disabled housing at Cherry Hill Manor and Kellogg Manor. The Battle Creek Housing Commission is currently in the process of converting its public housing inventory of housing to project based vouchers through the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program so that now rents and operating costs will be reimbursed from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the multi-family portfolio instead of public housing division. The incentive to do this is that the reimbursement from HUD is more stable and is usually higher. Cherry Hill which provides 150 one-bedroom units to older adults, age 50 and over, will fully convert January 1, 2025. Kellogg Manor, 70 units for people with disabilities and older adults, age 50 and over; Northside Homes, 16 single family homes scattered within the Washington Heights neighborhood, and Parkway Manor, 84 apartments for families is in the application process for converting and should be approved in the summer of 2024 for conversion January 1, 2026.

The Housing Commission has budget authority for 700 Housing Choice vouchers which includes 175 of HUD-VASH certificates for veterans who have experienced homelessness. It also owns and manages 19 remaining single-family homes available for homeownership in a lease- to- purchase program. This program started with 150 homes that have been sold to families to create homeownership. The Battle Creek Housing Commission opens its Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list annually in April. Sign-up for the waiting list is online and the Battle Creek Housing Commission draws 300-500 names by random, computerized lottery to be placed on the waiting list.

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

The Battle Creek Housing Commission and the City of Battle Creek have a close working relationship and collaborate on joint projects including human resource services. There are no planned activities using federal CDBG or HOME funding in the next program year for public housing. The Community Development Supervisor and the Community Services Director serve on the Board of the Battle Creek Housing Commission.

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

The Battle Creek Housing Commission provides opportunities for families who apply and qualify for

entrance into the homeownership program. In 1990, the Housing Commission constructed 150 single family homes in a HUD funded Turnkey III program. Nineteen single family homes remain to be sold in the program, scattered throughout neighborhoods in the Battle Creek area rented to qualified families with an option to purchase that is exercised at the option of the resident family. Residents must be employed and/or have a continuing source of income and remain employed throughout their rental term. Two, three and four bedroom units are available. Residents are responsible for all utilities and agree to perform all routine and non-routine maintenance. One hundred seventy-six of these homes have already been converted from rental to homeownership by the resident families and this has proven to be a very successful program.

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

The Battle Creek Housing Commission is not a troubled agency. While older, the housing commission housing stock is in good condition. Cherry Hill was built in 1970 and is in the initial development phase of undergoing a major rehabilitation of its common areas and entrance with financing through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program.

**Discussion**

The Battle Creek Housing Commission has been a member of the Greater Battle Creek Homeless Coalition for a number of years and the Executive Director is a Co-chair of the Housing Solutions Board.

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

### **Introduction**

While the City does not provide housing and supportive services for homeless people and people who are not homeless but who have special needs, the City works with a large network of social service agencies and the Calhoun County Continuum of Care to coordinate services and communication among providers of services and housing. Different organizations in the network of service providers work with specific subpopulations of people such as the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities and public housing residents.

In spring 2024, the Lead Planning Body for the Battle Creek/Calhoun County Continuum of Care notified HUD and MSHDA that it was resigning from this role to focus its agency's attention away from housing and homelessness to focus on providing mental health services. Summit Pointe, the community mental health agency for Calhoun County had served in the lead planning body role since the beginning of the Continuum of Care requirements. Through a competitive process, the Housing Solutions Board, the decision-making body for the Continuum of Care, selected the United Way of South Central Michigan to be the new lead planning body. The United Way currently also serves as the Lead Planning Body for the Kalamazoo City and County Continuum of Care.

In June 2023, Neighborhoods, Inc. received a \$500,000 two year Shelter Diversion grant award from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to fund short term rental assistance and staffing. For federal Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds, Battle Creek/Calhoun County participates in the MSHDA Balance of State process for funding, because our population is not large enough to qualify as an entitlement for the ESG program. ESG program has funded in Battle Creek in a total of \$184,362.00 in 2023 and \$184,364.00 in 2022.

### **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**

Outreach to homeless people occurs mainly by the staff of the SHARE Center and the Haven of Rest. The current peer support/recovery coach who performs outreach for the SHARE Center is paid through a HOME-ARP grant through June 30, 2025.

The SHARE Center serves as a Daytime Drop-In center with coffee, breakfast items, bathrooms, personal hygiene kits, complimentary haircuts, daily meals, personal identification facilitation, computer lab, telephone services and laundry facilities. The SHARE Center staff facilitate one-on-one and group sessions supporting recovery, in addition to case management, which coordinates care for homeless people requiring medical, behavioral and substance abuse services. The SHARE Center also facilitates

enrollment into the Healthy Michigan Plan Medicaid expansion program, and provides the SHARE Center mailing address and phone number to the homeless individuals/families for enrollment/health plan information correspondence. The day shelter also works to engage people in employment services and coordinates housing solutions. The SHARE Center works closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs to support all the veterans who use the Center. The SHARE Center is funded by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Emergency Solutions Grant.

Staff at shelters engage people in services and help them find housing. The Haven has a dedicated staff person with lived experience who leads outreach efforts. Volunteers work with him to distribute items like sack lunches, bottles of water, clothing, or blankets depending on donations and what is appropriate for the weather at the time to homeless people living on the street and not in any of the shelters.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in partnership with the Homeless Coalition also annually organizes a Calhoun County Connect & Veteran's Stand Down health fair which engages the homeless community and veterans in services and provides free basic needs items to people. It offers free haircuts, lunch, toiletries, blankets, and other free items. This event is always widely attended and providers offer services to engage homeless people. The VA also has outreach staff who work with the shelters to enroll veterans in services. About 300 people attend this event hosted at the City's recreation facility every October.

Battle Creek has several meal programs that offer outreach services where individuals and families come for meals including the SHARE Center; Salvation Army Sally's Kitchen lunch program, Monday through Saturday; Upton Avenue Original Church luncheon program every Tuesday; St. Philip's Sunday Supper program; God's Kitchen; and St. Thomas Episcopal Church summer breakfast program, which provides a healthy breakfast when children/families are not able to receive school breakfasts.

A weakness in Battle Creek's Continuum of Care is that none of the shelters serve unaccompanied minors under the age of 17. Child Protective Services helps place youth but there isn't a licensed facility available to serve children and teenagers that are no longer can rely on their family for shelter and care.

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

The City of Battle Creek's inventory of emergency and transitional beds is usually adequate to fill the needs for men, but there is an increased number of women and families seeking emergency shelter. During the COVID pandemic, a new low-barrier, emergency shelter opened up in Battle Creek to help with social distancing with funding from the Battle Creek Community Foundation and CDBG-CV funds from HUD through the City of Battle Creek. This shelter closed on May 1, 2024, due to a lack of ongoing operating funds. Existing programs absorbed the people who had been using the Battle Creek Shelter for overnight and day shelter.

There is a continuing need for case management to help people connect to housing, employment and services. There is an unmet need in permanent supportive housing and in affordable housing in quality



condition for families and individuals. Homeless providers work creatively to obtain private donations, government funding and foundation funding to fulfill their missions to help homeless people and others leaving unsafe home situations. They work constantly to maintain funding for their current inventory of shelter beds and services.

The City's HOME-ARP funds were allocated to support these needs, including five sub-grants to homeless service providers to provide housing case management and other supportive services. 360,000 was allocated to provide gap funds for a 55 unit permanent supportive housing development.

**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**

There is a shortage of safe, quality, affordable housing in Battle Creek for low-income families and individuals. A housing counselor will work with a family or individual to see if they qualify for available housing assistance. The first step is always to obtain Social security cards and birth certificates.

The Haven provides case management to help families and individuals obtain a regular income to pay for housing and to access community resources to help prevent further episodes of homelessness.

VOCES provides housing advocacy and interpretation services to the Latino/Hispanic community. This has been an important aspect of helping the Spanish-speaking community access housing resources. The goal is general increased awareness of available resources and navigating the often complex application process.

Goodwill's Financial Opportunities Center has an excellent financial fitness program to help people work through debt and low credit scores. Legal Services provides legal services and eviction prevention. Women's Co-op provides support for women leaving poverty and seeking help through their store, volunteering and the Solutions Highway Program. Neighborhoods, Inc. of Battle Creek provides homeownership counseling for those interested and able to own their own home, and also rents units to people recovering from homelessness.

**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.**

Several organizations provide homelessness prevention in the Greater Battle Creek Homeless Coalition including Neighborhood, Inc. which provides foreclosure counseling and helps people restructure their debt and mortgages; Goodwill Financial Opportunities Center which also provides budget and foreclosure counseling; Legal Services which provides legal intervention and education about foreclosures and evictions.

Neighborhoods, Inc. is also the Housing Access Resource Agency (HARA) for Calhoun County, which provides eviction prevention services and help for homeless people to find housing. Neighborhoods, Inc. supports housing solutions for homeless people through several grant funding streams, primarily through the Michigan Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). NIBC is sub-recipient of CDBG-CV, HOME-ARP and HOME TBRA funds with plans for continued partnership.

- MSHDA Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Homeless Prevention Financial Assistance and Case Management funding provides individual support, relocation, housing stabilization services, and financial assistance to avoid eviction and prevent homelessness.
- MSHDA ESG Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) funding includes Case Management and Financial Assistance to provide individual case support, housing stability services and short-term funding to cover security deposit funding and up to six months' rent to rapidly exit homelessness.
- MSHDA ESG Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) funding provides data management support.

The Homeless Coalition has negotiated discharge protocols with local police departments and hospitals in past years. There is a need to reexamine them with the Calhoun County Jail, Calhoun County Sheriff's Department, the Battle Creek Police Department, and the two local hospitals, Bronson Battle Creek near downtown and Oakland Hospital in Marshall.

## **Discussion**

Battle Creek has experienced, caring organizations providing shelter and supportive services. The Haven has developed treatment programs for helping people overcome substance abuse problems and other issues that hamper re-establishing independent living. Summit Pointe, Battle Creek's community mental health provider, has expanded its mental health services to serve those who are dually diagnosed with both mental health and substance abuse disorders. The SHARE Center provides outreach and peer mentoring in an environment rich with services for those making changes in their lives. There continues to be a shortage of housing case management to help people find and remain stable in permanent housing. There is also a shortage of permanent supportive housing. Transportation also remains a challenge. The shortage of subsidized housing inhibits the implementation of the Rapid Re-Housing and

Housing First models. While workers at the Haven and the SHARE Center help connect people to services in the community, there remains a shortage of affordable housing for those with low incomes. S.A.F.E. Place works with victims recovering from domestic violence who also find housing a difficult piece of the recovery puzzle.

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

### **Introduction:**

The City of Battle Creek has periodically reviewed State and local regulations, policies and practices to continue to make improvements and eliminate barriers to families accessing affordable housing. There are a number of State and local regulations designed to promote the orderly development and maintenance of safe, decent and sanitary housing in the community. Sometimes these regulations can act as barriers to affordable housing, and city staff continue to make adjustments.

In the City's last Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, there were no specific regulations listed as impediments to fair housing. Several recommendations were made for the City to explore and consider zoning and land use changes. These recommendations and the City's action steps are included in its 2019 Fair Housing Report and progress is evaluated in a subsequent assessment report completed in 2020.

The 2019 Fair Housing report covers four years of activities by the City and its partners to address fair housing issues in Battle Creek. Activities include public engagement, training, seminars, 9 systemic investigations, numerous events, the creation of a Human Relations Board and a Beyond Separation Task Force. The 2019 Fair Housing report is available on the City's website at: [www.battlecreekmi.gov/566](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov/566).

The City is in negotiations with the Fair Housing Center of South West Michigan to sign a contract for two fair housing trainings and investigations of the rental and real estate market. The investigations follow up on the 2015 and 2018 testing of fair housing.

### **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**

To eliminate duplication, the City uses the building codes established by the State for uniform construction standards. These standards parallel the three National Code standards and are minimum provisions to ensure general safety for the public. The State codes and guidelines are also appealable to the State. Consequently, the City's building codes do not appear to hinder the development or preservation of affordable housing.

Likewise, the locally established Minimum Housing Code does not create a barrier for affordable housing. These standards parallel the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) and are minimum requirements established to preserve and promote the public health, safety, comfort, personality and general welfare of the people. Their enforcement is necessary to preserve and encourage the private/public interests in housing and its maintenance. At the same time, these

standards are appealable, locally, to ensure there are no undue hardships. An examination of the community's fee structures indicates the City's building permit fees and charges are at a median, as compared to surrounding communities.

The City's zoning and land-use codes promote the morals, aesthetics, prosperity, health, safety and general welfare of all people in Battle Creek. These codes are constructed to allow compatible development throughout the community and are flexible enough to encourage redevelopment in the community's existing, established areas. This is evidenced by development in both the City's outlying and urban areas. These codes, like other local codes, are appealable locally to ensure equitable and fair treatment. All residential properties are assessed on a citywide basis using market sales data of comparable properties in and around the immediate neighborhood. Citywide assessing appears to ensure an equitable treatment of residential property and provides an incentive to those who maintain and improve their properties. The current public policies relating to housing and, in particular, affordable housing, do not appear to be excessive, exclusionary, or discriminatory nor do they duplicate any other policies.

The City of Battle Creek is participating in the Redevelopment Ready Communities initiative through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. This state-wide program promotes communities that are competitive and ready for redevelopment. The process and eventual certification ensures that a community is transparent, predictable, and efficient in their daily development practices, which includes having a streamlined development review process. The third-party review and potential regulatory and/or policy changes that will come out of this program will ensure that those coming forward to invest in property can do so as efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

The City's master plan was updated in 2018; part of this review included research and recommendations for housing development and redevelopment, including the availability of diverse housing options and affordability levels such as real estate, public policy, neighborhood conditions, finance, and socio economic.

## **Discussion:**

### **Real Estate:**

In the Battle Creek housing market there is limited variety in the types of available housing suitable for different types of households. The Fair Housing studies identified a need to increase the variety of owner and rental housing in the City (more than just single family homes) for empty nesters, students, young professionals and the elderly. This needed housing should be located downtown where pedestrian amenities, educational opportunities, public transportation and fewer maintenance burdens

exist.

Evidence points to possible Fair Housing violations in real estate advertising. A review of rental advertisements in one publication indicated that few promotional photographs feature minority residents. The AI recommended further evaluation of advertising. The Battle Creek Area Association of Realtors does display the equal opportunity logo at events, on their website and does adhere to a code of ethics.

#### **Public Policy:**

A special permitting process is required to establish a State licensed residential facility. Battle Creek requires a minimum lot size and a special permitting process for establishing a State licensed residential facilities in the City.

A review of discrimination complaints and fair housing testing indicates that Battle Creek may have instances of housing discrimination based on familial status (presence of children under the age of 18).

#### **Neighborhood Conditions:**

In some neighborhoods there is a concentration of substandard rental housing units in minority census tracts. The AI found a strong correlation between older housing stock and the presence of racial minorities and suggested increased code enforcement, continue the rental registration program and increase public-private rehabilitation programs for rental housing using HUD, MSHDA, and historic tax credits.

#### **Finance:**

For some residents, credit issues limit financing options and the ability to qualify for a loan. Many applicants are denied mortgages due to poor credit or lack of credit. Goodwill's Financial Opportunities Center and Neighborhood, Inc. have foreclosure and homeownership programs that teach financial literacy, help prevent homeless and provide homeownership coaching. Evaluation of lending patterns is an area the City should explore further. The City could encourage lending institutions to consider

alternative measures to determine credit worthiness such as utility bills and occupational longevity. The AI suggested the City host a roundtable with lending institutions to discuss the outcomes of the HMDA data and trends and the need for investment in lower income census tracts.

**Socioeconomic:**

Some neighborhoods demonstrate a concentration of socio-economic problems and poverty. Increasing socioeconomic integration has the positive benefit of decreasing poverty concentration, decreasing blight, increasing social capital and increasing variety in neighborhoods, and promoting in-fill development

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

### **Introduction:**

Federal community development funding is spent by the City of Battle Creek to improve neighborhood conditions for residents to feel safe and enjoy a vibrant, healthy community. Funds and planning activities are intended to help restore and support the private, housing market especially in low-and moderate-income areas. For the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, an extensive public engagement strategy was undertaken including a community survey, community forums and meetings with Neighborhood Planning Councils. Local priorities resulting from the planning process include:

1. Ensure Housing is Affordable, Accessible, and Safe
2. Activate Underutilized Land in Low Income Neighborhoods
3. Alleviate Poverty
4. Community Engagement Through Collaboration and Empowerment
5. Affirmatively Further Fair Housing
6. Restore Vitality in Low Income Neighborhoods

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

Almost all CDBG and HOME funding is spent in low-and moderate-income areas of the community. These neighborhoods are identified in the five revitalization areas set up in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The City will continue to implement housing and community development activities that meet the underserved needs in the community.

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

See AP-55 for a discussion on Affordable Housing activities to be undertaken in the 2023-24 program year. Housing has typically been relatively affordable in Battle Creek in recent years (compared to other comparable communities), with the condition and safety of housing affordable to those with low-incomes being the greatest concern. However, in the last few years home sale prices have increase as much as 60-90% in some LMI areas. Rents in the State were up 2.1% year over year in 2022.

The City offers Minor Home Repair to help sustain low and moderate-income homeowners in their housing. In a given year, anywhere from 30 to 50 percent of participants in the program are single seniors on fixed incomes. Often these seniors have paid off their mortgages and are living in areas where they have built up supportive social networks. Minor Home Repair assistance helps with costs



that might otherwise cause a senior to be displaced from an otherwise independent living situation.

Many partners have been working on creating viable infill housing models for Battle Creek neighborhoods, including the Calhoun County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA), the Urban League, Neighborhoods Inc. of Battle Creek (NIBC), and Habitat for Humanity, and Washington Heights United Methodist Church Hub of Hope. The CCLBA received a \$500,000 private foundation grant to do some infill housing in the Washington Heights area. The Urban League, NIBC, and the Hub of Hope have prepared or are working on proposals for infill housing developments. The City will release an RFP in 2024 for infill housing proposals using HOME funds. The City of Battle Creek with Kellogg Foundation funds has completed a housing assessment, which will be available in spring 2024.

The City Manager's office continues to take the lead on facilitating a permanent supportive housing development in Battle Creek. Upholding a Chicago-based developer of permanent supportive housing, submitted a Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) in October 2023 for a 55-one-bedroom apartment development. Most of the land for this proposed development is City-owned land and is located in NPC #1, a CDBG target area. HOME-ARP and HOME funding are budgeted to provide some gap funding for this development. The Battle Creek Housing Commission has pledged 55 Project-Based Vouchers to fund the operating costs of the housing. LIHTC funding announcements are expected in spring 2024.

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

Any rehabilitation activities on housing units constructed prior to 1978 will have lead hazards identified and actions taken to remove the hazard. All rehab work is required to be done with lead safe work practices. In the rehabilitation of homeowner housing, homeowners receive an EPA Lead education pamphlet and sign a notice that they have received such notification.

The City of Battle Creek has two Lead Abatement Programs that will address lead hazards in housing in the 2024 program year. The Lead Safe Program is a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services funded program that uses \$1.5 million in CHIP Medicaid funds to do full lead abatement on homes that have a child or pregnant woman on Medicaid living in them. The program is implemented by the City of Battle Creek in partnership with Community Action (CA) with City Staff completing projects within the city limits and CA completing projects in the balance of the county.

The second lead program is funded with a \$3.4 million HUD lead hazard control grant that began in January 2021 and is funded until June 30, 2025. The Lead Hazard Control Program assists low and moderate-income families living in housing built before 1978 with identifying, controlling, and/or abating lead hazards. This grant is offered to families countywide. Community Action is the city's

partner on this grant, implementing projects in the areas of the county outside the city limits.

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

With a high poverty rate of 22%, reducing poverty is a goal for Battle Creek. A number of collaborative efforts are under way to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of residents, including:

- Minor Home Repair program helps sustain families in affordable owner-occupied housing. Because property values in downtown neighborhoods are beginning to rise in recent years, this creates a wealth building opportunity.
- United Way's ALICE Analysis, United Way's educational effort to focus programs and policy on those families struggling just above the poverty line to make it financially.
- Women's Co-op, Solutions Highway, a coaching program working with LISC's Financial Opportunities Center and volunteering to help low-income women improve their family and employment outcomes.
- Down payment assistance will be offered to create pathways to homeownership for low and moderate income families
- As part of its collaboration with TRHT, the Battle Creek Area Association of Realtors, the Fair Housing Center, and the Urban League, the city continues to work to reduce the homeownership gap between whites and people of color in Battle Creek—disseminating a locally created 10 page homebuyer guide and holding homebuyer workshops facilitated by African American and Hispanic/Latino Realtors and community leaders.

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

The primary focus in 2024 will be the same as last year: to address the limited current delivery system capacity due to not having a strong housing development organization. There are many fine organizations with competent leaders working on various aspects of housing and community development.

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

The City is involved in numerous collaborations and efforts to improve resident and community engagement. The City will continue with its participation in the Homeless Coalition and the Housing Solutions Board, Battle Creek Realtor Association Committee for Diversity and Inclusion; and the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Initiative. The City is participating with the Calhoun County Public Health Department to reinvigorate the Lead Poisoning Prevention Task Force in the spring of 2024. The Lead Task Force has stopped meeting regularly during the COVID pandemic. The City of Battle Creek will continue to work with the Calhoun County Land Bank Authority to maintain and make use of the

properties held for redevelopment in the City.

**Discussion:**

## Program Specific Requirements

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

#### Introduction:

The City of Battle Creek will utilize its PY 2024 CDBG allocation of \$1,288,110.00 to fund only CDBG eligible activities as listed in 24 CFT 91.220. In PY 2024, the City will operate a Minor Home Repair program, fund Code Compliance efforts in targetted neighborhoods, fund public services with 15% of its CDBG allocation, and fund the City adminstration and neighborhood planning functions of the program.

The City of Battle Creek Community Development Division's goal is to implement programs in compliance with HUD and other Federal regulations. Program income is tracked and spent first before program funding. Sub-recipients are monitored and provided technical assistance to also be in compliance with Federal regulations. Funds are competitively bid in accordance with procurement rules.

#### 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
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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. 90.00%

**HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)  
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)**

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

The City of Battle Creek will utilize its PY 2024 HOME allocation of \$267,571.52 to fund only HOME eligible activities as listed in CFR 92.205. No other form of investment is being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

Resale and Recapture guidelines used by the City of Battle Creek are discussed below.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

The City of Battle Creek utilizes the recapture option in its homebuyer and homeowner rehabilitation programs. The City reserves the right to utilize the resale option at its discretion when developing a new HOME-funded program or activity. Sub recipients and CHDOs use the same recapture policy as the City of Battle Creek.

Recapture: Under the recapture option, the City of Battle Creek will require the initial HOME assisted homebuyer/homeowner to repay the outstanding HOME subsidy at the time of resale. The HOME subsidy will be forgiven on a pro rata basis, depending on the amount of assistance originally given, of 1/5, 1/10 or 1/15 per year. On a pro rata basis, the assistance will be fully forgiven after the term of affordability ends. The term of affordability will end, as a result of the sale of the assisted property by the homeowner, when the adjusted pro rata subsidy is repaid in whole to the City. At no time will the amount subject to recapture exceed the amount of the net proceeds from the sale of the property. The recapture provision will be enforced with a recorded

lien on the assisted property. Deed restrictions will be utilized as needed and appropriate.

Resale: The homebuyer may sell the property during the term of affordability provided that the following conditions are met: The subsequent purchaser is a low or moderate-income household that will use the property as their principal residence, pay homeowner insurance, and keep property taxes current. Low- or moderate-income households are defined as households whose gross annual income does not exceed 80 percent of the area median income, adjusted for household size. Due to space limitations, the rest of the resale policy is described in the 2024-2025 Consolidated Plan and in the City of Battle Creek's HOME Policies and Procedures.

The fair return on investment will equal the sum of 1) the amount of the homeowner's investment, and 2) the amount of the standardized appreciation value, less any investment by the City required at the time of resale to enable the property to meet local housing code. The homeowner's investment is calculated by adding the down payment made by the homeowner during the period of ownership, and the value of the mortgage principal repaid by the homeowner during the period of ownership and the value of any improvement installed at the homeowner's expense. The standardized appreciation value will equal three percent of the original purchase price for each year the homeowner holds title to the property, calculated as one-quarter percent per month.

The sale price of the property may not exceed the lesser of 1) the appraised value of the property at the time of sale, or 2) a sale price that provides for an affordable mortgage. The sales price must also be under the HOME Homeownership Value Limits (95% of area medium property value). HOME Homeowner Value Limits are found in Appendix 9. A mortgage is considered affordable if the monthly payment for principal, interest, taxes and insurance (PITI) does not exceed 30 percent of the gross monthly income of a household with an income that is between 70 and 80 percent of area median income adjusted for household size. If necessary, the City of Battle Creek will invest additional HOME funds to assure the subsequent mortgage is affordable.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

The City of Battle Creek will not use HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing. HOME funds will also not be used to rehabilitate multifamily housing in conjunction with any refinancing of existing debt.

5. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

The City of Battle Creek does fund a Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program through a sub-recipient, Neighborhoods, Inc. of Battle Creek. They assist people who have been homeless or to

help prevent homelessness. They do not utilize a preference for persons with special needs or disabilities.

6. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

The City of Battle Creek funds a TBRA program but the subrecipient does not use preferences. Income eligibility is documented, and households are served on a first-come, first served basis.

7. If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

The City does not fund rental housing projects that use a preference or limitation beyond income.

The City of Battle Creek utilizes a first-come-first-served application policy for programs implemented directly to citizens. Applications to City programs are available online at the City's website and available for pickup at City Hall during normal business hours. Applications are regularly mailed out to potential clients when requested or identified as a candidate for City programs.

Sub-recipients are monitored and provided technical assistance to also be in compliance with Federal regulations. Funds are competitively bid in accordance with procurement rules.

The City uses HOME affordable homeownership limits for the area provided by HUD.





## Attachments

## Citizen Participation Comments

### City of Battle Creek

### Summary of the Citizen Participation Process, 2024 Annual Action Plan

The Citizen Participation Plan for the 2024 Annual Action Plan included two public hearings; discussion of community needs and how CDBG and HOME funds are being spent at six Neighborhood Planning Council meetings; and publication in the Battle Creek SHOPPER, a free newspaper delivered to all households in the greater Battle Creek area and the Spanish-language newspaper, Nueva Opinion.

On April 16, 2024, the City of Battle Creek held a public hearing for the purpose of hearing public comments on the housing and community development need of low- and moderate-income citizens for the City's 2024 Annual Action Plan. Ten citizens and one City Commissioner spoke. Comments were made about the need for recovery housing in the community for those recovering from substance abuse, and other comments were made about the general lack of housing for those with low incomes and/or felony conviction records. Minutes from this meeting are included in the Public Engagement documents given below.

A copy of the draft 2024 Annual Action Plan was made available on the City's website starting on April 4, 2024, and a hard copy draft was available for review in the Community Development office in City Hall. A number of developers reviewed the draft of the 2024 Annual Action Plan and contacted the Community Development Supervisor to talk about proposed projects.

The public hearing and approval of the proposed use of funds on the 2024 Annual Action Plan was scheduled for a regular City Commission meeting on May 7, 2024. There was a tornado warning that evening that first delayed the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting while Commissioners, staff and the public sheltered in the basement of City Hall, the meeting resumed at 7:30pm and then was canceled when another tornado warning was issued. The City advertised the rescheduled meeting by posting a notice and publicizing the rescheduled meeting on social media. A screen shot is provided of the notice that was posted with the proposed use of funds listed prior to the rescheduled City Commission meeting.

At the rescheduled, May 14, 2024 public hearing, seven citizens made comments during the public hearing and then five comments were made about people experiencing homelessness in Battle Creek during the City Commission's general public comment period. All comments were accepted. One commenter asked about the administrative costs of the CDBG and HOME programs. She filled out a comment card and the Community Development Supervisor sent an email to the commenter giving more detail about the programs and administrative costs with a copy to the City Clerk. Minutes from the May 14, 2024, meeting are included below.

The Community Development Supervisor attended at least one of the six Neighborhood Planning Council's monthly meetings to discuss community needs and how funds are being used. People spoke about their concerns about people being homeless, the importance of the minor home repair program for helping low-income homeowners, support for use of CDBG to fund public services, and the need to build new homes on vacant lots in neighborhoods.

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
**City of Battle Creek's Housing and Community Development Needs**  
**2024 Program Year**  
**Community Development Block Grant Program**  
**Home Investment Partnership Program**

The Battle Creek City Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 14, 2024**, at 7:00 p.m. during the City Commission meeting for the purpose of hearing public comment on Battle Creek's housing and community development needs. The hearing will be held in the City Commission Chambers, Room 301, City Hall, 10 North Division Street.

In accordance with Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended and the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, the City of Battle Creek is required to obtain the views of citizens on housing and community development needs for Battle Creek, by holding a Public Hearing on its housing and community development needs prior to the approval of the 2024 Annual Action Plan which directs the spending of Federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funding that the City receives as an entitlement community.

Previous citizen input, as recorded in the Public Engagement Report of the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan is available for review in City Hall, Room 104, 10 North Division Street during normal business hours. The draft Annual Action Plan and 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan are also available online at [www.battlecreekmi.gov](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov) on the Community Development Division webpage. Citizens wishing to make comments may do so either at the public hearing or in writing to: Helen Guzzo, Community Development Supervisor, City Hall, Room 104, 10 North Division Street, Battle Creek, Michigan 49014, or emailing [hguzzo@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:hguzzo@battlecreekmi.gov).

The City of Battle Creek will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered in the meeting upon seven-day notice. Individuals with disabilities, requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Battle Creek by writing Vicki Houser at Office of the City Clerk, PO Box 1717, Battle Creek, MI 49016 or calling (269) 966-3348 (TDD).

The City of Battle Creek will also provide interpretation services and translation of any printed materials being considered in this meeting upon seven-day notice. Individuals needing interpretation or translation should contact Michelle Salazar by calling (269) 966-3355.



Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
County of Calhoun

Danielle E Echtnaw

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
**Housing and Community Development Needs 2024 Program Year**  
**Community Development Block Grant Program**  
**Home Investment Partnership Program**

Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024**, at 7:00 AM in a meeting to hear public comment on Battle Creek's housing and community development needs. The hearing will be held in the City Commission Chambers, Room 104, 10 North Division Street.

The Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the Cranston-Housing Act of 1990, require the City of Battle Creek to obtain citizens' input on community development needs for Battle Creek. This public hearing seeks approval of the 2024 Annual Action Plan, which directs the spending of Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funding that the City receives from the federal government.

The draft Annual Action Plan and 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan are also available for review in City Hall, Room 104, 10 North Division Street during the public hearing. Comments may do so either at the public hearing or in writing to: Helen Houser, City Supervisor, City Hall, Room 104, 10 North Division Street, Battle Creek, MI 49811. Email: hhouser@battlecreekmi.gov.

The City will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the needs of printed materials being considered in the meeting upon seven-day notice. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Battle Creek at Office of the City Clerk, PO Box 1717, Battle Creek, MI 49811 (TDD).

The City also provide interpretation services and translation of any printed materials at this meeting upon seven-day notice. Individuals needing interpretation services should contact Michelle Salazar by calling (269) 966-3355.

being duly sworn, says: that she is an Administrative Assistant of the Battle Creek Shopper, a community newspaper printed and circulated in said county. The attached is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said paper on the following dates, to wit:

April 4<sup>th</sup> A.D. 2024

A.D. 20

A.D. 20

A.D. 20

Danielle E. Echtnaw

Danielle E Echtnaw

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4<sup>th</sup>

day of April A.D. 2024

Vicki L Butler

Notary Public

VICKI L. BUTLER  
NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF BARRY  
My Commission Expires August 5, 2024  
Acting in the County of BARRY



## Contribuciones y Desafíos de la Comunidad Latinx en Kalamazoo

# Israel Catarino: Un Paraprofesional Dedicado al Futuro Bilingüe de Kalamazoo

Por Irving Quintero  
para  
New/Nueva Opinión

**Nota del editor:** Este reportaje forma parte de la serie *Contribuciones y Desafíos de la Comunidad Latinx en Kalamazoo* de New/Nueva Opinión. Subvencionada por la Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

Kalamazoo, MI • La creciente demanda de paraprofesionales escolares hispanohablantes en Estados Unidos refleja la importancia creciente de la educación bilingüe en un mundo cada vez más globalizado. Estos profesionales desempeñan un papel fundamental en la preparación de los estudiantes para un futuro donde la habilidad de comunicarse en múltiples idiomas es una ventaja competitiva clave.

Trabaja como asistente de maestro o paraprofesional en Estados Unidos ofrece numerosas ventajas, desde el aprendizaje de nuevas habilidades hasta la oportunidad de ayudar a los estudiantes. Estos beneficios se extienden desde el aula hasta la vida profesional, ofreciendo una variedad de posibilidades para el desarrollo de la carrera.

A pesar de su importancia, la escasez de paraprofesionales escolares bilingües representa un desafío significativo para los centros educativos en Estados Unidos. La falta de estos profesionales limita la capacidad de las instituciones para ofrecer programas bilingües de alta calidad, lo que a su vez reduce las oportunidades de los estudiantes para recibir una educación bilingüe completa y efectiva.

Pero a pesar de esto, cabe destacar la escuela primaria "El Sol" en el vecindario Vine, donde se ofrece instrucción tanto en español como en inglés. Esta escuela es conocida por su compromiso con el bilingüismo, y para garantizar la calidad



de la educación bilingüe que ofrece, cuenta con un personal altamente capacitado y bilingüe.

Uno de los reconocidos paraprofesionales escolares en la escuela "El Sol" es Israel Catarino-Fierro, más conocido cariñosamente como Sr. Catarino, un dedicado paraprofesional que ha iluminado los pasillos de las escuelas públicas durante casi dos décadas. Originario de Acapulco, Guerrero, México, el Sr. Catarino trajo consigo un ferviente deseo de marcar una diferencia en la vida de los jóvenes, una pasión que ha guiado cada paso de su inspiradora carrera.

Su trayecto en la educación comenzó como voluntario en la escuela primaria Lincoln International Studies, donde rápidamente se destacó por su habilidad natural para conectar con los estudiantes hispanohablantes. "Del trabajo me gustó mucho ayudar a los niños", comparte el Sr. Catarino, recordando con una sonrisa los primeros días en los

que encontró alegría en la enseñanza y el apoyo académico en su lengua materna. Su contribución no pasó desapercibida, y gracias a la implementación de un programa emergente de español, se le ofreció un puesto permanente en la escuela, marcando así el comienzo de su legado en el sistema educativo de Kalamazoo.

Durante una década, el Sr. Catarino se dedicó incansablemente a su labor en la escuela Lincoln. Continuando su compromiso con la juventud y su comunidad, hoy en día sigue ejerciendo en la escuela primaria El Sol. En ambas escuelas sirviendo como un faro de inspiración y apoyo para los estudiantes y familias que atraviesan el desafiante proceso de adaptarse a un nuevo entorno educativo y cultural. Su impacto trasciende los límites de las aulas, extendiéndose hacia la comunidad en general.

Con la misma valentía que lo llevó a un nuevo comienzo a los 21 años, el Sr. Catarino se convirtió en un

pilar de la creciente comunidad hispana de Kalamazoo, encontrando en las escuelas públicas un refugio donde su voz y experiencia no solo eran valoradas, sino también vividas. "Cuando yo llegué aquí casi no había mucha comunidad hispana", reflexiona, señalando cómo su presencia en las escuelas no solo le brindó un sentido de pertenencia, sino también la oportunidad de tender puentes entre diferentes culturas y generaciones.

Más allá de su papel como educador, el Sr. Catarino mira hacia el futuro con esperanza y determinación. Anhela ver crecer aún más la comunidad hispana en Kalamazoo, instando a la solidaridad y colaboración que ha guiado su vida. "Siempre he disfrutado ayudar a las personas", afirma con

humildad, destacando cómo su propia experiencia de migración le ha permitido empatizar y comprender las luchas y desafíos de quienes están comenzando su viaje en un país extranjero. Su compromiso con la comunidad va más allá de los muros escolares, ya que se ha convertido en un recurso invaluable para las familias hispanohablantes, guiando con su sabiduría y apoyo incondicional.

Con el optimismo arraigado en su corazón, el Sr. Catarino mira hacia el futuro con esperanza y determinación. Anhela ver crecer aún más la comunidad hispana en Kalamazoo, instando a la solidaridad y colaboración que ha guiado su vida. "Siempre he disfrutado ayudar a las personas", afirma con

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A medida que su legado continúa creciendo y su influencia se expande, el Sr. Catarino se prepara para asumir un nuevo desafío: convertirse en maestro. Después de años de dedicación como paraprofesional, ha comenzado el camino para ejercer como maestro. Con una trayectoria de servicio ejemplar, el Sr. Catarino está listo para seguir inspirando y guiando a las generaciones venideras hacia un futuro lleno de posibilidades y oportunidades.

## Aviso de Audiencia Pública Necesidades de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Battle Creek Programa para el Año 2024 Programa de Subsidio en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario Programa de Asociación para la Inversión en Viviendas

La Comisión de la Ciudad de Battle Creek celebrará una audiencia pública el martes, 26 de abril de 2024, a las 7:00 p.m., durante la reunión de la Comisión de la Ciudad con el propósito de escuchar los comentarios del público sobre las necesidades de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario de Battle Creek. La audiencia se llevará a cabo en las Cámaras de la Comisión de la Ciudad, Sala 303, Ayuntamiento, 34 North Division Street.

De conformidad con el Título I de la Ley de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de 1974, en su forma enmendada y la Ley Nacional de Vivienda Asistida Grants-Gonzales de 1990, la Ciudad de Battle Creek está obligada a obtener las opiniones de los ciudadanos sobre las necesidades de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario para Battle Creek, mediante la celebración de una audiencia pública sobre sus necesidades de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario antes de la aprobación del Plan de Acción Anual 2024 que dirige el gasto de la Subvención Federal en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario y los fondos de la Asociación de Inversión HOME que la Ciudad recibe como una comunidad con derecho.

Las aportaciones breves de los ciudadanos, tal y como se recogen en el Informe de Participación Pública del Plan Consolidado 2020-2024 de la Ciudad están disponibles para su revisión en el Ayuntamiento, Sala 104, 10 North Division Street durante el horario laboral normal. El proyecto de Plan de Acción Anual y 2020-2024 Plan Consolidado también están disponibles en línea en [www.battlecreekmi.gov](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov) en la página web de la División de Desarrollo Comunitario. Los ciudadanos que deseen hacer comentarios pueden hacerlo ya sea en la audiencia pública o por escrito a: Helen Guzzo, Supervisora de Desarrollo Comunitario, Ayuntamiento, Sala 304, 10 North Division Street, Battle Creek, Michigan 49801, o enviando un correo electrónico a [hguzzo@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:hguzzo@battlecreekmi.gov).

La ciudad de Battle Creek proporcionará las ayudas y servicios auxiliares necesarios, como intérpretes de signos para las personas con discapacidad auditiva y cinta de audio de los materiales impresos que se consideren en la reunión, previo aviso con siete días de antelación. Las personas con discapacidades que necesitan ayudas o servicios auxiliares deben ponerse en contacto con la ciudad de Battle Creek escribiendo a: Vice Mayor's Office of the City Clerk, PO Box 1717, Battle Creek, MI 49806 o llamando al (269) 966-3348 (TDD).

La ciudad de Battle Creek también proporcionará servicios de interpretación y traducción de cualquier material impreso que se considere en esta reunión previo aviso con siete días de antelación. Las personas que necesitan interpretación o traducción de deberán ponerse en contacto con Michelle Salazar llamando al (269) 966-2255.

**Esta es la promesa que hace Western Michigan University: Si tienes el talento y la determinación para vivir una vida plena y con impacto, Western Michigan University te puede ayudar a convertirlo en realidad.**

El BRONCO PROMISE ofrece matrícula y todos los gastos a los estudiantes de primer año de licenciatura de tiempo completo que sean residentes del estado de Michigan, cuyos familiares ganen menos de \$50,000 anuales y que tengan un patrimonio inferior a \$50,000. Para ser considerado, hay que completar el formulario FAFSA (posibilidad gratuita de ayuda federal para estudiantes) antes del 1 de julio de 2024.

[wmich.edu/admissions/spanish-resources](http://wmich.edu/admissions/spanish-resources)



MARZO 28 - ABRIL 10/2024

Información Sin Fronteras Information Without Borders

**Aviso de Audiencia Pública**  
**Necesidades de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Battle Creek**  
**Programa para el Año 2024**  
**Programa de Subsidio en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario**  
**Programa de Asociación para la Inversión en Viviendas**

La Comisión de la Ciudad de Battle Creek celebrará una audiencia pública el martes, 16 de abril de 2024, a las 7:00 p.m. durante la reunión de la Comisión de la Ciudad con el propósito de escuchar los comentarios del público sobre las necesidades de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario de Battle Creek. La audiencia se llevará a cabo en las Cámaras de la Comisión de la Ciudad, Sala 301, Ayuntamiento, 10 North Division Street.

De conformidad con el Título I de la Ley de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de 1974, en su forma enmendada y la Ley Nacional de Vivienda Asequible Cranston-González de 1990, la Ciudad de Battle Creek está obligada a obtener las opiniones de los ciudadanos sobre las necesidades de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario para Battle Creek, mediante la celebración de una audiencia pública sobre sus necesidades de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario antes de la aprobación del Plan de Acción Anual 2024 que dirige el gasto de la Subvención Federal en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario y los fondos de la Asociación de Inversión HOME que la Ciudad recibe como una comunidad con derecho.

Las aportaciones previas de los ciudadanos, tal y como se recogen en el Informe de Participación Pública del Plan Consolidado 2020-2024 de la Ciudad están disponibles para su revisión en el Ayuntamiento, Sala 104, 10 North Division Street durante el horario laboral normal. El proyecto de Plan de Acción Anual y 2020-2024 Plan Consolidado también están disponibles en línea en [www.battlecreekmi.gov](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov) en la página web de la División de Desarrollo Comunitario. Los ciudadanos que deseen hacer comentarios pueden hacerlo ya sea en la audiencia pública o por escrito a: Helen Guzzo, Supervisora de Desarrollo Comunitario, Ayuntamiento, Sala 104, 10 North Division Street, Battle Creek, Michigan 49014, o enviando un correo electrónico a [hguzzo@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:hguzzo@battlecreekmi.gov).

La ciudad de Battle Creek proporcionará las ayudas y servicios auxiliares necesarios, como intérpretes de signos para las personas con discapacidad auditiva y cintas de audio de los materiales impresos que se consideren en la reunión, previo aviso con siete días de antelación. Las personas con discapacidades que necesiten ayudas o servicios auxiliares deben ponerse en contacto con la ciudad de Battle Creek escribiendo a Vicki Houser a Office of the City Clerk, PO Box 1717, Battle Creek, MI 49016 o llamando al (269) 966-3348 (TDD).

La ciudad de Battle Creek también proporcionará servicios de interpretación y traducción de cualquier material impreso que se considere en esta reunión previo aviso con siete días de antelación. Las personas que necesiten interpretación o traducción deberán ponerse en contacto con Michelle Salazar llamando al (269) 966-3355.



## **Agenda: Battle Creek City Commission**

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2024- 7:00 PM

**Location:** City Commission Chambers

**Chair:** Mayor Mark A. Behnke

**Title:** Battle Creek City Hall - City Commission Chambers - 3rd Floor

### **VIDEO**

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#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **COMMISSIONERS**

Mayor Mark Behnke

Commissioner Jim Lance

Commissioner Patrick O'Donnell

Commissioner Christopher Simmons

Vice Mayor Sherry Sofia

Commissioner Roger Ballard

Commissioner Jenasia Morris

Commissioner Carla Reynolds

Commissioner Jake Smith

##### **CITY STAFF**

Rebecca Fleury, City Manager

Victoria Houser, City Clerk

Jonathan Baber, Deputy City Attorney

Shannon Bagely, Police Chief

Duska Brumm, Recreation Director

Stacy Tullis, Service Desk Tech.

Kimberly Holley, DEI Officer

Miles Weaver, Assistant Aviation Director

Bessie Ploeg, Environmental Program  
Coordinator

Jill Steele, City Attorney

Ted Dearing, Assistant City Manager

Marcel Stoetzel, Deputy City Attorney

Bill Beaty, Fire Chief

Darcy Schmitt, Planning Manager

Steve Skalski, Director of Public Works

Jason Francisco, Code Compliance Mgr.

Helen Guzzo, Community Dev. Manager

Todd Everson, Asst. Field Services  
Superintendent

#### **INVOCATION**

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Comm. Reynolds.

#### **ROLL CALL**

#### **PROCLAMATIONS AWARDS**



#### Beautiful Battle Creek Awards

Mayor Behnke presented the Beautiful Battle Creek Awards.

#### Proclamation for Earth Week 2024

Mayor Behnke presented the proclamation declaring April 21 - 27, 2024 as "Earth Week" in the greater Battle Creek area to Bessie Ploeg, Environmental Program Coordinator, urging all neighbors, businesses and institutions to use Earth Week to celebrate the Earth and promote its conservation and protection.

#### Proclamation for Arbor Day 2024

Mayor Behnke presented a proclamation declaring April 26, 2024 as "Arbor Day" in the greater Battle Creek area to Todd Everson, Assistant Field Services Superintendent, encouraging all neighbors to recognize, plant and care for trees at their homes and places of work.

#### Proclamation for Workers Memorial Day 2024

Mayor Behnke presented a proclamation declaring April 28, 2024 as "Workers Memorial Day" in the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, to Payton Keiser, AFL-CIO, urging all neighbors to recognize and honor the contributions of Michigan's workforce and call for increased workplace safety standards.

#### **CHAIR NOTES ADDED OR DELETED RESOLUTIONS**

There were no added or deleted resolutions.

#### **PETITIONS COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS**

Clerk Houser noted two communications were received, the first from Dr. Nakia Baylis regarding proposed ordinance #06-2024, and the second from Glenn Kowalske regarding resolutions 428 and 429, noting both communications were sent to the City Commissioners for review and consideration.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

A Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing public comments on the housing and community development needs of low and moderate income citizens for the City's 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan.

Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing open, inviting attendees to provide public comments.

Reece Adkins expressed concern there were few housing opportunities for those with prior felony convictions.

Kevin Foust, Recovery Services Unlimited, shared information about recovery homes and their service to those who are recovering from addiction.

David Clark, Recovery Services Unlimited, shared his personal story, and difficulties finding housing.

Gerald Croissant agreed housing is a challenge and housing was necessary to help those who are struggling to get back on their feet.

David Moore commented on a tiny house project in another city, stating housing is needed to reduce illegal activity.

Whitney Wardell, NIBC, expressed appreciation for the HUD and CDBG funds awarded to NIBC, noting the many individuals who have benefited from their programs.

Autumn Smith stated the cost of housing should not fall on taxpayers as housing is not a required service of local government.

Steve Koch commented on the demolition of houses in the past, instead of rehabilitation, also suggesting several vacant buildings in the city be repaired to be used for housing.

John Kenefick noted affordable housing allows residents to rent for less, while subsidized housing pays a portion of a person's rental amount.

Albert Patterson shared that he continues to have difficulty finding housing, also stating the City's public transportation is not sufficient.

Comm. Ballard stated he is like everyone else, stating he is a recovering alcoholic, who has been sober for 20 years.

Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing closed.

A Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing public comments on a Substantial Amendment to the 2018, 2022 and 2023 Annual Action Plans for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing open, inviting attendees to provide public comments.

Amber Leverett, Community Action, expressed support of the change in the CDBG action plan, stating the funds allow seniors to remain in their home.

Chuck Asher also expressed support of the reallocation of minor home repair funds, stating this will allow more seniors to receive home repair funds, allowing them to stay in their homes and preserving their dignity.

John Kenefick commented on previous city funds to NIBC and actions of the Code Compliance Department, stating many projects can be done for less than initially estimated.

Comm. Smith stated the minor home repair program is one of the most effective tools to identify and solve home repair issues, while having a great impact on residents.

Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing closed.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

05-2024 A Proposed Ordinance, #05-2024, seeking to amend Sections 1, 3, 5, 6 and 99 and repeal Sections 4 and 98, of Chapter 1610 of City Ordinances, International Fire Code, to reflect amendments to the International Fire Code and to comply with State Law and regulations.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

06-2024 A Proposed Ordinance, #06-2024, to amend Chapter 286 "Police/Community Relations Advisory Committee," by repurposing it as the "Community Oversight Board," with the primary function to provide input, in an advisory capacity, to the City Manager in reconsidering the Police Chief's determination following a Community Relations Complaint investigation filed pursuant to the Police Department Policy.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Autumn Smith expressed support of this ordinance, stating this board will provide an opportunity to discuss complaints without fear of retaliation.

Lynn Ward Gray, President, NAACP, thanked Kimberly Holley, DEI Officer for sharing information on this proposed ordinance, stating many resident suggestions have been incorporated in the revised ordinance.

Comm. O'Donnell noted the membership appointments are still causing concern, asking how the City will determine who will be appointed to the board.

Rebecca Fleury, City Manager, noted all applicants will be appointed by the City Commission and their qualifications will be determined by the board requirements.

Jill Steele, City Attorney, noted that applicants representing an organization would need a letter of recommendation from that organization. Attorney Steele also noted membership would be defined in the by-laws, and specific terms in the by-laws would be defined.

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

#### **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES**

406 A Resolution seeking to adopt Ordinance #04-2024, an Ordinance to amend the Historic Preservation Code of the City of Battle Creek.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Autumn Smith referred to an article in a local newspaper that stated 3 previous members were removed from the committee as they had been appointed beyond the term limits.

David Moore expressed his opinion the boards have too much authority.

John Kenefick commented on the removal of past HDC members, also commenting on the membership of the LAC and LCC.

Comm. Morris stated she did not support this ordinance amendment, stating term limits keep checks and balances in place, asking the City to provide education to new board/committee members.

Comm. O'Donnell questioned how many of the City's boards/committees have term limits.

Attorney Steele, noting the City has over 30 boards/committees, stated she did not have that information with her, but agreed to research and respond.

Comm. Ballard stated he believes in term limits and he would also be voting against the ordinance.

Comm. Smith noted the Commission was still responsible for appointing applicants to City boards or commissioners, stating members to the HDC would need to be reappointed.

Ayes: LANCE, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

Nays: BALLARD, MORRIS

MOTION PASSED

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CONSENT AGENDA AND RESOLUTIONS NOT ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Linda Powers, President, Blue Star Mothers, commented on the role of military mothers, requesting support of resolution 416, to raise the Blue Star Mothers flag at City Hall.

Victoria Bauer stated the Cerebral Palsy Mamas honor those who serve our county, sharing that her son serves in the military at a medical hospital.

Mary Sherwood thanked the Commission for their consideration to fly the Blue Star Mothers flag, stating this helps to bring awareness to the organization.

David Moore commented on the resolution regarding the raising of flags at City Hall, stating he supports all organizations.

Steve Koch commented on resolution 414 regarding the purchase of Sig Sauer rifles and resolution 422 regarding night vision binoculars.

Autumn Smith questioned how often HDC members would need to be appointed if there were no term limits.

(Limited to three minutes per individual)

**COMMISSION COMMENT REGARDING MEETING BUSINESS**

There were no commission comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to Approve

Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL

Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

Minutes for the April 2, 2024 City Commission Regular Meeting

City Manager's Report for April 16, 2024

Review Committee Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2024

**CONSENT RESOLUTIONS**

- 407      A Resolution appointing Randy Case as a new member to the Historic District Commission.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 408      A Resolution reappointing Jack McCulley from serving as an Alternate to fill a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 409      A Resolution reappointing John Avery to the Goguac Lake Board.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 410      A Resolution reappointing Thomas Burke to the Downtown Parking System Advisory Committee.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS,  
SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 411        A Resolution seeking to appoint one new member (Khyrinn Herring) to the  
Northeast Neighborhood Planning Council (NPC # 4).

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS,  
SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 412        A Resolution setting a Public Hearing on May 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM, on a proposed  
Industrial Facilities Tax (IFT) Exemption Certificate for a single tenant  
speculative building at the request of FCIP South Park 2, LLC for real property  
located at 201 Watkins Road in Industrial Development District No. 40.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS,  
SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 413        A Resolution making permanent Temporary Traffic Control Order (TTCO) #1734.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS,  
SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 414 A Resolution seeking authorization regarding a contract for Sig Sauer rifles for the City of Battle Creek Police Department from Acme Sports, Inc., in an estimated, after trade-in amount, of \$55,472.00 with unit prices prevailing.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 415 A Resolution seeking authorization to issue a purchase order for Airfield Lighting Constant Current Regulators to Cooper Crouse-Hinds, LLC in a not-to-exceed amount of \$63,764.88 plus shipping costs.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

**RESOLUTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONSENT AGENDA**

- 416 A Resolution seeking approval to direct staff to fly the Blue Star Mothers flag at City Hall from May 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Vice Mayor Sofia stated she does not support any flag raising at City Hall, other than US, State and City flags.

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SMITH  
Nays: SIMMONS, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 417 A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to execute an agreement

with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) permitting it temporary access to a portion of City-owned property, Parcel No. 13-52-2620-40-001-0, during MDOT's M-66 crosswalk reconstruction.

Motion to Approve

Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL

Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 418        A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to enter into Contract No. 22-5498 with the Michigan Department of Transportation. (MDOT) for a Special Trunkline Traffic Study to evaluate safety and mobility along Beckley Road and B Drive North.

Motion to Approve

Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL

Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 419        A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal Agreement for cost sharing with Calhoun County for a Special Trunkline Traffic Study to evaluate safety and mobility along Beckley Road and B Drive North.

Motion to Approve

Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL

Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 420        A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to enter into an Environmental Assessment and Remediation License with Marathon Petroleum Company LP for access to City right-of-way adjacent to 1528 West Michigan Avenue, Parcel No. 3800-00-058-0, for remediation activities.

Motion to Approve

Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL

Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS



Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 421 A Resolution seeking acceptance of the lowest responsive, responsible bid for 2024 Capital Preventative Maintenance Program project from Pavement Maintenance Systems, LLC in an estimated amount of \$304,748.40, with unit prices prevailing.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 422 A Resolution seeking authorization to issue a purchase order for night vision binoculars for the City of Battle Creek Police Department to Venture Tactical, LLC, in an estimated amount of \$153,555.00, with unit prices prevailing.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 423 A Resolution seeking acceptance of the proposal of best value for security guard services from Lagarda Security in an initial one-year and two-month estimated amount of \$239,373.12, with unit prices prevailing.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 424 A Resolution seeking acceptance of the lowest responsive, responsible bid for

2024 Rehabilitation Program project from Rieth-Riley Construction Co. Inc., in an estimated amount of \$747,315.94 with unit prices prevailing.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 425      A Resolution seeking acceptance of the proposal of best value from Mead and Hunt, Inc., to provide consultant services for the FAA Tower rehabilitation project at the City of Battle Creek Executive Airport at Kellogg Field, in an estimated amount of \$140,466.00, with unit prices prevailing.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 426      A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity for the development and resale of two single family homes in Battle Creek to low-income and moderate-income households.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Comm. Ballard commended Habit for Humanity for the work they have done on the 2 mentioned properties, stating it is exciting to see the development of these properties.

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 427      A Resolution seeking approval of the Substantial Amendment to the City's 2018, 2022 and 2023 Annual Action Plans for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program reallocating \$557,437.74 to the Minor Home Repair Program.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL

Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

**MOTION PASSED**

428 A Resolution seeking affirmation of the partial denial of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request No. 24-471 by Mr. Glenn Kowalske (Appellant).

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL  
Supported By: JENASIA MORRIS

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SOFIA  
Nays: SMITH

**MOTION PASSED**

429 A Resolution seeking reversal of the partial denial of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request No. 24-471 by Mr. Glenn Kowalske (Appellant).

Motion to  
Moved By:  
Supported By:

**PULLED due to approval of resolution 428.**

**MOTION**

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Moore commented on the tiny homes being built in the City of Kalamazoo.

Reece Atkins thanked the commission for approval of resolution 426 regarding the homes being rehabbed by Habitat for Humanity.

Victoria Fox commented on conditions at her apartment complex, stating the landlord was not responsive, asking for better support from City staff.

Joe Harris commented on the City's RFP process, expressing his opinion there should always be a minimum number of bids submitted. Mr. Harris also stated members of the Citizen Review Board should have to go through the Citizen Police Academy training to have a good understanding of what the Police Department staff are required to do.

Autumn Smith agreed it would be good for residents to understand what law enforcement goes through. Ms. Smith also commented on the new security contract, suggesting the City instead use police cadets.

John Kenefick commented on Attorney Steele's retirement announcement and the Fee, Bond and Insurance Schedule.

(Limited to three minutes per individual)

#### **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Comm. Smith noted the HDC terms are still 3 years, but there was no longer a limited number of terms. As to the fire at West Street, Comm. Smith asked that the feedback the citizen has received be investigated.

Comm. Simmons requested staff provide the summary report regarding the fire at West Street, and staff's response. Comm. Simmons also invited everyone to attend the Beckley Road Community Visioning Session on Thursday, April 25 from 5-7 p.m. at the Lakeview Square Mall.

Comm. O'Donnell thanked all commissioners and staff for bringing forward the need for affordable housing for everyone. Comm. O'Donnell also announced his 30th wedding anniversary, thanking his wife Belinda for her love and support.

Chief Bagley announced National Crime Victims Week, inviting everyone to an event on Wednesday, April 24th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM at the Police Department Community Room.

Ms. Fleury reminded everyone the Fire station community conversations have begun.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Behnke adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

It is the desire of the City Commission to encourage public expression in the course of its meetings. Such expression can be integral to the decision-making process of the City Commission. It is the intention of the City Commission to respect the rights of persons addressing the Commission. Public comment periods are a time for citizens to make comments; they are not intended as a forum for debate or to engage in question-answer dialogues with the Commission or staff. Commissioners are encouraged not to directly respond to speakers during public comment periods. At the conclusion of the speakers remarks, the Mayor or individual Commissioners may refer a question to City staff, if appropriate. Also, individual Commissioners may choose to respond to speakers during the Commission Comment period. It is with these aims in mind, so as to promote decorum and civility and an orderly process for conducting its public meetings, that the following rules concerning public comments, consistent with applicable law, are adopted by the City Commission.

(1) Persons attending a regular or special Commission Meeting shall be permitted to address the City Commission in conformity with this rule. The opportunity to address the Commission shall be limited to the following:

(a) Persons desiring to address the City Commission are encouraged, but shall not be required, to fill out and turn in to either the City Clerk, Mayor, or presiding Commissioner, prior to the meeting, a comment card disclosing the following information: The person's name, address, and telephone number; the specific issue, topic or resolution the individual wishes to address.

(b) During public hearings when scheduled, speakers may present facts and opinions on the specific matter being heard by the Commission. A three-minute time limit is imposed per speaker. In the discretion of the Mayor or presiding officer, the

time limit for individual speakers may be lengthened or shortened when appropriate.

(c) During the consideration of specific ordinances when scheduled, speakers may present facts and opinions on the specific ordinance being considered by the City Commission. Speakers addressing the City Commission during this time shall limit their comments to the specific issue being considered. A three-minute time limit, which may be lengthened or shortened by the Mayor or presiding officer when appropriate, is imposed per speaker, per matter considered.

(d) During the public comment period on the consent agenda and resolutions not on the consent agenda, each speaker may address the Commission once, regarding anything on the consent agenda and resolutions not on the consent agenda, for a total not to exceed three minutes regardless of how many consent agenda items or regular resolutions the speaker is addressing, which time period may be lengthened or shortened by the Mayor or presiding officer when appropriate.

(e) During the General Public Comment portion of the meeting, speakers may address the City Commission on any matter within the control and jurisdiction of the City of Battle Creek. A speaker shall be permitted to address the City Commission once, for up to three minutes, during this portion of the meeting.

(f) Applicants or Appellants, as defined below, or an attorney retained to represent them, are not bound by the specific time limitations set out above but may have the amount of time deemed reasonably necessary by the Mayor or presiding official to present their case to the City Commission without violating the rules set out below in sub-section 4(a) through (g), with which they are obligated to comply.

(i) Applicant is defined an individual or business entity seeking a City Commission final decision on a matter for which the individual has made application to the City based upon a specific provision in a City Ordinance or state statute for permission to take a specific action;

(ii) Appellant is an individual appealing a decision of a City official or an inferior body based upon a specific provision in City ordinances entitling the individual to appeal the decision to the City Commission.

(2) An individual wishing to address the City Commission shall wait to be recognized by the Mayor or presiding Commissioner before speaking. An individual who has not filled out a card requesting to address the City Commission shall raise his or her hand and wait to be recognized by the Mayor or presiding Commissioner before speaking and shall identify themselves by name and address and, if appropriate, group affiliation for the record.

(3) Speakers shall address all remarks to the Mayor, or the presiding Commissioner or official, and not to individual Commissioners or staff members. Speakers shall not address their remarks to members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

(4) A speaker will be ruled out-of-order by the Mayor or presiding Commissioner and the Commission will continue with its business, and the speaker may be required to leave the meeting after having been ruled out-of-order for a breach of the peace committed at the meeting as permitted by the OMA, when the speaker violates above sub-section 3 or the following:

(a) Becomes repetitive or speaks longer than the allotted time;

- (b) Attempts to yield any unused portion of time to other speakers;
- (c) Engages in a personal attack upon a city employee, administrator or Commissioner only if the personal attack is totally unrelated to the manner in which the employee, administrator or Commissioner carries out their public duties or office;
- (d) Uses obscene or profane language;
- (e) Engages in slanderous or defamatory speech;
- (f) Uses derogatory racial, sexual or ethnic slurs or epithets relating to any individual or category of persons; or
- (g) Engages in conduct that interrupts or disrupts the meeting.

(5) Individuals attending City Commission meetings or workshops, excluding City staff, shall not pass the commission chambers bar upon which the podium is affixed (and which divides the audience section from the well of the chambers) without having been invited to do so by the Mayor or official presiding over the meeting, or after requesting and explicitly being granted permission to do so. Any individual violating this sub-section will be ruled out-of-order by the Mayor or presiding official and the individual may be required to leave the meeting for a breach of the peace committed at the meeting as permitted by the OMA.

# CITY OF BATTLE CREEK

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### 2023-24 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

### PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS

Under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended and the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, the City of Battle Creek is required to prepare a plan that describes how the City will allocate Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funds to meet the needs of low and moderate income people in Battle Creek.

An Annual Action Plan is completed each year to describe the activities that will be undertaken to address the needs identified in the City's 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Plan also serves as an application for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funds.

The City of Battle Creek has prepared a draft 2024 Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan describes the activities that will be funded during the 2024-2025 Program Year from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. This public notice is being published to make citizens aware that a thirty (30) calendar day comment period on the draft 2024 Annual Action Plan, including the proposed use of funds, will commence on April 5, 2024, and conclude on May 7, 2024. Copies of the plan will be available for public review at City Hall, Room 104, 10 North Division Street during normal business hours and online at <http://battlecreekmi.gov/181>.

#### The Annual Action Plan:

The Annual Action Plan includes an estimate of available resources from private and public sources to address the identified needs; a description of the priorities and specific objectives to be addressed in this program year; a summary of the eligible programs or projects that the City of Battle Creek will undertake to address the needs; a description of the geographic areas of the city in which assistance will be directed; a description of the projects to address the needs of the homeless, near-homeless and special needs populations; the plans to reduce the number of poverty level families; a description of the activities to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards; and the standards in which the city will monitor its housing and community development projects.

#### Proposed Use of Funds: Program Year 2024-2025

##### Community Development Block Grant Program

Because the Federal Government has not notified the City of the actual award of funding for Program Year 2024, these amounts are estimated. If the amounts are lower or higher than estimated, the funding will be subtracted from or added to the City's Minor Home Repair program.

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>1. General Administration (10%)</b>   | <b>\$120,000</b> |
| The function of this City activity is to provide necessary staffing to develop, implement and monitor the overall performance of all Community Development Block Grant programs.   |                  |
| <b>2. Neighborhood Planning Administration (10%)</b>   | <b>\$120,000</b> |
| This City function provides the necessary management to conduct specific studies related to the overall program design of the comprehensive planning process and the development of the Consolidated Plan, involving Neighborhood Planning Councils, civic organizations, individuals, and other boards, commissions and committees.   |                  |
| <b>3. Code Enforcement</b>   | <b>\$210,000</b> |
| The purpose of this activity is to provide effective staffing for the City's Neighborhood Code Compliance Division to continue its efforts to provide the citizens of Battle Creek with effective code enforcement, and to complement other Community Development activities in blighted and distressed areas. This activity will serve to arrest a decline in targeted areas due to housing code violations, vacant and abandoned properties, citizen complaints regarding refuse and weed control and health and safety issues related to rental properties. |                  |
| <b>4. Housing Rehabilitation: Minor Home Repair</b>  | <b>\$480,000</b> |
| This City of Battle Creek activity will provide grants to homeowners for necessary repairs. The primary focus will be exterior repairs for cited code violations and health and safety issues.   |                  |
| <b>5. Housing Rehabilitation: Minor Home Repair Activity Delivery Costs</b>  | <b>\$90,000</b>  |
| This activity funds the costs to staff the Minor Home Repair program including conducting intake, documenting income eligibility, conducting home inspections, developing cost specifications, working with contractors and processing payments.   |                  |
| <b>6. Public Service Grants (15%)</b>  | <b>\$180,000</b> |
| Provides funds for social services to serve low and moderate income residents with a wide range of possible public services including housing case management and eviction diversion services.   |                  |

<b>Total CDBG Entitlement Budget (Estimated)</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>
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Affidavit of Publication

**CITY OF BATTLE CREEK  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ACTION PLAN PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS**

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mpleted each year to describe the activities that will be undertaken to f in the City's 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action ation for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment

is prepared a draft 2024 Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan will be funded during the 2024-2025 Program Year from July 1, 2024 - 2025. The draft 2024 Annual Action Plan, including the proposed use of funds, is being published to make citizens aware that a thirty (30) calendar day public hearing will be held on May 7, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 104, 10 North Division Street during normal business hours and at [www.battlecreekmi.gov/181](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov/181).

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lock Grant Program

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) \$180,000

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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
County of Calhoun

Fredric J. Jacobs

being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is one of the publishers of the Battle Creek Shopper News, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County of Calhoun; that the annexed notice of

Annual Action Plan

has been duly published in said paper for 1 issues, on the following dates, to wit:

April 4<sup>th</sup>, A.D. 2024

A.D. 20

A.D. 20

A.D. 20

Fredric J. Jacobs

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th

day of April A.D. 2024

Vicki L Butler

Notary Public

VICKI L. BUTLER

NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF BARRY

My Commission Expires August 5, 2024

Acting in the County of BARRY

My Commission Expires August 5 2024

Annual Action Plan  
2024

108



**Community Development Block Grant Program**

Because the Federal Government has not notified the City of the actual award of funding for Program Year 2024, these amounts are estimated. If the amounts are lower or higher than estimated, the funding will be subtracted from or added to the City's Minor Home Repair program.

**1. General Administration (10%)** **\$120,000**

The function of this City activity is to provide necessary staffing to develop, implement and monitor the overall performance of all Community Development Block Grant programs.

**2. Neighborhood Planning Administration (10%)** **\$120,000**

This City function provides the necessary management to conduct specific studies related to the overall program design of the comprehensive planning process and the development of the Consolidated Plan, involving Neighborhood Planning Councils, civic organizations, individuals, and other boards, commissions and committees.

**3. Code Enforcement** **\$210,000**

The purpose of this activity is to provide effective staffing for the City's Neighborhood Code Compliance Division to continue its efforts to provide the citizens of Battle Creek with effective code enforcement, and to complement other Community Development activities in blighted and distressed areas. This activity will serve to arrest a decline in targeted areas due to housing code violations, vacant and abandoned properties, citizen complaints regarding refuse and weed control and health and safety issues related to rental properties.

**4. Housing Rehabilitation: Minor Home Repair** **\$480,000**

This City of Battle Creek activity will provide grants to homeowners for necessary repairs. The primary focus will be exterior repairs for cited code violations and health and safety issues.

**5. Housing Rehabilitation: Minor Home Repair Activity Delivery Costs** **\$90,000**

This activity funds the costs to staff the Minor Home Repair program including conducting intake, documenting income eligibility, conducting home inspections, developing cost specifications, working with contractors and processing payments.

**6. Public Service Grants (15%)** **\$180,000**

Provides funds for social services to serve low and moderate income residents with a wide range of possible public services including housing case management and eviction diversion services.

**Total CDBG Entitlement Budget (Estimated)** **\$1,200,000**

**Proposed Use of Funds: 2024-2025 HOME Investment Partnership Program**

Because the Federal Government has not notified the City of the actual award of funding for Program Year 2024, these amounts are estimated. If the amounts are lower or higher than estimated, the funding will be subtracted from or added to the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program.

**7. General Administration (10%)** **\$32,000**

The function of this City activity is to provide necessary staffing to develop, implement and monitor the overall performance of all HOME programs.

**8. Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO Set Aside of at least 15%) In-Housing Program** **\$85,338**

This activity will provide gap funds for development of one or more new built single family homes within the City. Upon completion of construction, these properties will be made available for purchase to low- to moderate income homebuyers.

**9. Tenant Based Rental Assistance** **\$168,662**

This activity provides short-term rental assistance of three to six months to eligible low-income households experiencing a housing emergency and also participating in housing case management, employment training or another self-sufficiency program.

**10. Development of Permanent Supportive Housing** **\$34,000**

This activity provides a grant for the gap in financing for a permanent supportive housing development to house people who have experienced chronic homelessness.

**Total HOME Investment Partnership Budget (Estimated)** **\$320,000**

As part of the City of Battle Creek's Citizen Participation process, the City will hold a formal public hearing on the draft 2024 Annual Action Plan including the Proposed Use of Funds on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. during the City Commission Meeting.

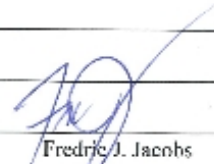
Comments on the City of Battle Creek's draft 2024 Annual Action Plan including the Proposed Use of Funds may be made to: Helen Guzzo, Community Development Supervisor, City of Battle Creek, Community Development Department, City Hall, Room 104, 10 North Division Street, Battle Creek, MI 49014, at 269-966-3355, or [hguzzo@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:hguzzo@battlecreekmi.gov).

The City of Battle Creek will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered in the meeting upon seven-day notice. Individuals with disabilities, requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Battle Creek by writing Vicki Houser at Office of the City Clerk, PO Box 1717, Battle Creek, MI 49016 or calling (269) 966-3348 (TDD).

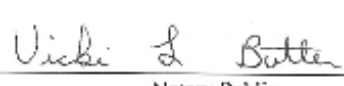
The City of Battle Creek will also provide interpretation services and translation of any printed materials being considered in this meeting upon seven-day notice. Individuals needing interpretation or translation should contact Michelle Salazar by calling (269) 966-3355.

A.D.

A.D.

  
Fredric J. Jacobs

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th  
day of April A.D. 2024

  
Vicki L. Butler

Notary Public  
VICKI L. BUTLER  
NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF BARRY  
My Commission Expires August 5, 2024  
Acting in the County of BARRY

My Commission Expires August 5



# Ampliación de Permisos de Trabajo en EE.UU.: Una Medida Vital para la Estabilidad de Inmigrantes

Redacción  
New/Nueva Opinión

La administración de Biden ha anunciado una medida crucial para muchas personas: la extensión de los permisos de trabajo para ciertas categorías de inmigrantes en Estados Unidos. Esta decisión, que simplifica automáticamente la validez de los Documentos de Autorización de Empleo (EAD) de 180 a 540 días, podría evitar que cientos de miles de individuos pierdan sus empleos de manera repentina.

El Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración (USCIS) explicó que esta extensión se aplica a aquellos inmigrantes cuyos permisos de trabajo hayan expirado desde el 27 de octubre del año pasado. Estos individuos seguirán siendo elegibles para trabajar durante al menos otros 360 días mientras sus renovaciones de EAD son procesadas.

Esta decisión llega en un momento crucial, ya que la pandemia y otros factores han afectado los tiempos de procesamiento de solicitudes de autorización de empleo. Sin embargo, también recibimos un número récord de solicitudes de autorización de empleo, lo que afectó nuestros mecanismos de renovación.

El anuncio se da después de que un grupo de más de 60 congresistas demócratas iniciara la semana pasada al Gobierno estadounidense a alargar el periodo de extensión automática de los permisos de trabajo.

Los legisladores advirtieron en una misiva que a pesar de los esfuerzos de USCIS por ponerse al día aún hay retrasos en el procesamiento de renovación de los permisos de trabajo lo que afectará a miles de inmigrantes. Para septiembre de 2023 había 279,600 solicitudes estancadas.

El congresista por Illinois, Jesús "Chuy" García, uno de los firmantes de la carta, aplaudió el anuncio del USCIS.

"Esta nueva regla brinda cierta estabilidad a muchos inmigrantes. Seguiré luchando para abordar los retrasos, proteger y ampliar el acceso a permisos de trabajo para los recién llegados y los inmigrantes

entró en vigor el 8 de abril, brindando un alivio significativo para aquellos que dependen de sus empleos para mantenerse y contribuir a la sociedad estadounidense. Es una muestra de compromiso continuo con la equidad y la compasión en el sistema de inmigración del país.

La ampliación de la vigencia de los permisos de trabajo también beneficia a aproximadamente a 80,000 empleadores que tendrían que prescindir de los trabajadores inmigrantes. La directora de USCIS, Ur M. Jaddou, dijo en un comunicado que la extensión temporal basada al Gobierno de EE.UU. una ventura adicional para "considerar soluciones a largo plazo" para solucionar el atasco. Destacó que en el último año USCIS redujo los tiempos de procesamiento para la mayoría de las categorías de renovación y expedición de los permisos de trabajo. "Sin embargo, también recibimos un número récord de solicitudes de autorización de empleo, lo que afectó nuestros mecanismos de renovación".

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## CIUDAD DE BATTLE CREEK AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA PLAN DE ACCIÓN ANUAL DEL PROGRAMA PARA EL AÑO 2024 USO PROPUESTO DE LOS FONDOS

En virtud del Título I de la Ley de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de 1935, en su versión modificada, y de la Ley Nacional de Vivienda Asequible (Cranston-Gonzalez de 1990), la ciudad de Battle Creek está obligada a elaborar un plan que describa la forma en que la ciudad asignará los fondos de la Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario y de la Asociación de Inversión HOME para satisfacer las necesidades de las personas con ingresos bajos y moderados de Battle Creek.

Cada año se completa un Plan de Acción Anual para describir las actividades que se llevarán a cabo para abordar las necesidades identificadas en el Plan Comunitario Bienvenido 2020-2024 de la Ciudad. El Plan de Acción Anual también sirve como una aplicación para el Desarrollo Comunitario Block Grant y HOME Investment Partnership fondos.

La Ciudad de Battle Creek ha preparado un borrador del Plan de Acción Anual 2024. El Plan de Acción Anual describe las actividades que se financiarán durante el Año del Programa 2024, del 1 de julio de 2024 al 30 de junio de 2025. Este aviso público se publica para que los ciudadanos sepan que en periodo de treinta (30) días calendario de comentarios sobre el proyecto de 2024 Plan de Acción Anual. Incluirá el uso propuesto de los fondos, comenzará el 5 de abril de 2024, y concluirá el 7 de mayo de 2024. Las copias del plan estarán disponibles para su revisión pública en el Ayuntamiento, Sala 104, 10 North Division Street durante el horario laboral normal y en línea en <http://battlecreekmi.gov/181>.

### El Plan de Acción Anual

El Plan de Acción Anual incluye una estimación de los recursos disponibles de fuentes privadas y públicas para abordar las necesidades identificadas una descripción de las prioridades y objetivos específicos que se abordarán en este año del programa; un resumen de los programas o proyectos elegibles que la Ciudad de Battle Creek emprenderá para abordar las necesidades; una descripción de las áreas geográficas de la ciudad en las que se dirigirá la asistencia; una descripción de los proyectos para abordar las necesidades de las personas sin hogar, del sin hogar y las poblaciones con necesidades especiales; los planes para reducir el número de familias en el nivel de pobreza; una descripción de las actividades para evaluar y reducir el número de unidades de vivienda que enfrentan peligros de pérdida a largo plazo y las normas en las que la ciudad superará sus proyectos de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario.

### Uso propuesto de los fondos: Año del programa 2024-2025

#### Programa de Subvenciones Globales de Desarrollo Comunitario

Dado que el Gobierno Federal no ha notificado a la ciudad la concesión real de fondos para el Año del Programa 2024, estas cantidades son estimadas. Si los importes son inferiores o superiores a los estimados, la financiación se restará o añadirá al programa de Reparaciones Menores de Viviendas de la Ciudad.

<b>1. Administración General (10%)</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>
La función de esta actividad de la Ciudad es proporcionar el personal necesario para desarrollar, implementar y supervisar el rendimiento general de todos los programas de Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario.	
<b>2. Administración de Planificación de Barrios (10%)</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>
Esta función de la Ciudad proporciona la gestión necesaria para llevar a cabo aquellos aspectos operativos relacionados con el diseño del programa general del proceso de planificación global y el desarrollo del Plan Comunitario, con la participación de Consejos de Planificación Vecinal, organizaciones cívicas, particulares y otras juntas, comisiones y comités.	
<b>3. Aplicación de los Códigos</b>	<b>\$240,000</b>
El objetivo de esta actividad es dotar de personal efectivo a la División de Cumplimiento de Códigos Vecinales de la ciudad para que controle sus esfuerzos por ofrecer a los ciudadanos de Battle Creek una aplicación efectiva de los códigos, y complementar otras actividades de Desarrollo Comunitario en zonas inundadas y deprimidas. Esta actividad servirá para detener el declive de las zonas subvencionadas debido a las infracciones del código de la vivienda, las propiedades vacías y abandonadas, los quejas de los ciudadanos sobre el control de plagas y malas hierbas y los problemas de salud y seguridad relacionados con las propiedades de alquiler.	
<b>4. Rehabilitación de viviendas: Pequeñas reparaciones</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
Esta actividad de la ciudad de Battle Creek proporcionará subvenciones a los propietarios de viviendas para las reparaciones necesarias. El objetivo principal serán las reparaciones anteriores por infracciones del código y problemas de salud y seguridad.	
<b>5. Rehabilitación de viviendas: Reparación Menor de Viviendas: Gastos de ejecución</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>
Esta actividad financia los costos de personal del programa de Pequeñas Reparaciones en el Hogar, incluyendo la adquisición, la documentación de la elegibilidad de ingresos, la realización de inspecciones de viviendas, el desarrollo de especificaciones de costos, el trabajo con los contratistas y la transmisión de los pagos.	
<b>6. Subvenciones de servicio público (15%)</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>
Proporciona fondos para que los servicios sociales atiendan a los residentes con ingresos bajos y moderados con una amplia gama de posibles servicios públicos, incluida la gestión de casos de vivienda y los servicios de apoyo de desarrollo.	
<b>Total del Presupuesto Dado a CDBG (Estimación)</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</b>

### Uso propuesto de los fondos: 2020-2025 Programa HOME Investment Partnership

Dado que el Gobierno Federal no ha notificado a la ciudad la concesión real de fondos para el año de programa 2024, estas cantidades son estimadas. Si los importes son inferiores o superiores a los estimados, la financiación se restará o añadirá al Programa de ayuda al alquiler para inquilinos.

<b>7. Administración General (10%)</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>
La función de esta actividad de la Ciudad es proporcionar el personal necesario para desarrollar, aplicar y supervisar el rendimiento general de todos los programas HOME.	
<b>8. Organización Comunitaria de Desarrollo de la Vivienda (CHED) Reserva de al menos el 15%</b>	<b>\$45,138</b>
Programa de Housing	
Esta actividad proporcionará fondos para el desarrollo de una o más viviendas unifamiliares de nueva construcción dentro de la ciudad. Una vez finalizada la construcción, estas propiedades se pondrán a disposición de compradores con ingresos bajos o moderados.	
<b>9. Ayuda al alquiler para inquilinos</b>	<b>\$168,062</b>
Esta actividad proporciona ayuda para el alquiler a corto plazo, de tres a seis meses, a hogares con bajos ingresos que reúnan los requisitos necesarios y que estén pasando por una situación de emergencia en materia de vivienda y participen también en la gestión de casos de vivienda, formación para el empleo u otro programa de autoasistencia.	
<b>10. Desarrollo Permanente de Apoyo de Viviendas</b>	<b>\$34,000</b>
Esta actividad proporciona una subvención para cubrir el déficit de financiación de una promoción de viviendas de apoyo permanente destinadas a alojar a personas que han padecido un trastorno crónico.	
<b>Total del Presupuesto de HOME Investment Partnership (Estimación)</b>	<b>\$329,000</b>

Como parte del proceso de Participación Ciudadana de la Ciudad de Battle Creek, la Ciudad celebrará una audiencia pública formal sobre el borrador del Plan de Acción Anual 2024 incluyendo el Uso Propuesto de Fondos el **martes 7 de mayo de 2024 a las 7:00 P.M.** durante la **Reunión de la Comisión de la Ciudad.**

Los comentarios sobre el borrador del Plan de Acción Anual 2024 de la Ciudad de Battle Creek incluyendo el Uso Propuesto de Fondos pueden hacerse en: Helen Gutz, Supervisora de Desarrollo Comunitario, Ciudad de Battle Creek, Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, Ayuntamiento, Sala 104, 10 North Division Street, Battle Creek, MI 49314, al 269-365-3335, o [hlgutz@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:hlgutz@battlecreekmi.gov).

La ciudad de Battle Creek proporcionará las ayudas y servicios auxiliares necesarios, como intérpretes de signos para personas con discapacidad auditiva y citas de audio de los materiales impresos que se consideren en la reunión, previo aviso con siete días de antelación. Las personas con discapacidades que necesitan ayudas o servicios auxiliares deben ponerse en contacto con la ciudad de Battle Creek enviando a [Vicki.Houser@CityofBattleCreek.com](mailto:Vicki.Houser@CityofBattleCreek.com), PO Box 1317, Battle Creek, MI 49604 o llamando al (269) 365-3348 (TDD).


La ciudad de Battle Creek también proporcionará servicios de interpretación y traducción de cualquier material impreso que se considere en esta reunión previo aviso con siete días de antelación. Las personas que necesitan interpretación o traducción deben ponerse en contacto con Michelle Salazar llamando al (269) 366-3364.



Jessica L. Vanderkolk <JLVanderkolk@battlecreekmi.gov>

Jessica L. Vanderkolk

**UPDATE: News advisory: City Commission meeting tonight canceled**

 Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Hi everyone,

**The City Commission just voted to cancel tonight's meeting,** due to continued severe weather.

Please stay tuned to city channels for a rescheduled meeting date, when we have the chance to set that.

The National Weather Service Issued another tornado warning for Calhoun County. Please take shelter and keep your eye on local weather reports for updates.

Thanks. Be safe, everyone.

—  
*My working hours and yours might be different. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your working hours.*





**NOTICE OF RESCHEDULING OF  
Tuesday, May 7, 2024  
Regular Meeting**

**OF**

**BATTLE CREEK CITY COMMISSION**

**7:00 PM  
CITY HALL  
10 N. DIVISION ST.  
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN**

**RESCHEDULED for TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024**

*The City of Battle Creek will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered in the meeting upon notice to the City of Battle Creek. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Battle Creek by writing or calling the following:*

*Victoria L. Houser  
Office of the City Clerk  
P.O. Box 1717  
10 N. Division Street  
Battle Creek, MI 49016  
(269) 966-3348 (Voice/TDD)*



NOTICE  
OF  
BATTLE CREEK CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS  
FOR THE COMMISSION YEAR 2023-2024

Pursuant to the Charter of the City of Battle Creek (Section 2.9), the Battle Creek City Commission at their Meeting held November 7, 2023, approved the following schedule for the 2023-2024 City Commission year. The Commission will meet on the following dates at 7:00 P.M. in the City Commission Chambers-Room 301, Battle Creek City Hall, 10 North Division Street, Battle Creek, Michigan:

November 21, 2023  
December 5, 2023  
December 19, 2023  
January 2, 2024  
January 16, 2024  
February 6, 2024  
February 20, 2024  
March 5, 2024  
March 19, 2024  
April 2, 2024  
April 16, 2024  
~~May 7, 2024~~ Rescheduled for May 14, 2024  
May 21, 2024  
June 4, 2024  
June 18, 2024  
July 2, 2024  
July 16, 2024  
August 13, 2024 (Change due to August Primary)  
August 20, 2024  
September 3, 2024  
September 17, 2024  
October 1, 2024  
October 15, 2024  
November 12, 2024 (Change due to Election Day)  
Organizational Meeting November 26, 2024 (Change due to Election Canvass)

The City of Battle Creek will provide the necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered in the meeting upon seven days notice to the City of Battle Creek. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Battle Creek by writing or calling the following:

Victoria L. Houser, City Clerk  
10 N. Division Street, Room 111  
Battle Creek, MI 49014  
(269) 966-3348



10:15



**City of Battle Creek, MI**  
**Government**



10h ·

The City Commission meeting canceled on May 7 due to severe weather is now rescheduled to happen tomorrow - Tuesday, May 14 - starting at 7 p.m.

Part of that agenda is a public hearing for our Community Development Division's 2024 Annual Action Plan. They will collect all public comments during this time about that plan. If you are interested in participating in that hearing, we want to let you know that you can still do so on the 14th, during the rescheduled meeting and public hearing.

We complete this plan each year to describe the activities we will do to address the needs in our current five-year Consolidated Plan. These required documents outline how we will spend the federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funds we receive to have positive impacts on low- to moderate-income housing in our community.

--Here's how we propose to use our \$1.23 million in CDBG funds in 2024-2025:

- \*\$122,811 for general administration

- \*\$122,811 for management for studies related to our overall program, and the development of the

10:17



code violations and health/safety issues

- \*\$90,000 for minor home repair activity delivery costs, related to intake, documenting income eligibility, conducting home inspections, working with contractors, and more

- \*\$180,000 for public service grants for a broad range of social services to low- and moderate-income neighbors, including housing case management and eviction diversion

--Here's how we propose to use our \$267,572 in HOME Investment Partnership funds for 2024:

- \*\$26,757 for general administration

- \*\$85,338 for in-fill housing, built by Battle Creek Habitat for Humanity as a Community Housing Development Organization, to create new housing and resell it to a low- to moderate-income homebuyer.

- \*\$155,477 for short-term rental assistance administered by Neighborhoods, Inc. for three to six months for eligible low-income households experiencing a housing emergency, and also participating in housing case management, employment training, or another self-sufficiency program

You can give your comments in person at the public hearing on May 14, or send them to Community Development Supervisor Helen Guzzo at 269-966-3267, [hhguzzo@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:hhguzzo@battlecreekmi.gov), or Battle Creek City Hall, Room 104, 10 N. Division St., Battle Creek MI 49014

10:20



< City of Battle Creek, MI Go...  


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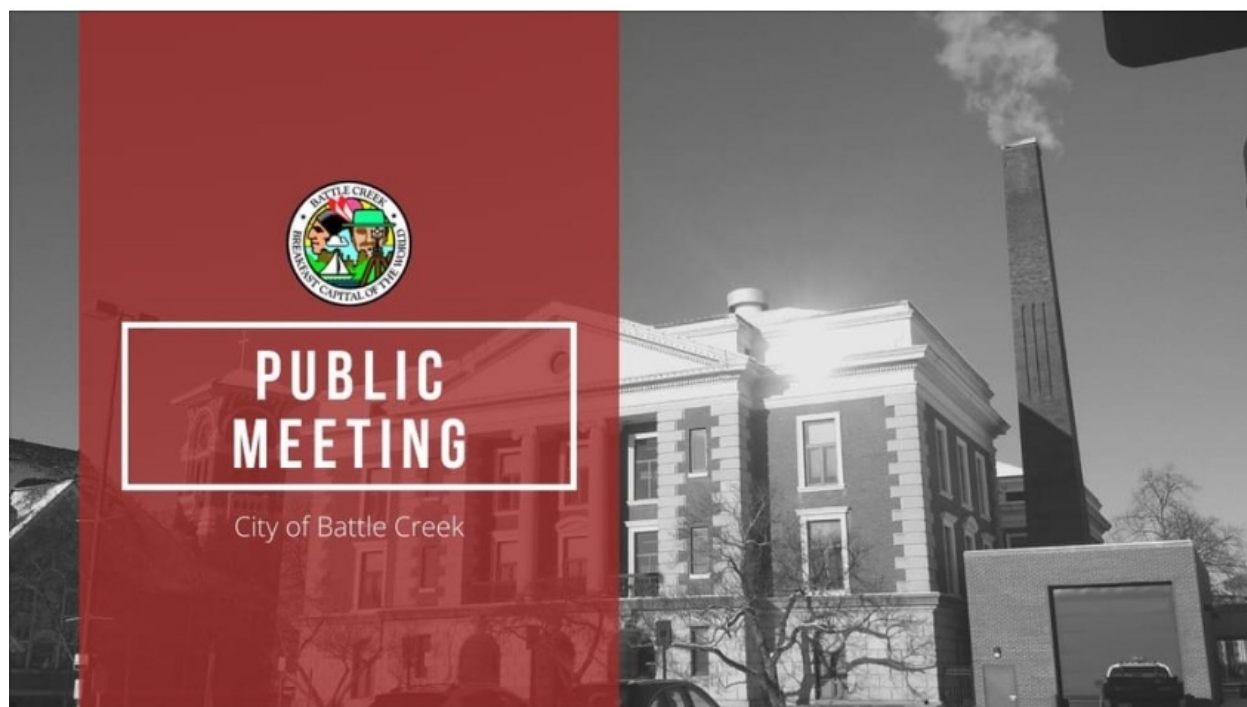
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City of Battle Creek, MI Government   
created an event.

1d • 



TOMORROW AT 7 PM

**Rescheduled City Commission  
regular meeting - May 14, 2024**

☆ Interested



Chris Geeting Huff and 2 others

1 comment





## **Agenda: Battle Creek City Commission**

**Meeting Date:** May 14, 2024- 7:00 PM

**Location:** City Commission Chambers

**Chair:** Mayor Mark A Behnke - Rescheduled Meeting for May 7, 2024

**Title:** Battle Creek City Hall - City Commission Chambers - 3rd Floor

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### **ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Mark Behnke  
Commissioner Jim Lance  
Commissioner Patrick O'Donnell  
Commissioner Christopher Simmons  
Vice Mayor Sherry Sofia

### **COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Roger Ballard  
Commissioner Jenasia Morris  
Commissioner Carla Reynolds  
Commissioner Jake Smith

### **CITY STAFF**

Ted Dearing, Assistant City Manager	Jill Steele, City Attorney
Victoria Houser, City Clerk	Aaron Kuhn, Revenue Services Director
Jonathan Baber, Deputy City Attorney	Kurt Tribbett, Engineering Administrator
Steve Bush, Deputy Police Chief	Bill Beaty, Fire Chief
Darcy Schmitt, Planning Manager	Michelle Hull, Human Resource Director
Kimberly Holley, DEI Officer	Helen Guzzo, Community Dev. Manager
Bryce Hamilton, Network Computer Specialist	

### **INVOCATION**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Sofia.

### **ROLL CALL**

### **PROCLAMATIONS AWARDS**

Proclamation for ALS Awareness Month 2024

Mayor Behnke presented a proclamation declaring the month of May 2024 as "ALS Awareness

Month" in the Greater Battle Creek area, urging all neighbors to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

Interim Financial Statements through March 31, 2024, by Revenue Services  
Director Aaron Kuhn

Aaron Kuhn, Revenue Services Director, presented the Interim Financial Statements through March 31, 2024.

#### **CHAIR NOTES ADDED OR DELETED RESOLUTIONS**

There were no added or deleted resolutions.

#### **PETITIONS COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS**

There were no petitions, communications or reports.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

A Public Hearing for the purpose of seeking public comment on an application for an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate (IFT) on behalf of FCIP South Park 2, LLC for the property located at 201 Watkins Road, Battle Creek, Michigan in Industrial Development District No. 40.

Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing open, inviting attendees to share public comment.

Isaac Hall, Developer, FCIP South Park 2, LLC, noted the 1st phase, completed in 2019, is being occupied by Zoetis, however not as a manufacturing facility. Mr. Hall stated phase 2 would use 50% local labor to further support the Battle Creek community, with another \$14M planned for phase 3 development.

Robert Corder, BCU, expressed support of the IFT request, noting this is a speculative tax abatement, dependent upon the future occupant of the building. Mr. Corder provided information on the economic success of the Fort Custer Industrial Park, noting tax abatements have brought many businesses to the community, providing numerous employment opportunities for residents. Mr. Corder noted tax abatements are an important tool for attracting new business investment in our city, investment that may otherwise go to another city or state.

Autumn Smith stated other tax abatements have not been successful, that they have not created the jobs they promised, stating citizens should get tax abatements.

David Moore commented on taxes paid by the residents.

Comm. Smith stated the minutes for a BCTFA meeting indicate no local labor was used for phase 1 of the development.

Hearing no additional public comments, Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing closed.

A Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing public comment on the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the proposed use of federal funds through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership programs.

Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing open, inviting attendees to share public comment.

Helen Guzzo, Community Development Manager, noted \$1.2M of CDBG monies funded the Minor Home Repair Program, while the HOME funding supported the tenant based rental program facilitated by NIBC. Ms. Guzzo also shared that some of the HOME funding supports the building

of 3 homes in Urbandale by Habitat for Humanity.

Reece Adkins questioned whether the CDBG and HOME funding would help with housing for persons with felony convictions.

John Kenefick noted federal funds come from taxpayers, building the national debt.

Kathy Antaya expressed support of the CDBG and HOME funding, stating it was important to develop customer informed and community supported programs.

David Moore commented on the need for additional housing in the community.

Nadine Bradshaw noted many young adults still live with their parents due to the lack of housing, stating many people feel left out.

Becky Holmgren asked about the general administration expenses of the CDBG and HOME funding, questioning whether those employees were already paid with city funds. Ms. Holmgren also commented on infill housing, expressing concern new construction projects should be similar to current housing.

Autumn Smith agreed with the previous speaker, also questioning administrative costs.

Hearing no additional public comments, Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing closed.

#### **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES**

- 430        A Resolution seeking to adopt Ordinance #05-2024, to amend Sections 1, 3, 5, 6 and 99 and repeal Sections 4 and 98, of Chapter 1610 of City Ordinances, International Fire Code and to comply with State law and regulations.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD  
Supported By: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

#### **MOTION PASSED**

- 431        A Resolution seeking to adopt amended Ordinance #06-2024, to amend Chapter 286 "Police/Community Relations Advisory Committee," by repurposing it as the "Community Oversight Board," with the primary function to provide input, in an advisory capacity, to the City Manager in reconsidering the Police Chief's determination following a Community Relations Complaint investigation filed pursuant to the Police Department Policy.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD  
Supported By: JIM LANCE

Kimberly Holley, DEI Officer, noted this was a community driven board.

Autumn Smith expressed her opinion this board was necessary, noting actions at a prior meeting.

John Kenefick stated the DEI Officer was funded initially by ARPA funds, but currently funded by

taxpayers, asking the true cost of this position.

Mary Bourgeois expressed agreement with Ms. Holley's comments, noting all the work done to bring this board back.

Comm. O'Donnell thanked everyone who worked on bringing this board back.

Comm. Morris expressed appreciation to the DEI Officer, stating she has brought a fresh perspective back to the community.

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CONSENT AGENDA AND RESOLUTIONS NOT ON CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no public comments.

(Limited to three minutes per individual)

**COMMISSION COMMENT REGARDING MEETING BUSINESS**

There were no commission comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to Approve

Moved By: ROGER BALLARD

Supported By: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

**Minutes:**

Minutes for the April 16, 2024 City Commission Regular Meeting

Minutes for the May 7, 2024 City Commission Regular Meeting

City Manager's Report for May 14, 2024

Planning and Zoning Division 2023 Annual Report

Ambulance Report for March 2024

### **CONSENT RESOLUTIONS**

- 432 A Resolution seeking approval to set a Public Hearing on May 21, 2024 at 7pm to hear public comment on the City of Battle Creek's proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD  
Supported By: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

### **RESOLUTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONSENT AGENDA**

- 433 A Resolution seeking authorization of a contract for upgrading the City's internet speed at five fire stations from Metronet in a not-to-exceed three-year amount of \$76,500.00.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD  
Supported By: JIM LANCE

Comm. O'Donnell recused himself, noting he is employed by Metronet.

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

Abstain: O'DONNELL

MOTION PASSED

- 434 A Resolution seeking approval of the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership programs.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD  
Supported By: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 435 A Resolution seeking approval for an Industrial Facilities Tax (IFT) Exemption Certificate for a single-tenant speculative building on behalf of FCIP South Park 2, LLC for real property located at 201 Watkins Road in Industrial District No. 40, and having an estimated cost of \$14,230,440.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD  
Supported By: JIM LANCE

Comm. Smith stated academic research indicates tax abatements do not produce jobs 75% of the time, asking why the abatements are approved for 12 years, instead of a shorter term. Comm. Smith also noted the City cannot revoke a tax abatement certificate in the future, only the state could revoke the abatement. Comm. Smith noted tax abatements take funds away from schools, veterans and the P & F pension. Comm. Smith noted abatements were an inefficient tool, stating there was not a lack of jobs, but a lack of skilled labor to fill the jobs.

Comm. Simmons asked city staff to provide some clarification, noting abatements are competitive tools given by the state to attract business investment.

Ted Dearing, Assistant City Manager, noted a potential tenant for the phase 2 building must qualify for a tax abatement, noting the tenant for the phase 1 project did not qualify as they were not an industrial or manufacturing business. Mr. Dearing also noted that as this was a speculative project, a future tenant may be able to take advantage of the tax abatement, but they would need to be approved by the Commission.

Robert Corder, BCU, noted there was a specific time period from the start of the project to request the abatement. Mr. Corder stated the future tenant would need to come back to the commission to be approved for the abatement. Mr. Corder also shared that this property was part of the LDFA, not the BCTIFA as it was not in the Fort Custer Industrial Park. Mr. Corder noted the school tax is captured by the district, that it is not waived.

Comm. Lance thanked Mr. Hall, the developer, for working with and investing in the City of Battle Creek.

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SOFIA  
Nays: SMITH

#### MOTION PASSED

- 436      A Resolution seeking revocation of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) Exemption Certificate 3-22-0022 for Bijou Lofts LLC, owned by West Michigan Land Holding Company, LLC.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD  
Supported By: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

#### MOTION PASSED

- 437      A Resolution seeking authorization regarding a five-year contract for assessing services with WCA Assessing in a not-to-exceed all-inclusive amount of \$3,112,503.00.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD

Supported By: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 438        A Resolution seeking authorization for a contract to purchase collection system odor and FOG (fat, oil and grease) control chemicals for the City of Battle Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant with Eganix, Inc., in an estimated first year amount of \$205,500.00 with unit prices prevailing.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD  
Supported By: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 439        A Resolution seeking to approve Petition S01-24, a special use permit request for approval of a Transitional and Supportive Home, more than six persons in the MRF, High Density Multiple Family Residential District located at 5470 Glenn Cross Road parcel #0636-33-943-0.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD  
Supported By: JIM LANCE

Comm. O'Donnell stated he was happy to see a new business in this building,

Comm. Ballard, sharing that his sister and mother received hospice services at this facility, stated it is a beautiful building, providing much needed services.

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

- 440        A Resolution seeking approval to conduct a Closed Session on three legal matters.

Motion to Approve  
Moved By: ROGER BALLARD  
Supported By: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Bourgeois commented on the importance of providing housing for the local unhoused, noting the recent closing of the Battle Creek Shelter.

Kathy Antaya expressed concern there were no options for the local unhoused, stating they sleep in public parks during the day, stating there was not enough room at other area shelters.

Michael Hall commented on his experience of homelessness, stating people need to come together to find solutions for the unhoused.

Daniel Jones, Haven of Rest, Director, shared that they served 1,800 people last year, and intend to continue service to anyone affected by the closing of the BC Shelter.

David Moore expressed preference for short term elected positions.

Reece Adkins commented on the closing of the BC Shelter, questioning the city's funding of new fire department buildings.

Autumn Smith commented on the City's flag policy, asking for a flag she presented to be flown at City Hall. Ms. Smith also commented on the tax abatement resolution request approved by the Commission.

Rebecca Holmgren commented on the vacant school buildings in the City, stating they would be good to use for housing.

John Kenefick commented on the plan to build new fire buildings, stating current stations are already strategically placed in the community.

(Limited to three minutes per individual)

**COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Comm. O'Donnell thanked the Fire Chief for the event where smoke and carbon monoxide detectors were given to residents. Comm. O'Donnell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and sharing public comments.

Comm. Smith noted the city website had information about all past abatements.

**RECESS**

The Commission recessed to Closed Session at 8:42 pm.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**RETURN FROM RECESS**

The Commission returned from Closed Session at 9:52 pm.

**Motion: To approve the May 14, 2024 Closed Session minutes.**

Moved by: ROGER BALLARD

Supported by: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS,



SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

**Motion: To approve the Tentative Agreements with the Organization of Supervisory Personnel/Sergeants and Organization of Supervisory Personnel/Lieutenants of the Battle Creek Police Department.**

Moved by: ROGER BALLARD

Supported by: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

**Motion: To approve the City Attorney's recommendation in the case of Baldwin v Frantz, et al.**

Moved by: ROGER BALLARD

Supported by: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

**Motion: To approve the City Attorney's recommendation in the case of Tanner v David Walters.**

Moved by: ROGER BALLARD

Supported by: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

MOTION PASSED

**Motion: To authorize hiring outside counsel Miller Canfield to defend this case.**

Moved by: ROGER BALLARD

Supported by: JIM LANCE

Ayes: BALLARD, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

Nays: LANCE

MOTION PASSED

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Behnke adjourned the meeting at 9:57 pm.

It is the desire of the City Commission to encourage public expression in the course of its meetings. Such expression can be integral to the decision-making process of the City Commission. It is the intention of the City Commission to respect the rights of persons

addressing the Commission. Public comment periods are a time for citizens to make comments; they are not intended as a forum for debate or to engage in question-answer dialogues with the Commission or staff. Commissioners are encouraged not to directly respond to speakers during public comment periods. At the conclusion of the speakers remarks, the Mayor or individual Commissioners may refer a question to City staff, if appropriate. Also, individual Commissioners may choose to respond to speakers during the Commission Comment period. It is with these aims in mind, so as to promote decorum and civility and an orderly process for conducting its public meetings, that the following rules concerning public comments, consistent with applicable law, are adopted by the City Commission.

(I) Persons attending a regular or special Commission Meeting shall be permitted to address the City Commission in conformity with this rule. The opportunity to address the Commission shall be limited to the following:

(a) Persons desiring to address the City Commission are encouraged, but shall not be required, to fill out and turn in to either the City Clerk, Mayor, or presiding Commissioner, prior to the meeting, a comment card disclosing the following information: The person's name, address, and telephone number; the specific issue, topic or resolution the individual wishes to address.

(b) During public hearings when scheduled, speakers may present facts and opinions on the specific matter being heard by the Commission. A three-minute time limit is imposed per speaker. In the discretion of the Mayor or presiding officer, the time limit for individual speakers may be lengthened or shortened when appropriate.

(c) During the consideration of specific ordinances when scheduled, speakers may present facts and opinions on the specific ordinance being considered by the City Commission. Speakers addressing the City Commission during this time shall limit their comments to the specific issue being considered. A three-minute time limit, which may be lengthened or shortened by the Mayor or presiding officer when appropriate, is imposed per speaker, per matter considered.

(d) During the public comment period on the consent agenda and resolutions not on the consent agenda, each speaker may address the Commission once, regarding anything on the consent agenda and resolutions not on the consent agenda, for a total not to exceed three minutes regardless of how many consent agenda items or regular resolutions the speaker is addressing, which time period may be lengthened or shortened by the Mayor or presiding officer when appropriate.

(e) During the General Public Comment portion of the meeting, speakers may address the City Commission on any matter within the control and jurisdiction of the City of Battle Creek. A speaker shall be permitted to address the City Commission once, for up to three minutes, during this portion of the meeting.

(f) Applicants or Appellants, as defined below, or an attorney retained to represent them, are not bound by the specific time limitations set out above but may have the amount of time deemed reasonably necessary by the Mayor or presiding official to present their case to the City Commission without violating the rules set out below in sub-section 4(a) through (g), with which they are obligated to comply.

(i) Applicant is defined an individual or business entity seeking a City Commission final decision on a matter for which the individual has made application to

the City based upon a specific provision in a City Ordinance or state statute for permission to take a specific action;

(ii) Appellant is an individual appealing a decision of a City official or an inferior body based upon a specific provision in City ordinances entitling the individual to appeal the decision to the City Commission.

(2) An individual wishing to address the City Commission shall wait to be recognized by the Mayor or presiding Commissioner before speaking. An individual who has not filled out a card requesting to address the City Commission shall raise his or her hand and wait to be recognized by the Mayor or presiding Commissioner before speaking and shall identify themselves by name and address and, if appropriate, group affiliation for the record.

(3) Speakers shall address all remarks to the Mayor, or the presiding Commissioner or official, and not to individual Commissioners or staff members. Speakers shall not address their remarks to members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

(4) A speaker will be ruled out-of-order by the Mayor or presiding Commissioner and the Commission will continue with its business, and the speaker may be required to leave the meeting after having been ruled out-of-order for a breach of the peace committed at the meeting as permitted by the OMA, when the speaker violates above sub-section 3 or the following:

- (a) Becomes repetitive or speaks longer than the allotted time;
- (b) Attempts to yield any unused portion of time to other speakers;
- (c) Engages in a personal attack upon a city employee, administrator or Commissioner only if the personal attack is totally unrelated to the manner in which the employee, administrator or Commissioner carries out their public duties or office;
- (d) Uses obscene or profane language;
- (e) Engages in slanderous or defamatory speech;
- (f) Uses derogatory racial, sexual or ethnic slurs or epithets relating to any individual or category of persons; or
- (g) Engages in conduct that interrupts or disrupts the meeting.

(5) Individuals attending City Commission meetings or workshops, excluding City staff, shall not pass the commission chambers bar upon which the podium is affixed (and which divides the audience section from the well of the chambers) without having been invited to do so by the Mayor or official presiding over the meeting, or after requesting and explicitly being granted permission to do so. Any individual violating this sub-section will be ruled out-of-order by the Mayor or presiding official and the individual may be required to leave the meeting for a breach of the peace committed at the meeting as permitted by the OMA.

## Grantee SF-424's and Certification(s)

### City of Battle Creek CDBG SF424 & Certifications

OMB Number: 4640-0046  
Expiration Date: 11/30/2025

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424			
* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application		* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	
		* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="text"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="text"/>	
* 3. Data Received: <input type="text"/>		4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: <input type="text"/>		5b. Federal Award Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
State Use Only:			
6. Date Received by State: <input type="text"/>		7. State Application Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
<b>B. APPLICANT INFORMATION:</b>			
* a. Legal Name: <input type="text"/>			
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): <input type="text"/>		* c. UIC: <input type="text"/>	
d. Address:			
* Street:	<input type="text"/>		
Street2:	<input type="text"/>		
* City:	<input type="text"/>		
County/Parish:	<input type="text"/>		
* State:	<input type="text"/>		
Province:	<input type="text"/>		
* Country:	<input type="text"/>		
* Zip/Postal Code:	<input type="text"/>		
e. Organizational Unit:			
Department Name:		Division Name:	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:			
Prefix:	<input type="text"/>	* First Name:	<input type="text"/>
Middle Name:	<input type="text"/>		
* Last Name:	<input type="text"/>		
Suffix:	<input type="text"/>		
Title: <input type="text"/>			
Organizational Affiliation:			
<input type="text"/>			
* Telephone Number:		Fax Number:	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
* Email: <input type="text"/>			

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424	
<b>* 5. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City or Township Government	
<b>Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>* Other (specify):</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>* 10. Name of Federal Agency:</b> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	
<b>11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:</b> 14.211	
<b>CFDA Title:</b> Community Development Block Grant/Entitlement Reserves	
<b>* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:</b> 0	
<b>* Title:</b> Community Development Block Grants	
<b>13. Competition Identification Number:</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>Title:</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):</b> <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Add Affected Area"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Affected Area"/> <input type="button" value="View Affected Areas"/>	
<b>* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:</b> CDBG activities include program administration, neighborhood planning, code compliance, housing related activities, home repair and accessibility delivery system, and public awareness.	
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions. <input type="button" value="Add Attachments"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Attachments"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachments"/>	

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424	
16. Congressional Districts On:	
* a. Applicant: <input type="text" value="MI-3"/>	* b. Program/Project: <input type="text" value="GI-9"/>
Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
17. Proposed Project:	
* a. Start Date: <input type="text" value="07/01/2024"/>	* b. End Date: <input type="text" value="06/30/2025"/>
18. Estimated Funding (\$):	
* a. Federal:	<input type="text" value="1,220,111.00"/>
* b. Applicant:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income:	<input type="text" value="50,000.00"/>
* g. TOTAL:	<input type="text" value="1,220,111.00"/>
* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12972 Process? <input type="checkbox"/> a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12972 Process for review on: <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> b. Program is subject to E.O. 12972 but has not been selected by the State for review. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12972.	
* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No ** Yes*, provide explanation and attach: <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>	
21. By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section *1001) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ** I AGREE ** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.	
Authorized Representative:	
Prefix: <input type="text" value="Mr."/>	* First Name: <input type="text" value="Rebecca"/>
Middle Name: <input type="text" value="L."/>	
* Last Name: <input type="text" value="Cleary"/>	
Suffix: <input type="text"/>	
* Title: <input type="text" value="City Manager"/>	
* Telephone Number: <input type="text" value="269-966-3378"/>	Fax Number: <input type="text"/>
* Email: <input type="text" value="rcleary@bottledrope.com"/>	
* Signature of Authorized Representative:	* Date Signed: <input type="text" value="6/25/2024"/>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             Digitally signed by Rebecca L. Cleary              DN: cn=Rebecca L. Cleary, o=City of Holland, ou=City of Holland, email=rcleary@bottledrope.com, c=US           </div>	

# ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4340-0008  
Expiration Date: 02/29/2025

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0345-0072), Washington, DC 20503.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.**

**NOTE:** Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance; funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4726-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 18 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§1901 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1972 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

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Standard Form 424-1 (Rev. 7-97)  
Prescribed by GMB Circular A-132



11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1601-1608 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11736; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 175(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 108 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1956, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11583 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from: (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
<i>Rebecca R. Teleny</i>	<i>City Manager</i>
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
<i>City of Battle Creek</i>	<i>6/14/24</i>

SF-424D (Rev. 7-87) Back



## CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the consolidated plan regulations, the jurisdiction certifies that:

**Affirmatively Further Fair Housing** --The jurisdiction will affirmatively further fair housing.

**Uniform Relocation Act and Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan** -- It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4601-4655) and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24. It has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan required under 24 CFR Part 42 in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the Community Development Block Grant or HOME programs.

**Anti-Lobbying** --To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and
3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

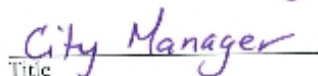
**Authority of Jurisdiction** --The consolidated plan is authorized under State and local law (as applicable) and the jurisdiction possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations.

**Consistency with plan** --The housing activities to be undertaken with Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant, and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS funds are consistent with the strategic plan in the jurisdiction's consolidated plan.

**Section 3** -- It will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 75.

  
Signature of Authorized Official

6/14/24  
Date

  
Title

### Specific Community Development Block Grant Certifications

The Entitlement Community certifies that:

**Citizen Participation** -- It is in full compliance and following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105.

**Community Development Plan** -- Its consolidated plan identifies community development and housing needs and specifies both short-term and long-term community development objectives that have been developed in accordance with the primary objective of the CDBG program (i.e., the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and expanding economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low and moderate income) and requirements of 24 CFR Parts 91 and 570.

**Following a Plan** -- It is following a current consolidated plan that has been approved by HUD.

**Use of Funds** -- It has complied with the following criteria:

1. Maximum Feasible Priority. With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG funds, it has developed its Action Plan so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low- and moderate-income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The Action Plan may also include CDBG-assisted activities which the grantee certifies are designed to meet other community development needs having particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available (see Optional CDBG Certification).

2. Overall Benefit. The aggregate use of CDBG funds, including Section 108 guaranteed loans, during program year(s) 2024 [a period specified by the grantee of one, two, or three specific consecutive program years], shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period.

3. Special Assessments. It will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds, including Section 108 loan guaranteed funds, by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements.

However, if CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of a fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of public improvements (assisted in part with CDBG funds) financed from other revenue sources, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds.

In addition, in the case of properties owned and occupied by moderate-income (not low-income) families, an assessment or charge may be made against the property for public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds if the jurisdiction certifies that it lacks CDBG funds to cover the assessment.

**Excessive Force** -- It has adopted and is enforcing:

1. A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and
2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

**Compliance with Anti-discrimination laws** -- The grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-3619) and implementing regulations.

**Lead-Based Paint** -- Its activities concerning lead-based paint will comply with the requirements of 24 CTR Part 35, Subparts A, B, J, K and R.

**Compliance with Laws** -- It will comply with applicable laws.

Debra L. Fleury  
Signature of Authorized Official

6/14/24  
Date


City Manager  
Title

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424		
* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:		
C: City or Township Government		
Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:		
Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:		
* Other (specify):		
* 10. Name of Federal Agency:		
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)		
11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:		
14-238		
CFDA Title		
HOME Investment Partnerships Program		
* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:		
0		
* Title:		
HOME Investment Partnerships Program		
13. Competition Identification Number:		
Title:		
14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):		
	And Allotments	Public Housing
* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:		
HOME Investment Partnerships activities include program administration, tenant-based rental assistance, and infill housing development through a Community Housing Development Organization		
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions		
County Attachments	State Attachments	Federal Attachments

City of Battle Creek  
HOME Investment Partnership Program SF-424

OMB Number: 4040-0004  
Expiration Date: 11/30/2025

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424			
* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application		* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	
		* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="text"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="text"/>	
* 3. Date Received: <input type="text"/>		4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: <input type="text"/>		5b. Federal Award Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
State Use Only:			
6. Date Received by State: <input type="text"/>		7. State Application Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
B. APPLICANT INFORMATION:			
* a. Legal Name: <input type="text"/>			
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): <input type="text"/>		* c. UEI: <input type="text"/>	
d. Address:			
* Street: <input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
* City: <input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
* State: <input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
* Country: <input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
* Zip / Postal Code: <input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
e. Organizational Unit:			
Department Name: <input type="text"/>		Division Name: <input type="text"/>	
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:			
Prefix: <input type="text"/>		* First Name: <input type="text"/>	
Middle Name: <input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
* Last Name: <input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
Suffix: <input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
Title: <input type="text"/>			
Organizational Address: <input type="text"/>			
* Telephone Number: <input type="text"/>		Fax Number: <input type="text"/>	
* Email: <input type="text"/>			

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424	
<b>16. Congressional Districts Of:</b>	
* a. Applicant <input type="text" value="MI-3"/>	* b. Program/Project <input type="text" value="MI-3"/>
Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <input style="width: 300px;" type="text"/> <div> <input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/> </div> </div>	
<b>17. Proposed Project:</b>	
* a. Start Date: <input type="text" value="07/01/2024"/>	* b. End Date: <input type="text" value="06/30/2025"/>
<b>18. Estimated Funding (\$):</b>	
* a. Federal	267,571.52
* b. Applicant	0.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	0.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	267,571.52
<b>* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> . <input type="checkbox"/> b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.	
<b>* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "Yes", provide explanation and attach <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <input style="width: 200px;" type="text"/> <div> <input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/> </div> </div>	
<b>21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ** I AGREE <small>** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.</small>	
<b>Authorized Representative:</b>	
Prefix: <input type="text" value="Ms."/>	* First Name: <input type="text" value="Rebecca"/>
Middle Name: <input type="text" value="L."/>	
* Last Name: <input type="text" value="Fleury"/>	
Suffix: <input type="text"/>	
* Title: <input type="text" value="City Manager"/>	
* Telephone Number: <input type="text" value="269-966-3378"/>	Fax Number: <input type="text"/>
* Email: <input type="text" value="rfleury@battlecreekmi.gov"/>	
* Signature of Authorized Representative:	* Date Signed: <input style="width: 80px;" type="text" value="6/14/24"/>
	

### Specific HOME Certifications

The HOME participating jurisdiction certifies that:

**Tenant Based Rental Assistance** -- If it plans to provide tenant-based rental assistance, the tenant-based rental assistance is an essential element of its consolidated plan.

**Eligible Activities and Costs** -- It is using and will use HOME funds for eligible activities and costs, as described in 24 CFR §§92.205 through 92.209 and that it is not using and will not use HOME funds for prohibited activities, as described in §92.214.

**Subsidy layering** -- Before committing any funds to a project, it will evaluate the project in accordance with the guidelines that it adopts for this purpose and will not invest any more HOME funds in combination with other Federal assistance than is necessary to provide affordable housing;

  
Signature of Authorized Official

  
Date

  
Title

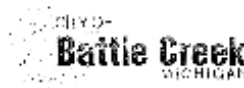
## APPENDIX TO CERTIFICATIONS

### INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING LOBBYING CERTIFICATION:

#### **Lobbying Certification**

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.





Resolution NO. 434

A Resolution seeking approval of the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership programs.

BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN - 5/7/2024

Resolved by the Commission of the City of Battle Creek:

That the 2024 Annual Action Plan and its proposed use of federal funds are approved and the City Manager is authorized to execute as per the findings, approvals and terms with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Battle Creek City Commission  
5/7/2024  
Action Summary

Staff Member: Helen Gezon, Community Development Supervisor

Department: Community Development

**SUMMARY**

A Resolution seeking approval of the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership programs.

**BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no General Fund budgetary considerations at this time. Community Development Block Grant provides approximately \$1.2 million in funds annually for community development and housing needs, while the HOME Investment Partnership program provides approximately \$320,000 for housing needs for low and moderate income residents of the City.

**HISTORY, BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION**

Under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended and the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, the City of Battle Creek is required to prepare a plan that describes how the City will receive Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funds to meet the needs of low and moderate income persons in Battle Creek.

Each local, consolidated Plan is completed every five (5) years, and an Annual Action Plan is completed annually to describe the activities that will be undertaken to address the needs identified in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Plan also serves as an application for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funds.

During the past several months, City Community Development Supervisor developed the 2024 Annual Action Plan. A Public Hearing was held on April 16, 2024, for the purpose of identifying housing and community development needs and a Public Hearing was held on May 6, 2024 for the proposed 2024 Annual Action Plan to address housing and community development needs. A notice of the public hearings was published 30 days ago in the Battle Creek Shipboard News and in the Spanish-language newspaper, New Opinion.

This Resolution approves the 2024 Annual Action Plan by the City Commission so that it may be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval. The plan is available on the City's website and copies will be available for reference in the Community Development Department.

Upon approval of the 2024 Annual Action Plan, finding Approval Agreements for both the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Programs may be executed by the City Manager and HUD.

**POSITIONS**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

File Name	Description
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