



3-5 Year Strategic Plan

This document includes Narrative Responses to specific questions that grantees of the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS and Emergency Shelter Grants Programs must respond to in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations.

GENERAL

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary is required. Include the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan and an evaluation of past performance.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Executive Summary:

FY 2009 - FY 2013 City of Massillon Five Year Strategic Plan

The City of Massillon, located in northeast Ohio, Stark County, on the Tuscarawas River, is an industrial city with a diversified economy based on manufacturing activities such as primary metals industries; machinery, rubber and plastics products; and food processing. Massillon is also nationally known for its high school football program.

The City of Massillon is an entitlement community under the HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Massillon has also joined with the City of Alliance and with Stark County to form the Stark County HOME Consortium. As a member of the Consortium, the City has worked closely with these other local governments in the preparation of a Consolidated Plan for the Consortium. This plan provides a comprehensive overview of the area, identifying both housing and community development needs.

However, as an entitlement community, the City of Massillon is also responsible for preparing, submitting, and administering its CDBG funding which it receives directly from the U.S. Dept. of HUD. In accordance with Federal requirements, the City has prepared its own Non-Housing Community Development Plan and One Year Action Plan. The other required elements of the Consolidated Plan were prepared through the cooperative efforts of the Stark County HOME Consortium.

Strategic Plan

Due every three, four, or five years (length of period is at the grantee's discretion) no less than 45 days prior to the start of the grantee's program year start date. HUD does not accept plans between August 15 and November 15.

Mission:

The City of Massillon's housing and community development strategy includes an assessment of the City's housing and homeless needs, public facilities, infrastructure

improvements, public services, accessibility, historic preservation, economic development, and planning needs. The City's strategy was developed through a two-pronged approach:

1. A County-wide regional planning approach, in which the City worked with Alliance and Stark County in the study and analysis of housing needs, goals, and objectives on an area-wide basis. Other local agencies and service providers were contacted and participated in this planning process. Through this effort, the Stark County HOME Consortium Consolidated Plan was developed. Massillon receives its HOME funding through this consortium.
2. A local, city-wide planning approach, through which the City utilized its citizen participation process to solicit proposals from local groups and citizens and then work with Council in the development of its Non-Housing Community Development Needs and its One Year Action Plan for the use of CDBG funds.

General Questions

1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed.
2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) and the basis for assigning the priority (including the relative priority, where required) given to each category of priority needs (91.215(a)(2)). Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.
3. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs (91.215(a)(3)).

3-5 Year Strategic Plan General Questions response:

1. Maps identifying areas of minority concentration and lower income populations by Census Block Group are contained in the Appendix of this document. Generally, areas of low and moderate income concentration are located in the central core areas of Massillon, especially in the northeast and southeast sections of the City. Areas with minority concentrations of greater than 25% are found in the south and southeast sections of Massillon.
2. Most of the City of Massillon's Action Plan activities will be directed to those areas of the City with high concentrations of low income and minority households, including Census Tracts 7138, 7142, 7143.01, and 7144, and portions of tracts 7137, 7141 and 7143.02. By directing the majority of its Federal funding to these areas, the City will help to insure that its program will benefit those low income and minority households most in need of assistance. Other projects that have been identified as primarily City-wide in scope are also expected to serve the residents of these targeted neighborhoods. In particular, housing programs are targeted to serve low income households, but such assistance can also help improve low income neighborhoods.
3. The most significant obstacle in meeting underserved needs is the reduced funding levels of the CDBG program over the past several years coupled with declining local revenues needed to support City services.

Managing the Process (91.200 (b))

1. Lead Agency. Identify the lead agency or entity for overseeing the development of the plan and the major public and private agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.
2. Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.
3. Describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies, and other entities, including those focusing on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, and homeless persons.

*Note: HOPWA grantees must consult broadly to develop a metropolitan-wide strategy and other jurisdictions must assist in the preparation of the HOPWA submission.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Managing the Process response:

1. The City of Massillon is the lead agency for the implementation of activities under its One Year Action Plan. In particular, the City of Massillon Community Development Department is responsible for the planning and general administration of CDBG activities. However, as stated above, Massillon is also a member of the Stark County HOME Consortium and the City works closely with the Stark Regional Planning Commission (the HOME PJ) in the administration and management of HOME funded activities in Massillon.
2. The Consolidated Plan was developed by the Stark County Consortium, with the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SRPC), as the lead agency in the Consortium, taking the lead role in the development of the Plan. SCRPC undertook a planning process that called for citizen participation to be obtained through public meetings and input to be solicited from relevant State, County, and City agencies and other organizations providing housing and community development services and/or advocacy for persons of low- and moderate incomes. A public hearing was held at the beginning of the preparation process for this Plan and all citizen comments received were considered in developing this Plan. An additional public hearing was held in March 2009 to solicit comments and suggestions on the Plan.
3. Massillon also undertook its own local citizen participation effort designed to provide public comment and input in the development of its Community Development Plan. Agencies contacted included The Salvation Army, Community Services of Stark County, Westark Family Services, Massillon Main Street, YWCA of Massillon, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Stark and Carroll Counties, Health Foundation of Greater Massillon, The Domestic Violence Project, Faith in Action of Western Stark County, Stark County Out of Poverty Partnership, and Western Stark County Medical Clinic.

Citizen Participation (91.200 (b))

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.
2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.

3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.
4. Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.

*Please note that Citizen Comments and Responses may be included as additional files within the CPMP Tool.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Citizen Participation response:

1. The City of Massillon undertook a two pronged citizen participation process in the development of its Consolidated Plan:

i. Massillon, along with Stark County and Alliance, participated in the planning and development of the Consolidated Plan for the Stark County Consortium. The Stark County Consolidated Plan identifies housing and homelessness needs and establishes strategies and goals for addressing these needs over the next five years (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2013). The development of this plan was coordinated by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission through a planning process that included public meetings and input solicited from State, County and City agencies and other organizations providing housing and community development services and/or advocacy for low income households. From this process, the Housing and Homeless Needs Assessment, the Housing Market Analysis, and the Strategic Plan for the Consortium were developed. This area-wide coordinated effort helped to streamline the planning process, improving efficiency and eliminating duplication of effort in development of the various elements of the Consolidated Plan. Massillon receives its HOME funding allocation from the Stark Consortium.

ii. Massillon also undertook its own local citizen participation effort designed to provide public comment and input in the development of its Community Development Plan and One-Year Action Plan. From December through January 2009, to initiate the process for the FY 2009 Action Plan, the City solicited project proposals from local housing, neighborhood, and social service organizations, as well as the general public. The City conducted a CDBG Workshop on December 10, 2008 to explain the CDBG Program, including the amount of funds expected to be available, the range of activities eligible for funding, and the application process. The City accepted proposals for funding through January 30, 2009.

These proposals were then reviewed by the Community Development Department and the City Administration, along with City Council. A preliminary budget was prepared, which forms the basis of the City's Action Plan for FY 2009. This Action Plan was made available to the general public for review and comment for a 30-day period, beginning April 6, 2009. During this period, the City held a formal public hearing on April 20, 2009 before City Council to receive additional citizen review and input on the proposed Action Plan. Upon completion of this 30-day citizen comment period, the City finalized its Consolidated Plan, which was submitted to HUD by May 15, 2009.

2. Citizen comments received on the Consolidated Plan will be included in the Appendix of this document.

3. As noted above, the City has contacted a wide range of interest groups and agencies to solicit their participation in the process. Letters were mailed to individual agencies, notices regarding public hearings and requests for proposals were published in the local newspaper and posted on the City's website. Copies of the Plan were made available to the public at various locations, including the Community Development Department and Massillon Public Library. According to Census data, Massillon has a very small percentage of its population of persons likely to be non-English speaking. For this reason, the Plan is not published in non-English languages. With regards to outreach to the disabled, all public meetings and hearings are held in Massillon City Council Chambers, which is located in the Massillon Municipal Government Center, a fully accessible building.

4. The City will respond to comments received on the draft plan as they are received and they will be summarized below.

Institutional Structure (91.215 (i))

1. Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan, including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.
2. Assess the strengths and gaps in the delivery system.
3. Assess the strengths and gaps in the delivery system for public housing, including a description of the organizational relationship between the jurisdiction and the public housing agency, including the appointing authority for the commissioners or board of housing agency, relationship regarding hiring, contracting and procurement; provision of services funded by the jurisdiction; review by the jurisdiction of proposed capital improvements as well as proposed development, demolition or disposition of public housing developments.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Institutional Structure response:

1. Through its participation in the Stark County HOME Consortium, the City of Massillon coordinates with the cities of Canton and Alliance, with Stark County, with the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, and with other county housing and service providers in the planning and implementation of its housing and community development strategy. In addition, the Stark County Housing Task Force provides an area-wide forum, bringing together local public and private sector housing agencies to review and discuss housing concerns and issues. The City also participates in the Stark County Interagency Council on Homelessness.

In the implementation of its CDBG Program, the City of Massillon works with a number of local agencies, including Habitat for Humanity of Greater Stark and Carroll Counties, Community Services of Stark County, West Stark Family Services, Western Stark County Medical Clinic, Massillon Commission to Advance Literacy, Massillon Main Street, Massillon YWCA, Domestic Violence Project of Stark County, Faith in Action, and Lighthouse Visions.

2. The greatest gap in the delivery system had been a lack of area-wide comprehensive planning on dealing with the issue of chronic homelessness. However, in late 2004, local governments and non-profit organizations joined

together to form the Stark County Interagency Council on Homelessness. The mission of this Council is to develop and implement strategies and solutions to address the problem of homelessness throughout Stark County, including the development of supportive housing options and the securing of federal, state, and local resources and other measures designed to: i) prevent and end chronic homelessness in Stark County; ii) insure a coordinated safety net of emergency services for those in a short term housing crisis; and iii) coordinate and consolidate local efforts to provide a cost effective and streamlined system for addressing homelessness.

3. The City and the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) have worked together in past years to provide scattered site homes for low income homebuyers. In addition, the City reviews and supports SMHA's Comprehensive Grant Program. The City and SMHA will continue to meet on these and other issues, including crime prevention and drug elimination programs, and other programs designed to improve public housing in the community and to increase resident participation and resident initiatives in public housing management issues.

Monitoring (91.230)

1. Describe the standards and procedures the jurisdiction will use to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Monitoring response:

The Consolidated Plan is a concept that is designed to enable officials and citizens to become more aware of the larger picture and the extent to which all related programs are effective in collectively solving neighborhood and community problems. Moving beyond the compilation of program outputs, there must be a focus on results that will allow a community to assess progress in meeting the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the strategic plan and action plan in order to help make Massillon's vision of the future a reality.

The overall goal of the City's community planning and development programs included in the Consolidated Plan is to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons.

The Massillon Community Development Department will be responsible for monitoring all programs funded with Federal funds under the City's Action Plan to assure compliance with HUD regulations and policies. Program objectives will be reviewed during the year to determine whether these objectives are being adequately addressed by the Action Plan.

The City will utilize the Consolidated Planning and Management Process (CPMP) tool, developed by HUD, as the main document for implanting this CDBG Performance Measurement System on the programs carried out during the year. The City will work toward the development of its performance measurement system so that it can be integrated into the CAPER process. The information contained in this report should be designed to assist the City in assessing the effectiveness of its community development strategy as well as to help Massillon determine what changes may be

necessary in order to improve the effectiveness of the City's housing and community development programs.

Priority Needs Analysis and Strategies (91.215 (a))

1. Describe the basis for assigning the priority given to each category of priority needs.
2. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Priority Needs Analysis and Strategies response:

1. The City of Massillon's housing and community development strategy has been developed in order to coordinate resources and address the national goals of the CDBG Program, including:
 - The provision of decent housing that is affordable to low and very low income households.
 - The provision of a suitable living environment, improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods, increasing access to quality facilities and services, improving housing opportunities, and revitalizing deteriorated neighborhoods.
 - The expansion of economic opportunities, creating jobs that promote long term economic and social viability and that are accessible to low and very low income persons.

Housing Priorities

- Upgrade the existing housing stock through code enforcement and housing rehabilitation programs to meet the needs of existing homeowners and renters.
- Increase the supply of available and affordable housing for very low income owner and renter households, including assistance for first time home buyers.
- Increase the supply of suitable owner and renter housing to meet the needs of the elderly and other groups with special housing needs.
- Provide support for providers of emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing for the homeless and those threatened with homelessness.

Non-Housing Community Development Priorities

- Neighborhood upgrading and improvement - Target the use of Federal resources to those neighborhoods where the majority of residents are low and very low income and where housing conditions are substandard, yet suitable for rehabilitation. Besides housing and code enforcement activities, funds will

- be allocated for public facility and infrastructure improvements; social, health, education, and recreation services; and youth programs.
- Central Business District Development - Undertake preservation and revitalization activities designed to maximize the existing assets of the downtown area while providing a positive and direct incentive for private investment.
 - Economic Development - Establish a program to promote the retention and expansion of existing industry and business jobs, with an emphasis on the creation of new permanent jobs through the coordination of public investment with private development.
2. The primary obstacle to meeting unmet needs in general is the lack of sufficient funding. The City, with its own staff and in conjunction with other local agencies has the capacity to address its various needs if additional funding were available. Over the years, CDBG funding decreases have impacted the City's ability to address all priority housing and community development needs.

Lead-based Paint (91.215 (g))

1. Estimate the number of housing units that contain lead-based paint hazards, as defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, and are occupied by extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families.
2. Outline actions proposed or being taken to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards and describe how lead based paint hazards will be integrated into housing policies and programs, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Lead-based Paint response:

As a result of concern over the number of potential lead-based problems, the Stark County Coalition For Lead-Safe Kids was formed in July 1995, convened by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. Over the years, staff persons from the various health and community development departments in Stark County have worked cooperatively on this issue. Following are some figures that help to quantify the magnitude of the lead-based paint problems in Stark County as reported in the Stark County Consolidated Plan.

Testing Results

The Ohio Department of Health reports the results of lead screening of children. Blood lead levels as low as 10ug/dL do not cause distinctive symptoms but are nevertheless associated with decreased intelligence and impaired neurobehavioral development. Decreased stature or growth has also been associated with these lower levels. In 2002, just over 3,300 children in Stark County were tested for blood lead levels, and nearly 2% were found to have blood lead levels of 10ug/dL or more. However, in 2007, 5,380 children under the age of six were tested and only 0.9%

were found to have elevated blood lead levels. This represents an approximate 50% decrease in the rate of elevated blood levels over this 5-year period.

In the City of Massillon, the percentage of children with at risk blood lead levels was slightly lower, with 0.5% of tested children having blood lead levels of 10ug/dL or more in 2007 as shown below:

Childhood Lead Testing Results

Massillon	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Tested	839	709	820	517	585
Elevated	4	4	3	1	7
% Elevated	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	1.2%

Source: Ohio Department of Health

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/healthStats/disease/lead/lead1.aspx>

The age and condition of housing in Massillon is still a matter of concern. The City's two zip codes (44646 and 44647) are still included in the Ohio Department of Health's listing of high risk zip codes found at the following web address: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/ASSETS/7DFE551A0C214BB381D27FD71C65A8A6/riskzip.pdf>. Lead testing is mandatory at ages one and two for children in high risk zip codes and for Medicaid eligible children.

Projected Low Income Households Affected by Lead Paint

Most homes built before 1960 contain lead paint. In the City of Massillon, 5,938 owner-occupied housing units and 2,255 renter units were constructed before 1960. The percentage of owner-occupied and renter-occupied units inhabited by low-income households indicates that low-income households in older cities like Massillon are disproportionately to lead paint hazards as indicated in the following chart:

Estimated Low Income Households with Lead Paint - Massillon

	Owner-Occupied	Renter-Occupied
Total Occupied Units	8,669	3,975
Total built before 1939	5,838	2,255
% Units Occupied by Low Income Households	15%	42%
Units Occupied by Low Income Households Potentially w/Lead Paint	882	947

While there has been a definite improvement in lead paint test results for children, the issue of lead paint hazard still needs to be addressed. Both increased testing as well as the implementation of housing rehabilitation programs in a lead-safe manner are activities that need to be continued in order to reduce these hazards of lead paint for low income households and the children of such households.

HOUSING

Housing Needs (91.205)

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

1. Describe the estimated housing needs projected for the next five year period for the following categories of persons: extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income families, renters and owners, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, including persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, single persons, large families, public housing residents, victims of domestic violence, families on the public housing and section 8 tenant-based waiting list, and discuss specific housing problems, including: cost-burden, severe cost-burden, substandard housing, and overcrowding (especially large families).
2. To the extent that any racial or ethnic group has a disproportionately greater need for any income category in comparison to the needs of that category as a whole, the jurisdiction must complete an assessment of that specific need. For this purpose, disproportionately greater need exists when the percentage of persons in a category of need who are members of a particular racial or ethnic group is at least ten percentage points higher than the percentage of persons in the category as a whole.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Housing Needs response:

1. According to the 2000 census, the City of Massillon has a total of 13,567 housing units, of which 5,205 or 38% were constructed prior to 1939. The total number of occupied housing units is 12,677. Owner occupied units constitute 69% of the total number of occupied housing units (up from 67.3% in 1990). 71% of White households and 51% of African American households live in owner occupied housing. Of the total number of housing units in Massillon, 10,039 or 74% are one-unit, detached structures.

The total number of housing units in Massillon increased by 753 (6%) from 1990 to 2000. Owner occupied units increased by 595 while renter occupied units decreased by 28 units. The vacancy rate in 2000 was 6.6%; with a vacancy rate of 1.8% for owner-occupied housing units and 7.2% for rental units.

The 2000 median value of owner-occupied units in Massillon was \$82,500, compared with \$100,000 for Stark County. The City's median gross rent was \$445, compared with \$486 for the county. The percentage of renters in Massillon burdened with a gross rent greater than 35% of their household income is 26.2%, down from 32.1% in 1990.

From 1990 to 2000 the number of low income households in Massillon was nearly the same. However, the number of very low income households (0-30% MFI) decreased by 24% during this same period. The number of very low income households (31-50% MFI) increased 5.5% and the number of low income households (51-80% MFI) increased 13.9% from 1990 – 2000. The percentage of home ownership among all low income households increased by 0.6% during the decade while the percentage of renter households decreased by 0.8%.

Very Low-Income Households (0-30% MFI) - 38% owners, 62% renters. Of the total homeowners, 53% are elderly. Of the renter households, 34% are elderly, 36% are small family related and 3% are large family related. 28% of the homeowners and 25% of the renters pay between 30-50% of their income on housing and are considered cost burdened. 40% of the homeowners and 37% of the renters pay more than 50% of their income on housing and are considered severely cost burdened.

Other Very Low-Income Households (31-50% MFI) - 50% owners, 50% renters. Of the homeowners, 63% are elderly. Of the renters, 31% are elderly, 32% are small family related, and 7% are large family related. 25% of the homeowners and 48% of the renters are considered cost burdened, while 18% of the owners and 11% of the renters are considered severely cost burdened.

Low-Income Households (51-80% MFI) - 65% owners, 35% renters. Of the homeowners, 36% are elderly. Of the renters, 18% are elderly, 43% are small family related, and 10% are large family related. 23% of the homeowners and 11% of the renters are considered cost burdened, while 6% of the owners and 1% of the renters are considered severely cost burdened.

Among these income categories, the largest numbers with housing needs are elderly homeowners, followed by small family related homeowners, then small family related renters. The groups with the highest percentage in need of housing assistance are large family related renters, followed by large family related homeowners, then small family related homeowners.

2. Two out of very three minority households are classified as being very low and low income, indicating a severe need for housing assistance for minority households in Massillon.

Priority Housing Needs (91.215 (b))

1. Identify the priority housing needs and activities in accordance with the categories specified in the Housing Needs Table (formerly Table 2A). These categories correspond with special tabulations of U.S. census data provided by HUD for the preparation of the Consolidated Plan.
2. Provide an analysis of how the characteristics of the housing market and the severity of housing problems and needs of each category of residents provided the basis for determining the relative priority of each priority housing need category.

Note: Family and income types may be grouped in the case of closely related categories of residents where the analysis would apply to more than one family or income type.

3. Describe the basis for assigning the priority given to each category of priority needs.
4. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Priority Housing Needs response:

The relatively low median values of the housing stock in Massillon, along with the age of this housing, reflect the higher amount of substandard housing in the City compared with the County as a whole. In addition, combining these factors with the relatively low effective vacancy rate demonstrates the continuing need for housing rehabilitation programs in the City. Very low income homeowners and renters both have been shown to be cost burdened with respect to housing, and are in need of rehabilitation assistance programs to maintain their units as well as to increase the supply of affordable owner and rental housing.

Homeownership programs are also a high priority, both on a local as well as a national level. Homeownership not only helps to improve a family's economic status and well being, but also stabilizes and revitalizes residential neighborhoods. While there are a variety of lender programs available to assist first-time homebuyers, the restrictions placed on these programs often preclude very low income households from participating, as such households may lack the resources necessary for required downpayment and closing costs. For this reason, homeownership assistance programs are needed to provide increased affordable housing opportunities for first time, low income homebuyers.

The relatively high percentage of elderly households in the City, and the fact that the elderly population continues to grow, indicates the need for increased affordable housing for the elderly, both in terms of rehabilitation assistance for low income elderly homeowners and an increased supply of affordable rental senior housing.

Housing Market Analysis (91.210)

*Please also refer to the Housing Market Analysis Table in the Needs.xls workbook

1. Based on information available to the jurisdiction, describe the significant characteristics of the housing market in terms of supply, demand, condition, and the cost of housing; the housing stock available to serve persons with disabilities; and to serve persons with HIV/AIDS and their families. Data on the housing market should include, to the extent information is available, an estimate of the number of vacant or abandoned buildings and whether units in these buildings are suitable for rehabilitation.
2. Describe the number and targeting (income level and type of household served) of units currently assisted by local, state, or federally funded programs, and an assessment of whether any such units are expected to be lost from the assisted housing inventory for any reason, (i.e. expiration of Section 8 contracts).
3. Indicate how the characteristics of the housing market will influence the use of funds made available for rental assistance, production of new units, rehabilitation of old units, or acquisition of existing units. Please note, the goal of affordable housing is not met by beds in nursing homes.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Housing Market Analysis responses:

Stark County is home to mix of small cities, suburban townships, and large rural spaces with varying housing types and conditions, needs and opportunities. Older Central City and Suburban County areas contain to a mixture of single-family homes on smaller lots, multi-family apartments, and housing for persons with special needs.

Residential density in these areas ranges from 4.7 to 7.4 housing units per acre. Urban townships are predominately single-family with densities around 3.0 units per acre. In the rural townships housing is approximately one unit per acre. Housing units in the Stark County Consortium are concentrated in the Cities of Alliance, Massillon and North Canton and in the Jackson, Lake, and Perry, and Plain townships (Map 6). These areas lie along Interstate 77 and are within commuting distance to Akron and Cleveland.

For-profit developers are active in the County and competitive labor rates allow for the construction of new homes at reasonable prices. The majority of new owner-occupied housing constructed in recent years has been in Jackson, Plain, and Lake Townships. Many of these properties are priced at \$200,000 and above. With the continuation of low mortgage interest rates and the availability of land in and around the urban areas, the Stark County Consortium is well-positioned to produce new housing units at affordable prices, particularly as compared to the Akron and Cleveland areas.

The Stark County Consortium contains just over 121,540 housing units, up 10% since 1990. Population and household growth has not kept pace with this increase in units, and there are 6,000 more housing units than households. An oversupply of housing was present in 1990 and has increased since then. Such an imbalance has contributed to an increase in housing vacancy.

Nearly 5% of Consortium units are vacant. An additional 1,499 housing units became vacant between 1990 and 2000, a significant jump of 35% (Table 17). Vacancy has jumped among both rental and ownership units, though vacancy rates are higher among rental units. The number of vacant rental units increased 60% between 1990 and 2000, and the number of vacant units for sale increased 90% during this period. Vacancy rates are highest in Central City areas and in Marlboro and Bethlehem townships

The homeownership rate in the Stark County Consortium is high. Of the 115,786 occupied units in the Consortium, 76% are owner-occupied. Homeownership is lower in the Central City, at just over 65%, and is higher in the balance of the Consortium, at over 78% (Table 18). Ownership rates are highest among Suburban County and Rural County areas. Rental occupancy is highest in Central City areas, in the City of Louisville, and in Jackson Township (Map 8). Jackson Township has experienced expanded rental housing development, contributing to the rental occupancy rate.

Over 78% of housing units in the Consortium were built before 1980; approximately one-quarter of all units are 50 years or more in age. Twice the percentage of Central City housing stock was built 50 or more years ago (Table 19). Whereas Central City housing construction began to slow after 1959, housing in the balance of the Consortium did not slow until after 1979. Nonetheless, newer construction has taken place throughout the Consortium—just at higher rates in the Suburban County.

The majority of Consortium housing units have three-bedrooms—58% in the Central City and 50% in the Consortium balance. Two bedroom units make up approximately one-quarter of all units (Table 20). A majority of one-bedroom units and many two-bedroom units are renter occupied. Larger units with four and five bedrooms are concentrated mainly in the Suburban County.

Nearly all owner-occupied housing units are single-family detached homes. The low percentages of owner-occupied units in attached or multifamily structures indicate a weak market for condominium and duplex homeownership, particularly in the Central City. A high percentage of renter-occupied units are also located in single-family detached homes (Table 21). Duplexes make up one-fifth of rental units. Over 30% of Central City rental units and 38% of Consortium balance units are found in three-to nineteen- unit structures.

Owner-occupied home values have increased in the Consortium from 1990 to 2000. In the Central City areas, values increased an average of 8% annually during this period from just over \$41,200 to \$75,750. Home values in the balance of the Consortium increased an average of 7% annually from \$57,400 to \$100,000 (Table 22).

As expected, home values in the Central City are considerably lower, and thereby more affordable, than those of the Suburban and Rural County. Over 73% of Central City homes are valued under \$100,000, and 97% are valued under \$200,000. Homes in the balance of the Consortium are higher in value; 30% are valued under \$100,000, 84% are valued under \$200,000, and 10% are valued over \$200,000.

Aggregate 2003 home sale price data reveals median home values similar to those indicated by the 2000 Census. According to the Stark County Association of Realtors, over 6,600 Stark County homes were listed for sale on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) in 2003 (Table 23). The average asking price for homes listed was \$128,100. Nearly 3,770 homes were sold via the MLS in 2003, with an average sale price of \$111,124 and a median sale price of \$94,000. Average days on the market (DOM) required for home sales was 116, indicative of a healthy, though not fast-paced housing purchase market.

When the 2003 home sales data is sifted by geographic are, dramatic differences are revealed. Median sale prices in the City of Canton are dramatically low. Likewise, median sale prices in the Central City, at approximately \$80,000, are much lower than those of the Suburban and Rural County. Rural County median sale prices approach \$95,000. Suburban County median home sale prices are the highest in the Consortium, ranging from \$108,000 to \$184,000.

Consortium rents tend to be fairly affordable. One-tenth of renter-occupied units have monthly contract rents of \$250 or less, and 46% have rents between \$250 and \$449 (Table 24). One-third of rental units command \$650 to \$799 in rent per month, and 8% have rents over \$800. Central City rents are lower than those of the Suburban and Rural County areas.

Specific Housing Objectives (91.215 (b))

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve over a specified time period.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the strategic plan.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Specific Housing Objectives response:

CITY OF MASSILLON HOUSING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	OUTCOME
GOAL 1 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY	Objective 1. Upgrade the existing housing stock through selective rehabilitation and redevelopment to meet the needs of existing homeowners and renters.	Strategy A. Provide owner occupied housing rehabilitation to LMI households utilizing CDBG and HOME funding. All dwelling units rehabilitated will be brought up to local code and HUD Housing Quality Standards (HQS).	Outcome: Undertake a total of 75 units of rehabilitation over the 5-year plan period.
		Strategy B. Provide owner occupied emergency home repair assistance to LMI households utilizing CDBG funding to correct an emergency situation which threatens the health or safety of the occupants of the dwelling.	Outcome: Undertake a total of 150 units of emergency home repair assistance over the 5-year plan period.
		Strategy C. Provide for the repair and upgrade of renter occupied housing units through code enforcement activities concentrated in low income residential neighborhoods	Outcome: Code enforcement activities to result in 150 units of rental housing upgraded and brought up to housing code standards over the 5-year plan period.
		Strategy D. Develop a Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to identify areas affected by foreclosure and abandonment and carry out residential redevelopment and demolition/land banking	Outcome: Acquire/Rehab 15 Housing Units; Construct 15 new dwelling units; demolish 50 units vacant, blighted housing; develop land bank for foreclosed abandoned properties, working with other local agencies and

		activities to revitalize existing residential neighborhoods.	non-profits as needed.
GOAL 1 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY (CONTINUED)	Objective 2. Increase the supply of available and affordable housing for low and moderate- income households.	Strategy A: Provide CDBG and HOME funds, along with technical assistance, to local housing non-profit organizations to assist in the development and construction of affordable owner and rental housing for LMI households.	Outcome: Assist non-profit organizations in the construction of 25 new units of affordable housing over the 5-year plan period.
		Strategy B: Work with for profit and non-profit developers to support the development and construction of affordable housing for LMI households through other Programs, such as Housing Tax Credits and Section 202/811.	Outcome: Assist for-profit and non-profit organizations in the construction of 50 new units of affordable housing over the 5-year plan period.
	Objective 3. Increase homeownership opportunities for low and moderate households.	Strategy A. Provide CDBG, HOME and ADDI funds for homebuyer assistance programs, including downpayment assistance.	Outcome: Provide homebuyer assistance to 75 LMI households over the 5-year plan period.
		Strategy B. Provide support to local non-profit housing organizations seeking funding for homebuyer counseling programs.	Outcome: Provide homebuyer counseling services to 150 households over the 5-year plan period.
	Objective 4. Increase the supply of suitable housing (renter and owner-	Strategy A. Work with for profit developers and non-profit organizations to	Outcome: Assist in the construction of 50 units of senior housing and/or

	occupied) to meet the needs of the elderly and other groups with special housing needs.	develop new housing for senior citizens and special needs populations.	housing for special needs persons.
GOAL 2 – FAIR HOUSING	Objective 1. Promote the expansion of housing opportunities in the community through the provision of fair housing programs and services.	Strategy A. The city will operate its own fair housing program which provides education and outreach, monitoring and evaluation, and the administration of fair housing laws.	Outcome: Local citizens will be provided with needed services and activities designed to promote fair housing and equal opportunity.
		Strategy B. The City will continue to cooperate with Stark County and the City of Canton in the development of a comprehensive strategy to overcome identified impediments to fair housing choice in the area.	Outcome: The City will continue to carry out those actions recommended in the AI Study to overcome identified impediments to fair housing choice.
GOAL 3. HOMELESS NEEDS	Objective 1. Work with local homeless service providers to help fill in the gaps in the Homeless Continuum of Care.	Strategy A. The City will assist community organizations operating homeless shelters and services, including those programs providing supportive services to assist households in making the transition from homelessness to independent living.	Outcome: Provide homeless shelter assistance and transitional supporting services to 200 homeless households and persons.

Needs of Public Housing (91.210 (b))

In cooperation with the public housing agency or agencies located within its boundaries, describe the needs of public housing, including the number of public housing units in the jurisdiction, the physical condition of such units, the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing projects within the jurisdiction, and other factors, including the number of families on public housing and tenant-based waiting lists and results from the Section 504 needs assessment of public housing projects located within its boundaries (i.e. assessment of needs of tenants and applicants on waiting list for accessible units as required by 24 CFR 8.25). The public housing agency and jurisdiction can use the optional Priority Public Housing Needs Table (formerly Table 4) of the Consolidated Plan to identify priority public housing needs to assist in this process.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Needs of Public Housing response:

The mission of the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) is to provide eligible residents of Stark County with quality affordable housing in decent, safe, and nourishing neighborhoods. By working in partnership with the public and private sectors, SMHA provides families with housing choice and the opportunity to achieve self sufficiency. This mission is to be accomplished through the development of affordable housing, ensuring equal opportunity in housing, promoting self-sufficiency, and improving the quality of life for lower income residents.

A number of public housing choices are available from SMHA. Housing is provided in either buildings that are owned and managed by SMHA (PHA units) or through the Housing Choice Voucher Program. This includes Section 8 rental certificates and vouchers. Section 8 is a rent subsidy program and does not, by itself, finance the production of rental housing. All Section 8 housing is privately owned. Under this program, the federal government pays a portion of rent in order to make the housing units affordable to low-income households. SMHA administers some of the Section 8 certificates and vouchers while others flow directly to a project or property owner. SMHA's Section 8 Department administers several types of rental assistance: Housing Choice Voucher Program, Moderate Rehabilitation, and Special Programs for homeless and disabled families.

SMHA administers rental subsidies funded by the HOME Program and the Shelter Plus Care Program, which is designed to link rental assistance to support services for hard-to-serve homeless persons with disabilities and their families. Rental assistance must be matched by supportive services that are appropriate to the needs of the population served. The Shelter Plus Care Program targets homeless persons who have serious mental illness, are disabled by drug and/or alcohol abuse, or have AIDS or related diseases.

SMHA owned housing facilities for seniors and families include apartment buildings, town-house complexes, and scattered site single-family homes. SMHA owns and manages approximately 2,687 housing units, 66% of which are family units and 34% of which are senior or disabled units. A total of 5,443 persons are housed in SMHA's PHA units. The average household stay in public housing is five years. SMHA provides Section 8 rental subsidies to 1,502 families and individuals as of May 2008.

SMHA provides a number of programs which seek to improve the quality of life of its clients. In addition to supplying housing, SMHA provides educational programs for

adults and children; nutritional programs and medical care for seniors; recreational opportunities to all residents; beautification programs; and law enforcement and drug education programs. In 2007 SMHA opened The Metropolitan Centre in Canton. This LEED-certified building includes a senior center, job training program, restaurant, and is available for community meetings.

Public Housing Strategy (91.210)

1. Describe the public housing agency's strategy to serve the needs of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families residing in the jurisdiction served by the public housing agency (including families on the public housing and section 8 tenant-based waiting list), the public housing agency's strategy for addressing the revitalization and restoration needs of public housing projects within the jurisdiction and improving the management and operation of such public housing, and the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate families residing in public housing.
2. Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership. (NAHA Sec. 105 (b)(11) and (91.215 (k))
3. If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation. (NAHA Sec. 105 (g))

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Public Housing Strategy response:

The need for publicly subsidized housing is apparent from the 5,443 residents in public housing and 3,588 in section 8 housing. Furthermore, significant waiting lists exist for both and unit types. As of January 2008, approximately 700 households were on the waiting list for PHA units, and 1,632 were on the Section 8 waiting list

The development of new units for low and moderate income households has experienced significant change. While previous programs focus on high concentrations of units within limited areas, current planning seeks to disperse public housing over a wider geographic area and has even includes homeownership programs. With this aim, SMHA operates an affiliated non-profit corporation, the Freed Housing Corporation. Plans call for the development of a Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly project in Alliance and the development of additional permanent supportive housing in Canton.

In addition to units managed and administered by SMHA, subsidized affordable housing has been developed in the Consortium that is owned, operated and/or managed by non-profit developers, private developers or private property owners that have project-based Section 8 rental subsidies or have been funded through housing tax credit programs.

During the previous Consolidated Plan period, the City of Massillon worked with Massillon Homes LLC, a partnership between the NRP Group, East Akron

Neighborhood Development Association, and the Association for Better Community Development (ABCD) in the development of 80 units of scattered site lease-purchase housing for low income families through the OHFA tax credit program. Presently, the City is working with the NRP Group on a proposed 60 unit tax credit elderly housing development to be located in downtown Massillon.

In addition, a number of specialized housing needs are provided through various agencies throughout the Consortium area. In January 2008, the Stark County Community Mental Health Board and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Stark County were combined into one behavioral health organization called the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County (MHRSB). Specialized housing opportunities supported by MHRSB include group homes for the mentally ill. According to the MHRSB, Stark County has thirty-five group homes, with a combined licensed capacity of 335. In addition, other persons live independently or semi-independently and receive counseling assistance or case-worker oversight.

The Stark County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities provides residential assistance and other services to the developmentally disabled. Housing assistance includes nursing homes, Medicaid licensed facilities, group or foster homes, and supported living. Other programs assisting the developmentally disabled include adult services, clients in community employment, clients from 5-21 years of age at the Southgate School, clients of up to five years of age at the Eastgate Early Childhood Center, and clients under case management receiving family support services.

Barriers to Affordable Housing (91.210 (e) and 91.215 (f))

1. Explain whether the cost of housing or the incentives to develop, maintain, or improve affordable housing are affected by public policies, particularly those of the local jurisdiction. Such policies include tax policy affecting land and other property, land use controls, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limits, and policies that affect the return on residential investment.
2. Describe the strategy to remove or ameliorate negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing, except that, if a State requires a unit of general local government to submit a regulatory barrier assessment that is substantially equivalent to the information required under this part, as determined by HUD, the unit of general local government may submit that assessment to HUD and it shall be considered to have complied with this requirement.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Barriers to Affordable Housing response:

The Stark County HOME Consortium Consolidated Plan indicates that, in order to address the need to remove barriers to affordable housing, local zoning codes should be reviewed. Large minimum lot requirements, along with lack of suitable infrastructure (water, sewer, and roads) can increase the cost of housing. These factors tend to restrict the opportunities for low income residents to live in many areas of the County, impose higher costs of home ownership and maintenance, and reduce the range of housing types and choice in many suburban neighborhoods. Strategies to reduce these negative policy effects include improved community support services, closer to home job opportunities, and fair housing programs.

HOMELESS

Homeless Needs (91.205 (b) and 91.215 (c))

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

Homeless Needs— The jurisdiction must provide a concise summary of the nature and extent of homelessness in the jurisdiction, (including rural homelessness and chronic homelessness where applicable), addressing separately the need for facilities and services for homeless persons and homeless families with children, both sheltered and unsheltered, and homeless subpopulations, in accordance with Table 1A. The summary must include the characteristics and needs of low-income individuals and children, (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered. In addition, to the extent information is available, the plan must include a description of the nature and extent of homelessness by racial and ethnic group. A quantitative analysis is not required. If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Homeless Needs response:

The Stark County Interagency Council on Homelessness (SCICH) was formed in 2004 with the mission to develop and implement strategies and solutions to address the problem of homelessness throughout Stark County. This mission includes development of supportive housing options and securing federal, state, and local resources designed to:

- Prevent and end chronic homelessness in Stark County;
- Ensure a coordinated safety net of emergency services for those in short-term housing crisis; and
- Coordinate and consolidate local efforts to provide a cost effective and streamlined system for addressing homelessness.

The SCICH is comprised of representatives from Canton, Alliance, and Massillon, the Stark County Commissioners, the private sector, foundations, health care providers, United Way, non-profit housing and service providers, and law enforcement. The SCICH was an outgrowth of the Stark County Homeless Services Collaborative, which worked together for many years to address homeless issues.

SCICH annually conducts a point-in-time counts of homeless persons. The most recent results are from the count conducted in January 2008; however, 2009 count was recently completed. Each count uses a specific point-in-time and relies on the participation of all homeless service providers. Providers report the number of persons in the shelter, all who were turned away, and those in transitional housing. Providers were asked not to count turn-aways who were successfully referred to another program, or any clients staying in other shelters. The point-in-time count provides a snapshot of Stark County's homeless problem. Studies indicate that over a year's time, the homeless population is ten times a one-day count.

The 2008 point-in-time homeless count found that the number of homeless reported was the highest in recent years, at 1,179 persons. Of these, 513 were considered unsheltered. Of these, 426 were considered precariously housed; temporarily living/staying with family and/or friends; scheduled for eviction within 7 days or coming out of foster care within 30 days. There were 87 persons without shelter of any kind. The count is believed to be higher this year for a number of reasons, among them, the region is facing economic problems, and there was a change in the mechanics of the count. In addition, this year the weather was better which leads to more people being out. The count lasted for 5 days, giving an opportunity for thoroughness, rather than 24 hours, as it was in past years.

The 2008 pint-in-time count found 209 homeless persons in shelters and 513 without shelter, totaling 722 homeless persons. When all homeless individuals, including those in programs and/or transitional housing were counted, the total was 917 persons. With the addition of those in permanent supportive housing, the total number of homeless becomes 1,179. When compared with previous counts, it appears that the number of unsheltered homeless individuals has been climbing. At the same time, the number of homeless individuals involved in some type of homeless program has increased

Detailed point-in-time count information depicts a number of characteristics of the homeless in Stark County. Single adults make up the great majority of homeless persons, while families with children make up 44%, an increase of 5% from 2006. This increase reflects the severity of the housing/foreclosure crisis in the region. Substance abuse, mental illness, and dual diagnosis (persons having both substance abuse and mental illness issues) are critical factors and/or causes of homelessness. Domestic violence is often the cause of homelessness among women and children. Finally, veterans are also represented among the homeless.

As of the January 2008 count, a total of 223 beds for emergency shelter were available from Stark County shelter and service providers, down from the 238 beds reported in 2003. Ninety-two of these shelter beds are targeted toward individuals; 131 are designated for families with children. Homeless shelter providers in Massillon include the Family Living Center, operated by Community Services of Stark County, and the Domestic Violence Project Safe House.

Eight providers offer 52 individual beds and 151 family beds for transitional housing, a substantial increase from the 31 individual beds and 76 family beds reported in 2003. Transitional housing seeks to assist individuals and families in regaining stability in order to end or prevent chronic homelessness.

Permanent supportive housing is offered by four providers. The current inventory of permanent supportive housing consists of 267 individual beds and 85 family beds, a substantial increase from the 98 individual beds and 22 family beds reported in 2003.

In addition to those who have been counted as homeless, there are populations of persons either threatened with homelessness or that have special needs not generally provided for by available housing opportunities. Persons threatened with homelessness include the elderly and very low income persons unable to maintain existing homes or to afford rent. The number of elderly requiring medical and other services to remain in their homes is also increasing. The City of Massillon has provided CDBG funding over the years to agencies such as Westark Family Services

and Faith in Action of Westark Stark County for homemaker and caregiver programs serving the elderly and frail elderly and handicapped population. Populations with special needs include handicapped persons, developmentally disabled, mentally ill, persons with AIDS and alcohol/drug addictions. As facilities for the mentally ill are decentralized and increasing numbers of developmentally disabled persons become semi-independent, the need for residential facilities with supervision has increased. Services for these populations are provided in various group homes. Another special needs population within Stark County is the migrant and seasonal farm worker population, where needs include affordable housing and other assistance. Finally, ex-offenders is also a special needs population threatened with homelessness. Ex-offenders with mental health or addiction disabilities are some of the neediest of Stark County's homeless population.

Priority Homeless Needs

1. Using the results of the Continuum of Care planning process, identify the jurisdiction's homeless and homeless prevention priorities specified in Table 1A, the Homeless and Special Needs Populations Chart. The description of the jurisdiction's choice of priority needs and allocation priorities must be based on reliable data meeting HUD standards and should reflect the required consultation with homeless assistance providers, homeless persons, and other concerned citizens regarding the needs of homeless families with children and individuals. The jurisdiction must provide an analysis of how the needs of each category of residents provided the basis for determining the relative priority of each priority homeless need category. A separate brief narrative should be directed to addressing gaps in services and housing for the sheltered and unsheltered chronic homeless.
2. A community should give a high priority to chronically homeless persons, where the jurisdiction identifies sheltered and unsheltered chronic homeless persons in its Homeless Needs Table - Homeless Populations and Subpopulations.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Priority Homeless Needs response:

1. *PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING for chronically homeless single adults who have disabilities.
Projects must be described in terms of housing outcomes and include access to services such as, but not limited to, the following menu:
 - Substance abuse treatment and recovery programs
 - Employment services including job finding and retention
 - Transportation to jobs and training programs
 - Outreach to and services for veterans
 - Services for ex-offenders
 - Services for persons with mental illness
 - Services for persons with mental illness and substance abuse problems
2. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR FAMILIES
Projects must be described in terms of housing outcomes and include access to services such as, but not limited to, the following menu:
 - Substance abuse treatment and recovery programs**

- Employment services including job finding, coaching, and retention
 - Transportation to jobs and training programs
 - Outreach to and services for veterans
 - Services for persons with mental illness
 - Services for persons with mental illness and substance abuse problems
 - Family reunification
 - Access to childcare
 - Sources of permanent housing for those completing their case plans
3. *PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING for homeless disabled adults ages 18-25, especially those coming out of foster care. Projects must be described in terms of housing outcomes and include access to services such as, but not limited to, the following menu:
- Substance abuse treatment and recovery programs
 - Employment services including job finding and retention
 - Transportation to jobs and training programs
 - Services for persons leaving detention programs
 - Sources of permanent housing for those completing their case plans

Assessing gaps in existing services and facilities includes collating data on the population served, the percentage of those considered homeless, and estimates given by the facility and/or service provider on the number of persons in need of services. These services include job training, case management, substance abuse programs, mental health care, housing placement assistance, life skills training and childcare facilities.

In terms of unmet needs, SCICH has determined that Stark County suffers from a shortage of 658 homeless housing beds. The unmet need is predominantly among those in need of permanent supportive housing, where 379 additional beds are needed, 79 for families. While this 379 number is the ideal, SCICH has set an additional 175 units of permanent supportive housing as a more realistic goal to adequately address the needs of homeless persons in Stark County.

Homeless Inventory (91.210 (c))

The jurisdiction shall provide a concise summary of the existing facilities and services (including a brief inventory) that assist homeless persons and families with children and subpopulations identified in Table 1A. These include outreach and assessment, emergency shelters and services, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, access to permanent housing, and activities to prevent low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) from becoming homeless. The jurisdiction can use the optional Continuum of Care Housing Activity Chart and Service Activity Chart to meet this requirement.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Homeless Inventory response:

Stark County Emergency Shelter Inventory 2008

Provider Name	Individuals	Families w/Children
Alliance for Children & Families	3	18
American Rescue Workers	15	0
Community Services of Stark County	6	16
Domestic Violence Shelter Alliance	1	17
Domestic Violence Shelter Project Canton, Massillon	8	19
Multi-Development	1	4
Refuge of Hope Ministries	27	0
Salvation Army Motel Beds	5	10
YWCA Canton	26	31
YWCA Family Shelter	0	16
Total	92	131

Stark County Transitional Housing Inventory 2008

Provider Name	Individuals	Families w/Children
Alliance for Children & Families	2	75
American Rescue Workers	5	0
Community Services of Stark County	0	3
ICAN	14	0
Multi-Development	0	8
PAL Mission	9	0
SMHA	22	7
YWCA Canton	0	48
Total	52	141

Stark County Permanent Supportive Housing Inventory 2008

Provider Name	Individuals	Families w/Children
ICAN	140	57
SMHA	83	28
YWCA/SMHA	36	0
YWCA	8	0
Subtotal	267	85
Under Development		
YWCA of Canton	39	0

Homeless Strategic Plan (91.215 (c))

1. Homelessness— Describe the jurisdiction's strategy for developing a system to address homelessness and the priority needs of homeless persons and families (including the subpopulations identified in the needs section). The jurisdiction's strategy must consider the housing and supportive services needed in each stage of the process which includes preventing homelessness, outreach/assessment, emergency shelters and services, transitional housing, and helping homeless persons (especially any persons that are chronically homeless) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. The jurisdiction must also describe its strategy for helping extremely low- and low-income individuals and families who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
2. Chronic homelessness—Describe the jurisdiction's strategy for eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. This should include the strategy for helping homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. This strategy should, to the maximum extent feasible, be coordinated with the strategy presented Exhibit 1 of the Continuum of Care (CoC) application and any other strategy or plan to eliminate chronic homelessness. Also describe, in a narrative, relationships and efforts to coordinate the Conplan, CoC, and any other strategy or plan to address chronic homelessness.
3. Homelessness Prevention—Describe the jurisdiction's strategy to help prevent homelessness for individuals and families with children who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
4. Institutional Structure—Briefly describe the institutional structure, including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions, through which the jurisdiction will carry out its homelessness strategy.
5. Discharge Coordination Policy—Every jurisdiction receiving McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care, or Section 8 SRO Program funds must develop and implement a Discharge Coordination Policy, to the maximum extent practicable. Such a policy should include "policies and protocols for the discharge of persons from publicly funded institutions or systems of care (such as health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or correction programs and institutions) in order to prevent such discharge from immediately resulting in homelessness for such persons." The jurisdiction should describe its planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how the community will move toward such a policy.

3-5 Year Homeless Strategic Plan response:

As previously described, in 2004, the cities of Alliance, Canton and Massillon and Stark County Government officials, in collaboration with local social service agencies, foundations and the United Way of Greater Stark County formed the Stark County Interagency Council on Homelessness (SCICH). The Council's goal is to work to end the problem of homelessness in Stark County. Other agencies involved in the new Council include: Stark Community Mental Health Board, ADAS board, United Way of Greater Stark County, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, ICAN Inc., Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, Alliance Community Hospital, Aultman Health Foundation, Mercy Medical Center, Stark County Sheriff's Department, Stark County

Courts, the Stark Community Foundation, Stark County Job and Family Services, Stark County Regional Planning Commission, Quest Recovery Service and the Salvation Army.

The mission statement of the Council is to develop and implement strategies and solutions to address the problem of homelessness throughout Stark County, including the development of supportive housing options and the securing of federal, state and local resources and other measures designed to:

- 1) Prevent and end chronic homelessness in Stark County
- 2) Insure a coordinated safety net of emergency services for those in a short term housing crisis
- 3) Coordinate and consolidate local efforts to provide a cost-effective and streamlined system for addressing homelessness.

The SCICH has prepared s Strategic Plan, which is attached as an appendix to this document.

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan ESG response:

Not applicable to Massillon.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development (91.215 (e))

*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), – i.e., public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.
2. Describe the basis for assigning the priority given to each category of priority needs.
3. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs.
4. 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.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Community Development response:

Summary of Specific Community Development Needs and Objectives

I. Neighborhood upgrading and improvement - Target the use of Federal resources to those neighborhoods where the majority of residents are low and very low income and where housing conditions are substandard, yet suitable for rehabilitation. Besides housing and code enforcement activities, funds will be allocated for public facilities and infrastructure improvements; social, health, education, and recreation services; and youth programs.

Objective 1. Improve the quality of low & moderate income residential neighborhoods through the provision of public facilities and improvements.

Strategy A: Undertake infrastructure improvements, including street paving, sidewalk construction, and street lighting improvements, to help stabilize and improve low income residential neighborhoods.

Accomplishment Type: People served.

Outcome: Pave 20,000 L.F. of LMI neighborhood streets, construct 5,000 L.F. of new and replacement sidewalks, and upgrade street lighting to community standards.

Strategy B: Provide adequate public facilities serving low and moderate income residential neighborhoods and providing needed services to low and moderate income households.

Accomplishment Type: People served, Public Facilities assisted

Outcome: Types of public facilities to be assisted include handicapped centers, neighborhood facilities, park and recreational facilities, health facilities and fire protection facilities.

Strategy C: Work with local neighborhood associations to identify and provide needed public facilities and improvements to help stabilize and revitalize LMI areas.

Accomplishment Type: People served, Public Facilities assisted

Outcome: Develop a neighborhood partnership program to work with local neighborhood residential associations and provide funding to assist in neighborhood improvement projects.

Objective 2. Improve the quality of the living environment for low & moderate persons through the provision of public services.

Strategy A: Provide funding for public services serving lower income households. Types of public services to be provided include handicapped services, substance abuse services, adult literacy and job training services, and health services.

Accomplishment Type: People served.

Outcome: Provide CDBG funding to local non-profit organizations to provide new and/or expanded public services assisting LMI persons.

Strategy B: The City will provide funding for youth programs and services designed to meet the needs of the local youth population, in particular, youth from lower income households.

Accomplishment Type: People served.

Outcome: Types of youth programs to be provided include social, recreational, educational, cultural, health and nutrition programs and services. The City will also assist child care programs, including day care, latchkey, and head start type programs.

Strategy C: The City will provide funding for senior citizen programs and services designed to improve the quality of life for local elderly residents.

Accomplishment Type: People served.

Outcome: Senior citizen services to be provided include homemaker and health services. The City also operates a senior center located in the downtown area, which provides social, recreational, and nutrition programs for the elderly.

Objective 3. Improve the quality of the living environment for low & moderate persons through implementation of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) activities.

Strategy A: Utilize NSP funds to undertake residential development activities in areas of greatest need that are impacted by problems resulting from foreclosed and abandoned properties.

Accomplishment Type: Number of foreclosed/abandoned residential properties acquired and rehabilitated/redeveloped; number of homebuyers assisted.

Outcomes: Sustainability of residential neighborhoods, creating a suitable living environment and providing affordable housing. 15 acquisition/rehab, 15 new construction, 30 downpayment assistance.

Strategy B: Utilize NSP funds for the demolition of blighted structures and the land banking of foreclosed and abandoned properties to promote future development in neighborhoods of greatest need.

Accomplishment Type: Number of blighted structures demolished; number of properties acquired and land banked for future development.

Outcomes: Sustainability of residential neighborhoods, creating a suitable living environment. 50 properties demolished, 15 properties in land bank.

II. Central Business District Development - Undertake preservation and revitalization activities designed to maximize the existing assets of the downtown area while providing a positive and direct incentive for private investment.

Objective 1. Undertake preservation and revitalization activities designed to maximize the existing assets of the downtown area while providing a positive and direct incentive for private investment and development in the City's Central Business District.

Strategy A: The City will undertake infrastructure improvements within those portions of the Central Business District designated as slum and blighted areas to help revitalize and redevelop the downtown.

Accomplishment Type: People served, Businesses assisted

Outcome: Pave 5,000 L.F. of streets, construct 5,000 L.F. of new and replacement sidewalks, and upgrade street lighting in the downtown area.

Strategy B: The City will provide funding assistance to downtown development organizations to assist in the rehabilitation and restoration of downtown buildings located within that portion of the Central Business District designated as a slum and blighted area.

Accomplishment Type: Businesses assisted.

Outcome: Assist in the exterior rehabilitation, façade renovation, and restoration of 35 downtown buildings.

III. Economic Development - Establish a program to promote the retention and expansion of existing industry and business jobs, with an emphasis on the creation of new permanent jobs through the coordination of public investment with private development.

Objective 1. Promote the retention and expansion of job opportunities for low and moderate income persons, with an emphasis on the creation of new permanent jobs through the coordination of public investment with private development.

Strategy A: The City will utilize Federal, State, and local funding resources to promote job creation, retention and expansion, utilizing such programs as CDBG, Section 108, SBA, EDA, and Ohio Dept of Development financing and tax exemption programs.

Accomplishment Type: Jobs

Outcome: Create and preserve 200 jobs for low and moderate income persons.

Strategy B: The City will develop its own economic development incentives and will work with other local organizations, such as the Stark Development Board and the Massillon Development Foundation in the development of financing tools to expand employment.

Accomplishment Type: Jobs

Outcome: Create and preserve 50 jobs for low and moderate income persons.

IV. Planning and Administration

Objective 1. Develop a comprehensive consolidated plan for housing and community development, identifying community needs, developing goals and objectives and preparing strategies for accomplishments.

Strategy A: The City will cooperate with other Stark County governments in the planning and development of a County-wide Consolidated Plan.

Accomplishment Type: Organizations

Outcome: Development of the Consolidated Plan.

Objective 2. Develop the administrative capacity for the management, monitoring, and oversight of activities being carried out under the Action Plan pursuant to the goals and objectives of the Consolidated Plan

Strategy A: The City, through its Community Development Department will be responsible for the administration of the Community Development Block Grant Program and those activities being undertaken as part of the Annual Plan.

Accomplishment Type: Organizations

Outcome: Administration, management, monitoring and evaluation of the Annual Plan.

Objective 3. Promote the expansion of housing opportunities in the community through the provision of fair housing programs and services.

Strategy A: The City will operate its own fair housing program, which provides education and outreach, monitoring and evaluation, and the administration of fair housing laws.

Accomplishment Type: Organizations

Outcome: Local citizens will be provided with needed services and activities designed to promote fair housing and equal housing opportunities.

Strategy B: The City will continue to cooperate with Stark County and the City of Canton in the development of a comprehensive strategy to overcome identified impediments to fair housing choice in the area.

Accomplishment Type: Organizations

Outcome: The City will continue to carry out those actions recommended in the AI Study to overcome identified impediments to fair housing choice.

Antipoverty Strategy (91.215 (h))

1. Describe the jurisdiction's goals, programs, and policies for reducing the number of poverty level families (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually). In consultation with other appropriate public and private agencies, (i.e. TANF agency) state how the jurisdiction's goals, programs, and policies for producing and preserving affordable housing set forth in the housing component of the consolidated plan will be coordinated with other programs and services for which the jurisdiction is responsible.
2. Identify the extent to which this strategy will reduce (or assist in reducing) the number of poverty level families, taking into consideration factors over which the jurisdiction has control.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Antipoverty Strategy response:

The City of Massillon will continue to utilize federal resources to operate programs, such as rehabilitation assistance, which enable low and very low income households to remain in their homes and to keep these dwellings in decent, safe, and sanitary condition, while also enabling these households to use their limited resources for other necessary living expenses, such as food and clothing. The City will also continue to work with the other members of the Stark County HOME Consortium and with other area housing and social service providers in carrying out its anti-poverty strategy, including job training, education, and self sufficiency programs.

Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Coordination (91.315 (k))

1. (States only) Describe the strategy to coordinate the Low-income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) with the development of housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income families.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan LIHTC Coordination response:

Not applicable

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS

Specific Special Needs Objectives (91.215)

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve over a specified time period.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the strategic plan.

3-5 Year Non-homeless Special Needs Analysis response:

In addition to those who have been counted as homeless, there are populations of persons either threatened with homelessness or that have special needs not generally provided for by available housing opportunities.

Persons threatened with homelessness include the elderly and very low-income persons unable to maintain existing homes or to afford rent. Also increasing are the numbers of elderly requiring medical and other services to remain in homes rather than in medical facilities. The Areawide Agency on Aging assists with several programs to prevent the institutionalization of seniors. These include visiting nurses, the home delivery of meals, and emergency response programs.

Populations with special needs include handicapped persons, developmentally disabled, mentally ill, and alcohol and/or drug addicted persons. As facilities for the mentally ill are decentralized and an increasing number of developmentally disabled become semi-independent, the need for residential facilities with supervision has increased. Support for these populations is provided in various group homes.

Another special needs population within Stark County is the growing migrant and seasonal farm worker population. Rural Opportunities coordinates programs for housing and services for this population where needs include affordable housing and assistance in utilizing other available resources.

Non-homeless Special Needs (91.205 (d) and 91.210 (d)) Analysis (including HOPWA)

*Please also refer to the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Estimate, to the extent practicable, the number of persons in various subpopulations that are not homeless but may require housing or supportive services, including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families), persons with alcohol or other drug addiction, victims of domestic violence, and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify and describe their supportive housing needs. The jurisdiction can use the Non-Homeless Special Needs Table (formerly Table 1B) of their Consolidated Plan to help identify these needs.
*Note: HOPWA recipients must identify the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families that will be served in the metropolitan area.
2. Identify the priority housing and supportive service needs of persons who are not homeless but may or may not require supportive housing, i.e., elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families), persons with alcohol or other drug addiction by using the Non-homeless Special Needs Table.
3. Describe the basis for assigning the priority given to each category of priority needs.
4. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs.
5. To the extent information is available, describe the facilities and services that assist persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, and

programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing.

6. If the jurisdiction plans to use HOME or other tenant based rental assistance to assist one or more of these subpopulations, it must justify the need for such assistance in the plan.

3-5 Year Non-homeless Special Needs Analysis response:

The Stark County Consortium has identified several classes of the population with special needs. Those groups which have been identified as needing supportive housing include: elderly persons with severe mental illnesses, developmentally disabled persons, persons with AIDS and related diseases, and persons with alcohol and other drug addictions.

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)

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

1. The Plan includes a description of the activities to be undertaken with its HOPWA Program funds to address priority unmet housing needs for the eligible population. Activities will assist persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, such as efforts to prevent low-income individuals and families from becoming homeless and may address the housing needs of persons who are homeless in order to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. The plan would identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs and summarize the priorities and specific objectives, describing how funds made available will be used to address identified needs.
2. The Plan must establish annual HOPWA output goals for the planned number of households to be assisted during the year in: (1) short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to avoid homelessness; (2) rental assistance programs; and (3) in housing facilities, such as community residences and SRO dwellings, where funds are used to develop and/or operate these facilities. The plan can also describe the special features or needs being addressed, such as support for persons who are homeless or chronically homeless. These outputs are to be used in connection with an assessment of client outcomes for achieving housing stability, reduced risks of homelessness and improved access to care.
3. For housing facility projects being developed, a target date for the completion of each development activity must be included and information on the continued use of these units for the eligible population based on their stewardship requirements (e.g. within the ten-year use periods for projects involving acquisition, new construction or substantial rehabilitation).
4. The Plan includes an explanation of how the funds will be allocated including a description of the geographic area in which assistance will be directed and the rationale for these geographic allocations and priorities. Include the name of each project sponsor, the zip code for the primary area(s) of planned activities,

amounts committed to that sponsor, and whether the sponsor is a faith-based and/or grassroots organization.

5. The Plan describes the role of the lead jurisdiction in the eligible metropolitan statistical area (EMSA), involving (a) consultation to develop a metropolitan-wide strategy for addressing the needs of persons with HIV/AIDS and their families living throughout the EMSA with the other jurisdictions within the EMSA; (b) the standards and procedures to be used to monitor HOPWA Program activities in order to ensure compliance by project sponsors of the requirements of the program.
6. The Plan includes the certifications relevant to the HOPWA Program.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan HOPWA response:

Not applicable

Specific HOPWA Objectives

1. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the strategic plan.

3-5 Year Specific HOPWA Objectives response:

Not applicable

OTHER NARRATIVE

Include any Strategic Plan information that was not covered by a narrative in any other section.