

**City of Auburn
Community Development Block Grant Program
FY 2023 Action Plan
Proposed Substantial Amendment**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
November 16, 2023**

1. Introduction

The City of Auburn (City) receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an entitlement grant. The city, in turn, allocates these funds for projects designed to achieve the goals and outcomes included in the Consolidated Plan. The CDBG Program allows the city to select and undertake projects from a range of eligible community development and housing activities.

According to HUD, entitlement funds' primary objective is to increase the availability, accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of 1) decent housing, 2) suitable living environments, and 3) expanding economic opportunities, principally for Low and Moderate Income (LMI) persons. The CDBG regulations require that each activity meet one of the following national objectives:

- Benefit LMI persons.
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.
- Meet other community development needs having a particular urgency posing a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

The City proposes reallocating program income funds for Housing New Construction activity by \$375,000 due to the lack of property deemed suitable for new home construction. The city proposes to add Community Facilities as an activity and allocate \$375,000 to Land Acquisition and the Boykin Community Center HVAC Upgrade.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 created the CDBG Program, whose goals are to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing; a suitable living environment; and to expand economic opportunity. The projects outlined in the proposed FY 2023 Action Plan Substantial Amendment meet the goal of providing a suitable living environment, including:

- Acquiring land for new housing construction.
- Supporting the improvement of public and community facilities in Auburn, specifically the Boykin Community Center

Grantees are required to expend at least seventy (70%) of CDBG funds on activities that meet the national objective of benefiting LMI persons. The projects proposed for funding are one hundred percent (100%) intended to meet LMI persons' needs.

3. Evaluation of past performance

There is no change to this section of the FY 2023 Action Plan.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The City's Annual Action Plan details the funding strategy for the CDBG program. Additionally, the Annual Action Plan describes how funds will be used to address the priorities and goals outlined in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

The City's Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) describes the City's efforts to encourage its residents to participate in developing the Annual Action Plan. It also provides requirements for the public process when the City proposes a "substantial amendment" to the Annual Action Plan.

The proposed changes to the CDBG FY 2023 Action Plan constitute a substantial amendment and require public notice as described in the CPP as follows:

- To make a change in its allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds in excess of thirty-five percent (35%) of the CDBG annual award plus program income; or
- To carry out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the consolidated plan (including program income), not previously described in the action plan; or
- To change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity.

The City issued the following notices allowing citizens to comment on the proposed FY 2023 Action Plan Substantial Amendment:

- The City issued a public notice in *The Auburn Villager* on November 16, 2023, announcing that the City's Community Services Department (ACSD) would accept public comments at two public hearings on December 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. The public notice also announced a public comment period from November 16, 2023, to December 18, 2023.

- The public notice and an Executive Summary of the CDBG FY 2023 Action Plan Proposed Substantial Amendment was posted on the City's website for public review at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/community-development/resources/>.

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

(Public comments from the December 18, 2023, public hearings will be inserted HERE)

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

(Public comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them from the December 18, 2023, public hearings will be inserted HERE)

7. Summary of the amendment to the FY 2023 Action Plan.

The City proposes changes to the following sections of the FY 2023 Action Plan:

- AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)
- AP-15 Expected Resources - 91.220(c)(1,2) Introduction
- AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives
- AP-35 Projects - 91.220(d)
- AP-38 Project Summary

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

The City is updating the Citizen Participation Outreach Table below to include the process the City followed to obtain a broad range of citizens' input while preparing the CDBG FY 2023 Action Plan Proposed Substantial Amendment.

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
5	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community	ACSD published a public notice in <i>The Auburn Villager</i> on November 16, 2023, announcing the City would accept public comments on the proposed FY 2023 Action Plan Substantial Amendment at two public hearings on December 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. The public notice also announced a public comment period from November 16, 2023, to December 18, 2023.	No comments were not received.	N/A	N/A

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

The City is updating the "Expected Resources" table below to include the reallocated program income funds for Housing New Construction of \$375,000.

In the event there are unspent funds, the following project will utilize the additional funds:

Housing New Construction

The Expected Resources Table below includes funding allocations to date. The City's approved FY 2023 Action Plan allocated all other resources which are not a part of the CDBG FY 2023 Action Plan Proposed Substantial Amendment.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 4				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services Land Acquisition Community Facilities	693,457	375,000	0	1,068,457	0	The Expected amount available includes the City's FY 2023 CDBG allocation and program income that the City is reallocating to Land Acquisition and Community Facilities.
Section 108	public - federal	Economic Development	427,327	0	0	427,327	0	Section 108 Loan financing for certain community development activities, such as economic development and housing rehabilitation.

AP-20 - Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

The City is updating the FY 2023 Action Plan Goals Summary Information below to account for adding two goals and allocating program income of \$375,000 from the Housing New Construction activity.

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	Revitalization of Neighborhoods	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development	CDBG: \$200,000	Other: Acquisition of 3 to 5 Residential Lots
8	Community Facilities	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development	CDBG: \$175,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 249 Persons Assisted

Goal Descriptions

7	Goal Name	Revitalization of Neighborhoods
	Goal Description	Promote neighborhood revitalization through the acquisition of residential lots for new housing construction.
8	Goal Name	Community Facilities
	Goal Description	Support the improvement of public and community facilities in Auburn.

AP-35 Projects - 91.220(d)

The Annual Action Plan includes projects based on the Consolidated Plan's priorities, available resources, and public involvement in the Annual Action Plan's development. These projects align directly with the federal objectives: 1) decent housing, 2) a suitable living environment, or 3) economic development opportunities. During FY 2023, ACSD will lead the City's CDBG activities, which will focus on increasing the availability of new affordable housing units, delivery of public services, investment in public infrastructure, revitalizing neighborhoods, supporting improving public and community facilities, and expanding economic development activities.

ACSD solicited Requests for Proposals from qualified public agencies or private non-profit organizations, demonstrating the capacity to carry out eligible program activities in partnership with the City as a CDBG sub-recipient.

To address the City's identifiable housing and community development needs, the FY 2023 Action Plan includes the projects listed below.

#	Project Name
1	Housing Construction
2	Housing Rehabilitation
3	Prevention and Housing
4	Youth Supportive Services
5	Senior Supportive Services
6	Public Improvement
7	Section 108 Loan Program
8	Administration, Planning, and Management
9	Land Acquisition
10	Boykin Community Center HVAC Upgrade

AP-38 Project Summary

Below is a Project Summary.

8	Project Name	Land Acquisition
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Revitalization of Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$200,000
	Description	The funding is for acquiring residential lots for new affordable housing construction.
	Target Date	3/31/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The proposed activity will assist three to five households by acquiring residential lots for new affordable housing construction.
	Location Description	The addresses of residential lots the City acquires for new affordable housing construction.
	Planned Activities	The planned activity includes acquiring residential lots for new affordable housing construction.
8	Project Name	Boykin Community Center HVAC Upgrade
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Community Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$175,000
	Description	The proposed project will also include upgrading the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the Joyland Child Development Center for \$175,000. The project will enable the City to regulate the temperature and maintain air properly in a section of the Boykin Community Center, which provides dependable childcare for 135 children, ages infant to 12 years.
	Target Date	3/1/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The HVAC upgrade in the Joyland Child Development Center will directly benefit approximately 249 persons (135 children, 100 parents, and 14 staff).
	Location Description	The proposed project will occur at the Boykin Community Center, 400 Boykin Street, Auburn, Alabama.
	Planned Activities	The planned activity is upgrading the HVAC system in the Joyland Child Development Center at the Boykin Community Center.