

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. *Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.*

Response: The table below represents the identified City of Rockford priorities for non-housing community development needs first determined as a part of the 2010 – 2014 Consolidated Plan.

2. *Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.*

*Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

Response: The City is compliant with the statutory goals described in Section 24 CFR 91.1 and the objectives of the CDBG program of providing decent housing, suitable living environments and expanding economic opportunities principally for low/moderate income persons. Appendix 2 contains a table that outlines the City of Rockford's long-term and short-term community development goals and objectives and year to date accomplishments for program year 2011.

Antipoverty Strategy

1. *Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.*

Response: Over the past year the City jurisdictional PHA (Rockford Housing Authority) and the Winnebago County Housing Authority have entered into a memorandum of understanding that promotes collaboration and organizational efficiencies between the two housing authorities. During this time, RHA has been surveying residents as part of a new sufficiency services platform in order to understand the starting points of service delivery for every resident. It is this service delivery through intensive case management that RHA will focus its efforts to reduce poverty in families. A pilot program is being launched at RHA's most disadvantaged family housing site (Blackhawk Courts) to address basic needs, education, job skills, and other components that lead to sufficiency as a means to end poverty.

The City of Rockford Human Services Department utilizes its Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds to address poverty. In the upcoming year, CSBG is facing a 50% reduction which will seriously impact the city's ability to address poverty issues. Dependent upon the level of funding, CSBG will be used to create jobs for low-income persons, provide financial literacy and emergency services as well as self sufficiency programs including community gardens in food deserts.

The City of Rockford's Community & Economic Development Department also realized a significant cut in its Federal entitlement funds – primarily CDBG. Programs and operating costs were reduced as a result. This 2012 Annual Plan is using 2011 as its projected amount of funds for 2012.