



Draft Annual Action Plan

**Westmoreland County,
PA
FY 2018**

Prepared by:

The Westmoreland County
Department of Planning and
Development

and Mullin & Lonergan
Associates, Inc.

January 31, 2018

Table of Contents

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)	2
PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b).....	5
AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l).....	6
AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)	15
AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c) (1, 2)	18
AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e).....	21
AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)	24
AP-38 Projects Summary.....	27
AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f).....	41
AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)	42
AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h).....	43
AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i).....	45
AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)	48
AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)	50

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

1. Introduction

The purpose of Westmoreland County's Annual Action Plan (AP) is to guide funding decisions in the next year regarding specific federal funds received for housing and community development activities. The AP is guided by three overarching goals that are applied according to a community's needs. These goals are:

- To provide decent housing by preserving the affordable housing stock, increasing the availability of affordable housing, reducing discriminatory barriers, increasing the supply of supportive housing for special needs households, and transitioning homeless persons and families into housing.
- To provide a suitable living environment through safer, more livable neighborhoods, greater integration of low and moderate income residents, increased housing opportunities, and reinvestment in deteriorating neighborhoods and communities.
- To expand economic opportunities through more jobs paying self-sufficient wages, homeownership opportunities, development activities that promote long-term community viability, and the empowerment of low and moderate income persons to achieve self-sufficiency.

As required by HUD, the identification of needs and the adoption of strategies to address those needs must focus primarily on low- and moderate-income individuals and households. The AP must also address the needs of persons with special needs such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, large families, single parents, homeless individuals and families, and public housing residents.

This plan was formulated using HUD's eConPlan tool, which dictates the plan's structure. Where necessary, the County updated or supplemented the HUD-provided tables with more accurate or relevant data.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

Westmoreland County is committed to allocating funds that serve the needs of low and moderate income residents. The following strategies have been identified and developed to address various housing, non-housing community development, and homeless needs over the next year:

Priority #1: Expanding the availability of rental housing stock for LMI households

Goal: To increase the supply of decent, affordable rental housing opportunities available for the County's lowest-income households through coordination with WCHA, CHDOs, non-profit and for-profit agencies, and private developers.

Priority #2: Affordable rental assistance for LMI families and seniors

Goal: To allow decent, safe, affordable rental housing for low-income families and seniors.

Priority #3: Housing rehabilitation for LMI homeowners

Goal: To support families and individuals who already own their homes but, due to economic hardship or excessive cost-burden, are not able to make repairs necessary for critical upkeep and value retention. This includes emergency repair provisions that will enable LMI homeowners to make immediately required repairs to their homes.

Priority #4: Increasing homeownership opportunities

Goal: To facilitate increased homeownership opportunities for LMI families and individuals in Westmoreland County and expand the options available to these groups.

Priority #5: Rehabilitation of rental housing stock

Goal: To restore and preserve existing affordable rental housing units for low-income tenant households, including those with special needs.

Priority #6: Assisting homeless populations

Goal: To provide stability and opportunity to the County's homeless populations through work with non-profit organizations and other public agencies.

Priority #7: Mitigating blight

Goal: To remove the tangible and intangible negative impacts of abandoned and dilapidated properties on the viability of neighborhoods throughout the County.

Priority #8: Non-housing community development

Goal: To expand and rehabilitate public infrastructure including sanitary sewer facilities, water facilities, storm water facilities, bridge improvements, street reconstruction, and recreational facilities.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The County's past performance in the administration and implementation of the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs has fulfilled the spirit and intent of the federal legislation creating these programs. The County has facilitated affordability for decent housing, availability and accessibility of suitable living environments, sustainability of suitable living environments, and the accessibility of economic opportunities. The following is a summary of Westmoreland County's past performance as reported to HUD in the FY2016 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), the most recent report filed.

In FY 2016, Westmoreland County was awarded \$3,143,264 in CDBG funds, \$630,141 in HOME funds, and \$286,197 in ESG funds. The County was successful in carrying out planned actions that addressed various needs outlined in its HUD-approved Five Year Consolidated Plan. In addition, Westmoreland County used the overwhelming majority of its FY 2017 CDBG expenditures for activities that met one of the three national objectives under the CDBG regulations. The County's other investments consisted of expenditures for general program administration.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Westmoreland County has followed its HUD-approved Citizen Participation Plan in the preparation of the 2018 Annual Action Plan. A copy of the County's Citizen Participation Plan, which includes definitions of the criteria for amendments to the AP, is on file at the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development and is available for public inspection.

In accordance with the Westmoreland County Citizen Participation Plan, the County held a series of five community development and housing needs public hearings at various locations across the County in January and February 2018. A final public hearing will be held in February during the 30-day public display period. Public notice for the hearings was published in the Tribune-Review with scheduled Public Needs Meeting dates and locations posted on Westmoreland County's website.

5. Summary of public comments

To be determined after hearings and comment period have expired.

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

To be determined after hearings and comment period have expired.

7. Summary

See above.

8. 2018 Contingency Provisions

As of January 31, 2018, HUD had not yet announced Westmoreland County's 2018 CDBG, HOME and ESG funding allocation amounts. Consequently, per HUD requirements, Westmoreland County has included contingency provisions in its proposed 2018 Annual Action Plan to explain how the County will adjust its proposed 2018 activity budgets to match its actual allocation amounts, once HUD announces the allocation amounts.

Westmoreland County has based its 2018 Annual Action Plan activity budgets on estimated funding allocations. When HUD notifies the County of its 2018 funding allocations, the County will adjust its activity budgets in accordance with the contingency plans stated in the AP-35 section of this document.

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	WESTMORELAND COUNTY	Department of Planning and Development
HOME Administrator	WESTMORELAND COUNTY	Department of Planning and Development
ESG Administrator	WESTMORELAND COUNTY	Department of Planning and Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The lead agency for the Annual Plan (AP) is the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development. The Community Development Division implements a range of affordable housing and community development activities, including administration of the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs; preparation of the AP, the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), and the Annual Plan; technical assistance for and collaboration with municipalities, non-profit and for-profit housing developers, and social service agencies; and rehabilitation and other affordable housing projects.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development
40 N Pennsylvania Ave Fifth Floor, Suite 520
Greensburg, PA 15601
Janet Thomas, Deputy Director
Phone: (724) 830-3650
Email: jthomas@co.westmoreland.pa.us
Web site: <http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/>

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

1. Introduction

The County developed an outreach effort to maximize input from a cross-section of stakeholders. This outreach effort included public meetings, published meeting notices, and telephone interviews.

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))

Meaningful collaboration as it relates to the development and implementation of housing and community development programs and services has become increasingly important as the federal resources available to these programs continue to decline. Collaboration with housing and service providers helps the County to capture the maximum benefit for each dollar it invests, and ensures that investments strategically address both short-term needs and advance long-term goals.

The Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development conducts ongoing consultation with human services agencies, housing development organizations, and municipalities at various points in time during a program year.

The Department is permanently represented on both the Westmoreland Coalition on Housing (WCOH) and the Local Housing Options Team (LHOT). The WCOH is composed of housing agencies and human services agencies which provide housing and develops strategies and goals to guide the County’s housing programs. The LHOT focuses on the needs of the homeless and disabled communities and advises the WCOH within this context. The membership of both organizations includes representatives of the public and private sectors.

As part of its participation in the LHOT, County Planning & Development staff have consulted with local health and child welfare agencies, such as Westmoreland Community Action, the County’s Human Services Department, Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services, and others concerning the non-housing special needs in the County, including lead based paint hazards. The County remains committed to its plan to address lead based paint as outlined in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

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

The County is part of the larger Southwestern Pennsylvania area for purposes of planning within the Continuum of Care (CoC). The regional CoC was established by the state for purpose of applying for HUD funding through the Stewart B. McKinney programs (Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, etc.).

The Southwest PA CoC merged with the Northwest Region to form the PA Western Region CoC, with a PA Western Region CoC governing board and a Northwest Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB)

and a Southwest RHAB. There are seven counties recognized in the SW regional CoC, including Armstrong, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, and Westmoreland, and thirteen counties in the NW CoC, including Crawford, Warren, McKean, Potter, Mercer, Venango, Forest, Elk, Cameron, Clearfield, Jefferson, Clarion and Lawrence.

Over the past 10 years, an evolution of a comprehensive and coordinated continuum of care homeless assistance system has occurred in the County. During this time, the primary focus of the system has been on the provision of housing and supportive services in an effort to address the multiple needs of homeless individuals and families. In 2008, the County's MH/MR Department completed a Housing Plan in conjunction with the Westmoreland Coalition on Housing. The Plan focuses on the need for housing for patients discharged from Torrance State Hospital, programs for youth in the transitional age trying to enter into adulthood after exiting the foster care system, and the need for additional permanent supportive housing units in the County.

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

Since Westmoreland County does not have its own continuum of care (CoC), it must apply to HUD for competitive grants through the Southwest RHAB Continuum of Care. ESG priorities are determined by Westmoreland County's Department of Planning and Development, which consults extensively with local homeless service providers. The selected priorities are: (1) The need for more emergency shelter beds in the Cities of Monessen and New Kensington, (2) A new youth shelter, especially for youth who have "aged-out" of the juvenile system, (3) Additional transitional housing for patients discharged from Torrance State Hospital.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Westmoreland County Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted regarding public housing projects and goals. The Housing Authority also receives funding for emergency rehabilitation, tenant-based rental assistance, homeless prevention, and rapid rehousing programs. As a housing provider, the Housing Authority also participates in the County’s efforts to minimize exposure to lead based paint.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Westmoreland Local Housing Options Team
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The County attended and solicited feedback at LHOT's November 2017 quarterly meeting. Because many LHOT members are agencies focused on health and child welfare, they are able to relate any concerns regarding exposure to lead based paint hazards throughout the County.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	WESTMORELAND COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted as part of their ongoing participation in the County's grant programs. As an agency focused on health and child welfare, Westmoreland Community Action provides input on the scope of exposure to lead based paint hazards experienced throughout the community. Westmoreland Community Action also receives funding to support a permanent supportive housing program.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	HOMES BUILD HOPE, INC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted as part of their ongoing participation in the County's grant programs, and as the County's CHDO partner.

5	Agency/Group/Organization	UNION MISSION OF LATROBE, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted as part of their ongoing participation in the County's grant programs.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Alle-Kiski HOPE Center, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted as part of their ongoing participation in the County's grant programs.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	CONNECT, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted as part of their ongoing participation in the County's grant programs.

8	Agency/Group/Organization	Blackburn Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted as part of their ongoing participation in the County's grant programs.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	WESTMORELAND COUNTY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Various County departments, including Planning & Development, Redevelopment Authority, Industrial Development Corporation, and Human Services were consulted to provide input on emerging needs observed over the past year.

11	Agency/Group/Organization	MON VALLEY INITIATIVE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted as part of their participation in the LHOT committee.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Foundation of Westmoreland County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Foundation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted as part of their participation in the LHOT committee.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted as part of their participation in the LHOT committee. As an agency focused on health and child welfare, SPHS provides input on the scope of exposure to lead based paint hazards experienced throughout the community.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	FAMILY SERVICES OF W. PA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency was consulted as part of their participation in the LHOT committee. As an agency focused on health and child welfare, Family Services of Western PA provides input on the scope of exposure to lead based paint hazards experienced throughout the community.

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

Consultation with the municipalities participating in the County’s housing and community development programs occurs via an annual solicitation for funding proposals under the CDBG program and periodic regional meetings with groups of local governments and the Borough and Township associations. The regional meetings have in the past been once every three years, while meetings with the two associations have been during the planning phase of the County’s Five Year Consolidated Plan. The County will incorporate both types of meetings annually into its planning process for each year’s Annual Action Plan.

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Southwest Pennsylvania CoC	The goals of the CoC were used in the development of the County’s homeless priorities and strategies
Five-Year Consolidated Plan	Westmoreland County	The goals of the 2018 Annual Plan align with the strategic plan presented in the previous Five-Year Consolidated Plan, adjusting based on previous outcomes to maximize benefit of CDBG, HOME, and ESG investments
2010 Analysis of Impediments	Westmoreland County	The current goals and strategies to overcome current barriers to fair housing were influenced by this plan
2014 Housing Policy and Plan	Westmoreland County	Provided supplemental data analysis for the Needs Assessment and Market Analysis sections

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

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**

In concurrence with Westmoreland County's Citizen Participation Plan, five public outreach meetings were conducted as part of the creation of this Annual Plan. The meetings were held in ADA-compliant buildings throughout Westmoreland County. Persons requiring special accommodations were able to do so by contacting the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development. Meetings were held strategically throughout the County in order to reduce travel time for residents.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
1	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Westmoreland County Housing Authority Public Meeting Tuesday 1/9, 2:30 PM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rents are rising, increasing the need for decent and affordable housing. Code enforcement and housing rehab are needed. - Public transit options limit accessibility to job centers for LMI people. - Debit and credit issues limit housing choice. 	N/A	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	South Greengate Commons Public Meeting Thursday 1/11, 1:30 PM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seniors need accessible transit to grocery stores and other areas. - Homeowner rehabilitation programs are needed. - Recreational programs for elderly and the youth are needed. - Services like Meals on Wheels need better meals. 	N/A	
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development Public Meeting Thursday 1/11, 6:00 PM. No attendees recorded.	No comments received	N/A	
4	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Mt. Pleasant Borough Public Meeting Tuesday 1/16, 10:00 AM.	Code enforcement partnerships with surrounding communities are needed.	N/A	
5	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Park Manor Public Meeting Wednesday 2/21, 2:00 PM.	TBD	TBD	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
6	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	N/A: Newspaper advertisement in order to inform Westmoreland County residents of public meetings.	N/A	N/A	
7	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	TBD	TBD	TBD	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

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

Introduction

Currently, Westmoreland County receives CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds for housing construction, rehabilitation initiatives and homeless shelter programs, among other eligible activities. These funding sources are expected to be available over the next two years. In addition, other state and federal funding sources and program income are anticipated to be available to finance such undertakings.

Priority Table

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$3,129,505			\$3,129,505	\$3,129,505	
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	\$594,209	\$100,000		\$694,209	\$594,209	
ESG	public - federal	Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Homeless Prevention	\$282,980			\$282,980	\$282,980	

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

Primary sources of matching funds during the next two years are anticipated to include PA Act 137 (County), Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, local foundations, low-income housing tax credits, PENNVEST, Federal Home Loan Banks, and land and monetary donations.

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

Westmoreland County established a land bank in late 2013 to gain control of properties that have been abandoned and owe back taxes with the intention of clearing titles and returning the properties to strategic and productive reuse. Pennsylvania’s enabling legislation allows local governments that create land banks to acquire properties by tax foreclosure, purchase, lease-purchase agreement, donation or transfer; to develop or demolish properties; to sell, transfer, lease or mortgage properties; to discharge and extinguish tax liens and obtain clear title; and to purchase properties at judicial sales.

As of January 2018, 22 municipalities across the County were participating in the Westmoreland County Land Bank (WCLB). The land bank has sold 55 properties and affected 91 properties in total. In 2017, the WCLB generated \$27,627 in new tax revenue, nearly tripling the amount generated in the previous year. The land bank represents a potential means of assembling and preparing sites for use by affordable housing developers, especially because it could help to lower acquisition costs.

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

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Improve the quality of owner housing	2015	2019	Affordable Housing		Preserve Existing Affordable Rental & Owner Unit	CDBG: \$100,000 HOME: \$280,077	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated:
2	Improve quality of existing affordable rental unit	2015	2019	Affordable Housing Homeless		Preserve Existing Affordable Rental & Owner Unit	HOME: \$229,710	Other: 1 Rental Housing Rehabilitated: CHODO Operating
3	Improve and maintain public facilities	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Facility Improvements	CDBG: \$343,975	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 33,672 persons
4	Provide public services	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Services	HOME: \$75,000	Tenant-based Rental Assistance/Rapid Rehousing: Households: 25

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development		Infrastructure Improvements	CDBG: \$1,227,561	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: ___ persons; Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: ___ persons and ___ households
6	Improve access to affordable owner housing	2015	2019	Affordable Housing		Preserve Existing Affordable Rental & Owner Unit	CDBG: \$50,000	___ households assisted
7	Remove slum and blight	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development		Blight Removal	CDBG: \$206,000	Buildings Demolished:
8	Housing/services to homeless and near-homeless	2015	2019	Homeless		Housing and Services for the Homeless and At-Risk	CDBG: \$300,000 ESG: \$282,980	Other: 1

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Improve the quality of owner housing
	Goal Description	
2	Goal Name	Improve quality of existing affordable rental unit
	Goal Description	
3	Goal Name	Improve and maintain public facilities
	Goal Description	
4	Goal Name	Provide public services
	Goal Description	
5	Goal Name	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Goal Description	
6	Goal Name	Improve access to affordable owner housing
	Goal Description	
7	Goal Name	Remove slum and blight
	Goal Description	
8	Goal Name	Housing/services to homeless and near-homeless
	Goal Description	

Table 7 – Goal Descriptions

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

The jurisdiction estimates that it will provide assistance to ## eligible low-income and moderate-income families. This estimate takes into account ## households served through tenant-based rental assistance and ## new affordable rental housing units constructed.

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Contingency Provisions

As of January 31, 2018, HUD had not yet announced Westmoreland County's 2018 CDBG, HOME and ESG funding allocation amounts. Consequently, per HUD requirements, Westmoreland County has included contingency provisions in its proposed 2018 Annual Action Plan to explain how the County will adjust its proposed 2018 activity budgets to match its actual allocation amounts, once HUD announces the allocation amounts.

Westmoreland County has based its 2018 Annual Action Plan activity budgets on estimated funding allocations. When HUD notifies the County of its 2018 funding allocations, the County will adjust its activity budgets in accordance with the following:

CDBG

If the CDBG allocation is less than the budgeted amount, activity funding will be decreased accordingly in the Administration, Unprogrammed Funds, and /or Public Improvements budget line items for the CDBG Program. Depending on the severity of the decrease, other activities will be targeted for decreases. If the HOME Program allocation is less than the budgeted amount, activity funding will be decreased accordingly in the Administration, CHDO SET-ASIDE, CHDO Operating, and Homeowner/Rental Housing Rehabilitation budget line items.

If the CDBG allocation is more than the estimated allocation and/or program income becomes available, the County will consider the following actions:

1. Increase the Administration Budget line item (to the maximum of 20%)
2. Increase the Down payment/closing cost budget line item
3. Consider additional activities not originally selected for funding due to funding limitations
4. Increase Public Improvements budget line item

HOME

If the HOME Program allocation is more than the estimated allocation and/or additional program income becomes available, the County will consider the following actions:

1. Increase the Administration budget line item (to the maximum of 10%)
2. Increase the CHDO Set Aside budget line item (to the maximum of 15%)
3. Increase the Tenant Based Rental Assistance and/or Down payment Closing Cost Assistance

ESG

Any ESG funding increase or decrease based on the actual funding allocation amounts will entail corresponding adjustments to the homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activity budgets.

However, if the increase or decrease is too significant, the County may choose to adjust other projects on a percentage basis.

The following project information for FY 2018 provides a comprehensive overview on the ranges of proposed CDBG, HOME, and ESG activities.

#	Project Name
1	Westmoreland Community Action – Permanent Supportive Housing
2	Westmoreland County Housing Authority - Emergency Housing Rehabilitation
3	Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland - Countywide Demolition
4	Northmoreland Park - Removal of Architectural Barriers
5	Derry Borough - Removal of Architectural Barriers
6	Hempfield Township - Removal of Architectural Barriers
7	Irwin Borough - Removal of Architectural Barriers
8	City of Lower Burrell - Removal of Architectural Barriers/Sidewalk Reconstruction
9	Mt. Pleasant Borough – Recreational Facilities/Public Facilities
10	Municipality of Murrysville - Demolition
11	New Florence Borough – Stormwater Facilities
12	North Belle Vernon Borough - Street Reconstruction
13	North Irwin Borough - Removal of Architectural Barriers
14	St. Clair Township - Street Reconstruction
15	Seward Borough - Street Reconstruction
16	Sewickley Township - Stormwater Facilities/Removal of Architectural Barriers
17	Southwest Greensburg Borough - Street Reconstruction
18	Homes Build Hope- Union Mission Reconstruction
19	Upper Burrell Township - Street Reconstruction
20	Vandergrift Borough - Street Reconstruction
21	West Leechburg Borough – Stormwater Facilities
22	CHDO Operating Expenses – Homes Build Hope, Inc.
23	Tenant Based Rental Assistance – Westmoreland County Housing Authority
24	Emergency Solutions Grant Activities
25	Administration
26	Unprogrammed funds
27	Homeowner/Rental Rehabilitation
28	City of Jeannette- Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance

Table 8 – Project Information

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

CDBG and HOME funds are intended to provide low- and moderate-income households with viable communities, including decent housing, a suitable livable environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community facilities and improvements, removal of blighting conditions, housing rehabilitation and preservation, affordable housing development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration.

The system for establishing the priority for the selection of FY 2018 projects is predicated upon the following criteria:

- Meeting the statutory requirements of the CDBG and HOME programs
- Meeting the needs of very low-, low-, and moderate-income residents
- Focusing on low-to-moderate income areas or neighborhoods
- Coordination and leveraging of resources
- Response to expressed needs
- Sustainability and/or long-term impact
- Ability to measure or demonstrate progress and success
- Existence of blighting conditions

The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the limited funding resources available to address identified priorities. In addition, the gap in what households can afford to pay for housing and the price of housing is another obstacle to meeting the needs of the underserved. The County has a significant affordable housing stock, yet the income level for individual households such as single parent, elderly, disabled, or others of limited economic means, is not sufficient to afford even the lowest of the market-rate units.

It is necessary to intensify the impact of limited available funding with the current increase in local home foreclosures, increased unemployment, increased homelessness, risk of homelessness, and the increased demand for supportive services for the growing population that is negatively affected by the economy and finds itself with fewer resources. Local municipalities throughout the County have even fewer resources available to address these issues as local governments face reductions in general funds and non-federal revenues, thus increasing the pressure for support of such services from the County level.

Westmoreland County will continue to collaborate with other public agencies and non-profit organizations, when feasible, to leverage resources, and maximize outcomes in housing and community development. The County will work with the Westmoreland County Housing Authority to help homeless persons and families with financial assistance through the rapid rehousing component of the ESG.

AP-38 Projects Summary
Project Summary Information

Table 9 – Project Summary

1	Project Name	Westmoreland Community Action – Permanent Supportive Housing
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Housing/services to homeless and near-homeless
	Needs Addressed	Housing and Services for the Homeless and At-Risk
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Operation of a permanent living program for homeless and near-homeless families and individuals. Matrix code: 10A.
	Target Date	4/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	100 individuals
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
2	Project Name	Westmoreland County Housing Authority - Emergency Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve the quality of owner housing
	Needs Addressed	Preserve existing affordable rental & owner units
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Replacement of deteriorated roofs and furnaces for very low-income households. Matrix code: 21A.
	Target Date	4/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	15 LMI households
	Location Description	

	Planned Activities	
3	Project Name	Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland - Countywide Demolition
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Remove slum and blight
	Needs Addressed	Blight Removal
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000
	Description	Demolition and clearance of vacant blighted structures. Matrix code: 20.
	Target Date	4/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	25 structures
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
4	Project Name	Northmoreland Park - Removal of Architectural Barriers
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve and maintain public facilities
	Needs Addressed	Public Facility Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$148,950
	Description	Replacement of a public restroom which is inaccessible to physically disabled persons at the BMX/Soccer complex, installation of accessible walkways connections, and installation of handicapped parking facilities. Matrix code: 13.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	33,672 persons (disabled population of the County)
	Location Description	

	Planned Activities	
5	Project Name	Derry Borough - Removal of Architectural Barriers
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve and maintain public facilities
	Needs Addressed	Public Facility Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$55,000
	Description	Replacement of a public restroom which is inaccessible to physically disabled persons, installation of accessible walkways connections, and installation of handicapped parking facilities. Matrix code: 13.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	280 persons (disabled population of the Borough)
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
6	Project Name	Hempfield Township – Removal of Architectural Barriers
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve and maintain public facilities
	Needs Addressed	Public Facility Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$75,000
	Description	ADA restroom renovation at Hempfield Park Pavilion A. Matrix code: 13.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	3,487 persons (disabled population of Township)
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
	Project Name	Irwin Borough – Removal of Architectural Barriers

7	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$80,000
	Description	Reconstruction of approximately 40 ADA curb ramps. Matrix code: 13.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	387 persons (disabled population of Borough)
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
8	Project Name	City of Lower Burrell - Removal of Architectural Barriers/Sidewalk Reconstruction
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$162,500
	Description	ADA curb ramps along Leechburg Road. Matrix code: 13.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1,083 persons (disabled population of City).
	Location Description	
Planned Activities		
9	Project Name	Mt. Pleasant Borough – Recreational Facilities/Public Facilities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve and maintain public facilities
	Needs Addressed	Public facility improvements

	Funding	CDBG: \$65,025
	Description	Reconstruction of Frick Part Basketball Court. Matrix code: 28.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1,500 persons (Block Group population/875 LM)
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
10	Project Name	Municipality of Murrysville - Demolition
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Remove slum and blight
	Needs Addressed	Blight removal
	Funding	CDBG: \$56,000
	Description	Demolition of up to 11 blighted structures. Matrix code: 20.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	11 structures
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
11	Project Name	New Florence Borough – Stormwater Facilities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$172,700
	Description	Stormwater facilities along Vine Street. Matrix code: 24.
	Target Date	4/30/2020

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 9 households
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
12	Project Name	North Belle Vernon Borough - Street Reconstruction
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$54,861
	Description	Reconstruction of Graham Street between Fayette Ave. and Vine St. Matrix code: 25.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 7 households
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
13	Project Name	North Irwin Borough – Removal of Architectural Barriers
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$40,000
	Description	Reconstruction of 20 ADA curb ramps throughout the Borough. Matrix code: 13.
	Target Date	4/30/2020

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	79 persons (disabled population of Borough)
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
14	Project Name	St. Clair Township - Street Reconstruction
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$75,700
	Description	Reconstruction of Squirrel Hill Road. Matrix code: 25.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	7 households
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
15	Project Name	Seward Borough – Street Reconstruction
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$22,942
	Description	Reconstruction of Hedges and Seward Streets. Matrix code: 25.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2,640 persons

	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
16	Project Name	Sewickley Township – Stormwater Facilities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$278,925
	Description	Hermine storm sewer replacement. Matrix code: 24.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1,100 persons
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
17	Project Name	Southwest Greensburg Borough – Street Reconstruction
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$52,753
	Description	Reconstruction of portions of Chestnut Street. Matrix codes: 25.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1,240 persons
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
18	Project Name	Homes Build Hope – Union Mission Reconstruction
	Target Area	

	Goals Supported	Housing/services to homeless and near-homeless
	Needs Addressed	Housing and Services for the Homeless and At-Risk
	Funding	CDBG: \$300,000
	Description	Reconstruction at the Union Mission existing facility.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
19	Project Name	Upper Burrell Township – Street Reconstruction
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDGB: \$46,000
	Description	Lincoln Beach area street reconstruction. Matrix code: 25.
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	12 households
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
20	Project Name	Vandergrift Borough – Street Reconstruction
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$197,500
	Description	Reconstruction of portions of 9 streets. Matrix code: 25.

	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1,875 persons
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
21	Project Name	West Leechburg Borough – Stormwater Facilities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$43,680
	Description	Stormwater facilities along Bridge Street
	Target Date	4/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	5 households
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
22	Project Name	CHDO Operating Expenses – Homes Build Hope, Inc.
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve quality of existing affordable rental unit
	Needs Addressed	Preserve Existing Affordable Rental & Owner Unit
	Funding	HOME: \$29,710
	Description	CHDO operating expenses
	Target Date	4/30/2020

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
23	Project Name	Tenant Based Rental Assistance – Westmoreland County Housing Authority
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Provide public services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	HOME: \$75,000
	Description	Rental assistance for Housing Authority clients.
	Target Date	4/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
24	Project Name	Emergency Solutions Grant Activities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Housing/services to homeless and near-homeless
	Needs Addressed	Housing and Services for the Homeless and At-Risk
	Funding	ESG: \$282,980
	Description	Administration: \$21,223; Alle-Kiski HOPE Center Shelter Operations: \$15,000; Connect, Inc.: \$75,868; Union Mission of Latrobe: \$30,000; Blackburn Center Operations and Essential Services: \$35,000; Westmoreland County Housing Authority Homelessness Prevention: \$30,000; Westmoreland County Housing Authority Rapid Re-housing: \$75,889
	Target Date	

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	ESG Beneficiaries by project: Alle-Kiski HOPE: 75 Connect, Inc.: 50 Union Mission: 75 WCHA Temporary Lodging: 100 Blackburn Center: 100 WCHA Rapid Re-housing: 60
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
25	Project Name	Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve the quality of owner housing Improve access to affordable owner housing Improve quality of existing affordable rental unit Increase the supply of affordable rental housing Improve and maintain public facilities Provide public services Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities Remove slum and blight Housing/services to homeless and near-homeless
	Needs Addressed	Creating New Affordable Rental and Owner Housing Preserve Existing Affordable Rental & Owner Unit Housing and Services for the Homeless and At-Risk Public Facility Improvements Public Services Infrastructure Improvement Economic Development Blight Removal
	Funding	CDBG: \$625,901 HOME: \$59,420
	Description	County administration of federal grant programs. Matrix code: 21A.
	Target Date	4/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	

	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
26	Project Name	Unprogrammed funds
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve the quality of owner housing Improve access to affordable owner housing Improve quality of existing affordable rental unit Increase the supply of affordable rental housing Improve and maintain public facilities Provide public services Improve/maintain public infrastructure/amenities Remove slum and blight Housing/services to homeless and near-homeless
	Needs Addressed	Creating New Affordable Rental and Owner Housing Preserve Existing Affordable Rental & Owner Unit Housing and Services for the Homeless and At-Risk Public Facility Improvements Public Services Infrastructure Improvement Economic Development Blight Removal
	Funding	CDBG: \$276,068
	Description	Unprogrammed funds. Matrix code: 22.
	Target Date	4/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
27	Project Name	Homeowner/Rental Rehabilitation
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Affordable housing
	Needs Addressed	Preserve Existing Affordable Rental and Owner Units

	Funding	HOME: \$480,077
	Description	\$280,077 allocated for homeowner housing rehabilitation. \$200,000 allocated for rental housing rehabilitation (includes \$89,147 for CHDO set-aside).
	Target Date	4/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
28	Project Name	City of Jeannette – Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Improve access to affordable owner housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Assistance for homeowners with down payment and closing costs.
	Target Date	4/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	

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

Priority CDBG funding in Westmoreland County is concentrated in areas where the percentage of low and moderate income (LMI) persons is 46.99% or higher by census tract or block group or 51% by income survey. The map included in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan SP-10 illustrates the distribution of census tracts that fall under the HUD low- to moderate-income threshold. Qualifying tracts are concentrated mainly in the County’s older, more densely developed boroughs and cities.

While Westmoreland County’s population was 95.5% White in 2011, its non-White residents were heavily concentrated in specific geographic areas. Only four municipalities had non-White populations of more than 10%: Jeannette (12.3%), Monessen (18.2%), New Kensington (18.7%) and Arnold (27.2%). All four are older industrial cities with high levels of poverty. Combined, those communities represent 9.9% of the County’s total population, but 36.6% of its non-White population. Hispanic residents accounted for only 0.9% of the County’s population in 2011 and were most concentrated in Adamsburg (5.5%) and Penn Borough (4.4%).

The County will continue to define an area of racial or ethnic concentration as one in which the percentage of a specific minority or ethnic group is 10 percentage points higher than in the County overall. By this definition, the cities of Arnold, Monessen, and New Kensington qualify as concentrated areas.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds

Table 10 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The County will advance its intention to distribute CDBG and HOME investments by project type in a way that advances balance between revitalizing the areas of greatest need, which also tend to be greater concentrations of racial/ethnic minorities, and broadening affordable housing opportunities in a variety of other neighborhoods.

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The County will use HOME funds, ESG funds, and a portion of CDBG funds for affordable housing. The HOME and CDBG funds will be used to rehabilitate existing housing units, and the ESG funds will be allocated to assist agencies that provide services to the homeless and households at risk of homelessness. HOME funds will also be used for the construction of new renter-occupied units.

The special-needs population will be served through the rehabilitation of an existing structure for rental housing. The homeless population will be served through assistance grants to local service providers. Therefore, these two groups do not have easily quantifiable goals.

The one year goals noted below have been extrapolated from the table included in AP-20.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	600
Non-Homeless	45
Special-Needs	0
Total	645

Table 11 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	85
Rehab of Existing Units	25
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	110

Table 12 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

Westmoreland County does not play a direct role in the provision of public housing or the management of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. Public housing needs are addressed by the Westmoreland County Housing Authority (WCHA). WCHA is responsible for the management and maintenance of 1,816 public housing units and 1,810 Housing Choice Vouchers. WCHA's public housing units are located throughout the County and include 13 high rise buildings, 6 scattered townhouse sites, 11 family/elderly sites and 1 elderly only site. Of the 1,816 units, 62.6% are elderly and 37.3% are family units. In addition to public housing units, WCHA also operates three (3) Section 8 New Construction buildings, providing an additional 423 elderly/handicapped units. The most common size unit is 1 bedroom, accounting for 41.5% of total units. Currently, there are 96 (5.3%) public housing units available for people with mobility disabilities; units for persons with sight or hearing disabilities are provided as needed.

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

WCHA each year receives a grant from HUD to improve the physical condition of public housing units. This grant is called Capital Fund Program. The annual grant saw a steady reduction for a number of years, from approximately \$3 million in 2002, to \$2,110,174 in 2017. These funds are used to preserve public housing units that are, on average, 41 years old. The backlog of physical needs in public housing is tremendous. WCHA continues to strategize ways to preserve living conditions across its inventory given its very limited available resources.

Approximately 50% of the Capital Fund Program annual grant that is available for physical improvements has been used for handicapped accessibility requirements. HUD requires that 5% of the total number of units at each site be handicapped accessible. Given the age of the units, with size restrictions from older designs, the costs associated with this renovation is extremely high. Additionally, routes, parking and community space (visitability) must be made handicapped accessible. As stated previously, there are currently 96 handicapped accessible units available, with 2 more units currently under construction. Only 1 site remains to be renovated for handicapped accessibility, where an additional 7 units will be provided.

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

WCHA administers the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS), a HUD program that provides incentives for public housing or Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher residents to obtain employment and work toward economic independence and self-sufficiency. Participants of the FSS program are eligible for the WCHA sponsored Homeownership Program, also. WCHA case managers work closely with other agencies, schools and businesses to develop a comprehensive program that gives participating FSS family members the skills and experience to enable them to obtain sustainable employment. WCHA plans to continue the FSS program through 2018, and hopes for continued funding after that.

WCHA encourages resident participation in management through resident groups throughout the public housing communities. Several high rises have resident groups, whose activities include community

functions. WCHA provides Service Coordination at many high rise buildings which also helps to bring the residents together for community functions, and to provide resident needs information to management.

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

N/A

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

Introduction

Westmoreland County will continue to allocate its federal program funds in ways that support programs to provide decent and safe living environments for persons experiencing or threatened by homelessness. This may include such activities as shelter operations, public services, rapid re-housing, and rental assistance and housing construction.

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

Westmoreland County, through its Office of Behavioral Health and Development Services along with local nonprofit organizations, continually works toward eliminating chronic homelessness through support of HUD's Permanent Supportive Housing grants designed to help consumers who are chronically homeless, disabled, or with mental health diagnoses.

The County supports the Southwest RHAB in completing a regular Point-in-Time (PIT) count each January to determine an estimate of the number of homeless individuals and families in the County. Based on the PIT conducted during 2017, in the entire Western PA CoC region there were:

- **Transitional Housing:** 285 individuals and 134 persons in families with children
- **Safe Haven:** 38 individuals and 0 persons in families with children
- **Emergency Shelter:** 451 individuals and 160 persons in families with children
- **Unsheltered:** 0 individuals

Based on the PIT conducted during 2015 (the most recent county-specific data available), in Westmoreland County there were:

- **Transitional Housing:** 68 individuals and 67 persons in families with children
- **Safe Haven:** 12 individuals and 0 persons in families with children
- **Emergency Shelter:** 42 individuals and 20 persons in families with children
- **Unsheltered:** 0 individuals

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

To address the needs of homeless persons needing emergency shelter and transitional housing the County will continue to provide emergency shelter that serve homeless persons in Westmoreland County. The Office of Behavioral Health and Development Services shall continue to provide assistance to clients through organizations that operate emergency shelters and transitional housing through shelter allowances for the homeless clients.

During FY 2018, Westmoreland County expects to invest the following resources toward emergency shelters:

- Alle-Kiski HOPE Center – Shelter Operations: \$15,000
- Connect, Inc. – Operations and Essential Services: \$75,868
- Union Mission of Latrobe – Shelter Operations: \$30,000
- Blackburn Center – Operations and Essential Services: \$35,000

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

Westmoreland County will continue to support programs that help homeless persons including the chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. The Continuum of Care provides a comprehensive response to the different needs of homeless individuals and families so that they can make the critical transition from the streets to independent living. It is important that a balance of emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive housing be provided, along with homeless prevention, case management and other supportive services, so that the transition of homeless persons to self-sufficiency becomes permanent.

During FY 2018, Westmoreland County expects to invest the following resources toward permanent supportive housing and housing preservation:

- Westmoreland County Housing Authority – Rapid Re-housing: \$75,889
- Westmoreland County Housing Authority – Permanent Supportive Housing: \$50,000
- Homeowner/Rental Housing Rehabilitation- \$480,077

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.

The Southwest Pennsylvania CoC has developed discharge coordination policies in relation to youth aging out of foster care, patients released from medical facilities, patients released from mental health institutions, and prisoners released from correctional institutions.

During FY 2018, Westmoreland County expects to invest the following resources toward homeless prevention:

- Westmoreland County Housing Authority – Homelessness Prevention: \$30,000
- Westmoreland County Housing Authority – Tenant Based Rental Assistance: \$75,000

Discussion

Westmoreland County is part of the larger Southwest PA Regional Continuum of Care as it relates to issues pertaining to homelessness. Over the past 10 years, the evolution of a comprehensive and coordinated continuum of care homeless assistance system has occurred in the County. During this time, the primary focus of the system has been on the provision of housing and supportive services in an effort to address the multiple needs of homeless individuals and families.

Westmoreland County will continue to support its non-homeless special needs populations through a strong county-wide and regional network of public, private, and non-profit housing and service providers. In particular, the County will continue to promote physically accessible housing through partnerships with WCHA, non-profits, appropriate agencies, and various committees and task forces.

All of the County's programs supported by federal funds are targeted to assist low and moderate-income individuals, many of whom fall into special needs categories. Special needs populations are assisted in some of the County's planned activities, including shelter operations and service provision via ESG and the emergency rehabilitation assistance program that helps many elderly or disabled homeowners to remain in their homes. The rehabilitation program is not limited to persons with special needs, but represents an important option for this group to maintain suitable living conditions.

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

Introduction

Land within the development triangle has become increasingly expensive during the last five to 10 years. At the same time, the public resources available to assist the financing of affordable housing development have continually waned. At urban fringes where more land and public water/sewer service are available for residential uses, high tap-in fees may increase the cost of a home beyond affordability. Furthermore, developers can often realize a higher profit margin by building expensive homes rather than affordable homes.

Regulatory barriers - While the rehab of owner-occupied homes continues to be a strong need in some areas of the County, the cost of complying with the regulations required to invest federal funds for this purpose has become prohibitive. In many communities where rehab is needed, the market price of finished homes can be only a fraction of the total cost of rehab investment. There is a shortage of land in some communities zoned for townhouses, duplexes, mobile homes, apartments and small-lot singles or mixed housing types. In some municipalities, minimum lot sizes start at 0.5 acres or more, which usually makes the construction of smaller single-family homes financially infeasible due to high land costs.

Financial barriers - Among households, the common problems in failing to locate affordable housing include a lack of savings for down payment/closing costs/security deposit and high household debt. Additional Dodd-Frank provisions that took effect in 2014 define a “qualified mortgage” (QM) as one that meets very specific standards (such as 43% debt/income ratio). A QM falls into safe harbor, which provides some protection to the bank in the event of foreclosure. Banks will now determine whether to offer predominantly or only QMs, as the FHA will do, or whether to also offer potentially more risky non-qualified mortgages to meet community needs. This situation will disproportionately impact lower-income borrowers. More generally, mortgage underwriting criteria have become much more demanding since the housing market crisis that began in 2007, which will have the effect of excluding many potential homebuyers from the market.

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

Westmoreland County’s priorities for the allocation of federal funds to carry out housing-related activities are oriented toward expanding the supply of affordable housing in a variety of areas across the County and improving the opportunities and choices available to the County’s lower-income households. While the County’s influence over local land-use decisions is limited, the County plans to undertake the following efforts during FY 2018 to mitigate barriers:

- Continue to provide technical land use planning assistance to local units of government in managing the local land use administrative process in accordance with the Fair Housing Act – The Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development has offered this

assistance to communities since the preparation of the original Fair Housing Plan in 1996. The County recently completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing in 2010. The County will continue to offer technical support to local planning and zoning officials on a voluntary basis. The County will review local zoning ordinances and notify municipalities of any non-compliance issues, and state a specific time frame for the municipality to bring the ordinance into compliance.

- Continue to increase public awareness on fair housing issues – The County has established and publicized a 1-800 housing hotline and will continue to accept calls from persons with fair housing complaints. In addition, the County will continue to log any calls to track issues.
- Increase availability of accessible housing – The County currently offers financial assistance through the existing rehabilitation programs for home improvements. In addition, the County ensures that all rental housing projects funded with federal dollars meet ADA requirements, thus increasing the supply of affordable accessible housing units.
- Continue to stimulate the new construction and/or substantial rehabilitation of housing to address affordable housing needs – In past years, the County has used CDBG and other funds to provide for the rehabilitation or new construction of housing units. The County will continue to introduce financial resources into areas that lack an adequate supply of affordable housing. The County will place emphasis on locating these facilities where they are accessible to employment, public transportation and where environmental conditions are acceptable for housing uses.
- Continue to stimulate homeownership opportunities through the existing purchase/rehabilitation/resale program – The County assists low/moderate households through its HOME-funded Homeownership Assistance Program. The County intends to provide funds for the continuation of this program through one or more non-profit sub-recipients that are in the business of creating affordable housing.
- Continue to support rental housing subsidy Programs through the Westmoreland County Housing Authority, particularly those in support of the protected classes – In recognition of families and individuals in special circumstances that need rental assistance immediately, the county has funded a Tenant Based Rental Assistance program with HOME funds. The Westmoreland County Housing Authority serves as the sub recipient responsible for the administration of this program.
- Affordable Homes Westmoreland Website – The County, in partnership with area service providers, launched the AffordableHomesWestmoreland.com website in 2009. The website provides information on available for-sale and rental housing opportunities throughout the County and is a great informational resource for residents. The County will continue to support the operation and maintenance of this useful tool.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction

The following information illustrates other actions that Westmoreland County will take to address its priority needs.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the limited funding resources available to address identified priorities. In addition, the gap in what households can afford to pay for housing and the price of housing is another obstacle to meeting the needs of the underserved. The County has a significant affordable housing stock, yet the income level for individual households such as single parent, elderly, disabled, or others of limited economic means, is not sufficient to afford even the lowest of the market rate units.

It is necessary to intensify the impact of limited available funding with the current increase in local home foreclosures, increased unemployment, increased homelessness and risk of homelessness, and need for increased supportive services for the growing population that is negatively affected by the economy and finds itself with fewer resources. Local municipalities throughout the County have even fewer resources available to address these issues as local governments face reductions in general funds and non-federal revenues, thus increasing the pressure for support of such services from the County level.

Westmoreland County will continue to partner with other public agencies and non-profit organizations, when feasible, to leverage resources and maximize outcomes in housing and community development. With the addition of ESG Rapid Re-Housing funds, the County will work with local service providers during the upcoming year to help prevent homelessness by providing rent assistance and utility assistance to very low income households. In addition, the County will provide housing counseling and case management services.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

In order to foster and maintain affordable housing, Westmoreland County will utilize FY 2018 CDBG funds to provide emergency housing rehabilitation services to income-eligible households countywide.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

According to the 2007-2011 American Community Survey, almost 50% of the housing stock in Westmoreland County was built prior to 1960. This makes the possible incidence and associated hazards of lead based paint relatively high. Although reported cases of childhood lead poisoning are low, state health department representatives emphasized that the number of unreported and undetected cases of childhood lead poisoning is unknown and the low number of reported cases should not be misconstrued as evidence that lead poisoning is not more widespread.

In order to reduce this risk, Westmoreland County has developed a plan of action with specific objectives. These objectives are included in its housing rehabilitation program guidelines. The revised federal lead based paint regulations published on September 15, 1999 (24 CFR Part 35) have had a significant impact on many activities – rehabilitation, tenant based rental assistance and property acquisition – supported by the CDBG and HOME programs. The increased costs entailed by these regulations will significantly reduce the number of affordable housing units that can be provided with available funding. In order to meet the requirements of the new lead based paint regulations, Westmoreland County will take the following actions regarding tenant based rental assistance, homeownership, and homeless/special needs housing:

Homeownership Programs

Westmoreland County ensures that:

- Applicants for homeownership assistance receive adequate information about lead based paint requirements
- Staff properly determines whether proposed projects are exempt from some or all lead based paint requirements
- A proper visual assessment is performed to identify deteriorated paint in the dwelling unit, any common areas servicing the unit, and exterior surfaces of the building
- Prior to occupancy, properly qualified personnel perform paint stabilization and the dwelling passes a clearance exam in accordance with the standards established in 24 CFR Part 35, Subpart R
- The home purchaser receives the required lead based paint pamphlet and notices
Homeless/Special Needs Housing and Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Programs
Westmoreland County will ensure that program procedures for the sub-recipient operators of the program make certain that:
- Applicants for special needs housing assistance receive adequate information about lead-based paint requirements
- Staff properly determines whether proposed projects, or units within a project, are exempt from some or all lead-based paint requirements
- A proper visual assessment is performed to identify deteriorated paint in the dwelling unit, any common areas servicing the unit, and exterior surfaces of the building
- Prior to occupancy, properly qualified personnel perform paint stabilization and the dwelling passes a clearance exam in accordance with the standards established in 24 CFR Part 35, Subpart R
- Occupants receive the required lead-based paint pamphlet and notices
- Required ongoing lead-based paint maintenance activities are incorporated into project operations if the assistance involves a continuing relationship with HUD

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Westmoreland County recognizes that it does not have significant control over the factors that may help to reduce the number of households with incomes below the poverty level. However, the County, through its Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), will continue to work vigorously to create job opportunities for area residents by bringing new business and industry into the County and specifically its industrial park system. Additionally, the IDC meets with approximately 100 individual County employers annually through its Business Retention and Expansion Program to assess their needs for workforce development, expansion, equipment, contracting, etc.

The IDC has developed sixteen (16) industrial parks throughout the County. Of these, four (4) were previously brownfield sites where vacant industrial facilities once existed. These former industrial sites were once major employers that have now been brought back into productive reuse and have encouraged additional local development and investment, thus promoting the creation of new job opportunities and expansion of the tax base.

The Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development works with state and federal departments and agencies to obtain and implement various grants for economic development purposes. Technical assistance has also been provided to municipalities and nonprofit organizations in the submission of applications for funding through programs such as HUD's Economic Development Initiative Special Projects (EDI) grant program and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP).

Active pursuit of new industrial investment in the entire region is being carried out to attract new job opportunities. Southwestern Pennsylvania was particularly hard hit by the decline of the steel industry, a reduction in the manufacturing industry, and declines in other heavy industries. Newly created jobs would increase family and household disposable income, rejuvenate local businesses, and generally improve the quality of life for Westmoreland County residents, including those residents who currently live below the poverty level. Additionally, the County is working with HUD to provide technical assistance when appropriate as they develop strategies to address poverty within their communities.

The County will support data-measured organizations that provide quality services to low income residents to help them improve their incomes. For example, Westmoreland County, in partnership with non-profit organizations and businesses, can influence the chances for poverty-stricken residents of moving up and out of poverty. The County can achieve this by supporting organizations that offer job training and placement services as well as drug and alcohol abuse counseling services. In addition, the County can help by advocating for increased public transit options to low-income areas, including extended service hours on the evenings and weekends and the addition of new or alternate routes.

Ultimately, federal and state policies on welfare, health care, and the minimum wage are crucial factors in the fight to address and reduce poverty. The County, through its various departments, will continue to provide incentives for businesses to locate in low income areas, to advocate for improved transportation alternatives, to support organizations that provide job training and placement services, to

support homeless prevention activities, and to preserve and improve affordable housing options, as part of its strategy to prevent and alleviate poverty in Westmoreland County.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The lead agency for the Annual Plan is Westmoreland County's Department of Planning and Development. The Department initiates the contracting, administration, organization, and preparation of the Annual Plan and coordinates with the public, private, and non-profit entities through which it will carry out the plan. It is responsible for administering HUD funds and oversight of the Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Plans.

The Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development will act as a clearinghouse and facilitator for many of the activities described in the Five Year Plan and in this FY 2018 Annual Plan. As the local unit of government, the County is empowered to apply for and administer certain types of grants. The County Department of Planning and Development will continue to administer the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs which are used to fund various housing, community development, and economic development initiatives throughout the County and the Consortium communities of Scottdale, Jeannette, and Arnold.

The Westmoreland County Housing Authority (WCHA) enjoys an amicable working relationship with the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development. This relationship has resulted in a cooperative effort between the two organizations to enhance the availability, adequacy, and affordability of housing for low-income residents in Westmoreland County. Because of WCHA's experience in housing development and management, the County is willing to provide financial resources (CDBG and HOME funds) to assist WCHA in carrying out its plans.

The Westmoreland Coalition on Housing is committed to identifying and focusing community attention and resources on the housing needs of Westmoreland County in an effort to enhance the county's ability to address unmet needs. The Coalition plays a significant role in the implementation of the Five Year Consolidated Plan and each Annual Action Plan.

The Westmoreland Local Housing Options Team (LHOT) is a committee of the Westmoreland Coalition on Housing and was formed to link key stakeholders involved in Behavioral Health in Westmoreland County with housing providers in the county. Most of the Westmoreland County LHOT members are from area Behavioral Health agencies. The focus of the group for the current five year period is the continued implementation of the housing plan that was submitted to the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (OMHSA) in 2008. The group goal is to meet the housing plan requirements for people with disabilities, mental health issues.

Several non-profit organizations carry out CDBG, HOME and ESG activities in a sub-recipient capacity, including Homes Build Hope, Westmoreland Community Action, and Mon Valley Initiative.

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

Westmoreland County will continue to foster a positive and productive working relationship with affordable housing providers, supportive service providers, the Westmoreland County Housing Authority, and other area organizations engaged in the provision of services to LMI persons and households in the County. In addition, the County will continue to participate with the Westmoreland Coalition on Housing and the Local Housing Options Team by attending meetings and being an active partner in discussions on various needs and issues of the County's special needs, low income, and homeless populations.

In order to coordinate housing and supportive service efforts for County residents, the County will continue to work with public and private organizations in 2018 by providing the following services:

- Technical assistance to the County's designated CHDOs that will assist the CHDOs to develop permanent housing for income-qualified persons.
- Continue to provide ESG and/or CDBG funding to social service agencies and WCHA for the provision of support services to the homeless and those threatened with homelessness.
- Continue to work with private developers who propose the development of new supportive housing units with planned support service components.

With regard to economic development initiatives, the County Planning and Development Department will continue to work closely with the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland and the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation on various economic development projects throughout the County.

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

Introduction

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

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

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 County anticipates receiving \$100,000 in program income for its HOME programs during FY 2018.

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:

Homebuyers who receive under \$15,000 in HOME funds will have a minimum affordability of five (5) years. Homebuyers who receive between \$15,000 and \$40,000 in HOME funds will have a minimum affordability period of ten (10) years and homebuyers who receive over \$40,000 in HOME funds will have a minimum affordability period of fifteen (15) years. Homebuyer units not sold within 6 months of completion of rehabilitation or construction as evidenced by a local Certificate of Occupancy will be required to be converted to rental projects. The complete HOME resale/recapture policy has been submitted to HUD under a separate cover.

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 HOME Period of affordability for rental housing units which are acquired and rehabilitated with HOME funds will be as follows: Those units receiving under \$15,000 in HOME funds will have a minimum affordability period of five (5) years; those receiving between \$15,000 and \$40,000 in HOME funds will have a minimum affordability period of ten (10) years; and those receiving over \$40,000 in funding will have minimum affordability period of fifteen (15) years. Rental units which are newly constructed will have a minimum period of affordability of twenty (20) years regardless of HOME funding amounts. Recapture of HOME funds will also be required for any unit that is not rented to eligible tenants within 18 months of project completion. If projects are not completed within four years from the date of project commitment, they will be considered terminated and HOME funds invested in the project must be repaid to the PJ's local account if the developer is a CHDO, if not, then to the federal account.

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:

Not applicable – Westmoreland County does not intend to use HOME funds in FY 2017 for this purpose

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

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

In FY 2018, the Department of Planning and Development, in coordination with various homeless service providers, will continue its work to enhance coordination and update the written standards for providing ESG assistance in Westmoreland County. This will include the review of current procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible families and individuals will receive homelessness prevention assistance or rapid re-housing assistance. The County will work with the above-mentioned entities to coordinate these standards in compliance with 576.400(e)(1) and (e)(3).

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

The governance of Westmoreland County's Coordinated Entry system is provided by the PA 601 CoC, which has established the procedures and protocols expected of each county operating therein. Westmoreland County has adopted and enacted these HUD-reviewed procedures. One such requirement is that each county identify a General Assessment Center (GAC) that will assess the general public and oversee local (county) implementation. Each county must also identify a Domestic Violence Assessment Center (DVAC) that will assess any household fleeing or attempting to flee a domestic violence situation. Each county is also able to utilize auxiliary sites to increase opportunities for access and assessment.

In Westmoreland County, Westmoreland Community Action has been identified as the GAC and Blackburn Center as the DVAC. Welcome Home, Westmoreland County Housing Authority, and Union Mission are serving as auxiliary sites. Each agency will assist callers with completing the assessment to be placed on the Coordinated Entry Master List and to make referrals for emergency housing solutions or other needed referrals. Continued engagement will be handled by each respective assessment agency via updates and status changes to the Master List.

Programs receiving CoC or ESG funds for permanent housing solutions will fill vacancies in these programs by accessing the waiting list and accepting the next appropriate, highest scoring household into the program.

Through governance from the PA 601 CoC Board and Westmoreland Community Action, Westmoreland County will continue to enforce and comply with all currently established policies and any future HUD-reviewed/Board-approved policies related to Coordinated Entry within the Continuum of Care.

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

ESG projects are awarded annually through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. To determine ESG activities for each upcoming program year, the County Department of Planning and Development advertises the ESG RFP prior to the start of the fiscal year.

Each ESG application is reviewed by staff members from the Department to determine eligibility. The review process includes an evaluation of the number of persons or families to be assisted through the activity as well as an overview of the applicant's previous accomplishments through its various projects and programs offered throughout the County. Applications are also awarded based on existing need and demand for programs and services within the County. Over the past several years, the County has been able to fund all applications received for ESG funds related to emergency shelter operations.

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

24 CFR 576.405(a) requires that recipients of ESG funds provide for the participation of not less than one homeless individual or formerly homeless individual on the board of directors or other equivalent policy-making entity of the recipient.

The emergency shelters in operation throughout the County are nonprofit organizations. Each of these organizations has its own respective board of directors that is representative of the clientele in which it serves.

The County Department of Planning and Development will work with area shelters to verify that there is at least one homeless or formerly homeless individual represented on their respective various boards. If a formerly homeless individual or currently homeless person is not represented on the boards, then the Westmoreland Coalition on Housing and the Local Housing Options Team will work to ensure that such a person is invited to participate in their respective monthly meetings.

4. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The Department of Planning and Development will keep records on the progress toward meeting the goals set forth in each ESG recipients' original application for funding. In addition, the Department will maintain records concerning the statutory and regulatory compliance of each activity.

For each ESG activity, the Department of Planning and Development has established fiscal and management procedures that will ensure program compliance and accountability of funds.