For Period:
July 1, 2023, through
June 30, 2024

City of Merced

2023 HUD Annual Action Plan

FINAL

Merced City Council Approved - June 5, 2023

HUD Approved - August 28, 2023

Amendments: First Substantial Amendment – January 2, 2024 (City Council)

Second Substantial Amendment – May 6, 2024 (City Council)







City of Merced Housing Division
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

Second Substantial Amendment

Merced City Council Approved May 6, 2024

Submitted to HUD June 12, 2024, to approve corrected Expected Resources and subsequent removal of projects to balance the corrected figures.

The primary need for a second amendment is due to the discovery of unintended miscalculations of CDBG financial resource figures when the initial (first) amendment was being readied for its January 2024 City Council approval. Given its urgent nature, Council and HUD approved the first amendment, conditioned with the directive to Housing Division staff to immediately start a second amendment process that would correct the errors, which now necessitates eliminating and/or postponing additional projects in order to balance the budget. This second amendment process will satisfy that conditioned approval, allowing the City to then close out the 2023-24 Program Year with accurate project lists and financial calculations.

Please see the new section titled "9. Second Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan" at the end of the Executive Summary (AP-05) for details about this amendment.

First Substantial Amendment

Merced City Council Approved January 2, 2024

Submitted to HUD January 3, 2024, to approve repurposed use of CDBG funds.

The primary reason for this Substantial Amendment is the need to accelerate expenditure of CDBG funds by the City's May 2, 2024, CDBG Timeliness Text date. This amendment moves CDBG funding to new activities that will expend these funds faster, as well as removing previously approved projects from which this funding is being taken. The secondary reason for the amendment is to help facilitate badly needed affordable housing units in the City with the purchase of land for a 156-unit 100% affordable rental housing project in Merced.

Please see the section titled "8. First Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan" at the end of the Executive Summary (AP-05) for details about this amendment.

Additionally, various sections of text throughout the plan have been updated to reflect the changes made with this amendment and also corrects minor details, punctuation, and spelling errors throughout the plan.

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan (the “ConPlan”) is a document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that assessed and analyzed local conditions and issues related to housing, homelessness, community development, and economic development and serves as a comprehensive housing affordability strategy, community development plan, and submission for funding under any of HUD’s entitlement formula grant programs spanning the period of time from July 2020 to June 2025. Utilizing a comprehensive outreach and citizen participation process, the Consolidated Plan described priority needs of the community and developed strategies to address those needs.

The ConPlan for Housing and Community Development was established through legislation passed by the U.S. Congress in 1990. Under the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, jurisdictions that receive federal entitlement funds for housing and community development activities are required to prepare a comprehensive three- to five-year plan for using those funds. Each year, the goals and priorities of the ConPlan are carried out through Annual Action Plans, which detail how the City will use its funding towards the accomplishment goals laid out in the ConPlan.

This City of Merced 2023 Annual Action Plan covers the fourth-year goals described in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and covers the period spanning July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, a timeframe also referred to within as "the 2023 Program Year." The Annual Action Plan identifies various activities proposed to be funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and other fiscal resources to be received from HUD, as well as non-federal sources, such as Program Income received from existing State-funded first-time homebuyer loans with the City, and the City of Merced's own resources, such as Enterprise, Housing Successor Agency (HSA), and General Funds. The City expects to receive $1,034,373 in CDBG funds and $573,200 in HOME funds, totaling $1,607,573 from HUD as entitlement formula grants during the 2023-24 fiscal year. Including anticipated and received program income, projected carryover, and CDBG and HOME entitlement formula allocations, the City has a total Annual Plan budget for the 2023 program year of approximately $8,991,757 (amended with First Substantial Amendment).

The entitlement formula utilizes population information, poverty level, and overcrowded housing data to establish funding allocations. The City of Merced qualifies as a CDBG entitlement City based on the grant formula. The City, the County of Merced (including the Continuum of Care), the County of Merced Housing Authority, and other regional agencies coordinate their efforts to provide a balanced approach to community needs using their available resources.

Methods of Evaluation

In preparing the Five-Year ConPlan in 2020, the City utilized several methods to analyze the housing and community development needs of Merced. Methods included hosting resident and stakeholder focus groups on affordable housing needs and potential housing-related policies, surveying community residents and stakeholders, surveying multi-family unit property owners, and utilizing information in several City and county planning documents. The City hosted community meetings and hearings and met with organizations as an effort to outreach to and encourage the participation of all residents, particularly low- and moderate-income residents, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities. The purpose of the meetings was to inform the community about the ConPlan process and to identify opportunities to improve collaborative efforts and eliminate service delivery gaps in order to develop and sustain decent and affordable housing, suitable living environments, and expanded community and economic opportunities. Likewise, in preparing this 2023 Annual Action Plan, which updates the ConPlan with "year four" projects and resources, the City used many of these same methods of evaluation to update the prior-year efforts.

Action Plan Format

In 2012, HUD released its eCon Planning Suite with interactive tools and resources for grantees to use in the preparation of the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan in the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). This new tool provides data from HUD-selected sources, primarily the most-recent Census and American Community Survey (ACS) data sets available. Despite the primary reliance on HUD-selected data sources, grantees are permitted opportunities to customize their ConPlan and Annual Plan.

COVID-19

In Spring of 2020, while preparing the draft of the 2020-2024 ConPlan, a new coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease COVID-19 that spread globally. The first case was reported in the United States in January 2020. In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic, and the President declared the outbreak a national emergency. During the same time, the State of California declared a state of emergency, shutting down large gathering places and limiting the movement of residents. Locally, the City and County of Merced both declared a local state of emergency on March 13, 2020.

Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in response to the crisis, and it was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act is an over $2 trillion economic relief package that provided direct economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserves jobs for industries. As part of the CARES Act, additional assistance was provided for HUD grantees, and the City received CARES Act allocations of CDBG funds (CDBG-CV funds) in Rounds 1 and 3. The City amended its 2019 Annual Action Plan after each round of allocations to include each CARES Act

distribution and implement programs specific to the assessed needs that arose. The City received a total of $1,193,573 of CDBG-CV funds, and repurposed $125,239 of regular CDBG funds to be used towards combating the local effects of the pandemic. These funds are still being distributed throughout the community.

The crisis drastically affected the preparation of the ConPlan, requiring a re-invent of effective means of citizen participation locally, largely through the use of online surveys to poll residents, schools, community business partners, and health agencies. As the pandemic continues to wane into a new normalcy and internet technology (and access to it) increasingly becomes a daily part of today's societal norms, the use of internet-based ways of reaching residents has become part of the City's normal outreach each Annual Plan update. It has proved the most effective way to both reach residents and local agencies ***and*** obtain their participation, allowing the City to see a consensus of community needs in order to move forward with public hearings and a final draft plan.

In 2020 however, some residents felt outreach through surveys alone had been insufficient, and that direct outreach with residents still needed to be accomplished. As such, two virtual outreach meetings were held (September 2020), and the City held a second round of public review and comment period and public hearings. In November 2020, the City Council approved the final draft of the ConPlan, 2020 Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. However, due to multiple overlapping HUD processes and deadline constraints, including the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and another CARES Act Substantial Amendment process, more delays accumulated, and the City did not receive HUD approval and access to 2020 program funds until March 2021, nearly nine months into the program year, with subrecipient agreements still to be executed.

COVID-19 (continued)

The accumulated delays resulted in gaps in assistance to vulnerable residents via the public service programs that received late funding, which placed some programs in jeopardy of closing completely, and 2020 projects were not able to start until the 2021 program year. Now, as we approach the end of the 2022 Program Year in preparing this 2023 plan, three years after COVID-19 arrived, we are nearly fully recovered from the snowball effect of these delays, but not completely. One or two programs may not be closed out until after the start of the 2023 Program Year, and infrastructure projects, last to be caught up, will continue into 2023 (NOTE: some of these projects were amended with the First Substantial Amendment - see "8. Amendments to the 2023 Annual Action Plan).

As a result of COVID-19 itself, the immediate need categories of residents did not vary significantly from yearly trends; however, they intensified – for example, rental assistance to prevent homelessness became an intense need, as was the need to support LMI families experiencing food insecurity. These needs have been consistent over recent years but were amplified, especially the needs of very low- to low-income residents, including LMI business owners.

The American Rescue Plan of 2021 - HOME-ARP funding

In an ongoing effort to provide additional relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses, on March 10, 2021, Congress passed the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP). It was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, and became Public Law 117-2. The ARP builds upon previously enacted COVID-19 aid measures in 2020 and early 2021, including the CARES Act, a year-end spending and aid package, and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).

ARP includes funding assistance for agriculture and nutrition programs; schools; childcare; COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, treatment, and prevention; emergency rental assistance; small business assistance; direct recovery rebate payments to families; and programs for health care and transportation workers, veterans, and other targeted populations.

Specifically, an aspect of the ARP that the City will eventually manage through the Annual Action Plan process involves Congress's instruction that a total of $5 billion in nationwide funding, to be awarded using the 2021 HOME allocation formula (HOME-ARP funds), be directed to various activities benefiting those who have been impacted by the effects of COVID-19 the most – those who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, and others where assistance or services would prevent homelessness or serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability.

On April 28, 2021, HUD notified the City of Merced of a one-time HOME-ARP allocation of $1,988,778 that would be distributed to the City. In September 2021, HUD issued CPD Notice 21-10: "Requirements for the Use of Funds in the HOME-American Rescue Plan Program," and in October 2021, the City Manager signed a HOME-ARP Grant Agreement with HUD, giving immediate access to 5% of the allocation for administrative use to prepare a plan for the use of the HOME-ARP funds (HOME-ARP Allocation Plan).

Between November 1, 2022, and March 20, 2023, the City prepared and adopted its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, and on April 11, 2023, the Allocation Plan was accepted and approved by HUD. Development of the Allocation Plan required separate consultation, public input, and needs assessment processes and a Substantial Amendment to the 2021 Annual Action Plan. The City intends to use the HOME-ARP funds towards the production of affordable rental housing, with the inclusion of supportive services, to benefit individuals and families in all of the four qualifying populations (QP's).

January 2023 Storms and Resulting Floods

The 2022 winter season was unprecedented and one of, if not the, wettest ever on record for Merced City and the surrounding area. Throughout Merced County, soils and storm water systems were repeatedly saturated and tested through a very wet Fall rainy season, with the worst storms yet to come in January 2023.

On Wednesday, January 4, 2023, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency as a preemptive response to several powerful storms expected to hit California that week, and Merced County activated the Merced County Emergency Operations Center as a precautionary measure. A heavy storm hit Merced on Saturday, January 7, 2023, and was expected to continue through Tuesday, January 10, 2023. On January 7, 2023, and again on January 14, 2023, City Manager/Director of Emergency Services Stephanie Dietz issued first and second proclamations declaring the existence of a local emergency, which allowed for activation of the City's Emergency Operation Center (EOC), in preparation for likely flooding to come. EOC Staff held daily planning and operational meetings with all City departments and local cooperators, such as Merced County, Merced Irrigation District, and Merced School Districts. An evacuation center and shelter was set up at the Merced County Fairgrounds, with the expectation that some residents may be displaced and/or not be able to access their homes during potential flooding, which also later became temporary headquarters for FEMA to assist flood victims.

As predicted, this storm caused local creeks levels, particularly that of Bear Creek, to rise past flood stage and, as storm drains empty to the Bear Creek, also overwhelmed the City's stormwater drainage system, flooding city streets. Within the city limits, the West North Bear Creek Drive area was severely affected, and ground-level units of several apartment complexes were flooded. Outside the city limits, as a result of broken levees, the Planada and McSwain-area communities experienced devastating flooding conditions and heavy property damage to homes and businesses, though no loss of life. More strong storms continued through April 2023, and the ensuing seasonal snowmelt of the record snowpack that had accumulated in the nearby Sierra Mountains also caused creeks to rise, but without any further flooding.

The displacement of tenants and homeowners countywide strained this area of already low vacancy rates and exposed a new 2023 priority need for tenant protections for affected renters and tenant/landlord counseling. The City responded by expanding its partnership with Project Sentinel Inc. to provide this activity as a Public Service project for the 2023 Program Year. On April 17, 2023, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2548, which added Chapter 9.75 "Displaced Tenant Protections" to the Municipal Code. The new ordinance applies to all rental units that were damaged by the January 2023 flooding and offers protections to their tenants, including right of first refusal following completion of repairs made necessary by flood damage and a restriction on rent increases.

Broadband Internet Services

Internet is an essential communications and information platform that allows users to take advantage of the increased interconnectedness of business, education, commerce, and day to day utility. Reliable access to the internet is becoming a necessity to thrive in the modern economic environment, especially at broadband speeds. Broadband access is defined as advertised internet speeds of 768 kilobits per second or higher. FCC data shows four major infrastructure options within Merced: Cable, DSL, Fiber, and Fixed Wireless.

Broadband Coverage and Providers

Section MA-60 of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan evaluated the need for broadband and wiring connections for households, including low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods, and found that Merced does not have significant gaps in broadband coverage and providers.

Once broadband access has been obtained, it is important to ensure there is competition among service providers. Any resource that has a de facto monopoly on an area may not be incentivized to provide standard and consistent services. Merced has a total of eight (8) Internet providers offering residential service, including to LMI areas. AT&T (DSL) and Earthlink (DSL) are the strongest providers in Merced so far as coverage. The average Merced household has at least four (4) options for broadband-quality Internet service; however, an estimated five percent (5%) of locals still don't have access to more than one provider and may have to rely on low-grade wireless.

These providers frequently overlap around the city: AT&T Internet (DSL and Fiber), Earthlink (DSL and Fiber), Xfinity (Cable), Fire2Wire (Fixed), UnWired Broadband (Fixed), Ayera Technologies (Fixed), Viasat Internet (formerly Exede) (Satellite), and HughesNet (Satellite).

The City's Efforts to Expand Broadband Access to LMI Residents

Communities that lack broadband access struggle to keep pace with the country. Locations without broadband access impedes its population's ability to take advantage of the educational and entrepreneurial opportunities available online. This is particularly problematic for LMI areas where economic opportunities may already be lacking. Studies suggest a strong correlation between increased high-speed internet access and increased education and employment opportunities, especially in small cities and rural areas.

Although the City of Merced does not have significant gaps in broadband coverage on the wider sense, actually securing broadband access may not be evenly obtainable by disadvantaged, low-income households.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it became abundantly clear that access to broadband was not evenly available across disadvantaged communities. Nearly 56% of all residents were employed as essential workers during the pandemic and had limited resources to secure access to internet services their children needed during remote learning times. The pre-pandemic internet status quo was no longer good enough, and the City paid attention.

On December 6, 2021, the City Council approved $2.6 million of ARPA funding to be allocated to Broadband Regional Capital Improvement. The City entered into a MOU with the County of Merced to fund a Countywide Broadband Feasibility study. The County issued an RFP for the feasibility study and selected the vendor Magellan Advisors. The vendor has performed community outreach via surveys and stakeholder input sessions. In September of 2022, the County was awarded a $500,000 LATA (Local Area

Technical Assistance) Grant from the CPUC for conceptual design of a countywide broadband network. The County plans to work with through the Golden State Connect Authority and RCRC for design and build of the future broadband network once the CPUC Open Access Middle Mile Priority 1A network maps are released in June 2023.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

The City's priority need objectives and outcomes are based on the availability of CDBG and HOME funding allocation each year. In preparing the Annual Action Plan and contemplating what types of projects will be funded, the projects and funding amounts are based on assumptions that CDBG funding, entitlement funding distribution formulas and/or the number of HUD communities eligible to receive entitlement grants will remain constant. If any of these conditions change, projected activities and accomplishments are also subject to change.

The needs assessment that was accomplished in the 2020-2024 ConPlan will continue to help guide us over the five-year span included assessments based on community characteristics, housing market and housing needs, strategies to address homelessness and help those at risk of homelessness, and ways to bolster jobs and economic development.

Target Populations

The needs assessment that has been completed as a part of the 2023 Annual Action Plan process closely mirrors that of the ConPlan and First, Second, and Third-year Annual Plans, in identifying the following target populations, ranked in approximate order of placing from surveys:

- Extremely low income and low-income households (those at risk of becoming homeless);
- Special needs populations (frail elderly, victims of domestic violence/abuse, or persons with disabilities, alcohol or drug addiction, or HIV/AIDS)
- Homeless persons;
- Children, youth, and adolescents
- Veterans

Barriers to Housing

Being able to locate safe, affordable housing for you and your family should ideally be a basic and barrier-free element of living in an established community like the City of Merced. However, residents who responded to the community needs survey stated that they have experienced or observed the following barriers to finding decent, safe housing, listed most experienced/observed to least:

1. Cost of housing
2. Utility cost
3. Affordable housing options available only in certain locations
4. Overall lack of available units
5. Lack of diversity in housing stock (i.e. single-family homes, apartments, townhouses)
6. Condition of housing units
7. Lack of units available to people with pets or support animals
8. Distance to employment, schools, shopping, or services
9. Transportation or access to public transportation
10. Unit size (too few or too many bedrooms)
11. Accessibility for people with disabilities or disabling conditions
12. Other barriers not listed
13. Housing restricted based on age

Essential Project Types

Several types of projects were also identified as essential to the community for the 2023 program year:

- Public improvements that build or improve neighborhood infrastructure and streetscapes, such as new/improved streets, water and sewer lines, sidewalks/crosswalks, and storm drainage.
- Programs or projects that increase jobs in the community.
- Public services programs with area nonprofit agencies, particularly those programs that provide services to those with special needs, the homeless, those that address homeless prevention, childcare, and programs for veterans, in that order.
- Programs that provide, promote, or enable decent, safe, affordable housing, that help LMI homeowners with necessary repairs, and funding that will provide for the construction of new rental housing for LMI tenants.
- Programs that help create affordable homeownership opportunities, make childcare better and more affordable, and provide employment training and workforce development.

Ranked Needs and Activities by Category

Additionally, through a combination of electronic resident needs assessment survey responses, public agency consultation survey responses, hybrid virtual/in-person town hall meetings, resident and stakeholders meetings discussions, and feedback during housing-related Council meetings, the following needs and activities were ranked highest and most important by respondents and attendees:

- Housing– 1) decent, safe affordable housing, especially creation of affordable rental housing; 2) repairing homes owned by LMI households; and 3) low-interest financial assistance for LMI homebuyers

- Neighborhood Improvements/Infrastructure – 1) building or improving neighborhood infrastructure and streetscapes, including improving water and sewer lines, streets, tree planting, sidewalks/crosswalks, and drainage/flood prevention; 2) eliminating environmental hazards, such as litter/trash/dumped items, vacant or dilapidated buildings, and overgrown lots; and 3) upgrading parks and recreational facilities
- Economic Development – 1) financing projects that increase or create jobs; and 2) low-interest business development loans, microenterprise assistance, or other business support for LMI business owners; and 3) providing financing for job training programs
- Public Services – 1) providing services for people with special needs, like the elderly, victims of domestic violence/abuse, veterans, or persons with disabilities; 2) providing services for people that are homeless or food insecure; and 3) providing afterschool programs and childcare for children and youth
- Fair Housing Education – 32.3% of survey respondents answered that they are unaware of their rights under Fair Housing and Anti-Discrimination laws (a decrease of over 13% over last year's survey). The responses from this year's survey seem to signal a slight increase in the effectiveness of fair housing and anti-discrimination education efforts. Still, even with slight improvements, survey results show that a deeper effort should still be made by the City and its fair housing partner organization to reach and distribute education materials to renters and landlords to promote better understanding of their protections and rights, as approximately 11% of respondents reported that they are aware of potential housing discrimination incidents in the last five years, most often suspected of being based on income levels, race/ethnicity, and source of income.

Additionally, from the 2023 Community Needs Survey, the following types of projects were ranked in order of the most underfunded but with the greatest need, from highest to lowest (note: affordable rental housing was not presented as an option for this question, but this need is consistently ranked number one in open-topic discussions and surveys alike):

1. Affordable homeownership opportunities
2. Affordable quality childcare
3. Employment training/workforce development
4. Small business assistance (access to microenterprise grants or loans)
5. Homeless prevention
6. Sidewalks, lighting, crosswalks
7. Programs for domestic violence victims or mental health and substance abuse patients
8. Services for disabled persons
9. Programs to assist re-entry into community by formerly incarcerated persons

Weighing Needs vs. Available Funding

While the Housing Division would like to fund all of these needed programs and projects, the reality is that the necessary funding and administrative staffing resources needed to run the programs will need to be secured from a variety of resources and partnerships.

Given the City's relatively small CDBG and HOME allocations in comparison to the infinite amount of needed services, infrastructure, and LMI housing opportunities, funds to build enough affordable housing, complete large capital improvement projects, provide first time homebuyer assistance, or even create more programs to help prevent homelessness will need to come from other sources, such as other Federal or State grants or creative local funding strategies, as they become available and/or if the City successfully scores high enough to meet program guideline thresholds and funding availability.

Identifying, addressing, making progress on, and ultimately striving to solve or achieve these issues, projects, and goals will take time, and some will take longer than others.

One Year and Continuing Goals

The City has identified the following goals and anticipated outcomes to accomplish through collaboration with non-profit organizations and other agencies, both year-to-year and over a span of several years:

1. Make Housing More Affordable for Merced Residents: the greatest housing issue the City continues to face is the insufficient supply of affordable rental and homeownership housing units. The topic of affordable housing and policies to encourage the development of affordable housing was a major focus of discussion during the development of this plan. Accordingly, over most recent years, the City has been proactive in looking for ways to increase the number of affordable units, whether by creating workable, custom-fit policies unique to Merced, by seeking funding opportunities and creative subsidy layering strategies, creating pro-housing policies, or a combination of all. Last year, we examined and acted on avenues to amend or create policy aimed at encouraging the development of affordable housing by outside developers.

As a result of our efforts, the 2023 program year appears promising for affordable housing in the City of Merced, as recent State awards have brought two large affordable housing projects closer to fruition for this coming year: 1) 108 units of 30-60% AMI affordable units with farmworker housing - Bella Vista Apartments by Visionary Home Builders; and 2) 156 affordable rental units, including 123 units for families, 31 units for special needs populations, and two manager units – Devonwood Apartments by The Richman Group and Central Valley Coalition for Affordable Housing.

In Spring of 2022, the City began formal negotiations and the preparation of necessary documents for disposition of all ten of its State Housing Successor Agency (HSA) properties to three different affordable housing development partners, Linc Housing, Fuller Center for Housing of Merced County, and CC915 Merced, Inc., for various affordable housing projects – duplexes, single family homes, and "container" apartment units for homeless veterans. CC915 Merced, Inc.'s 20-unit "container" CA State Homekey-

funded project with supportive services is currently under construction at the property located at 73 South R Street, with progress being slowed by an exceptionally rainy winter. When completed by this summer, this project will house most, if not all, the homeless veteran population in Merced. The City continues to work with Linc Housing and the Fuller Center of Merced County to transfer ownership and develop the other nine former RDA/HSA properties.

On July 28, 2022, the Childs and B Street Affordable Housing Project – now renamed "The Retreat at Merced Apartments" – received its final occupancy clearance and began allowing approved tenants to move in. Its 89 affordable units (including one manager unit), plus 30 permanent supportive units for formerly homeless, help to relieve the strain on local rental housing vacancy rates – though hundreds more units are needed to fully ease it. The related multi-modal bus stop, bicycle transportation improvements, water, sewer, and storm drain, and neighborhood park improvements and amenities installed through State grant awards and City enterprise fund investment also improve quality of life for tenants and neighbors.

One Year and Continuing Goals - Continued (1)

More funding sources and projects are in the works. Thanks to an unexpected change of ownership in January 2021 of the 2004-constructed The Grove Apartments that resulted in a large payoff of CDBG, HOME, Section 108 loan, and LMI Asset (former Redevelopment Agency) funds, the Gateway Terrace II project's 40 affordable units (plus 10 units for homeless veterans) now has alternative local funding to rejuvenate the project and see start of construction within the next year. Moreover, as aforementioned, the City submitted its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to HUD in late March 2023, and after approval of the plan on April 11, 2023, gains access to $1,988,778 of HOME-ARP funds (less administrative funds) that will be used towards production of affordable rental housing for all qualifying populations, with accompanying supportive services.

Past Actions

In May 2021, the City put out a request for qualifications for affordable housing developers. Several partners were chosen, and with the aid of several preliminary funding commitments, are working through the planning, purchasing, and construction phases of their projects.

In November of 2021, following extensive public surveying and conversation, the Merced City Council (Council) gave initial direction to staff to set aside funding to affordable housing development from its U.S. Treasury American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund allocation. In December 2021, $6.5 million was pledged toward funding affordable housing projects.

Also in November 2021, the City applied for 2021 State CalHome Program funding, in partnership with Self-Help Enterprises, to provide First Time Homebuyer (FTHB) Mortgage and Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) Assistance to Merced residents totaling $2,500,000. On April 19, 2022, the City was notified that the application was successful, and will be awarded $1,125,000 for FTHB and $1,375,000

for OOR program assistance, which will provide funding for a proposed 12 units of mortgage assistance, 9 units of OOR, and 1 unit of Accessory Dwelling or Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU/JDU) for residential property owners (another way to generate affordable housing units). To help administer these State-funded programs, the City intends to use $36,000 of its HSA LMI Asset funds to contract with Self-Help Enterprises. The City is currently working with Self-Help to receive State approval of guideline documents.

On December 20, 2021, Council authorized application to and adoption of an allocation plan for State of California Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) Plan funds that the City of Merced is eligible for each year as a part of SB2 and the Permanent Local Housing Allocation Program. The PLHA Program is funded in large part from recording and other fees collected and deposited into the Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund. Each year, entitlement and non-entitlement local governments can apply for and receive funds from this permanent, ongoing source of funding for housing-related projects and programs that assist in addressing the unmet housing needs in their communities. The City is eligible for approximately $3,112,314 of these funds over the five-year span of 2019-2023. On June 6, 2022, the Council approved acceptance and appropriation of $1,324,969 of 2019 and 2020 PLHA funds to UPholdings, Inc. for their 67-unit “Mercy Village.” UPholdings continues to work to assemble sufficient funding for the project. In November 2022, the Council issued a funding commitment letter to Linc Housing, pledging the 2021-2023 PLHA funds to their project, a 54-unit affordable apartment complex.

One Year and Continuing Goals - Continued (2)

In late December 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution 2021-109, authorizing a joint application and participation in Round 2 of the California Department of Housing and Community Development’s (HCDs) Homekey Program to jointly apply with Up Holdings California LLC and RH Community Builders LP for Homekey funding towards a motel acquisition and rehabilitation/conversion project at 1213 V Street in Merced. The motel had served as a Project Roomkey location during the COVID-19 pandemic. With proposed financing also involving U.S. Treasury American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding of $1.69 million, this project will convert a current 95-room motel to affordable housing for chronically homeless (“at-risk”) households and permanent supportive housing for those currently experiencing homelessness. All units will be studio units and support services will be made available on site. On March 28, 2022, HCD notified the City that the project would be awarded $24,024,054 of Homekey funding, and the project continues to work towards completion.

As aforementioned at the top of this section, the City of Merced has taken decisive policy-related actions to further affordable housing in an inclusive and balanced manner. The City has listened to the urgings expressed by its residents over the last three years to find balanced policy solutions that aim to increase affordable housing in the community. The City recognizes that the adjacent University of California Merced campus’ student and staff population has grown along with the City as a whole, and although there is some housing on campus, there has been an increased strain on existing units, and thus, a need for more housing within the City limits.

In September of 2021, the City Council reviewed staff's report on pro-housing strategies and listen to public input on the topic. Various tools were discussed, the Council directed staff to work with the County and Cities to explore options for a regional approach to affordable housing with Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG). They made available $5 million to support this regional effort.

Additionally, the City has modified some of the zoning ordinances to simplify and streamline affordable housing production of all types. For example, the City has updated its ordinances on accessory dwelling units, parking requirements, infill development, and is developing programs to make it easier to construct ADU's, duplexes, and triplexes.

Additionally, in April of 2022, the Council adopted Resolution 2022-15 approving a Regional Housing Needs Allocation Unit Production Plan. The Plan's intent is centered on developing a mechanism for an accountability process requiring the production of affordable housing units as part of new market rate development and is meant as an interim affordable housing production plan until further study can be completed. The intent was to utilize a tool that is similar to Inclusionary Zoning policies, but yet tailored to the City of Merced's desire to maintain a balance between the number of units needed and the business and profit margin needs of the builders themselves. Council's direction was to require the provision of affordable housing at 12.5% when certain discretionary land use entitlement actions would be considered by the Council. More specifically, the production of affordable units would be implemented when land use entitlements require the execution of the following discretionary actions:

- Pre-Annexation Development Agreement (PADA)
- Development Agreement (DA)
- Legislative Action Agreement

Council gave further direction to prepare an assessment of this policy, including a nexus study and determination of in-lieu fees, that may be assessed as an alternative to constructing inclusionary units.

One Year and Continuing Goals - Continued (3)

The City has a variety of housing policy projects ongoing and near completion, using a combination of California State grants for Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) and SB2 funds. Each project is designed to affirmatively further fair housing by creating more opportunities for innovative affordable housing development. The City has a consultant working on evaluating the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Unit Production Plan, which includes developing an in-lieu fee structure. As part of this effort, in March 2023, the City submitted to the State an application for ProHousing Designation and the ProHousing Incentive Pilot (PIP) Program grant. The City is nearing completion of its Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)/Cottage Home program. The end result of this program will be a catalog of pre-approved, plan checked, architectural designs for ADU/Cottage Homes that people can use free of charge, all they will need to do is chose their design, get a building permit, and start to build. A similar program is in the works for pre-approved plan checked, duplex and triplex designs.

The City is working on updating its Subdivision Ordinance and other zoning code updates to include Tiny Homes. The City seeks to establish specific zoning districts (Planned Developments, small lots, etc.) where Tiny Homes will be allowed and to establish design standards for such homes. Modification of Title 20 of the zoning code is underway as well, to comply with state law on Density Bonus and SB9.

In January 2022, the City had a Request for Proposals open for a consultant to conduct a Downtown Housing Feasibility Study. The purpose of this study is to analyze the housing needs in the downtown area specifically related to the development of the High-Speed Rail station with Transit Oriented Development. Deliverables will include financial proformas of two potential development locations on existing parking lot parcels, preserving the existing parking while adding more parking for residents, providing a conceptual site plan, elevations, and floor plans for a mixed-use affordable apartment complex. The City expects to award this agreement for professional services in early April 2023.

2. Increasing the Number of Permanent Supportive Units: In July of 2022, with HUD funds, the Childs and B Street Affordable Housing/Retreat Apartments project added 30 permanent supportive units for homeless individuals to the City's housing inventory.

Via an existing partnership with Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project for the purchase and rehabilitation of five existing units, this project will convert market rate duplex and single-family units to both LMI and permanent supportive rental units. These five units are contained on three separate properties, and future expansion is potentially possible with a garage conversion project to gain another unit.

One Year and Continuing Goals - Continued (4)

Additional permanent supportive units will be completed by Summer 2023 through a separate $4.4 million State Homekey award announced on March 14, 2022, for the City and Certified Container 915, also mentioned above, who will be enlisting the Merced Rescue Mission to manage once complete, to construct 20 units (plus one management unit) of permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans using former shipping containers converted to living space. An extremely important project for the regional effort to address homelessness, it will enable all 12 of the (estimated) unsheltered homeless veterans counted in the January 2022 Point in Time count to be permanently housed, plus an additional 8 that are currently housed in transitional or other temporary shelter arrangements. The City's contribution to the project is through a land donation of the property located at 73 South R Street, which is one of the State Housing Successor Agency properties the City has been working to dispose to a qualified affordable housing partner and project.

If the Gateway Terrace II Apartments project is successful with new funding strategies in continuing forward with construction, another 10 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans will be added through the use of VASH vouchers, although project completion may not occur until next program year (2024-2025). Once completed, combined with CC915's Homekey-funded container

housing project, this will mean that the entire population of homeless veterans counted countywide in January of 2022 will be permanently housed.

Also, as mentioned in "1" above, the City and UpHoldings California LLC, with RH Community Builders LP, received a $24 million State Homekey award to convert an existing 95-unit motel to approximately 80 units of permanent studio apartments, and rehabilitation work is currently progressing. Approximately 50 of those units will be set aside for case-managed permanent housing for homeless individuals. And, also mentioned above, the Mercy Village project - also with UpHoldings - will include more permanent supportive units with the support of City-provided State PLHA funding. UPholdings continues to work to assemble sufficient funding for the Mercy Village project.

3. Assisting Low-Income Homeowners with Housing Rehabilitation: oftentimes, low- to moderate-income individuals and families may be able to afford the initial purchase a home, but not be able to afford the inevitable large or even minor repairs that come with homeownership. Thus, last program year, the City included a restart of its Homeowner Rehabilitation program with Habitat for Humanity of Merced and Stanislaus Counties in the adopted Annual Plan. Housing staff is currently preparing the necessary environmental clearance to enable a three-year contract to be executed with Habitat, which the City will amend with additional new funding through the three-year period, including this 2023 program year. We expect to assist approximately nine low- to moderate-income homeowners with needed minor and/or major repairs over three years, thereby preserving and extending the long-term livability and legacy of the homes and making them safer for families to live in.

Additionally, as mentioned in "1" above, low-income homeowners will receive additional support with needed repairs over the next three years with $1,375,000 of 2021 CalHome funding the City and Self Help Enterprises was awarded for completion of Owner Occupied Rehabilitation projects within the City. The City and Self Help expect to assist another 9 homeowners through these State funds.

One Year and Continuing Goals - Continued (5)

4. Improving Streets and Parks with ADA Infrastructure projects: the City is setting aside $234,657 of 2023 CDBG funds towards project costs to improve ADA accessibility and energy efficiency at the Memorial Plunge Pool located at McNamara Park in South Merced. The park is located in HUD Income-Eligible Census Tract 16.01. The pool receives heavy use during the summer months, but the current equipment is inefficient – replacement of the equipment is expected to drastically lower utility bills and extend the useable season by approximately two months without an increase to the Parks Department's overall operations budget ***(NOTE: the First Substantial Amendment to this plan removed this project)***.

Additionally, the City will restart an infrastructure project that was previously approved in the 2019 Annual Action Plan but was not able to move forward due to separate issues with a related affordable housing project's environmental clearance (Gateway Terrace II). Previously encumbered CDBG funding of $275,000 that was connected to that project has been freed up to become carryover funds in this 2023 Annual Plan, then will be recommitted as a 2023 project. Environmental clearance for the

infrastructure project has been completed. The project involves replacement of aging water and sewer mains through a public utilities easement that passes through the housing project site at 1215 K Street and extends under Martin Luther King Jr. Way through adjacent alleyways, along with installation of ADA sidewalk improvements in the immediate area. The sewer main is partially collapsed and the water main, like many throughout the City, is aging and needs to be replaced.

The City is still working to complete environmental clearances for 2021 and 2022 program year ADA infrastructure and park improvement projects to enable them to move forward (NOTE: please see "8. Amendments to the 2023 Annual Action Plan" at the end of AP-05).

Infrastructure applies to emergency services, as well. In 2023, the Housing Division will provide $632,000 to the Merced City Fire Department to purchase and equip two Emergency Medical Service (EMS) health education assessment/referral team (HEART) vehicles and one off-road Emergency Assessment Vehicle (EAV). In 2022, the MFD responded to 11,672 calls for service, with the vast majority of the calls being for EMS response. Currently, service gaps exist between the time requirements of the local ambulance contractor to respond to Code 3 lights and siren calls and the ability of MFD EMT personnel to respond to Code 2 non-emergent calls the local contractor cannot service. With the use of CDBG funding, MFD has the opportunity to provide medical assessments and transport in a timely manner for those Code 2 calls.***(NOTE: the Second Substantial Amendment to this plan removed this project)***.

5. Fund Vital Public Service Programs that Address High Community Need: the City anticipates the provision of $214,239 in CDBG funding to assist public service programs that benefit low- to moderate-income individuals and families, especially those who are very low-income, at-risk or currently homeless, experiencing housing or food instability, or LMI youth. Each year, the City works to solicit non-profit organization proposals that address the highest needs of the community, and this year is no exception.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

Each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) assesses the City of Merced's management of CDBG program funds, the City's compliance with the ConPlan, and the extent to which the City is preserving and developing decent affordable housing, creating a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities. Overall, especially under the circumstances of the past three and a half years with the Coronavirus crisis, constraints on in-person meetings and large gatherings, managing additional CARES Act funding and programs, and finding creative ways to spur the production of affordable and permanent supportive housing to serve both at-risk and those experiencing homelessness, the City has performed satisfactorily in addressing its priority needs and carrying out the programs described in the ConPlan. The January 2023 floods have added yet another challenge for City staff, and although still actively recovering with some of the larger projects, regular yearly cycle

timelines are nearly reset. The City has evaluated its performance during the last program year in order to set goals and strategies for this year.

Successes

Over the last (2015-2019) Consolidated Plan cycle and over the first three years of the current 2020-2024 cycle, we have been consistently successful with the two acquisitions programs by Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project and Merced Rescue Mission (MRM), both of which convert a range of one to three units of market rate housing to permanent supportive rental units for homeless individuals and families each year. These two programs have provided not only the benefit to the clients being served with housing and vital case management, but the surrounding neighborhoods also benefit with the aesthetic improvement and the long-term managed upkeep of the homes thereafter. However, in a "seller's market" – where homes are selling at higher prices and buyer competition is high – MRM chose to withdraw their 2022 Request for Funding application and did not apply for 2023 funding, as purchasing a home in a competitive housing market with their 2021 CDBG funds proved difficult. However, in March 2023, MRM escrow closed on the purchase of a single-family home in North Merced that will provide housing for a previously homeless and/or low-income family, and Sierra Saving Grace experienced similar success with escrow closings on three properties in Central Merced with 2022-23 funding.

The 119-unit Childs and B Affordable Housing project, which broke ground in January 2021, was completed in July 2022 and began moving in tenants that month. All units are now fully occupied, and an official ribbon cutting ceremony was held on March 1, 2023, belated due in part to heavy winter rains. Renamed "The Retreat Apartments" for marketing purposes, this complex used $2 million of 2020 CDBG formula and program income funds towards the on-site Neighborhood Facility, which is now open for community use. The complex also features a swimming pool, community garden, and dog park for residents. 88 of the 119 units are affordable units, while 30 units are set aside for permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless. The City installed right-of-way improvements in the surrounding area, which included a new multi-modal transit stop, new and replaced sidewalks, curbs, and gutters, a storm drain basin, streetlights, and bike lanes and sharrow markings - funded by City enterprise funds and a $13.9 million State Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) award as part of the nearly $50 million total project financing.

Successes (Continued)

Additionally, the City is still making steady progress towards the Gateway Terrace II 50-unit affordable/permanent supportive housing project (10 units for homeless veterans). Following the January 2021 "The Grove Apartments" payoff of a large amount of Housing Successor Agency LMI Asset funds (former Redevelopment Agency funds), the City made plans to redirect these LMI Asset funds towards the stalled Gateway Terrace II, which HUD has determined cannot use federal CDBG and HOME funding sources. In the 2021 Annual Plan, $700,507 of LMI Asset funds were set aside to repay HUD for premature expenditures of pre-development soft costs, and the City is currently drawing up the

necessary draft documents for both the funding switch and the HUD repayment, which will both require future Council approval this Spring before moving forward.

Successes can also be celebrated with the ongoing progress that continues to be made with multiple affordable and permanent supportive housing projects, most especially the two State HCD Homekey funding awards, State CalHome funding, and recent State "Super NOFA" awards that were discussed above.

In 2022, the Housing Division's difficulty in consistently maintaining adequate staffing levels was relieved with the hiring of a third staff person. The increased activity delivery administrative revenue that can be charged for direct hours worked on current and progressing affordable housing projects greatly assists in our ability to maintain this current three-person level.

Further, the accumulated COVID-19 delays of the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Programs Years are nearly behind us, as the public service subrecipient agreements for the last of the backlogged programs from the 2021 and 2022 Program Years are executed and in place, with just Habitat for Humanity and parks/infrastructure projects remaining to implement. Coronavirus CDBG (CDBG-CV) programs still active are the rental/mortgage/utility assistance programs with Sierra Saving Grace and Salvation Army and the business/microenterprise assistance program with United Way, though the need for the assistance has waned sharply over the last year as the Coronavirus Pandemic has eased.

Lastly, on April 11, 2023, the City received HUD notification that the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan had been accepted and approved by HUD – thus, the City can now access the full $1,988,778 of HOME-ARP funding to use towards eligible new construction of rental housing with supportive services to all Qualifying Population (QP) groups.

Shortcomings

Due to the concentrated project backlog catchup efforts on public service programs and resulting staffing constraints over the past year, as of May 2023, we were unable to fully implement the restarted Homeowner Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) program under our partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Merced/Stanislaus Counties (HHMSC). However, we expect to be able to begin assisting homeowners by Summer of 2023. In 2021 and prior, National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) recordkeeping deficiencies discovered by HUD during a January 2020 monitoring of Housing Division environmental records kept the prior OOR program at a standstill. The monitoring findings reported that NEPA records of four 2015 assisted projects were not retained in written files as required. As a result, no further projects could be undertaken under the previous contract with HHMSC. Thus, the Housing Division restarted this beneficial partnership with HHMSC with the 2022 program year, which includes re-doing the required environmental impact analysis with the proper records retained. The City Council approved the 2022 HHMSC project as a three-year program to finish out the current ConPlan period through June 2025, with $150,000 of CDBG funding supplemented each year. As such, this 2023 Annual Plan includes $150,000 of CDBG funding to fulfill Year 2 of the program.

Secondly, while we made substantial progress on catching up to the bottlenecks created by COVID-19 related delays, additional funding and large amounts of program income, insufficient staffing levels, monitoring findings, and other matters, we are still finishing the year just behind our goal of 100% recovery by June 2023 – though all public services programming is fully caught up.

At the end of the last program year, the City of Merced was not the only entitlement jurisdiction struggling back to normal timelines – thus, on October 21, 2021, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of HUD issued a memorandum to all CDBG entitlement grantees that provided a temporary change in the normal "corrective action" process related to the required expenditure deadlines of on-hand CDBG funds. The memorandum granted leniency to grantees like the City of Merced who had more than 1.5 times their current CDBG allocation by the annual timeliness deadline of May 1, 2022. Last year, this leniency allowed us to overlap and complete the 2021 projects that were still behind as of the preparation of the 2022 Annual Plan last spring. However, with the next timeliness deadline on May 1, 2023, and large projects still outstanding, the City will likely need to work with HUD to develop a "Work-Out Plan" to spend down the rest of the excess funding in a timely manner.

Further, the constraints of a small Housing Division staff again became apparent beginning in October 2022, when HUD announced a firm deadline of March 31, 2023, for submission of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for HOME Participating Jurisdictions (PJ's) that desired to use this funding source towards eligible activities. As of October 2022, while the City intended to develop its Allocation Plan, we had planned to concentrate on getting caught up on backlogged programs first before beginning the specialized needs assessment, consultation, and citizen participation processes that the HOME-ARP plan preparation required. As a result of the new deadline, Housing staff's time was diverted away from continuing to move projects forward in order to work on the Allocation Plan, an effort that – while we will come up short on meeting our "catchup" goal of June 2023 – exhibited the quality and determination of our staff in getting the plan completed and submitted within the new timeframe, which should be recognized and commended.

What We Learned

As the dynamic of Merced continues to change and transform from a smaller, rural metropolitan area to the more progressive, socially-active dynamic of a UC college town, as well as a major rail transportation hub in the next decade that will likely change our demographic makeup, we continue to grow, seek new, and expand upon current relationships with advocacy groups and community organizations that will help us to improve services to and more effectively connect with low-income and disadvantaged populations that exist within our community and to plan for our future housing needs. Even as we recover and maintain more appropriate staffing levels in relation to workload, the ability of staff to regularly connect directly with low-income residents, attend neighborhood and Continuum of Care meetings, and attend staff trainings to deepen our staff's technical knowledge continues to be a challenge.

Valuable lessons were learned during the development of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan/First-year Annual Action Plan regarding the value of our resident advocacy groups in helping us make connections to interested residents, but it also exposed the need to find new and/or better ways to reach the populations that most need the funding assistance provided through each Annual Plan cycle. Each year, the expectation that internet access is a right not a luxury becomes more matter-of-fact and the norm – therefore, reaching more residents by internet-based methods rather than any other means has become both easier and surprisingly more fruitful in terms of resident participation. Simply put, we have learned that more residents are willing to respond to an internet survey than attend a meeting. However, there are those residents that prefer paper-based methods, so we also made a concentrated effort to make paper-based surveys available to residents to fill out and mail back.

As such, this year, we once again heavily utilized the internet and social media in distributing our Community Needs Survey and advertising and holding meetings, via website postings, and a hybrid of in-person and live streaming input meetings. We also used traditional methods to solicit participation, such as direct mail to ensure that the survey went out in the monthly utility bill newsletter, engaged with residents at in-person Town Hall meetings, distributing flyers at the local County library and State Employment Development Department, and participated in a local news radio station interview to inform listeners how they could participate in the development of this plan.

What Will We Change to be More Effective?

Recognizing that ways to reach residents in the community are continually changing and that most of the more efficient electronic means learned during the pandemic of reaching the public will likely stay and become part of the norm, the City will continue to look for better and deeper ways to reach a greater number of residents each year. We need to continue to make a robust commitment to a much deeper reach to very low- to moderate-income residents, the general business community, and to our service and agency partners in the City, not just during the development of each Annual Plan update, but throughout the year, while keeping in mind that boots on the ground methods may still be the best, as many residents might not have access to computers, social media, cellular phones, or other means of getting online to answer surveys and communicate their needs. In this way, we will be better equipped, informed, and innately able to anticipate and respond to the needs for the next year of funding by developing programs earlier than we have in the past.

Especially with more adequate Housing staffing, we continually need to spend time actively connecting so that we can truly provide to the community in the deep ways and areas that it is needed. Equivalently, the Housing Division needs to push and encourage our subrecipients to reach those sectors of citizens who may not know about the assistance that is available to them, as well as be more active in our City and County Continuum of Care at a staff-level so that we are a directly informed part of the important coordinated community conversations that are occurring.

Lastly, our Information Technology staff is currently working on developing a master list of mailing addresses for all apartment complexes in the City of Merced. Once this list is usable, Housing staff will

consider its use in assessing five-year and yearly community needs, to directly reach approximately 1,100 apartment units to ask them to respond to community surveys and provide input to the development of plans.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

City staff developed a detailed Citizen Participation Plan in 2013 that was updated in 2017 and again updated and adopted by City Council in 2020, the latter in response to the receipt of funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to include citizen participation procedures during times of federal, state, and local disaster declarations. The Citizen Participation Plan outlines the way the City communicates with residents regarding the use and expenditure of HUD funds.

Citizens were engaged through community meetings, news radio broadcasts, regular City Council meetings, Town Hall meetings, community surveys, and public hearings. Citizens who participated in the process received extensive information about the Annual Action Plan process, the citizen participation process, the HUD requirements for an entitlement City, the amount of funding that the City anticipates receiving, and how those funds can be used by the City. Residents were given the opportunity to provide City staff with their input on the prioritization of community needs and any other needs that have arisen over the past year. The City also consulted with public and private departments and agencies, and social service and non-profit organizations to understand the community's needs and available resources. Department staff provided input on how CDBG and HOME resources could be used and leveraged to provide services, programs, and housing funding to the community.

Citizens were encouraged to participate in three "hybrid" (in-person and virtual) community workshops and respond to a community needs survey, as well as attend two Public Hearings.

<u>HUD Memorandums and Notices Regarding CDBG Timeliness and 2023 CDBG/HOME Allocations</u>

At various times through the COVID-19 crisis nationwide since March of 2020, HUD has issued specific waivers to grantees of regulatory requirements related to minimum citizen participation and public review and comment periods requirements. No waivers were issued for the 2023 Annual Action Plan citizen participation and input process; therefore, the City of Merced developed this Annual Action Plan in accordance with its adopted Citizen Participation Plan.

On October 21, 2021, HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) issued a Memorandum to all CDBG grantees notifying them of a temporary change in the process for the application of corrective actions with regards to the untimely expenditure of CDBG funds. The regulation at 24 CFR 570.902 requires that a grantee have no more than 1.5 times its most recent CDBG entitlement grant (allocation) at 60 days prior to the end of its program year to be considered "timely" (this is May 1 annually for the City of Merced). Recognizing the unprecedented amounts of funding that

grantees, including the City of Merced, have been struggling to spend, HUD's October 21 Memorandum issued temporary policies that revised and softened its corrective actions for grantees who do not meet the 1.5 timeliness standard for the 2022 timeliness test date. As such, in a letter dated June 20, 2022, HUD informed the City that it would have 12 months to reach the 1.5 standard; however, due to both unexpected and continuing backlog of larger-dollar projects, the City will likely not meet the 2023 timeliness test and looks forward to working closely with HUD to develop a CDBG Workout Plan for expenditure of these funds.

Citizen Participation/Consultation - Continued

Meetings, Public Outreach, Consultation, and Comment Periods

** Note: for Citizen Participation information regarding Amendments to this Plan, see "8. Amendments to the 2023 Annual Action Plan" at the end of AP-05*

Information was disseminated, outreach and consultation was accomplished, and meetings and comment periods were held as noted below during the development and preparation of the 2023 Annual Action Plan:

- Community Needs Survey: November 16, 2022 – February 28, 2023
- Community Needs Survey QR codes and links provided in December 2022, January, and February 2023 Utility Bill newsletters
- Notice of Funding Availability - Information and Application posted on Housing Division website: December 1, 2022
- Funding Request Application Period: December 1, 2022 – February 15, 2023
- Annual Plan/HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Process Report to City Council: December 5, 2022 (6:00 p.m.)
- Invitation to Apply/NOFA Notification Letters mailed to 125 local organizations: week of November 14, 2022
- Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Non-Profit Program Funding Requests Published in Merced Sun-Star and Merced County Times: December 1, 2022
- Advertisement to City Residents: Community Input Needs Meeting and Survey QR code and links - published in Merced Sun-Star and Merced County Times on December 1, 2022
- Community Meeting Flyers distributed to Merced County Library, UC Merced & Merced College inviting residents to participate in Outreach Meetings
- KYOS Broadcast Radio Spot: "Community Conversation" interview with City Staff on Friday, December 16, 2022; air date: Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. (radio spots are also posted on the KYOS website: www.1480kyos.com) - community needs survey and the CDBG funding objectives.

- Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Resident Community Input and NOFA Public Service Community Information and Outreach Meetings: Monday, December 12, 2022 (6:00 p.m.); Tuesday, December 13, 2022 (6:00 p.m.); and Friday, December 16, 2022 (3:00 p.m.)
- City Council Town Hall Meetings: January 25, January 31, and February 9, 2023
- Social Media posts advertising community survey and Community Input Meeting dates, times, and location
- Notice of Public Hearing and 30-Day Public Review and Comment Period: Published in Merced Sun-Star and Merced County Times March 2, 2023
- 2023 Public, Governmental, Business, Health, and Service Agency Virtual Consultation survey: February 21, 2023 – March 3, 2023
- Public Hearing (First): March 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- Public Review and Comment Period: March 31, 2023 - May 15, 2023 (46 days) - Extended by Council
- Council Meeting – Report Item: April 17, 2023 (Council requested second review of project list and alternative project options); 6:00 p.m.
- Public Hearing (Final): the scheduled May 1, 2023 hearing was opened and continued to the June 5, 2023 meeting.
- Continued Public Hearing (Final): June 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
- Housing Division website (www.cityofmerced.org/housing) was kept up to date with news, survey links, and meeting/public hearing links and dates/locations.

5. Summary of public comments

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

** Note: for Public Comment information regarding Amendments to this Plan, see "8. Amendments to the 2023 Annual Action Plan" at the end of AP-05*

As required by HUD, citizens were solicited to participate in the development of this plan through community meetings, community needs surveys, town hall meetings, public hearings, and topic-related City Council meetings. Citizens who participated in the process received extensive information about the 2020-2024 ConPlan and the 2023 Annual Action Plan, the citizen participation process, the HUD requirements for an entitlement City, the projects being considered for funding, the amount of funding that the City anticipates receiving, and how those funds can be used by the City. Residents were given multiple opportunities to provide City staff with their input on the prioritization of community needs.

Community Needs Survey

During the preparation of the Annual Action Plan, an electronic Housing and Community Needs Survey available for survey takers to read and answer in English, Spanish, Hmong was administered. Direct “tiny

url" internet links and QR Reader Codes for the electronic version of the survey was placed on the City's Website and were mailed directly to utility bill customers to receive with their utility bills. The notice in the utility bill encouraged residents who wanted to take the survey on paper to call or email to request a paper version (or pick up in our office), and Housing staff received 9 responses this way (staff then entered those responses manually into the Microsoft Forms as an electronic response). Links were also placed on the City's Instagram and Facebook social media accounts and reposted multiple times throughout the survey period.

During hybrid in-person/virtual outreach meetings that were livestreamed on Microsoft Teams links, the links and QR codes were shown on the presentation screen, and staff encouraged residents watching from their devices to take the survey from the convenience of their home. Multiple attendees at the input meetings also responded on paper versions, which were also entered by staff as an electronic response for data collection purposes. During a radio interview spot by the KYOS news radio station, Staff also encouraged listeners to navigate to the Housing Division webpage for the survey QR code and direct links. Additionally, flyers advertising the survey were distributed at customer service areas in City Hall, at the County Library, and the local State employment office.

As a result of these efforts, a total of 338 respondents participated in the survey, an increase of 197 respondents over last year.

329 surveys were submitted in English, 9 in Spanish, and 0 responses were received in Hmong. With increased efforts to reach Spanish-speaking populations, there was a noted increase from 2022 in the percentage of primarily Spanish-speaking residents responding to the survey, from 1.5 to 7 percent of respondents (5.2% stated they read primarily in Spanish). No residents responded to the survey in Hmong, even though 0.9 percent and 0.3 percent speak and read in Hmong, respectively. 32.2% of respondents stated they were of Hispanic or Latino origin, an increase of just 0.2% over last year. 6.1% of respondents were Asian, 5.8% were Black/African American, 0.9% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 3.9% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 65.4% were White/Caucasian. 33.3% of respondents answered that their income levels range between $0 and $55,999 (generally extremely low- to moderate-income ranges for a single-person household).

The lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and increased inflation-related cost of living are starkly evident, as a combined 61.5% of the 338 respondents stated they have had difficulties paying their rent, mortgage, and utility bills (gas/electric/municipal utilities) during the last two years and had to make trade-offs between essential expenses to keep their housing, which was an increase of nearly 20 percentage points from last year's survey. Similarly, 19.2% stated that they have had difficulty affording necessary repair or improvements to their homes and 11.2% had experienced homelessness (approximately 8.7% and 3.8% increases respectively from last year's survey).

Community Needs Input and Service Organization Information Meetings

The City held three hybrid in-person/virtual community and service organization information and input workshops in December of 2022, where attending residents and community organizations had the opportunity to have focused discussion on issues and different topics within the community. Attendees were encouraged and welcomed to raise any issues affecting the Plan and address any housing-related topics at all meetings.

Each workshop was held in a hybrid in-person/virtual format. Those who wished to attend virtually were provided a Microsoft Teams link, where they could submit questions through the software's chat function for staff to answer live during the meeting or have a dialogue with in-person staff and other attendees through their device microphone. Virtual attendees could also join the meeting with their landline phones through the call-in phone number provided. Spanish and Hmong language interpreters attended each meeting in-person and were prepared to provide interpretation services, if needed. The in-person meetings were held in the Sam Pipes Room, which is a large ADA-accessible meeting room located on the first floor of City Hall.

Each of the three workshops featured two parts - Part One was focused to residents in attendance, explaining the role of the Housing Division and the funding and programs we administer, eligible uses of CDBG and HOME funds, the Consolidated, Annual Action Plan, and CAPER purpose and annual cycle, the different HUD National Objectives, determination of funding to address community need, and the Citizen Participation Plan and importance of resident participation in the process. Following Part One, residents were given time for questions and discussion.

Part Two of each workshop continued on for attending service organizations, and they were provided more detailed information and regulations regarding basic eligible activities, national objective compliance and beneficiary income criteria and requirements, the performance measurement system, uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, recordkeeping, reporting, and monitoring, income-eligible census tracts, and were provided a copy of HUD's "Playing by the Rules - A Handbook for Subrecipients on Administrative Systems." Attending organizations were also given time for questions and discussions, and these were very beneficial in forging relationships between organizations. Information was also provided about the application process, application deadlines, technical assistance appointments, and contact information for further questions.

Council Meetings/Public Hearings

On December 5, 2022, Housing staff provided the City Council and the Public with an informational report that discussed the upcoming citizen participation processes for both the 2023 Annual Action Plan and the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, as well as providing tentative dates for the respective public hearings.

A total of two public hearings were held (March 20, 2023, and May 1, 2023), with the May meeting being continued to June 5, 2023, and the comment period extended to May 15, 2023, and a third Council meeting was added in between the two original public hearings to provide Councilmembers

additional opportunity to discuss and provide direction to staff regarding final project funding. During these meetings, residents and council members were asked to identify any other community needs and priorities and identify any shifts of funding priorities and amounts before the Draft Annual Action Plan was finalized and approved. Additionally, comments and concerns expressed by citizens during the January/February Town Hall Meetings were noted.

The following is a list of some topics covered during the preparation of this plan and the above-mentioned meetings and hearings:

- High burden of utility costs for lower income households
- Limited job opportunities – creation of jobs
- Homelessness is a concern. Veterans, youth, and the chronic homeless were specific sub-populations discussed
- Supportive housing for homeless
- More affordable housing is needed to alleviate low vacancy rate and homelessness
- Affordable housing/inclusionary zoning policies
- Housing trust funds
- Housing resources for farm workers
- Housing vouchers
- Fair housing rights
- Rent control and protections
- Homeowner rehabilitation programs
- Substandard housing
- Job training programs
- Counseling/dispute resolution services for tenants and landlords

Please see the below and the tables in Section AP-12 Participation for summaries of the public comments received during community outreach for this plan.

2023 Annual Action Plan
City Council Public Meetings/Hearings and Public Comments Received

Monday, December 5, 2022; 6:00 p.m. – Agenda Item K.3. (Information Only Item)
Merced Civic Center – City Council Chambers, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced

Notes: At this Council meeting, staff presented information regarding upcoming public participation opportunities planned in conjunction with the 2023 Annual Action Plan preparation and for the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, as preparation activities for both plans were occurring at the same time. Staff spoke about the Community Needs Assessment surveys, the locations, and methods available to take the survey, and encouraged residents to take the survey and provide their input. Additionally, the dates, locations, and ways to attend for the three Community Input Meetings were provided in the report and in the staff presentation. Staff explained what CDBG and HOME funds can be used for in the community to address priority community needs, including affordable housing, rehabilitation, and public services. Additional allowed uses were explained for the HOME-ARP funds associated with that separate plan prep process. A timeline for completion of plan preparation activities was presented for each of the two plans, including anticipated public hearing dates.

Staff answered questions from the Council regarding HOME-ARP encumbrance deadlines and how information to non-English speaking residents was being disseminated to ensure they would be equally included. Staff explained that all outreach materials would be published in English, Spanish, and Hmong and that interpreters would be provided at all meetings and events.

Public Comment: No public comment was collected at this meeting, as this item was presented as "information only." However, information in the staff report was publicly available and staff provided contact information in the presentation for any questions.

Monday, March 20, 2023; 6:00 p.m. – Agenda Item J.1. (Scheduled Public Hearing)
Merced Civic Center – City Council Chambers, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced

Notes: At this Public Hearing, proposed expenditures and project funding using CDBG and HOME funds were introduced to inform the public and Council and to gather any public comment. Housing staff reviewed the citizen participation requirements and process and provided needs assessment results from the electronic survey and other outreach efforts conducted between December and February 2023. Community members in attendance were invited to provide further input for the public hearing.

Council discussed the proposed projects and provided direction to staff regarding public services funding amounts to meet the 15% public services cap. Council also asked staff to look for alternative projects to the Acquisition/Rehab program and requested more information about the WeeCare microenterprise program in order to determine other funding.

Comments from the public included:

- **Written comment submitted to City Clerk prior to meeting:** None
- **In-person comments received during the Public Hearing (2 speakers):** 1) *Leticia Luki (Harvest Time)* – explained there is very high food insecurity in the community, explained how they have assisted the community and its homeless residents with perishable food box and lunch box supplements for thirty years, and asked the Council for their support; 2) *Monika Grasley (Lifeline CDC)* – provided a slideshow presentation explaining how Lifeline CDC is helping to empower Loughborough Area residents to thrive.
- **Voicemail comments submitted to City Clerk and played during the meeting (2 voicemails):** 1) *Erik Ekezian* – emphasize significance of supporting economic development in the community and ensuring equal opportunities for everyone; urge policies and initiatives that drive economic growth and create a nurturing environment where businesses and residents can prosper; listen to diverse perspectives and work together to develop strategies to benefit residents; 2) *E.J. Elmer Lorenzi* – (provided the same voicemail comment as prior speaker)

Other: Council held the Public Hearing and, afterwards, held a discussion regarding the proposed funding for the 2023 program year. As a result of this discussion, the Council asked staff to return for the April 17, 2023, meeting with alternative project funding options, to explore whether there may be a better use of CDBG funds with a wider community benefit. The proposed projects in question were Sierra Saving Grace's 2023 Acquisition/Rehab project and WeeCare's childcare provider microenterprise proposal.

City Council Public Meetings/Hearings - Public Comment Summary (Page 1)

Monday, April 17, 2023; 6:00 p.m. - Agenda Item K. (Report Item) Merced Civic Center – City Council Chambers, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced
Notes: At this meeting, staff presented an alternative project funding option (Fire Department EMS vehicles) and more information regarding the WeeCare "Boost" microenterprise proposal and received new Council direction regarding final project funding that would move forward to the Final Draft. There was additional discussion regarding public services funding, particularly project funding for tenant/landlord counseling services. Though not scheduled as a public hearing item, community members in attendance were invited to provide input. Comments from the public included: • **Comments submitted to City Clerk prior to meeting:** None • **In-person comments received during the Public Hearing (1 speaker):** *Madeline Harris (Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability)* – stated their support for more Tenant/Landlord Counseling project funding to Project Sentinel, based on the needs they have seen in the community. • **Voicemail comments played during the meeting:** None **Other:** Fire Chief Parker provided information about the Fire Department's HEART car proposal and how it can be used to deliver increased EMS and preventative care services to housed and unhoused community members, to fill the services gap that currently exists. There were two comments provided by residents via the Facebook Live broadcast.
Monday, May 1, 2023; 6:00 p.m. - Agenda Item J.3. (Scheduled Final Public Hearing) **Merced Civic Center – City Council Chambers, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced**
Notes: At this Public Hearing, staff asked Council to open and continue the Public Hearing to the June 5, 2023, Council Meeting, in order to provide more time to incorporate the changes to the plan as per direction received from Council at the last meeting, since the plan was not ready for approval due to these changes. Staff also requested that the Public Comment Period be extended by two weeks, to May 15, 2023, to provide residents additional time to review and comment on these changes. Staff provided a brief presentation regarding final figures for public services projects. Comments and Suggestions from the public included: • **Comments submitted to City Clerk prior to meeting:** None • **In-person comments received during the Public Hearing (1 speaker):** *Peng Cha Vang (resident)* – provided comments regarding the organization of agenda items (staff answered this question during the meeting – this was the noticed public hearing date) and asked that more funding be provided to the Parks and Recreation Department to fund parks projects. • **Voicemail comments played during the meeting:** None **Other:** Council opened and continued the Final Public Hearing to June 5, 2023, and extended to Public Review and Comment Period to May 15, 2023.
Monday, June 5, 2023; 6:00 p.m. - Agenda Item K.1 (Continued Public Hearing) **Merced Civic Center – City Council Chambers, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced**
Notes: At this Public Hearing, staff provided a brief presentation, and asked Council to re-open and hold the Public Hearing. Two speakers asked questions that were answered by staff following the hearing. Councilmembers had no questions of staff. Comments and Suggestions from the public included: • **Comments submitted to City Clerk prior to meeting:** None • **In-person comments received during the Public Hearing (2 speakers):** 1) *Wolf (no last name):* asked staff to explain the HOME project that provides funding for affordable housing. Following the close of the public hearing, staff explained that the funds are being targeted towards a 156-unit affordable housing project that is seeking to begin construction in 2024 if CA Tax Credit funding is awarded ; and, 2) *Alejandro Flores* – asked for an explanation on the Tenant and Landlord Counseling project. Following the close of the public hearing, staff explained the project further. • **Voicemail comments played during the meeting:** None **Other:** Council re-opened and held the Final Public Hearing and approved the 2023 Annual Action Plan, which included award of funds to subrecipients and adoption of Resolution 2023-34.

City Council Public Meetings/Hearings - Public Comment Summary (Page 2)

Public Comment

46-Day Public Review and Comment Period (Extended)

A Public Notice was published on March 2, 2023, which notified the public about opportunities to review and comment on the Annual Action Plan and the scheduling of two public hearings, on March 20, 2023, and May 1, 2023. The Notice also provided instruction on how to comment and the availability of language interpretation if needed. The notices were published in English, Spanish, and Hmong.

The Public Review and Comment Period was initially scheduled to be held March 31, 2023, through May 1, 2023. However, at the May 1, 2023, Public Hearing, the City Council voted to extend the Review/Comment Period another 15 days, to end on May 15, 2023. The total number of days with this extension was 46 days. This gave the public opportunity to comment on the funding option changes that Council requested at the April 17, 2023, council meeting.

Written Comments received during the Extended 46-day Public Review and Comment Period:

The Housing Division did not receive any written comments during the Comment Period held from March 31, 2023, to May 15, 2023.

There were no requests to view the Draft Plan in person. The Draft Plan was posted to the Housing Division website for review. A link to this page was provided in the Public Notice.

Public Comment Period Summary - March 31 to May 15, 2023

City Council's Community Town Hall Meetings
January 25, January 31, and February 9, 2023

This summary includes citizen comments that could potentially be addressed with programs assisted by HUD CDBG or HOME funding.

Town Hall Meeting #1, Wednesday, January 25, 2023; Multicultural Arts Center, 645 W Main Street, Merced

Notes: List of Topics/Needs expressed by the public and discussed:

- Downtown parking availability/parking garage use for public parking, leased spaces
- Public Infrastructure Projects: recent John Muir sidewalk project completion and cooperation of PW appreciated
- Park/Recreation Facilities: bike path repairs after storm damage/FEMA funding for long-term reconstruction; public restrooms in parks
- Youth Activities: kids need things to do; Adventure Playgrounds (playadventures.org); Youth Wellness Center in South Merced – City has partnership with County Office of Probation and Merced County Workforce Development for future project Violence Prevention Program at Steven Leonard Park, pilot project with wrap-around services to include youth employment training, counseling, behavioral health, and social services, City will support with peer mentorships; Teen Center at the Library – City contribution; job training important for youth
- Education
- Neighborhoods: Downtown Neighborhood Association; acceptance of Historic Neighborhood Designation application for "Spaghetti Acres" area
- Homelessness
- Affordable Housing – invest in Housing Trust Fund; HTF funding was set aside but program hasn't been structured/implemented – being included in Prohousing policies that City is currently working on; John Ceccoli – Deputy Director Human Services Agency, 100-day challenge multi-agency effort to house 100 children and youth, successful with 116 children/youth housed
- LGTBQIA+ Community – Central Valley Pride activities – peer led support groups, preventative services, film festival, Pride Fest, youth events, MAC Center staffing; needs volunteers, needs city support with funding
- Flood relief go LMI residents, stimulus checks; displacement assessment; tenant/landlord counseling for LMI families; City working with FEMA/OES to deploy resources to affected neighborhoods; working with Project Sentinel to advocate for fair housing rights; Resource center at fairgrounds; permanent supportive placements through contract with Housing Authority/County; resources coming for remediation as a result of the Emergency Declaration
- Seniors: new rail station will affect the Senior Center and the Boys and Girls Club; urged city to look for quality options to meet the needs of seniors in the community – building that will function with their needs and activities; High Speed Rail aware of this high need (replacing Senior Center)
- Measure C – need to continue funding for DART Team, Police, Fire services so services are not lost
- Misc: Elections process improvements (County); Climate/Air Quality mitigation/SB1383 organic waste; inflation hurting low-income residents the most

Town Hall Meetings - Public Comment Summary (Page 1)

Town Hall Meeting #2: Tuesday, January 31, 2021; Cruickshank Middle School, 601 Mercy Ave, Merced

Notes: List of Topics/Needs expressed by the public and discussed:

- Housing – need to keep working on housing; permanent housing needed; affordable housing projects – working on funding commitments; State Prohousing designation; need truly affordable housing; farmworker and undocumented worker housing/assistance – legal resources limited for undocumented renters; need rental assistance
- Measure C general tax – reconsider putting it back to the voters; also consider a tax on unhealthy food items such as potato chips and soda
- Youth: need youth employment programs; housing for youth, infrastructure, resources, wellness, protection; ARPA-funded Youth Jobs Program needs to continue once those funds are fully expended; 196 youth applied for 168 spots available – need is still there; bring back summer youth jobs program; programs for youth prevent future crime
- Job training: proper training needed for High Speed Rail maintenance yard workforce
- Facilities: lights needed at skate park at McNamara Park; Safe Street Light program – upgrade existing lights to LED bulbs, project in progress at city; however, new streetlights in parts of city all over town are needed;
- Traffic: often backed up and new lights seem to be installed every other block; bicycling needs to be promoted and bike lanes widened and made safer (gutter not a bike lane); some areas no more right-of-way available; transit-oriented development may change some areas, triggering needed improvements; intersection of Coffee/Childs very congested in morning at Weaver and Golden Valley schools; multiuse path project currently being designed for Childs Ave at Coffee Rd; M Street at Donna/Buena Vista – speeding, accidents; Loughborough Ave traffic calming study; traffic enforcement is being enhanced with new monitoring equipment that will record number and speed of cars where it is placed
- Misc: redefine what public safety is – affordable housing, mental health, parks, roads/transportation, access to clean and safe water; flood relief program for low-income; public infrastructure to prevent future floods; youth wellness center; affordable housing trust fund

Town Hall Meeting #3: Thursday, February 9, 2023; Weaver Middle School, 3076 E Childs Ave, Merced

Notes: List of Topics/Needs expressed by the public and discussed:

- Measure C
- Parks & Recreation: need funding for summertime activities; no updated Parks & Rec masterplan, but there is a strategic plan and several services are offered over the summertime; the long term strategic plan helps in laying out priorities for replacement of facility buildings, installation of future regional parks, and other improvements.
- Railroad crossings: undercrossing needed at the Union Pacific crossing at 16th/15th and G Streets
- Litter/Neighborhood cleanups: abandoned shopping carts are a problem again, after Code Enforcement lost funding/staff for cart retrieval; existing Municipal Code needs to be enforced and business contact list needs to be updated
- Transportation: future roundabout at Hwy 59/Gerard Avenue – timeline and notification to residents that will be impacted; reroute traffic through Mission Avenue, notification by CalTrans; still in design phase; est 5-10 years; speeding a problem
- Housing; Housing Trust Fund; first time homebuyer program for farmworkers; extreme heat weatherization program; tenant/landlord counseling and mediation program needed; youth guaranteed housing program/post-high school youth homelessness; point in time count does not capture young people who are "couch surfing: with friends
- Flood-related housing issues: local housing crisis exacerbated by January storm flooding; habitability issues left by landlords after flooding; funding gaps left by FEMA/CalOES funds for undocumented workers; relocation assistance for tenants who will need to move due to flood damage; coordination of inspections for flood damage assessment between FEMA and City/County through substandard housing program; accountability for landlords longterm and policies to protect tenants
- Youth: Isiah Project in South Merced – life skills curriculum, shoes to kids, events
- Election process for Council seats
- Public Safety/Policing Standards
- Schools: need land for new schools; sidewalks from Weaver School to Golden Valley High School; Childs Ave sidewalk project scheduled for construction by fall/winter 2023

Town Hall Meetings - Public Comment Summary (Page 2)

Community Input/Public Service Information Meetings
December 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.; December 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
and December 16, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

There were three hybrid in-person/virtual meetings held. All meetings were held in-person in the Merced Civic Center's Sam Pipes Room. For all meetings, interested residents and public service providers could attend through Microsoft Teams conference software. Direct links to the meetings were posted on the Housing Division website, and questions could be asked through the chat feature on Microsoft Teams and by voice directly into the in-person meeting to be answered in a live conversation with city staff. An email address was provided for any questions submitted after the meeting.

Notices published in local newspapers and posted on the City website informed residents that translation services for Spanish and Hmong languages were available upon request by email and telephone prior to the meeting. Staff received no translation requests.

Residents and local public service groups were invited to attend through multiple outreach avenues, including: newsletters delivered with utility bills (December 1st newsletter), quarter-page newspaper advertisements, multiple social media posts, the City's website, letters mailed directly to non-profit organizations, a local community news radio show, and these meetings were mentioned in all housing-related public meetings held during that time, including a presentation to City Council on December 5, 2022.

The meetings were held in two parts. Part One of the presentation was focused on providing information to residents about the City's Housing Program and the Annual Plan process, how the highest needs of the community could be addressed through yearly CDBG and HOME federal funds, how important it is to reach and understand the needs of the City's most vulnerable citizens, and to respond to the Community Needs Survey. Part Two of the presentation was focused to public service non-profit organizations, providing more detailed information regarding CDBG and HOME eligible uses, National Objective requirements, and how to apply for and get technical assistance help with requests for project funding to assist the City in addressing the needs of the community.

All comments and questions received were discussed and answered during each meeting.

Community Input Meetings - Summary

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

All public comment was accepted.

7. Summary

Based on the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan's public participation process and review of regional data and reports (i.e. Housing Element and Continuum of Care Homeless Survey), Merced has the following housing and community priorities to address over the five-year ConPlan period ending June 30, 2025:

- Affordable Rental Housing
- Provide support services for the City's residents with an emphasis on at risk youth, the homeless, and services to seniors
- Fair Housing
- Job Creation and Job Training
- Neighborhood Revitalization with an emphasis on South Merced
- To preserve, rehabilitate, and enhance existing public facilities and infrastructure

The needs and priorities expressed from residents through the preparation of this 2023 Annual Action Plan, which carries out the fourth year of the ConPlan, closely resemble those listed above, and through funding, all of the needs listed above will be addressed in some way, big or small, with the projects included in this 2023 Annual Plan.

Local public agencies and non-profits were assisted and also given the opportunity to spend time discussing community goals and needs. As a result of the published Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), letters notifying 125 organizations of the availability of funding, three Community Needs Workshop meeting dates that included an in-depth presentation and Q & A section for non-profit organizations, and an application period held from December 1 – February 15, 2023, the Housing Division received eleven applications from non-profit organizations seeking project funding for the 2023 Program Year.

At the March 20, April 17, and May 1, and June 5, 2023, Council Meetings/Public Hearings, staff asked the Council to consider and discuss the various projects proposed, a process which helps to guide staff in the development of the final Annual Plan budget and its funding activities and goals aimed at addressing community needs. As the Housing Division received more funding requests in total than the Public Services 15% cap allowed, Councilmembers were provided information about each proposed project and asked to prioritize the funding requests and award amounts based on the expressed needs and funding preferences of the community during this process.

As a result of all discussions, five public service projects, three public facilities/improvement projects, and two housing providers were awarded funding for the 2023-24 Annual Plan year. Additionally, a large

amount of HOME funding, including CHDO HOME, is set aside to contribute to a potential 156-unit affordable rental housing development.

City Council approved the Final Draft of the 2023 Annual Action Plan on June 5, 2023, and adopted Resolution #2023-34 (attached). Council also approved submission of the 2023 Annual Action Plan to HUD following any necessary minor changes and revisions.

HUD's final regulatory deadline for submission of the Action Plan each year is August 15th. If HUD does not receive the City's plan submission by this date each year, the City would be ineligible to receive its grant allocation for that year, which would mean the loss of nearly $2 million in vital federal funding of community service, housing, and infrastructure programs and projects.

8. First Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan

Introduction and Reason for Amendment:

Through a Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan (AAP), the City of Merced intends to make changes to previously approved Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects in the existing AAP, which also involves projects that were approved in the 2021 and 2022 Annual Action Plan but are not moving forward using the prior-approved funding.

The primary reason for these changes is to expedite expenditure of CDBG funds by April 30, 2024, in order to meet certain regulatory expenditures deadlines of the City's CDBG funding. As previously mentioned in this and past plans, and in recent Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPERs), the City has experienced multiple events and circumstances since early Spring 2020 that have caused accumulated delays to planned CDBG projects, including the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic, additional public outreach efforts in fall of 2020, vacant staff positions, environmental monitoring findings and suspended project funding, and unexpected payoff of large CDBG loans resulting in a substantial amount of unplanned Program Income in Spring 2021. Initial efforts to allocate these funds on infrastructure projects have proved unsuccessful, and the City is now in its second year of non-compliance with CDBG Timeliness deadline requirements. To remedy this, the City has worked with HUD over recent months to prepare and complete a Workout Plan, which will assist the City to become compliant by Spring of 2024. During preparation of the Workout Plan, ways to expeditiously expend CDBG funds were identified, which has led to the need to amend this Annual Plan.

Secondarily, these changes also seek to address the urgent need for additional affordable rental housing units in Merced City, which has already been identified in the current Consolidated Plan and elsewhere in this Annual Plan. As such, the City intends to move $2,612,845 of CDBG funds to Project #15, which originally planned to use only Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funding. The added CDBG funds will be used to acquire the necessary land on which the rental housing project will be built. Additionally, some HOME funds may also be used towards the land purchase in the event the final purchase price is more than the available CDBG funding provided. The project is expected to accomplish

its financial closing procedures by the end of February 2024, along with the transaction for the sale of land.

Citizen Participation and Public Comment Received (1st Substantial Amendment)

The City's adopted Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) sets procedures for Citizen Participation for preparation of all HUD-related plans and reports, as well as specific requirements for amendments to Consolidated Plans and Annual Action Plans. The CPP requires a Substantial Amendment whenever: 1) a change is needed to be made to allocation priorities or method of funding distribution that affects more than 75% of the allocation of funding in any project and/or the total distribution of funding; 2) when an activity is intended to be carried out using any HUD funding source that was not covered by the Consolidated Plan; and/or 3) to substantially change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries or an activity.

For Substantial Amendments, the CPP requires: notices to be published in multiple languages, available translation of all documents and at all meetings or hearings, a 30-Day Public Review and Comment Period, no public hearing, City Council approval, and submittal of the Council-approved and amended plan to HUD. Copies or lists of the proposed amendments are to be made available primarily at the Merced City Hall/Civic Center, with alternate optional locations at the Merced Senior Center, Merced County Administration Building, and the City's website.

All requirements of the CPP were met in the preparation of this Substantial Amendment. Public Notices were published in English, Spanish, and Hmong languages on November 23, 2023, in the Merced Sun Star and Merced County Times local newspapers. The notices were posted on the public bulletin board outside City Hall, and posted online on the Housing Division's website (www.cityofmerced.org/housing). The notice also notified the public of the intended City Council approval date, in order to give residents an additional opportunity to participate (through the City Clerk, citizens can speak about any matter on every City Council agenda). The notices served to notify residents about the intent to amend the 2023 Annual Action Plan, notified them of the reasons for the amendments, briefly described the amendment actions, and provided instructions to view a prepared Summary that detailed all the intended amendments. This Summary was made available to view online, to view physically at the Housing Division office, or by email by request.

Public Comment Received

<u>Public Review and Comment Period - November 24 - December 26, 2023</u>

No written or verbal public comment or inquiries were received during the 33 days provided to residents to view and comment on this amendment.

<u>City Council Meeting - January 2, 2024 - Agenda Item K.3.</u>

No written, verbal/voicemail, or in-person public comment was received regarding the amendment at the City Council meeting.

The City Council approved the First Amendment unanimously, with one councilmember not in attendance (6 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain). City Council Resolution 2024-02 is included in Attachment 3 of this Annual Action Plan.

1st Substantial Amendment – 2023 Annual Action Plan

December 2023

Summary of Changes to Projects and Amendment Details

Introduction and Reason for Amendment:

Through an amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan (AAP), the City of Merced intends to make several changes to previously approved Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects in the existing AAP, which also involves projects that were approved in the 2021 and 2022 Annual Action Plan but are not moving forward using the prior-approved funding. The primary reason for these changes is to expedite expenditure of CDBG funds by April 30, 2024, in order to meet certain regulatory expenditures deadlines of the City's CDBG funding. Secondarily, these changes also seek to address the urgent need for additional affordable rental housing units in Merced City. As such, the City intends to move $2,612,845 of CDBG funds to an existing project in the AAP that originally planned to use only Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funding.

This summary has been prepared to explain what items in the existing AAP will be amended, added, or deleted.

Please see the tables and information on the pages that follow below.

1st Substantial Amendment - Summary of Changes (Public Review Summary) - Page 1

2023 Projects to be Changed as a part of this Amendment:

2023 AAP Project #	Project Name	Goal	Funding Source/Amount	Use of Funds	Summary - Project Details Amended
Original: #15 **No change to project number**	**Original:** HSG – HOME: Construction of Affordable Rental Housing (23/24) **Amend to:** HSG – CDBG/HOME: Affordable Rental Housing – Land Acquisition and Construction (23/26)	**Original:** 2B, 2C **Amend to delete:** Goal 2C	**Original:** HOME $4,403,129 **Amend to add:** CDBG $2,612,845	**Original:** HOME: Rental Housing Construction **Amend to add:** CDBG: Acquisition of Land for Affordable Housing HOME: a portion of HOME funds may be used towards Land Acquisition, in addition to Rental Unit Construction	1. **Project Name** – changed to: *HSG - CDBG/HOME: Affordable Rental Housing - Land Acquisition and Construction (23/26)*; 2. **Goals Supported** - Delete Goal 2C from project, as project will not include units for Permanent Supportive Housing 3. **Funding** - Add additional funding: CDBG funds in the amount of $2,612,845 4. **Description** - Add CDBG funds to project narrative. CDBG funding will be split as follows: $2,375,314 for land acquisition; $237,531 for activity delivery costs (10% of CDBG funds used for acquisition); HOME funding will be used for both Acquisition of Land and Housing Unit Construction (no change to total amount; however, if HOME funds are used for acquisition, ADC is charged at 10% of the amount used towards acquisition) 5. **Location Description** - 1535 Devonwood Drive, Merced 6. **Planned Activities** - CDBG: IDIS Matrix Code/Activity: 01/Acquisition of Real Property; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.201(e); CDBG National Objective Met: LMH/Low-Mod Housing Benefit - 24 CFR 570.208(a)(2)(iv) 7. **Goal Outcome Indicator (AP-20)**- unchanged
#5 **No change**	**Original:** PSA – CDBG: Project Sentinel "Tenant-Landlord Services" (23/24) **No change**	**Original:** 3A, 5 **Amend to delete:** Goal 5	**Original:** CDBG $51,385 **No change**	**Original:** Public Services – Tenant and Landlord Counseling **No change to use**	Minor changes are being made to this project at the advice of HUD, as follows: 1. **Goals Supported** – remove Goal 5 (Enhance Fair Housing Knowledge and Resources) and decrease by $56,445. This project is more appropriate under only Goal 3A. Increase Goal 3A by $45,069. ($11,376 difference is attributed to spread of Direct and Indirect Administrative activities over all projects based on percentage of total funding)

1st Substantial Amendment - Summary of Changes (Public Review Summary) - Page 2

2023 Projects to be Deleted by this Amendment:

2023 AAP Project #	Project Name	Goal Affected	Funding Source Affected	Amount Deleted and Added Back to Available Resources and Subtracted from Associated Goal	Reason Cancelled
#7	PFI - CDBG: City of Merced McNamara Park Memorial Plunge Pool Improvements (23/24)	1A	CDBG	$258,122	This project is not moving forward due to higher priority projects. Funds are needed for Project #15 described in the above table. Goal Outcome Indicator (Table AP-20) is reduced by 1 Public Facility ("Other"), and 900 Persons Assisted
#17	HSG – CDBG: Rehabilitation Project to be Determined (23/24)	2A	CDBG	$126,563	In the original Annual Plan, this project was intended as a "holding" project, with no specific use determined until an amendment to the plan was processed. As such, with this First Substantial Amendment, this holding project will be deleted and the funds will be used towards the changes described in Project #15 in the above table. Goal Outcome Indicator reduced by 1 Housing Unit

Other amendments to the 2023-24 Annual Action Plan:

1. Increase in Program Income: thus far in PY2023, more program income has been received than originally anticipated (original estimate: $93,000). This amendment will specifically direct $27,095 of this unanticipated program income towards Project #15. Total program income of $120,095.
2. Increase in Carryover Resources Expected: As a result of changes to 2021 and 2022 projects, more carryover funds have become available. These changes were:
    a. Disencumber/repurpose a total of $19,891 of PY2021 and PY2022 Public Service program funding not utilized by three subrecipient programs (PY2021 Alliance for Community Transformations $624.05; PY2021/Project #13 Symple Equazion $11.995.85; and PY2022 Harvest Time $7,271.71)
    b. Disencumber/repurpose a total of $872,506 of previously approved funding to the S. Canal/W Childs Avenue Street and Sidewalk Improvement Project (PY2021/Project #5/$825,000; and PY2022/Project #7/$47,506).
    c. Disencumber/repurpose a total of $1,092,333 of PY2021 CDBG from infrastructure projects that are not moving forward (Project #'s 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10).
    d. PY2014, 2015, and 2016 CDBG funds totaling $216,335 that have become available for re-use after repayment of an ineligible infrastructure activity early in the 2023 program year.

1st Substantial Amendment - Summary of Changes (Public Review Summary) - Page 3

3. As a result of project changes and deletions, the following adjustments to 2023 CDBG Annual Goals and Objectives (Section AP-20 in AAP) are necessary: a) Goal 1A – decrease by $331,697; b) Goal 2A – decrease by $148,582; c) Goal 2B – increase by $2,721,833; d) Goal 3A – increase by $45,069; e) Goal 4A – decrease by $2,018; f) Goal 5 – decrease by $56,445.
4. Minor text amendments and other corrections related to these adjustments will be made to sections where these projects and goals are mentioned.

1st Substantial Amendment - Summary of Changes (Public Review Summary) - Page 4

9. Second Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan

Introduction and Reason for Amendment:

Through a second substantial amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan (AAP), the City of Merced intends to make additional necessary changes to previously approved Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects, which also involves a project that was approved in the 2022 Annual Action Plan but is not moving forward with the use of HUD funding.

The primary reason for the second substantial amendment is due to the discovery of unintended miscalculations of CDBG financial resource figures as the first substantial amendment was being readied for its January 2024 City Council approval. The calculation error resulted in an overstatement of the available CDBG financial resources. As a result, further cuts are necessary to planned projects in order to balance the 2023 Annual Plan budget (expected available resources vs planned projects).

As noted above, the first substantial amendment was necessary in order to meet certain regulatory expenditures deadlines of the City's CDBG funding. As such, given that urgent nature, the City Council and HUD approved the first amendment, condition with the directive to City staff to immediately start a second amendment process that would correct the error that was discovered, as well as adjustments to other parts of the plan that were affected. Approval by both Council and HUD of the second amendment are necessary, in order to be able to close out the 2023-24 program year correctly and accurately.

Citizen Participation and Public Comment Received (2nd Substantial Amendment)

All requirements of the CPP were met in the preparation of the Second Substantial Amendment. Public Notices were published in English, Spanish, and Hmong languages on April 4, 2024, in the Merced Sun Star and Merced County Times local newspapers. The notices were posted on the public bulletin board outside City Hall, and posted online on the Housing Division's website (www.cityofmerced.org/housing). The notice also notified the public of the intended City Council approval date, in order to give residents an additional opportunity to participate (through the City Clerk, citizens can speak about any matter on every City Council agenda). The notices served to notify residents about the intent to amend the 2023 Annual Action Plan for the second time, notified them of the reason for the amendment, briefly described the amendment actions, and provided instructions to view a prepared Summary that detailed all the intended amendments. This Summary was made available to view online, to view physically at the Housing Division office, or by email by request.

Public Comment Received

<u>Public Review and Comment Period - April 5 - May 6, 2024</u>

No written or verbal public comment or inquiries were received during the 32 days provided to residents to view and comment on this amendment.

<u>City Council Meeting - May 6, 2024 - Agenda Item J.3.</u>

One public comment was received at the City Council meeting of May 6, 2024. A resident expressed disappointment regarding the deletion of the S. Canal Street and W. Childs Avenue Sidewalk Improvement project from the project list. City staff explained that, while it will no longer be partly funded by CDBG, the City is seeking alternative funding for the project, as it remains a valuable project to the City in terms of economic development as well as for the residents who live in the neighborhood.

The City Council approved the Second Substantial Amendment (5 Ayes, 2 Noes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain). City Council Resolution 2024-51 is included in Attachment 3 of this Annual Action Plan.

2nd Substantial Amendment – 2023 Annual Action Plan

April 2024

Summary of Changes to Projects and Amendment Details

Introduction and Reason for Amendment:

Through a second amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan (2023 AAP) for Program Year 2023-24, the City of Merced intends to make changes to previously approved U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects and to correct previously stated CDBG financial resource calculations.

This summary has been prepared to illustrate and explain what items in the current amended AAP will be further amended, added, or deleted. During a 30-day Public Review and Comment Period held from 4/5/24 to 5/6/24, written questions/comments regarding these changes can be directed to: *(mail/in-person)* City of Merced Housing Division, 2nd Floor Merced Civic Center, 678 W 18th Street, Merced CA 95340; *(email)* housing@cityofmerced.org. Housing Division staff can be reached by telephone at (209)385-6863.

The 2023 AAP was first amended in January 2024, to expedite expenditure of excess CDBG funds. The primary need for a second amendment is due to the discovery of unintended miscalculations of CDBG financial resource figures as the initial amendment was being readied for its January City Council approval. Given its urgent nature, Council and HUD approved the first amendment, conditioned with the directive to City staff to immediately start a second amendment process that would correct the errors, which now necessitates eliminating and/or postponing additional projects in order to balance the program year budget. Council and subsequent HUD approval of this second amendment will allow City staff to then close out the 2023-24 Program Year with accurate project lists and financial calculations.

Please see the tables and information on the pages that follow.

Translation/interpretation of this summary to Spanish and Hmong will be made available upon request – please call (209)385-6863.
La traducción/interpretación de este resumen al español y hmong estará disponible previa solicitud; llame al (209) 385-6863.
Kev txhais / txhais cov ntsiab lus no ua lus Mev thiab lus Hmoob yuav muaj nyob rau ntawm qhov kev thov - thov hu rau (209) 385-6863.

2nd Substantial Amendment - Summary of Changes (Public Review Summary) - Page 1

Projects to be Deleted by this Second Substantial Amendment:

AAP Project # and Annual Plan Year	Project Name	Goal Affected	Funding Source Affected	Amount Deleted and Added Back to Available Resources and Subtracted from Associated Goal	Reason Cancelled
2022 Project #7 (Also was 2021 Project #5)	PFI – CDBG: S Canal St/W Childs Ave. Street, Sidewalk, Curb & Gutter Improvements (FY22/23)	1A Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities	CDBG	$ 275,000 (Originally budgeted as $270,000 project costs and $5,000 Activity Delivery Costs - ADC)	This project was initially planned as a 2021 and 2022 CDBG public infrastructure project with total project costs of $1,043,190 and $104,316 for Activity Delivery (total of $1,147,506 CDBG). A portion of these funds were removed with the 1st Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Plan, leaving a total of $275,000 to be directed towards engineering plan design. However, this project is now moving forward without any federal funding (using Local and State funding sources), so the project in its entirety is removed from CDBG funding/Annual Plans for all years. This project originally expected to benefit an estimated 19,029 residents living within one mile of the project site.
2023 Project #5	PFI – CDBG: Merced City Fire Dept – HEART and EAV EMS Vehicles (23/24)	1A Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities	CDBG	$ 632,000 (All project costs, no ADC)	This project is not moving forward due to necessary adjustments that were made to CDBG Expected Resources to correct previous calculation errors. As a result, there are not enough CDBG resources available to carry out this project during PY2023. Goal Outcome Indicator (Table AP-20) is reduced by 3 Public Facilities ("Other"), and 520 Persons Assisted
2023 Project #14 (after 1st Amendment) (Originally 2023 project #16)	HSG – CDBG: Habitat for Humanity – Homeowner Rehabilitation of Existing Housing Assets	2A Increase Owner Occupied Rehab Opportunities 2B Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities	CDBG	$ 180,000 (Originally budgeted as $150,000 project costs and $30,000 ADC)	This project is not moving forward in PY2023 due to necessary adjustments that were made to CDBG Expected Resources to correct previous calculation errors. As a result, there are not enough CDBG resources available to include it in the 2023 Annual Action Plan. However, this project is carried over from previous years and must still be completed. PY2023 funded was intended to replace previous HOME funds that were removed from the project. As such, this

2nd Substantial Amendment - Summary of Changes (Public Review Summary) - Page 2

					project may be re-added in the 2024 Annual Action Plan. Goal Outcome Indicator (Table AP-20) is reduced by 1 Homeowner Housing Added (1 household housing unit) and 1 Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated (1 household housing unit).

Other changes to the 2023-24 Annual Action Plan in this Second Substantial Amendment:

1. Increase in Program Income: more program income has continued to be received at higher amounts than originally anticipated (original estimate: $93,000). This second amendment will specifically include and direct an additional $27,225 of this unanticipated program income towards Project #15 (HSG - CDBG/HOME: Affordable Rental Housing - Land Acquisition and Construction (23/26). Total program income of $147,320 now received in 2023-24 and added to the previously amended CDBG Expected Resources.
2. As a result of the deletion of 2022 Project #7 noted in the table above, the previously amended 2023 Carryover Funds is increased by $275,000, which will then increase the previously amended 2023 CDBG Expected Resources by the same amount.
3. As a result of project changes/deletions, the following adjustments to the previously amended 2023 CDBG Annual Goals and Objectives (Section AP-20 in AAP) are necessary: a) Goal 1A – decrease by $657,623; b) Goal 2A – increase by $1,997; c) Goal 2B – decrease by $159,173; d) Goal 3A – increase by $2,377; e) Goal 4A – increase by $422.
4. Minor text amendments and other corrections related to these adjustments will be made to sections where these projects and goals are mentioned.

2nd Substantial Amendment - Summary of Changes (Public Review Summary) - Page 3

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	MERCED	Housing Division/Development Services Dept
HOME Administrator	MERCED	Housing Division/Development Services Dept

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The Department of Development Services – Housing Division is responsible for overseeing the administration of the City's Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program funding, including the preparation of the Annual Action Plan. The Development Services Director and the Housing Program Supervisor oversees the day-to-day administration of these programs.

For National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) reviews of projects that contemplate the environmental impacts for the use of the City's allocations of federal funds as a funding source, the City of Merced is the Lead Agency and City Manager Stephanie Dietz is the Certifying Officer.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Scott McBride, Development Services Director; and,
Kimberly Nutt, Housing Program Supervisor

City of Merced Housing Division
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

(209) 385-6863
Email: housing@cityofmerced.org

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

1. Introduction

Under Merced's Council-Manager form of government, the City Council appoints and provides policy direction to the City Manager, who is responsible for administering the City's daily operations. As the elected legislative body of the City of Merced, the City Council has overall responsibility for the scope, direction, and financing of City services. In setting policy, the City Council works closely with citizen advisory commissions and committees, considers staff information and recommendations, and receives comments from the general public during open forums, such as town hall meetings.

In the preparation of the ConPlan, the City has consulted with public and private departments and agencies and social service and non-profit organizations to understand the community's needs and available resources. The City met with several department representatives to provide information about the ConPlan and its processes. Department staff provided input on how CDBG resources could be used and leveraged to provide services.

As part of the process, the City created a comprehensive internet-based survey specifically directed toward public, governmental, business, health, and service agencies within the City, County, and the general San Joaquin Valley region, asking general service and targeted funding-related questions, as well requesting them to rank the community's needs and priorities from their organization or agency's point of view on the topics of public facilities, infrastructure, social and public services, economic development, and housing. The survey also asked each responding organization or agency to identify and explain any areas where our agencies can improve coordination, including with use of funds, homeless strategies, providing a deeper reach to homeless and extremely low-income families, efforts to reduce poverty, determining what and where public facilities and infrastructure is most needed, and creating jobs in our community. The survey reached 40 agencies, organizations, and inter-agency departments, including our Police and Fire Departments.

The City of Merced specifically contacted agencies representing persons with HIV/AIDS, homeless persons, low-income youth, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, persons with disabilities, elderly persons, and persons with alcohol and/or substance abuse problems. Additionally, cities and governments within the region were contacted and consulted.

During the consultation process, the City provided detailed information about the ConPlan, the Annual Action Plan, and the CDBG process, the City's distribution of funds and current projects using the CDBG funds. Consultation participants highlighted the priority needs in general terms and specific to their target population from an organizational point of view.

The goal of the consultation process was to provide detail of the priority needs identified in the Consolidated Plan, how local agencies could best focus their programs and activities to help address

those priority needs, and to explore opportunities for coordination to improve availability and access to services.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(l))

The principal provider of community development and economic development programs, housing projects, and financial support will be the City of Merced. The Merced County Housing Authority administers the Section 8 Voucher program and manages public housing located in the City. According to The Merced Housing Authority, funding to modernize the public housing units to ensure long-term physical and social viability of the developments is done through the HUD yearly funded Capital Fund Program. Capital Program activities to be undertaken by the Housing Authority are identified in the Public Housing Agency (PHA) 5 Year and One-Year Action Plans. The residents are invited each year to contribute to the drafting the Housing Authority's Plan and planned use of Capital Fund monies. A resident advisory board is formed and meets monthly to review the PHA's strategy and policies for both public housing and tenant-based housing. The City, through its partner agencies, affordable housing developers, and local service organizations, works with the Merced Housing Authority to both qualify Merced residents for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and find housing. The City provides information on the availability of Section 8 programs to qualified residents through these partnerships.

Other key health, mental health, and service agencies that the City works closely with are, Continuum of Care; Merced County Community Action Agency; Merced County Department of Mental Health; Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project, and Merced County Rescue Mission. Each is consulted during the City's ConPlan and Annual Action plan process. Additionally, the City's own Police and Fire Departments are a daily connection to our residents most in need of health, emergency, homeless, drug/alcohol intervention, public safety, crime awareness and prevention, and other vital services every day.

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

Merced City's homelessness planning has historically been guided by three plans - 1) the 10-Year Plan that was drafted and released in 2011 by the Merced City and County Continuum of Care; 2) the Merced County Housing Element; and 3) the City of Merced Housing Element. In 2019, the Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and Human Services Agency began working to develop a No Place Like Home (NPLH) Community Plan, which later expanded to a regional plan approach. The Regional Homeless Plan incorporates all governmental jurisdictions within the County and their leadership and is anticipated to be adopted by region-wide City and County governments.

The 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness remains a valuable tool for best practices to follow, with recommendations including:

- Following a Housing First approach to provide shelter and housing as quickly as possible. Once obtained, a variety of services are offered to help households maintain their housing. Such services are time-limited or long-term depending upon the household's need. Housing is not contingent on compliance with services. However, participants must comply with a standard lease agreement. Assistance also includes locating rental housing, relationship development with private market landlords, lease negotiation, and home-based case management., depending on the willingness and needs of the household;
- Identifying funding sources for rapid re-housing, involving a variety of assistance including: short- or medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services, which may include mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management. Case management includes 1) on-site and off-site supportive services such as employment counseling, health care, mental health care, and access to various mainstream resources; 2) activities to help with circumstances that impede access to housing such as poor credit history, legal issues, and inability to negotiate manageable lease agreements with landlords; and 3) availability to resolve housing-related crises through home visits and communication with landlord;
- Utilizing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for all statistical data, on-going case management records, financial assistance provided and final outcomes of assistance or placement;
- Utilizing the Coordinated Entry System (CES) which covers the entire CoC and uses the Vulnerability Index/Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) to determine the most appropriate intervention for persons experiencing homelessness: affordable housing, rapid re-housing, or permanent supportive housing. The tool is imbedded into HMIS and helps triage clients and ensures connection to the best intervention. Access to a CES assessment occurs through street outreach, engagement, and at shelters;
- Supporting a community outreach and education campaign to raise awareness about households at-risk of becoming homeless and provide information about resources available through homeless prevention programs;
- Developing and defining partnerships between local government and nonprofit/for-profit affordable housing developers to build additional units of permanent affordable housing for extremely low-, very low-, and low-income homeless and non-homeless families and individuals, as well as homeless veterans.

During the development of the 2023 Annual Action Plan, representatives from the CoC attended the December 2022 public input meetings and assisted the Housing Division with direct citizen meet-and-greet at the January and February 2023 Town Hall meetings. This collaboration time was invaluable at strengthening the coordination between our two entities.

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

The City does not receive ESG funding. However, eligible public and private agencies are able to apply for Federal Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) through the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The City works closely with the Merced City and County Continuum of Care to establish funding policies and procedures as required by HCD. The City has a representative on the CoC Board of Directors, which is the CoC entity that ensures HCD requirements. HCD requirements include: 1) determining how ESG funds will be allocated in that region; 2) identifying the performance standards for evaluating the outcomes of projects and activities; and 3) identifying the funding, policies and procedures for the administration and operation of the HMIS, if appropriate.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	**Agency/Group/Organization**	CENTRAL VALLEY COALITION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Education Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) and Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization is an established non-profit Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) and an Affordable Housing Developer. CVCAH provides housing (ADA-accessible, large family, rental, permanent supportive) and non-housing supportive services (life skill enhancement classes and after school programs) to homeless and chronically homeless individuals and families with children, persons with disabilities, persons/families at risk of becoming homeless, elderly persons, mental health patients, and veterans. CVCAH also develops affordable housing throughout the State of California and approximately 25% of income generated from those and local housing activities assists in providing housing for homeless individuals and families. The City partners closely with CVCAH in developing affordable housing in the community. CVCAH feels the need for more senior citizen facilities, health services, and affordable housing has increased over the last year and that the need for fire stations/equipment has steadily remained the number one infrastructure need in the city. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. Area for improved coordination: helpful if all the City and County agencies could come together to assist each other out when opportunities arise to producing and servicing the low-income families in the city.
2	**Agency/Group/Organization**	United Way of Merced County

	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Agency - Emergency Management Regional organization Business and Civic Leaders 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Public Charity Corporation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	United Way of Merced County connects people, resources, organizations, and businesses together to create and further equitable, thriving communities. Populations reached include children/youth/adolescents, families with children, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence/human trafficking/sexual assault, homeless/chronically homeless, persons/families at risk of homelessness, elderly persons, mental health patients, drug treatment and recovery patients, formerly incarcerated, veterans, unemployed/those looking for work, businesses, and communities of color/cultural/heritage. Currently, the United Way is administering its programs countywide. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. Area for improved coordination: find a way to integrate the 211 network as part of the housing navigation system for the people of Merced County, to be able to assist with basic entry and navigation.
3	**Agency/Group/Organization**	LifeLine Community Development Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-homeless Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Victims Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Planning organization Community Development 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	LifeLine CDC provides non-housing support services to community members living in lower-income areas of the city by empowering neighborhood communities to thrive through an asset-based approach, providing access to resources such as computers for document preparation and digital forms, internet services, and after-school programs. Populations served include homeless and chronically homeless individuals and families, children/youth/adolescents, families with children, victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and/or sexual assault; persons/families at-risk of becoming homeless, elderly persons, formerly incarcerated, and those who are unemployed or looking for work. Lifeline CDC also provides housing services through referrals and informal counseling. LifeLine CDC receives approximately $200,000 to $300,000 annually from individual donors, foundations, and various small grants, including CDBG funds. They are also part of the Merced Workforce Planning Team, who partners with Merced College. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. Area for improved coordination: Additional focus is needed to seniors and the recent homeless. Many people are on the verge of becoming homeless. A tiny home community setting may be of benefit for these population groups.

4	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Merced City Police Department/Merced City Fire Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services - Victims Agency - Emergency Management Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Merced's Police and Fire Departments each are in constant contact with homeless, extremely low-income families with children, persons with disabilities, persons HIV/AIDS, mental health patients, drug treatment and recovery patients, businesses, and all other populations every day, and serve to provide health services (paramedic, mental health, drug/alcohol dependence, seniors/elderly, hospital transportation, homeless care) and crime awareness and prevention services within their scope of community services. The City could better coordinate with its emergency services departments to help disseminate information to the extremely low-income, homeless, at-risk youth, elderly, and veteran populations that federal funds need to reach the most. The Code Enforcement Division/Police Department could better be used to connect the Housing Division to homeowners and rental property owners that are most in need of homeowner or rental property rehabilitation funding. In addition, their eyes on the street could be used as an additional vital source in understanding the unspoken and most dire needs of the community, in combination with other methods of assessing the needs of the community.
5	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Merced County Food Bank, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services - Victims Health Agency Agency - Emergency Management Regional organization Non-Profit Public Charity Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Regional Food Insecurity
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Merced County Food Bank's (MCFB) mission is to improve the health and well-being of Merced and Mariposa residents affected by hunger, through the acquisition, storage, and distribution of nutritious food; to provide and advocate for, increased access to, and consumption of, nutritious fruits, vegetables, nuts, and other foods; and, to integrate, facilitate, and advocate for programs and services that address hunger's underlying and related issues. This organization sources and distributes food and other nutrition products to those in need with the help of partnering agencies, such as food pantries, emergency shelters, and meal programs that serve families, children, seniors, and others at risk of hunger, educates the public about the problem of hunger. MCFB also directly serves the public through the Senior Brown Bag Program, USDA Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) distribution sites, and through California's Drought Food Assistance Program (DFAP). MCFB is 80% funded through private donations and 20% publicly funded through the State of California Department of Social Services (DSS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Approximately 60% of their budget supports low-income food insecure residents of the City of Merced. They were invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. Area for improved coordination: more services are needed for vulnerable populations, especially the elderly.

6	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Boys and Girls Club of Merced County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Services - Youth/Adolescent; 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Boys and Girls Club of Merced County serves non-homeless disadvantaged youth and low-income families of Merced County with evidenced-based youth development programs after school and during the summer, focusing on character and leadership development, education and career development (including workforce readiness), health and life skills, the Arts, and sports, fitness, and recreation for stress management, environmental appreciation, and social skill development. Referral support is provided for wrap-around services such as mental health. Populations reached include children/youth/adolescents, families with children, persons/families at-risk of becoming homeless, and children with disabilities. Approximately 53% of families served are LMI. The Boys and Girls Club of Merced County receives approximately $500,000 to $1,000,000 annually from private foundations and donations, other state and/or federal funding, and local funding. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. Area for improved coordination: strategies to serve working families or families seeking to get back to employment.

7	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services - Victims Non-Profit Public Charity Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project (SSG) provides housing (rapid rehousing, emergency rental assistance, permanent supportive, rental housing, acquisition with rehabilitation) and non-housing supportive services to homeless, at-risk, and chronically homeless individuals/families within the community. Populations served by those primary services include: children/youth/adolescents, families with children, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence/human trafficking/sexual assault, homeless and/or chronically homeless persons, elderly persons, mental health patients, drug treatment or recovery patients, formerly incarcerated individuals, veterans, and those unemployed or looking for work. SSG receives current and past grant funding from a combination of HUD CDBG, HOME, CDBG-CV, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds, California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) funds, and other sources as they become available. SSG currently is contracted with the Central California Alliance for Health (CCAH) to serve their members who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with deposit assistance and housing case management and manage Rapid Rehousing funds from ESG and CESH. Approximately 80% of clients served are City of Merced residents. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. Better coordination can occur with affordable housing and mental health service providers in the community. Area for improved coordination: SSG attends weekly meetings with area service organizations to coordinate services and funding assistance to those in need and is a member of the City and County Continuum of Care. SSG works closely with the City's Housing Division on homelessness prevention and the creation and provision of both affordable and permanent supportive housing.
8	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Merced Community College District

	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Other government - State Foundation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Merced Community College District covers most of Merced County and the Chowchilla High and Dos Palos Joint Elementary School Districts, was formed in 1962, and is a fully accredited college, offering lower division courses paralleling those of and transferable to four-year colleges and universities. Merced College's student support programs aim to connect students to basic need services, such as housing, childcare, clothing, transportation, and food assistance, to enable their education goals. Located on their Main and Los Banos campuses, the Basic Needs Center is intended to be a one-stop, single location for students to access services and resources, including bags of food. Other services include a sexual violence prevention program and personal counseling, and the college partners with the State CALWorks program to provide students and their families with career opportunities and support services. The college serves veterans, parents, former foster youth, students with disabilities, high school students, formerly incarcerated, and low-income residents. The College also offers Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS) to facilitate very low-income and historically underrepresented students' academic and career goals, and hosts a collaborative and all-inclusive Equity Hub area in the Student Union building. The college has a 2022-23 enrollment of approximately 12,000 students. Merced College receives their funding from the State and Federal Financial Aid for qualifying students. Area for improved coordination: coordination of housing services and provider information and grant assistance to help students obtain housing.
9	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Housing Authority of the County of Merced
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Housing Authority provides permanent subsidized rental housing for residents and housing projects countywide and assists clients in connecting with partner agencies for any other needs. The Housing Authority services housing within communities in Merced County, but the program allows for participants to transport their vouchers to any U.S. state and the Authority remains responsible for the rental subsidy of those vouchers. Populations served include children/youth/adolescents, families with children, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence/human trafficking/sexual assault, homeless and chronically homeless persons, persons/families at-risk of becoming homeless, elderly, and veterans. The HACM receives annual funding from HUD's Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) program, Operating Fund for Public Housing (PH), Rural Development/USDA, Office of Migrant Services, and California HCD Office of Migrant Services (OMS). Funding is to provide rental assistance to families at the extremely low to very low HUD-published income levels. This agency was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. Over the last year, the Authority has seen a continued decrease in housing stock, a lack of affordable housing, and dramatically increased rents. Area for improved coordination: A better understanding of funding and program rules and regulations on the part of the City and County would assist in understanding the limitations and opportunities the Authority can and cannot participate in. Also, better and more regular coordination, communication, and accessibility between all agencies, the City, and the HACM can be made to ensure that all resident needs are met throughout the City via collaborative housing projects and that all parties are up to date with each agency's capacities.
10	**Agency/Group/Organization**	MERCED COUNTY

	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Health Agency Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Agency - Emergency Management Other government - County Planning organization Major Employer
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This agency oversees all county government operations, including the Continuum of Care, which they will continue to manage for the plan year. They were invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan.

11	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Merced City and County COC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Other government - County Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The County of Merced Human Services Agency represented the Continuum of Care (CoC) during the consultation process, as it acts as the Collaborative Applicant for the CoC serving citizens countywide, including children/youth, adolescents, victims of domestic violence, persons with disabilities, and chronically homeless individuals and families. The CoC was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. Within the Merced City limits, as of the 2023 PIT count conducted on February 23, 2023, 571 individuals qualify for CoC services. Annually, the CoC manages approximately $1 million in recurring Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and CoC funding from HUD, and additionally, currently manages several one-time grants that include Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP), California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH), and Emergency Solutions Grant - Coronavirus (ESG-CV) grants totaling approximately $2.6 million. Separately, the CoC/Collaborative Applicant administers State Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) funds on behalf of all jurisdictions in the County. All clients served by its grant programs meet the HUD definition of homeless. Currently, the City and the County Human Services Agency participate as partners through the regional planning committee, as well as through the CoC. Coordination between the City and the CoC could be improved with pooled resources and data to better track the measurable impact of services and with creation of a regional housing trust fund to assist in the development of more affordable housing.
12	**Agency/Group/Organization**	MERCED RESCUE MISSION

	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Education Services - Victims Non-Profit Public Charity Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization primarily provides housing (rapid rehousing, permanent supportive, emergency shelter, acquisition with rehabilitation, respite care, and transitional housing) and non-housing supportive services to homeless and chronically homeless individuals and individuals/families at risk of becoming homeless within the community. Populations served by those primary services include: families with children, elderly persons, drug treatment or recovery patients, formerly incarcerated individuals, veterans, homeless recently released from the hospital, and those unemployed. The Rescue Mission typically receives funding from a combination of HUD CDBG, Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant, California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) Grant, private donations (individuals, businesses, churches), and other grant funds such as Dignity Health, Central California Alliance for Health, and Emergency Food and Shelter grants. This organization works with multiple service providers and provides approximately $2.5 million in homeless services within the community. The Rescue Mission works to fill the gaps in services for people experiencing homelessness. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. MRM did not respond to the Annual Plan consultation survey but assisted the City in its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan consultation during the month of January 2023 by responding to similar needs assessment questions.
13	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Planning organization Business Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Business Support and Advocacy

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. The Chamber of Commerce did not respond to the City's 2023 Annual Plan consultation needs assessment survey, but has provided vital feedback in most recent years.
14	**Agency/Group/Organization**	MERCED LAO FAMILY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Service-Fair Housing Business and Civic Leaders Services - Translation/Cultural/Social
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization provides invaluable and vital Hmong and other Southeast Asian language translation services to the resident, service, and business community. The City of Merced partners with this organization to translate all published notices and advertisements, at all public hearings, and at all community outreach meetings held in preparation of this plan. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. The organization did not respond to the City's 2023 Annual Plan consultation needs assessment survey, but is a close partner of the City organization, in ensuring inclusivity and fair housing amongst all citizens.
15	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Project Sentinel, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Education Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The organization provides vital and necessary fair housing services within the community, focusing on disseminating housing discrimination-related education materials, information, and resources to Merced City residents, as well as providing assistance to residents with discrimination cases that cannot be resolved through provided landlord/tenant counseling services. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. Coordination with Project Sentinel has continued to improve this year, as Project Sentinel provided their presence and assistance during the December public input and January/February Town Hall meetings, as well as during the January 2023 floods. Additionally, tenant and landlord education materials developed by Project Sentinel were provided to residents who attended the Town Hall meetings and are also provided on the City's Fair Housing webpage dedicated to providing fair housing information to residents.

16	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Alliance for Community Transformations
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Alliance for Community Transformations (ACT) primarily provides housing services (emergency temporary shelter and transitional housing) to victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and/or sexual assault, support which extends to the children in those families through the Valley Crisis Center emergency shelter. They also provide non-housing supportive services in the form of case management, transportation, peer counseling, referrals, and life skills. Other populations served by those primary services include: families with children and persons with disabilities. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. ACT did not respond to the Annual Plan consultation survey but assisted the City in its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan consultation during the month of January 2023 by responding to a similar needs assessment survey.
17	**Agency/Group/Organization**	The Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Planning organization Fair Housing/Housing Policy Advocate
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Citizen Participation and Outreach

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability works alongside residents and communities in the San Joaquin Valley to advocate for sound policy and identify and work to eliminate inequities in order to secure equal access to opportunity regardless of wealth, race, income, and place, as well as an advocate for citizen input to public policy. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. Though the Leadership Counsel did not respond as an organization to the consultation needs assessment survey, they regularly and actively participate in City Council and other meetings with City officials regarding potential housing policy strategies, affordable housing, and tenant rights advocacy.
18	**Agency/Group/Organization**	HEALTHY HOUSE WITHIN A MATCH COALITION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Education Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims Services - Translation/Cultural/Social; 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The organization provides support services to homeless and at-risk elderly, elderly disabled, and elderly veterans, and provides translation services to the City and community in several languages, including Spanish interpretation at City Council meetings. The City utilizes this organization for translation services at all public hearings and public outreach meetings, and Healthy House translators were integral during the January 2023 flooding in helping to relay the needs of Spanish-speaking residents. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan.
19	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Habitat for Humanity Merced/Stanislaus Counties
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Service-Fair Housing Regional organization 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Habitat for Humanity Merced/Stanislaus Counties (HHMSC) serves the Merced and Stanislaus Counties and works in partnership with families to help eliminate poverty housing in the community, advocate for and make accessible fair and affordable housing opportunities, and to preserve and improve existing housing occupied by low-income homeowners. HHMSC continues to be a strong partner with the City of Merced in providing homeowner occupied rehabilitation opportunities, which includes lead paint testing and abatement activities. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan. HHMSC did not respond to the Annual Plan consultation survey but assisted the City in its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan consultation during the month of January 2023 by responding to a similar needs assessment survey.
20	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Golden Valley Health Centers
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Health Agency 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Golden Valley Health Centers provides health care access to a wide sector of population sectors in the San Joaquin Valley and is based in Merced City. Populations served include children/youth/adolescents, families with children, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence/human trafficking/sexual assault, homeless/chronically homeless, persons or families at risk of homelessness, elderly persons, mental health patients, drug treatment or recovery patients, formerly incarcerated, veterans, and those who are unemployed or looking for work. GVHC receives funding annually from private foundations and various health-related funding from Federal, State, and County-level sources. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan.
21	**Agency/Group/Organization**	Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education Business and Civic Leaders 501(c)(6) Corporation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce primarily promotes Hispanic-owned small businesses and to further the economic development of all Merced County businesses. The MCHCC receives funding annually from annual memberships, grants, and fundraiser events. Areas where coordination can be improved are in coordinating business, financial, tax, investment, capital funding, marketing, and networking education and training opportunities to help small businesses succeed and to disseminate general information to their clients regarding HUD-funded programs available through the City. This organization was invited to participate in community outreach meetings, resident and consultation needs surveys, public input meetings, and to provide comments on the draft plan.

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

Not applicable.

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	County of Merced/Human Services Agency	The County of Merced Human Services Agency is the Merced City and County Continuum of Care's Collaborative Applicant and conducts homeless counts, applies for and implements programs with State and Federal funding sources, surveys of the homeless population, and strategic planning with a goal to end homelessness in Merced County. Consistent with the goals of the CoC, the City of Merced's Strategic Plan provides support to nonprofits that meet the social services needs of the City's homeless and at-risk residents.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
City of Merced General Plan/Housing Element	City of Merced	Based on the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) set forth by the State of California, the Housing Element is the City's chief policy document for the development of affordable and market rate housing. Consistent with this policy document, the City will maintain and enhance the quality of existing residential neighborhoods through the BNP; and, promote and encourage fair housing opportunities for all economic segments of the community, regardless of age, sex, ethnic background, physical condition, or family size.
Park and Open Space Master Plan	City of Merced	The City of Merced Park and Open Space Master Plan aims to improve the quality of life in Merced by assessing the community's needs in providing a larger and more comprehensive park and recreation program. The Master Plan inventories and suggests improvements for parks and recreation facilities that can be assisted with CDBG funds, many of which are in predominantly low-income and disadvantaged areas of the city.
Active Transportation / Safe Routes to School Plan	City of Merced	The Active Transportation and Safe Routes to School Plan (ATP) outlines the goals for active transportation, including goals for increasing connectivity through ADA accessibility and new sidewalk improvements. CDBG funds could be used towards some of those projects, particularly in low-income neighborhoods in the city.
Five-Year and Annual PHA Plans	Housing Authority of the County of Merced	The Housing Authority of the County of Merced's Five-Year and Annual Plans outline the funding and strategies for providing housing assistance to our most vulnerable citizens, including homeownership and rental assistance programs. Other overlapping goals include safety and crime prevention/awareness, the preservation and creation of permanent affordable housing for low-income and homeless individuals and families, and participation in the Merced City and County Continuum of Care.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

The City participates in regional planning efforts with Merced County in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan as detailed above. We also work with the State of California Department of Fair Employment and Housing to track reported fair housing data. The City also works with the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) to address various ways to meet the State of California's Regional Housing and Needs

Assessment Goals (RHNA) for regional housing assisting low to moderate income residents and housing matters of significance to all communities.

While the goal to provide sufficient affordable housing units within our community is complex, the City continues to partner with MCAG, local building industry leaders, and developers to develop creative solutions to increase both the community's market-rate and affordable multi- and single-family housing stock.

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The City of Merced published all advertisements, public hearings, and Annual Action Plan summaries in The Merced County Times and the Merced Sun-Star newspapers, as well as the City's website. The summary described the contents and purpose of the Annual Action Plan and listed the locations where copies of the entire plan could be examined. Upon completion of the draft plan, it was made available for public review and comment for a minimum of 30 days, as required in the adopted Citizen Participation Plan. Copies of the Annual Action Plan were available to the public on the City's website and the City of Merced Housing Division office.

At the Town Hall meetings in January and February of 2023, citizens had the opportunity to informally address City Council with their community concerns. This year's meetings were held in a slightly different format, with all City departments providing information tables and knowledgeable staff to answer residents' questions for approximately one hour before the Town Hall meeting began. This gave Housing staff another valuable opportunity to engage with citizens and solicit more responses to the Community Needs Survey. When possible, a follow-up call was made to provide further information to residents. Housing staff then remained for the Town Hall meeting to note any community needs expressed that had not yet been brought up in the three Community Input workshop meetings or through the concurrent community survey. Housing staff also spoke to several residents after the meeting regarding issues related to their apartment units flooding during the January storms.

Additionally, Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFA) notices were published in the legal notice sections in the Merced Sun-Star and Merced County Times newspapers, on the City's website, and invitation letters were mailed directly to 125 local non-profit and faith-based organizations, providing meeting dates and locations of when and where assistance and information would be provided to public agencies and non-profit organizations. Local public agencies and non-profits were assisted and given the opportunity to spend time to discuss their community goals and needs in a social-distanced roundtable setting. Collaboration between community groups was encouraged.

As noted earlier, a total of three public hearings were held with the City Council, where Housing staff presented the 2023 funding proposals from agencies and non-profit organizations that applied for funding. Citizens who participated in the process received extensive information about the Annual Action Plan, the citizen participation process, the HUD requirements for an entitlement City, the amount of funding that the City

anticipates receiving, and how those funds can be used by the City. Residents were given further opportunity to provide City staff with their input on the prioritization of community needs.

The 30-day public review period was held from March 31 to May 15, 2023, after the City Council extended the period an additional two weeks at the May 1, 2023, scheduled public hearing. During this period, the City received no (zero) written comments from residents and community members. Comments received at the public hearings are summarized in the Executive Summary and the Public Participation attachments.

Community Surveys were also administered at various public locations, including on-line on the City's website, through several social media postings, and through the newsletter mailed to all municipal utility account holders in the City of Merced. Among other relevant topics, survey participants were asked to rank their desired levels of priority for several listed eligible funding possibilities that were categorized under the following community needs: Housing; Public Service; Infrastructure; Neighborhood Improvement; and Economic Development. The City received 338 survey responses.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Community Needs Assessment Survey	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish and Hmong Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad	The City published an internet-based Community Needs Survey to collect feedback from the public on community needs, priorities, and fair housing experiences. A print version of the survey was made available to all residents, and nine such responses were received and entered manually into the electronic form for data collection purposes (residents could fill out in person or by mail). The survey was open online in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, and Hmong, from November 16, 2022, through February 28, 2023. The English survey received 329 responses, 312 of them City residents,	Feedback revealed significant concerns with overburdened housing costs (51.5% spend over 30% of their household income on housing), difficulty paying essential living expenses (food, housing, utilities, transportation), cost of housing and lack of affordable housing options, the need for more	No responses were rejected. 17 of the 338 respondents stated that they were not residents living within the City of Merced city limits. County residents who took the survey were asked their association to the City, and responses revealed that 64.7% work within the city limits, 23.5% have family that lives in the City, and 58.8% also shop here. This year we chose not to include out-of-boundary responses in the specific needs category questions, so as to better understand the needs of City residents in particular and to have their input have a greater impact on response percentages. However, the City appreciates the willingness of	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Internet Outreach	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish and Hmong Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The City relied heavily on social media platforms and the internet, and used the utility bill newsletter to encourage survey response and to reach more residents. Flyers with links to the Community Needs Survey and listing the dates/times/locations of the Community Input Meetings were posted in English, Spanish, and Hmong on the City's Facebook and Instagram pages. All town halls and public hearings were held in-person and live-streamed to Facebook Live, and Community Input/Service Organization 2023 information meetings were a hybrid of in-person and Microsoft	Housing staff monitored all comments posted to these meetings to gather any that could be included into needs assessment and other community conversation efforts. It also was an additional opportunity for direct outreach to residents in answering their questions on current projects and other topics.	No comments left on social media posts were rejected.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Public Comment Period	Non-targeted/broad community	The draft 2023 Annual Action Plan was published for comment to solicit feedback from community residents on project funding and the year's goals and objectives on March 30, 2023. The comment period was publicly noticed to be open from March 31, 2023, through May 1, 2023. However, at the May 1 , 2023, public hearing, which was continued to June 5, 2023, the City Council extended the public comment period an additional two weeks, to May 15, 2023. Public comment notices were published on March 2, 2023, in English, Spanish, and Hmong in both local newspapers - the Merced Sun Star and the Merced County	The Housing Division did not receive any written comments during the extended 46-day review and comment period. See also the summary of public comments received in the plan attachments.	No comments were rejected.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
			The City actively encouraged low- and moderate-income residents, persons of color, persons with disabilities, and non-English-speaking residents to attend community meetings. In accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan, the City provided disabled-accessible meeting locations and requested language assistance to all residents. This included: interpreters for non-English-speaking citizens (Spanish and Hmong); information provided through workshops, the school district, and local community centers; and easily accessible virtual meeting platforms for the hybrid in-person/virtual public	See summary of		

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
			The City actively encouraged low- and moderate-income residents, persons of color, persons with disabilities and non-English-speaking residents to attend public hearings by making them available in Spanish and Hmong and publishing notices in widely distributed publications easily read by all residents. In accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan, the City provided access to all information, as well as language assistance to all residents who requested these services. This includes: interpreters for non-English-speaking citizens; information provided through workshops,	See summary of public comments		

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
6	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	On December 1, 2022, the City published a quarter-page advertisement in both the Merced County Times and the Merced Sun-Star inviting residents to attend their choice of three Community Input meetings that were held on December 12, 13, and 16, 2022. The advertisement also asked residents to participate by taking the Community Needs Survey, and QR codes and direct links were provided in the ad to access the survey. The advertisements were published in English, Spanish, and Hmong languages.	As a result of the advertisements, more residents were informed about the Community Input Meetings and the Community Needs Survey and could then choose to participate in one or both activities.	The City did not receive any direct comments regarding this advertisement.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
7	Technical Assistance to Organizations	Organizations seeking program funding assistance	The City's Housing Division hosted three information meetings that explained relevant CDBG and HOME regulations and explained the City's NOFA process. Meeting dates were December 12, 13, and 16, 2023. These meetings were held in two parts - part one focused to the residents in attendance, and the second part focused to attending organizations. Additional technical assistance was offered to organizations for one-on-one meetings to develop their applications and programs to ensure it would meet a national objectives and include eligible costs, and three organizations	As a result of this technical assistance, the Housing Division received two funding requests from organizations and both City departments applied for public facility improvements projects funding.	All requests for technical assistance were accepted and assistance provided.	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

HUD has allocated to the City of Merced a total of $1,607,573 in new CDBG and HOME funds for program year 2023. Allocation of funds and assignment of priorities for funding are based upon the national goals and objectives set forth by HUD regulations, and local goals for housing and community development. Local goals, consistent with HUD regulations, focus on building up and improving the City's residents and neighborhoods. The City intends on pursuing additional funding through other local, state, and federal resources whenever possible.

The City does not anticipate a steady stream of program income from year to year over the term of the Consolidated Plan. The fluctuation in program income is due to payments received from the County of Merced through Chapter 8 - Tax default property sales and unanticipated loan payoffs through the year. To the greatest extent possible, program income received from the repayment of Rehabilitation loans, First Time Homebuyer loans, and residual receipt payments will be reprogrammed for loan activities in those same or similar programs from which the funds were originally provided. If additional program income funds are received that are not automatically re-programmed, specific projects will be identified during a mid-year technical or substantial amendment process.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan $	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: $	Program Income: $	Prior Year Resources: $	Total: $		

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan $	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: $	Program Income: $	Prior Year Resources: $	Total: $		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,034,373	147,320	2,325,865	3,507,558	1,220,056	For 2023, the City will receive a $65,538 decrease in CDBG grant funding over last fiscal year. Program income in the amount of $96,000 is anticipated in Year 5 of the current Consolidated Plan period (next year). CDBG Prior Year Resources include: unspent/remaining funds from 2022-23 projects (Sierra Saving Grace; Harvest Time), unspent/remaining funds from 2019-20 and 2021-22 projects that experienced COVID-19 related or other delays (Sierra Saving Grace; Lifeline CDC; Symple Equazion; Central Valley Coalition for Affordable Housing), 2022-23 projects withdrawn or using alternate non-HUD funding (Alliance for Community Transformations; Self-Help Enterprises), and payments and payoffs from active housing loans received during the 2022-23 program year.With the First Substantial Amendment, Prior Year Resources also includes prior year CDBG funds previously reserved for infrastructure projects that are not moving forward or will be deferred to future funding years.The Second Substantial Amendment corrects the CDBG Prior Year Resources carryover figures. As a result of these corrections, prior year carryover no longer includes resources for prior year infrastructure projects.

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan $	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: $	Program Income: $	Prior Year Resources: $	Total: $		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	573,200	54,000	4,044,999	4,672,199	602,776	The City will receive a $29,992 decrease in HOME grant funding over last fiscal year. Program income in the amount of $60,000 is anticipated in Year 5 of the current Consolidated Plan period (next year). HOME Prior Year Resources include: payments and payoffs from active housing loans received during the 2022-23 program year, $45,000 for 2022-23 Fuller Housing Project that used alternative funding, and $3,781,338 for affordable housing rental projects.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The City attempts to use HOME Funds, State Grants, and local funding sources, when appropriate, to meet the objective of the Annual Action Plan and emphasizes the need for local organizations to leverage Federal, State and local resources when they request funding for their programs. These efforts have been fruitful, and projects supplemented with other funding sources have substantially exceeded accomplishments that could be achieved from federal funds alone. Although there is no official match requirement in the CDBG program, in most cases, other funds, such as private funds received through donors or fundraising activities, commercial loans, Gas Tax funds, and non-federal funds, are used to supplement and defray project costs.

All Participating Jurisdictions (PJs) receiving HOME funds, like the City of Merced, must contribute or match no less than 25 cents for each dollar of HOME funds spent on affordable housing. As PJs draw funds from HOME, they incur a match liability, which must be satisfied by the end each federal fiscal year. Federal match requirements apply to the City's HOME funds. In the past, redevelopment Low- and Moderate-Income Housing funds were the City's primary source for leveraging or providing matching funds for the City's Housing programs. With the dissolution of redevelopment agencies in California, the City no longer receives this funding. The HOME statute provides for a reduction of the matching contribution requirement under three conditions: 1) local fiscal distress; 2) severe fiscal distress; and 3) for Presidentially declared major disasters covered under the Stafford Act. When a local jurisdiction meets both of the distress criteria in 24 CFR 92.222, it is determined to be in severe fiscal distress and receives a 100 percent reduction of match, effective for the fiscal year in which the determination is made and for the following fiscal year. Individual poverty rate and per capita income (PCI) are based on data obtained from the latest American Community Survey (ACS) estimates from Census data. In 2022, for a jurisdiction to qualify as distressed based on the poverty criterion, its percentage persons in poverty must have been at least 17.96 percent, and to qualify as distressed based on the PCI criterion, its average PCI must have been less than $24,306. With a 2022 estimated poverty rate of 29.75 percent and a PCI of $20,363, the City of Merced's match is reduced 100 percent for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. Additionally, with Federal Declaration of Major Disaster declared in January 2023 due to storm-related flooding, the City could also request a reduction of the HOME Match funds under the third criteria (24 CFR 92.222(b)) for years 2023 and 2024.

Below is a list of some non-HUD grants the City continually applies for or partners with non-profit organizations for when available:

Federal: Rental Assistance Program (Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program), Supportive Housing Program (SHP), National Housing Trust Fund, and Project Based Section 8.

State: Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), Mental Health Services ACT (MHSA), Cal-Home Program, The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA), Multi-Family Housing (MHP) Program, Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant (FWHG) Program, Emergency Housing Assistance (EHAP) Program, Affordable Housing (AHP) Program, Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program, No Place Like Home (NPLH), Housing Related Parks (HRP) Program, Infill Infrastructure Grant (IIG) Program, Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA), and the 2017 Housing Funding Package (SB2 Funding).

Local: Central California Alliance for Health, City Density Bonus Program, and loans from the Conventional Lending Industry.

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

The Housing Division was designated as the Housing Successor Agency (HSA) overseeing approximately ten (10) vacant properties and, with the January 2021 payoff of the Grove Apartments loans, over $2.2 million of HSA LMI Asset funds that may be used to support additional affordable housing projects over next few years. These funds must be used to further the goal of the City in the development of additional affordable housing units, and per State law, the properties must either be developed with affordable housing or sold for the same purpose. If sold, the sales proceeds must be deposited into the HSA LMI Housing Asset fund to be reused for affordable housing.

Pending Disposition of Properties

In recent years, City staff had considered a concept of using these sites for a cottage home project, in an effort to increase housing units in Merced. The concept received positive feedback; however, that conceptual project has shifted to an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) planning project under a State SB2 Planning Grant.

Staff is in varying stages of working to dispose these lands to three separate affordable housing developers for development with affordable units. Assembly Bill 1486 amended the Surplus Lands Act effective January 1, 2020, requiring cities to offer to sell surplus property to affordable housing developers and other such entities before offering them for sale on the open market. Under certain exemptions, the Act requires disposed properties to meet certain conditions per Government Code Section 54221(f)(1)(A): 1) not less than 80% of the parcel area should be used for housing development; 2) not less than 40% of the total number of units shall be made available to households earning 75% AMI or less and at least half of which shall be affordable to very low-income households; and 3) units must be restricted by a regulatory agreement for no less than 30 years.

In March 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution 2021-17 declaring the properties exempt surplus land, and in April 2021, a Request for Proposal (RFP) for these affordable housing development opportunities was released, with the City receiving multiple proposals from affordable housing developers. The HSA will contribute the land through terms negotiated with each developer. On October 18, 2021, the City Council selected three affordable housing partners to develop the ten sites as follows:

- Linc Housing: Sites 1 through 5 (1823 I Street, 1815 I Street, 205 W. 18th Street, 211 W. 18th Street, and 202 W. 19th Street) - duplexes
- Fuller Center for Housing of Merced County (formerly Habitat for Humanity of Merced County): Sites 6 through 9 (1744 I Street, 49 W. 18th Street, 150 W. 19th Street, and 26 W. 18th Street) - single family homes
- Custom Containers 915 (CC915): Site 10 (73 South R Street) - apartment units for formerly homeless veterans converted from former shipping containers (also received a $4.4 million State

Homekey award for this project)

The City currently is in the process of assisting Linc Housing and the Fuller Center through related zoning, building permit, and other requirements to begin development. The City has entered into Disposition Development Agreements (DDAs) with all three entities, and Custom Container's project is expected to complete construction by Summer of 2023.

Discussion

In addition to the entitlement allocations the City receives from HUD, the Housing Division also manages numerous other grants and programs within the community.

The following funds and programs continue to generate income from the loans and are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget:

- LMI Housing Assets (Local)
- Cal HOME 06/12 (HCD)
- HOME 92/93/94 (HCD)
- NSP 3 (HUD)

Local funding sources (non-Federal) budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-24 include:

- CalHome 2021 (HCD)
- Homekey (HCD)
- LMI Housing Assets (Local)
- Water Enterprise Funds (Local)
- Sewer Enterprise Funds (Local)

These are local funding sources budgeted as part of the overall 2023-24 Housing Division budget. These other funding sources were not included as part of the anticipated resources in the HUD Annual Plan since they are non-federal funding sources. The non-federal funding sources are necessary to assist the Housing Division finance the "fiscal gap" of various projects, thereby allowing them the ability to move forward.

HUD-Eligible Projects funded or supplemented with non-federal funding sources include:

- Gateway Terrace II Site Water & Sewer Main Replacement Project: Approximately $474,843 of local Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds
- First Time Home Buyer Program: Approximately $1,771,579 for CalHome Programs, including $1,125,000 of new 2021 CalHome Program funding
- Homeowner Rehabilitation: Approximately $1,375,000 of new 2021 CalHome Program funding,

and a portion of available State HOME 92/93/94 grant funding totaling $555,193 will be used for homeowner rehab projects

HSA LMI Asset Fund Activities - Gateway Terrace II and 1820 I Street

The City continues to progress towards the use of local non-Federal funding from the City's Housing Successor Agency (HSA) during the 2023-24 Annual Plan period, carried over from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 program years. As a result of the refinance and pay off of loans for The Grove project in January of 2021, the City received a large repayment of HSA LMI Asset Funds (former Redevelopment Agency funds). As explained in the 2021 and 2022 Annual Action Plans, and continuing into the 2023 year, these funds will be used to repay previously expended CDBG and HOME funds for the 50-unit affordable/permanent supportive Gateway Terrace II (GTII) project, which has been stalled since January of 2020 following HUD's environmental monitoring that month. In October of 2021, the City received HUD's required corrective actions list as a result of that monitoring, and the list included an additional property of 1820 I Street that will also require repayment. Following a related Council action authorizing use of funds for such repayment activities as well as the repayment process itself, those repaid funds will again become available resources under both the CDBG and HOME programs for eligible projects and expenses. $700,507 of LMI Asset funding was provided in the 2021 Annual Plan as an Expected Resource for the GTII repayment, and an additional $269,640 was provided in the 2022 plan for repayment of the HOME funding previously used for 1820 I Street.

Additional funding from the HSA LMI Asset Fund will also need to be pledged for the remaining GTII project costs. Those will require separate action by the City Council, which is scheduled to occur late Spring 2023. This additional funding was previously contemplated using CDBG and HOME funds, and the receipt of LMI Asset Funds in January 2021 allows the project to be entirely switched to local funding, freeing up HUD funding for other eligible activities and projects. Subsequently, both projects, GTII and 1820 I Street, will become HSA locally funded projects, with no federal funds associated whatsoever.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	1A Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	City Wide	Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities	CDBG: $290,528	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 600 Persons Assisted
2	2A Increase Owner Occupied Rehab Opportunities	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	City Wide	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing	CDBG: $190,164	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 3 Household Housing Unit
3	2B Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	City Wide	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing	CDBG: $2,760,384 HOME: $4,638,667	Rental units constructed: 156 Household Housing Unit
4	2C Provide Assistance for Supportive Housing	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	City Wide	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing	CDBG: $0 HOME: $0	

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	3A Provide Vital Services for LMI Families	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	City Wide	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements	CDBG: $226,336	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2820 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 60 Households Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 261 Persons Assisted
6	4A Provide Homeless Prevention & Support Services	2020	2024	Homeless	City Wide	Homelessness Housing and Support Services	CDBG: $40,146	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 227 Persons Assisted
7	5 Enhance Fair Housing Knowledge and Resources	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	City Wide	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements	HOME: $33,532	

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	**Goal Name**	1A Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities
	Goal Description	The City will improve access to public infrastructure through development activities for LMI persons and households. Public infrastructure activities include, but are not limited to, improvements to infrastructure in the jurisdiction such as roadway resurfacing, installation or replacement of water, sewer, and storm lines and drains, and installation of new or improved curbs, gutters, and ramps on sidewalks and public access areas for ADA compliance. The City will also expand and improve access to public facilities through development activities for LMI persons and households and for special needs population (elderly, persons with a disability, victims of domestic abuse, etc.). Public facilities may include neighborhood facilities, community centers, fire stations and emergency response equipment, and parks and recreation facilities. This goal includes $15,528 *(amended)* of CDBG administrative funding from Projects 1 and 2 (Direct Administration and Indirect Administration) that are listed in the AP-35 "Projects" and AP-38 "Project Summary" charts.
2	**Goal Name**	2A Increase Owner Occupied Rehab Opportunities
	Goal Description	With 2023 CDBG and carryover funding, the City will continue low-income homeowner occupied housing rehabilitation program activities city-wide. These activities will benefit LMI households. This goal includes $10,164 *(amended)* of CDBG administrative funding from Projects 1 and 2 (Direct Administration and Indirect Administration) that are listed in the AP-35 "Projects" and AP-38 "Project Summary" charts.
3	**Goal Name**	2B Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities
	Goal Description	The City will work to increase rental opportunities for LMI households through new construction of rental housing. This goal includes $147,539 *(amended)* of CDBG and $23,788 of HOME administrative funding from Projects 1 and 2 (Direct Administration and Indirect Administration) that are listed in the AP-35 "Projects" and AP-38 "Project Summary" charts.

4	**Goal Name**	2C Provide Assistance for Supportive Housing
	Goal Description	The City will provide assistance for supportive housing for eligible residents in the City. These projects will supply vital supportive housing for formerly homeless and other special needs individuals and families, as well as rehabilitate and convert market-rate housing to affordable and supportive rental units. The City will include supportive housing units into new rental housing projects whenever possible. There are no specific projects in this 2023 Annual Action Plan that are directed towards this goal; however, Housing Division staff continues to work with local organizations on finishing prior-year supportive housing projects and to explore new funding sources that address this goal.
5	**Goal Name**	3A Provide Vital Services for LMI Families
	Goal Description	Provide supportive services for low- to moderate-income households in the jurisdiction. Public or supportive services could include: fair housing awareness, crime prevention programs, case management for emergency assistance, employment programs, health programs, as well as services to address homelessness, persons with physical and mental health disabilities, victims of domestic violence, the elderly, and the youth. This goal includes $12,097 *(amended)* of CDBG administrative funding from Projects 1 and 2 (Direct Administration and Indirect Administration) that are listed in the AP-35 "Projects" and AP-38 "Project Summary" charts.
6	**Goal Name**	4A Provide Homeless Prevention & Support Services
	Goal Description	The City will provide for both homeless prevention and support services for the homeless population in the jurisdiction. Per HUD's definition of "Homeless" in 24 CFR 576.2 (Definitions), this Strategic Plan goal (4A) also includes expected outcomes for projects or programs that benefit any individual or family who "is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member" and any individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence," including those living in a supervised shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements. This goal includes $2,146 *(amended)* of CDBG administrative funding from Projects 1 and 2 (Direct Administration and Indirect Administration) that are listed in the AP-35 "Projects" and AP-38 "Project Summary" charts.

7	**Goal Name**	5 Enhance Fair Housing Knowledge and Resources
	Goal Description	The City will provide funding for fair housing education and other tenant and landlord resources and services for residents of the City of Merced. This goal includes $0 *(amended)* of CDBG and $172 of HOME administrative funding from Projects 1 and 2 (Direct Administration and Indirect Administration) that are listed in the AP-35 "Projects" and AP-38 "Project Summary" charts.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The projects budgeted for the 2023 program year are summarized below.

The Administrative and Public Service activities identified are expected to be completed no later than June 30, 2024. The public facility and infrastructure activities identified are expected to be completed no later than winter of 2024 *(updated)*, but could potentially experience delays.

Except for HOME direct administration and fair housing services, all HOME funds will be directed towards the required 15% CHDO Reserve funds and construction of new multifamily rental housing.

Two potential projects have recently received State "Super NOFA" funding awards and are awaiting the next phase of State Tax Credit Award considerations. If tax credits are secured and environmental clearances are wrapped up, Devonwood Apartments (developer: The Richman Group), a 156-unit project in North Merced, will likely proceed to a February 2024 *(updated)* estimated financial close date using new 2023 and all available carryover formula HOME and CDBG funds (CDBG to acquire property). Our CHDO partner, Central Valley Coalition for Affordable Housing, will be a partner in this project, and as such, the project would also use accumulated 2022 and 2023 CHDO HOME funds, and CDBG carried over from prior year projects that were cancelled or not moving forward. CDBG funds are now added to the project, through the First Substantial Amendment to this plan. In addition, Visionary Home Builders of California's 108-unit Bella Vista Apartments will use a portion of the City's local non-HUD PLHA funds, if State Tax Credit awards are successful.

Identified Projects

The City of Merced intends to carry out the below projects during Program Year 2023, which are organized by project type as follows:

- AP - Administration and Planning Activities
- HSG - Housing New Construction and Rehabilitation Activities
- PFI - Public Facilities and Public Improvement Activities
- PSA - Public Services Activities

1st Substantial Amendment - Previously Approved Projects Affected

As a result of the First Substantial Amendment to this Annual Plan, Projects #7 [PFI-CDBG: City of Merced McNamara Park Memorial Plunge Pool Improvements ($258,122 CDBG)] and #17 [HSG-CDBG: Rehabilitation Project to be Determined ($126,563 CDBG)] have been deleted from the below list. As

such, all the original project numbers are still reflected below as originally approved; however, Project #'s 7 and 17 are no longer listed. Additionally, Project #15 has been amended to include CDBG funds and Acquisition of Land for Affordable Housing has been added to the intended use of funds for both CDBG and HOME.

2nd Substantial Amendment - Previously Approved Projects Affected

As a result of the Second Substantial Amendment to this Annual Plan, Projects #5 [PFI - CDBG: Merced City Fire Dept - HEART and EAV EMS Vehicles ($632,000 CDBG)], #6 [PFI - CDBG: K/13th/Hwy 59 Water/Sewer Main Replacement and ADA Improvements ($275,000 CDBG), and #14 (originally #16) [HSG - CDBG: Habitat for Humanity - Homeowner Rehabilitation of Existing Housing Assets ($180,000 CDBG)] have been deleted from the below list.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	AP - CDBG & HOME: Direct Administration (23/24)
2	AP - CDBG: Indirect Administration (23/24)
3	AP - CDBG: City and County Continuum of Care Planning Activities (23/24)
4	AP - HOME: Fair Housing Services Administration (23/24)
6	PFI - CDBG: K/13th/Hwy 59 Water/Sewer Main Replacement and ADA Improvements (23/24)
8	PSA - CDBG: Sierra Saving Grace Emergency Rent/Mortgage/Utility Subsistence Payments (23/24)
9	PSA - CDBG: Lifeline CDC "Empower Loughborough Community" (23/24)
10	PSA - CDBG: Harvest Time Homeless and LMI Food Distribution "Food 4 You" Program (23/24)
11	PSA - CDBG: Boys and Girls Club of Merced County "J U M P" for Youth (23/24)
12	PSA - CDBG: Project Sentinel - Tenant-Landlord Counseling Services (23/24)
13	HSG - CDBG: Habitat for Humanity Merced/Stanislaus Homeowner Rehabilitation (22/25)
15	HSG - CDBG/HOME: Affordable Rental Housing - Land Acquisition and Construction (23/26)
16	HSG - HOME CHDO Reserves: Community Housing Development Org Project (23/24)

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The priority needs for the City of Merced's 2023 Annual Action Plan were determined through analysis of information gathered from a variety of sources. The City issued a NOFA and Request for Proposals, which was published on December 1, 2022, in the Merced County Times and the Merced Sun-Star newspapers. The notice requested proposals from non-profit organizations that have capacity to provide eligible public service and/or housing rehabilitation and preservation activities that will reach extremely low-income and low-income households, homeless persons, seniors and frail elderly, youth, and persons with disabilities. The City held an informational meeting on December 12, 13, and 16, 2022, to discuss

program priorities, requirements to meet HUD National Objectives, and to guide potential applicants in their program concepts. During the evaluation phase, all applications were screened to ensure the proposed project or activity met one of the priority needs and, for CDBG-funded projects, met one of HUD's National Objectives.

In making project recommendations, consideration was given to a variety of thresholds that projects must meet to comply with CDBG requirements, including meeting one of the National objectives and addressing one of the community priorities set out in the Consolidated Plan. Staff also took into account activity need and justification, cost reasonability and effectiveness, activity management and implementation, experience with similar activities, past performance, leveraged funds, and completeness of the application.

While there are several constraints to meeting the needs of low-income residents, the primary obstacle is that there is a lack of funding to fully address all needs. Most agencies do not have necessary funds to provide all services needed by the clients and have stated in their applications that without HUD funds the project or program may not be able to fully serve the client need.

A second obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the location of many available services in the community. Homeless services are generally only available in one section of the City, and some very low-income residents do not have adequate, reliable transportation. Housing staff works closely with the Engineering Department and regional agencies to improve accessibility with infrastructure projects, but the amount of funding received each year does not address all areas.

A third obstacle is the number of non-profits that need assistance with basic management and fiscal policies. New non-profits have formed in Merced and throughout the region, and they have small but passionate staff members and volunteers devoted to a variety of issues. Unfortunately, most new non-profits do not have the staffing capacity to meet the financial and reporting requirements of CDBG and other grant programs and may need basic assistance in setting up bookkeeping systems, requesting reimbursements for eligible costs, keeping proper beneficiary and income eligibility records, and applying for grants.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	**Project Name**	AP - CDBG & HOME: Direct Administration (23/24)
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	1A Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities 2A Increase Owner Occupied Rehab Opportunities 2B Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities 2C Provide Assistance for Supportive Housing 3A Provide Vital Services for LMI Families 4A Provide Homeless Prevention & Support Services 5 Enhance Fair Housing Knowledge and Resources
	Needs Addressed	Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements Homelessness Housing and Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: $74,737 HOME: $23,960
	Description	The project allows the Housing Division the ability to provide CDBG & HOME administrative services to ensure the planning and implementation of all Housing Division projects. The City is permitted to charge up to 20% of its 2023 CDBG allocation (minus Indirect Administration charges) and up to 10% of its 2023 HOME allocation for administration costs (minus Fair Housing Services funding). In Section AP-20 "Annual Goals and Objectives," these direct administration dollar figures are spread amongst and added to all goals (1A, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 4A, and 5), based on the percentage that projects use each funding source to meet their listed intent.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Direct Administration activities will benefit all residents, but primarily LMI individuals and households throughout the City.
	Location Description	The majority of administration activities will be carried out at the Housing Division office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, through subrecipients, collaborative agencies, or consultants, or with on-site project site visits necessary to carry out and monitor the overall program and project activities, and other sites as needed.

	Planned Activities	The following administrative activities will take place with this project: Direct CDBG Administrative Costs: $74,737; IDIS Matrix Code: 21A/General Program Administration; National Objective Met: N/A; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.205. Direct HOME Administrative Costs: $23,960; IDIS Matrix Code: 21H/CDBG Funding of HOME Administrative Costs; National Objective Met: N/A; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.206(i)(2).
2	**Project Name**	AP - CDBG: Indirect Administration (23/24)
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	1A Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities 2A Increase Owner Occupied Rehab Opportunities 2B Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities 2C Provide Assistance for Supportive Housing 3A Provide Vital Services for LMI Families 4A Provide Homeless Prevention & Support Services 5 Enhance Fair Housing Knowledge and Resources
	Needs Addressed	Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements Homelessness Housing and Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: $112,737
	Description	To provide Indirect Administrative funds of up to 10% of the 2023 CDBG allocation for indirect services necessary to complete all Housing Division activities. In Section AP-20 "Annual Goals and Objectives," these indirect administration dollar figures are spread amongst and added to all goals (1A, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 4A, and 5), based on the percentage that projects use CDBG funding to meet their listed intent.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Indirect Administration activities will benefit all residents, but primarily LMI individuals and households throughout the City.
	Location Description	Indirect Administration activities will be conducted City-wide to benefit LMI individuals and households.

	Planned Activities	Indirect Administrative Costs: $112,737; IDIS Matrix Code: 21B/Indirect Costs; National Objective Met: N/A; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.206(e).
3	**Project Name**	AP - CDBG: City and County Continuum of Care Planning Activities (23/24)
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	4A Provide Homeless Prevention & Support Services
	Needs Addressed	Homelessness Housing and Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: $38,000
	Description	This project involves the provision of CDBG planning activity funding to the Merced County Human Services Agency (HSA), who is the "Collaborative Applicant" for the City and County Continuum of Care. Funds will be used towards planning activities related to homelessness strategies within City boundaries. Specific activities will involve non-HUD assisted costs of collection, analysis, and reporting of statistical data (including homeless counts), preparing related studies and reports, preparation of plans, policy-setting, and the formulating of strategies and resources that will implement and update the Regional Homelessness Plan during the 2023 program year and/or assist in guiding homelessness strategies. This will enable the Collaborative Applicant/HSA to help the City of Merced determine the current and future housing and service needs of the City's homeless populations, identify any gaps in services, and guide our homelessness-related goals and objectives.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Planning activity funding to the CoC for planning and data collection activities focused on preventing homelessness in the City of Merced and assist the City in homelessness strategies. The 2023 Point In Time count that was conducted on February 23, 2023, determined that there are a total of 227 unsheltered and 344 sheltered homeless individuals living in the City of Merced (total of 571).
	Location Description	Homelessness Planning-related activities will be carried out by the Merced County Human Services Agency, located at 2115 West Wardrobe Avenue in Merced. Additionally, some activities may be carried out at the Merced County offices located at 2222 M Street in Merced.

	Planned Activities	CDBG: Support towards planning activity costs of the Merced City and County Continuum of Care's Collaborative Applicant (Merced County Human Services Agency - HSA) for planning strategies to address homelessness in the Merced community: $38,000 (meets ConPlan Goal 4A – Provide Homeless Prevention Services); IDIS Matrix Code: 20/Planning; National Objective Met: N/A; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.205. CDBG funding is not provided to the nonprofit providers who implement the homelessness programs funded by the CoC. HSA/Collaborative Applicant will use these funds towards any planning and/or data collection costs not already assisted by HUD CoC funding, in order to assist the City make decisions regarding homelessness program funding.
4	**Project Name**	AP - HOME: Fair Housing Services Administration (23/24)
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	3A Provide Vital Services for LMI Families 5 Enhance Fair Housing Knowledge and Resources
	Needs Addressed	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements
	Funding	HOME: $33,360
	Description	The City will use $33,360 of its HOME Administration funds to support a fair housing education, counseling, and antidiscrimination legal services program in partnership with Project Sentinel, Inc. to address the City's responsibility to ensure and protect the fair housing rights of its residents and Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH).
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Fair Housing Services will be an administrative activity under HOME Administration in PY 2023. As a project funding by administrative funds, outcomes will not be reported in the 2023 CAPER – however, at least 85 individuals are expected to benefit from these activities.

	Location Description	Fair housing services will be provided to all City of Merced residents. Project Sentinel, Inc.'s main offices are located at: 1490 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Project Sentinel will be administering this program from its satellite office located in Modesto, California, at the following location: 1231 8th Street, Suite 425, Modesto CA 95354. Extensive resources and contact information is posted on Project Sentinel's website at: *www.housing.org*. Fair housing information is also posted on the City's website at: *www.cityofmerced.org/departments/housing-division/fair-housing-resources-and-services*.
	Planned Activities	HOME: Fair Housing Services: Project Sentinel, Inc. will be provided $33,360 of HOME administrative funds to carry out a Fair Housing education, counseling, and legal services program available to all Merced residents regardless of income level; IDIS Matrix Code: 21D-Fair Housing Services (subject to Admin cap); National Objective Met: N/A; Eligibility: 24 CFR 571.206(c).
5	**Project Name**	PFI - CDBG: K/13th/Hwy 59 Water/Sewer Main Replacement and ADA Improvements (23/24)
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	1A Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Expand/Improve Public Infrastructure & Facilities
	Funding	CDBG: $275,000
	Description	Assistance for improving public infrastructure and includes all project costs, including plan design work carried out by the City Engineering Department and 10% activity delivery costs (ADC). This project will replace and aging water main and partially collapsed sewer main in the alley between W. 12th and W. 13th Streets that intersects with K Street and which also runs through a public utility easement on a future affordable housing project site, as well as a section sewer main that extends under Highway 59. These improvements will allow improved water and sewer service to current and future area residents. The project will also install new ADA ramps, walkways, and other improvements in the immediate area, which is in HUD Eligible Census Tract 16.01 (Block Group 3), improving disabled accessibility.
	Target Date	6/30/2025

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This project is expected to benefit approximately 600 nearby residents within the area served by all improvements. Approximately 144 residential units and individual water and sewer connections, including church buildings and a U-Haul service center, are included in the project benefit area and will directly benefit. Block Group 3 of Census Tract 16.01 contains approximately 1,256 residents, including those residing east of Highway 59, which is not in the project area.
	Location Description	The City will arrange for design and replacement of existing water and sewer mains that run through a section of alley between W. 12th and W 13th Streets, and underneath Highway 59 in South Merced. The mains will also be replaced in an existing public utilities sewer main easement that runs through a 1.46-acre parcel at K Street. This parcel is the site of a potential 50-unit affordable housing project that will be constructed using non-HUD funds.
	Planned Activities	Sewer and water main replacement and new ADA-accessible ramps, driveways, and sidewalks (improve/upgrade existing facilities). IDIS Matrix Code: 03J - Water/Sewer Improvements; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.201(c); National Objective Met: LMA/Low-Mod Area Benefit - 24 CFR 570.208(a)(1)(i).
6	**Project Name**	PSA - CDBG: Sierra Saving Grace Emergency Rent/Mortgage/Utility Subsistence Payments (23/24)
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	3A Provide Vital Services for LMI Families 4A Provide Homeless Prevention & Support Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: $35,500
	Description	Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project will receive $35,500 for its short-term emergency rent/mortgage/utility subsistence payment assistance program. Assistance will be provided for a maximum of three consecutive months to help residents retain housing, maintain safe, livable housing, and prevent homelessness. Payments will be made directly to landlords, property management agencies, and utility providers on the resident's behalf.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Assistance will benefit approximately 20 households with housing assistance and, as a result, prevent homelessness for approximately 45 extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income individuals during the program year. The program will exclusively serve LMI households who are residents of the City of Merced.
	Location Description	The program will be administered by Sierra Saving Grace at their offices located at 3341 M Street in Merced City. Assistance will be provided for all income-eligible residents living in the City of Merced city limits.
	Planned Activities	Sierra Saving Grace will receive $35,500 for its short-term emergency rent/mortgage/utility assistance program; IDIS Matrix Code: 05Q/Subsistence Payments; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.207(b)(4); National Objective Met: LMC/Limited Clientele Exclusive - 24 CFR 570.208(a)(2)(C)
7	**Project Name**	PSA - CDBG: Lifeline CDC "Empower Loughborough Community" (23/24)
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	3A Provide Vital Services for LMI Families
	Needs Addressed	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: $25,000
	Description	LifeLine CDC proposes to continue serving the Loughborough area with $25,000 for its 2023 "Empower Loughborough Community" program. This organization uses strength-based approaches to helping Loughborough-area residents lift themselves out of poverty and become self-reliant. Lifeline works to provide the gap in job seeking and technical resources, job skills education, childcare and afterschool services, and workforce agency connections that will enable parents to obtain stable jobs while providing safe places for their children to learn and grow.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This program serves extremely low- to moderate-income families who live in the Loughborough area. Approximately 500 residents are expected to be directly served with this program. According to 2020 Census figures, approximately 4,190 people live in Census Tract 10.03, where the majority of this program is focused.
	Location Description	The Loughborough area is located in North Merced and is generally considered to be Census Tract 10.03 extending to parts of Tract 10.04.

	Planned Activities	Eligible project costs may include but not be limited to: staffing costs, utilities, and community center activity materials and equipment, printing costs, and insurance for community center spaces used by Lifeline CDC. DIS Matrix Code: 05H/Employment Training; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.201(e); National Objective Met: LMA/Low-Mod Area Benefit – 24 CFR 570.208(a)(1)(i).
8	**Project Name**	PSA - CDBG: Harvest Time Homeless and LMI Food Distribution "Food 4 You" Program (23/24)
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	3A Provide Vital Services for LMI Families 4A Provide Homeless Prevention & Support Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements Homelessness Housing and Support Services
	Funding	CDBG: $61,660
	Description	Harvest Time will receive $61,660 of CDBG funds for its "Food 4 You" homeless individual/LMI household food distribution program costs for staffing, electric/gas utility and liability insurance costs, and other eligible costs to support food box disbursements to LMI households and the provision of meals to homeless individuals living within the City limits.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This program serves both the homeless community and extremely low- to moderate-income families who are in need of food support. In 2022, this program distributed 5,132 family food boxes to LMI families, a 44% increase over 2021. Approximately 90% percent of clients are City of Merced residents, and approximately 50% of beneficiaries are duplicated (receive provided services more than once). This program also provides prepared meal services to approximately 227 homeless individuals yearly within the City limits, by delivering lunch boxes via a cooperative partnership with Merced Rescue Mission three times per week. This number is approximate, based on the 2023 Point In Time count of unsheltered homeless in February 2023. Therefore, we estimate that a total of approximately 2,536 individuals are expected to be served with this program (2309 LMI + 227 homeless). For reporting purposes, 227 homeless individuals will be tracked separately as "Other" in the AP-20 Goal Outcome Indicators column, as it is a separate service that the program provides (meals to homeless).

	Location Description	The location of Harvest Time's food distribution program is 1021 R Street (APN 032-033-014) in Census Tract 15.02, within the City limits of Merced. The property is owned by the Calvary Assembly of God Church, and the food distribution warehouse - dedicated entirely for this use - is leased from the church by Harvest Time.
	Planned Activities	Reimbursement of operating costs including staffing, utilities, and insurance will be provided for Harvest Time's existing Food Distribution program. IDIS Matrix Code: 05W/Food Banks; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.201(e); National Objective Met: LMC/Limited Clientele - 24 CFR 570.208(a)(2)(D)
9	**Project Name**	PSA - CDBG: Boys and Girls Club of Merced County "J U M P" for Youth (23/24)
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	3A Provide Vital Services for LMI Families
	Needs Addressed	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: $40,694
	Description	The Boys and Girls Club of Merced County will receive $40,694 for its "Journey Upward Merced Program (JUMP)" for Youth. This organization proposes to expand upon its 2022-23 program in providing hands-on work experience and life skills for high school-age city resident LMI youth, as well as in preparing students them for trade school, college, or immediate careers in leading local industries. Volunteers and consultants in local trades identified by participants as career interests, such as auto mechanics, transportation, electrician, culinary, agriculture, construction, finance, or business services will be invited to share about their industry and facilitate live demonstrations that will allow participants to gain first-hand knowledge and experience. Participants will also gain approximately 50 hours of work experience through internships.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately eleven (11) low- to moderate-income youth aged 13-19 years who are also City of Merced residents are expected to participate in the program. The Boys and Girls Club of Merced County typically welcomes youth from both City and County jurisdictional areas. Of 20 expected participants (unduplicated), approximately 53% of those are expected to be city residents.

	Location Description	The project will be carried out at the Boys and Girls Club of Merced County's fixed location at 615 W. 15th Street within Merced City and Eligible Census Tract 13.01. The facility is owned by the City of Merced. Therefore, the project will not include any reimbursements for facility maintenance, any other improvements to the building, rent, or utilities.
	Planned Activities	This project will provide assistance to the Boys and Girls Club of Merced County to benefit approximately 11 LMI youth participants 13 to 19 years of age who live within the City of Merced. Project costs may include, but not be limited to, hourly staffing costs, transportation/mileage for after-school pickups from City schools, publication/flyer printing costs, program supplies, consultant services, and administrative costs (including insurance and allowable indirect costs) not to exceed 10% of the grant. IDIS Matrix Code: 05D/Youth Services; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.201(e); National Objective Met: LMC/51% Limited Clientele – 24 CFR 570.208(a)(2)(B).
10	**Project Name**	PSA - CDBG: Project Sentinel - Tenant-Landlord Counseling Services (23/24)
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	3A Provide Vital Services for LMI Families
	Needs Addressed	Public Services & Quality of Life Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: $51,385
	Description	Project Sentinel will be provided $51,385 of 2023 CDBG funds to provide Tenant and Landlord Counseling Services as an eligible public service program in response to a noted increase in the number of calls they and City staff have received over recent years from Merced residents while administering its Fair Housing Services administrative program on behalf of the City. This project would provide direct education and counselling services to tenants and landlords where cases of fair housing discrimination do not appear to exist, but where a clear dispute between tenants and landlords requires substantial intervention, mediation, and/or education to resolve problems, prevent evictions, and prevent potential homelessness.Please note: with the First Substantial Amendment, the Goals Supported by this project changed from Goal #5 to Goal #3A, as this project is better described as a public service program.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Project Sentinel expects to be able to manage approximately 40 cases (households) with the amount of project funding provided, serving and providing homelessness prevention for approximately 216 persons.
	Location Description	Project Sentinel, Inc.'s main offices are located at: 1490 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Project Sentinel will be administering this program from its satellite office located in Modesto, California, at the following location: 1231 8th Street, Suite 425, Modesto CA 95354. Services may also be handled from local offices, as needed.
	Planned Activities	Counseling services will be provided to help prevent and settle disputes between tenants and landlords. IDIS Matrix Code: 05K/Tenant-Landlord Counseling; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.201(e); National Objective Met: LMA/Low-Mod Clientele (LMC) – 24 CFR 570.208(a)(2)(B).
11	**Project Name**	HSG - CDBG: Habitat for Humanity Merced/Stanislaus Homeowner Rehabilitation (22/25)
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	2A Increase Owner Occupied Rehab Opportunities 2B Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: $180,000

	Description	Habitat for Humanity Merced/Stanislaus Counties will receive $150,000 of the City's CDBG funds in PY2022 to restart a new Homeowner Rehabilitation program that will offer assistance up to $50,000 per home in the form of forgivable loans for necessary repairs to improve and preserve privately-owned single-family homes occupied by their LMI homeowners. $30,000 will also be budgeted per year for activity delivery costs, for a total project cost of $180,000 annually for three years. Assistance will allow residents' homes to remain safe to occupy and will assist with costly repairs that the homeowner has difficulty affording, including but not limited to lead testing and remediation, roof repair/replacement, HVAC updates, energy efficient windows, and plumbing repairs. Habitat Merced/Stanislaus is requesting a three-year contract initially with 2022 CDBG funds, which may be amended and supplemented with additional CDBG funding the City will receive over the next two annual plan cycles as this initial funding is exhausted. City staff will complete one Tier One NEPA environmental review for all three years prior to contract execution, then a Tier 2 Site Specific Review will be completed prior to start of each rehab activity and approval of each homeowner's application to the program. Supplemental funding of $180,000 ($150,000 project costs/$30,000 activity delivery) is added for program year 2023.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Each year of planned funding of this project with CDBG funds will assist approximately three (3) low- to moderate-income homeowners within Merced City limits (note: each $180,000 amount includes 20% activity delivery costs of $30,000).
	Location Description	All rehabilitation activities will occur on owner-occupied single-family residential homes located within the City of Merced city limits. Activities are not restricted to any particular area of the City.

	Planned Activities	$180,000 of 2023 CDBG funds will be added to this 2022 project (includes 20% ADC) to carry out homeowner-occupied rehabilitation activities to single-family homes occupied by their owners. Assistance will be provided as a 15-year forgivable loan to the homeowner for a maximum of $50,000 of necessary repairs to bring the home back up to safe living conditions (no remodels). In 2022, Habitat-Stanislaus proposed a three-year contract, to which the City is supplementing with $180,000 of 2023 CDBG funds. IDIS Matrix Code: 14A/Rehabilitation: Single-Unit Residential; Eligibility: 24 CFR 570.202(a)(1); National Objective Met: LMH/Low-Mod Housing Benefit - 24 CFR 570.208(a)(3).
12	**Project Name**	HSG - CDBG/HOME: Affordable Rental Housing - Land Acquisition and Construction (23/26)
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	2B Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: $2,612,845 HOME: $4,403,129
	Description	Approximately $4,403,129 of HOME funds will be expended on acquisition of land for and construction of a multi-unit affordable rental housing project within the City of Merced. This amount includes 20% activity delivery costs totaling $733,854. With the First Substantial Amendment to this plan, CDBG funds are added to this project. A total of $2,612,845 of CDBG funds will be expended on acquisition of land for the project. This amount includes %10 activity delivery costs totaling $237,531. Negotiations continue to move forward with an affordable housing developer for construction of approximately 156 units of extremely low- to low-income multi-family rental projects using these HOME funds. Conditional Commitments have been issued and (updated) the project has received its NEPA environmental assessment clearances (December 2023).
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City of Merced anticipates that approximately 156 units of affordable rental housing can be produced with these CDBG and HOME funds as part of subsidy layering package(s) for a project currently in pre-development discussions and subsidy layering. A project will be targeted to produce 100% LMI household units within the projects themselves, or a mix of LMI and special needs population housing, such as units that are set aside for developmentally disabled, homeless, veterans, seniors, or mental health patients.

	Location Description	As pre-development discussion are still in the preliminary stages, a location has not been finalized. The location will be located within the City limits.
	Planned Activities	Construction of Affordable Rental Housing for LMI households, and may include units for special populations such as veterans, disabled, or homeless individuals and families, with case management; IDIS Matrix Code: 12/New Rental Construction.
13	**Project Name**	HSG - HOME CHDO Reserves: Community Housing Development Org Project (23/24)
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	2B Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Preserve & Develop Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: $211,750
	Description	Each year, the City is required to set aside at least 15% of its HOME funds for Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) projects, which could include such eligible activities as affordable rental housing construction and rehabilitation of rental housing units. For the 2023 HOME allocation, this amounts to $85,980, with an additional $17,196 for activity delivery costs (total of $103,176). This will be combined with 2022 HOME CHDO project and activity delivery funding towards an eligible affordable housing or rehabilitation project (total of $211,750). The project will be carried out by the City's current CHDO partner, Central Valley Coalition for Affordable Housing (CVCAH). CVCAH owns several existing rental properties within the city limits of Merced that would be suitable and near shovel-ready projects for rehab activities. CVCAH will also be a partner in the new affordable housing being considered with formula CDBG and HOME funds listed in Project 15 above. If that project is successful with its subsidy layering efforts, these CHDO funds will be added to that project.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	If HOME CHDO funds are used for rental unit rehabilitation activities with CVCAH, approximately 2-5 LMI household housing units could benefit, depending on the scope of work needed and the chosen project site. If funds are used for rental housing construction in combination with a HOME-funded projects, accomplishment indicators for CHDO funds will be reported as a HOME project. As such, the City is considering using all 2022 and 2023 CHDO reserve funds towards a 156-unit new rental housing project in 2023.
	Location Description	All HOME CHDO projects will be undertaken within the City of Merced. The project location has not been finalized.

	Planned Activities	Rental Unit Rehabilitation or New Rental Housing Construction

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

Merced will use a place-based strategy during the planning period. The geographic distribution of funding is predicated somewhat on the nature of the activity to be funded. It is the City's intent to fund activities in the areas most directly affected by the needs of low-income residents and those with other special needs. The Annual Action Plan directs investment geographically to an area benefit neighborhood. The area benefit category is the most commonly used national objective for activities that benefit a residential neighborhood. An area benefit activity is one that benefits all residents in a particular area, where at least 51% of the residents are low- and moderate-income persons. Public infrastructure improvements are an area benefit activity when they are located in a predominately low- and moderate-income neighborhood and/or census tract.

Merced primarily selects projects based upon housing needs and various clients served through public service activities, with most of the Federal and State funding allocations being invested in qualifying Census Tracts. Not all of the activities funded through the CDBG and HOME programs will occur within these census tracts, since some programs benefit residents City-wide.

HUD requires that, at a minimum, 70% of total funding will benefit LMI individuals and households. Each year, the City strives to far exceed the minimum, and 2023 is no exception. We expect that more than 85% *(amended)* of our CDBG and HOME activities will be focused to benefit residents in Eligible Census Tracts or at specific sites located within those census areas, all of which are directed to projects expected to benefit LMI individuals and families. One project site is located in an area that is not within one of these census tracts, using 2% *(amended)* of total funding, but will benefit an LMI family (Habitat for Humanity - E Main St.). The City's ultimate goal remains at 100% LMI benefit, regardless of census tract orientation.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City Wide	8

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The basis for assigning the priority to each category was based on the identified needs expressed during the consultation and citizen participation process. In addition, priorities were determined by information gathered from the Census, the 2020-2024 ConPlan market study, and existing community documents, which include the City of Merced's current Housing Element.

It is the City's intent to fund activities in the areas most directly affected by the needs of low-income residents and those with other special needs. To create substantive neighborhood improvements and stimulate additional, unassisted improvement efforts, the City will focus a portion of its housing-related funding in targeted low-income and special needs neighborhoods.

Discussion

The City of Merced will specifically target a minimum of 70% - with the ultimate goal being 100% - of all funding to benefit low- to moderate-income residents living within the City limit boundaries. Defined as an area in which at least 51 percent of households have an income of 80% percent or less of the Area Median Income (AMI), approximately three quarters of the City is within a CDBG Income-Eligible Census Tract, which HUD has pre-determined are income-eligible areas based on the latest census data. Some projects, such as Infrastructure Improvement projects, will be focused specifically to these areas, while other projects are intended to serve primarily LMI residents through the projects themselves (i.e., public services, owner-occupied rehabilitation, and affordable housing).

A little over 14 percent (14.28%) *(amended)* of 2023 CDBG will be directed to projects that serve LMI residents citywide, while 85.7 percent will be directed specifically to certain projects that will serve LMI residents in specific HUD Eligible Census Tract areas or specific project sites. HUD Eligible Census tract area numbers, general location descriptions, and resident population are (all within City limits):*

- Census Tract 10.03 (Loughborough Drive/Meadows Ave/Devonwood Drive – North of Bear Creek, South of Black Rascal Creek, East of Highway 59, West of R Street); 4,190 people.
- Census Tract 10.04 (Loughborough Drive/Collins Drive/Park Avenue/Rambler Road – North of Bear Creek, South of Black Rascal Creek, East of R Street, West of G Street; 3,969 people.
- Census Tract 10.05 (Highway 59/Willowbrook Dr/Shadowbrook Dr/Cooper Ave - North of Highway 99, North/West of Bear Creek, South of Santa Fe Railroad, East of city limit boundary); 2,285 people.
- Census Tract 13.01 (West Central Merced – North of Highway 99, South/East of Bear Creek, West of M Street); 3,413 people.
- Census Tract 13.02 (Central Merced – North of Highway 99, South of Bear Creek, East of M Street, West of G Street); 3,016 people.
- Census Tract 15.02 (Upper Southwest Merced – North of W. 9th Street, South of Highway 99/Highway 140, East of X Street/West Avenue, West of M Street); 2,768 people.

- Census Tract 15.03 (Lower Southwest Merced – North of West Childs Avenue, South of W. 9th Street, East of West Avenue, West of M Street); 4,844 people.
- Census Tract 16.01 (Central South Merced – North of West/East Childs, South/West of Highway 99, East of M Street); 4,166 people.
- Census Tract 17.00 (East South Merced – North/East of Highway 99, South of Highway 140, West of Coffee Road); 7,032 people.

*(Population data source: PolicyMap.com - 2020 Census and Population Data)

While there are several other constraints, the primary obstacle to meeting the needs of target income residents is that there is a lack of funding to fully address all the needs. Even with the limited financial resources, the City attempts to address many of the needs of the community by leveraging funds with developers and providing financing to several non-profit organizations to address the variety of community needs.

Another obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the location of many available services in the County of Merced. The City works closely with the transit agencies to improve access, and there are hourly public transportation linkages between Merced and other communities located within Merced County and other neighboring San Joaquin Valley communities. The City has encouraged many regional non-profit organizations to operate "satellite" offices within the City of Merced.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

This section provides an overview of affordable housing goals in Merced for the 2023 program year. It focuses specific goals for the number of homeless, non-homeless, and special needs households to be provided affordable housing within the program year. This section also indicates the number of affordable housing units that will be provided by program type, including rental assistance, production of new units, rehabilitation of existing units, or acquisition of existing units.

The City will encourage the development of housing units for households earning 30 percent or less of the Median Family Income for Merced County. When possible, specific emphasis will be placed on the provision of family housing and non-traditional housing types such as single-resident occupancies, transitional facilities, and housing units serving temporary needs. The City will encourage development of housing for extremely low-income households through a variety of activities such as outreach to nonprofit and for-profit housing developers, land donations, providing in-kind technical assistance for housing developers, financing and funding assistance, fee deferrals, and expedited processing as appropriate. The City's objective shall be to encourage and facilitate construction of supportive housing units for extremely low-income housing units during the 2020-2024 planning period.

The City's strategies related to CDBG & HOME-funded efforts relate to providing funds for public service activities, developing partnerships with housing organizations, providing secondary financing to affordable housing developments, providing forgivable loans to homeowners for rehabilitation projects to their homes, and secondary financing loans to qualified First Time Homebuyers when funding is available.

The City of Merced has established the following affordable housing goals for its 2023 Annual Action Plan.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	150
Special-Needs	30
Total	180

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	20
The Production of New Units	156

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rehab of Existing Units	3
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	179

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

Discussion

The figures noted above comprise of the following Program Year 2023 projects *(as amended)*:

Number of Households to be Supported by Population Type:

Homeless Households Supported (0 individuals/households):

- Unlike most recent years, for 2023, the City is not targeting funding directly to house homeless individuals or families, or those that meet the definition of homeless, such as those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening condition. This said, these populations may indirectly be served through other housing types, such as rental assistance.

Non-Homeless Supported (total of 150 individuals/households) - *amended*:

- Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project - Rental Assistance to support 20 non-homeless households to prevent homelessness (20)
- Habitat for Humanity of Merced/Stanislaus Counties - 3 LMI homeowners will be assisted through Owner Occupied Rehabilitation (3)
- Affordable Rental Housing Development - 156 new affordable rental housing units will be constructed using 2023 and prior year HOME, 2022 and 2023 CHDO HOME, and CDBG funds *(amended)*. This project will include 30 units that will be set aside to house formerly homeless or at-risk individuals and families (126).

Special Needs Households Supported (total of 30 individuals/households):

- Affordable Rental Housing Development – 30 units of a 156-unit new affordable rental housing project will be set aside to house and case-support formerly homeless and those at-risk of becoming homeless (30).

Households Supported Through Project Types:

- Short-term Emergency Rental and Rental Deposit Assistance - Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project: 20 households
- Production of New Units - Affordable Rental Housing Construction: 156 households
- Rehabilitation of Existing Units – Habitat for Humanity Merced/Stanislaus Counties: total of 3 Units/Households (3 homeowner rehabilitation) - *amended*

For 2023, the aforementioned number of households assisted relies primarily on the ability of the City to

provide financial assistance to multiple non-profit organizations. These organizations are tasked with assisting individuals and households within the City of Merced. Annually, these programs are designed to assist a variety of individuals through either rehabilitation of existing units or by acquiring, improving, and expanding their housing stock portfolio. For 2023, there are no projects planned to acquire and rehab existing units.

Many of these programs are funded with non-Federal resources but will achieve the overall goal of improving and increasing the number of affordable units within our community. To help achieve this goal, the Housing Division was able to budget other funding sources as part of the overall Housing Division Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

Public housing was established to provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low- and moderate-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Public housing includes federally subsidized, affordable housing that is owned and operated by the public housing authorities. In Merced, this is the Housing Authority of Merced County (HAMC). The City of Merced does not own or assist in operations of public housing; however, it works in close collaboration with the Authority to provide public housing within the City and throughout the County.

The City of Merced will continue to work independently and closely with the Authority and local nonprofits to provide assistance to low-income families as well as develop public housing projects in Merced. The Authority provides and manages public housing, including the Housing Choice Voucher and Section 8 programs.

HAMC is the public housing agency serving the City of Merced and all others within the County of Merced. The HAMC is independent of the City of Merced, and the City retains no control over their funding or implementation of programs. The City Housing Division and local non-profit developers continue to partner with the HAMC to develop future multi-family projects within the community.

The HAMC continues to partner with the community's Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), as well providing voucher assistance to other affordable housing developers currently working on projects in Merced, including:

- Gateway Terrace II project - once constructed, will include ten units supported by VASH vouchers.
- CC915 Veterans Housing Homekey project – a housing project built entirely of converted shipping containers, the project will include twenty VASH vouchers to house formerly homeless veterans.
- Up Holdings, Inc. Park Avenue – this 67 unit affordable housing complex is currently working with the Authority to support the project with voucher assistance.
- Up Holdings, Inc. Studio 6 Homekey Project – this 96 unit motel conversion is working with the Authority and Merced County Behavioral Health to support the project with voucher assistance.
- Affordable Housing Project (2023) – as this project continues to build its financial subsidy laying strategy, 39 households *(updated)* are planned to be supported with project-based voucher assistance through HAMC.

As these projects break ground, applications will be accepted from eligible households with vouchers from the Housing Authority.

In January 2022, the Authority selected 1,200 applicants from the existing waiting list for housing.

However, due to the lack of available units and resulting high vacancy rate, many of these families have experience difficulty finding and securing housing. However, since then, there have only been 118 new units of affordable housing constructed within the City limits, so unit availability is still lacking. However, the City continues to diligently work with developers to construct more. A 156-unit development to be located in North Merced has successfully secured State grants, appears to be a good candidate for State Tax Credit funds, and with these and other subsidies in place, will receive the bulk of the City's available balance of HOME funds. This project will use Project Based Vouchers (PBV's) issued by HAMC.

In February 2022, the Authority reopened the Project Based Program (PBV) and Public Housing (PH) waiting list and began accepting online preapplications for the PBV and PH programs. A notice was published in the Merced Sun Star daily newspaper. The lists were opened for four projects in Merced City.

Additionally, the waiting list for Housing Choice/Section 8 vouchers is currently open through June 26, 2023.

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

The HACM receives its annual contribution of funds from HUD through the comprehensive grant mechanism used to maintain the Authority's operations, renovate units, and meet local, state, and federal requirements for housing projects. Like all federally assisted projects, HAMC projects are subject to the requirements of Section 24 CFR Part 58, which requires the Housing Authority to process the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) certification through the local unit of local government (the Responsibility Entity, or RE), which is the City of Merced.

In May 2023, the City of Merced reviewed and certified concurrence with five NEPA analysis prepared by HAMC's environmental consultant for five of the Authority's planned rehabilitation projects that are located within the City of Merced's jurisdictional boundaries. The projects were evaluated the projects against the federal laws and authorities listed in 24 CFR 58.5, and the projects were determined to have no effect to the environment and will be in compliance with those laws.

As such, the Authority will be implementing modifications to existing public housing units, based on the Section 504 Needs Assessment that it completed. Refer to the Authority's Public PHA Annual Plan for further information.

The Housing Division continues to partner with multiple non-profit organizations to acquire existing housing units and construct new affordable housing units on an ongoing basis.

The City has continued to address the affordable housing needs with partnerships and leveraging the fiscal resources received from HUD and other Federal and State agencies for the acquisition and development of new affordable housing units.

The Authority, over the course of their 5-year agency plan, will be assessing its current Public Housing stock to see if it continues to meet the need of the City/County or how better to utilize the land and/or other types of affordable housing.

Authority Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs

The following is the Authority's statement of housing needs and their strategy for addressing the housing needs of the County:

"The Housing Authority of the County of Merced offers affordable housing opportunities to our community by providing access to a variety of services and programs to promote self-sufficiency and to enhance the quality of life for those we serve.

We strive to provide housing assistance, training, education, and homeownership opportunities by participation in the acquisition, development, and operation of affordable housing through the utilization of various funding sources and partnerships that builds pride and responsibility in our residents.

We are committed to giving our clients and each other courtesy, respect, and quality customer care. We will ethically apply the laws, rules, and regulations that govern this Agency, and further affirm the value and dignity of each person we serve and with whom we work."

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

The Authority encourages resident involvement through various methods, particularly focusing on self-sufficiency and enhancing the quality of one's own life. The Authority connects residents and participants to services, activities, and other organizations that promote that vision. There is a network center (including public computer centers) and community partnerships for residents to utilize. On the Authority website, a resident can locate relevant services and service providers in the dedicated "resident" and "resident services" sections. Additionally, the Authority provides information via webpage and mailouts to participants about the status of its programs and residents for current and future participants.

The Authority encourages public housing residents to participate in policy, procedure, and program implementation and development. Public housing residents participate in the development of the Authority's five-year and annual plans.

HACM Homeownership Program

In the past, the Authority also offered a Homeownership Program (HOP). It is no longer available, however, as previous units available for Section 3 HOP for Public Housing were all sold. The following is

a brief description and the success of their program:

The Authority created a HOP for tenants residing in public housing. The program was established to provide an opportunity for low-income families who ordinarily could not afford to buy their own homes, to do so. Families are required to meet normal eligibility requirements for public housing and must have demonstrated the potential to achieve homeownership status. Such potential involved stable, sufficient income in order to pay any operating costs and build up equity towards the required down payment. Prospective tenants are required to attend a variety of classes which include homeownership, credit counseling, home maintenance, how to maintain a loan, etc.

95 families have benefited from the program and achieved homeownership.

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

HACM is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

Current data, including the Authority's "PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan" and a wealth of other information on programs, housing resources, budgets, and financial planning, and reporting is available on their website at http://www.merced-pha.com.

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

Introduction

The City's strategy related to the needs of the homeless, those at risk of homelessness, and other special needs populations involves the funding of supportive services in Merced or regional services that also specifically address homelessness in the Merced City limits.

In the past, with CDBG public service funding, the City of Merced assisted the Merced Rescue Mission with the fiscal resources necessary to operate an overnight warming center to temporarily shelter homeless individuals during the very cold and rainy-season winter months within large rooms provided by local churches. Since the 2021 program year, the Merced Rescue Mission has been able to provide these services without CDBG assistance in a large room at the Navigation Center on B Street in Merced, absorbing the related operating costs as part of the center operations.

In recent years, the City has assisted the developer team of Central Valley Coalition for Affordable Housing and The Richman Group, Merced Rescue Mission, and Sierra Saving Grace with grants or loans to either preserve existing affordable housing or add additional affordable housing units to the community through rehabilitation or construction of affordable rental housing. Many of these units are used for permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless.

Currently, there are many homeless services available within the City of Merced. These services are managed by a variety of countywide organizations. Many of these programs work in collaboration with the Merced County Continuum of Care, which is the County's Collaborative Applicant that oversees Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and other such funds received on a yearly basis from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and HUD. Through collaborative data gathering and strategic planning, City continues to work closely with the Continuum of Care member organizations to determine how the needs of the homeless population can be assisted with CDBG and HOME funds. A City representative is on the Continuum of Care Board, whose meetings bring together the region's homeless service providers and advocates to develop the best ways to address homelessness. The meetings help to ensure that there is little duplication of services, which increases the effectiveness of a limited amount of funding between all the participating organizations.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

Each year, the City prioritizes the financial support of programs and services that will benefit homeless, at-risk, and special needs individuals and families and support regional homeless prevention strategies through its CDBG public service and other funding sources, as available.

During the 2023 program year, the City will support the following programs which seek to address the priority needs of homeless and special needs populations within the city limits.

2023 Program funding to serve homeless and special needs individuals *(amended)*:

1. *Harvest Time – Food Distribution Program for Homeless and Very-Low-Income Families:* this project will provide this existing homeless and LMI food distribution program with $61,660 of CDBG funds, towards its "Food 4 You" program to help pay for staffing costs, utility, and other eligible operating costs of the program. Through this program, nutritious meals are delivered directly to the homeless throughout the City of Merced via a collaborative effort with the Merced Rescue Mission. This collaboration came about as a direct result of discussions held during the December 2022 Community Input and Service Organization NOFA information meetings.
2. *Merced County Human Services Agency (HSA) – Collaborative Applicant Homelessness Planning:* this project will provide $38,000 of the City's CDBG funds to support data collection, analysis, and strategic planning efforts to address homelessness within the City limits of Merced by the County's Human Services Agency, who acts as the Collaborative Applicant to analyze and address homelessness strategy countywide. As the City does not have the resources to do this work ourselves, this collaborative approach to determining and successfully addressing the needs of the City's homeless residents is vital to meet that effort.
3. *Affordable Housing – new rental construction with supportive services:* a project for new construction of rental housing will set aside 30 units for formerly homeless or those at risk of homelessness. On-site supportive services will be provided to those that need it.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

State Housing Law requires that cities identify sites that can adequately accommodate emergency homeless shelters. Additionally, cities must not unduly discourage or deter these uses. In 2019, the Zoning Ordinance was amended to allow Emergency Shelters as a permitted use in General Commercial (C-G) zones, and a Conditional Use in Central Commercial (C-C) and Thoroughfare Commercial (C-T) Zones. In addition, Municipal Code definitions related to housing, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and supportive housing were amended such that transitional and supportive housing are residential uses subject to the same regulations and procedures that apply to other residential uses of the same type in the same zone. These amendments were requirements of State law (SB 2).

2023 Program Funding to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs:

1. *Planning Activity Support for the HSA - Collaborative Applicant:* As discussed in the homeless population one-year goals section above, the City will provide CDBG funding to support the Agency's strategic planning role as the Collaborative Applicant. In addition to funding for programs to benefit homeless persons, the CoC also seeks federal, state, and other funding for

programs that address the provision of emergency shelter and transitional housing needs in the community. Therefore, through this collaboration, the City helps the Human Services Agency strategize the use of shelters and transitional housing in addressing homelessness, including to assess if more of these types of housing for the homeless are warranted, and whether the City could strategize future funds to contribute a portion towards those projects.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The City continues to prioritize assisting homeless persons make the transition to permanent, independent housing.

Through the Continuum of Care and its community-based non-profit member organizations, the County has implemented a mixed-model Housing First and Rapid Re-housing approach in recent years. The CoC, combined with the County's emergency shelter and transitional shelter bed inventory, have largely contributed to the effort to limit the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising cost of living on local homeless counts.

While COVID-19 and rising inflation are factors in recent year to year fluctuations, it's important to look to previous "normal year" figures for comparison and indictors of efforts to address homelessness. Since the 2019 pre-pandemic Point in Time Count, the total number of homeless countywide has increased 29.1%, and within the city, by 36% (from 419 in 2019 to 571 in 2023). That being said, in this same time frame, the number of unsheltered individuals within the city limits has increased comparatively slower, at 11%. This indicates the success of efforts and the use of available funding by all agencies to shelter the homeless in some way, whether by newly constructed units with permanent supportive housing or through transitional or emergency shelters. The Childs and B "Childs Court" Apartments included 30 units of permanent supportive housing and on-site case management for formerly homeless individuals and families, and since 2019, the Navigation Center has also been built and is providing services. The City's use of CDBG funds for acquisition of single family and duplex/triplex housing has also contributed to these efforts.

However, the increase in the number of sheltered individuals, from 215 to 344 (129 individuals – a 60% increase) indicates we still have much work ahead of us in terms of permanent housing, some of which is already done and beginning to draw near to fruition. Currently, there are three projects in various stages of construction and fund-stacking that will add 60 units dedicated to permanent homeless housing – cutting this increase nearly in half. For 2023, all available funds are dedicated to one such project, which will set aside 30 units for formerly homeless.

Housing First is recognized as an evidence-based best practice model by national researchers and policymakers based on years of research and implementation. The use of Housing First has helped jurisdictions across the country significantly reduce their homeless population. Implementation involves moving homeless persons - including chronically homeless individuals - from the streets and directly into housing and providing wrap-around services to ensure housing stability. This approach links chronically

homeless persons to permanent supportive housing which provides subsidized housing and appropriate supportive services. This approach is in contrast to a "housing readiness model" which emphasizes that a homeless individual or family must address other issues such as substance abuse and mental illness through case management in a shelter or transitional housing program prior to entering affordable permanent housing. The Navigation Center uses a mix of these two models, by temporarily providing housing while concurrently assessing the need for services and matching them with housing to meet their individual needs.

The February 2023 Homeless Point in Time count report indicated that 322 individuals were in temporary shelters, and 72 were in transitional housing. With the need for permanent supportive housing part of the long-term equation to successfully transition individuals into successful, fully-independent living, the number of permanent supportive units in the City and surrounding area must catch up to the number of individuals who will need them now and in the future.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

Merced will continue to work with the City and County Continuum of Care in using the approaches to housing that were described previously. The 2023 homeless count revealed that over half the 390 unsheltered persons countywide are in the City of Merced, and over 87% of the 394 sheltered persons counted are in the City of Merced. It can be assumed that many of the unsheltered homeless population counted are chronically homeless and in need of longer-term assistance such as long-term/voucher rental assistance and wrap-around social services such as mental health care, employment services, and life skills training. For those of the unsheltered homeless population that are not chronically homeless, they will likely need shorter-term assistance, such as a few months of rental assistance, and are not as reliant on social services.

Much of the work to address some of the causes of homelessness, including behavioral health, drug treatment, and other like counseling programs are handled primarily by County-administered agencies and programs, and the vast majority of that work is best equipped to stay within those agencies, as to avoid duplication of services, but mainly due to the fact that the City does not have the same resources as the County. However, the City can assist the overall effort with funding for other collaborative, complementary, and supporting programs that help identify and strategize homelessness prevention in other ways.

<u>2023 Program Funding to Homelessness Prevention</u>:

1. *Short-term Rental Assistance:* Since 2018, Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project has successfully run a short-term (up to three months) rental assistance program for low- to moderate-income City of Merced residents who need temporary help paying for their housing. Too many of Merced's residents are living paycheck-to-paycheck and working multiple jobs just to make ends meet each month, and occasionally, these residents need assistance in making these payments so that their limited income can go towards other basic necessities such as transportation, food, or clothing. In this way, these at-risk households are able to avoid losing their housing and becoming homeless. In program year 2019, the rental assistance program was successfully expanded to include help with mortgage and gas/electric utilities, which will continue with $35,500 in CDBG funding for Program Year 2023, a $5,500 increase over last year.
2. *Tenant/Landlord Counseling:* Especially after the January 2023 flooding, there has been a rising trend in the number of calls and referrals by both tenants and landlords needing help with disputes. Although the City contracts with Project Sentinel, Inc. for fair housing services, this service does not extend beyond fair housing discrimination education, counseling, and when needed, advocacy and representation in individual discrimination cases. It does not include mediation for cases that do not involve the protections covered under the Fair Housing Act (those involving race, color, national origin, religion, sex/gender identity, familial status, and disability). Other types of disputes seen between landlords and tenants as a result of the 2023 floods made basic tenant/landlord counseling services rise near to the top of community need and was a frequent and emotional topic during the January/February Town Hall meetings. As a result, Project Sentinel submitted a separate proposal to provide these services for the 2023 Program Year, and as such, will be provided $51,385 to carry out these services as a Public Service program for 2023. In turn, this will provide additional homelessness protection for those disputes that can be successfully mediated.

Discussion

The City will continue to support homeless service providers that work collaboratively under the Continuum of Care network through yearly funding to focused service programs, such as advocacy and case management for homeless elderly or at-risk families and youth. In addition, the City intends to support and complement the goals of both the existing 2011 Merced County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the County of Merced Community Regional Homeless Plan by striving to accomplish any or all of the following goals and activities each year, where possible:

- Develop and implement a "balanced" plan that will effectively approach the issue of homeless encampments and other related matters
- Develop partnerships between local government and non- and for-profit affordable housing developers to fund and construct housing that includes units set aside for homeless individuals and families.
- Through these and other partnerships with community agencies, fund and construct more affordable and market rate housing units to help ease the extremely low inventory of vacant

units available to rent, which is contributing to the homeless problem in Merced.

- Continue to find means and incentives to make the construction of affordable and permanent supportive housing more feasible and attractive for developers.
- Requiring all public service program subrecipients that provide housing-related services to participate in the CoC's Coordinated Entry System (CES), to help facilitate coordination of homeless and homeless prevention services to individuals and families countywide.
- Continuing to provide fair housing services to the residents of Merced City in order to prevent housing discrimination and unlawful evictions.
- Continue to support programs that prevent homelessness and unsafe living conditions that lead to homelessness, such as rental/rental deposit, mortgage, and utility assistance and owner-occupied rehabilitation programs.
- Continue to support programs and services that help residents locate and secure suitable permanent housing.

In March of 2020, the City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with multiple County Agencies to establish a Homeless Court Program (HCP), a collaboration that will allow homeless and formerly homeless individuals to resolve outstanding eligible pre- and post-judgement criminal cases and/or infractions, in the interest of promoting public and individual safety and self-sufficiency. The HCP will help address the unique needs of the homeless population's legal challenges, which oftentimes hinder an individual's ability to re-establish themselves into employment and housing. The HCP is designed to reward those who have made significant progress in improving their situation by providing them access to additional community and court resources. Eligible cases for the HCP include both infraction and misdemeanor traffic and criminal fines. Staff support will be provided by the City Manager and City Attorney's office on behalf of the City of Merced and, initially, Merced County staff will facilitate and implement the administrative functions of the program.

The City does not administer the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program, but there is coordination and contact with the Merced Continuum of Care to provide services to individuals with AIDS within the City and County.

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

Introduction:

The development industry is faced with a variety of constraints in the construction of new housing. These constraints limit the number and increase the cost of housing units, which are constructed and may be loosely classified as governmental and non-governmental, although there is a strong interrelationship between these factors.

Federal, State, and local government policies and regulations can positively or negatively impact the availability and affordability of housing. Local governments have little or no influence upon the national economy or the Federal monetary policies that influence it. Yet these two factors have some of the most significant impacts on the overall cost of housing. The local housing market, however, can be encouraged and assisted locally. Part of the Housing Element's purpose is to require local governments to evaluate their past performance in this regard. By reviewing local conditions and regulations that may impact the housing market, the local government can prepare for future growth through actions that protect the public's health and safety without unduly adding to the cost of housing production. The analysis in this section does not include Federal or State policies or regulations that cannot be impacted by local government actions.

The City has undertaken a number of actions to reduce potential barriers and constraints to affordable housing, as well as promote housing for special needs populations. These include providing regulatory incentives, density incentives, and several other measures to affordable housing developers. These programs are described in more detail in the City's Housing Element. Additionally, the City has undertaken policy changes and use of a combination of housing development tools that will ensure that affordable units get built alongside market rates ones (explained further in the Executive Summary and in the attachments).

<u>Programs the Housing Division is using or funding within the 2023 HUD Annual Action Plan designed to reduce the barriers to affordable housing include</u>:

- Fair Housing Services provided by a Project Sentinel.
- Tenant and Landlord Dispute Counseling provided by Project Sentinel.
- Short Term Rental, Mortgage, and Gas/Electric Utility Assistance for LMI households (Sierra Saving Grace).
- Year 2 of a three-year program to provide funding for forgivable loans to homeowners needing health and safety repairs to their property (Habitat for Humanity of Merced/Stanislaus Counties).
- New Affordable Rental Housing Construction – all available funding, including 2022 and 2023 CHDO Reserve funds, HOME, and CDBG *(updated)*, will be directed towards acquisition of land and construction of a 156-unit affordable housing complex, which will also provide 30

permanent supportive units to homeless and/or at-risk households.

- Using the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Unit Production Plan adopted by City Council on April 4, 2022, utilize various land use entitlement tools that will require the production of affordable housing units as part of new market rate development projects, including residential and mixed-use developments.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

Efforts to Remove Constraints for First Time Home Buyers

It can be difficult for very low-, low-, and moderate-income first-time homebuyers to acquire sufficient savings and income to pay for a down-payment, closing costs, monthly mortgage, and tax and insurance payments to be able to purchase a home. A monthly mortgage payment typically provides more housing per bedroom than rental housing, as the latter is more expensive. To address this problem, the City of Merced applies for First Time Homebuyer Program (FTHB) whenever resources make it possible.

In December 2021, the City of Merced, in partnership with Self-Help Enterprises, applied to State HCD for 2021 CalHome First Time Homebuyer Assistance funds as well as funds for Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation, and on April 19, 2022, the City was awarded $2,500,000 total for both activities. While these are still in the process of being implemented, homebuyers and homeowners may begin to be assisted by Summer of 2023. The City has maintained a list of pre-qualified interested residents, and this list has been forwarded to Self-Help Enterprises to begin from before processing any new applications.

The Housing Division maintains a loan portfolio of previous FTHB loans, which were funded through various sources such as State 2006 and 2012 CalHome funds. Though conditions and terms are slightly different between these funding sources, applicants must have demonstrated financial need and pre-approval for a first mortgage, and the second mortgages were financed as a low-interest deferred loan payment. As these loans are paid off, the income is then used to provide funds for new loans, which Self-Help Enterprises will also administer with the new 2021 funds.

Efforts to Remove Constraints for Low-Income Homeowners to Maintain Safe Housing

The City considers safe housing a priority for all citizens. Unfortunately, many low-income homeowners are unable to make needed repairs to maintain safe housing. In an effort to remove the financial constraints faced by these homeowners, the City's Housing Program, with Habitat for Humanity of Merced/Stanislaus Counties (HHMSC), administers a Homeowner Rehabilitation Program funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

This program offers these homeowner rehab activities through a 15-year forgivable deferred loan, with the caveat being that the homeowner has to remain the occupant of the home for the full term of the loan, after which the balance is then forgiven. If the owner moves out or the ownership is transferred before this time, the balance with interest then becomes due and payable.

Efforts to Provide Fair Housing

This is an on-going series of activities undertaken by the City of Merced's Housing Program to ensure that low and moderate-income households receive maximum benefit from the funds received by their local government. This area of activity includes constant attention to good communication between various service-providing agencies in the community, knowledge of market conditions and forces that drive good policy decisions regarding the use of resources, and constant evaluation of program efforts. It also refers to the monitoring of the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Efforts to Amend Policies Creating Barriers to Affordable Housing Production

As explained elsewhere in this plan, the City has listened to residents asking for Inclusionary Zoning or other similar policy changes and has taken measurable actions in recent years to amend policies and adopt the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Unit Production Plan, which allows staff to use several mechanisms and other tools at our disposal that will serve to help generate more new affordable housing units in the City.

Discussion:

2023 Program Funding to Provide Fair Housing Activities:

1. A total of $33,360 in HOME administrative funds will be spent in FY 2023 on Fair Housing activities, including a contract with Project Sentinel to provide fair housing services for the residents of Merced. This is an annual program and provides tenant and landlord counseling related to claims of discrimination, complaint-based investigations, legal services, and community-wide fair housing education and information. Project Sentinel will emphasize education of general housing rights to low-income tenants and housing providers, including property owner, managers, and property management companies.
2. Project Sentinel will also administer a Tenant and Landlord Counseling Service to handle non-discrimination-based disputes, with $51,385 of 2023 CDBG funds as a public service *(amended)*.

Actions and 2023 Program Funding to help remove constraints for First-Time Home Buyers:

1. The City was awarded $1,125,000 of 2021 CalHome First Time Home Buyer program funding by the State of California and is currently working with Self Help Enterprises to administer these funds and provide assistance to homebuyers for the purchase of single-family homes as gap financing. The City also receives a trickle of prior-year CalHome funds back each year as program

income, as existing loans are paid off or refinanced by previous FTHB program clients. Since the City now has enough of this program income to process approximately 5-10 new loans, Self Help will also be administering new FTHB loans with these prior year funds. The Housing Division has kept a waiting list of potential income-qualified clients since the last funding was fully exhausted approximately six years ago, and Self Help is currently contacting these potential homebuyers.

2023 Program Funding for Low- to Moderate-Income Homeowners to Maintain Safe Housing:

1. The City will provide $150,000 of 2023 CDBG funds to Habitat for Humanity of Merced/Stanislaus Counties for Year 2 of a three-year program to carry out homeowner occupied rehabilitation activities to benefit low-income homeowners needing necessary life-safety repairs to their homes. Oftentimes, homeowners can afford to purchase a home, but not to maintain it over many years, especially large-dollar and hazardous repairs like roof repair or replacements, HVAC system repairs or replacement, and removal and abatement of lead paint and/or asbestos-containing materials. Many of these homeowners are elderly and on fixed incomes. The City is currently implementing this three-year contract with Habitat Merced/Stanislaus and will amend it with new CDBG funding in Fall 2023 after approval of the 2023 Annual Action Plan.
2. 2021 CalHome grant funding – as part of the 2022 State CalHome award, $1,375,000 has been awarded to carry out an Owner Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) program similar in type and scope to Habitat for Humanity's. This program is expected to be able to start assisting homeowners in Summer 2023.

Community input from public meetings substantiated much of what the Housing Authority and 2016 Housing Element had reported - that housing is still lacking for senior citizens, foster youth who are aging out, and special needs adults. With identified areas of need, this and future plans will work toward addressing these specific populations. Additionally, the City conducted a review of public policies as a part of its 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) to determine actions that may impede the development of affordable housing. This review is found in Section 4 of the AI, which can be found on the City's website at: www.cityofmerced.org.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The section will describe the City's planned actions to carry out the following strategies outlined in the Consolidated Plan:

- Foster and maintain affordable housing
- Evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards
- Reduce the number of poverty-level families
- Develop institutional structure
- Enhance coordination

In addition, the City will identify obstacles to meeting underserved needs and propose actions to overcome those obstacles.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Overall, Merced has several priority housing and community needs it is striving to address over this current five-year Consolidated Plan period (spanning the 2020-2024 program years):

- To preserve, rehabilitate and enhance existing neighborhoods, and housing as applicable with an emphasis on South and Central Merced
- Create neighborhood revitalization opportunities within targeted areas of the City
- Provide support services for the City's residents with an emphasis on the homeless, chronically homeless, and services to seniors, youth, and veterans
- Ensure that all housing programs are available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, household composition, income, size, disability or any other arbitrary factor
- To address to City's significantly high unemployment rate with job training
- To preserve, rehabilitate, and enhance existing public facilities

It is the mission of the City to use resources to assist with businesses, job development, and the provision of safe, affordable housing. In short, we will do our part to maintain Merced as a community its residents are proud to call "home." Given the aforementioned six priorities, the City identified five main goals:

- Provide decent affordable housing
- Maintain and promote neighborhood preservation
- Support special needs programs and services
- Construct or upgrade public facilities and infrastructure
- Facilitate the Construction of Permanent Supportive Housing

- Improve accessibility
- Economic Development

2023 Program Funding to Upgrade Public Facilities and Infrastructure and Improve Accessibility:

1. Restart of Water and Sewer Main Replacement and ADA Sidewalk Improvement project in the alley between W. 12th and W. 13th Streets between K Street and Hwy 59 and sidewalks surrounding a future affordable housing project (Project #6).

2023 Program Funding to Support Special Needs and Improve Public Facilities/Services:

None *(Amended with 2nd Substantial Amendment)*

2023 Program Funding to Promote Economic Development:

1. Boys and Girls Club - "Journey Upward Merced Program (JUMP)" for Youth – work experience program for high school-aged youth (Project #11).

All of the above projects are important, as they serve to promote and improve accessibility and access to quality of life and life-saving amenities for all residents of Merced. Due to the expansion of Merced largely into northern parts of the city in "boom" years and the lack of sufficient funds and staff resources, South Merced still contains sections of infrastructure that are outdated in terms of Engineering Design Standard, as some sections no longer meet current ADA standards. The City is committed to upgrading these older areas of the City as it has CDBG and local funding and staffing resources available.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Merced will support the development and maintenance of affordable housing through several planned projects during the 2023 program year. These projects include:

- Continue to advance current work on subsidy layering strategies, grant fund applications, and tax credit applications, preparation of preliminary and final commitment documents and agreements, environmental reviews, other related tasks involved with several affordable housing developers and their proposed projects using ARPA, HOME, HOME-ARP, LMI Asset funds, State and Federal tax credits, State Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA), Homekey, and other funding sources in order to move to and finish construction of over 475 new affordable housing units over the near future years (Visionary Home Builders/Bella Vista - Parsons Avenue – 108 units; Upholdings/Mercy Village - Park Avenue – 67 units; Upholdings/1213 V Street – motel conversion – 96 units; Richman Group/Devonwood Apartments - Devonwood Drive – 156 units; Gateway Terrace II/W. 13th and K Street – 50 units – LMI Asset funds).
- Continue with the pursuit of disposition and subsequent development of former Redevelopment Agency properties for affordable housing; partnering with three housing partners to construct a total of 78 new affordable housing units on these properties (Fuller Center for Housing of Merced County – 4 units; Linc Housing – 54 units; and CC915 – 20 units nearing completion).
- Using a portion of the local former Redevelopment Agency LMI Asset Funds that were received in the Grove Apartments payoff in January 2021, with this plan, the City will repay to HUD a total of $269,640 for HOME expenditures made in error for the reconstruction of 1820 I Street in 2016. This amount will be paired with $700,507 of LMI Asset funds in the repayment of CDBG and HOME funds described in last year’s Annual Action Plan for the Gateway Terrace II project, for a total repayment to HUD of $970,147. The remaining balance in the LMI Asset Fund will be used to further the Gateway Terrace II project (50 units) in replacing all previously committed federal funds related to the project, enabling the project to move forward. This repayment is expected to occur by Fall 2023.
- The Regional Housing Needs Allocation Unit Production Plan for all new market rate developments has been implemented.
- Council is in the process of establishing policies and budgeting strategies for set-up of a locally

funded Housing Trust Fund (May – June 2023).

- Monitoring of past projects to ensure they remain assets for safe, affordable housing.

Although the current economy offers significant challenges to many households, homeownership has become less affordable as a result of increasing prices and interest rates and a historically low inventory of houses available for purchase. Due to the limited supply, low income households struggle to find adequate and affordable housing because of high demand, rising costs, and competition from other buyers, including out-of-town investors. Additionally, there is a severe shortage of rental housing available in the City of Merced. Vacancy rates are consistently under 1% availability.

Many of the City's efforts to foster and maintain affordable housing relate to the General Plan's Housing Element, which is currently undergoing an update. Community input from public meetings substantiated much of what the Housing Authority and Housing Element has reported – that housing is still lacking for senior citizens, low-income, and special needs adults. With identified areas of need, affordable housing projects will strive to consider these populations when possible.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

In the City of Merced, it is estimated that about 7,000 housing units occupied by low-income or very low-income households contain lead-based hazards. Although accurate statistics are not available, it is likely that many of these homes are concentrated in the South and Central parts of Merced area where there are concentrations of families in poverty, homes built before 1978, and substandard housing, factors that are often correlated with the incidence of lead poisoning. Lead based paint hazards represent an immediate risk to children.

Lead poisoning education and abatement efforts in Merced are provided through the cooperative efforts of the County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Division and Child Health and Disability Program. The abatement of lead-based hazards is a vital component of the City of Merced's Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, Habitat for Humanity's Owner-Occupied Rehab (OOR) program, and the acquisition and rehab programs run by partners Sierra Saving Grace and the Merced Rescue Mission. All housing acquisition and rehabilitation projects are assessed for lead-based paint and lead-based paint abatements are performed by appropriately licensed contractors.

Since a majority of housing units in the City of Merced were built before 1978, the City routinely tests all rehabilitation projects for lead-based paint. After assessment and testing, if deteriorated lead-based paint surfaces are found, they must be stabilized during the rehabilitation of the property and prior to project closeout. As required by Federal and State funding sources, housing rehabilitation programs must comply with the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X) and subsequent changes made in September 1999 and Lead Safe Housing Rule (LSHR) regulations (24 CFR Part 35).

The procedures regarding lead-based paint in rehabilitation programs may include, but not be limited

to, and in no particular order:

- Visual Inspection
- Notice to Occupants
- Identification
- Paint Testing
- Paint Stabilization
- Treatment (if necessary)
- Ongoing Lead Based Paint Maintenance

On January 13, 2017, HUD published an amendment to the LSHR on responding promptly to cases of children under age 6 living in certain categories of HUD-assisted housing. The City of Merced Housing Division is working to train staff on these changes and to ensure that all housing projects, including HUD-assisted public infrastructure or facility, multifamily new construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation projects, remain compliant with LSHR requirements.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Merced's antipoverty strategy is closely aligned with the goals and objectives of the overall affordable housing plan. These goals include: reducing poverty, creating new and affordable housing, developing and promoting services for at-risk populations, and providing public and social services, such as job training. The City will also continue encouraging and partnering with organizations who provide a continuum of services addressing the full range of needs of low- and moderate-income families, such as LifeLine CDC, whose program focuses on eradicating poverty for families living in the "Loughborough Area" of the City. Additionally, the 2023 program with Boys and Girls Club of Merced County will provide hands-on work experience and introductions to industry representatives for high school-aged youth, to attempt to give them a "leg-up" early start to meaningful, well-paying careers.

All communities share a goal to eradicate poverty. The City recognizes that a goal to reduce poverty will contribute to the economic wellbeing of individuals and families. The families whose income increases above the poverty level will be better able to live independent of public and private assistance.

The City's anti-poverty strategy is based on funding and supporting a range of housing, employment, and family service opportunities aimed at enabling those in poverty to move out of those patterns of hardship. For the workforce itself, the City will continue to look for ways to increase job training programs and the number of available jobs, including working collaboratively with Economic Development Department staff to attract more industries to Merced that provide specialized job training programs to the communities in which they are located. Industries that provide job skills training to match these technological times and foreseeable incoming industries will help raise those students and their families out of generational poverty.

The City will also continue to support activities that preserve and expand the supply of housing in Merced, to help make them more affordable to target income households.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City supports cooperation in the development of affordable housing through financial and/or technical assistance. The City will cooperate with developers to provide housing opportunities for extremely low-, very low-, low- and moderate-income households. The City will also evaluate the effectiveness of its partnerships with non-profit housing developers on an annual basis. Based on its findings, the City will seek ways to expand and foster its partnerships, as appropriate.
The City will assist and encourage housing development for extremely low-, very low-, low- and moderate-income households through a variety of activities such as, but not limited to, outreach to non-profit and for-profit housing developers, providing in-kind technical assistance, expedited processing, funding assistance/support, land write-downs, fee deferrals, and incentives and concessions that meet or exceed State density bonus law as appropriate.

The City will especially encourage the development of housing units for households earning 30-50 percent or less of the Median Family Income for Merced County, as the housing need for this particular income level is great, especially lower incomes. Specific emphasis shall be placed on the provision of family housing and non-traditional housing types such as single-resident occupancies (SRO's), accessory dwelling units (ADU's), transitional facilities, and housing units serving temporary needs.

The Development Services Department is responsible for the management, implementation, reporting, and monitoring of the Consolidated Plan documents, including the Annual Action Plan. The Housing Division within this Department is specifically charged with these tasks. The Division works in close coordination with the City's advisory commissions and the City Manager.

The City has designated staff positions to administer the programs and activities funded with CDBG and HOME funds. These staff members work with the individual City departments, such as Public Works, Development Services, Economic Development, and Parks and Recreation Department to develop procedures and coordination for administering programs that will be carried out by these departments. This staff also provides technical assistance to non-profits (subrecipients) on properly administering CDBG and HOME funds and developing eligible activities.

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

The City's Housing Division maintains primary management of, as well as the coordination of, the various organizations involved in these processes when working with programs and projects assisted with HUD dollars. The staff within the Division work closely with other City departments and the community to develop programs and activities that improve low- and moderate-income neighborhoods

throughout Merced. The administration of program activities includes housing, public facility and infrastructure improvements, public and social service activities, and economic development activities. The City collaborates with public agencies, for-profit agencies, and non-profit organizations in order to provide the aforementioned programming and services.

The City will continue to work closely with the County of Merced, which surrounds the City on all sides. The City will also continue to work with many of the non-profit organizations in the community to address the regional issues that affect the needs of target income persons, as well as special needs populations. A City representative will continue to regularly attend the Continuum of Care meetings to ensure homeless issues are being addressed.

Discussion:

Other Actions: Monitoring Plan Update

The City's Development Services Department, more specifically the Housing Division, is responsible for ensuring that the receipt and expenditure of HUD funds comply with program requirements through the monitoring of program performance. Careful evaluation of the housing and public service delivery system can be the most effective tool in detecting gaps and making appropriate modifications to ensure compliance with federal regulations. Procedures include in-house review of progress reports and expenditures and on-site visits. The monitoring system encourages uniform reporting to achieve consistent beneficiary information. Monitoring also aims to identify and resolve any program or other findings that may keep an organization from meeting its contractual obligations. Technical assistance is provided where necessary. Furthermore, project and financial data is maintained in HUD's IDIS (Integrated Disbursement Information System) software. Use of this system allows HUD easy access to local data for review and progress evaluation.

The City ensures compliance by:

- Checking project eligibility against regulations and staying in constant communication with the City's HUD CPD Representative
- Following the City's Subrecipient Monitoring Plan
- Reviewing HUD's monitoring handbook to ensure compliance with National Objectives of low- and moderate-income area benefit and low-and moderate-income limited clientele, financial management requirements, and other CDBG Entitlement Program requirements
- Reviewing CPD notices and Federal Register Notices on CDBG and HOME program planning requirements and rule changes
- Scheduling staff for training webinars/seminars whenever possible, in order to stay up to date on rule changes and ahead of the learning curve

Other Actions: Policies and Procedures Update

As part of an overall update to its Housing Division Policies and Procedures, the City plans to strengthen its existing subrecipient monitoring procedures by ensuring that specific HUD-recommended monitoring plan elements are included and/or expanded, comprising of:

- Conducting a risk-based assessment to identify which sub-recipients will receive a full, onsite monitoring versus a remote, desk monitoring
- Establishing a monitoring schedule
- Creating a monitoring checklist
- Conducting on-site visits, as applicable
- Notifying sub-recipients of monitoring results
- Providing technical assistance
- Ensuring that corrective actions, if needed, are taken

Additionally, by Summer 2023, the Housing Division will finalize work already in progress to develop NEPA Environmental Policies and Procedures and fold them into the Housing Division's existing procedures.

Finally, the Housing Division plans to review and, if necessary, update its Citizen Participation Plan, to ensure continued compliance with HUD regulations and to continue to find more efficient, wider-reaching ways of reaching residents and to solidify them into procedures.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The program-specific requirements that apply to the City are those for the CDBG and HOME programs.

In the 2021 Annual Plan, the City reported that it would be repaying $307,913.40 of CDBG funds that were pre-maturely spent towards soft/pre-construction costs for the Gateway Terrace II (GTII) affordable housing project. The City is currently still working towards completing this action. The City still intends to use local funds (LMI Asset Fund/former Redevelopment Agency funds) for this repayment and will be completing this action at the same time as the HOME repayment described for the 1820 I street project noted below. This total CDBG repayment for GTII consists of the following amounts and years of funding: $38,656.62 of pre-2015 CDBG funds and $269,256.78 of pre-2015 and 2015 CDBG funds.

GTII expenditures were made towards the following using CDBG funds:

- Architect and Engineering Fees ($19,827.50)
- Permits and Fees - City of Merced ($236,767)
- Housing Division - Activity Delivery ($51,318.90)

HOME funds will also be repaid as a part of the GTII correction. Please see Item #1 below in this Section.

Also, please note that the First Substantial Amendment to this plan increased the total expected CDBG Program Income (see chart below) from the original $93,000 to the actual figure of $120,095 received as of September 2023.

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

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	147,320
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0

4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	**147,320**

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income.Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	70.00%

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

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

   The City intends to repay to HUD $269,639.99 of 2016 HOME funds that was spent on construction costs of a 2016 project to build a second stand-alone single family unit at 1820 I Street – a project later, in a January 2020 HUD Environmental monitoring, found to be deficient regarding retention of National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) environmental review records that evaluate environmental impacts when contemplating the expenditure HOME funds. The City was notified in October 2021 of this repayment requirement. The City will be using local funds (LMI Asset Funds) for this repayment, as noted in the "AP-15 Expected Resources" section in this plan.

   The City will also be repaying $392,593.55 of HOME funds that were pre-maturely spent towards soft/pre-construction costs for the Gateway Terrace II affordable housing project. The City will also use local funds (LMI Asset Fund/former Redevelopment Agency funds) for this repayment. This total consists of the following amounts and years of funding: $357,812.46 of pre-2015 HOME funds, $11,740.18 of 2015 HOME funds, and $23,040.91 of 2016 HOME funds.

   The City intends to complete both repayments during the late portion of the 2022 or early in the 2023 program years, after Council action to authorize the use of local funds.

   GTII expenditures were made towards the following using HOME funds:

- Appraisal and Market Studies ($23,200)
- Permit Fees/Water – State Water Resources Control Board ($1,554)
- Architect and Engineering Fees ($141,792.50)
- Permits and Fees – City of Merced ($42,711.79)
- CSCDA – Performance Deposit ($50,000)
- CTCAC – Reservation ($5,182)
- Financial Advisory Services/Construction Financing ($7,000)
- CPA Accounting Fees ($10,625)
- Merced County Recording Fees ($96)
- Legal Fees ($45,000)
- Housing Division – Activity Delivery ($65,432.26)

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

   Income-eligible applicants must take an eight-hour home ownership class and will have covenants placed upon the home for a period up to thirty (30) years, depending on the loan amount and

program. Depending upon the First Time Homebuyer Program funding source, homes can either be purchased community wide or based upon pre-approved Census Tracts with a high number of low-income residents. This program is designed to assist families with incomes equal to or less-than 80% of Area Median Incomes. These are eligible households that range in size and have very-low to low-incomes. All HOME loans provided by the City Program to first-time buyers include conditions to ensure compliance with requirements of 24 CFR 92.254, except State CalHome Loans.

For HOME funded activities, if the home is sold or transferred within 10 years from the date of the loan origination, the applicant shall also pay the City a percentage of the difference between the price paid for the property and its value at the time of sale or transfer. The percentage share is determined on a declining scale, beginning at 10% in the first year, and decreasing one percentage point each year to 0% in Year 10. The City limits the amount subject to recapture to the sale's net proceeds, which is the sales price minus loan repayment and closing costs (other than HOME funds). The limitation applies to all units, regardless of the type of recapture provision used or the nature of the sale (voluntary sales including foreclosures). The funds collected are reused as program income for future HOME Program funded activities.

For CalHome (State) funded activities, the loan is not assumable and must be paid in full upon sale or transfer of the property. The borrower may prepay the loan in part or in full without penalty. The funds collected are reused as program income for future First Time Homebuyer Loans.

Please also see the HOME Loan Guidelines attached to this plan.

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

   The HOME Loan Servicing Plan and Housing Division Policies and Procedures are attached to the Annual Action Plan. During the coming year, we hope to be able to update the Housing Division Policies and Procedures to incorporate and clarify the HOME resale and recapture information.

   Applicants for multi-family units are required to enter into a Development Agreement and designate a specific number of units for income eligible residents. Projects usually call for funds to be loaned for a 30 – 55 year period with a three (3) percent interest rate. The full amount of the HOME Loan subsidy is recaptured and is utilized for other HOME Loans meeting the HOME program income guidelines. If the development is sold, repayment of the loan is required so funds can be reused as program income.

   A house must be owner-occupied and deed restricted against resale for the affordability term. Prepayment on loans or a sale within 10 years from the date of loan origination results in a penalty of 4% on the original loan amount starting from the loan origination date and calculated on a per month basis. Loan are not assumable and must be paid in full upon sale or transfer of the property.

Following a 10-year obligation, the borrower may prepay the loan plus interest, in part or in whole, at any time without penalty. Funds collected are reused as program income. If a home is sold or transferred within 10 years from the date of the loan origination, the applicant shall also pay the City a percentage share of the difference between the price paid for the property and its value at the time of sale or transfer. The City limits the amount subject to recapture to the sale's net proceeds, which is the sales price minus the loan repayment and closing costs (other than HOME funds). The limitation applies to all units, regardless of the type of recapture provision used or the nature of the sale (voluntary sales including foreclosures).

All HUD and State loan programs have covenants based upon the amount invested into each house/unit. The City may require each house/unit assisted to have a "period of affordability" covenant recorded. The length of this period is determined by the amount of financial assistance invested into each property. The minimum period of affordability per house/unit and correlating period is: A) under $15,000: 5 Years; B) $15,000 to $40,000: 10 Years; or, C) over $40,000: 15 Years. For qualified homeowner rehabilitations, they may be eligible for a forgivable loan (grant) of up to $50,000 worth of health and safety upgrades. As long as they do not sell their property within the agreed-upon term, the Housing Division will grant the funds to the homeowner.

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

   Not applicable - The City does not intend to refinance debt.

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

   There are no planned HOME TBRA activities during the 2023 program year.

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

   There are no planned HOME TBRA activities during the 2023 program year.

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

   The City of Merced has not set any preferences or limitations for rental housing projects.

CDBG 70% Overall Low-Mod Benefit Period

The City intends to use a 3-year consecutive period to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low- and moderate-income. Those years will span 2022 (last year), 2023 (this year), and 2024 (Years 3-5). The City chose those years to give appropriate time for the program and a short-staffed division to recover from the administrative impacts related to the Coronavirus pandemic, which initially caused delays in development and submission of both the 2020 and 2021 Plans and affected our initial ability to hold public outreach meetings, which translated into further delays in receiving and expending grant funds. We also needed additional time to allocate and spend a very large amount of CDBG and HOME program income received in January 2021 as a result of an unexpected loan payoff.

Attachments

Citizen Participation Comments

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)
Proof of Publication of

STATE OF CALIFORNIA}
}ss
}
COUNTY OF MERCED

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitles matter. I am the printer foreman or principal clerk of The Merced County Times, a newspaper of general circulation. printed and published in the City of Winton, County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of December 14, 1999, Case Number 143600: that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit

Legal # 13165

PUBLIC NOTICE- ENGLISH

PUBLICATION DATES: 11-23-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this: 23rd of November 2023

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

Legal # 13165
CITY OF MERCED
NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO review and COMMENT and notice of public meeting
2023-2024 Annual Action plan substantial amendment #1

This Notice serves to notify City of Merced residents and interested stakeholders of proposed amendments to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2023-24 Annual Action Plan and previously approved projects related to the 2022-23 and 2021-22 Annual Action Plans; an Opportunity to Review and Comment on the proposed changes; and to notify residents of the anticipated City Council meeting date at which this amendment will be approved.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Through this substantial amendment process, the City of Merced intends to make several changes to previously approved Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects in the 2023, 2022, and 2021 Annual Action Plans. The primary reason for these changes is to expedite expenditure of CDBG funds by April 30, 2024, in order to meet regulatory expenditure deadlines of these CDBG funds. Secondarily, these changes also seek to address an urgent need for additional affordable rental housing units in Merced City. As such, the City intends to move $2,612,845 of CDBG funds from multiple previously approved projects to assist in acquiring land on which a 156-unit affordable rental housing complex will be built and previously approved HUD funding. To accomplish these purposes, several changes to previously approved Annual Action Plans are necessary, which are too numerous to list in this notice. The City of Merced has prepared a Summary that details all of the amended and canceled projects and funding involved in this Substantial Amendment. A preliminary draft of the Amended 2023 Annual Action Plan may also be available to view. Interested Residents and Stakeholders can view the Summary and Preliminary Draft in several different ways: 1) from the Internet, navigate to the City of Merced Housing Division website: www.cityofmerced.org/housing, then follow the links posted to download/view; 2) by email delivery – send your request to housing@cityofmerced.org (please allow staff 1-2 business days to respond); and, 3) view in person: Housing Division, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced. Please contact the Housing Division as soon as possible if an alternative viewing method is necessary by calling (209) 385-6863.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Public may provide WRITTEN comment on the proposed amendments DURING THE 30 DAYS SPANNING FROM 8:00 a.m. on Friday, NOVEMBER 24, 2023, through 5:00 p.m. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023, WITH the below procedures: Written and verbal comments may be submitted during the comment period by: 1) emailing to housing@cityofmerced.org (please limit to 600 words); or, 2) leaving a voicemail at 209-385-6863 (please limit to three minutes); or, 3) submitted or dictated in person to a Housing staff person (note City Hall is closed 11/24/23 and 12/25/23 for holidays); or, 4) mailed to: Merced City Housing Division Public Comments, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced CA 95340 (mail to be

Proof of Publication - Merced County Times, 2221 K St., Merced, California. 95341 Telephone 383-0433
Adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by court decree No. 143600

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)
Proof of Publication of

STATE OF CALIFORNIA}
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COUNTY OF MERCED

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitles matter. I am the printer foreman or principal clerk of The Merced County Times, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Winton County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of December 14, 1999, Case Number 143600; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit

Legal # 13165

PUBLIC NOTICE- ENGLISH

PUBLICATION DATES: 11-23-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

John Miller

Dated this: 23rd of November 2023

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

received by 5pm on 12/26/23. The Merced Civic Center/City Hall is ADA accessible. However, please contact the Housing Division if special accommodations are needed, including translation or hearing impaired services. Please allow staff at least 72 hours to arrange accommodations. City council approval – Notice of meeting date/time per the city's adopted HUD citizen participation plan: no Public Hearing is required for this matter. However, members of the public are welcome to speak on any matter on the City Council agenda, including this item. The scheduled meeting date/time is 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Please see the City Clerk website or public participation procedures and agenda at cityofmerced.org/departments/city-clerk. All City Council meetings are broadcast on Comcast Government Access Channel, website livestream link, and Facebook Live. Public comments made during the meeting and on social media feeds will be reviewed and noted during this process.
Publication Date: 11-23-2023

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COUNTY OF MERCED

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Legal # 13166

PUBLIC NOTICE- SPANISH

PUBLICATION DATES: 11-23-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

John Miller

Dated this: 23rd of November 2023

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

Legal # 13166
CIUDAD DE MERCED
AVISO DE OPORTUNIDAD PARA REVISAR Y COMENTAR Y AVISO DE REUNION PÚBLICA
PLAN DE ACCION ANUAL 2023-2024 ENMIENDA SUSTANCIAL #1

Este Aviso sirve para notificar a los residentes de la Ciudad de Merced y a las partes interesadas sobre las enmiendas propuestas al Plan de Acción Anual 2023-24 del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE. UU. (HUD) y los proyectos previamente aprobados relacionados con los Planes de Acción Anual 2023-24, y 2021-22, una oportunidad para revisar y comentar sobre las enmiendas propuestas; y notificar a los residentes sobre la fecha prevista de la reunión del Concejo Municipal en la que se aprobará esta enmienda.

ENMIENDAS PROPUESTAS

A través de este proceso de enmienda, la Ciudad de Merced tiene la intención de realizar varios cambios a los proyectos de Subvenciones en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) previamente aprobados en los Planes de Acción Anuales de 2023, 2022 y 2021. La razón principal de estos cambios es acelerar el gasto de los fondos CDBG antes del 30 de abril de 2024, a fin de cumplir con los plazos regulatorios de gasto de estos fondos CDBG. En segundo lugar, estos cambios también buscan atender una necesidad urgente de unidades de vivienda de alquiler asequibles adicionales en Merced City. Como tal, la Ciudad tiene la intención de transferir $2,612,845 de fondos CDBG de múltiples proyectos previamente aprobados para ayudar a adquirir un terreno en el que se construirá un complejo de viviendas de alquiler asequible de 156 unidades utilizando fondos previamente aprobados por HUD. Para lograr estos propósitos son necesarios estos cambios a los Planes de Acción Anuales previamente aprobados, los cuales son detallados numerosos para enumerarlos en este aviso. La Ciudad de Merced ha preparado un Resumen que detalla todos los proyectos y fondos modificados y cancelados involucrados en esta Enmienda Sustancial. También puede estar disponible para su consulta un borrador preliminar del Plan de Acción Anual Enmendado para 2023. Los residentes y partes interesadas pueden ver el resumen y el borrador preliminar de varias maneras diferentes: 1) desde Internet navegue hasta el sitio web de la División de Vivienda de la ciudad de Merced: www.cityofmerced.org/housing. Luego siga los enlaces publicados para descargar/ver; 2) por correo electrónico: envíe su solicitud a housing@cityofmerced.org. (seguro); 3) personalmente entre 1 y 2 días hábiles para responder); y 4) ver en persona: Divisor de Vivienda, Ayuntamiento en el segundo piso, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced. Comuníquese con la División de Vivienda lo antes posible si necesita un método de visualización alternativo llamando a (209) 385-6864.

AVISO DE OPORTUNIDAD DE REVISAR Y COMENTAR EL PÚBLICO PUEDE PROPORCIONAR COMENTARIOS POR ESCRITO SOBRE LAS ENMIENDAS PROPUESTAS DURANTE LOS 30 DÍAS QUE DESDE LAS 8:00 A.M. EL VIERNES 24 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2023 HASTA LAS 5:00 P.M. MARTES 26 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2023. CON LOS SIGUIENTES PROCEDIMIENTOS:

Se pueden enviar comentarios escritos y verbales durante este período de comentarios: 1) enviados por correo electrónico a housing@cityof

Proof of Publication - Merced County Times, 2221 K St., Merced, California, 95341 Telephone 383-0433
Adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by court decree No. 143600

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)
Proof of Publication of

STATE OF CALIFORNIA}
}ss
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COUNTY OF MERCED

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitles matter. I am the printer foreman or principal clerk of The Merced County Times, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Winton, County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of December 14, 1999, Case Number 143600; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit

Legal # 13166

PUBLIC NOTICE- SPANISH

PUBLICATION DATES: 11-23-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

John Miller

Dated this: 23rd of November 2023

mercedcrd.limite a 500 palabras); o, 2) dejarnos un mensaje de voz al 209-385-6953 (límite a tres minutos); o, 3) presentado o dictado en persona a un miembro del personal de Vivienda tenga en cuenta que el Ayuntamiento será cerrado el 24/11/23 y el 25/12/23 por días festivos); o, 4) enviado por correo a: Merced City Housing Division Public Comments, 678 W 18th Street, Merced CA 95340 (debe recibirse antes de las 5 p.m. del 26/12/23). El Centro Cívico/Ayuntamiento de Merced es accesible según la ADA. Sin embargo, comuníquese con la División de Vivienda si necesita adaptaciones especiales, incluidos servicios de traducción para personas con problemas de audición. Esperar al personal al menos 72 horas para organizar el alojamiento. APROBACION DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL AVISO DE REUNION FECHA/HORA SEGUN EL PLAN DE PARTICIPACION CIUDADANA DE HUD ADOPTADO POR LA CIUDAD, NO SE REQUIERE UN/A AUDIENCIA PUBLICA PARA ESTE ASUNTO. Sin embargo, los miembros del público pueden hablar sobre cualquier asunto de la agenda del Concejo Municipal, incluido este tema. La fecha y hora programadas para la reunión son las 6:00 p. m. del martes 2 de enero de 2024. Consulte el sitio web de la Secretaría Municipal para conocer los procedimientos y agendas de participación pública. cityofmerced.org/departments/city-clerk. Todas las reuniones del Concejo Municipal se transmiten por el canal de acceso gubernamental de Comcast, el enlace de transmisión en vivo del sitio web y Facebook Live. Los comentarios públicos realizados durante la reunión y en las redes sociales se revisarán y enviarán durante este proceso. **Publication Date: 11-23-2023**

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Legal # 13167

PUBLIC NOTICE- HMONG

PUBLICATION DATES: 11-23-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

John Miller

Dated this: 23rd of November 2023

Legal # 13167

LUB NROOG MERCED - DAIM NTAWV MUAB COJ LOS TSHUAJ XYUAS THIAB LUS NUG THIAB MUAB LOS TSO RAU ZEJ ZOG SIB THAM RAU XYOO 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBSTANTIAL Amendment #1

Daim Ntawv Ceeb Toom no qhia rau Lub Xwmtxv Merced coj pej xeem kom hais lub nroog thiab coj neeg muaj pem hauj sab txog qhov kev thov hlawv kho rau US Department of Housing thiab Urban Development (HUD) 2023-24 Lub Hom Phiaj Ib Xyoos thiab coj txaujvim rau pom zoo yav dhau los suav tshuam txog 2022-23 thiab 2021-22 Daim Ntawv Npaj Ua Txhua Xyoo. Lub Sijhawm ke thiab xyuas thiab tawm tswv yim txug cov kev hlawv pauv thiab, kom ceeb toom rau cov Nom Tswv City Council nyob hauv lub Nroog lub rooj sib tham yaj hnub Hnub Wednesday, yuav raug Hlawv dej ua kev kom zoo. PROPOSED xwj hlaov kho Los ntawm cov txheej txheem hlawv kho no. Lub Nroog Merced npaj siab yuav ua ntau yam kev hlawv pauv rau yav dhau los zom zoo Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) cov txaujvim hauv 2023, 2022, thiab 2021 Cov Kev Npaj Ua Txhua Xyoo. Lub tsuj paus yog xwj li cas rau cov kev hlawv pauv no yog kom txaug kev siv nyiaj ntawm CDBG cov nyiaj los ntawm lub Plaub Hlis 30, 2024 xhawm rau ua kom tau raws li cov txheej txheem kev siv nyiaj hnub kawg ntawm cov nyiaj CDBG. Qhov thib ob cov kev hlawv pauv no yog kom yog los nthuav dawb qhov kev xav tau ntxiv rau cov txev xaj kom pheej yig thov nyob hauv Lub Nroog Merced. Yog li ntawd Lub Nroog npaj yuav muab $2,612,845 ntawm CDBG cov nyiaj yav dhau los ua lb qhov kev hauj wm uas tau pom zoo yav dhau los nab nthav thaj av 0156-uni ua xaj tsev kom pheej yig rau cov pej xeem yuav siv. HUD hnaj txaug yav dhau los ua Txhawm rau ua kom ntav coj ncaj phees nrog qhov kev hlawv pauv rau Cov Kev Npaj Ua Hauj wm lb Xyoos uas tau pom zoo yav dhau los yog tej yam txiv uas muab los sau tau hauv tsab ntawv ceeb toom no. Lub Nroog Merced tau npaj coj ntsiab los uas qhia rhee txog xhuav qhov kev hlaov kho thiab lwm yam tawm cov txaujvim thiab cov nyiaj txiag koomruag hauv Qhov Kev Hlaov Kho Tseem Ceeb no. Ib tsab xov xwm ua ntej ntawm Kev Hlaov Kho 2021 Txoj Hauj wm lb Xyoos kuj tseem tuaj yeem muaj los saib. Cov neeg mloj kev nyuaj siab thiab cov neeg muaj teeb meem xyuam tuaj yeem saib tau Cov Lus Qhia thiab Cov Lus Nug ua Ntej hais rau txoj kev sib tham. 1) hauv internet mus rau Lub Nroog Merced Housing Division lub vev xaic www.cityofmerced.org/housing, tom qab ntawd ua raws cov ntawv txuas mus rub tawm saib. 2) los ntawm kev xa email xa koj daim ntawv thov mus rau home@cityofmerced.org thov kuj cia rau cov neeg ua hauj wm 1-2 hnub ua ntej lub rooj sib tham. 3) saib ntawm tus kheej Housing Division 2nd Floor City Hall 678 W 18th Street, Merced. Thov kuj rau Lub Tsev Hauj wm Saib Xyuas Vaj Tse v kom sai li sai tau yog cas xav tau hais txog kev saib los yog xav tau los ntawm kev nu rau (209)385-6953.

DAIM NTAWV QHIA TIAS MUAB LUB SIJ HAWM LOS SAIB THIAB SAU TEJ YAM NTXIV RAU

TSOM PEJ XEEM sau NTAWV TUAJ KHAI TXOG qhov kev hlov thov kho tsuv 33 hnub txij li 8:00 teev ntawv

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Legal # 13167

PUBLIC NOTICE- HMONG

PUBLICATION DATES: 11-23-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this: 23rd of November 2023

nkaw. Hnub Friday, Kaum Ib Hlis 24, 2023, 5:00 tsev tsaus ntuj MUS TXOG RAU Hnub Tuesday, Kaum Ob Hlis 28, 2023, nrog rau cov txheej txheem hauv qab no: Seu neb hais lus tus yeem xa daj rau lub sijhawm hais lus no cia ntawm 1) emailing rone@cityofmerced.org thiab txog rau 500 lo lus; lossis 2) tawm hauv lub suab ntawv 209-385-6865. (yuav tsum tsawg dua li 3 feeb); los yog, 3) xa los yog tus kheej nqa tuaj rau lo yig ceeg ua hauj kwm hauv Housing (lus txhais tawm City Hall yuav kaw 11/24/23 thiab 12/25/23 yog hnub so) los yog, 4) xa tuaj rau Merced City Housing Division-Public Comments, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced CA 95340 (yuav tsum tau txais ua ntej 5 tsev tsaus ntuj tas yog hnub tim 12/26/23).

Lub Merced Civic Center City Hall yog ADA siv tau. Txawm li cas los xij, thov nco tau Lub Tsev Haujlwm Saib Xyuas Vaj Tse yog xav tau kev pab txhij xeeb, txhais lus, lossis kev pabcuam rau cov tsis muaj lus. Thov qhia tias yuav siv es hawm li 72 tsev los npaj cov chaw nyob.

COV CITY COUNCIL LOS POM ZOO DAIM NTAWV QHIA HNUB SIB THAM SIU RAWM

QHOV CHAW UA HAUJ LWM HUD TSOOM PEJ XEEM NPAJ TUAJ KOOM LI GAS tsis muaj kev sib tham rau pej xeem HAIS TXOG QHOV NO LAWM Txawm li cas los xij, cov tswv cuab ntawm cov pej xeem ua cwj txais tos los tham txog lub qhov teeb meem ntawm Lub Nroog cov City Council cov txheej txheem, suav nrog cov khoom rov Hnub Teem Sijhawm sib ntsib yog 6:00 tsev tsaus ntuj Tuesday, Lub Ib Hlis 2, 2024 Thov mus saib Lub Nroog tus Clerk lub vev xaib rau cov txheej txheem kev koom tes rau pej xeem thiab cov txheej txheem city clerk. Txhua lub rooj sib tham thiab nroog tau ranj tawm hauv Comcast Government Access Channel lub vev xaib livestream txuas, thiab Facebook Live. Cov lus txhais lawm pej xeem tau ua thaum lub rooj sib tham thiab ntawm kev txhais lawm xov xwm yuav raug txhua qhuas thiab sau tseg thaum lub sijhawm pe hauj lwm no.

Publication Date: 11-23-2023

CITY OF MERCED

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #1

This Notice serves to notify City of Merced residents and interested stakeholders of proposed amendments to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2023-24 Annual Action Plan and previously approved projects related to the 2022-23 and 2021-22 Annual Action Plans; an Opportunity to Review and Comment on the proposed changes; and, to notify residents of the anticipated City Council meeting date at which this amendment will be approved.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Through this amendment process, the City of Merced intends to make several changes to previously approved Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects in the 2023, 2022, and 2021 Annual Action Plans. The primary reason for these changes is to expedite expenditure of CDBG funds by April 30, 2024, in order to meet regulatory expenditure deadlines of these CDBG funds. Secondarily, these changes also seek to address an urgent need for additional affordable rental housing units in Merced City. As such, the City intends to move $2,612,845 of CDBG funds from multiple previously approved projects to assist in acquiring land on which a 156-unit affordable rental housing complex will be built using previously approved HUD funding. To accomplish these purposes, several changes to previously approved Annual Action Plans are necessary, which are too numerous to list in this notice. The City of Merced has prepared a Summary that details all of the amended and cancelled projects and funding involved in this Substantial Amendment. A preliminary draft of the Amended 2023 Annual Action Plan may also be available to view. Interested Residents and Stakeholders can view the Summary and Preliminary Draft in several different ways: 1) from the internet, navigate to the City of Merced Housing Division website: *www.cityofmerced.org/housing*, then follow the links posted to download/view; 2) by email delivery – send your request to: *housing@cityofmerced.org* (please allow staff 1-2 business days to respond); and, 3) view in person: Housing Division, 2nd Floor City Hall, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced. Please contact the Housing Division as soon as possible if an alternative viewing method is necessary by calling (209)385-6863.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT

THE PUBLIC MAY PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS DURING THE 33 DAYS SPANNING FROM 8:00 A.M. ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023, THROUGH 5:00 P.M. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023, WITH THE BELOW PROCEDURES:

- Written and verbal comments may be submitted during this comment period by: 1) emailing: *housing@cityofmerced.org* (please limit to 500 words); or, 2) leaving a voicemail at 209-385-6863 (please limit to three minutes); or, 3) submitted or dictated in person to a Housing staff person (note City Hall is closed 11/24/23 and 12/25/23 for holidays); or, 4) mailed to: Merced City Housing Division-Public Comments, 678 W 18th Street, Merced CA 95340 (must be received by 5pm on 12/26/23).

The Merced Civic Center/City Hall is ADA accessible. However, please contact the Housing Division if special accommodations are needed, including translation or hearing impaired services. Please allow staff at least 72 hours to arrange accommodations.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL – NOTICE OF MEETING DATE/TIME

PER THE CITY'S ADOPTED HUD CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN, NO PUBLIC HEARING IS REQUIRED FOR THIS MATTER. However, members of the public are welcome to speak on any matter on the City Council agenda, including this item. The scheduled meeting date/time is 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Please see the City Clerk website for public participation procedures and agendas: *cityofmerced.org/departments/city-clerk*. All City Council meetings are broadcast on Comcast Government Access Channel, website livestream link, and Facebook Live. Public comments made during the meeting and on social media feeds will be reviewed and noted during this process.

CIUDAD DE MERCED

AVISO DE OPORTUNIDAD PARA REVISAR Y COMENTAR Y AVISO DE REUNIÓN PÚBLICA

PLAN DE ACCIÓN ANUAL 2023-2024 ENMIENDA SUSTANCIAL #1

Este Aviso sirve para notificar a los residentes de la Ciudad de Merced y a las partes interesadas sobre las enmiendas propuestas al Plan de Acción Anual 2023-24 del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE. UU. (HUD) y los proyectos previamente aprobados relacionados con los Planes de Acción Anual 2022-23 y 2021-22. ; una oportunidad para revisar y comentar sobre los cambios propuestos; y notificar a los residentes sobre la fecha prevista de la reunión del Concejo Municipal en la que se aprobará esta enmienda.

ENMIENDAS PROPUESTAS

A través de este proceso de enmienda, la Ciudad de Merced tiene la intención de realizar varios cambios a los proyectos de Subvenciones en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) previamente aprobados en los Planes de Acción Anuales de 2023, 2022 y 2021. La razón principal de estos cambios es acelerar el gasto de los fondos CDBG antes del 30 de abril de 2024, a fin de cumplir con los plazos regulatorios de gasto de estos fondos CDBG. En segundo lugar, estos cambios también buscan abordar una necesidad urgente de unidades de vivienda de alquiler asequibles adicionales en Merced City. Como tal, la Ciudad tiene la intención de transferir $2,612,845 de fondos CDBG de múltiples proyectos previamente aprobados para ayudar a adquirir un terreno en el que se construirá un complejo de viviendas de alquiler asequible de 156 unidades utilizando fondos previamente aprobados por HUD. Para lograr estos propósitos, son necesarios varios cambios a los Planes de Acción Anuales previamente aprobados, los cuales son demasiado numerosos para enumerarlos en este aviso. La Ciudad de Merced ha preparado un Resumen que detalla todos los proyectos y fondos modificados y cancelados involucrados en esta Enmienda Sustancial. También puede estar disponible para su consulta un borrador preliminar del Plan de Acción Anual Enmendado para 2023. Los residentes y partes interesadas interesados pueden ver el resumen y el borrador preliminar de varias maneras diferentes: 1) desde Internet, navegue hasta el sitio web de la División de Vivienda de la ciudad de Merced: *www.cityofmerced.org/housing*, luego siga los enlaces publicados para descargar/ver; 2) por correo electrónico: envíe su solicitud a: *housing@cityofmerced.org* (espere al personal entre 1 y 2 días hábiles para responder); y, 3) ver en persona: División de Vivienda, Ayuntamiento en el segundo piso, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced. Comuníquese con la División de Vivienda lo antes posible si necesita un método de visualización alternativo llamando al (209) 385-6863.

AVISO DE OPORTUNIDAD DE REVISAR Y COMENTAR

EL PÚBLICO PUEDE PROPORCIONAR COMENTARIOS POR ESCRITO SOBRE LAS ENMIENDAS PROPUESTAS DURANTE LOS 33 DÍAS QUE DESDE LAS 8:00 A.M. EL VIERNES 24 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2023 HASTA LAS 5:00 P.M. MARTES 26 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2023, CON LOS SIGUIENTES PROCEDIMIENTOS:

- Se pueden enviar comentarios escritos y verbales durante este período de comentarios: 1) enviando un correo electrónico a: *housing@cityofmerced.org* (límite a 500 palabras): o, 2) dejando un mensaje de voz al 209-385-6863 (límite a tres minutos); o, 3) presentado o dictado en persona a un miembro del personal de Vivienda (tenga en cuenta que el Ayuntamiento está cerrado el 24/11/23 y el 25/12/23 por días festivos); o, 4) enviado por correo a: Merced City Housing Division-Public Comments, 678 W 18th Street, Merced CA 95340 (debe recibirse antes de las 5 p.m. del 26/12/23).

El Centro Cívico/Ayuntamiento de Merced es accesible según la ADA. Sin embargo, comuníquese con la División de Vivienda si necesita adaptaciones especiales, incluidos servicios de traducción o para personas con problemas de audición. Espere al personal al menos 72 horas para organizar el alojamiento.

APROBACIÓN DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL – AVISO DE REUNIÓN FECHA/HORA

SEGÚN EL PLAN DE PARTICIPACIÓN CIUDADANA DE HUD ADOPTADO POR LA CIUDAD, NO SE REQUIERE UNA AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA PARA ESTE ASUNTO. Sin embargo, los miembros del

público pueden hablar sobre cualquier asunto de la agenda del Concejo Municipal, incluido este tema. La fecha y hora programadas para la reunión son las 6:00 p. m. del martes 2 de enero de 2024. Consulte el sitio web de la Secretaria Municipal para conocer los procedimientos y agendas de participación pública: *cityofmerced.org/departments/city-clerk*. Todas las reuniones del Concejo Municipal se transmiten por el canal de acceso gubernamental de Comcast, el enlace de transmisión en vivo del sitio web y Facebook Live. Los comentarios públicos realizados durante la reunión y en las redes sociales se revisarán y anotarán durante este proceso.

LUB NROOG MERCED
DAIM NTAWV MUAB COJ LOS TSHUAJ XYUAS THIAB LUS NUG THIAB MUAB LOS TSO RAU ZEJ ZOG SIB THAM RAU XYOO 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #1

Daim Ntawv Ceeb Toom no qhia rau Lub Nroog Merced cov pej xeem nyob hauv lub nroog thiab cov neeg muaj feem txaus siab txog qhov kev thov hloov kho rau US Department of Housing thiab Urban Development (HUD) 2023-24 Lub Hom Phiaj Ib Xyoos thiab cov haujlwm tau pom zoo yav dhau los cuam tshuam nrog 2022-23 thiab 2021-22 Daim Ntawv Npaj Ua Txhua Xyoo ; Lub Sijhawm los tshuaj xyuas thiab tawm tswv yim txog cov kev hloov pauv; thiab, kom ceeb toom rau cov Nom Tswv City Council nyob hauv lub Nroog lub rooj sib tham uas hnub twg yuav raug hloov coj los ua kev pom zoo.

PROPOSED KEV HLOOV KHO

Los ntawm cov txheej txheem hloov kho no, Lub Nroog Merced npaj siab yuav ua ntau yam kev hloov pauv rau yav dhau los pom zoo Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) cov haujlwm hauv 2023, 2022, thiab 2021 Cov Kev Npaj Ua Txhua Xyoo. Lub hauv paus yog vim li cas rau cov kev hloov pauv no yog kom txuag kev siv nyiaj ntawm CDBG cov nyiaj los ntawm lub Plaub Hlis 30, 2024, txhawm rau ua kom tau raws li cov txheej txheem kev siv nyiaj hnub kawg ntawm cov nyiaj CDBG. Qhov thib ob, cov kev hloov pauv no tseem yog los nrhiav daws qhov kev xav tau ntxiv rau cov tsev xauj kom pheej yig ntxiv nyob hauv Lub Nroog Merced. Yog li ntawd, Lub Nroog npaj yuav muab $2,612,845 ntawm CDBG cov nyiaj yav dhlau los ua ib qhov kev haujlwm uas tau pom zoo yav dhau los lawm los pab nrhiav thaj av li156-unit ua vaj tsev kom pheej yig rau cov pej xeem, yuav siv HUD nyiaj txiag yav dhau los ua. Txhawm rau ua kom tiav cov hom phiaj no, ntau qhov kev hloov pauv rau Cov Kev Npaj Ua Haujlwm Ib Xyoos uas tau pom zoo yav dhau los yog tej yam tsim nyog, uas muab los sau rau hauv tsab ntawv ceeb toom no. Lub Nroog Merced tau npaj cov ntsiab lus uas qhia meej txog txhua qhov kev hloov kho thiab tshem tawm cov haujlwm thiab cov nyiaj txiag koom nrog hauv Qhov Kev Hloov Kho Tseem Ceeb no. Ib tsab xov xwm ua ntej ntawm Kev Hloov Kho 2023 Txoj Haujlwm Ib Xyoos kuj tseem tuaj yeem muaj los saib. Cov neeg muaj kev txaus siab thiab cov neeg muaj feem xyuam tuaj yeem saib tau Cov Lus Qhia thiab Cov Lus Nug Ua Ntej hauv ntau txoj kev sib txawv: 1) hauv internet, mus rau Lub Nroog Merced Housing Division lub vev xaib: *www.cityofmerced.org/housing*, tom qab ntawd ua raws li cov ntawv txuas mus rub tawm / saib; 2) los ntawm kev xa email - xa koj daim ntawv thov mus rau: home@cityofmerced.org (thov tso cai rau cov neeg ua haujlwm 1-2 hnub ua haujlwm teb); thiab, 3) saib ntawm tus kheej: Housing Division, 2nd Floor City Hall, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced. Thov hu rau Lub Tsev Haujlwm Saib Xyuas Vaj Tsev kom sai li sai tau yog tias xav tau lwm txoj kev saib los yog xav tau los ntawm kev hu rau (209)385-6863.

DAIM NTAWV QHIA TIAS MUAB LUB SIJ HAWM LOS SAIB THIAB SAU TEJ YAM NTXIV RAU TSOM PEJ XEEM SAU NTAWV TUAJ HAIS TXOG QHOV KEV THOV HLOOV KHO HAUV 33 HNUB TXIJ LI 8:00 TEEV SAWV NTXOV. HNUB FRIDAY, KAUM IB HLIS 24, 2023, 5:00 TEEV TSAUS NTUJ MUS TXOG RAU HNUB TUESDAY, KAUM OB HLIS 26, 2023, NROG RAU COV TXHEEJ TXHEEM HAUV QAB NO:

- Sau thiab hais lus tuaj yeem xa tuaj rau lub sijhawm hais lus no los ntawm: 1) emailing: home@cityofmerced.org (thov txwv rau 500 lo lus): lossis, 2) tawm hauv lub suab ntawd 209-385-6863 (yuav tsum tsawg dua li 3 feeb); los yog, 3) xa los yog tus kheej nqa tuaj rau ib tug

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

neeg ua hauj lwm hauv Housing (lus tshaj tawm City Hall yuav kaw 11/24/23 thiab 12/25/23 yog hnub so); los yog, 4) xa tuaj rau: Merced City Housing Division-Public Comments, 678 W 18th Street, Merced CA 95340 (yuav tsum tau txais ua ntej 5 teev tsaus ntuj uas yog hnub tim 12/26/23).

Lub Merced Civic Center/City Hall yog ADA siv tau. Txawm li cas los xij, thov hu rau Lub Tsev Haujlwm Saib Xyuas Vaj Tsev yog xav tau kev pab tshwj xeeb, txhais lus lossis kev pabcuam rau cov tsis hnov lus. Thov qhia tias yuav siv sij hawm li 72 teev los npaj cov chaw nyob.

COV CITY COUNCIL LOS POM ZOO – DAIM NTAWV QHIA HNUB SIB THAM/SIJ HAWM QHOV CHAW UA HAUJ LWM HUD TSOOM PEJ XEEM NPAJ TUAJ KOOM LI CAS, TSIS MUAJ KEV SIB THAM RAU PEJ XEEM HAIS TXOG QHOV NO LAWM. Txawm li cas los xij, cov tswv cuab ntawm cov pej xeem raug txais tos los tham txog ib qho teeb meem ntawm Lub Nroog cov City Council cov txheej txheem, suav nrog cov khoom no. Hnub teem sijhawm sib ntsib yog 6:00 teev tsaus ntuj, Tuesday, Lub Ib Hlis 2, 2024. Thov mus saib Lub Nroog tus Clerk lub vev xaib rau cov txheej txheem kev koom tes rau pej xeem thiab cov txheej txheem: *cityofmerced.org/departments/city-clerk*. Txhua lub rooj sib tham hauv nroog tau tshaj tawm hauv Comcast Government Access Channel, lub vev xaib livestream txuas, thiab Facebook Live. Cov lus tshaj tawm pej xeem tau ua thaum lub rooj sib tham thiab ntawm kev tshaj tawm xov xwm yuav raug tshuaj xyuas thiab sau tseg thaum lub sijhawm ua haujlwm no.

Public Notices

and Environmental Review Postings and Notices for Use of HUD Federal Funds

The Housing Division will post Public Notices and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Notices related to HUD-assisted projects on this webpage, as required by the Citizen Participation Plan and NEPA regulations.

Please scroll to the bottom of this page to view Public Notices

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (NEPA) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW NOTICES:

There are no environmental review notices posted at this time.

HOUSING DIVISION / U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) PUBLIC NOTICES:

- 11-22-2023: PHN_English_First Substantial Amendment to 2023 Annual Action Plan
- 11-22-2023: PHN_Hmong_First Substantial Amendment to 2023 Annual Action Plan
- 11-22-2023: PHN_Spanish_First Substantial Amendment to 2023 Annual Action Plan

Daim ntawv ntsuam xyuas no tuaj yeem ua rau lwm hom lus lossis xa tuaj rau koj hauv daim ntawv rau koj los sau thiab xa rov qab / tso tawm. Thov xa email mus rau tsev housing@cityofmerced.org thov lwm hom lus thiab cov ntawv. Ua tsaug!

Posted on 11-22-2023:

First Substantial Amendment to the HUD 2023 Annual Action Plan

Public Review and Comment Period

Friday, November 24, 2023 to Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Through an amendment to the HUD 2023 Annual Action Plan, the City of Merced intends to make changes to previously approved Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects in the 2023 Annual Plan, which will also affect prior-year projects and activities.

A Public Notice was published on November 23, 2023, in the Merced County Times and Merced Sun-Star newspapers in English, Spanish, and Hmong translation, and is also posted HERE (scroll to bottom of [illegible]).

The primary reason for these changes is to expedite expenditure of CDBG funds by April 30, 2024, in o[illegible] meet certain regulatory expenditures deadlines of the City's CDBG funding. Secondarily, these changes also seek to address the urgent need for additional affordable rental housing units in Merced City. As such, the City intends to reprogram $2,612,845 of CDBG funds to an existing project in the 2023 AAP, and which originally planned to use only Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funding.

As a vital part of the Substantial Amendment process, City of Merced Residents and Stakeholders are invited to review the proposed amendments and provide your comments/input.

Viewing and Comment:

Citizens can follow THIS LINK to view a Summary that details the proposed amendments to the plan.

The Comment Period will be open from Friday, November 24, 2023, to Tuesday, December 26, 2023;, at 5:00 p.m.

Comment may be submitted during this comment period through the following methods:

- **1) emailing: *housing@cityofmerced.org* (please limit to 500 words): or,**
- **2) leaving a voicemail at 209-385-6863 (please limit to three minutes); or,**

- **3) submitted or dictated verbatim in person to a Housing staff person (note City Hall is closed 11/23/23-11/24/23 and 12/25/23 for holidays); or,**
- **4) mailed to: Merced City Housing Division-Public Comments, 678 W 18th Street, Merced CA 95340 (must be received by 5pm on 12/26/23).**

The Merced Civic Center/City Hall is ADA accessible. However, please contact the Housing Division if special accommodations are needed, including language translation or hearing impaired services. Please allow staff at least 72 hours to arrange accommodations.

Housing Division staff is also entering these amendments into a First Draft version of the Amended 2023 Annual Action Plan. As these changes are completed, the Draft Amended 2023 Annual Action Plan document will also be posted here, beginning the week of 11/27/23 through the end of the comment period. **PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE DRAFT AMENDED 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

City Council Approval:

The Draft Amended 2023 Annual Action Plan is scheduled for City Council approval at the January 2, 2024, meeting. A Public Hearing is not required for Substantial Amendments, per the City's adopted Citizen Participation Plan for HUD/federally funded activities.

However, your comments are welcome per standard Citizen Participation procedures for City Council meetings. Please refer to the City Clerks page for instructions for participating in City Council meetings (please u Navigation Pane on the left side of your screen).

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Annual Action Plan process!

- Your City of Merced Housing Division Team

10-5-2023 (reposted for comment 10-19-23):

DEVONWOOD APARTMENTS - NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Annual Action Plan Updates

This section will be updated with information regarding the Annual Action Plan process.

Public Comment Received for the First Substantial Amendment:

No public comments were received during the 33-day Public Review and Comment Period held from November 24, 2023, to December 26, 2023.

No public comments were received at the City Council meeting of January 2, 2024.

B. Citizen Participation Records for Original Annual Action Plan

McClatchy

Beaufort Gazette | The Herald - Rock Hill | el Nuevo Herald - Miami | Sun News - Myrtle Beach
Bellevue News-Democrat | Herald Sun - Durham | Modesto Bee | The News Tribune Tacoma
Bellingham Herald | Idaho Statesman | Raleigh News & Observer | The Telegraph - Macon
Bradenton Herald | Island Packet | The Olympian | San Luis Obispo Tribune
Charlotte Observer | Kansas City Star | Sacramento Bee | Tri-City Herald
Columbus Ledger-Enquirer | Lexington Herald-Leader | Fort Worth Star-Telegram | Wichita Eagle
Fresno Bee | Merced Sun-Star | The State - Columbia
 | Miami Herald | Sun Herald - Biloxi

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Amount	Cols	Depth
36818	390658	Print Legal Ad-IPL0119920 - IPL0111992	145801	$1,097.56	6	95 L

Attention: Kim Nutt

CITY OF MERCED HOUSING DIVISION
678 W. 18TH ST.
MERCED, CA 95340



Declaration of Publication
2015.5 C.C.P.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
County of Merced)

I am a citizen of the United States; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of the Merced Sun Star, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the city of Merced, County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of July 14, 1964 Case Number 33224 that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

1 insertion(s) published on:
03/02/23

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed at Dallas, Texas on:
Date: 3rd, day of March, 2023

Stephanie Hatcher

Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County

STEPHANIE HATCHER
My Notary ID # 133534406
Expires January 14, 2026

Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.
Legal document please do not destroy!

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)
Proof of Publication of

STATE OF CALIFORNIA}
}ss
}
COUNTY OF MERCED

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitles matter. I am the printer foreman or principal clerk of The Merced County Times, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Winton, County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of December 14, 1999, Case Number 143600; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

LEGAL # 11709

PUBLIC HEARING- ENGLISH

PUBLICATION DATES: 3-2-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

John Miller

Dated this: 2nd of March 2023

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

Legal #11709
CITY OF MERCED
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING &
NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD
2023 HUD ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

This PUBLIC NOTICE intends to inform Merced City residents about opportunities to participate in the City of Merced's preparation of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2023 Annual Action Plan. The City anticipates approximately $1,100,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and approximately $500,000 of HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program funds for the 2023 Program Year.

1. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS – MARCH 20 AND MAY 1, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Merced City Council will hold two Public Hearings to receive public comment regarding 2023-24 anticipated project funding and the Draft 2023 Annual Action Plan (AAP). The dates of the two Public Hearings are: Monday, March 20, 2023, and Monday, May 1, 2023. Expected funding resources and preliminary project funding will be reviewed at the First Public Hearing on March 20, 2023, at 6 p.m. At the Second Public Hearing to be held on May 1, 2023, at 6 p.m., the City Council will be asked to review/approve the Final Draft AAP and review/award 2023 project funding to the applying organizations. Public comments are encouraged for/at both Public Hearings and will be accepted via normal City Council Citizen Participation procedures. For meeting agendas and participation instructions, please visit: https://www.cityofmerced.org/departments/city-clerk/council-meetings. ACCESSIBILITY: In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if special accommodations are needed, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (209) 388-8650. Notification at least 48 hours prior to when services are needed will assure that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility or service. Hmong and Spanish language translation is provided at all City Council meetings. For written comments submitted in Spanish or Hmong for either Public Hearing, please submit your comments at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting date, to allow reasonable time to translate your comment.

2. NOTICE OF 30-DAY REVIEW AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Merced Housing Division will conduct a 30-day Public Review and Comment Period regarding the Draft 2023 Annual Action Plan beginning on 8:00 a.m. Friday, March 31, 2023, and ending on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the 30-day Review and Comment Period is to provide opportunity to residents and other interested parties to give input/comment regarding the Draft Plan document, expected funding, and planned use of Federal

Proof of Publication - Merced County Times, 2221 K St., Merced, California, 95341 Telephone 383-0433
Adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by court decree No. 143600

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(2015.5 C.C.P.)
Proof of Publication of

STATE OF CALIFORNIA}
}ss
}
COUNTY OF MERCED

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitles matter. I am the printer foreman or principal clerk of The Merced County Times, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Winton, County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of December 14, 1999, Case Number 143600; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

LEGAL # 11709

PUBLIC HEARING- ENGLISH

PUBLICATION DATES: 3-2-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

John Muller

Dated this: 2nd of March 2023

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

grant funds for the upcoming 2023-24 Program Year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). Comments will be accepted, considered for inclusion in the final plan, and responded to, if needed. HOW TO VIEW PLAN: a DRAFT of the 2023 Annual Action Plan will available for review in the following ways: 1) In person: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri (closed noon-1pm), City of Merced, Housing Division, 2nd Floor City Hall, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced (please inform staff if you need Spanish or Hmong translation services); 2) Housing Division Website: www.cityofmerced.org/housing downloadable at the link provided; 3) Emailed to you by request: housing@cityofmerced.org. Due to continued efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, no other in-person viewing locations will be used at this time; however, please email us for any special accommodation requests. Updates to the draft plan may be made as preparation of the Plan progresses towards finalization. These updates will be posted on the webpage listed. How to SUBMIT COMMENTS: comment submissions by email are strongly encouraged and preferred - to: housing@cityofmerced.org (please enter "2023 AAP Comment" in the subject line). Written comments may be mailed or delivered in person to: City of Merced Housing Division, 2nd Floor City Hall, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced CA 95340, or placed into the utility bill payment drop box located near the main entrance to the building (please label "Attention Housing Division"). All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 1, 2023.

Publish Date: March 2, 2023

/s/ Kim Nutt
Kim Nutt, Housing Program Supervisor

Publication Date: 3-2-23

Proof of Publication - Merced County Times, 2221 K St., Merced, California, 95341 Telephone 383-0433
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA} }ss }

COUNTY OF MERCED

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LEGAL # 11708

PUBLIC HEARING- SPANISH

PUBLICATION DATES: 3-2-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

John Miller

Dated this: 2nd of March 2023

Legal #11708
CIUDAD DE LA MERCED
AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA Y
AVISO DE PERÍODO DE 30 DÍAS PARA COMENTARIOS Y REVISIÓN PÚBLICA PLAN DE ACCIÓN ANUAL DE HUD 2023

Este **AVISO PÚBLICO** tiene la intención de informar a los residentes de la ciudad de merced sobre las oportunidades para participar en la preparación del plan de acción anual 2023 del u.s. housing and urban development (hud) por parte de la ciudad de merced. la ciudad anticipa aproximadamente $1,100,000 del community Development Block Grant (CDBG) y aproximadamente $500,000 de los fondos del Programa Investment Partnership (HOME) para el Año del Programa 2023.

1. AVISO DE AUDIENCIAS PÚBLICAS - 20 DE MARZO Y 1 DE MAYO DE 2023

POR LA PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que el Concejo Municipal de Merced llevará a cabo dos Audiencias Públicas para recibir comentarios públicos sobre la financiación anticipada del proyecto para 2023-24 y el Borrador del Plan de Acción Anual (AAP) para 2023. Las fechas de las dos Audiencias Públicas son: lunes 20 de marzo de 2023 y lunes 1 de mayo de 2023. Los recursos de financiamiento esperados y el financiamiento preliminar del proyecto se revisarán en la Primera Audiencia Pública el 20 de marzo de 2023 a las 6 p.m. Segunda audiencia pública que se llevará a cabo el 1 de mayo de 2023 a las 6:00 p.m., se le pedirá al Concejo Municipal que revise/apruebe el borrador final del AAP y que revise/otorgue los fondos del proyecto 2023 a las organizaciones solicitantes. Se alienta a los comentarios públicos para/en ambas Audiencias Públicas y se aceptarán a través de los procedimientos normales de Participación Ciudadana del Concejo Municipal. Para ver las agendas de las reuniones y las instrucciones de participación, visite: https://www.cityofmerced.org/departments/city-clerk/council-meetings . ACCESIBILIDAD: De conformidad con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades, si se necesitan adaptaciones especiales, comuníquese con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (209) 388-8650. La notificación al menos 48 horas antes de que se necesiten los servicios asegurará que se puedan hacer arreglos razonables para brindar accesibilidad o servicio. Se proporciona traducción al hmong y al español en todas las reuniones del Concejo Municipal. Para comentarios escritos presentados en español o hmong para cualquiera de las audiencias públicas, envíe sus comentarios al menos 48 horas antes de la fecha de la reunión, para permitir un tiempo razonable para traducir su comentario.

2. AVISO DE REVISIÓN DE 30 DÍAS Y OPORTUNIDAD DE COMENTAR

POR LA PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que la División de Vivienda de la Ciudad

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Adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by court decree No. 143600

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LEGAL # 11708

PUBLIC HEARING- SPANISH

PUBLICATION DATES: 3-2-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

John Miller

Dated this: 2nd of March 2023

de Merced llevará a cabo un Periodo de comentarios y revisión pública de 30 días con respecto al Borrador del Plan de Acción Anual 2023 a partir del viernes 31 de marzo de 2023 a las 8:00 a. m. y hasta el lunes 1 de mayo de 2023, a las 5:00 p. m. El propósito del Periodo de revisión y comentarios de 30 días es brindar la oportunidad a los residentes y otras partes interesadas de brindar aportes/comentarios sobre el documento del Plan preliminar, la financiación esperada y el uso planificado de los fondos de subvención federal para el próximo año del programa 2023-24 (1 de julio de 2023 - 30 de junio de 2024). Los comentarios serán aceptados, considerados para su inclusión en el plan final y respondidos, si es necesario. CÓMO VER EL PLAN : un BORRADOR del Plan de Acción Anual 2023 estará disponible para su revisión de las siguientes maneras: 1) En persona : 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m., de lunes a viernes (cerrado del mediodía a la 1:00 p.m , División de Vivienda, 2.º piso del Ayuntamiento, 678 W. 18th Street , Merced (infórmele al personal si necesita servicios de traducción al español o al hmong); 2) Sitio web de la División de Vivienda: www.cityofmerced.org/housing descargable en el enlace proporcionado; 3) Enviado por correo electrónico por solicitud: vivienda@cityofmerced.org . Debido a los esfuerzos continuos para reducir la propagación de COVID-19, no se utilizarán otros lugares de visualización en persona en este momento; sin embargo, envíenos un correo electrónico para cualquier solicitud de alojamiento especial. Se pueden realizar actualizaciones al borrador del plan a medida que avanza la preparación del Plan hacia la finalización. Estas actualizaciones se publicarán en la página web indicada. CÓMO ENVIAR COMENTARIOS : se recomienda encarecidamente y se prefiere enviar comentarios por correo electrónico a: housing@cityofmerced.org (ingreso "Comentario AAP 2023" en la línea de asunto). Los comentarios escritos pueden enviarse por correo o entregarse en persona a: City of Merced Housing Division, 2nd Floor City Hall, 678 W. 18th Street , Merced CA 95340, o colocarse en el buzón de pago de facturas de servicios públicos ubicado cerca de la entrada principal del edificio (por favor etiquete "Attention Housing Division"). Todos los comentarios deben recibirse antes de las 5:00 p.m. del 1 de mayo de 2023.Fecha de publicación: 2 de marzo de 2023 /s/ Kim Nutt____
Kim Nutt, Supervisora del Programa de Vivienda
Publication Date: 3-2-23

Proof of Publication - Merced County Times, 2221 K St., Merced, California, 95341 Telephone 383-0433
Adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by court decree No. 143500

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)
Proof of Publication of

STATE OF CALIFORNIA}
}ss
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COUNTY OF MERCED

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitles matter. I am the printer foreman or principal clerk of The Merced County Times, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Winton, County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of December 14, 1999, Case Number 143600; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

LEGAL # 11707

PUBLIC HEARING- HMONG

PUBLICATION DATES: 3-2-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

John Miller

Dated this: 2nd of March 2023

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

Legal #11707
LUB NROOG MERCED
DAIM NTAWV CEEB TOOM NTAWM PEJ XEEM LUB ROOJ SIB HAIS & DAIM NTAWV CEEB TOOM NTAWM 30-HNUB TSHAJ TAWM KEV TSHUAJ XYUAS THIAB LUB SIJHAWM TAWM TSWV YIM 2023 HUD TXOJ KEV NPAJ UA IB XYOO

Daim ntawv ceeb toom rau pej xeem no yog npaj los qhia rau cov neeg nyob hauv lub nroog Merced txog cov hauv kev los koom nrog hauv nroog Merced qhov kev npaj ntawm US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2023 Annual Action Plan. Lub Nroog tau kwv yees li $ 1,100,000 ntawm Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) thiab kwv yees li $ 500,000 ntawm HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) cov nyiaj pab rau xyoo 2023.

1. CEEB TOOM NTAWM LUB SIJ HAWM - Lub Peb Hlis 20 thiab Lub Tsib Hlis 1, 2023

DAIM NTAWV CEEB TOOM NO TAU MUAB HAIS tias Pawg Saib Xyuas Nroog Merced yuav tuav qb Lub Rooj Sib Hais Rau Pej Xeem kom tau txais cov lus pom zoo rau pej xeem txog 2023-24 qhov kev npaj nyiaj txiag xav tau thiab Draft 2023 Txoj Kev Npaj Ua Ib Xyoos (AAP). Hnub tim ntawm ob Lub Rooj Sib Hais, Pej Xeem yog: Hnub Monday, Peb Hlis 20, 2023, thiab Hnub Monday, Tsib Hlis 1, 2023. Cov peev txheej xav tau thiab cov peev txheej ua ntej yuav raug tshuaj xyuas ntawm Lub Rooj Sib Tham Thawj Pej Xeem thaum Lub Peb Hlis 20, 2023, thaum 6 teev tsaus ntuj ntawm Lub Rooj Sib Tham Thib Ob uas yuav muaj nyob rau lub Tsib Hlis 1, 2023, thaum 6 teev tsaus ntuj. Lub Nroog cov Council yuav raug nug kom rov tshuaj xyuas / pom zoo daim ntawv kawg AAP thiab tshuaj xyuas / khoom plig 2023 qhov nyiaj pab rau cov koom haum thov. Cov lus txhawb rau pej xeem raug txhawb rau / ntawm ob Lub Rooj Sib Hais Pej Xeem thiab yuav raug lees txais los ntawm cov txheej txheem Kev Koom Tes Hauv Nroog ib txwm muaj. Rau cov txheej txheem kev sib tham thiab cov lus qhia kev koom tes, thov mus saib: https://www.cityofmerced.org/departments/city-clerk/council-meetings. KEV SIV TAU: Ua raws li Txoj Cai Lij Choj Neeg Tsis Txaus Siab, yog xav tau kev pab tshwj xeeb, thov hu rau City Clerk's Office ntawm (209) 388-8650. Kev ceeb toom tsawg kawg 48 teev ua ntej thaum xav tau kev pabcuam yuav ua kom paub tseeb tias kev npaj tsim nyog tuaj yeem tsim los muab kev nkag mus tau kossis kev pabcuam. Kev txhais lus Hmoob thiab lus Mev muaj nyob rau ntawm txhua lub rooj sib tham hauv Nroog. Rau cov lus sau ua lus Mev lossis lus Hmoob rau Kev Hais Plaub Hauv Pej Xeem, thov xa koj cov lus tawm tsawg kawg 48 teev ua ntej hnub lub rooj sib tham, kom lub sijhawm txim nyog los txhais koj cov lus.

2. DAIM NTAWV CEEB TOOM TXOG 30-HNUB KEV NTSUAM XYUAS

Proof of Publication - Merced County Times, 2221 K St., Merced, California, 95341 Telephone 383-0433
Adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by court decree No. 143600

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)
Proof of Publication of

STATE OF CALIFORNIA}
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COUNTY OF MERCED

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitles matter. I am the printer foreman or principal clerk of The Merced County Times, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Winton, County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of December 14, 1999, Case Number 143600; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

LEGAL # 11707

PUBLIC HEARING- HMONG

PUBLICATION DATES: 3-2-2023

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this: 2nd of March 2023

THIAB LUB SIJHAWM LOS TAWM TSWV YIM

CEEB TOOM TSEEM CEEB NTAWM NO NTAWM Lub Nroog Merced Housing Division yuav ua 30-hnub Public Review thiab Comment Sijhawm hais txog Draft 2023 Ib Xyoo Kev Npaj Ua Haujlwm pib thaum 8:00 teev sawv ntxov Friday, Peb Hlis 31, 2023, thiab xaus rau hnub Monday, Tsib Hlis 1, 2023, thaum 5:00 teev tsaus ntuj Lub hom phiaj ntawm 30-hnub Kev Ntsuam Xyuas thiab Lub Sijhawm Saib Xyuas yog muab sijhawm rau cov neeg nyob hauv thiab lwm tus neeg txaus siab los muab cov tswv yim / tawm tswv yim txog daim ntawv Draft Plan, xav tau nyiaj txiag, thiab kev npaj siv Tsoom Fwv Teb Chaws cov nyiaj pab rau Xyoo 2023-24 Txoj Haujlwm yuav los tom ntej (Lub Xya Hli 1, 2023 - Lub Rau Hli 30, 2024). Cov lus pom yuav raug leej txais, txiav txim siab rau kev suav nrog hauv txoj kev npaj zaum kawg, thiab teb rau, yog tias xav tau. YUAV UA LI CAS YUAV TSUM PAUB TIAS : Daim Ntawv Qhia Txog Kev Ua Haujlwm Ib Xyoo 2023 yuav muaj los tshuaj xyuas raws li hauv qab no: 1) Kev thiab neeg : 8:00 teev sawv ntxov-5:00 teev tsaus ntuj Monday-Fri (kaw tsv su-1pm), Lub Nroog Merced , Housing Division, 2nd Floor City Hall, 678 W. 18 th Street, Merced (thov qhia rau cov neeg ua haujlwm yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus Mev lossis lus Hmoob); 2) Housing Division Website: www.cityofmerced.org/housing downloadable ntawm qhov link muab; 3) Email rau koj los ntawm kev thov: Housing@cityofmerced.org . Vim kev siv zog txuas ntxiv los txo kev kis tus kab mob COVID-19, tsis muaj lwm qhov chaw saib ntawm tus kheej yuav raug siv rau lub sijhawm no; Txawm li cas los xij, thov xa email tuaj rau peb rau kev thov kev pab tshwj xeeb. Kev hloov kho tshiab rau daim phiaj xwm phiaj xwm yuav raug ua raws li kev npaj ntawm Txoj Kev Npaj mus rau qhov kawg. Cov kev hloov tshiab no yuav muab tso rau ntawm nplooj ntawv web uas tau teev tseg. YUAV UA LI CAS XA COV LUS QHIA : Cov lus xa tawm los ntawm email tau txhawb nqa thiab nyiam - mus rau: Housing@cityofmerced.org (thov sau "2023 AAP Comment" hauv kab ntawv kawm). Cov lus sau tuaj yeem xa tuaj lossis xa tuaj rau tus neeg mus rau: Lub Nroog Merced Housing Division, 2 nd Floor City Hall, 678 W. 18 th Street, Merced CA 95340. Iossis muab tso rau hauv lub thawv them nqi hluav taws xob uas nyob ze ntawm qhov nkag nkag mus rau lub tsev (thov dalm ntawv lo "Tswj Vaj Huam Sib Luag"). Txhua cov lus yuav tsum tau txais los ntawm 5:00 teev tsaus ntuj lub Tsib Hlis 1, 2023.

Luam tawm Hnub: Lub Peb Hlis 2, 2023 /s/ Kim Nutt

Kim Nutt, Tus Thawj Saib Xyuas Tsev Nyob

Publication Date: 3-2-23

Proof of Publication - Merced County Times, 2221 K St., Merced, California, 95341 Telephone 383-0433
Adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by court decree No. 143600

Public Hearings

Public Notices

- **PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR CITY OF MERCED, "UNIVERSITY VISTA" PROJECT**
- **MERCED VISION 2030 GENERAL PLAN PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE UC MERCED ANNEXATION PROJECT**

Public Hearings

City Council May 1, 2023

2023 Annual Action Plan: Public Hearing Notice and Notice of 30-day Public Review and Comment Period

Plan de Acción Anual 2023: Aviso de Audiencia pública y Aviso de revisión pública y período de comentarios de 30 días

2023 Kev Npaj Ua Ib Xyoo: Daim Ntawv Ceeb Toom Txog Kev Pom Zoo thiab Kev Ceeb Toom ntawm 30-hnub Kev Ntsuam Xyuas Pej Xeem thiab Lub Sijhawm Saib Xyuas

City Council April 3, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT #23-01, AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A STATUTORY EXEMPTION

City Council March 20, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE & NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW/OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

AMENDED PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE & NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW/OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

DAIM NTAWV CEEB TOOM ROOJ SIB HAIS THIAB DAIM NTAWV CEEB TOOM MUAB RAU PEJ XEEM KEV TSHUAJ XYUAS/ LUB SIJHAWM TAWM TSWV YIM

HLOOV KHO - DAIM NTAWV CEEB TOOM NTAWM 15-HNUB PEJ XEEM KEV NTSUAM XYUAS THIAB LUB SIJHAWM LOS TAWM TSWV YIM

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA Y AVISO DE REVISIÓN PÚBLICA/OPORTUNIDAD PARA COMENTAR

ENMIENDA - AVISO DE REVISIÓN PÚBLICA DE 15 DÍAS CON OPORTUNIDAD DE COMENTAR

Public Notices

and Environmental Review Notices

The Housing Division will post Public Notices and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Notices related to HUD-assisted projects on this webpage, as required by the Citizen Participation Plan and NEPA regulations.

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5-4-2023 - Environmental Review Notice: Published in Merced County Times is a Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds for Tiered Projects - Habitat for Humanity Merced Stanislaus County "Brush with Kindness" Single Family Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. Public comments may be submitted in writing to the City of Merced Housing Department, Second Floor at 678 W 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340, or by email to housing@cityofmerced.org. All comments received by 5/12/2023 will be considered by the City of Merced prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

The Tier 1 environmental review can be viewed either at the City of Merced Housing Department, located at 678 W 18th St. on the second floor, weekdays from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. (closed for lunch rom 12 P.M. to 1 P.M) or at https://cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews.

Thank you!

- Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds - Habitat for Humanity Merced Stanislaus County Tier 1 Review
- 8 Step Floodplain Analysis - 120 W 22nd St Early Notice 15 Day Comment Period
- 3-2-2023 Public Hearing Notice and Notice of 30 Day Comment Period - 2023 Annual Action Plan - English
- 3-2-2023 Public Hearing Notice and Notice of 30 Day Comment Period - 2023 Annual Action Plan - Spanish
- 3-2-2023 Public Hearing Notice and Notice of 30 Day Comment Period - 2023 Annual Action Plan - Hmong
- RFP Pro-Housing Feasibility Study Addendum 1

McClatchy

Beaufort Gazette | Bellevue News-Democrat | Bellingham Herald | Bradenton Herald | Centre Daily Times | Charlotte Observer | Columbus Ledger-Enquirer | Fresno Bee | The Herald - Rock Hill | Herald Sun - Durham | Idaho Statesman | Island Packet | Kansas City Star | Lexington Herald-Leader | Merced Sun-Star | Miami Herald | el Nuevo Herald - Miami | Modesto Bee | Raleigh News & Observer | The Olympian | Sacramento Bee | Fort Worth Star-Telegram | The State - Columbia | Sun Herald - Biloxi | Sun News - Myrtle Beach | The News Tribune Tacoma | The Telegraph - Macon | San Luis Obispo Tribune | Tri-City Herald | Wichita Eagle

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Amount	Cols	Depth
36818	353028	Print Legal Ad-IPL01000640 - IPL0100064	145801	$243.58	2	58 L

Attention: Kim Nutt

CITY OF MERCED HOUSING DIVISION
678 W. 18TH ST.
MERCED, CA 95340

NuttK@cityofmerced.org

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS CITY OF MERCED HOUSING DIVISION FISCAL YEAR 2023

HUD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will soon announce the allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the City of Merced will receive for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for the 2023 Program Year. The City expects an allocation of approximately $1 million (based on last year's disbursement). Of this allocation, per Federal Regulations, the City Council may choose to reallocate a maximum of 15% to fund public service programs serving primarily low- to moderate-income persons living with in the Merced City limits. Please note that Subrecipient contracts above $25,000 will require additional City Council approval.

Accordingly, the City of Merced Housing Division invites funding request applications and project proposals by qualified local non-profit organizations that have the current capacity to provide eligible public service and/or housing rehabilitation and preservation activities that will benefit the following targeted populations within the City of Merced city limits: 1) extremely low- to moderate-income households; 2) homeless persons; 3) seniors and frail elderly; 4) at-risk youth; and 5) persons with disabilities. Project types that have been determined as essential to the community include: 1) Programs and planning that encourage economic success of citizens and community; 2) Increased public services, particularly programs that provide services to the homeless/prevention of becoming homeless; youth, and seniors; 3) Permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless; and, 4) Programs that preserve and/or create low and affordable housing, especially targeting extremely low- and low-income households. In addition, the Housing Division invites applications from Fair Housing Service and Continuum of Care providers on certain extensions of our administrative responsibilities to HUD. All program proposals must meet basic eligible activities specified in Title 24 of U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 570.201 and a National Objective specified in 24 CFR 570.208 to move forward through the NOFA process, and adhere to all other applicable requirements under 24 CFR Part 570.All organizations must obtain a Unique Entity ID (UEI) number from the U.S. Government's SAM.gov to receive subgrantee federal assistance.

Information and applications can be obtained online at www.cityofmerced.org/housing or from the City of Merced Housing Division at 2nd Floor City Hall, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. Organizations interested in applying are required to attend at least one of the following meetings:

Date:	Time:	Location (all meetings):
Monday, December 12, 2022	5:00 p.m.	Sam Pipes Room, First Floor,
Tuesday, December 13, 2022	5:00 p.m.	Veterans Civic Center/Ola Hall
Friday, December 16, 2022	3:00 p.m.	678 W. 18th Street, Merced

Housing Division staff will be available by appointment in the days following these meetings to assist with project development and questions prior to the application deadline. Single sided paper submittal of application packets including all required attachments is required for each project activity. **The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.**

Award of funding is expected at the final Public Hearing to be held by the Merced City Council, 2nd Floor City Council Chambers, tentatively scheduled at 6:00 PM. on Monday, May 1, 2023 (proposals determined to be eligible will be tentatively scheduled to be announced at the March 20, 2023, Public Hearing at the same time and location). For additional information please call (385-6895 (press) or send e-mail to: housing@cityofmerced.org

Publish: December 1, 2022 s/ Kim Nutt
Kim Nutt, Housing Program Supervisor
IPL0100064
Dec 1 2022

Declaration of Publication 2015.5 C.C.P.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
County of Merced)

I am a citizen of the United States; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of the Merced Sun Star, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the city of Merced, County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of July 14, 1964 Case Number 33224 that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

1 insertion(s) published on:
12/01/22

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed at Dallas, Texas on:
Date: 18th, day of May, 2023

Stephanie Hatcher

Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County

STEPHANIE HATCHER
My Notary ID # 133534436
Expires January 14, 2026

Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.
Legal document please do not destroy!

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)
Proof of Publication of

STATE OF CALIFORNIA}
}ss
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COUNTY OF MERCED

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid. I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the printer (foreman or principal clerk of The Merced County Times, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Winton, County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of December 14, 1999, Case Number 143503, that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

LEGAL # 11249

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

PUBLICATION DATES: 12-1-2022

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

John Miller

Dated this 1st of December 2022

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

Legal # 11249
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
AND REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
CITY OF MERCED
HOUSING DIVISION
FISCAL YEAR 2023
HUD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will soon announce the allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that the City of Merced will receive for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for the 2023 Program Year. The City expects an allocation of approximately $1 million (based on last year's disbursement). Of this allocation per Federal Regulations, the City Council may choose to reallocate a maximum of 15% to fund public service programs serving primarily low- to moderate-income citizens living within the Merced City limits. Please note that Subrecipient contracts above $36,000 will require additional City Council approval.

Accordingly, the City of Merced Housing Division invites funding request applications and project proposals by qualified local non-profit organizations that have the current capacity to provide eligible public service and/or housing rehabilitation and preservation activities that will benefit the following targeted populations within the City of Merced city limits: 1) extremely low- to moderate-income households, 2) homeless persons, 3) seniors and frail elderly, 4) at-risk youth, and 5) persons with disabilities. Project types that have been determined as essential to the community include: 1) Programs and planning that encourage economic success of citizens and community, 2) Increased public services, particularly programs that provide services to the homeless/at-risk of becoming homeless, youth, and seniors, 3) Permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless; and, 4) Programs that promote and/or create low and affordable housing, especially targeting extremely low- and low-income households. In addition, the Housing Division invites applications from Fair Housing Service and Continuum of Care providers as partner extensions of our administrative responsibilities to HUD. All program proposals must meet basic eligible activities specified in Title 24 of U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 570.201 and a National Objective specified in 24 CFR 570.208 to move forward through the

Proof of Publication - Merced County Times 2221 K St., Merced, California, 95340 Telephone 383-0433
Adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by court decree No. 143503

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)
Proof of Publication of

STATE OF CALIFORNIA}
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COUNTY OF MERCED

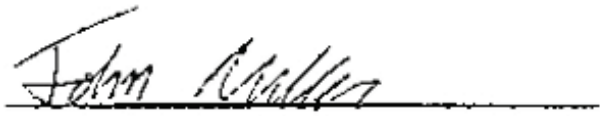
I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid, I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the printer foreman or principal clerk of The Merced County Times, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Winton, County of Merced, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Merced, State of California, under the date of December 14, 1999, Case Number 143600; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

LEGAL # 11249

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

PUBLICATION DATES: 12-1-2022

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



Dated this: 1st of December 2022

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

NOFA process, and adhere to all other applicable requirements under 24 CFR Part 570.All organizations must obtain a Unique Entity ID (UEI) number from the U.S Government's SAM.gov to receive subgrantee federal assistance.

Information and applications can be obtained online at www.cityofmerced.org/housing or from the City of Merced Housing Division at 2nd Floor City Hall, 678 W 18th Street, Merced, CA, 95340. Organizations interested in applying are required to attend at least one of the following meetings:

Date:
Time:
Monday, December 12, 2022
6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
6:00 p.m.
Friday, December 16, 2022
3:00 p.m.

Location (all meetings): Sam Pipes Room, First Floor, Merced Civic Center/City Hall, 678 W 18th Street, Merced

Housing Division staff will be available by appointment in the days following these meetings to assist with project development and questions prior to the application deadline. Single sided paper submittal of application packets, including all required attachments, is required (no electronic submittals). The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

Award of funding is expected at the final Public Hearing to be held by the Merced City Council, 2nd Floor City Council Chambers, tentatively scheduled at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, May 1, 2023 (proposals determined to be eligible are tentatively scheduled to be introduced at the March 20, 2023, Public Hearing at the same time and location). For additional information please call 385-6863 (voice) or send E-mail to: housing@cityofmerced.org/s/ Kim Nutt
Kim Nutt, Housing Program Supervisor
Publication Date: 12-1-2022

Proof of Publication - Merced County Times, 2221 K St Merced, California 95340 Telephone 383-0433
Adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by court decree No. 143600

CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY 2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR

November 16, 2022

Dear Community Organization,

The City of Merced Housing Division is pleased to invite funding request proposals for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the 2023 Program Year (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024). ***A link to information and applications will be posted on this webpage: www.cityofmerced.org/housing on or around December 1, 2022.***

Interested organizations should visit the linked website to download the fill-in application packet. Applications printed single-sided, and all required attachments must be received by the Housing Division no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 15, 2023** (sorry, no electronic submittals). No applications submitted after this date will be considered, unless funding has already been budgeted for your particular program (i.e., Fair Housing Services or Continuum of Care).

To assist in building your proposals, the City will be holding three in-person community input and information meetings at the below dates and times. These meetings may also be held in a hybrid in-person/virtual format. Details to be posted on the Housing Division website. The meetings will be two-part: 1) to collect input regarding the current needs, goals, and priorities of the community and what types of projects are most needed in the community; and 2) to provide information regarding HUD's requirements for CDBG programs, including meeting National Objectives and eligibility requirements, and how to apply for funding.

HUD allows the City of Merced to allocate *up to 15%* of its CDBG funds towards public services. Though HUD has not yet announced 2023 allocation amounts, the City of Merced expects to receive approximately $1 Million in CDBG funding for the 2023 Program Year. Attendance at the below meeting is **mandatory** in order to develop your project application, and to understand HUD's requirements. One-on-one technical assistance appointments will be available through February 15 (application deadline) to discuss your project and application.

Date	Time	Location
Monday, December 12, 2022	6:00 p.m.	Sam Pipes Meeting Room Merced City Hall/Civic Center First Floor 678 W. 18th Street, Merced
Tuesday, December 13, 2022	6:00 p.m.	
Friday, December 16, 2022	3:00 p.m.	

* For special accommodations, interpretation services, or more information, please call (209) 385-6863

This spring, the City Council will hold a 30-day Public Review and Comment Period and two public hearings. Final award of funding is expected at the second public hearing. Our website will be kept current with all meeting dates and steps of this process.

If you have questions, please contact the Housing Division at 209-385-6863, or email: housing@cityofmerced.org

In Thanks,

Kim Nutt
Housing Program Supervisor
City of Merced Housing Division

678 WEST 18TH STREET, MERCED, CA 95340

CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT · HOUSING DIVISION · (209) 385-6863 · HOUSING@CITYOFMERCED.ORG

DEADLINE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY REQUESTS
2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR

February 1, 2023

Application Submission Deadline: February 15th, 2023

Dear Community Organization:

The City of Merced Housing Division would like to remind organizations of the invitation for funding request proposals for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the 2023 Program Year (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024).

Interested organizations should visit the Housing Division's website (www.cityofmerced.org/housing), to download the fill-in application packet located on the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) page. Applications printed single-sided, and all required attachments must be received by the Housing Division no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 15, 2023** (sorry, no electronic submittals). No applications submitted after this date will be considered.

HUD allows the City of Merced to allocate up to 15% of its CDBG funds to spread amongst eligible public service programs. Though HUD has not yet announced 2023 allocation amounts, the City of Merced expects to receive approximately $1 Million in CDBG funding for the 2023 Program Year. One-on-one technical assistance appointments will be available through February 15 (application deadline) to discuss your project and application.

This spring, the City Council will hold a 30-day Public Review and Comment Period and two public hearings. Final award of funding is expected at the second public hearing. Our website will be kept current with all meeting dates and steps of this process.

If you have questions, please contact the Housing Division at 209-385-6863, or email housing@cityofmerced.org.

In Thanks,

Kim Nutt
Housing Program Supervisor
City of Merced Housing Division

678 WEST 18TH STREET, MERCED, CA 95340

THE CITY OF MERCED HOUSING DIVISION INVITES RESIDENTS TO:

HUD 2023 ANNUAL PLAN RESIDENTS' COMMUNITY INPUT

WHERE?

Merced City Hall
Sam Pipes Room -1st Floor
678 W 18th St., Merced

THESE MEETNGS MAY ALSO BE HELD IN A HYBRID IN-PERSON/ VIRTUAL FORMAT
Details will be posted on the Housing Division website

WHEN?

December 12, 2022— 6pm
December 13, 2022— 6pm
or
December 16, 2022— 3pm

UNABLE TO ATTEND? TAKE OUR SURVEY!!
Please help us by completing the online survey. To access, scan the QR code with your phone, or use this internet browser URL:

https://tinyurl.com/yckje4bz

(Survey closes February 28, 2023)

We need to hear from YOU!

The purpose of these meetings are to gather City of Merced residents' needs and priorities for the program year spanning July 2023— June 2024 for housing, public service, infrastructure, and economic development programs and services, in determining the best use of Federal funding allocated to Merced City from the U.S. Department of Urban Development (HUD).

Please join us!

Choose from three convenient days/times.



For more Information — website: www.cityofmerced.org/housing; phone: (209)385-6863; or email: housing@cityofmerced.org

Spanish and Hmong translators can be made available for the meetings by calling or emailing at least 2 business days in advance: 209-385-6863 or housing@cityofmerced.org

LA DIVISIÓN DE VIVIENDA DE LA CIUDAD
DE MERCED INVITA A LOS RESIDENTES AL:

PLAN ANUAL DE HUD 2023 COMENTARIOS DE LOS RESIDENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

¿DÓNDE?

En el edificio del Ayuntamiento
Sala Sam Pipes - 1er piso
En el 678 Oeste de la Calle 18, en Merced

ESTAS REUNIONES TAMBIÉN SE REALIZARAN EN FORMATO VIRTUAL Y EN PERSONA
Los detalles se publicarán en el sitio web de la División de Vivienda

¿CUÁNDO?

12 de diciembre del 2022—6pm
13 de diciembre del 2022—6pm
o
16 de diciembre de 2022—3pm

¿SI NO LE ES POPSIBLE ATENDER DICHA REUNION? FAVOR DE CONTESTAR NUESTRA ENCUESTA!!
Por favor ayúdenos contestando nuestra encuesta en línea. Para ingresar a la encuesta, escanee el código QR con su teléfono o use esta URL del navegador de Internet:

https://tinyurl.com/bdhjfnck

(La encuesta cierra el 28 de febrero de 2023)

¡Necesitamos escuchar su OPINION!

El propósito de estas reuniones es para escuchar las necesidades y prioridades de los residentes de la Ciudad de Merced para el año del programa que abarca de julio del 2023 a junio del 2024 para programas y servicios de vivienda, servicio público, infraestructura y desarrollo económico, para determinar el mejor uso de los fondos federales asignados por el Departamento de Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD) a la Ciudad de Merced.

¡Por favor acompañanos!

Elija entre tres diferentes dias y horarios convenientes para usted.



Para obtener más información, ingrese al sitio web: www.cityofmerced.org/housing; teléfono: (209)385-6863; o al correo electrónico: housing@cityofmerced.org

Los traductores de español y hmong pueden estar disponibles en las reuniones llamando o enviando un correo electrónico por lo menos 2 días hábiles de trabajo de anticipación: 209-385-6863 o al housing@cityofmerced.org

LUB NROOG MERCED HOUSING DIVISION CAW COV NEEG NYOB HAUV:

HUD 2023 ANNUAL PLAN
COV PHOOJ YWG 'COMUNITY INPUT

LEEJ TWG?

Merced City Hall
Sam Pipes Room - 1st Floor
678 W 18th St., Merced

Cov kev sib ntsib no tuaj yeem YUAV UA LI CAS RAU HAUV A HYBRID hauv tus neeg/ VIRTUAL FORMAT
Cov ntsiab lus yuav muab tso rau ntawm Housing Division lub vev xaib

Thaum twg?

Kaum Ob Hlis 12, 2022
Kaum Ob Hlis 13, 2022
Kaum Ob Hlis 16, 2022

UA TSAUG NTAU?
UA TSAUG NTAU!!

Thov pab peb ua kom tiav daim ntawv ntsuam xyuas online. Txhawm rau nkag mus, luam theej duab QR code nrog koj lub xov tooj, lossis siv qhov browser URL no:

https://tinyurl.com/439n2wz5

(Survey kaw Lub Ob Hlis 28, 2023)

Peb yuav tsum tau hnov los ntawm koj!

Lub hom phiaj ntawm cov rooj sib tham no yog los sau cov neeg nyob hauv nroog Merced cov kev xav tau thiab qhov tseem ceeb rau lub xyoo txoj haujlwm pib txij Lub Xya Hli 2023 - Lub Rau Hli 2024 rau vaj tsev, kev pabcuam pej xeem, kev tsim kho vaj tsev, thiab kev txhim kho kev lag luam thiab kev pabcuam, hauv kev txiav txim siab siv qhov zoo tshaj plaws ntawm tsoomfwv cov nyiaj faib. mus rau Merced City los ntawm US Department of Urban Development (HUD).

Thov koom nrog peb!

Xaiv los ntawm peb hnub yooj yim / sijhawm.



Yog xav paub ntxiv — lub vev xaib: www.cityofmerced.org/housing; xov tooj: (209) 385-6863; los yog email: Housing@cityofmerced.org

Cov neeg txhais lus Mev thiab lus Hmoob muaj rau cov rooj sib tham los ntawm kev hu lossis xa email tsawg kawg 2 hnub ua haujlwm ua ntej: 209-385-6863 lossis home@cityofmerced.org



Portuguese celebrations set beans week the Bandeira of the day at 512 Black in Merced during the Portugal vs. Uruguay soccer match.

Nursing

CITY OF MERCED
REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT
HUD 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

CITY NTAWM MERCED
CAV TAU TSDOM PEJ XEEM MUAB TSAV YIM FUAJ
HUD 2023 ANNUAL ACTION Plan
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
[Lub Kys Hli 1, 2023 – Lub Rau Hli 30, 2024]

CIUDAD DE MERCED
SOLICITUD DE COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS
PLAN DE ACCIÓN ANUAL DE HUD 2023PARA EL AÑO FISCAL
2023-2024 (1 de julio de 2023 – 30 de junio de 2024)

CITY OF MERCED
REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT
2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
FY: FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

The City of Merced Housing Division is beginning the process of preparing the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2023 Annual Action Plan, which, when completed and approved by HUD, will carry out the fourth year of the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan (ConPlan)/5-Year Strategic Plan). The ConPlan strategizes the expenditure of federal funds the City receives from HUD towards programs and activities that address the plan's five-year planning and community priorities: 1) affordable rental housing; 2) support services with an emphasis on at-risk youth, homeless, and senior services; 3) fair housing; 4) job creation; 5) neighborhood revitalization; and 6) preserve, rehabilitate, and enhance existing public facilities and infrastructure.

For the 2023 Annual Action Plan preparation process, the City seeks the input of residents, community service partners, and county, state, and federal agencies to identify the programs, one-year goals, and funding that target these priorities and align with HUD's National Objectives.

Three in-person Community Meetings are scheduled (see below) to: 1) collect the community's input and encourage discussion on current needs and priorities and to provide information on current HUD programs managed by the City, and 2) to provide information and assistance to organizations regarding the process of applying for available funding and meeting HUD's National Objectives.

Date	Time	Location	If you are unable to attend
Monday, 12/12/2022	6:00 p.m.	Sam Pipes Room City Hall (Civic Center) First Floor 678 West 18th Street Merced	Take our online needs survey! https://tinyurl.com/ycdk84bz
Tuesday, 12/13/2022	6:00 p.m.		
Friday, 12/16/2022	3:00 p.m.		

Spanish and Hmong translation can be made available at the meetings by calling the City of Merced Housing Division at (209)385-6863 or emailing housing@cityofmerced.org at least 48 hours/2 days prior to the meeting date. The meetings may also be presented in a hybrid in person/virtual format. Go to www.cityofmerced.org/housing for information and updates.

CIUDAD DE MERCED
SOLICITUD DE COMENTARIO PÚBLICO
PLAN DE ACCIÓN ANUAL DE 2023
PARA EL AÑO FISCAL 2023-2024 (1 de julio de 2023 – 30 de junio de 2024)

La División de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Merced está comenzando el proceso de preparación del Plan de Acción Anual 2023 de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD) de los EE. UU. que, una vez completado y aprobado por HUD, llevará a cabo el cuarto año del Plan Consolidado 2020-2024 de la Ciudad (ConPlan/Plan Estratégico Quinquenal). El ConPlan establece para el gasto de fondos federales que la Ciudad recibe de HUD hacia programas y actividades que abordan sus prioridades comunitarias y de vivienda a cinco años del plan: 1) vivienda de alquiler asequible; 2) servicios de apoyo con énfasis en servicios para jóvenes en riesgo, personas sin hogar y personas mayores; 3) vivienda justa; 4) creación de empleos; 5) revitalización de vecindarios; y 6) preservar, rehabilitar y mejorar la infraestructura y las instalaciones públicas existentes.

Para el proceso de preparación del Plan de acción anual de 2023, la Ciudad busca la opinión de los residentes, los socios de servicio comunitario y las agencias federales, estatales y del condado para identificar los programas, las metas de un año y la financiación que se enfocan en estas prioridades y se alinean con el Objetivo Nacional de HUD.

Se programarán tres reuniones comunitarias en persona (ver a continuación) para 1) recopilar los aportes de la comunidad y alentar la discusión sobre las necesidades y prioridades actuales y para brindar información sobre los programas actuales de HUD administrados por la Ciudad, y 2) brindar información y asistencia a las organizaciones sobre el proceso de solicitud de fondos disponibles y el cumplimiento de los Objetivos Nacionales de HUD.

Fecha	Hora	Lugar	Si no puedes asistir
Lunes, 12/12/2022	6:00 p.m.	Sam Pipes Room City Hall (Centro Cívico) Primer Piso 678 West 18th Street Merced	Toma la encuesta en línea! https://tinyurl.com/ycdk84bz
Martes, 12/13/2022	6:00 p.m.		
Viernes, 12/16/2022	3:00 p.m.		

La traducción al español y al hmong puede estar disponible en las reuniones llamando a la División de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Merced al (209) 385-6863 o enviando un correo electrónico a housing@cityofmerced.org al menos 48 horas/2 días antes de la fecha de la reunión. Las reuniones también se pueden presentar en un formato híbrido presencial/virtual. Visite www.cityofmerced.org/housing para obtener información y actualizaciones.

CITY NTAWM MERCED
XOV TAU TXHOB PEJ XEEB NRHIAB TXOG TSAJ
HLI 2023 ANNUAL ACTION Plan
FIV FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 (Lub Tsib Hli 1, 2023 - Lub Rau Hli 30, 2024)

Lub Nroog Merced Housing Division tab tom pib txheej txheem ntawm kev npaj US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2023 Annual Action Plan, uas, thaum ua tiav thiab pom zoo los ntawm HUD, yuav ua tiav plaub xyoos ntawm Lub Nroog 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan (ConPlan/5-Year Strategic Plan). Lub ConPlan npaj txoj kev siv nyiaj ntawm tsoom fwv uas nyiaj uas Lub Nroog tau txais los ntawm HUD mus rau kev pabcuam thiab cov haujlwm uas hais txog lub hom phiaj tseb xyoo dhau lub sijhawm tsib xyoos: 1) cov tsev cheaj tsev phem pig; 2) Kev txhawb nqa kev pabcuam nrog rau qhov tawm cwoh ntawm cov tub ntxhais hluas muaj kev phiaj txoos, tsis muaj tsev nyob, thiab cov kev pabcuam rau cov laus; 3) xyuv zoo; 4) Kev tsim kom muaj txoj haujlwm; 5) ltse txhawb nqa zej zog; thiab 6) khaws cia, rov ltse dua, thiab txhim kho cov chaw rau pej xeem thiab cov vej txoj kev hab muaj lawm.

Rau 2023 Cov Txheej Txheem Npaj Ua Haujlwm Is Xyoos, Lub Nroog nrhiav cov tswv yim ntawm cov neeg nyob hauv, cov koom tes pabcuam hauv zej zog, thiab lub nroog, xeev, thiab tsoom fwv cov kev sib tham ntawm txhoob xyuas cov txoj kev, lub hom phiaj ib xyoos, thiab nyiaj txiag uas lub hom phiaj tseem ceeb no thiab ua raws li HUD National. Lub hom phiaj.

Pib lub rooj sib tham hauv zej zog tau teem sijhawm (saib hauv qab no) mus rau: 1) sau cov kev qhia hauv zej zog thiab txheeb kev sib tham txog cov kev xav tau tam sim no thiab qhov tseem ceeb thiab muab cov ntaub ntawv ntawm HUD cov kev pab cuam tau sim ua txej hom los ntawm Lub Nroog, thiab 2) muab kev qhia thiab kev pab rau cov koom haum hais txog cov txheej txheem ntawm kev thov nyiaj muaj thiab ntsib HUD Lub Hom Phiaj Hauv Tebchaws.

Hnub	Sij hawm	Qhov Chaw	Yog tias koj/koj tsev tsis tau
Hnub Monday, 12/12/2022	6:00 p.m.	Sam Pipes Room Lub Nroog Hall (Civic Center) Thawj Pem Teb 678 West 18th Street Merced	Txheeb nrhiav pab cov kev soj tau kev online! https://tinyurl.com/ycdk84bz
Hnub Tuesday, 12/13/2022	6:00 p.m.		
Hnub Friday, 12/16/2022	3:00 p.m.		

Kev txhais lus Mov thiab los Hmoob muaj nyob rau hauv cov rooj sib tham no los ntawm kev hu rau Lub Nroog Merced Housing Division ntawm (209) 385-6863 lossis xa email mus rau tsev nyob@cityofmerced.org yam tsawg 48 teev/2 hnub ua ntej hnub rooj sib tham. Cov rooj sib tham kuj tseem tuaj yeem nthuav tawm nyob rau hauv hybrid hauv tib neeg/virtual hom. Mus rau xyuas www.cityofmerced.org/housing rau cov ntaub ntawv thiab hnub tshiab.

CITY OF MERCED
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

>>> December 2022

MERCED CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Matthew Serratto

Council Members:

Jesse Cortez (D1) **Fernando Echevarria (D2)**

Bertha Perez (D3) **Kevin Blake (D4)**

Sarah Boyle (D5) **Delray Shelton (D6)**

Contact the Council by writing to the Civic Center address below, call (209) 385-6834, or email cityCouncil@cityofmerced.org

Council Meetings are the first and third Mondays of the month, held at 6PM in the Council Chambers of the Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St. The Council meets the next day if Monday is a holiday. Agendas: www.cityofmerced.org

CONTACT US

www.cityofmerced.org contains Council Info, the Muni. Code, General Plan, and other information.

Civic Center is open Mon-Fri, 8A M-5PM (except holidays); Finance open 7AM-5PM.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

City Council & City Manager	(209) 385-6834
City Attorney	(209)385-6868
City Clerk	(209)388-8650
Code Enforcement	(209)385-6237
Economic Development	(209)385-6827
Engineering	(209)385-6846
Finance	(209)388-7900
Inspection Services	(209)385-6861
Parks & Recreation	(209)385-6235
Personnel	(209)388-7100
Planning	(209)385-6858
Public Works (8a.m.-4:30)	(209)385-6800
Public Works after hours	(209)385-6935
Utility Billing	(209)385-6841
Merced Yosemite Regional Airport	(209)385-6873

EMERGENCIES - DIAL 911

Fire Business	(209)385-6891
Police Business	(209)385-6912

Your Input is Needed

The City of Merced Housing Division needs resident input on the use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Federal funding for two separate plans. Please take a few minutes to complete and submit each survey – access the surveys by using each "TinyURL" or the QR Code links provided. Paper copies to fill out offline can be made available by calling 209-385-6863. Surveys will be available in other languages by mid-December. Thank you for your input!

2023 Annual Action Plan and Needs Assessment Resident Survey

The City of Merced Housing Division is beginning work on the 2023 HUD Annual Action Plan and is developing its annual Needs Assessment to determine project funding and programs for the coming year. Resident participation is vital to this process! **Survey closes February 28, 2023.**

Annual Plan Use this link:
https://tinyurl.com/yckjeh8q

Home Investment Partnership Program-American Rescue Plan Resident Survey

The City of Merced received special allocation of HOME-ARP funding to develop programs for the needs of specific qualifying populations. We need resident input on determining the best use for this funding, and the needs and gaps in assistance for each qualifying population. **Survey closes January 31, 2023.**

HOME-ARP Use this Link:
https://tinyurl.com/23493ef



CITY OF MERCED
BOLETÍN MENSUAL

>>>Diciembre 2022

Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Merced

Alcalde Matthew Serratto

Miembros del Consejo:

Jesse Ornelas (D1) Fernando Echevarria (D2)
Bertha Perez (D3) Kevin Blake (D4)
Sarah Boyle (D5) DeRay Shelton (D6)

Contacte al ayuntamiento por correo electrónico en cityclerk@cityofmerced.org o al (209) 385-6834 o escribe a sus miembros en el Centro Cívico a la dirección de abajo. Juntas del Ayuntamiento se reúnen el primer y tercer lunes a las 6 PM en la cámara del consejo (Council Chambers) en el Centro Cívico 678 W. 18th St. Cuando es lunes festivo, el Ayuntamiento se reúne al día siguiente. La agenda se publica en el sitio de Internet www.cityofmerced.org

Contactenos

Cityofmerced.org, contiene información sobre el Ayuntamiento, el Reglamento Municipal, Plan General y otra información. El Centro Cívico abre de lunes a viernes 8 AM – 5 PM, menos los días festivos

Departmento Directorio

Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad ..... (209) 385-6834
Gerente de la Ciudad ..... (209) 385-6854
Abogado de la Ciudad ..... (209) 385-6868
Secretaria de la Ciudad ..... (209) 388-8650
Ejecución de Reglamentos ..... (209) 385-6837
Desarrollo Económico ..... (209) 385-6827
Ingeniería ..... (209) 386-6846
Finanzas ..... (209) 388-7900
Servicios de Inspección ..... (209) 385-6861
Parques y Recreaciones ..... (209) 385-6235
Recursos Humanos ..... (209) 388-7100
Dept. de Policía ..... (209) 385-6858
Obras Públicas (7:30-4:30) ..... (209) 385-6800
Fuera de horario de oficina ..... (209) 385-6900
Pago de Facturas ..... (209) 385-6841
Aeropuerto Regional Merced Yosemite (209)385-6673

Emergencias – Marque 911

Depat. de Bomberos ..... (209) 385-6891
Depat. de Policía ..... (209) 385-6912

Su opinión es necesaria

La División de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Merced necesita la opinión de los residentes sobre el uso de los fondos federales del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos para dos planes separados. Tómese unos minutos para completar y enviar cada encuesta: acceda a las encuestas utilizando cada "TinyURL" o los enlaces del código QR proporcionados. Las copias impresas para completar fuera de línea pueden estar disponibles llamando al 209-385-6863.
Las encuestas estarán disponibles en otros idiomas a mediados de diciembre.

Plan de acción anual 2023 y encuesta de residentes de evaluación de necesidades

La División de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Merced está comenzando a trabajar en el Plan de Acción Anual de HUD 2023 y está desarrollando su Evaluación de Necesidades anual para determinar los fondos y programas del proyecto para el próximo año. ¡La participación de los residentes es vital para este proceso!
La encuesta cierra el 28 de febrero de 2023.

Home Investment Partnership Program-American Rescue Plan Encuesta de residentes

La Ciudad de Merced recibió una asignación especial de fondos HOME-ARP para desarrollar programas para las necesidades de poblaciones calificadas específicas. Necesitamos la opinión de los residentes para determinar el mejor uso de este financiamiento, y las necesidades y brechas en la asistencia para cada población calificada. **La encuesta cierra el 31 de enero de 2023.**

Las encuestas en Español y Hmong estarán disponibles en el sitio web de la División de Vivienda (www.cityofmerced.org/housing) antes del 2 de diciembre.



CITY OF MERCED
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2023

MERCED CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Matthew Serratto

Council Members:

Jesse Ornelas (D1) **Ronnie DeAnda (D2)**

Bertha Perez (D3) **Shane Smith (D4)**

Sarah Boyle (D5) **Fue Xiong (D6)**

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www.cityofmerced.org contains Council info, the Muni Code, General Plan, and other information. Civic Center is open Mon-Fri, 8AM-5PM (except holidays); finance open 9AM-5PM.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

City Council & City Manager	(209)385-6834
City Attorney	(209)385-6862
City Clerk	(209)388-8650
Code Enforcement	(209)385-6827
Economic Development	(209)385-6827
Engineering	(209)385-6811
Finance	(209)388-7900
Inspection Services	(209)385-6861
Parks & Recreation	(209)385-6235
Personnel	(209)388-7100
Planning	(209)385-6858
Public Works, reg. hrs (7:30-4:30)	(209)385-6800
Public Works, other hours	(209)385-6905
Utility Billing	(209)385-6841
Merced Yosemite Regional Airport	(209)385-6873

EMERGENCIES - DIAL 911

Fire Business	(209)385-6891
Police Business	(209)385-6912

City of Merced
Annual Town Hall Meetings
Save The Following Dates and Times
Wednesday, Jan. 25th, 6 - 8 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 31st, 6 - 8 PM
Thursday, Feb. 9th, 6 - 8 PM
Locations to be announced.

Your Input is Needed

The City of Merced Housing Division needs resident input to determine the use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Federal funding for two separate plans. Please take a few minutes to complete and submit each survey – access the surveys by using each "TinyURL" or the QR Code links provided. Paper copies are available by calling 209-385-6863. Thank you for your input!

2023 Annual Action Plan and Needs Assessment Resident Survey

The City of Merced Housing Division is working on the 2023 HUD Annual Action Plan and has developed a Needs Assessment to determine project funding and programs for the coming year. Resident participation is vital to this process.

Survey closes February 28, 2023.

ENGLISH SPANISH HMONG

https://tinyurl.com/yckje4bz https://tinyurl.com/bdhjfnck https://tinyurl.com/439n2wz5

Home Investment Partnership Program-American Rescue Plan Resident Survey

The City of Merced received a special allocation of HOME-ARP funding to develop programs for the needs of specific qualifying populations. Resident input is vital to determine the use of this funding, and the needs and gaps in assistance for each qualifying population.

Survey closes January 31, 2023.

ENGLISH SPANISH HMONG

https://tinyurl.com/yckje4bz https://tinyurl.com/bdhjfnck https://tinyurl.com/439n2wz5

CITY OF MERCED
BOLETÍN MENSUAL

Enero 2023

Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Merced

Alcalde Matthew Serratto

Miembros del Consejo:

Jesse Ornelas (D1) — **Ronnie De Anda (D2)**
Bertha Perez (D3) — **Shane Smith (D4)**
Sarah Boyle (D5) — **Fue Xiong (D6)**

Contacte al ayuntamiento por correo electrónico en cityofficials@cityofmerced.org o al (209) 385-6814 o escriba sus mensajes en el Centro Cívico o la dirección de abajo. Juntas del Ayuntamiento se reúnen el primer y tercer jueves a las 6 PM en la Cámara del Consejo (Council Chambers) en el Centro Cívico, 678 W. 18th St. Cuando es un día festivo, el Ayuntamiento se reúne el día siguiente. La agenda se publica en el sitio de Internet www.cityofmerced.org.

Contáctenos

Cityofmerced.org, contiene información sobre el Ayuntamiento, el Reglamento Municipal, Plan General y otra información. El Centro Cívico abre de lunes a viernes 8 AM – 5 PM, menos los días festivos.

Department Directorio

Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad	(209) 385-6894
Gerente de la Ciudad	(209) 385-6834
Abogado de la Ciudad	(209) 385-6868
Secretario/a de la Ciudad	(209) 388-8650
Ejecutor de Regalamentos	(209) 385-6837
Desarrollo Económico	(209) 385-6827
Ingeniería	(209) 388-6846
Finanzas	(209) 388-7700
Servicios de Inspección	(209) 385-6867
Parques y Recreaciones	(209) 385-6235
Recursos Humanos	(209) 388-7109
Depto. de Planeación	(209) 385-6858
Obras Públicas (7:30-4:30)	(209) 385-6800
Fuera de horario de oficina	(209) 385-6905
Pago de Facturas	(209) 385-6841
Aeropuerto Regional Merced Yosemite	(209) 385-6873

Emergencias – Marque 911

Depot. de Bomberos	(209) 385-6871
Depot. de Policía	(209) 385-6912

Ciudad de Merced
Reuniones anuales del ayuntamiento
Guarde las siguientes fechas y horas
Miércoles, 25 de Enero, 6 - 8 PM
Martes, 31 de Enero, 6 - 8 PM
Jueves, 9 de Febrero, 6 - 8 PM
Sedes por anunciar.

Su opinión es necesaria

La División de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Merced necesita la opinión de los residentes sobre el uso de los fondos federales del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos para dos planes separados. Tómese unos minutos para completar y enviar cada encuesta: acceda a las encuestas utilizando cada "TinyURL" o los enlaces del código QR proporcionados. Las copias impresas para completar fuera de línea pueden estar disponibles llamando al 209-385-6863.

Plan de acción anual 2023 y encuesta de residentes de evaluación de necesidades

La División de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Merced está comenzando a trabajar en el Plan de Acción Anual de HUD 2023 y está desarrollando su Evaluación de Necesidades anual para determinar los fondos y programas del proyecto para el próximo año. ¡La participación de los residentes es vital para este proceso!

La encuesta cierra el 28 de febrero de 2023.

ENGLISH SPANISH HMONG

https://tinyurl.com/yckje4az https://tinyurl.com/4ddhjfmk https://tinyurl.com/439n2wz5

Home Investment Partnership Program-American Rescue Plan Encuesta de residentes

La Ciudad de Merced recibió una asignación especial de fondos HOME-ARP para desarrollar programas para las necesidades de poblaciones calificadas específicas. Necesitamos la opinión de los residentes para determinar el mejor uso de este financiamiento, y las necesidades y brechas en la asistencia para cada población calificada. **La encuesta cierra el 31 de enero de 2023.**

ENGLISH SPANISH HMONG

https://tinyurl.com/yckje4az https://tinyurl.com/4ddhjfmk https://tinyurl.com/439n2wz5

CITY OF MERCED
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2023

MERCED CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Matthew Serratto

Council Members:

Jesse Omelas (D1) **Ronnie De Anda (D2)**
Bertha Perez (D3) **Shane Smith (D4)**
Sarah Boyle (D5) **Fue Xiong (D6)**

Contact the Council by writing to the Civic Center address below, call (209) 385-6834, or email citycouncil@cityofmerced.org.

Council Meetings are the first and third Mondays of the month, held at 6PM in the Council Chambers of the Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St. The Council meets the next day if Monday is a holiday. Agenda: www.cityofmerced.org

CONTACT US

www.cityofmerced.org contains Council info, the Muni Code, General Plan, and other information. Civic Center is open Mon-Fri, 8AM-5PM (except holidays); Finance open 9AM-5PM.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

City Council & City Manager	(209) 385-6834
City Attorney	(209) 385-6868
City Clerk	(209) 388-8650
Code Enforcement	(209) 385-6227
Economic Development	(209) 385-6823
Engineering	(209) 385-6846
Finance	(209) 388-7900
Inspection Services	(209) 385-6895
Parks & Recreation	(209) 385-6235
Personnel	(209) 388-7100
Planning	(209) 385-6858
Public Works, reg. hrs. (7:30-4:30)	(209) 385-6800
Public Works, after hours	(209) 385-6905
Utility Billing	(209) 385-6841
Merced Yosemite Regional Airport	(209) 385-6873

EMERGENCIES - DIAL 911

Fire Business	(209) 385-6871
Police Business	(209) 385-6912

SAVE THE DATE
CITY OF MERCED

2023 Annual Town Hall Meeting

- Thursday, Feb. 9th, 6 - 8 PM, Weaver Middle School, 3076 E. Childs Ave, Merced

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

REUNIONES DEL AYUNTAMIENTO DE 2023

- Jueves, 9 de Febrero, 6 - 8 PM, Weaver Middle School, 3076 E. Childs Ave, Merced

CAJA VOZ IMPORTA

2023 TOWN HAL YOG IB LUB ROOJ SIB THAM TSEEM CEEB

- Lub Ib Hli 9th, 2023, Sij hawm: 6 – 8 PM, Weaver Middle School, 3076 E. Childs Ave

TXHUA LUB SUAB TSEEM CEEB

Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance

DisasterAssistance.gov

FEMA Helpline: **800 621-3362** | VRS/WebMate Relay Service

Have this information ready when you apply:

- Social Security number (one per household)
- Address of the damaged home or apartment
- Description of the damage
- Current telephone number
- Address where you can get mail or email to receive notifications
- Insurance information, if available
- Bank account and routing number for direct deposit of funds

Apply for FEMA disaster assistance if you had damage from the storms and flooding. You must be a resident of Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara or Santa Cruz County.

Federal disaster assistance may include:

- Temporary emergency housing or money for home repairs of primary residences
- Help with medical, dental, personal property, transportation, and disaster-related moving and storage expenses
- Long-term, low-interest disaster loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration
- If you need accommodations for language or a disability, let us!

Cal OES

As FEMA disaster assistance is provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation), religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or pregnancy, you have the right to file a complaint. You can call the Civil Rights Hotline at 800-462-7585.

FEMA

Resident Input Request.

The City of Merced Housing Division needs resident input on the use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Federal funding for two separate plans. Please take a few minutes to complete and submit each survey – access the surveys by using each "TinyURL" or the QR Code links provided. Paper copies to fill out offline can be made available by calling 209-385-6863. Thank you for your input!

2023 Annual Action Plan and Needs Assessment Resident Survey

The City of Merced Housing Division is beginning work on the 2023 HUD Annual Action Plan and is developing its annual Needs Assessment to determine project funding and programs for the coming year. Resident participation is vital to this process! Survey closes February 28, 2023.

ENGLISH SPANISH HMONG

https://tinyurl.com/ycktc4te https://tinyurl.com/2s9ahnc8 https://tinyurl.com/4ddp2ev5

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

CITY OF MERCED
BOLETÍN MENSUAL

>>>Febrero 2023

Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Merced

Alcalde Matthew Serratto

Miembros del Consejo:

Jesse Ornelas (D1)	**Ronnie De Anda (D2)**
Bertha Perez (D3)	**Shane Smith (D4)**
Sarah Boyle (D5)	**Fue Xiong (D6)**

Contacte al ayuntamiento por correo electrónico en cityclerk@cityofmerced.org o al (209) 385-6834 o escribe a los Miembros en el Centro Civico a la dirección de abajo. Juntas del Ayuntamiento se reunen el primer y tercer lunes a las 6 PM en la camara del consejo (Council Chambers) en el Centro Civico, 678 W. 18th St. Cuando es lunes festivo, el Ayuntamiento se reune el día siguiente. La agenda se puede ver en el sitio de internet www.cityofmerced.org

Contáctenos

City Hall is open daily, contact information for the Ayuntamiento, el Reglamento Municipal, Plan General y otra información. El Centro Civico abre de lunes a viernes 8 AM - 5 PM menos los días festivos.

Departamento Directorio

Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad	(209) 385-6804
Gerente de la Ciudad	(209) 385-6534
Abogado de la Ciudad	(209) 385-6868
Secretaria de la Ciudad	(209) 384-6650
Ejecucion de Reglamentos	(209) 385-6837
Desarrollo Economico	(209) 385-6827
Ingenieria	(209) 388-6846
Finanzas	(209) 386-7900
Servicios de Inspeccion	(209) 385-6861
Parques y Recreaciones	(209) 385-6235
Recursos Humanos	(209) 388-7100
Dept. de Bomberos	(209) 385-6859
Obras Publicas (7:30-4:30)	(209) 385-6810
Fuera del horario de oficina	(209) 385 6905
Pago de Facturas	(209) 385-6841
Aeropuerto Regional Merced Yosemite	(209) 385-6873

Emergencias – Marque 911

Depart. de Bomberos	(209) 385-6891
Depart. de Policia	(209) 385-6912

RESERVA
Ciudad de Merced

REUNIONES DEL AYUNTAMIENTO DE 2023

- Jueves, 9 de Febrero,6 - 8 PM, Weaver Middle School, 3076 E. Childs Ave, Merced

CADA VOZ IMPORTA

2023 TOWN HALL MEETINGS

- Lub lis Hlis 9th, 2023, 6 - 8 PM, Weaver Middle School, 3076 E. Childs Ave

TXHUA LUB SUAB TSEEM CEEB

2023 ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING

- Thursday, Feb. 9th, 6 - 8 PM, Weaver Middle School, 3076 E. Childs Ave, Merced

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

FEMA

Centro móvil de recuperación por desastre

Para obtener respuestas a sus preguntas, llame al:

800-621-3362

711 o al Servicio de Retransmisión de Video (VRS): 800-621-3362

Por favor tenga disponible lo siguiente: • Dirección con el código postal • Condiciones de su propiedad dañada • Información de seguro & asistencia especial • Número Seguro Social • Número de teléfono donde se le pueda contactar • Dirección donde usted puede recibir correspondencia o correo electrónico para recibir notificaciones y actualizaciones	**MERCED COUNTY** Sacred Heart Catholic Church 8317 Gala Avenue Planada, CA 95365 Abierto a las 12 del mediodía Horas de operación: 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. todos los días Gratis **Alojamientos disponibles bajo pedido**

También puede inscribirse en línea en DisasterAssistance.gov/es

Solicitud de entrada de residente.

La División de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Merced necesita la opinión de los residentes sobre el uso de los fondos federales del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE.UU. para dos planes separados. También hay dos encuestas para completar y revisar cada producto. Accederá a las encuestas haciendo clic en los enlaces a continuación o escaneando el código QR apropiado. Las copias en papel para completar sin conexión están disponibles llamando al 209-385-6863. Gracias por su aportación!

El plan de acción anual de 2023 y la evaluación de necesidades / Encuesta para los clientes
La División de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Merced está comenzando a trabajar en el Plan de Acción Anual de 2023 y está actualizando su Evaluación de Necesidades anual para determinar la implementación del proyecto y las prioridades para el próximo año. La participación de los residentes es vital para este proceso! La encuesta cierra el 28 de febrero de 2023.

Housing Division

HOUSING DIVISION NEWS

Community Needs Surveys

We have two active surveys that we are asking our residents to assist us with!

1. 2023 Annual Action Plan - This survey is for City of Merced residents to provide feedback on how best to utilize yearly Federal funding allocated to the City by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) during the next Annual Plan cycle (July 2023-June 2024) to help address the most crucial current needs of the community. Citizen input is the most important element to this process, so your participation is truly valuable!

Note: if you do not wish to take this survey electronically, you may request a paper copy by calling 209-385-6863 or emailing: housing@cityofmerced.org.

This survey will close on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.

English Annual Plan Survey

Spanish Annual Plan Survey

Hmong Annual Plan Survey

2. HOME-ARP Allocation Plan - This survey involves special funding allocated to the City of Merced as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (HOME-ARP funds). These funds have limited uses and are intended to address the long-term effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic on our most vulnerable citizens. We are requesting the input from our City residents regarding how best to utilize this funding, both in what to use it for and who it will help. We thank you for your valuable time and assistance!

Note: if you do not wish to take this survey electronically, you may request a paper copy by calling 209-385-6863 or emailing: housing@cityofmerced.org.

The HOME-ARP survey will close on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.

English Home-ARP Survey

Spanish Home-ARP Survey

Hmong Home-ARP Survey

THANK YOU!

OTHER CURRENT NEWS:

12/1/2022 - 2023 NOFA posted! The City of Merced Housing Division participates in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, which distributes federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) each year. Established non-profit organizations that are registered on the U.S. Government's Sam.gov website are invited to apply for 2023 CDBG project funding that will help the City of Merced address our most urgent community needs. Please use the link below for more information.

CLICK HERE FOR 2023 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY INFORMATION

9-22-2022 - After approval by City Council on 9-19-2022, the 2021 CAPER report has been submitted to HUD for their approval. Until it is approved by HUD, a Council-approved draft will be posted to the "Housing Reports & Plan" link on the navigation menu on the left side of your screen. Once approved by HUD, the link will be updated with the fully approved report. Thank you.

5-2-2022: The City has been awarded new funding for First Time Homebuyer Assistance and Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Assistance! Read about it here!

Please note: When virtual meeting attendance options are offered below (not including City Council meetings), we use Microsoft Teams online conferencing software. Here are your access options:

- **Download the Teams app here**. Then, enter the meeting using the direct link provided below.

- **Join on the web at this link, here**. Then, enter the corresponding meeting id and passcode provided below.
- **By phone (audio only)** - to attend by phone, the corresponding call-in phone numbers and meeting id's will be provide below. When attending by phone, please remember to keep all background noise at a minimum.

-- HOUSING DIVISION - UPCOMING MEETINGS --		
Date/Time	**Meeting**	**Description/Other Info**
Monday 12/12/2022 6:00 p.m.	**2023 Annual Action Plan Community Input and Non-Profit Funding Information Meeting #1** *We invite interested residents and area service organizations to come together for conversation and discussion and to help us determine which community needs to address during the 2023-24 fiscal year.* *We will also provide an overview of the upcoming HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Process.* *During the second half of the meeting, we will present important information to attending non-profit organizations interested in applying for 2023-24 project funding.*	**Where**: 1st Floor Merced City Hall, Sam Pipes Room, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced **Virtual attendance:** *Teams app direct link,* here *Join on the web* - ID# 239766954698, and Passcode DZCNco *Call in (audio only):* Ph#: 1-209-888-0720 Conference id# 154789678# **Spanish and Hmong langua interpretation is available a. person meeting only.** *Please kindly give us 48 hours advanced notice.*

Tuesday 12/13/2022 6:00 p.m.	**2023 Annual Action Plan Community Input and Non-Profit Funding Information Meeting #2** *This is the second of three community meetings for the 2023 Annual Action Plan.* *Meeting format will be the same as explained for Meeting #1 above.*	**Where**: 1st Floor Merced City Hall/Civic Center, Sam Pipes Room, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced **Virtual attendance:** *Teams app direct link*, here *Join on the web* - ID# 212998126978, and Passcode Dk8wqw *Call in (audio only):* Ph# 1-209-888-0720 Conference id# 506997145# **Spanish and Hmong language interpretation is available at the in-person meeting only.** *Please kindly give us 48 hours advanced notice.*
Friday 12/16/2022 3:00 p.m.	**2023 Annual Action Plan Community Input and Non-Profit Funding Information Meeting #3** *This is the third of three community meetings being held for the 2023 Annual Action Plan.* *Meeting format will be the same as explained for Meeting #1 above.*	**Where**: 1st Floor Merced City Hall/Civic Center, Sam Pipes Room, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced **Virtual attendance:** *Teams app direct link*, here *Join on the web* - ID# 213837513131, and Passcode V8dppf *Call in (audio only):* Ph# 1-209-888-0720 Conference id# 213705677# **Spanish and Hmong language interpretation is available at the in-person meeting only.** *Please kindly give us 48 hours advanced notice.*

Monday 3/20/2023 6 p.m.	We will have two items on this meeting agenda: **1. Public Hearing (1st) - 2023 Annual Action Plan** We will present the preliminary budget and tentative projects for the 2023-24 program year. Resident participation and public comment is invited during the Public Hearing portion of this item. **2. Public Hearing (Final) - Approval of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan** We will present the Final Draft of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to Council and invite public comment from residents during the Public Hearing portion of this item.	Please see the City Clerks' webpage for the City Council Agendas, Staff Reports, and Minutes
Monday May 1 6:00 p.m.	**Public Hearing (Final) - 2023 Annual Action Plan** We will present the Final Draft of the 2023 Annual Action Plan and final project funding proposals to Council for approval and award of funding. We invite public comment from residents during the Public Hearing portion of this item.	Please see the City Clerks' webpage for the City Council Agendas, Staff Reports, and Minutes

All meeting are ADA accessible. For Spanish and Hmong translation, please provide staff with 48 hours notice prior to each meeting, in order to provide City staff sufficient time to arrange for a translator. Thank you.

Todas las reuniones son accesibles según la ADA. Para la traducción al español y al hmong, informe al personal con 48 horas de anticipación antes de cada reunión, para que el personal de la ciudad tenga tiempo suficiente para contratar un traductor. Gracias.

Txhua lub rooj sib tham yog siv tau ADA. Rau kev txhais lus Mev thiab lus Hmoob, thov qhia cov neeg ua haujlwm nrog 48 teev ua ntej txhua lub rooj sib tham, txhawm rau muab sijhawm rau cov neeg ua haujlwm hauv nroog txaus los npaj tus neeg txhais lus. Ua tsaug.

2023 Annual Action Plan

This section will be updated with information regarding the 2023 Annual Action Plan process.

A Public Review and Comment Period for the Draft Plan is anticipated from 3/31/2023 to 5/1/2023. The public draft will be posted here when ready to view.

Thank you in advance for your interest!

Other Important Information and Links:

- ***CORONAVIRUS RELATED ASSISTANCE IS STILL AVAILABLE:*** *For updates and information regarding special HUD allocations to the City of CARES Act CDBG-CV funds to address immediate community needs related to the local effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, please navigate to the "CDBG Coronavirus Response Supplement" page under "Housing Division" Navigation Menu on the left side of your screen..*
- ***CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER):*** *For updates and information regarding the yearly Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), please use this link, or navigate to the CAPER page under the "Housing Reports and Plans" tab in the Navigation Menu on the left side of your screen.*
- ***CHILDS & B STREET AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT*** *- For updates and information regarding the Childs & B Street Affordable Housing Project, please navigate to the project page under the "Housing Division Projects" tab in the Navigation Menu on the left side of your screen.*

About the City of Merced Housing Program

The City of Merced Housing Division oversees several grants to help improve the housing quality within the City of Merced. In addition, mini-grants are provided annually to those non-profit organizations that provide programs furthering the Housing Division's Annual Goals and Priorities, as determined by the 5-year Strategic Plan/Consolidated Plan and each year's Annual Action Plan.

Our primary sources of funding are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds issued and administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The primary use of CDBG funds is to give maximum feasible priority to activities which will carry out one of the national objectives of benefit to low- and moderate-income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The intent of the HOME program is to provide and increase the supply of decent, affordable housing to lower-income households and work with non-profit housing providers, the State, and private-sector participation to accomplish that goal.

The Housing Division is also involved in community development and neighborhood revitalization. HOME funds can only be used for housing activities, while CDBG can be used for broader community development purposes within established guidelines. Community Activities selected are designed to reflect Annual Plan Goals and may include public services, public facilities and infrastructure improvements, and residential rehabilitation projects.

Public Services are programs and services provided by local non-profit community organizations that improve quality of life for primarily low-income citizens of Merced.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Resources:

- Information for Home Buyers
- Home Owner Help and Resources
- Disaster Distress Helpline - 24/7, 365-days-a-year crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters - available to all residents in the United States and its territories: 1-800-985-5990 (toll-free, multilingual, and confidential), or text: TalkWithUs to 66746.

Housing Division Budget

- Development Services and Housing

Housing Division

~ HOUSING DIVISION NEWS ~

2023 Annual Action Plan

This section will be updated with information regarding the 2023 Annual Action Plan process.

FINAL DRAFT 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN - this FINAL DRAFT is being presented for City Council approval on June 5, 2023. Please see links and meeting information in the "upcoming meetings' section further below on this page. Following Council approval, the plan will be submitted to HUD for their final approval. Thank you to all residents of the City of Merced who participated with community needs survey responses and other ways!

3-30-2023: *2023 Annual Action Plan - 30-Day Public Review and Comment Period --- March 31, 2023 through May 15, 2023 (Extended)*

The preliminary draft of the 2023 Annual Action Plan is is available for public view and comment as of 3-30-2023.

The draft plan can be downloaded from the link provided below. Please inform staff if you need Spanish or Hmong translation services. The draft can also be translated and emailed to you by request, email: housing@cityofmerced.org.

During the comment period, Housing staff will continue to work on the plan to ready it for City Council review and approval at the scheduled public hearing on June 5, 2023 (see calendar below). We will re-post a new draft as updates are made and will include a brief description of what sections are completed.

- **5-15-2023** *New Draft Posted* - more sections complete. Please use **THIS LINK** to view.
- **5-12-2023** *New Draft Posted* - more sections are now complete. Please use ***THIS LINK*** to view.
- **4-28-2023** *New Draft Posted* - please use ***THIS LINK*** to view.
- **4-24-2023** *New Draft Posted - please use **THIS LINK** to view. Changes: finalized AP-35/38 project list based on Council direction received 4/17/23; updated Sections AP-12, AP-15, AP-20, and AP-50.*

- ***4-15-2023*** *New Draft Posted - please use **THIS LINK** to view. Changes: updated sections within Executive Summary, Public Participation, and Consultation.*

- ***4-6-2023*** *New Draft Posted - please use **THIS LINK** to view. Changes: added tentative project (#18) to the AP-35 Section. Following City Council direction at the 3/20/23 Public Hearing to find alternative project(s) for Project #'s 14 and #17 , Project #18 is added as the alternative. Project #18 is proposed at $632,000, which is $2,000 less than the total of #14 and #17. These funds will likely be moved to Project #6 (McNamara Park Pool Improvements). Project #18 and related changes will be presented to Council as a "Report" item at the 4/17/23 City Council meeting. Residents are welcomed to provide comment regarding this change/alternative project option. Thank you.*
- ***3-30-2023*** *Draft Posted - Please use **THIS LINK** to view.*

~ HOW TO COMMENT: ~

Please refer to the Public Notice posted on 3-2-2023 for instructions on how to provide your comments: English Spanish Hmong Comments can be emailed to: housing@cityofmerced.org, or delivered in person to the Housing Division, 2nd Floor Merced Civic Center, 678 W 18th Street, Merced.

Please call 209-385-6863 for any questions. Thank you for your interest in the Housing Program and the 2023 Annual Action Plan.

2-16-2023 - The 2023-24 NOFA period is now closed. Thank you to the organizations who applied!

12-1-2022 - 2023 NOFA posted! The City of Merced Housing Division participates in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, which distributes federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) each year. Established non-profit organizations that are registered on the U.S. Government's Sam.gov website are invited to apply for 2023 CDBG project funding that will help the City of Merced address our most urgent community needs. Please use the link below for more information.

Housing Division Calendar

Please note: When virtual meeting attendance options are offered below (not including City Council meetings), we use Microsoft Teams online conferencing software. Here are your access options:

- **Download the Teams app here**. Then, enter the meeting using the direct link provided below.
- **Join on the web at this link, here**. Then, enter the corresponding meeting id and passcode provided below.
- **By phone (audio only)** - to attend by phone, the corresponding call-in phone numbers and meeting id's will be provide below. When attending by phone, please remember to keep all background noise at a minimum.

~ HOUSING DIVISION - UPCOMING MEETINGS ~		
Date/Time	**Meeting**	**Description/Other Info**
Monday 12/12/2022 6:00 p.m.	**2023 Annual Action Plan Community Input and Non-Profit Funding Information Meeting #1** *We invite interested residents and area service organizations to come together for conversation and discussion and to help us determine which community needs to address during the 2023-24 fiscal year.* *We will also provide an overview of the upcoming HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Process.* *During the second half of the meeting, we will present important information to attending non-profit organizations interested in applying for 2023-24 project funding.*	**Where**: 1st Floor Merced City Hall, Sam Pipes Room, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced **Virtual attendance:** *Teams app direct link,* here *Join on the web* - ID# 239766954698, and Passcode DZCNco *Call in (audio only):* Ph#: 1-209-888-0720 Conference id# 154789678# **Spanish and Hmong language interpretation is available at the in-person meeting only.** *Please kindly give us 48 hours advanced notice.*

Tuesday 12/13/2022 6:00 p.m.	**2023 Annual Action Plan Community Input and Non-Profit Funding Information Meeting #2** *This is the second of three community meetings for the 2023 Annual Action Plan.* *Meeting format will be the same as explained for Meeting #1 above.*	**Where:** 1st Floor Merced City Hall/Civic Center, Sam Pipes Room, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced **Virtual attendance:** *Teams app direct link,* here *Join on the web* - ID# 212998126978, and Passcode Dk8wqw *Call in (audio only):* Ph# 1-209-888-0720 Conference id# 506997145# **Spanish and Hmong language interpretation is available at the in-person meeting only.** *Please kindly give us 48 hours advanced notice.*
Friday 12/16/2022 3:00 p.m.	**2023 Annual Action Plan Community Input and Non-Profit Funding Information Meeting #3** *This is the third of three community meetings being held for the 2023 Annual Action Plan.* *Meeting format will be the same as explained for Meeting #1 above.*	**Where:** 1st Floor Merced City Hall/Civic Center, Sam Pipes Room, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced **Virtual attendance:** *Teams app direct link,* here *Join on the web* - ID# 213837513131, and Passcode V8dppf *Call in (audio only):* Ph# 1-209-888-0720 Conference id# 213705677# **Spanish and Hmong language interpretation is available at the in-person meeting only.** *Please kindly give us 48 hours advanced notice.*

Monday 3/20/2023 6 p.m.	We will have two public hearing items on this meeting agenda: **1. Public Hearing (1st) - 2023 Annual Action Plan** We will present the preliminary budget and tentative projects for the 2023-24 program year. Resident participation and public comment is invited during the Public Hearing portion of this item. **2. Public Hearing (Final) - Approval of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan** We will present the Final Draft of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to Council and invite public comment from residents during the Public Hearing portion of this item.	Please see the City Clerks' webpage for the City Council Agendas, Staff Reports, and Minutes
Monday 4/17/2023 6 p.m.	As a result of Council direction provided at the 3/20/23 meeting, additional discussion regarding 2023 Project Funding will occur as a "Report" item at this City Council Meeting. An alternative project will be presented to Council. For more information, please see the Public Draft revision dated 4-6-23 above, or call the Housing Division at 385-6863.	Please see the City Clerks' webpage for the City Council Agenda, Staff Report, and Minutes.
Monday 5/1/2023 6 p.m.	**Second Public Hearing - 2023 Annual Action Plan** The public hearing will be opened and continued to the June 5, 2023 Council meeting. In addition, we are requesting the Council extend the Public Review and Comment Period to May 15, 2023 (extend by two weeks)	Please see the City Clerks' webpage for the City Council Agenda, Staff Report, and Minutes.
Monday 6/5/2023 6 p.m.	**Second Public Hearing - 2023 Annual Action Plan** We will present the Final Draft of the 2023 Annual Action Plan and final project funding to Council for approval and award of funding. We invite public comment during the continued Public Hearing.	Please see the City Clerks' webpage for the City Council Agenda, Staff Report, and Minutes.

All meeting are ADA accessible. For Spanish and Hmong translation, please provide staff with 48 hours notice prior to each meeting, in order to provide City staff sufficient time to arrange for a translator. Thank you.

Todas las reuniones son accesibles según la ADA. Para la traducción al español y al hmong, informe al personal con 48 horas de anticipación antes de cada reunión, para que el personal de la ciudad tenga tiempo suficiente para contratar un traductor. Gracias.

Txhua lub rooj sib tham yog siv tau ADA. Rau kev txhais lus Mev thiab lus Hmoob, thov qhia cov neeg ua haujlwm nrog 48 teev ua ntej txhua lub rooj sib tham, txhawm rau muab sijhawm rau cov neeg ua haujlwm hauv nroog txaus los npaj tus neeg txhais lus. Ua tsaug.

OTHER NEWS:

9-22-2022: After approval by City Council on 9-19-2022, the 2021 CAPER report has been submitted to HUD for their approval. Until it is approved by HUD, a Council-approved draft will be posted to the "Housing Reports & Plan" link on the navigation menu on the left side of your screen. Once approved by HUD, the link will be updated with the fully approved report. Thank you.

5-2-2022: The City has been awarded new funding for First Time Homebuyer Assistance and Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Assistance! Read about it here!

Other Important Information and Links:

- ***CORONAVIRUS RELATED ASSISTANCE IS STILL AVAILABLE:*** *For updates and information regarding special HUD allocations to the City of CARES Act CDBG-CV funds to address immediate community needs related to the local effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, please navigate to the "CDBG Coronavirus Response Supplement" page under "Housing Division" Navigation Menu on the left side of your screen..*

- ***CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER):*** *For updates and information regarding the yearly Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), please use this link, or navigate to the CAPER page under the "Housing Reports and Plans" tab in the Navigation Menu on the left side of your screen.*

- ***CHILDS & B STREET AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT*** *- For updates and information regarding the Childs & B Street Affordable Housing Project, please navigate to the project page under the "Housing Division Projects" tab in the Navigation Menu on the left side of your screen.*

About the City of Merced Housing Program

The City of Merced Housing Division oversees several grants to help improve the housing quality within the City of Merced. In addition, mini-grants are provided annually to those non-profit organizations that provide programs furthering the Housing Division's Annual Goals and Priorities, as determined by the 5-year Strategic Plan/Consolidated Plan and each year's Annual Action Plan.

Our primary sources of funding are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds issued and administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The primary use of CDBG funds is to give maximum feasible priority to activities which will carry out one of the national objectives of benefit to low- and moderate-income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The intent of the HOME program is to provide and increase the supply of decent, affordable housing to lower-income households and work with non-profit housing providers, the State, and private-sector participation to accomplish that goal.

The Housing Division is also involved in community development and neighborhood revitalization. HOME funds can only be used for housing activities, while CDBG can be used for broader community development purposes within established guidelines. Community Activities selected are designed to reflect Annual Plan Goals and may include public services, public facilities and infrastructure improvements, and residential rehabilitation projects.

Public Services are programs and services provided by local non-profit community organizations that improve quality of life for primarily low-income citizens of Merced.

Housing Division Budget

- Development Services and Housing


City of Merced - Home
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Merced Affordable Housing Project Update
MERCED


City of Merced - Home
The Merced County Association of Governments is seeking feedback!
With recent expansions for housing and transportation funding - they want to know how YOU would like to see Regional Early Action Planning 2.0 funding invested.
Take their REAP 2.0 Funding Poll below to let us know how Merced can grow:
mcag.mysocialpinpoint.com/reap/home


REAP 2.0
WORKSHOPS


THE CITY OF MERCED HOUSING DIVISION INVITES RESIDENTS TO:
HUD 2023 ANNUAL PLAN
RESIDENTS' COMMUNITY INPUT
We need to hear from YOU!
WHERE?
WHEN?

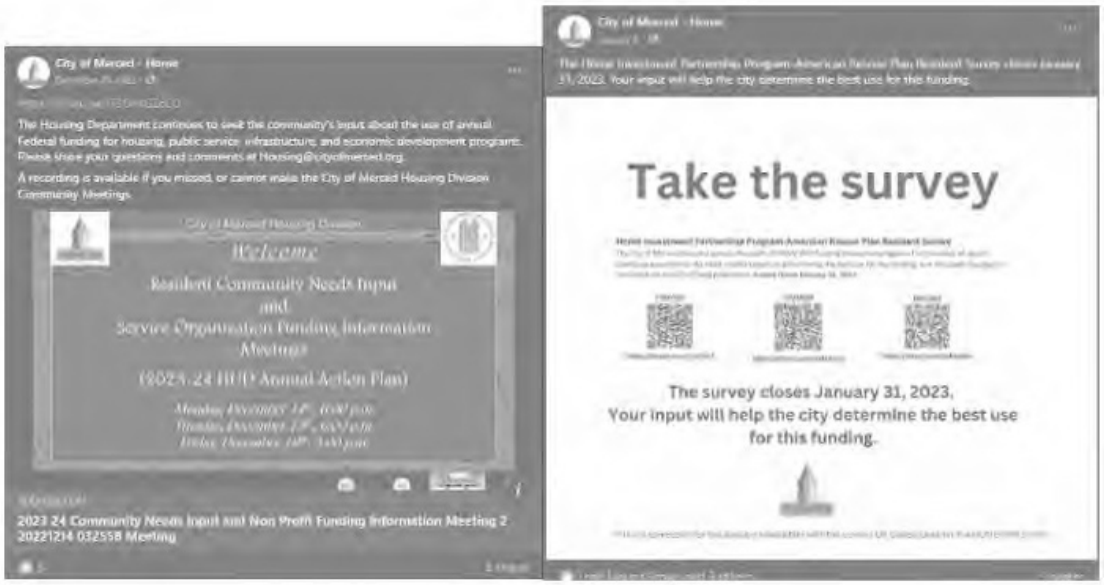

City of Merced - Home
"The City of Merced Housing Department's annual plan process is ramping up. To participate, please attend the public meetings and take the community needs survey. Meetings are scheduled for Dec 12, 13 & 16. The survey closes on February 28, 2023. English Survey:
Spanish survey:
Hmong Survey:
See flyers for more information."
THE CITY OF MERCED HOUSING DIVISION INVITES RESIDENTS TO:
HUD 2023 ANNUAL PLAN RESIDENTS' COMMUNITY INPUT
We need to hear from YOU!
WHERE?
WHEN?
Please join us:
Choose from three convenient days/times

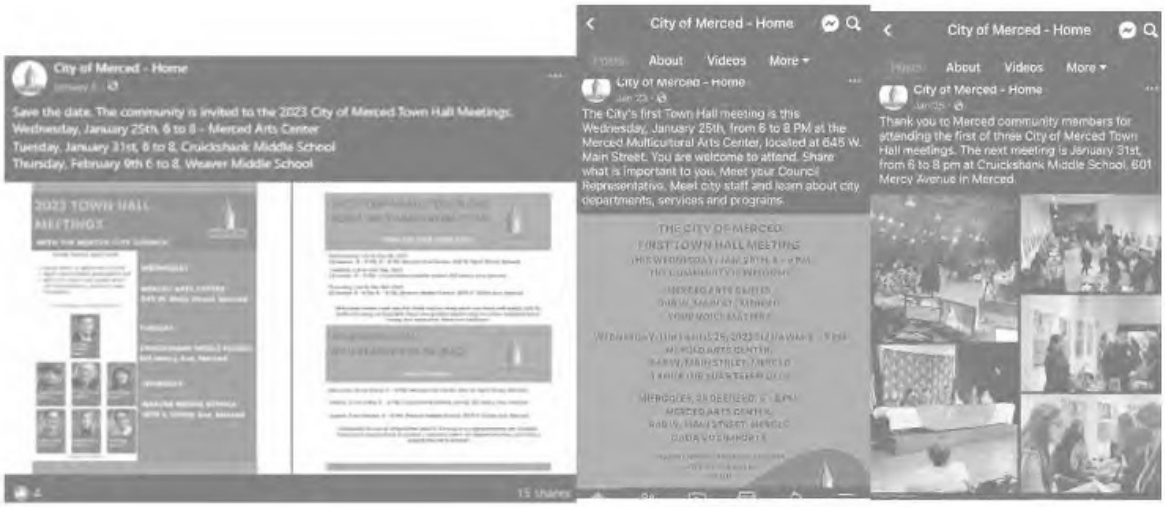

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Choose from three convenient days/times


Posts
cityofmerced
HUD 2023 ANNUAL PLAN
RESIDENTS' COMMUNITY INPUT
We need to hear from YOU!
THE CITY OF MERCED HOUSING
DIVISION INVITES RESIDENTS TO:
HUD 2023 ANNUAL PLAN
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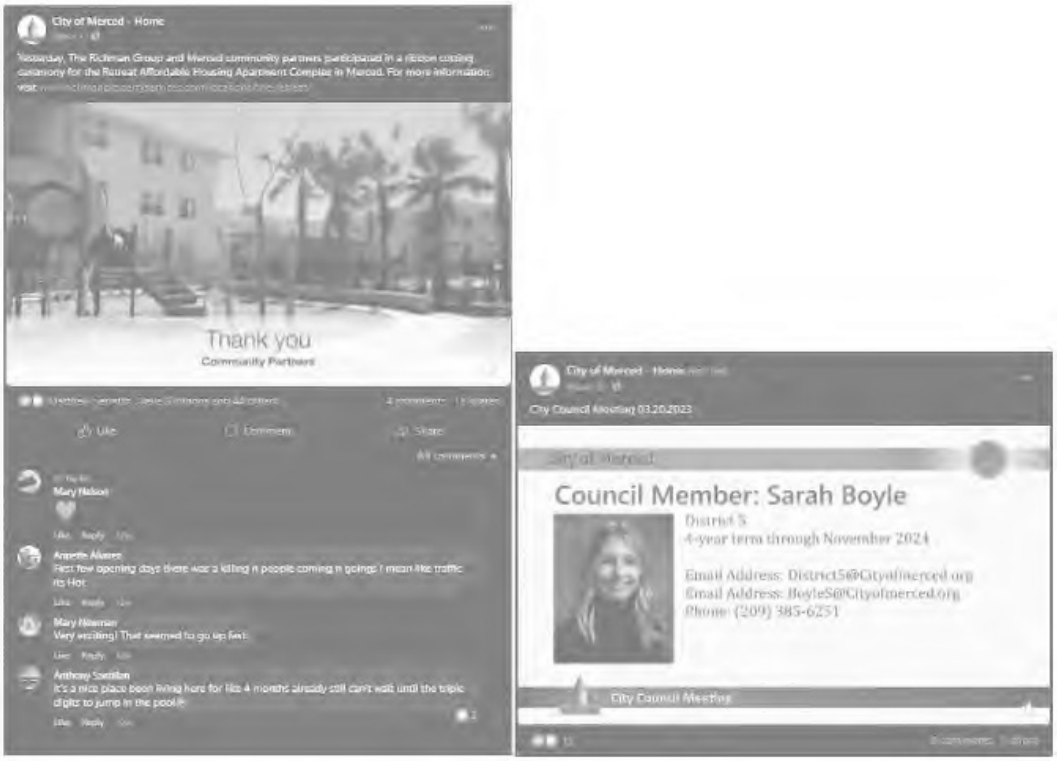


OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)


City of Merced - Home
The Housing Department continues to seek the community's input about the use of annual Federal funding for housing, public service, infrastructure, and economic development programs. Please share your questions and comments at Housing@cityofmerced.org.
A recording is available if you missed, or cannot make the City of Merced Housing Division Community Meetings.
City of Merced Housing Division
Welcome
Resident Community Needs Input
and
Service Organization Funding Information
Meetings
(2023-24 HUD Annual Action Plan)
2023 24 Community Needs Input and Non Profit Funding Information Meeting 2 20221214 032558 Meeting
City of Merced - Home
31, 2023. Your input will help the city determine the best use for the funding.
Take the survey
The survey closes January 31, 2023.
Your input will help the city determine the best use for this funding.


City of Merced - Home
Save the date. The community is invited to the 2023 City of Merced Town Hall Meetings.
Wednesday, January 25th, 6 to 8 - Merced Arts Center
Tuesday, January 31st, 6 to 8, Cruickshank Middle School
Thursday, February 9th 6 to 8, Weaver Middle School
2023 TOWN HALL MEETINGS
City of Merced - Home
About
Videos
More
City of Merced - Home
The City's first Town Hall meeting is this Wednesday, January 25th, from 6 to 8 PM at the Merced Multicultural Arts Center, located at 645 W. Main Street. You are welcome to attend. Share what is important to you. Meet your Council Representative. Meet city staff and learn about city departments, services and programs.
THE CITY OF MERCED
FIRST TOWN HALL MEETING
City of Merced - Home
About
Videos
More
City of Merced - Home
Thank you to Merced community members for attending the first of three City of Merced Town Hall meetings. The next meeting is January 31st, from 6 to 8 pm at Cruickshank Middle School, 601 Mercy Avenue in Merced.


City of Merced - Home
About
Videos
More
Town Hall Meeting.
Tuesday, January 31st, 6 to 8 p.m.
Cruickshank Middle School Multipurpose Room
601 Mercy Ave, Merced.
6 - 7 p.m., meet with city staff to ask questions and learn about programs and services.
7 - 8 p.m., attend an open forum with City Council to ask questions and share information that is important to you. The open forum session will broadcast live at Facebook Live, or Comcast Public Access Channel 96.
SAVE DATE
City of Merced
City of Merced - Home
Thank you Merced, for participating in the city's second of three community town hall meetings this evening at Cruickshank Middle School, and thank you , for attending the space
We look forward to meeting community members at our third meeting on Thursday, February 9th, at Weaver Middle School
The 2023 Merced Town Hall meeting will begin at 6:35.

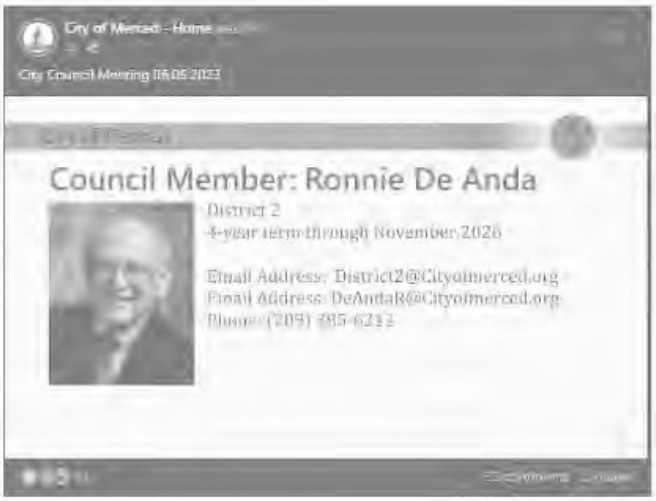

City of Merced - Home
Thank you
Community Partners
Like
Comment
Share
Mary Nelson
City of Merced - Home
City Council Meeting 03.20.2023
Council Member: Sarah Boyle
District 5
4-year term through November 2024
Email Address: District5@Cityofmerced.org
Email Address: BoyleS@Cityofmerced.org
Phone: (209) 385-6251
City Council Meeting


Follow the City of Merced on Instagram
City of Merced CA
Merced Police Department
Merced Fire Department




City of Merced - Home
City Council Meeting 06.01.2023
City of Merced
Council Member: Fue Xiong
District 6
4-year term through November 2026
Email Address: District6@Cityofmerced.org
Email Address: XiongF@Cityofmerced.org
Phone: (209) 385-6258
City Council Meeting


City of Merced - Home
TAKE THE MERCED COUNTY MULTIJURISDICTIONAL HOUSING ELEMENT SURVEY
The Merced County region is developing a multijurisdictional housing element (MJHE) for the sixth cycle housing element update. Merced County and the cities of Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Livingston, Los Banos, and Merced are participating.
Take the survey here:
Visit the project website:
Read the FAQ
2024 - 2032
MERCED COUNTY MULTIJURISDICTIONAL
HOUSING ELEMENT


City of Merced - Home
City Council Meeting 06.05.2023
Council Member: Ronnie De Anda
District 2
4-year term through November 2026
Email Address: District2@Cityofmerced.org
Email Address: DeAndaR@Cityofmerced.org

SIGN IN SHEET
Community Input & Service Organization Info Meeting
December 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Sam Pipes Meeting Room, 1st Floor City Hall

NAME	BUSINESS/ ORGANIZATION/ RESIDENT	ADDRESS	CONTACT PHONE	E-MAIL
Myrna Zarate*	Healthy Homes / Comm. Outreach Collaborative Applicants		209.261-6955	myrnazarate@yahoo.com
Maribel Baron	Merced Co. H+HSD		x5210 209 385 3000	Contract maribel.baron@Merced.ca
Cristina Vang*	Merced Lao Family Comm		209-384-7334	pei@laofamily.merced.org
MARGARET MUNGA	LOVE FOCUS Int'l / Pres		209-898-6651	admin@lovefocus.org
THEO NKWOPARA	"		"	"
JOHN CECCOLI	COUNTY OF MERCED		209 628 4040	JOHN.CECCOLI@COUNTYOFMERCED.com
SCOTT MCBRIDE	City of Merced		209-384-36[illegible]	[illegible]
Joe CARROLL	SSS		209 769 4[illegible]	[illegible]
Loretta Spence	Second Baptist		209 626-0265	Spence-loretta@yahoo
* interpreters	Total:			
0	Residents			
9	Community Organizations (people) -- 8 org's represented			
9	people			

SIGN IN SHEET
Community Input & Service Organization Info Meeting
December 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Sam Pipes Meeting Room, 1st Floor City Hall

NAME	BUSINESS/ ORGANIZATION/ RESIDENT	ADDRESS	CONTACT PHONE	E-MAIL
Ricardo Contreras	Resident	Homeless	209 354 1669	@gmail.com pattmonda1972
Mr. Michael Amerson	Resident	Homeless	209.209.7755 209.261.6861	unforgottenunborn @gmail.com
Maribel Parra	Collaborative Advocate	HSA	209 385 2000 x 5210	
Sheila Gill	United Colors Sharing Love			Sheila.gille yahoo.com
Mildred Sturdivant	Migrant Seniors	2020 Geer Hwy Rd #37	209-705-6665	Sturdivantmildred@gmail.com
Myrna Zarate*	Healthy Homes		209.261.5655	
Claudia Hoffman	Library Staff Hoffman Associates	1860 Jacks Ct, Atwater	209-648 3405	hoffmanassociates@gmail.com
Scott McBride	City of Merced	678 W 18th	385-3916	mcbrides@cityofmerced.org
See Lee	President/ Boys & Girls Club Merced	1115 W 15th St. Merced	209-722-9922	see@bgcmerced.com
Yang Pao*	MLF			Pao.thao@laotianamericanmerced.org
*interpreters Total:				
2	Residents			
8	Community Organizations (people) – 8 org's represented			
10	people			

SIGN IN SHEET
Community Input & Service Organization Info Meeting
December 16, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – Sam Pipes Meeting Room, 1st Floor City Hall

NAME	BUSINESS/ ORGANIZATION/ RESIDENT	ADDRESS	CONTACT PHONE	E-MAIL
Kai Monci *	MLFC	2852 Oleander Ave		Kmonci@laofamily.org
Rita Bowles*	H. Hinton Project	18th St	209-724-0102	
Bruce Metcalf	Rescue Mission	644 W. 20th	209-481-3899	bruceMetcalf44@gmail.com
Deanna Stallworth	United Colors INC	P.O Box 1606 Winton, CA	2093546091	thereal Help@gmail.com
April Gill		1460 Main St Suite #18 Atwater	650-504-3360	
Sheila Gill		2292 Cantemella Ave Dos Palos		
Sheila Garcia	Harvest Time	mailing 1251 Wenweiler Merced	209-631-4776	SheilaG4776@Gmail.com
LETICIA LUQUE	" "			
John Ceccoli	MERCED COUNTY		209-628-4040	JOHN.CECCOLI@COUNTYOFMERCED.com
*interpreters	Totals:			
0	Residents			
9	Community Organizations (people) - 6 organizations represented			
9	people			

City of Merced 2023 Annual Action Plan Housing and Community Needs Survey

338	75:16	Active
Responses	Average time to complete	Status

1. Are you a Merced City resident?

Yes	321
No	17



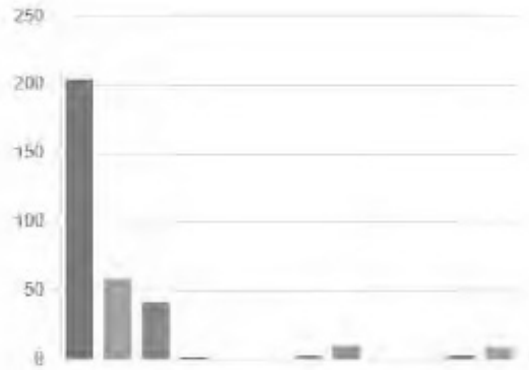
2. What is your association to the City of Merced?

Work within the city limits	11
Family lives within the city limits	4
Shops within the city limits	10
Other	5



3. What best describes your living situation?

Own, with mortgage payment	204
Own, no more payments	59
Rent from private landlord / apa...	42
Rent, with public assistance (Sec...	2
Rent in a public housing comple...	0
Rent in low-income housing (inc...	0
I am a college student living wit...	3
Live with others and share housi...	10
Transitional home or short-term...	0
Temporarily stay with others (e....	0
Live in emergency shelter or are...	3
Other	9



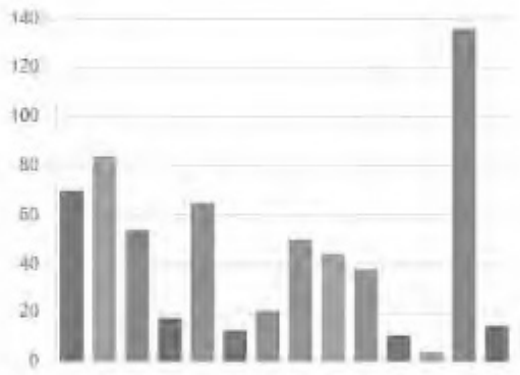
4. How much of your household income do you spend on housing (including insurance and utilities - i.e., water/sewer/electricity/gas)?

Less than 10%	30
10 - 29%	130
30 - 49%	101
More than 50%	69



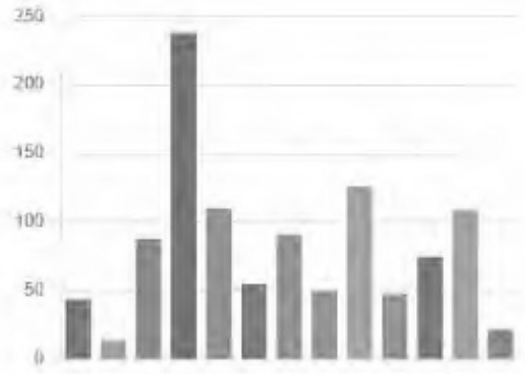
5. Have you experienced any of the following in the past two years? (select all that apply)

Difficulty paying rent or mortga...	70
Difficulty paying utilities (gas/el...	84
Making trade-offs between esse...	54
Rental deposits too expensive t...	18
Inability to afford needed repair...	65
Unwillingness of landlord to ma...	13
Overcrowding – too many peopl...	21
Crime or abandoned buildings i...	50
Vandalism	44
Homelessness	38
Application for rental housing w...	11
Application for mortgage loan ...	4
None of these apply to me	136
Other	15



6. What are barriers to good housing options in Merced that you have experienced or observed? (Select all that apply)

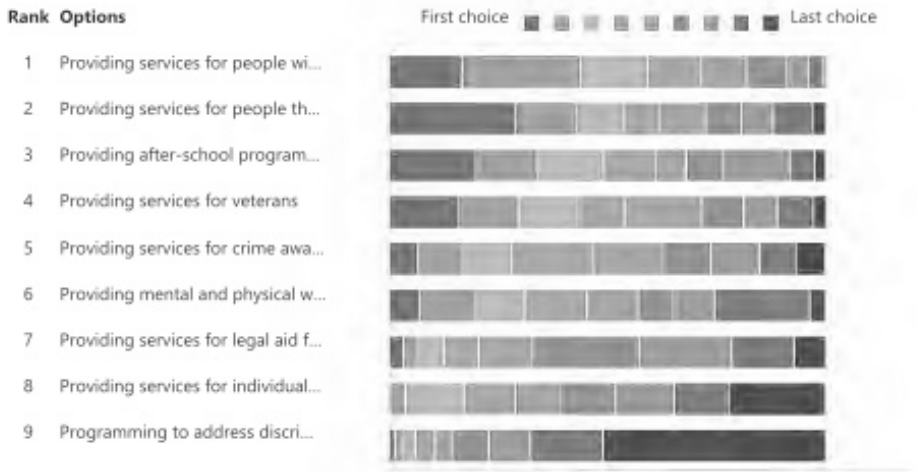
Accessibility for people with dis...	44
Housing restricted based on age	14
Condition of housing units	88
Cost of housing	238
Affordable housing options avai...	110
Distance to employment, school...	55
Lack of diversity of housing stoc...	91
Transportation/access to public ...	50
Utility Cost	126
Unit size (e.g., too few or too m...	48
Lack of units available to people...	75
Overall lack of available units	109
Other	22



7. The following list has some potential ways the City of Merced could spend federal money to address HOUSING NEEDS. Please identify how you would like to see funding spent by rearranging the below choices from top to bottom, with the top being the most important.



8. The following list has some potential ways the City of Merced could spend federal money to address PUBLIC SERVICE NEEDS. Please identify how you would like to see funding spent by rearranging the below choices from top to bottom, with the top being the most important.



9. In general, how would you rate the housing, safety, and environment of the area in which you live, or spend most of your time, on a scale where 10 is the best and 1 is the worst?

331
Responses

6.95
Average Number

10. Why did you rate the area in which you live that way (regarding your rating to question 9 above)?

288
Responses

Latest Responses

"My house has been broken into in 3 times in the las 6 months. T...

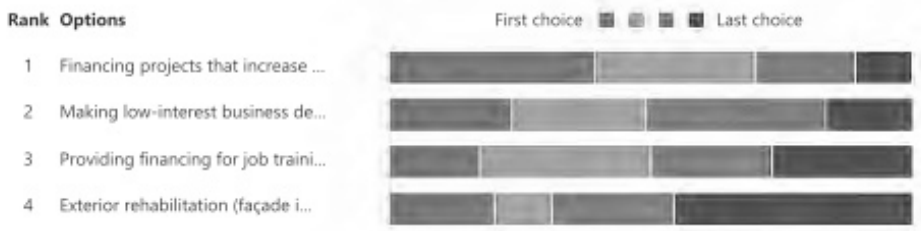
"Safety and the environment are fine, but the houses have been b...

"more robberies have been seen by homeless people (translated fr...

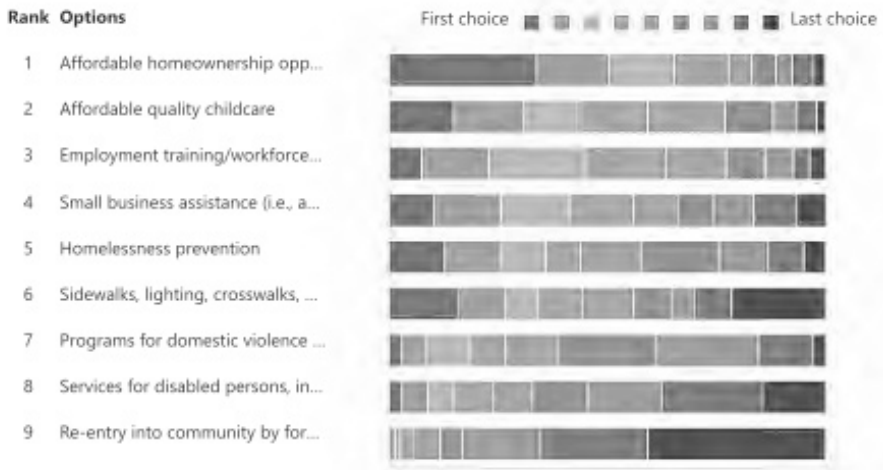
11. The following list has some potential ways the City of Merced could spend federal money to address NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT NEEDS. Please identify how you would like to see funding spent by rearranging the below choices from top to bottom, with the top being the most important.



12. The following list has some potential ways the City of Merced could spend federal money to address ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Please identify how you would like to see funding spent by rearranging the below choices from top to bottom, with the top being the most important.



13. For this question, please rearrange the below options in the order you feel are the most underfunded but have the greatest need in Merced City, with the top being the option with the greatest need and the bottom being the least needed.



14. Please write any other comments regarding housing and community development in the space below that you would like to share with us, including if there are other potential options not listed above for how to the use the funds.

121
Responses

Latest Responses

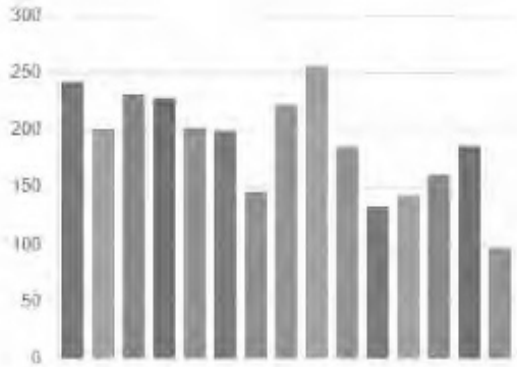
"Repair of potholes in the streets, lifting on the sidewalks (translat...

15. Are you aware of your rights under Fair Housing or Anti-discrimination laws?



16. I believe that people are protected by federal, state, or local fair housing or anti-discrimination laws because of: (select all that apply)

Religion	242
Familial Status, such as having c...	201
Sexual orientation, such as bein...	231
Sex, such as being male or female	228
Gender identity, such as transge...	202
National origin or the country w...	199
Ancestry	146
Age, such as being young or eld...	222
Race or ethnicity	256
Marital status or spousal affiliati...	185
Income level	133
Source of income, such as recei...	143
Creed or a person's beliefs	161
Physical, mental, or behavioral d...	186
Criminal background, felony co...	97



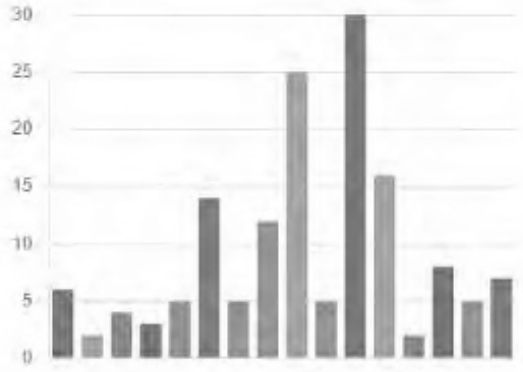
17. Are you aware of any incidents of housing discrimination in Merced City in the last five years?

Yes	38
No	288



18. If your response to the previous question was yes, on what basis do you believe that the discrimination occurred or may have occurred? (select all that apply)

Religion	6
Familial Status, such as having c...	2
Sexual orientation, such as bein...	4
Sex, such as being male or female	3
Gender identity, such as transge...	5
National origin or the country w...	14
Ancestry	5
Age, such as being young or eld...	12
Race or ethnicity	25
Marital status or spousal affiliati...	5
Income level	30
Source of income, such as recei...	16
Creed or a person's beliefs	2
Physical, mental, or behavioral d...	8
Criminal background, felony co...	5
Based on a previous complaint t...	7



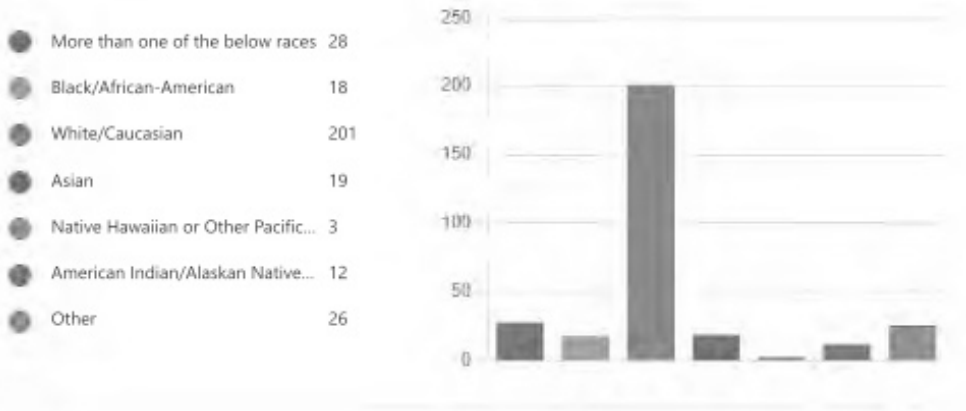
19. Please share any additional comments regarding fair housing or discrimination.

42
Responses

Latest Responses

"It is unfair that a person has to pay to start a housing applicatio...

20. What is your race? (pick the best answer – origins of Hispanic/Latino will be asked in the next question)



21. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?



22. What is the primary language you speak?



23. What is the primary language that you read?

English	303
Spanish	17
Hmong	1
Chinese	1
Other	2



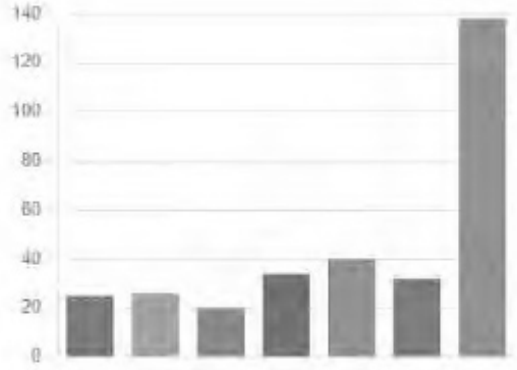
24. How many people do you live with, including children (size of household)?

Alone	49
With one other person	111
With 3 to 5 people	146
With 6 or more people	20



25. What is your annual gross household income (before taxes)? Please choose one.

Less than $21,000	25
$21,000 - $34,999	26
$35,000 - $41,999	20
$42,000 - $55,999	34
$56,000 – $70,999	40
$71,000 – $84,999	32
$85,000 or above	138



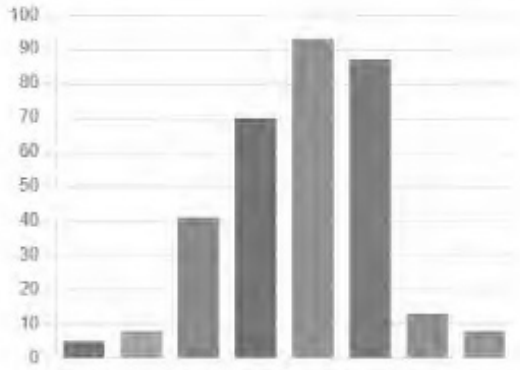
26. What is your age?

18 or younger	0
19 -29	31
30 – 44	110
45 – 64	107
65 or older	74



27. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

Less than high school	5
Earned GED	8
High School	41
Two-Year College degree	70
Four-Year College degree	93
Graduate School	87
Trade school	13
Other	8



2023 Survey for Public, Governmental, Business, Health, and Service Agency Consultation

9	32:25	Closed
Responses	Average time to complete	Status

1. For questions 1 and 2, please provide information regarding your organization's address and contact information.

9 Responses

Latest Responses

"Housing Authority of the County of Merced 405 U Street, Merced,..

"Merced College 3600 M Street Merced, CA 95348 https://www.m...

"Sierra Saving Grace P.O. Box 1301 Merced, CA. 95341 3341 M Str...

2. Contact Information - If there is a general administrative email that we could use to better or more efficiently distribute this survey in the future, please provide.

9 Responses

Latest Responses

"Maria Alvarado - (209) 386-4139 - mariaa@merced-pha.com"

"Shannon S. Gragg Merced College, Basic Needs Coordinator 209...

"Kristin Bizzack 209-877-5523 kbizzack@sierrasavinggrace.org"

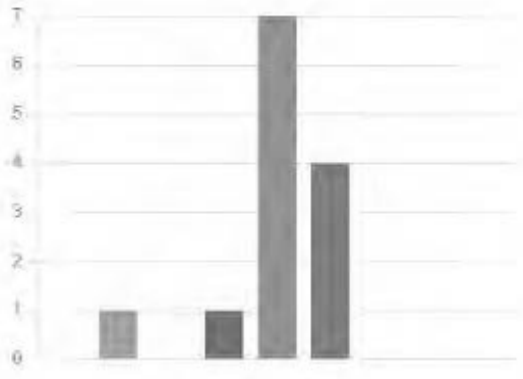
3. What is your agency or organization type? Please check all that apply. If not listed, please provide the agency/organization type in "other" below.

Housing (new construction, reha...	1
PHA - Public Housing Authority	1
Services - housing (transitional, ...	1
Services - homeless	2
Services - health	0
Services - education	2
Services - employment	1
Services - fair housing	0
Services - victims	1
Services - broadband internet s...	1
Services - narrowing the digital ...	0
Health Agency	0
Child Welfare Agency	0
Agency - managing flood prone...	0
Agency - management of public...	0
Agency - emergency managem...	1
Publicly funded institution or sy...	0
Other government - federal	0
Other government - state	1
Other government - county	0
Other government - local	0
Regional organization	0
Planning organization	0
Business leaders	0
Civic leaders	0
Business and civic leaders	0
Other	6



4. Which of the following best describes the geographic service area of your organization?

Nationwide	0
Multi-State	1
Statewide (California only)	0
San Joaquin Valley/Northern Cal...	1
Merced County	7
Merced City limits	4
Targeted areas within the City of...	0
All of the above	0
None of the above	0



5. What targeted area in Merced City does your organization serve?

9
Responses

Latest Responses

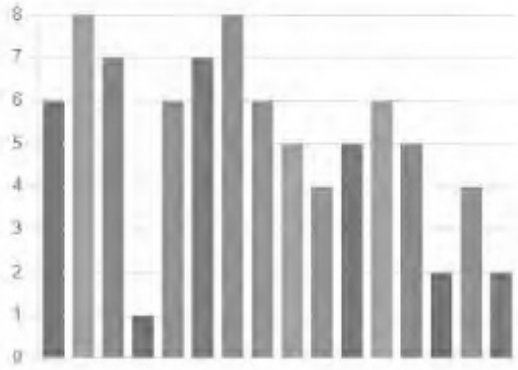
"Although the Authority mainly services the County of Merced, th...

"We have students enrolled that live in and out of Merced County."

"Within the city limits when working with funding from the City o...

6. How would you characterize the population(s) that your organization serves? (please check all that apply). If not listed, please provide the population type in "other" below.

Children/youth/adolescents	6
Families with children	8
Persons with disabilities	7
Persons with HIV/AIDS	1
Victims of domestic violence, hu...	6
Homeless and/or chronically ho...	7
Persons/families at-risk of beco...	8
Elderly persons	6
Mental health patients	5
Drug treatment or recovery pati...	4
Formerly incarcerated	5
Veterans	6
Unemployed or those looking f...	5
Businesses (i.e. business advoca...	2
Communities of Color and/or C...	4
Other	2



7. Do you know if your agency responded to this annual survey last year?

Yes	4
No	1
Not Sure	4



8. Have you noticed any new, increased or decreased, needs or gaps in services for our community?

3
Responses

Latest Responses

"Yes. The Authority continues to see a decrease in housing stock, l...

9. Are those that you serve considered low-income residents?



10. Do you have a plan for servicing low-income residents?



11. If yes, how can we access the plan? Please enter direct link or webpage address, if available on the internet.

5
Responses

Latest Responses

"N/A"

"We currently have assistance that will help low income families ...

12. Within Merced, what is the total number of individuals who would qualify for your services, and what is the data source?

5
Responses

Latest Responses

"Only our currently enrolled student population. Aprox. 12,000"

"It would be hard to say but anyone living paycheck to paycheck ...

13. Do you have marketing materials that describe your service, and If so, how do your clients obtain copies? Also, may we request that you email a copy to: housing@cityofmerced.org? Thank you.

5
Responses

Latest Responses

"No just our Basic Needs Webpage. https://www.mccd.edu/resour...

"We have an outdated flyer and a Face Book, but mostly we let or...

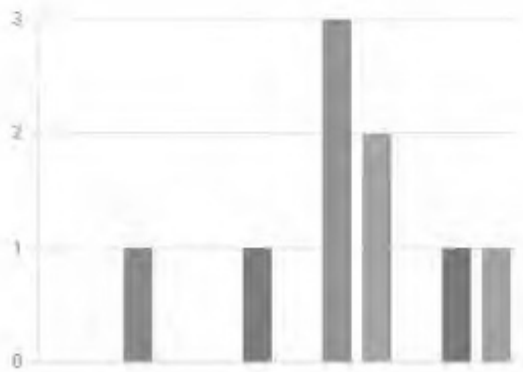
14. Do you provide housing services to your clients?

Yes	4
No	5



15. If so, what type? Please enter any other type or brief comments in the "other" box, if necessary.

Rehabilitation	0
Maintenance	0
Accessibility	1
Transitional	0
Assisted	0
Large family	1
Homeownership	0
Rental	3
Permanent Supportive	2
Emergency Temporary Shelter	0
Emergency Rental/Deposit Assis...	1
Other	1



16. Do you provide non-housing supportive services to your clients?

Yes	7
No	2



17. If so, please describe:

7
Responses

Latest Responses

"On/off campus resources Food Pantry Clothes closet"

"We provide case management and referrals to other services tha..."

18. Are the supportive services provided by your organization or other organizations sufficient to meet the needs?

Yes	2
No	7
Maybe	0



19. Please describe or provide any comments to explain your answer to the last question.

9
Responses

Latest Responses

"N/A"

"Housing is a huge issue! They can't afford the deposit/first/last ...

"Many clients need more mental health or substance abuse suppo...

20. Do you expect that supportive service needs will change during the next five years?

Yes	5
No	2
Maybe	2



21. For our understanding, please elaborate your response to the last question.

9
Responses

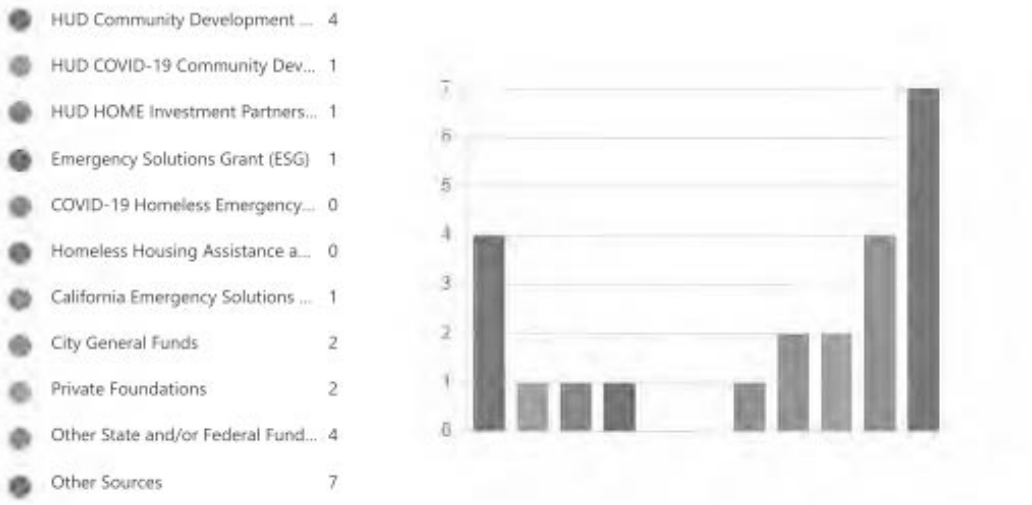
Latest Responses

"N/A"

"Unless something is done with housing I would expect we may se...

"The is always going to be a need for mental Health and substanc...

22. What funding sources currently support your program(s) or agency? Please choose all that apply. The next question will ask for more detail.



23. Please describe your sources of funding in detail.

9
Responses

Latest Responses

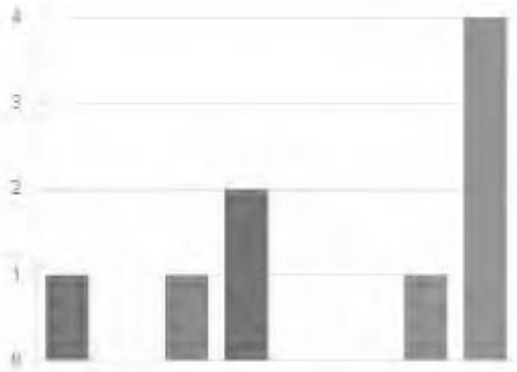
"Federal Funds - HUD State Funds - HCD/OMS"

"We receive our funding from the state and Federal Financial aid ...

"We have a contract with Central California Alliance for Health to...

24. Please estimate the annual funding your organization receives from all sources in serving the community.

Nothing / not applicable	1
Under $100,000	0
$100,000 to $200,000	1
$200,000 to $300,000	2
$300,000 to $400,000	0
$400,000 to $500,000	0
$500,000 to $1,000,000	1
$1,000,000 and over	4



25. Please provide the estimated funding amount, or estimated percentage of the total funding sources reported in the previous question, that assists NON-HOMELESS low-income residents within the Merced City limits. Please explain in detail, if necessary.

9
Responses

Latest Responses

"Funding is to provide rental assistance for families and at the ext...

"This funding for Basic Needs is new for the college so I don't hav...

"0% We don't have a program that serves someone is is not home...

26. Please provide the estimated funding amount, or estimated percentage of the total funding sources reported above, that assists HOMELESS individuals and families within the Merced City limits. Please explain in detail, if necessary.

9
Responses

Latest Responses

"Funding is to provide rental assistance for families and at the ext...

"This funding for Basic Needs is new for the college so I don't hav...

"I would say 80% of the clients we serve are located in Merced."

27. Please identify and explain any areas where we can improve coordination with your agency now and in future years, i.e. coordinated use of funds, coordination of homeless strategies, coordinated efforts to address poverty and/or create jobs, etc. We appreciate all ideas and input to strengthen our community-wide efforts.

9
Responses

Latest Responses

"A better understanding of funding and program rules and regula...

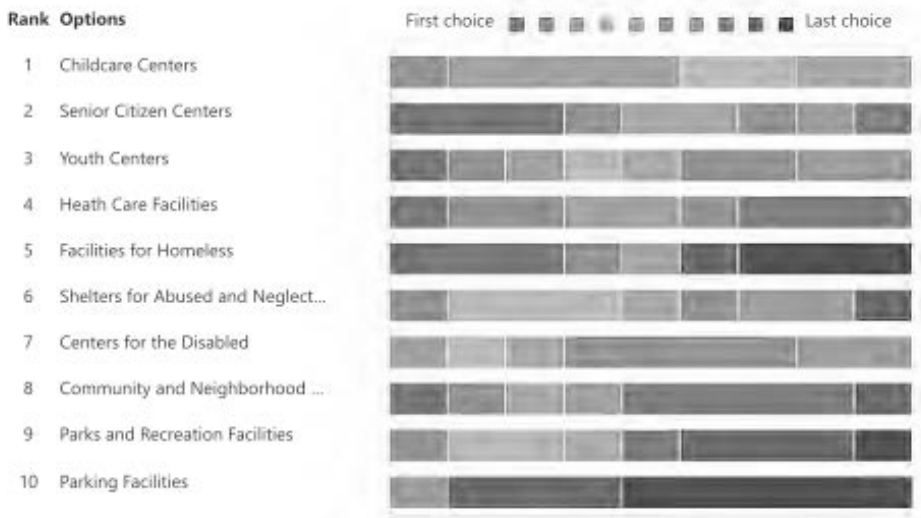
"Where to find help for students in need of housing. Grants for stu...

"I only work with the Housing Department, and they are great at ...

28. COMMUNITY NEEDS PRIORITIES

Public Facilities Needs

Please prioritize the below suggested facilities to rank them in scale of current need or importance from highest to lowest, with the first one being the highest.



29. Regarding the #1 ranked answer for Public Facilities Needs, does your agency feel this need has increased over the last year?

Yes, definitely	8
Maybe or about the same	0
No	1



30. Please explain your response, if desired, and add any other comments on the public facility needs in Merced City, especially related to low-income and minority/disadvantaged populations and geographic areas of the city.

9
Responses

Latest Responses

"Affordable housing for seniors on fixed incomes is becoming mor...

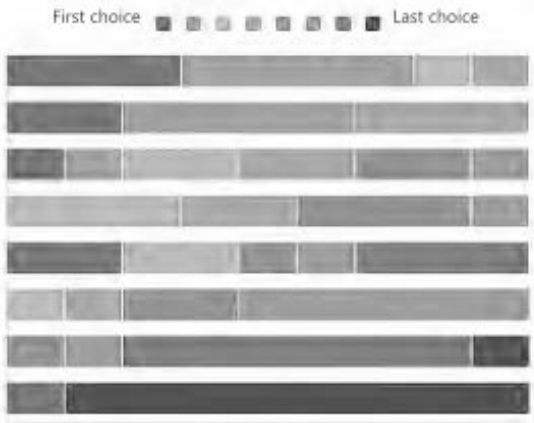
"There is not enough affordable housing in Merced County. It see...

"Rental unit costs keep rising, so I feel more and more people are ...

31. Infrastructure Needs

Please prioritize the below suggested improvements to rank them in scale of current need or importance from highest to lowest, with the first one being the highest.

Rank	Options
1	Street Improvements
2	Flood Prevention and/or Draina...
3	Sidewalks
4	Sewer Improvements
5	Fire Stations or Equipment
6	Water Improvements
7	Tree Planting
8	Other (please explain below)



32. Regarding the #1 ranked answer for Infrastructure Needs, does your agency feel this need has increased over the last year?

Yes, definitely	6
Maybe or about the same	3
No	0



33. Please explain your response, if desired, and add any other comments on the infrastructure needs in Merced City, especially related to low-income and minority/disadvantaged populations and geographic areas of the city.

9
Responses

Latest Responses

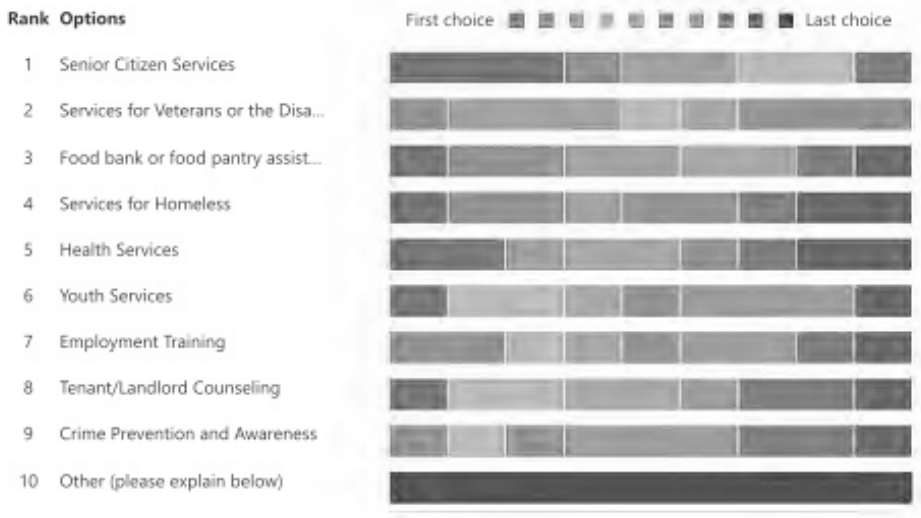
"As the County and all cities have seen during the past few mont..."

"Much of the flooding that has happened has happened in low-in..."

"The recent storms have made pot holes "

34. Social and Public Service Needs

Please prioritize the below suggested social and public services to rank them in scale of current degree of need or importance from highest to lowest, with the first one being the highest.



35. Regarding the #1 ranked answer for Social and Public Service Needs, does your agency feel this need has increased over the last year?



36. Please explain your response, if desired, and add any other comments on the social and public service needs in Merced City, especially related to low-income and minority/disadvantaged populations and geographic areas of the City.

9
Responses

Latest Responses

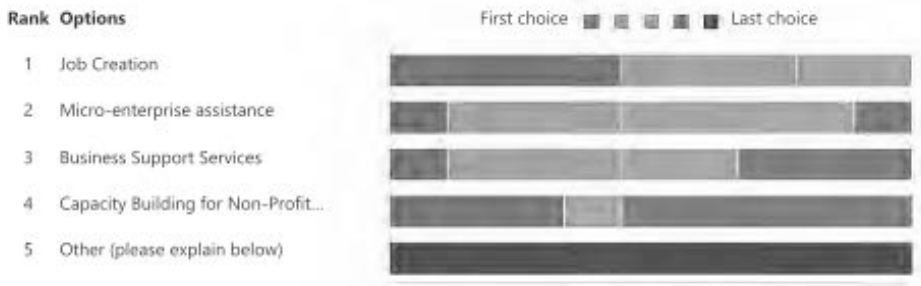
"Affordable housing for seniors on fixed incomes is becoming mor..."

"There is not enough affordable housing in Merced County. It see..."

"Food prices have gone up. "

37. Economic Development Needs

Please prioritize the below economic development needs to rank them in scale of current need or importance from highest to lowest, with the first one being the highest.



38. Regarding the #1 ranked answer for Economic Development Needs, does your agency feel this need has increased over the last year?



39. Please explain your response, if desired, and add any other comments on the economic development needs in Merced City, especially related to low-income and minority/disadvantaged populations and geographic areas of the city.

9
Responses

Latest Responses

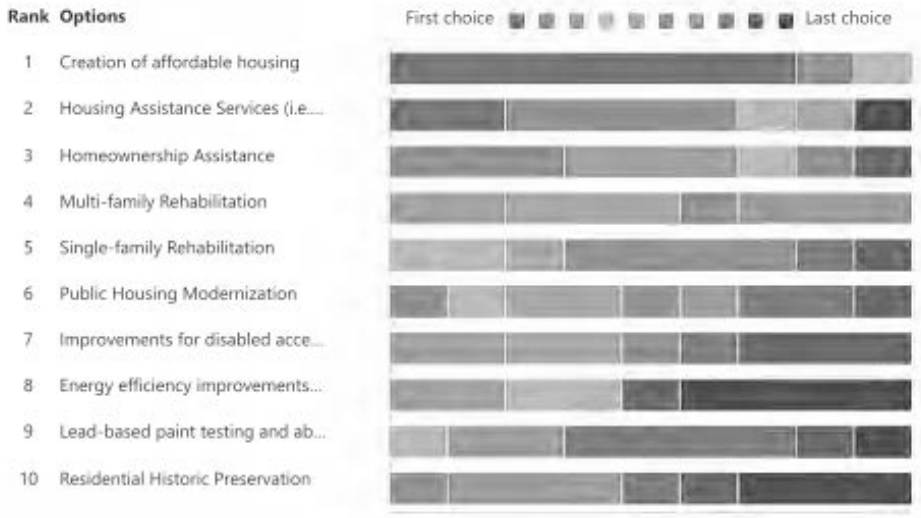
"So long as the residents of our County do not earn a living wage,...

"There is not enough affordable housing in Merced County. It see...

"People need more income to afford housing."

40. Housing Needs

Please prioritize the below housing needs to rank them in scale of current need or importance from highest to lowest, with the first one being the highest.



41. Regarding the #1 ranked answer for Housing Needs, does your agency feel this need has increased over the last year?

Yes, definitely	6
Maybe or about the same	2
No	1



42. Please explain your response, if desired, and add any other comments on the housing needs in Merced City, especially related to low-income and minority/disadvantaged populations and geographic areas of the city.

9
Responses

Latest Responses

"See previous answers."

"There is not enough affordable housing in Merced County. It see...

"Rents are rising and people can't afford what landlords are charg..

43. Additional comments, if any, that might help us.

Also, please list other organizations that should be included in this survey, and if you have one, provide a contact name, email address, and phone number (so that we can add them to this distribution list - thank you).

Thank you for your valuable time and thought in completing this consultation survey. We appreciate your collaborative efforts in furthering the needs of our community and its residents.

2
Responses

Latest Responses

"Shannon S. Gragg gragg.s@mccd.edu 209-384-6030"

2. Grantee Unique Appendices

1. **Home Program Loan Servicing Plan**
2. **Housing Division Policies and Procedures**
3. **Citizen Participation Plan - Amended**

CITY OF MERCED

HOME PROGRAM
LOAN SERVICING PLAN

The City of Merced, hereafter called "City" has adopted these policies and procedures in order to preserve its financial interest in properties, who's "Borrower'(s)" have been assisted with HOME funds. The City will to the greatest extent possible follow these policies and procedures but each loan will be evaluated and handled on a case-by-case basis. The City has formulated this document to comply with state and federal regulations regarding the use of these public funds and any property restrictions, which are associated with them.

The policies and procedures are broken down into the follow areas:

1) Making required monthly payments or voluntary payments on a loan's principle and interest;
2) Required payment of property taxes and insurance;
3) Required Request for Notice of Default on all second mortgages;
4) Loans with annual occupancy restrictions and certifications;
5) Required noticing and limitations on any changes in title or use of property;
6) Required noticing and process for requesting a subordination during a refinance; and
7) Process of foreclosure in case of default on the loan.

1. LOAN REPAYMENTS

The City will collect monthly payments from those borrowers who are obligated to do so under an Installment Note, which are amortized promissory notes.

For Straight Notes, which are deferred payment loans; the City may accept voluntary payments on the loan. Loan payments will be credited to the interest first and then to principal. The borrower may repay the loan balance at any time with no penalty.

The City will maintain a financial record-keeping system to record payments and file statements on payment status. Payments shall be deposited and accounted for in the City's Program Income Account as required.

Program loan payments will be made to:
City of Merced
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

When using HOME funds, the property is subject to the requirements of the period of affordability that is then associated with the property. The period of affordability is a time period during which there are restrictions placed upon refinancing or selling the home. The time period is based upon the amount of funds borrowed. Depending upon the circumstances, when refinancing or selling the home during the period of affordability, the original HOME loan may be required to be returned to

the City as either program income or recaptured funds. This is in accordance with Section 80208 of the California State HOME regulations. See the following chart for the period of affordability and loan amounts:

Amount of HOME Loan Funds	Period of Affordability
Under $15,000	5 years
$15,000 - $40,000	10 years
Over $40,000	15 years

All HOME loans are required to follow the recapture method. The Recapture option is a mechanism to recapture all or a portion of the direct HOME subsidy if the HOME recipient decides to sell the house before the end of the affordability period, at whatever price the market will bear. The Recapture option provides the Lender and the assisted homebuyer with maximum flexibility. The homebuyer is permitted to resell the property at whatever price the market will bear.

If the borrower, when paying off the debt to the lender, continues to reside in the home and it is during the period of affordability, the funds are considered Program Income funds. If the borrower, when paying off the debt to the City, ceases to reside in the home and it is during the period of affordability, the funds are considered Recaptured funds. After the affordability period ends, all repaid funds are considered Program Income.

When all debt to the lender has been satisfied, a Notice of Reconveyance will be issued to the borrower, without warranty, all the estate, title and interest acquired by the Lender under the Deed of Trust for that property.

When the City receives Program Income, they are permitted to keep 10% of the funds for administration. However, when Recaptured Funds are received, no administrative funds will be kept. 100% of Recaptured/Program Income Funds will be expended on another HOME-eligible activity before additional HOME funds may be drawn down.

Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation loans include the cost of rehabilitation, change orders, contingency, etc. When all the work is completed according to the work write-up and change order(s), the City of Merced will provide a letter to the homeowner reducing the principal amount of their loan by the balance remaining in their escrow account.

2. PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES AND INSURANCE

As part of keeping the loan from going into default, borrower must maintain property insurance coverage naming the City as loss payee in first position or additional insured if the loan is a second mortgage. If borrower fails to maintain the necessary insurance, the City may take out forced place insurance to cover the property while the Borrower puts a new insurance policy in place. All costs for installing the necessary insurance will be added to the loan balance at time of installation of Borrower's new insurance.

When a property is located in a 100-year flood plain, the Borrower will be required to carry the necessary flood insurance. A certificate of insurance for flood and for standard property insurance will be required at close of escrow. The City may check the insurance on an annual basis.

Property taxes must be kept current during the term of the loan. If the Borrower fails to maintain payment of property taxes then the City may pay the taxes current and add the balance of the tax payment plus any penalties to the balance of the loan. Wherever possible, the City encourages Borrower to have impound accounts set up with their first mortgagee wherein they pay their taxes and insurance as part of their monthly mortgage payment.

3. Required Request for Notice of Default

When the Borrower's loan is in second position behind an existing first mortgage, it is the City's policy to prepare and record a "Request for Notice of Default" for each senior lien in front of City's loan. This document requires any senior lien holder listed in the notice to notify the City of initiation of a foreclosure action. The City will then have time to contact the Borrower and assist them if possible in bringing the first loan current. The City can also monitor the foreclosure process and go through the necessary analysis to determine if the loan can be made whole or preserved.

4. Annual Occupancy Restrictions and Certifications

On some owner occupant loans the City may at its option require that Borrowers submit utility bills and/or other documentation annually to prove occupancy during the term of the loan. Other loans may have income and housing cost evaluations, which require a household to document that they are not able to make repayments, typically every one - five years. These loan terms are incorporated in the original note and deed of trust.

5. Required Noticing and Restrictions on Any Changes of Title or Occupancy

In all cases where there is a change in title or occupancy or use, the Borrower must notify the City in writing of any change. City and borrower will work together to ensure the property is kept in compliance with the original program terms and conditions such that it remains available as an affordable home for low-income families. These types of changes are typical when Borrowers do estate planning (adding a relative to title) or if a Borrower dies and property is transferred to heirs or when the property is sold or transferred as part of a business transaction. In some cases the Borrower may move and turn the property into a rental unit without notifying the City. Changes in title or occupancy must be in keeping with the objective of benefit to the Targeted Income Group (TIG) families.

Change from owner-occupant to owner-occupant might occur at a sale. When a new owner-occupant is not low-income, the loan is not assumable and the loan balance is immediately due and payable. If the new owner-occupant qualifies as low-income, the purchaser may either pay the loan in full or assume all loan repayment obligations of the original owner-occupant, subject to the approval of the City.

If a transfer of the property occurs through inheritance, the heir (as owner-occupant) may be provided the opportunity to assume the loan, provided the heir is in the TIG. If the heir intends to occupy the property and is not in TIG or if the heir intends to act as an investor, the balance of the loan is due and payable. All such changes are subject to the review and approval of the City.

Conversion to use other than residential use is not allowable where the full use of the property is changed from residential to commercial or other. In some cases, Borrowers may request that the City allow for a partial conversion where some of the residence is used for a business but the family

still resides in the property. Partial conversions can be allowed if it is reviewed and approved by any and all agencies required by local statute. If the use of the property is converted to a fully non-residential use, the loan balance is due and payable.

6. REQUESTS FOR SUBORDINATIONS

When a Borrower wishes to refinance the property, they must request a subordination request to the City. The City will only subordinate their loan when there is no "cash out" as part of the refinance. Cash out means there are no additional charges on the transaction above loan and escrow closing fees. There can be no third party debt pay offs or additional encumbrance on the property above traditional refinance transaction costs. Furthermore, the refinance should lower the housing cost of the family with a lower interest rate and the total indebtedness on the property should not exceed the current market value.

Upon receiving the proper documentation from the refinance agency, the request will be considered by the loan committee for review and approval. Upon approval, the escrow company will provide the proper subordination document for execution and recordation by the City.

7. PROCESS FOR LOAN FORECLOSURE

The City will send out a letter to the Borrower notifying them of the default situation upon any of the following condition of loan default:

1) Non payment;
2) Lack of insurance or property tax payment;
3) Violation of rent limitation agreement;
4) Change in title or use without approval; and
5) Default on senior loans.

If the default situation continues then the City may start a formal process of foreclosure.

When a senior lien holder starts a foreclosure process and the City is notified via a Request for Notice of Default, the City, who is the junior lien holder, may cancel the foreclosure proceedings by "reinstating" the senior lien holder. The reinstatement amount, or payoff amount must be obtained by contacting the senior lien holder. This amount will include all delinquent payments, late charges and fees to date. City must confer with Borrower to determine if, upon paying the senior lien holder current, the Borrower can provide future payments. If this is the case then the City may cure the foreclosure and add the costs to the balance of the loan with a Notice of Additional Advance on the existing note.

If the City determines, based on information on the reinstatement amount and status of borrower, that bringing the loan current will not preserve the loan, then staff must determine if it is cost effective to protect their position by paying off the senior lien holder in total and restructure the debt such that the unit is made affordable to the Borrower. If the City does not have sufficient funds to pay the senior lien holder in full, then they may choose to cure the senior lien holder and foreclose on the property themselves. As long as there is sufficient value in the property, the City can afford

to pay for the foreclosure process and pay off the senior lien holder and retain some or all of their investment.

If the City decides to reinstate, the senior lien holder will accept the amount to reinstate the loan up until five (5) days prior to the set "foreclosure sale date." This "foreclosure sale date" usually occurs about four (4) to six (6) months from the date of recording of the "Notice of Default." If the City fails to reinstate the senior lien holder before five (5) days prior to the foreclosure sale date, the senior lien holder would then require a full pay off of the balance, plus costs, to cancel foreclosure. If the City determines the reinstatement and maintenance of the property not to be cost effective and allows the senior lien holder to complete foreclosure, the City's lien may be eliminated due to insufficient sales proceeds.

8. CITY AS SENIOR LIEN HOLDER

When the City is in first position as a senior lien holder, active collection efforts will begin on any loan that is 31 or more days overdue. Attempts will be made to assist the homeowner in bringing and keeping the loan current. These attempts will be conveyed in an increasingly urgent manner until loan payments have reached 90 days in arrears, at which time the City may consider foreclosure. City's staff will consider the following factors before initiating foreclosure:

1) Can the loan be cured and can the rates and terms be adjusted to allow for affordable payments such that foreclosure is not necessary?
2) Can the Borrower refinance with a private Lender and pay off the City?
3) Can the Borrower sell the property and pay off the City?
4) Does the balance warrant foreclosure? (i.e. if the balance is under $5,000, the expense to foreclose may not be worth pursuing).
5) Will the sales price of home "as is" cover the principal balance owing, necessary advances,(maintain fire insurance, maintain or bring current delinquent property taxes, monthly yard maintenance, periodic inspections of property to prevent vandalism, etc.) foreclosure, and marketing costs?

If the balance is substantial and all of the above factors have been considered, the City may opt to initiate foreclosure. The Borrower must receive, by certified mail, a thirty-day notification of foreclosure initiation. This notification must include the exact amount of funds to be remitted to the City to prevent foreclosure.

At the end of thirty days, the City may contact a reputable foreclosure service or local title company to prepare and record foreclosure documents and make all necessary notifications to the owner and other lien holders. The service will advise the City of all required documentation to initiate foreclosure (Note and Deed of Trust) and funds required from the owner to cancel foreclosure proceedings. The service will keep the City informed of the progress of the proceedings.

When the process is completed, and the property has "reverted to the beneficiary" at the foreclosure sale, the City could sell the home themselves under a homebuyer program or use it for an affordable rental property managed by local not profit housing agencies or use it for transitional housing

facility or other eligible use. The City could contract with a local real estate broker to list and sell the home and use those funds for program income eligible uses.

9. REPAYMENT OF HOME LOANS

The borrower (applicant) can prepay the loan in part or whole, at any time without penalty.

10. SAMPLE PAYOFF

Compound Period: Exact Days

Nominal Annual Rate: 3.000 %
Daily Rate: $2.47

AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE
Normal Amortization

	Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
Loan Start Date	02/10/2000				30,000.00
Loan End Date	03/05/2008	37,264.11	7,264.11	30,000.00	0.00
Grand Totals		37,264.11	7,264.11	30,000.00	

11. DEMAND PROCESS

The City will process the payoff within 5 working days after receiving a payoff demand by the homeowner, Title Company, or Mortgage Company.

CITY OF MERCED

HOUSING PROGRAM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



July 2013

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

City of Merced Housing Program
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
Phone: (209) 385-6863
TDD/TTY: (209) 385-6816
Fax: (209) 723-1780
City's website: www.cityofmerced.org

HOUSING PROGRAM
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
Policies	
Geographical Area of Eligibility	5
Applicant Eligibility	5
Loan to Value Ratio	5
Projects Unsuitable for Rehabilitation	6
Types of Loans	6
Interest Rate	7
Payoff Period	7
Properties in Foreclosure	7
Other Terms and Conditions	7
Deferral of Loan Payments	8
Determination of Annual Income	9
Housing Expenses Defined	9
Owner Contractor Defined	9
Project/Loan Approval	9
Maximum Loan Amount	10
Contractors Eligibility	11
Services Provided	11
Procedures	
Loan Application	13
Emergency Loan	13
Property Survey/Floor Plan & Work Write Up	13
Contractor Selection	14
Loan Approval	15
Relocation	15
Construction	16
Monitoring and Inspections for Rental Units	17
First Time Home Buyer Program	
Program Qualifications	18
Payback	19
Conditions	19
Procedures	19

Affirmative Fair Marketing Procedures and Requirements
Methods and Practices for Informing the Public 21
Requirements and Practices for Owners 21
Procedures for Outreach to Persons Not Likely to Apply 22
Specific Procedures to Ensue Accessible Units are Occupied by Those Who Require Accessible Features 22
Recordkeeping and Monitoring 23
Assessment of Success and Corrective Action 24
Implementation Procedures 24
Requirements and Practices 25

Fair Housing Compliance
Disability Status 26
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan 26
Grievance Procedure 27
Course of Action 28

Appendix **Page**

A. Definitions 29
B. Public Notice Procedures 32
C. Complaint Form for Alleged Discrimination on the Basis of Disability 33

POLICIES
REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION, AND RENTAL UNITS

The purpose of these Policies and Procedures is to clearly outline the circumstances under which the City of Merced Housing Program funds are to be made available and utilized. These Policies and Procedures confirm to federal regulations governing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). If the contents of this manual conflict with any of the above, it is the regulations noted above that prevail.

➢ 1.1 GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF ELIGIBILITY

Loan funds can be used only for projects within the City of Merced limits.

➢ 1.2 APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

1.2a **Owner Occupant:** The borrower's family income for rehabilitation reconstruction projects must not exceed 80 percent of the Median Income limits established for Merced County.

1.2b **Rental Property Owner:** The income of all tenants residing in the rental units shall not exceed 80 percent of the HUD Section 8 income limits established for Merced County. In rare circumstances, approved by the Housing Program Supervisor or the Director of Economic Development, loan funds may be approved for projects where less than 100 percent of the tenants meet these income requirements, but in no circumstance shall the percentage of low-income tenants be less than 70 percent.

1.2c **First Time Home Buyer Program:** Applicants must meet specific requirements related to the program and funding source, as described in First Time Home Buyer Program Section of this document.

➢ 1.3 LOAN TO VALUE RATIO

1.3a **Owner Occupant Loans:** In rehabilitation and reconstruction projects, the total indebtedness on the property generally should not exceed 80 percent of the appraised value. The Housing Program Supervisor or the Director of Economic Development can make exceptions to these guidelines, but in no case shall the indebtedness on a property exceed 120 percent of its appraised value. The appraised value can be based in-house evaluation.

1.3b **Rental Property Loans:** The total indebtedness on rental property should not exceed 70 percent of the appraised value. The Housing Program Supervisor or the Director of Economic Development can make exceptions to these guidelines, but in no case shall the total indebtedness exceed the appraised value of the property.

➢ 1.4 PROJECTS UNSUITABLE FOR REHABILITATION

When, in the opinion of the Housing Program Supervisor, it would be more cost-effective to demolish a building and reconstruct a replacement structure of the same number of units on the site, a project is declared unsuitable for rehabilitation.

When such a determination has been made, the project will become a candidate for demolition and reconstruction. The City staff provides floor plans and work write-up for new construction at no additional cost to the homeowner.

➢ 1.5 TYPES OF LOANS

1.5a **Rehabilitation and Reconstruction:** These loans are usually for the elimination of substandard conditions, but reconstruction loans also apply to the construction of new housing on a vacant site that previously contained housing units. The number of units can be increased subject to compliance with City's zoning requirements and the Housing Program Manager's approval.

All loans for rehabilitation and reconstruction are at zero percent (0%) interest during construction, as long as all of the ultimate and continuing loan conditions are met. There is no housing affordability covenant requirement for owner-occupied rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.

1.5b **Rental Units:** Loans are not due until the certificate of occupancy is issued. After rehabilitation or reconstruction the dwelling units must meet funding source requirements regarding construction standards and quality.

The regulations of CDBG and HOME Programs identify eligible expenses, beneficiaries, and housing affordability covenant requirements. In the absence of more stringent funding source guidelines, the assisted rental properties shall be used for a minimum of five years by eligible occupants.

1.5c **Emergency:** These loans are for the purpose of repairing emergency conditions, such as leaking roofs or overflowing sewer lines and other repairs of emergency nature. These loans will be made where, in the judgment of the Housing Program Supervisor, it would be imprudent to delay repairs due to a danger to health and safety, or risk of further deterioration of the structure. On-site sewer construction for persons currently on septic tank system who want to hook up to City sewer would also be eligible for this type of loan.

In some emergency projects more than one contractor might be used to expedite the process. The Housing Rehab Specialist will be in charge of coordination of different trades involved in the project.

1.5d **First Time Home Buyer (FTHB):** See First Time Home Buyer Section of this document for details on FTHB loans.

➢ 1.6 INTEREST RATE

The interest rate for rehabilitation and reconstruction (owner-occupant) projects is three percent (3%). The interest rate for FTHB is also at 3% as it is discussed further in FTHB Section of this document.

The interest rate for small rental properties is 3 percent (3%) if the City of Merced Housing Program provides all of the funds, or zero percent (0%) interest if the applicant provides fifty percent (50%) of the project funds. At the discretion of the Housing Program Supervisor or the Director of Economic Development the interest rate for development of affordable housing projects can be as low as 0 percent (0 %).

➢ 1.7 PAYOFF PERIOD

If the owner-occupied rehabilitation applicant qualifies for an amortized loan, the standard term of a rehabilitation or reconstruction loan is 20 years. The loan can be entirely or partially amortized depending on the borrower's income. If the borrower qualifies for a deferred loan, the interest (simple interest) will accumulate for up to 10 years. After 10 years the interest will stop accumulating and the payment will be calculated based on the total principal and 10 years of interest.

The borrowers financial status will be evaluated every five years, which will determine if the loan will be deferred or amortized. According to HUD 30-percent-of-income guidelines, households should not pay more than 30 percent of their income toward housing costs in federally assisted housing. The term of the loan may be longer or shorter, depending upon the amount borrowed and the financial situation of the borrower.

➢ 1.8 PROPERTIES IN FORECLOSURE

If a property is in foreclosure by the primary lender, the Housing Program Supervisor or the Director of Economic Development can act on behalf of the City by negotiating with the owner or by placing a cost estimate at the time of sale to protect the City's assets. The Housing Program will also coordinate with the City Attorney's office on bankruptcy projects for appropriate actions to protect the City's assets.

➢ 1.9 OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The loan shall be secured by a Deed of Trust.
2. Title insurance on the property shall be required.

3. Payments on amortized loans shall be due monthly.

4. The loans for rehab/reconstruction may be prepaid at any time without penalty. The term does not apply to First Time Home Buyer (FTHB) loans. See FTHB section of this document for more information.

➢ 1.10 DEFERRAL OF LOAN PAYMENTS

1.10a **Owner Occupant:** Housing loan payments can be deferred if the current housing expenses of the applicant are such that they would exceed thirty percent of their gross income, should they make payments on the City of Merced's loan.

The loan payments are deferred for a period of five years, and then the financial situation of the borrower is re-examined to determine continuing eligibility for payment deferral. If this is the case, the loan payments are deferred for another five-year period, and the financial situation is again re-examined. This process of five-year deferrals continues until the property is sold, or transferred, at such point the City's loan, including any accumulated interest, becomes immediately due and payable to the City.

An exception is if an income-eligible relative assumes the property. In this case, the person may assume the City's loan at the discretion of Housing Program Manager. Interest on a deferred loan is calculated on a non-compounding basis, and stops accruing after ten years.

Persons whose income would allow a partial payment on the City of Merced loan are required to make such payments up to an amount which makes their monthly housing expense no higher than thirty percent of the gross family income. Partially deferred loans shall be reviewed every five years.

Whenever the income situation of a borrower changes significantly, they are required to contact the City of Merced Housing Program. This is especially true of families who are making payments on an amortized loan whose income level decreases. If the situation warrants it, the amortized loan can be converted to a deferred payment loan.

1.10b **Rental Property:** Owners of a rental property may have their loan payments deferred one time, for a period of five years. The only applicable time period for the deferral is at the initiation of the loan.

Rental property qualifies for a loan payment deferral if the surplus of income-over-expenses is less than $200 per month. Interest, however, continues to accumulate on a non-compounded basis.

➢ 1.11 DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL INCOME

For the purpose of determining eligibility for loans through the Housing Program, the total income of all persons living in the dwelling unit shall be considered, unless one of the parties is renting a room and paying rent, in which case the rent paid is defined as income. The Section 8, Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) definition for annual income shall be utilized in establishing eligibility for the City of Merced Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Loan Program. Once all sources of income are known and defined, the City converts periodic wages to annual income based on the HCV guidelines. For a detailed guide refer to HCV Program Guidebook at: http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/forms/guidebook.cfm

➢ 1.12 HOUSING EXPENSES DEFINED

For the purpose of determining eligibility for a totally or partially deferred loan, housing expenses shall be defined as the following:

1. Mortgage payments for indebtedness secured by the property.
2. Mortgage insurance premiums.
3. Hazard insurance, including flood insurance.
4. Real estate taxes and special assessments.
5. Major maintenance or repairs.
6. Utilities, to include water, sewer, refuse, and natural or propane gas and electricity.

➢ 1.13 OWNER-CONTRACTOR DEFINED

An owner of property who receives a loan through the City of Merced Housing Program and holds a valid and appropriate contractor's license through the State of California, at the discretion of the Housing Program Manager, can act as contractor on the rehabilitation or reconstruction project. The project cost reasonableness has to be approved by the Housing Program Manager.

➢ 1.14 PROJECT/LOAN APPROVAL

1.14a **Approval:** Projects and loans shall be approved by the Housing Program Supervisor, the City Manager, the Finance Officer, and the City Attorney. Project approval depends on funding availability and a waiting list is put together for the applicants. The Housing Program Supervisor, within funding source guidelines also:

1. Develops and signs agreements for the re-construction of units of rental housing that also may involve property acquisition.

2. Signs subordination agreements for loans previously issued when the collateral interests of the City of Merced are maintained and the borrower (owner-occupants only), would be benefited.

1.14b **Criteria:** Criteria for approval may include the following:

1. Eligibility of the applicant based on applicant's income, housing condition, and property location.

2. The existing debt on the property based on criteria described in **1.3a** of this document.

3. Credit worthiness of the applicant.

1.14c **Desirability:** Desirability of the projects is based on the following:

1. To improve and preserve the physical environment and appearance of residential neighborhoods in Merced.

2. To eliminate housing conditions which are a detriment to health, safety, and public welfare.

3. To revitalize Merced's housing stock by continuing programs that rehabilitate substandard units.

4. To provide technical assistance to homeowners and investors that rent to low-and moderate-income families.
5. To find additional avenues to leverage CDBG and HOME funds to promote housing rehabilitation and reconstruction.

6. To work towards providing decent, safe, and sanitary owner occupied and rental housing stock to low-and moderate-income households.

➢ 1.15 MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT

The amount of funds to be loaned by the City of Merced for rehabilitation and reconstruction projects is based on the cost established through the solicitation of cost estimates from contractors for completion of a specified scope of work by the Rehabilitation Specialist. The Rehabilitation Specialist also prepares an independent cost estimate in order to verify fair and reasonable cost.

The loan amount is based on the lowest responsible cost estimate plus six percent (6%). There have been some cases that owners preferred to select different contractors from the list but they could not afford to pay the difference. The additional 6% will give the homeowners more flexibility to select different contractors. If the difference is higher than 6%, the homeowner is required to pay the additional difference the Program or the contractor. The Housing Program Manager determines the loan amount.

In the case of owner-contractor job, an exception can be made to the requirement that loan amounts are determined by solicitation of contractor cost estimates. In this instance, the owner-contractor and the Rehabilitation Specialist estimate the project's costs. The amounts to be paid are based on actual expenditures supported by invoices, plus reasonable profit and overhead as defined by local standards and the City of Merced Housing Program. Reasonable variation in establishing loan amount and contractor selection by owners may be made if warranted by the situation contingent on the Housing Program Manager approval.

➢ 1.16 CONTRACTORS ELIGIBILITY

The Housing Program has a list of eligible contractors who are appropriately licensed in the State of California and the City of Merced and are on the list to do the work. The owner of the property shall select any of the contractors on the list who fall in the 6% loan amount price range. If the owner already has a contractor on mind, the contractor has to be added to the list in order to do be eligible to do the work.

The contractors who are within the 6% range will be invited for interviews with the homeowner and selection process will be conducted in the Housing Division. Subsequent to the contractor selection by the owner, the City of Merced Housing Program provides the loan funds based on the above stated criteria. Contractors are required to follow the requirements that are established by the Housing Program under the Section 2.4 (Contractor Selection) in the Procedure section of this Manual. Contractors not following the Policies and Procedures will not be invited to the selection process.

➢ 1.17 SERVICES PROVIDED

The City of Merced Housing Program provides the following services for the applicants:

1. Eligibility screening of applicant,

2. Loan processing and coordination with the title companies,

3. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) report on the project and clearance report,

4. Property deficiency survey and identifying the needed work,

5. Written scope of work to be done,

6. Plans and working drawings,

7. Submittal of plans for permit process,

8. Conducting contractor's cost estimate tour,

9. Assisting homeowners with contractors selection,

10. Quality assurance and phase completion inspection in addition to required inspections by the Inspection Services Division,

11. Release of scheduled payments to the contractor upon homeowner's approval, and

12. Relocation assistance as is described in relocation assistance of the Procedure Section of this manual, Section 2.6.

PROCEDURES
REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION, AND RENTAL UNITS

➢ 2.1 LOAN APPLICATION

1. Loan Information application is filled out with the potential borrower's (applicant) contact information, property information, type of improvements to be done, including any improvements requiring emergency repair.

2. If there are no emergency repairs required, the potential borrower's name will be placed on a waiting list.

3. Potential borrower is contacted to submit a completed application. Names are taken from the waiting list on a first come first served basis.

4. The Finance Specialist determines eligibility of the applicant and processes the loan application.

5. If borrower meets the program guidelines, they will be notified that their application has been approved.

6. Environmental report according to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will be prepared by the Housing Division staff.

➢ 2.2 EMERGENCY LOAN

1. In case of emergency conditions, the property will be surveyed by the Rehabilitation Specialist to determine if the repairs warrant an emergency loan.

2. If the property is in need of emergency repairs the potential borrower is asked to submit an application.

3. Once the application is processed and it is determined that borrower is eligible under the program guidelines a loan will be given only if the items in need of repair are considered an emergency.

➢ 2.3 PROPERTY SURVEY/FLOOR PLAN &WORK WRITE-UP

1. Property is surveyed by the Housing Rehabilitation Specialist and Building Inspector from the Inspection Services Division for deficiencies.

2. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist sends survey letter to the owner.

3. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist prepares work write-up and working drawings detailing scope of work to be done, based on survey of property and owner's input.

4. The owner approves the work write-up and their choice of any floor plans that are prepared by the City.

➢ 2.4 CONTRACTOR'S SELECTION

1. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor conducts project tour (cost estimate tour) for qualified contractors on the Housing Program list. Contractors wishing to submit a cost estimate, or their representatives, must be present at the tour.

2. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor prepares an independent cost estimate.

3. The Housing Program receives contractors' estimates. Cost estimates will be recorded at the date and time of opening. No late cost estimated will be allowed.

4. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist and the Housing Program Supervisor sign the Certification of Cost Reasonableness. The amount of loan is set at 6% above the lowest responsible cost estimate.

5. The owner is provided with a list of contractors who are within 6% range of the lowest responsible cost estimate.

6. The owner meets with the eligible contractors in the Housing Program office for the contractor's selection process. Contractors wishing to contact the homeowner must first get approval from the Housing Division. Contractors not following the guidelines will not be awarded the job.

7. The owner selects a contractor after going through the above process. In order to distribute projects in an even way among participating contractors, no contractor is authorized to have more than two jobs at one time. The Housing Supervisor can approve award of more than two projects under special circumstances.

8. On emergency projects if it is more time and cost efficient, the homeowners can provide cost estimate from different contractors to do the work. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor can provide assistance to the homeowner to receive cost estimates. The Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor will review the cost estimates and

the contractor with the lowest responsible cost estimate will be awarded the job.

➢ 2.5 LOAN APPROVAL

1. Housing Program Supervisor approves the loan.

2. Housing Finance Specialist draws up loan documents and contracts.

3. Housing Program Supervisor, City Manager, Finance Officer, City Attorney, Owner, Contractor, and all other parties as appropriate, sign documents.

4. Deed of Trust is recorded.

5. Notice to Proceed is mailed to the contractor.

➢ 2.6 RELOCATION

2.6a. **Owner-occupants:** Housing Division staff administers Temporary relocation of owner-occupant clients. Relocation procedures are based on the HUD Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1970 and the following steps are taken:

1. The Housing Division will assist the homeowner in looking for a suitable place for relocation.

2. Relocation costs are either a grant or a loan to the borrower:

   a) Grant costs include: security deposit, monthly rent, connection of telephone and cable.

   b) Loan costs include: storage fees and moving supplies/fees.

4. Homeowner is provided with a relocation letter and information pamphlet outlining the above information.

2.6b. **Tenants:** Housing staff administers temporary relocation of tenants. Relocation procedures are based on the HUD Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1970. The following steps are taken to minimize displacement as a result of a HUD-assisted project:

1. General Information Notice (GIN) is provided to tenants as soon as feasible after the owner's submission of an application.

2. Move-In Notice to tenants moving in after initial application (GIN) is provided, before the tenant agrees to move into the project (prior to start).

3. Notice of Non-displacement is provided to tenants who will remain in the project.

4. Temporary Relocation Notice is provided to tenants who will be temporarily relocated.

5. Notice of Eligibility is provided to tenants who will be displaced.

6. 90-Day and 30-Day Notices are provided to tenants who will be displaced.

2.6c. **Other Conditions:**

1. The Housing Program Supervisor will establish a reasonable rent amount based on the local housing market.

2. If a homeowner wishes to relocate to a unit where the rent exceeds the established amount, the homeowner will be responsible for the difference.

3. The relocation unit must be within the city limits of Merced. An exception may be made at the discretion of the Housing Program Supervisor if the relocation unit is located in the unincorporated area of Merced or in Atwater.

4. The city will make a reasonable attempt to find a unit that allow pets, however; if a unit is not available it will be the responsibility of the homeowner to find a place for the pets to stay.

5. Any property damage to the relocation unit other than normal wear and tear will be the responsibility of the homeowner. The City will make the repairs and the costs will be added to the loan.

➢ 2.7 CONSTRUCTION

1. Building permit is issued in the owner and contractor's name.

2. The Building Inspector and the Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor, performs inspections at various phases of construction as required by City and Building Codes.

3. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor monitors the project for quality control and phase completion.

4. The Housing Division issues phase completion checks to the contractor upon owner's approval. The payments are based on progress schedule and Ten percent (10%) of each payment is withheld for contingency and any possible liens.

5. Contractor must provide lean release waver from his/her subcontractors prior to issuance of the final progress payment.

6. Owner signs the Notice of Completion for recording.

7. Contractor receives the 10% withheld, 35 days after the notice of completion is recorded.

➢ 2.8 MONITORING AND INSPECTIONS FOR RENTAL UNITS

The Housing Division conducts inspections for HOME-assisted rental housing. HOME rules require on-site inspections of properties according to the number of units in a project—every three years for 1-4 unit projects, every two years for 5-25 unit projects, and every one-year for projects containing 26 or more unit projects. HOME funded projects must meet Merced Municipal Code and Uniform Housing Code to ensure that the HOME-assisted housing is decent, safe, and sanitary.

The owner of the rental property is responsible to keep adequate records to demonstrate compliance with HOME requirements including applying the fair housing requirements. The owner shall keep both project and tenant records showing rent and utility allowance calculations, and documentation necessary to demonstrate that the tenants are income eligible. There are no inspection requirements for owner-occupied rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.

FIRST TIME HOME BUYER PROGRAM

The First Time Home Buyer Assistance Program is aimed at providing financial support to families who might otherwise be unable to purchase a home. The funds for this program are provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

➢ 3.1 PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

1. The household income cannot exceed 80 percent (80%) of Merced County Median Income adjusted for household size.

2. Maximum loan is for up to 10% towards the down payment plus up to 5% towards closing costs.

3. Maximum sales price limit based on the median home sales price is subject to change in accordance with state and federal median home prices. Home price to be verified by a qualified appraiser.

4. The applicant must not have owned a home for at least the last three years.

5. The applicant must be able to qualify for a first mortgage loan. The first mortgage loan must be a 30-year fixed interest rate loan.

6. The applicant must provide cash contribution equal to at least one percent (1%) of the sales price of the house. The cash contribution must be "applicants own funds", and it cannot be borrowed or be part of a rebate from the seller. FHA or Conventional lender guidelines can be used for determining "applicants own funds".

7. There is no prior residency requirement. In case of too many applicants, priority will be given to those with higher prior residency in the City, retirees, or those having primary business or job in the City.

8. Only single-family homes located within the City of Merced city limits are eligible under this program. The house to be purchased must be within the Merced City limits.

9. Applicant must contact the Housing Division to verify the home is within the city limits of Merced prior to signing a purchase agreement.

10. Applicant(s) must participate in a one day HUD approved education class. A copy of the certification must be submitted to the City. There is no cost to the applicant(s).

11. Applicant must occupy the house as a primary residence.

➢ 3.2 PAYBACK

The applicant will be receiving a deferred payment loan that will be secured by a second deed of trust for the first five years. See Section 3.3 of this document for terms and conditions.

➢ 3.3 CONDITIONS

1. The funds loaned will be without interest or required payback for the first 5 years (60 months). Beginning on the 61st month, interest at the rate of three (3) percent will begin to accumulate and payments at an amount necessary to pay off the principle and interest during the next 25 years (300 months) will begin.

2. The loan amount shall be based on the set guidelines in order for the applicant to purchase the property. The City loan is for down payment and closing costs and is not intended to be a portion of the "Primary Mortgage Loan". It is expected that the applicant will purchase a house that is in-line with their borrowing power as determined by income and credit history.

3. The house must be owner-occupied and the deed shall restrict the resale of the property for a period of 10 years. If there is a prepayment on the loan or should the property be sold within 10 years from the date of the loan origination, the applicant will be obliged to pay the City a penalty of 4% on the original loan amount starting from the loan origination date.

4. If the home is sold or transferred within 10 years from the date of the loan origination, the applicant shall pay the City a percentage share of the difference between the amounts received for the property and its value at the time of sale or transfer. The percentage share is determined on a declining scale, beginning at 10 percent in year 1, decreasing 1 percent each year to 1 percent in year 10.

5. The calculation of City participation shall be based on the minimum down payment required by the lender based on the sales price, plus reasonable and necessary closing costs. A maximum of ten percent of City loan funds can be used for the "down payment" and a maximum of five percent of City loan funds can be used for the "closing costs". The City will not pay for "2 to 1 buy-down" fees or discount points.

➢ 3.4 PROCEDURES

1. The applicant (borrower) will provide a pre-qualified lender letter with the application and all required documentation.

2. The application will be screened for basic eligibility requirements.

3. The primary mortgage lender must verify that "borrowers own funds" are not less than one percent of the sales price, and that the request for City funds

meets the required guidelines of the First Time Home Buyer Assistance Program. This amount shall be determined through discussion with the primary mortgage lender.

4. When the applicant has secured a house to purchase, and received the primary loan approval, the City of Merced shall grant final approval of its loan.

NOTE: Applicant *should not* execute a purchase agreement prior to receiving a final approval for the City of Merced's First Time Home Buyer program.

Affirmative Fair Marketing Procedures and Requirements

The Affirmative Marketing Plan is designed to provide information on available dwelling units in a manner in which individuals of similar income levels in the same housing market area have available to them. The information must provide range of choices in housing regardless of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, familial status or national origin. The City of Merced requires that all HOME funded activities be marketed to eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, familial status or disability. These procedures are intended to further the objectives of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Executive Order 11063, and City's local Fair Housing Efforts.

➢ 4.1 Methods and Practices for Informing the Public

The City of Merced is committed to ensuring decent, affordable housing for its residents. In order to inform the public, owners, and prospective tenants about federal fair housing laws, the City will require the developers to include the Equal Housing Opportunity logotype and/or slogan, and a logotype and/or slogan indicating accessibility to the disabled, in all press releases, solicitations, and program information materials. The City also continues to provide funding to the Central Valley Coalition to provide information and training regarding fair housing laws and policies.

➢ 4.2 Requirements and Practices for Owners

All developers who receive funds from the City are required to enter into loan agreements with the City prior to receiving funds. These agreements are designed to bind the recipients to all of the program requirements, including the affirmative fair marketing procedures. Developers receiving funds are required to create units that are accessible to people with disabilities according to applicable codes. In addition to federal laws requiring units for people with physical disabilities, fair housing laws require owners to make reasonable accommodations for people with all types of disabilities. When providing a requested accommodation would result in an undue financial and administrative burden, developers are required to take any other action that would not result in an undue burden.

As a condition of the agreements on affordable housing projects, not less than 120 days prior to project completion, owners must submit proposed marketing and management plans to the City for review and approval. Prior to commencing marketing activities, owners will be required to meet with City staff to review the proposed marketing strategy to ensure that affirmative marketing efforts will be employed. Management plans must include policies for ensuring reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. Management plans must also contain policies and provisions for recordkeeping and monitoring.

Marketing plans must include information on strategies for reaching persons and groups not likely to apply including, but not limited to, households with a disabled member. Marketing plans must include procedures for ensuring that accessible units are occupied by people with disabilities who require accessible features, as described below. Marketing plans must also include the use of the fair housing logotype and/or slogan, and use of a logotype and/or slogan indicating accessibility to the disabled. Fair housing posters must be displayed at the project rental or sales office. Owners are required to advertise in newspapers of general circulation, and to provide notice to community groups when units become available.

Marketing strategies must include use of a welcoming statement to encourage people with disabilities to apply for units, as well as a description of available units, accessible features, eligibility criteria, and the application process. Marketing plans must indicate that qualified applicants with disabilities who request accommodation shall receive priority for the accessible units. Open houses and marketing offices must be accessible to allow disabled persons to visit the site and retrieve information about accessible units.

➢ 4.3 Procedures for Outreach to Persons not Likely to Apply

Owners are required to engage in special outreach to persons and groups in the housing market area who, in the absence of such outreach, are not likely to apply for the housing. In determining what special outreach is needed, owners should take into account past patterns of discrimination, the racial and ethnic makeup of the neighborhood, language barriers, location, or other factors that might make it less likely that some persons and groups (a) would be aware of the availability of the housing or (b) would be likely to apply for the housing.

Owners are, in particular, required to advertise in media which are reasonably likely to reach such targeted groups, and to provide notice to community organizations, fair housing agencies, and other similar organizations. A list of local disability organizations and community development boards will be provided by the City of Merced along with sample advertisements. Multilingual advertising is encouraged where such efforts would result in reaching persons and groups not likely to apply.

➢ 4.4 Specific Procedures to Ensue Accessible Units are Occupied by those who Require Accessible Features

Outreach by owners to the disability community shall include the distribution of notices describing:

1. the availability of all units;
2. specific information regarding the availability and features of accessible units;

3. eligibility criteria; and
4. application procedures.

All application forms shall include information indicating that people with disabilities requiring accessible features shall receive priority for accessible units. The application must include a section to be filled out by any applicant requesting an accommodation with details on the applicant's special needs for accessible features or other accommodations. Under no circumstance should an applicant be required to disclose a disability unless requesting an accommodation. This will allow developers to provide, upfront, any necessary accessible features and/or accommodations for those people requesting accommodations.

Owners shall take reasonable nondiscriminatory steps to maximize the utilization of accessible units by eligible individuals whose disability requires the accessibility features of the particular unit. To this end, any vacant accessible unit should first be offered to a current, disabled tenant of the same project or comparable project under the owner's control. When offering an accessible unit to applicants without disabilities, the owner may require such applicants to agree to move to a non-accessible unit when one becomes available or when the accessible unit is needed by a disabled household. Such an agreement may be incorporated into the lease.

Note: An owner may not prohibit an eligible family with a member who has a disability from accepting a non-accessible unit which may become available before an accessible unit. Owners are required to modify such a non-accessible unit as needed or move a disabled household into a unit that can be altered, unless the modifications would result in an undue financial and administrative burden or alteration in the nature of a program. All applicants should be provided information about how to request a reasonable accommodation at the time they apply for admission and at every recertification.

➢ 4.5 RECORDKEEPING AND MONITORING

Owners must maintain records for at least five years regarding marketing and tenant selection practices. Upon request, owners are required to submit to the City copies of all advertisements indicating the date the advertisements were placed and the media outlets which were used. Owners must provide copies of notices sent to community groups and a listing of those groups to which notices were sent. Owners must maintain records regarding the characteristics of persons applying for vacant units, and the characteristics (including race and familial status) of persons actually selected for the units. Owners' records must also include the number, location, and description of accessible units, and success in filling such units with people who need accessible features or other accommodations. Owners must document any reasonable accommodations made to, or requested by, tenants during the reporting year.

As part of the City's monitoring of assisted housing developments, the City will review the owners' records to verify that each qualified household living in an accessible unit has at least one household member who needs the accessible features. The duration of monitoring of Affirmative Fair Marketing Requirements varies with each program. For homeownership, the requirements apply through the completion of initial sales transactions on units covered by the approved plan. For assisted rental housing, requirements apply throughout the term of the loan and regulatory agreements, including those periods when the project does not maintain sustaining occupancy.

➢ 4.6 ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The City will review records maintained by owners to ensure that affirmative fair marketing requirements are being met. Where the characteristics of applicants are significantly different from the make-up of the City's population, the City will examine in more detail the owner's actions to determine if a violation of the requirements has occurred. Initially, owners who have not fully complied with the requirements are directed to engage in targeted marketing efforts to reach groups not initially reached. In cases where owners refuse to comply with the affirmative fair marketing procedures, the City may take additional actions to secure performance under the loan agreement, including declaring the loan in default and recapturing the funds.

➢ 4.7 IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

1. Informing the Public: Recipients shall inform the public of their proposed activities through local media advertisements and announcements that include the Equal Opportunity logo or slogan. Recipients shall notify the local Public Housing Authority (PHA) and request that applicants on the PHA waiting lists be informed of the upcoming availability of rental units. Community organizations, places of worship, employment centers, fair housing groups, human resources agencies and housing counseling agencies shall be informed about the upcoming rental opportunities.

2. Informing Tenants: If funding is used to rehabilitate a property, the recipient shall mail letters to the current tenants informing them of the impending property rehabilitation. This letter shall include a fair housing statement along with the Equal Opportunity logo or slogan.

3. Informing Owners: TCAP recipients shall sign a certification that they have received, read, understood and complied with all requirements set forth in this Plan. This certification will be required prior to receiving any TCAP funds.

➢ 4.8 REQUIREMENTS AND PRACTICES:

HOME recipients must adhere to each element of this Plan. The elements of this Plan include, but are not limited to:

1. Institute policies and procedures which negate the impact of discrimination aimed at those persons in the following classes (Note: this list is not exhaustive):
    a. Minority race or ethnicity;
    b. Limited English proficient persons;
    c. Households headed by a single person;
    d. Disabled persons;
    e. Elderly persons; and
    f. Families with children.
2. Provide translated materials for persons who are limited English proficient.
3. Maintain records describing actions taken to affirmatively market the rental units, and maintain records assessing the results of such actions.
4. Maintain records outlining the success/failure of all affirmative marketing actions taken, and maintain records of any corrective action.

FAIR HOUSING COMPLIANCE

➢ 5.1 DISABILITY STATUS:

The City of Merced does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission, or access to, or treatment, or employment, in its federally funded program or activities. The City additionally extends the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability established by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, to all activities including those that do not receive Federal financial assistance. All Housing Program sub-recipients are required to provide the disability status, nature of disability of all clients, and steps taken for reasonable accommodation.

Deneen Proctor, Director of Support Services, has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, (24 CFR Part 8).

Contact Information:
Deneen Proctor,
Director of Support Services/ADA Compliance Coordinator
Telephone Number: (209) 385-6837 (Voice), (209) 385-6816 (TDD)

➢ 5.2 LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN:

The City of Merced Housing Program provides funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a variety of services. These services are accessible to all eligible citizens of Merced. The City is committed to improving the accessibility of these services to eligible individuals who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The City has developed and implemented a process by which LEP individuals can meaningfully access the services. In addition, the City works with its sub recipients of Federal financial to provide meaningful access to their LEP applicants and beneficiaries.

The City of Merced has significant concentrations of low-income households and racial/ethnic minorities in Central and South Merced where most of the City's services are needed. In particular, there is a large concentration of people of Hispanic origin and those primarily Hmong and Laotian in the moderate, low and very low-income categories. The majority of the Housing Program clients, however, are Hispanic people who are proficient in English language. On average less than 10 percent of the housing rehabilitation and first time homebuyer clients seek translation assistance on their initial visits to the City to inquire about the program. The City also supports CDBG funded public services programs in the City. Agencies running those programs are also required to provide translation assistance to LEP clients. Those agencies

include the Merced Lao Family and the Healthy House, both with qualified staff to help LEP persons.

The City of Merced promotes and facilitates services to LEP persons. As stated in the City's ordinance, the City has Spanish and Hmong speaking staff members who are available for direct contact or via phone during working hours to help with LEP clients. The City translators are available to help the Housing Program staff when needed.

The Housing Program follows guidelines to outreach LEP persons on public notices and Council meetings regarding our services (See attached Public Services Procedures). The Program places notices in English in the City's daily and weekly newspapers. The notices are also posted in Spanish, Hmong, and English on City's website, at South Merced Police Community Aide and at Merced Lao Family. Both South Merced Police Community Aide and Merced Lao family receive CDBG assistance to offer different eligible programs and their bilingual staff is available to provide additional help. The notices in English also indicate that the summary of the program publications will be translated in Spanish or Hmong and also translation services are available at all City Council meetings upon request.

- **5.3** GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE:

This Grievance Procedure gives the recipient of CDBG and HOME funded or assisted programs and activities a tool to resolve disputes with the City of Merced Housing Program. It also provides information on the regulatory requirements for the Housing Program grievance procedure along with some practical guidance about how to make the process work better for both clients and the Housing Program.

The American with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The use of an internal grievance procedure is not required before filing other administrative or judicial remedies. Formal filing of a complaint with the appropriate federal enforcement agency may be done at the same time as the filing of an internal grievance.

The City of Merced has adopted an internal grievance procedure for prompt and expeditious resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by the American with Disabilities Act. Complaints should be addressed to the designated ADA Compliance Coordinator:

Deneen Proctor
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
Phone # (209) 385-6837; TDD # (209) 385-6816

➢ **5.4** COURSE OF ACTION:

1) A complaint shall be filed in writing. It must contain the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing (complaint), and a brief description of the alleged violation. It must be signed by the complainant or someone authorized to act on the complainant's behalf. The complainant shall be promptly notified of the receipt and acceptance of the complaint.

2) An investigation shall be conducted within fifteen (15) days after a complaint is filed. A complainant shall have the right to an informal confidential presentation of their complaint within a reasonable amount of time.

3) The ADA Compliance Coordinator shall issue a written decision, after full consideration of the complaint, with a process for resolution of any problem within 45 days of receiving the complaint. A copy shall be forwarded to the complainant.

4) The ADA Coordinator shall maintain the confidentiality of all files and records relating to complaints filed, unless disclosure is authorized or required by law.

5) The complainant may request within 10 days a reconsideration of the case in instances where she/he is dissatisfied with the resolution.

6) Any retaliation, coercion, intimidation, threat, interference, or harassment for filing of a grievance, or used to restrain a complainant from filing, is prohibited and should be reported immediately to the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

7) Complainant may be represented.

Individuals, or a specific class of individuals, who believe that they have been subject to discrimination on the basis of disability by a public agency may file a complaint within 180 days of the date of the alleged discrimination with the City of Merced Housing Program.

An applicant may, at any time, exercise the right to appeal the City of Merced Housing Program decision through the local HUD office or the US Department of Justice. Individuals may contact the local HUD office at:

US Department of Housing and Urban Development
600 Harrison Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94107-1300

APPENDIX A
DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply to the policies and procedures unless another meaning is clearly apparent from the context.

CDBG: The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. It works largely to provide affordable housing and to expand economic opportunities mainly for low and moderate-income persons.

CHANGE ORDER: That written document in which the purpose will be to approve all changes in the work as specified in the work write-up.

CITY: City of Merced, California. When determinations, approvals, or interpretations are intended, "City" shall mean the City staff persons designated.

CONTRACTOR: A building, plumbing, electrical, or other building trades contractor, licensed by the State of California, and **OWNER/CONTRACTOR**, as used in these Provisions, shall also mean an owner-borrower who is capable of performing certain tradesman work and who, in fact, does perform, or causes to be performed, certain self-help rehabilitation work on his or her own home.

DEED OF TRUST: Legal title to the property that is vested in one or more trustees to secure the repayment of the loan.

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A person employed by the City to oversee the Housing Division and the Economic Development Department of the City.

DWELLING UNIT: A single owner-occupied or rental unit providing independent living facilities for one or more persons including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation. As used in these policies, dwelling unit shall not include hotel or motel rooms, mobile homes, rooming and/or boarding houses.

FAMILY INCOME: The sum of money income received in a calendar year by the family members related through blood or marriage.

FORECLOSURE: A termination of the right of an owner securing a loan in the property covered by the mortgage.

HOME: The Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990. Its main objective is to create affordable housing for low and very low-income families.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME: The sum of money income of household members regardless of relationship through blood or marriage.

HOUSING DIVISION: The Housing Program of the City of Merced, receiving and managing CDBG, HOME, and State housing-related funds.

HOUSING FINANCE SPECIALIST: A person employed by the City to determine applicant eligibility, provide financial counseling to home owners and investors, and supervise loan preparation, escrow accounts, and loan servicing.

HOUSING PROGRAM SUPERVISOR: A person employed by the City of Merced to be the administrative head and day-to-day operation of the Housing Program.

HOUSING REHABILITATION SPECIALIST: A person employed by the City under the Housing Division and working to provide technical building assistance to homeowners pursuant to the policies, regulations and provisions of the City's Housing Program.

HUD: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (of the Federal Government).

INSPECTION SERVICES DIVISION: A Division of Development Services of the City of Merced, managing and conducting permit issuance and inspections on all construction activities in the City of Merced.

LIEN: A form of encumbrance against the property, which provides security for the payment of a debt or discharge of an obligation. Example: judgments, taxes, mortgages, deeds of trust.

MEDIAN INCOME: The amount which divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount.

MORTGAGE: A written legal document that creates a lien upon real estates as a security for the payment of a specified debt.

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

NSP1: Neighborhood Stabilization Program 1.

NSP3: Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3.

OWNER CONTRACTOR: A homeowner performing his own work as per City of Merced Policies and Procedures.

OWNER OCCUPANT: A family or individual who occupies and owns or is buying a unit or units of residential property.

REHABILITATION COSTS: The total cost of repairs and improvements and other costs of rehabilitation to be incurred by the applicant that is includable in a rehabilitation loan.

RENTAL PROPERTY OWNER: A family or individual who owns or is buying a unit or units of residential property and who rents these units to a tenant who is within the low to moderate income guidelines.

SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING: An independent structure used for housing a maximum of one family.

SURVEY: The preliminary inspection of the dwelling for code violations, deterioration, improper construction and hazardous conditions existing that are dangerous to the homeowner and the public.

WORK WRITE-UP: The description of all work performed and the document used for all bidding and a contractual purpose of the job.

APPENDIX B
PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEDURE

Public Notice Type:

☐ **MERCED COUNTY TIMES**
Place in the Merced County Times as a Legal. (English only) — Date Requested _____ Date Published _____

☐ **MERCED SUN-STAR**
Place in the Merced Sun-Star as a display ad. (English only) — Date Requested _____ Date Published _____

☐ **TRANSLATION:** Spanish — Date Requested _____ Date Completed _____

Hmong — Date Requested _____ Date Completed _____

☐ Post in South Station (all 3 languages) — Date Requested _____ Date Completed _____

☐ Post at Lao Family (English & Hmong) — Date Requested _____ Date Completed _____

☐ Announce on Lao Family TV — Date Requested _____ Date Aired _____

☐
Post on bulletin board at Civic Center (all 3 languages) — Date Completed _____

☐ Post on Housing Web Page — Date Completed _____
English ☐ Spanish ☐ Hmong ☐

Copy needs to be given to City Clerk (only if tied to a Council Meeting) — Date Completed _____
○ Yes ○ No

☐ Reserve a meeting location? ○ Yes ○ No
Place: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Seating set up: _____

☐ Notice mailed to interested organizations and individuals — Date Mailed _____

Other / Notes:

_____

_____

APPENDIX C
Complaint Form
for
Alleged Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

Complainant's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Describe the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to make your complaint clear. Attach additional pages, if necessary:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What actions do you request be taken to correct the alleged discrimination?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Signature of (check one):

_____ Complainant(s)

_____ Authorized representative(s)

_____ _____
Signature Date:

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

CITY OF MERCED

HOUSING PROGRAM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



July 2013

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

City of Merced Housing Program
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
Phone: (209) 385-6863
TDD/TTY: (209) 385-6816
Fax: (209) 723-1780
City's website: www.cityofmerced.org

HOUSING PROGRAM
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
Policies	
Geographical Area of Eligibility	5
Applicant Eligibility	5
Loan to Value Ratio	5
Projects Unsuitable for Rehabilitation	6
Types of Loans	6
Interest Rate	7
Payoff Period	7
Properties in Foreclosure	7
Other Terms and Conditions	7
Deferral of Loan Payments	8
Determination of Annual Income	9
Housing Expenses Defined	9
Owner Contractor Defined	9
Project/Loan Approval	9
Maximum Loan Amount	10
Contractors Eligibility	11
Services Provided	11
Procedures	
Loan Application	13
Emergency Loan	13
Property Survey/Floor Plan & Work Write Up	13
Contractor Selection	14
Loan Approval	15
Relocation	15
Construction	16
Monitoring and Inspections for Rental Units	17
First Time Home Buyer Program	
Program Qualifications	18
Payback	19
Conditions	19
Procedures	19

Affirmative Fair Marketing Procedures and Requirements
Methods and Practices for Informing the Public 21
Requirements and Practices for Owners 21
Procedures for Outreach to Persons Not Likely to Apply 22
Specific Procedures to Ensue Accessible Units are Occupied by Those Who Require Accessible Features 22
Recordkeeping and Monitoring 23
Assessment of Success and Corrective Action 24
Implementation Procedures 24
Requirements and Practices 25

Fair Housing Compliance
Disability Status 26
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan 26
Grievance Procedure 27
Course of Action 28

Appendix **Page**

A. Definitions 29
B. Public Notice Procedures 32
C. Complaint Form for Alleged Discrimination on the Basis of Disability 33

POLICIES
REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION, AND RENTAL UNITS

The purpose of these Policies and Procedures is to clearly outline the circumstances under which the City of Merced Housing Program funds are to be made available and utilized. These Policies and Procedures confirm to federal regulations governing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). If the contents of this manual conflict with any of the above, it is the regulations noted above that prevail.

➢ 1.1 GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF ELIGIBILITY

Loan funds can be used only for projects within the City of Merced limits.

➢ 1.2 APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

1.2a **Owner Occupant:** The borrower's family income for rehabilitation reconstruction projects must not exceed 80 percent of the Median Income limits established for Merced County.

1.2b **Rental Property Owner:** The income of all tenants residing in the rental units shall not exceed 80 percent of the HUD Section 8 income limits established for Merced County. In rare circumstances, approved by the Housing Program Supervisor or the Director of Economic Development, loan funds may be approved for projects where less than 100 percent of the tenants meet these income requirements, but in no circumstance shall the percentage of low-income tenants be less than 70 percent.

1.2c **First Time Home Buyer Program:** Applicants must meet specific requirements related to the program and funding source, as described in First Time Home Buyer Program Section of this document.

➢ 1.3 LOAN TO VALUE RATIO

1.3a **Owner Occupant Loans:** In rehabilitation and reconstruction projects, the total indebtedness on the property generally should not exceed 80 percent of the appraised value. The Housing Program Supervisor or the Director of Economic Development can make exceptions to these guidelines, but in no case shall the indebtedness on a property exceed 120 percent of its appraised value. The appraised value can be based in-house evaluation.

1.3b **Rental Property Loans:** The total indebtedness on rental property should not exceed 70 percent of the appraised value. The Housing Program Supervisor or the Director of Economic Development can make exceptions to these guidelines, but in no case shall the total indebtedness exceed the appraised value of the property.

➢ 1.4 PROJECTS UNSUITABLE FOR REHABILITATION

When, in the opinion of the Housing Program Supervisor, it would be more cost-effective to demolish a building and reconstruct a replacement structure of the same number of units on the site, a project is declared unsuitable for rehabilitation.

When such a determination has been made, the project will become a candidate for demolition and reconstruction. The City staff provides floor plans and work write-up for new construction at no additional cost to the homeowner.

➢ 1.5 TYPES OF LOANS

1.5a **Rehabilitation and Reconstruction:** These loans are usually for the elimination of substandard conditions, but reconstruction loans also apply to the construction of new housing on a vacant site that previously contained housing units. The number of units can be increased subject to compliance with City's zoning requirements and the Housing Program Manager's approval.

All loans for rehabilitation and reconstruction are at zero percent (0%) interest during construction, as long as all of the ultimate and continuing loan conditions are met. There is no housing affordability covenant requirement for owner-occupied rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.

1.5b **Rental Units:** Loans are not due until the certificate of occupancy is issued. After rehabilitation or reconstruction the dwelling units must meet funding source requirements regarding construction standards and quality.

The regulations of CDBG and HOME Programs identify eligible expenses, beneficiaries, and housing affordability covenant requirements. In the absence of more stringent funding source guidelines, the assisted rental properties shall be used for a minimum of five years by eligible occupants.

1.5c **Emergency:** These loans are for the purpose of repairing emergency conditions, such as leaking roofs or overflowing sewer lines and other repairs of emergency nature. These loans will be made where, in the judgment of the Housing Program Supervisor, it would be imprudent to delay repairs due to a danger to health and safety, or risk of further deterioration of the structure. On-site sewer construction for persons currently on septic tank system who want to hook up to City sewer would also be eligible for this type of loan.

In some emergency projects more than one contractor might be used to expedite the process. The Housing Rehab Specialist will be in charge of coordination of different trades involved in the project.

1.5d **First Time Home Buyer (FTHB):** See First Time Home Buyer Section of this document for details on FTHB loans.

➢ 1.6 INTEREST RATE

The interest rate for rehabilitation and reconstruction (owner-occupant) projects is three percent (3%). The interest rate for FTHB is also at 3% as it is discussed further in FTHB Section of this document.

The interest rate for small rental properties is 3 percent (3%) if the City of Merced Housing Program provides all of the funds, or zero percent (0%) interest if the applicant provides fifty percent (50%) of the project funds. At the discretion of the Housing Program Supervisor or the Director of Economic Development the interest rate for development of affordable housing projects can be as low as 0 percent (0 %).

➢ 1.7 PAYOFF PERIOD

If the owner-occupied rehabilitation applicant qualifies for an amortized loan, the standard term of a rehabilitation or reconstruction loan is 20 years. The loan can be entirely or partially amortized depending on the borrower's income. If the borrower qualifies for a deferred loan, the interest (simple interest) will accumulate for up to 10 years. After 10 years the interest will stop accumulating and the payment will be calculated based on the total principal and 10 years of interest.

The borrowers financial status will be evaluated every five years, which will determine if the loan will be deferred or amortized. According to HUD 30-percent-of-income guidelines, households should not pay more than 30 percent of their income toward housing costs in federally assisted housing. The term of the loan may be longer or shorter, depending upon the amount borrowed and the financial situation of the borrower.

➢ 1.8 PROPERTIES IN FORECLOSURE

If a property is in foreclosure by the primary lender, the Housing Program Supervisor or the Director of Economic Development can act on behalf of the City by negotiating with the owner or by placing a cost estimate at the time of sale to protect the City's assets. The Housing Program will also coordinate with the City Attorney's office on bankruptcy projects for appropriate actions to protect the City's assets.

➢ 1.9 OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The loan shall be secured by a Deed of Trust.
2. Title insurance on the property shall be required.

3. Payments on amortized loans shall be due monthly.

4. The loans for rehab/reconstruction may be prepaid at any time without penalty. The term does not apply to First Time Home Buyer (FTHB) loans. See FTHB section of this document for more information.

➢ 1.10 DEFERRAL OF LOAN PAYMENTS

1.10a **Owner Occupant:** Housing loan payments can be deferred if the current housing expenses of the applicant are such that they would exceed thirty percent of their gross income, should they make payments on the City of Merced's loan.

The loan payments are deferred for a period of five years, and then the financial situation of the borrower is re-examined to determine continuing eligibility for payment deferral. If this is the case, the loan payments are deferred for another five-year period, and the financial situation is again re-examined. This process of five-year deferrals continues until the property is sold, or transferred, at such point the City's loan, including any accumulated interest, becomes immediately due and payable to the City.

An exception is if an income-eligible relative assumes the property. In this case, the person may assume the City's loan at the discretion of Housing Program Manager. Interest on a deferred loan is calculated on a non-compounding basis, and stops accruing after ten years.

Persons whose income would allow a partial payment on the City of Merced loan are required to make such payments up to an amount which makes their monthly housing expense no higher than thirty percent of the gross family income. Partially deferred loans shall be reviewed every five years.

Whenever the income situation of a borrower changes significantly, they are required to contact the City of Merced Housing Program. This is especially true of families who are making payments on an amortized loan whose income level decreases. If the situation warrants it, the amortized loan can be converted to a deferred payment loan.

1.10b **Rental Property:** Owners of a rental property may have their loan payments deferred one time, for a period of five years. The only applicable time period for the deferral is at the initiation of the loan.

Rental property qualifies for a loan payment deferral if the surplus of income-over-expenses is less than $200 per month. Interest, however, continues to accumulate on a non-compounded basis.

➢ 1.11 DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL INCOME

For the purpose of determining eligibility for loans through the Housing Program, the total income of all persons living in the dwelling unit shall be considered, unless one of the parties is renting a room and paying rent, in which case the rent paid is defined as income. The Section 8, Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) definition for annual income shall be utilized in establishing eligibility for the City of Merced Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Loan Program. Once all sources of income are known and defined, the City converts periodic wages to annual income based on the HCV guidelines. For a detailed guide refer to HCV Program Guidebook at: http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/forms/guidebook.cfm

➢ 1.12 HOUSING EXPENSES DEFINED

For the purpose of determining eligibility for a totally or partially deferred loan, housing expenses shall be defined as the following:

1. Mortgage payments for indebtedness secured by the property.
2. Mortgage insurance premiums.
3. Hazard insurance, including flood insurance.
4. Real estate taxes and special assessments.
5. Major maintenance or repairs.
6. Utilities, to include water, sewer, refuse, and natural or propane gas and electricity.

➢ 1.13 OWNER-CONTRACTOR DEFINED

An owner of property who receives a loan through the City of Merced Housing Program and holds a valid and appropriate contractor's license through the State of California, at the discretion of the Housing Program Manager, can act as contractor on the rehabilitation or reconstruction project. The project cost reasonableness has to be approved by the Housing Program Manager.

➢ 1.14 PROJECT/LOAN APPROVAL

1.14a **Approval:** Projects and loans shall be approved by the Housing Program Supervisor, the City Manager, the Finance Officer, and the City Attorney. Project approval depends on funding availability and a waiting list is put together for the applicants. The Housing Program Supervisor, within funding source guidelines also:

1. Develops and signs agreements for the re-construction of units of rental housing that also may involve property acquisition.

2. Signs subordination agreements for loans previously issued when the collateral interests of the City of Merced are maintained and the borrower (owner-occupants only), would be benefited.

1.14b **Criteria:** Criteria for approval may include the following:

1. Eligibility of the applicant based on applicant's income, housing condition, and property location.

2. The existing debt on the property based on criteria described in **1.3a** of this document.

3. Credit worthiness of the applicant.

1.14c **Desirability:** Desirability of the projects is based on the following:

1. To improve and preserve the physical environment and appearance of residential neighborhoods in Merced.

2. To eliminate housing conditions which are a detriment to health, safety, and public welfare.

3. To revitalize Merced's housing stock by continuing programs that rehabilitate substandard units.

4. To provide technical assistance to homeowners and investors that rent to low-and moderate-income families.
5. To find additional avenues to leverage CDBG and HOME funds to promote housing rehabilitation and reconstruction.

6. To work towards providing decent, safe, and sanitary owner occupied and rental housing stock to low-and moderate-income households.

➢ 1.15 MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT

The amount of funds to be loaned by the City of Merced for rehabilitation and reconstruction projects is based on the cost established through the solicitation of cost estimates from contractors for completion of a specified scope of work by the Rehabilitation Specialist. The Rehabilitation Specialist also prepares an independent cost estimate in order to verify fair and reasonable cost.

The loan amount is based on the lowest responsible cost estimate plus six percent (6%). There have been some cases that owners preferred to select different contractors from the list but they could not afford to pay the difference. The additional 6% will give the homeowners more flexibility to select different contractors. If the difference is higher than 6%, the homeowner is required to pay the additional difference the Program or the contractor. The Housing Program Manager determines the loan amount.

In the case of owner-contractor job, an exception can be made to the requirement that loan amounts are determined by solicitation of contractor cost estimates. In this instance, the owner-contractor and the Rehabilitation Specialist estimate the project's costs. The amounts to be paid are based on actual expenditures supported by invoices, plus reasonable profit and overhead as defined by local standards and the City of Merced Housing Program. Reasonable variation in establishing loan amount and contractor selection by owners may be made if warranted by the situation contingent on the Housing Program Manager approval.

➢ 1.16 CONTRACTORS ELIGIBILITY

The Housing Program has a list of eligible contractors who are appropriately licensed in the State of California and the City of Merced and are on the list to do the work. The owner of the property shall select any of the contractors on the list who fall in the 6% loan amount price range. If the owner already has a contractor on mind, the contractor has to be added to the list in order to do be eligible to do the work.

The contractors who are within the 6% range will be invited for interviews with the homeowner and selection process will be conducted in the Housing Division. Subsequent to the contractor selection by the owner, the City of Merced Housing Program provides the loan funds based on the above stated criteria. Contractors are required to follow the requirements that are established by the Housing Program under the Section 2.4 (Contractor Selection) in the Procedure section of this Manual. Contractors not following the Policies and Procedures will not be invited to the selection process.

➢ 1.17 SERVICES PROVIDED

The City of Merced Housing Program provides the following services for the applicants:

1. Eligibility screening of applicant,

2. Loan processing and coordination with the title companies,

3. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) report on the project and clearance report,

4. Property deficiency survey and identifying the needed work,

5. Written scope of work to be done,

6. Plans and working drawings,

7. Submittal of plans for permit process,

8. Conducting contractor's cost estimate tour,

9. Assisting homeowners with contractors selection,

10. Quality assurance and phase completion inspection in addition to required inspections by the Inspection Services Division,

11. Release of scheduled payments to the contractor upon homeowner's approval, and

12. Relocation assistance as is described in relocation assistance of the Procedure Section of this manual, Section 2.6.

PROCEDURES
REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION, AND RENTAL UNITS

➢ 2.1 LOAN APPLICATION

1. Loan Information application is filled out with the potential borrower's (applicant) contact information, property information, type of improvements to be done, including any improvements requiring emergency repair.

2. If there are no emergency repairs required, the potential borrower's name will be placed on a waiting list.

3. Potential borrower is contacted to submit a completed application. Names are taken from the waiting list on a first come first served basis.

4. The Finance Specialist determines eligibility of the applicant and processes the loan application.

5. If borrower meets the program guidelines, they will be notified that their application has been approved.

6. Environmental report according to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will be prepared by the Housing Division staff.

➢ 2.2 EMERGENCY LOAN

1. In case of emergency conditions, the property will be surveyed by the Rehabilitation Specialist to determine if the repairs warrant an emergency loan.

2. If the property is in need of emergency repairs the potential borrower is asked to submit an application.

3. Once the application is processed and it is determined that borrower is eligible under the program guidelines a loan will be given only if the items in need of repair are considered an emergency.

➢ 2.3 PROPERTY SURVEY/FLOOR PLAN &WORK WRITE-UP

1. Property is surveyed by the Housing Rehabilitation Specialist and Building Inspector from the Inspection Services Division for deficiencies.

2. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist sends survey letter to the owner.

3. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist prepares work write-up and working drawings detailing scope of work to be done, based on survey of property and owner's input.

4. The owner approves the work write-up and their choice of any floor plans that are prepared by the City.

➢ 2.4 CONTRACTOR'S SELECTION

1. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor conducts project tour (cost estimate tour) for qualified contractors on the Housing Program list. Contractors wishing to submit a cost estimate, or their representatives, must be present at the tour.

2. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor prepares an independent cost estimate.

3. The Housing Program receives contractors' estimates. Cost estimates will be recorded at the date and time of opening. No late cost estimated will be allowed.

4. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist and the Housing Program Supervisor sign the Certification of Cost Reasonableness. The amount of loan is set at 6% above the lowest responsible cost estimate.

5. The owner is provided with a list of contractors who are within 6% range of the lowest responsible cost estimate.

6. The owner meets with the eligible contractors in the Housing Program office for the contractor's selection process. Contractors wishing to contact the homeowner must first get approval from the Housing Division. Contractors not following the guidelines will not be awarded the job.

7. The owner selects a contractor after going through the above process. In order to distribute projects in an even way among participating contractors, no contractor is authorized to have more than two jobs at one time. The Housing Supervisor can approve award of more than two projects under special circumstances.

8. On emergency projects if it is more time and cost efficient, the homeowners can provide cost estimate from different contractors to do the work. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor can provide assistance to the homeowner to receive cost estimates. The Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor will review the cost estimates and

the contractor with the lowest responsible cost estimate will be awarded the job.

➢ 2.5 LOAN APPROVAL

1. Housing Program Supervisor approves the loan.

2. Housing Finance Specialist draws up loan documents and contracts.

3. Housing Program Supervisor, City Manager, Finance Officer, City Attorney, Owner, Contractor, and all other parties as appropriate, sign documents.

4. Deed of Trust is recorded.

5. Notice to Proceed is mailed to the contractor.

➢ 2.6 RELOCATION

2.6a. **Owner-occupants:** Housing Division staff administers Temporary relocation of owner-occupant clients. Relocation procedures are based on the HUD Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1970 and the following steps are taken:

1. The Housing Division will assist the homeowner in looking for a suitable place for relocation.

2. Relocation costs are either a grant or a loan to the borrower:

   a) Grant costs include: security deposit, monthly rent, connection of telephone and cable.

   b) Loan costs include: storage fees and moving supplies/fees.

4. Homeowner is provided with a relocation letter and information pamphlet outlining the above information.

2.6b. **Tenants:** Housing staff administers temporary relocation of tenants. Relocation procedures are based on the HUD Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1970. The following steps are taken to minimize displacement as a result of a HUD-assisted project:

1. General Information Notice (GIN) is provided to tenants as soon as feasible after the owner's submission of an application.

2. Move-In Notice to tenants moving in after initial application (GIN) is provided, before the tenant agrees to move into the project (prior to start).

3. Notice of Non-displacement is provided to tenants who will remain in the project.

4. Temporary Relocation Notice is provided to tenants who will be temporarily relocated.

5. Notice of Eligibility is provided to tenants who will be displaced.

6. 90-Day and 30-Day Notices are provided to tenants who will be displaced.

2.6c. **Other Conditions:**

1. The Housing Program Supervisor will establish a reasonable rent amount based on the local housing market.

2. If a homeowner wishes to relocate to a unit where the rent exceeds the established amount, the homeowner will be responsible for the difference.

3. The relocation unit must be within the city limits of Merced. An exception may be made at the discretion of the Housing Program Supervisor if the relocation unit is located in the unincorporated area of Merced or in Atwater.

4. The city will make a reasonable attempt to find a unit that allow pets, however; if a unit is not available it will be the responsibility of the homeowner to find a place for the pets to stay.

5. Any property damage to the relocation unit other than normal wear and tear will be the responsibility of the homeowner. The City will make the repairs and the costs will be added to the loan.

➢ 2.7 CONSTRUCTION

1. Building permit is issued in the owner and contractor's name.

2. The Building Inspector and the Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor, performs inspections at various phases of construction as required by City and Building Codes.

3. The Housing Rehabilitation Specialist or Housing Program Supervisor monitors the project for quality control and phase completion.

4. The Housing Division issues phase completion checks to the contractor upon owner's approval. The payments are based on progress schedule and Ten percent (10%) of each payment is withheld for contingency and any possible liens.

5. Contractor must provide lean release waver from his/her subcontractors prior to issuance of the final progress payment.

6. Owner signs the Notice of Completion for recording.

7. Contractor receives the 10% withheld, 35 days after the notice of completion is recorded.

➢ 2.8 MONITORING AND INSPECTIONS FOR RENTAL UNITS

The Housing Division conducts inspections for HOME-assisted rental housing. HOME rules require on-site inspections of properties according to the number of units in a project—every three years for 1-4 unit projects, every two years for 5-25 unit projects, and every one-year for projects containing 26 or more unit projects. HOME funded projects must meet Merced Municipal Code and Uniform Housing Code to ensure that the HOME-assisted housing is decent, safe, and sanitary.

The owner of the rental property is responsible to keep adequate records to demonstrate compliance with HOME requirements including applying the fair housing requirements. The owner shall keep both project and tenant records showing rent and utility allowance calculations, and documentation necessary to demonstrate that the tenants are income eligible. There are no inspection requirements for owner-occupied rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.

FIRST TIME HOME BUYER PROGRAM

The First Time Home Buyer Assistance Program is aimed at providing financial support to families who might otherwise be unable to purchase a home. The funds for this program are provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

➢ 3.1 PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

1. The household income cannot exceed 80 percent (80%) of Merced County Median Income adjusted for household size.

2. Maximum loan is for up to 10% towards the down payment plus up to 5% towards closing costs.

3. Maximum sales price limit based on the median home sales price is subject to change in accordance with state and federal median home prices. Home price to be verified by a qualified appraiser.

4. The applicant must not have owned a home for at least the last three years.

5. The applicant must be able to qualify for a first mortgage loan. The first mortgage loan must be a 30-year fixed interest rate loan.

6. The applicant must provide cash contribution equal to at least one percent (1%) of the sales price of the house. The cash contribution must be "applicants own funds", and it cannot be borrowed or be part of a rebate from the seller. FHA or Conventional lender guidelines can be used for determining "applicants own funds".

7. There is no prior residency requirement. In case of too many applicants, priority will be given to those with higher prior residency in the City, retirees, or those having primary business or job in the City.

8. Only single-family homes located within the City of Merced city limits are eligible under this program. The house to be purchased must be within the Merced City limits.

9. Applicant must contact the Housing Division to verify the home is within the city limits of Merced prior to signing a purchase agreement.

10. Applicant(s) must participate in a one day HUD approved education class. A copy of the certification must be submitted to the City. There is no cost to the applicant(s).

11. Applicant must occupy the house as a primary residence.

➢ 3.2 PAYBACK

The applicant will be receiving a deferred payment loan that will be secured by a second deed of trust for the first five years. See Section 3.3 of this document for terms and conditions.

➢ 3.3 CONDITIONS

1. The funds loaned will be without interest or required payback for the first 5 years (60 months). Beginning on the 61st month, interest at the rate of three (3) percent will begin to accumulate and payments at an amount necessary to pay off the principle and interest during the next 25 years (300 months) will begin.

2. The loan amount shall be based on the set guidelines in order for the applicant to purchase the property. The City loan is for down payment and closing costs and is not intended to be a portion of the "Primary Mortgage Loan". It is expected that the applicant will purchase a house that is in-line with their borrowing power as determined by income and credit history.

3. The house must be owner-occupied and the deed shall restrict the resale of the property for a period of 10 years. If there is a prepayment on the loan or should the property be sold within 10 years from the date of the loan origination, the applicant will be obliged to pay the City a penalty of 4% on the original loan amount starting from the loan origination date.

4. If the home is sold or transferred within 10 years from the date of the loan origination, the applicant shall pay the City a percentage share of the difference between the amounts received for the property and its value at the time of sale or transfer. The percentage share is determined on a declining scale, beginning at 10 percent in year 1, decreasing 1 percent each year to 1 percent in year 10.

5. The calculation of City participation shall be based on the minimum down payment required by the lender based on the sales price, plus reasonable and necessary closing costs. A maximum of ten percent of City loan funds can be used for the "down payment" and a maximum of five percent of City loan funds can be used for the "closing costs". The City will not pay for "2 to 1 buy-down" fees or discount points.

➢ 3.4 PROCEDURES

1. The applicant (borrower) will provide a pre-qualified lender letter with the application and all required documentation.

2. The application will be screened for basic eligibility requirements.

3. The primary mortgage lender must verify that "borrowers own funds" are not less than one percent of the sales price, and that the request for City funds

meets the required guidelines of the First Time Home Buyer Assistance Program. This amount shall be determined through discussion with the primary mortgage lender.

4. When the applicant has secured a house to purchase, and received the primary loan approval, the City of Merced shall grant final approval of its loan.

NOTE: Applicant *should not* execute a purchase agreement prior to receiving a final approval for the City of Merced's First Time Home Buyer program.

Affirmative Fair Marketing Procedures and Requirements

The Affirmative Marketing Plan is designed to provide information on available dwelling units in a manner in which individuals of similar income levels in the same housing market area have available to them. The information must provide range of choices in housing regardless of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, familial status or national origin. The City of Merced requires that all HOME funded activities be marketed to eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, familial status or disability. These procedures are intended to further the objectives of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Executive Order 11063, and City's local Fair Housing Efforts.

➢ 4.1 Methods and Practices for Informing the Public

The City of Merced is committed to ensuring decent, affordable housing for its residents. In order to inform the public, owners, and prospective tenants about federal fair housing laws, the City will require the developers to include the Equal Housing Opportunity logotype and/or slogan, and a logotype and/or slogan indicating accessibility to the disabled, in all press releases, solicitations, and program information materials. The City also continues to provide funding to the Central Valley Coalition to provide information and training regarding fair housing laws and policies.

➢ 4.2 Requirements and Practices for Owners

All developers who receive funds from the City are required to enter into loan agreements with the City prior to receiving funds. These agreements are designed to bind the recipients to all of the program requirements, including the affirmative fair marketing procedures. Developers receiving funds are required to create units that are accessible to people with disabilities according to applicable codes. In addition to federal laws requiring units for people with physical disabilities, fair housing laws require owners to make reasonable accommodations for people with all types of disabilities. When providing a requested accommodation would result in an undue financial and administrative burden, developers are required to take any other action that would not result in an undue burden.

As a condition of the agreements on affordable housing projects, not less than 120 days prior to project completion, owners must submit proposed marketing and management plans to the City for review and approval. Prior to commencing marketing activities, owners will be required to meet with City staff to review the proposed marketing strategy to ensure that affirmative marketing efforts will be employed. Management plans must include policies for ensuring reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. Management plans must also contain policies and provisions for recordkeeping and monitoring.

Marketing plans must include information on strategies for reaching persons and groups not likely to apply including, but not limited to, households with a disabled member. Marketing plans must include procedures for ensuring that accessible units are occupied by people with disabilities who require accessible features, as described below. Marketing plans must also include the use of the fair housing logotype and/or slogan, and use of a logotype and/or slogan indicating accessibility to the disabled. Fair housing posters must be displayed at the project rental or sales office. Owners are required to advertise in newspapers of general circulation, and to provide notice to community groups when units become available.

Marketing strategies must include use of a welcoming statement to encourage people with disabilities to apply for units, as well as a description of available units, accessible features, eligibility criteria, and the application process. Marketing plans must indicate that qualified applicants with disabilities who request accommodation shall receive priority for the accessible units. Open houses and marketing offices must be accessible to allow disabled persons to visit the site and retrieve information about accessible units.

➢ 4.3 Procedures for Outreach to Persons not Likely to Apply

Owners are required to engage in special outreach to persons and groups in the housing market area who, in the absence of such outreach, are not likely to apply for the housing. In determining what special outreach is needed, owners should take into account past patterns of discrimination, the racial and ethnic makeup of the neighborhood, language barriers, location, or other factors that might make it less likely that some persons and groups (a) would be aware of the availability of the housing or (b) would be likely to apply for the housing.

Owners are, in particular, required to advertise in media which are reasonably likely to reach such targeted groups, and to provide notice to community organizations, fair housing agencies, and other similar organizations. A list of local disability organizations and community development boards will be provided by the City of Merced along with sample advertisements. Multilingual advertising is encouraged where such efforts would result in reaching persons and groups not likely to apply.

➢ 4.4 Specific Procedures to Ensue Accessible Units are Occupied by those who Require Accessible Features

Outreach by owners to the disability community shall include the distribution of notices describing:

1. the availability of all units;
2. specific information regarding the availability and features of accessible units;

3. eligibility criteria; and
4. application procedures.

All application forms shall include information indicating that people with disabilities requiring accessible features shall receive priority for accessible units. The application must include a section to be filled out by any applicant requesting an accommodation with details on the applicant's special needs for accessible features or other accommodations. Under no circumstance should an applicant be required to disclose a disability unless requesting an accommodation. This will allow developers to provide, upfront, any necessary accessible features and/or accommodations for those people requesting accommodations.

Owners shall take reasonable nondiscriminatory steps to maximize the utilization of accessible units by eligible individuals whose disability requires the accessibility features of the particular unit. To this end, any vacant accessible unit should first be offered to a current, disabled tenant of the same project or comparable project under the owner's control. When offering an accessible unit to applicants without disabilities, the owner may require such applicants to agree to move to a non-accessible unit when one becomes available or when the accessible unit is needed by a disabled household. Such an agreement may be incorporated into the lease.

Note: An owner may not prohibit an eligible family with a member who has a disability from accepting a non-accessible unit which may become available before an accessible unit. Owners are required to modify such a non-accessible unit as needed or move a disabled household into a unit that can be altered, unless the modifications would result in an undue financial and administrative burden or alteration in the nature of a program. All applicants should be provided information about how to request a reasonable accommodation at the time they apply for admission and at every recertification.

➢ 4.5 RECORDKEEPING AND MONITORING

Owners must maintain records for at least five years regarding marketing and tenant selection practices. Upon request, owners are required to submit to the City copies of all advertisements indicating the date the advertisements were placed and the media outlets which were used. Owners must provide copies of notices sent to community groups and a listing of those groups to which notices were sent. Owners must maintain records regarding the characteristics of persons applying for vacant units, and the characteristics (including race and familial status) of persons actually selected for the units. Owners' records must also include the number, location, and description of accessible units, and success in filling such units with people who need accessible features or other accommodations. Owners must document any reasonable accommodations made to, or requested by, tenants during the reporting year.

As part of the City's monitoring of assisted housing developments, the City will review the owners' records to verify that each qualified household living in an accessible unit has at least one household member who needs the accessible features. The duration of monitoring of Affirmative Fair Marketing Requirements varies with each program. For homeownership, the requirements apply through the completion of initial sales transactions on units covered by the approved plan. For assisted rental housing, requirements apply throughout the term of the loan and regulatory agreements, including those periods when the project does not maintain sustaining occupancy.

➢ 4.6 Assessment of Success and Corrective Actions

The City will review records maintained by owners to ensure that affirmative fair marketing requirements are being met. Where the characteristics of applicants are significantly different from the make-up of the City's population, the City will examine in more detail the owner's actions to determine if a violation of the requirements has occurred. Initially, owners who have not fully complied with the requirements are directed to engage in targeted marketing efforts to reach groups not initially reached. In cases where owners refuse to comply with the affirmative fair marketing procedures, the City may take additional actions to secure performance under the loan agreement, including declaring the loan in default and recapturing the funds.

➢ 4.7 Implementation Procedures

1. Informing the Public: Recipients shall inform the public of their proposed activities through local media advertisements and announcements that include the Equal Opportunity logo or slogan. Recipients shall notify the local Public Housing Authority (PHA) and request that applicants on the PHA waiting lists be informed of the upcoming availability of rental units. Community organizations, places of worship, employment centers, fair housing groups, human resources agencies and housing counseling agencies shall be informed about the upcoming rental opportunities.

2. Informing Tenants: If funding is used to rehabilitate a property, the recipient shall mail letters to the current tenants informing them of the impending property rehabilitation. This letter shall include a fair housing statement along with the Equal Opportunity logo or slogan.

3. Informing Owners: TCAP recipients shall sign a certification that they have received, read, understood and complied with all requirements set forth in this Plan. This certification will be required prior to receiving any TCAP funds.

➢ 4.8 REQUIREMENTS AND PRACTICES:

HOME recipients must adhere to each element of this Plan. The elements of this Plan include, but are not limited to:

1. Institute policies and procedures which negate the impact of discrimination aimed at those persons in the following classes (Note: this list is not exhaustive):
   a. Minority race or ethnicity;
   b. Limited English proficient persons;
   c. Households headed by a single person;
   d. Disabled persons;
   e. Elderly persons; and
   f. Families with children.
2. Provide translated materials for persons who are limited English proficient.
3. Maintain records describing actions taken to affirmatively market the rental units, and maintain records assessing the results of such actions.
4. Maintain records outlining the success/failure of all affirmative marketing actions taken, and maintain records of any corrective action.

FAIR HOUSING COMPLIANCE

➢ 5.1 DISABILITY STATUS:

The City of Merced does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission, or access to, or treatment, or employment, in its federally funded program or activities. The City additionally extends the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability established by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, to all activities including those that do not receive Federal financial assistance. All Housing Program sub-recipients are required to provide the disability status, nature of disability of all clients, and steps taken for reasonable accommodation.

Deneen Proctor, Director of Support Services, has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, (24 CFR Part 8).

Contact Information:
Deneen Proctor,
Director of Support Services/ADA Compliance Coordinator
Telephone Number: (209) 385-6837 (Voice), (209) 385-6816 (TDD)

➢ 5.2 LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN:

The City of Merced Housing Program provides funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a variety of services. These services are accessible to all eligible citizens of Merced. The City is committed to improving the accessibility of these services to eligible individuals who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The City has developed and implemented a process by which LEP individuals can meaningfully access the services. In addition, the City works with its sub recipients of Federal financial to provide meaningful access to their LEP applicants and beneficiaries.

The City of Merced has significant concentrations of low-income households and racial/ethnic minorities in Central and South Merced where most of the City's services are needed. In particular, there is a large concentration of people of Hispanic origin and those primarily Hmong and Laotian in the moderate, low and very low-income categories. The majority of the Housing Program clients, however, are Hispanic people who are proficient in English language. On average less than 10 percent of the housing rehabilitation and first time homebuyer clients seek translation assistance on their initial visits to the City to inquire about the program. The City also supports CDBG funded public services programs in the City. Agencies running those programs are also required to provide translation assistance to LEP clients. Those agencies

include the Merced Lao Family and the Healthy House, both with qualified staff to help LEP persons.

The City of Merced promotes and facilitates services to LEP persons. As stated in the City's ordinance, the City has Spanish and Hmong speaking staff members who are available for direct contact or via phone during working hours to help with LEP clients. The City translators are available to help the Housing Program staff when needed.

The Housing Program follows guidelines to outreach LEP persons on public notices and Council meetings regarding our services (See attached Public Services Procedures). The Program places notices in English in the City's daily and weekly newspapers. The notices are also posted in Spanish, Hmong, and English on City's website, at South Merced Police Community Aide and at Merced Lao Family. Both South Merced Police Community Aide and Merced Lao family receive CDBG assistance to offer different eligible programs and their bilingual staff is available to provide additional help. The notices in English also indicate that the summary of the program publications will be translated in Spanish or Hmong and also translation services are available at all City Council meetings upon request.

- **5.3** GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE:

This Grievance Procedure gives the recipient of CDBG and HOME funded or assisted programs and activities a tool to resolve disputes with the City of Merced Housing Program. It also provides information on the regulatory requirements for the Housing Program grievance procedure along with some practical guidance about how to make the process work better for both clients and the Housing Program.

The American with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The use of an internal grievance procedure is not required before filing other administrative or judicial remedies. Formal filing of a complaint with the appropriate federal enforcement agency may be done at the same time as the filing of an internal grievance.

The City of Merced has adopted an internal grievance procedure for prompt and expeditious resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by the American with Disabilities Act. Complaints should be addressed to the designated ADA Compliance Coordinator:

Deneen Proctor
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
Phone # (209) 385-6837; TDD # (209) 385-6816

➢ **5.4** COURSE OF ACTION:

1) A complaint shall be filed in writing. It must contain the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing (complaint), and a brief description of the alleged violation. It must be signed by the complainant or someone authorized to act on the complainant's behalf. The complainant shall be promptly notified of the receipt and acceptance of the complaint.

2) An investigation shall be conducted within fifteen (15) days after a complaint is filed. A complainant shall have the right to an informal confidential presentation of their complaint within a reasonable amount of time.

3) The ADA Compliance Coordinator shall issue a written decision, after full consideration of the complaint, with a process for resolution of any problem within 45 days of receiving the complaint. A copy shall be forwarded to the complainant.

4) The ADA Coordinator shall maintain the confidentiality of all files and records relating to complaints filed, unless disclosure is authorized or required by law.

5) The complainant may request within 10 days a reconsideration of the case in instances where she/he is dissatisfied with the resolution.

6) Any retaliation, coercion, intimidation, threat, interference, or harassment for filing of a grievance, or used to restrain a complainant from filing, is prohibited and should be reported immediately to the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

7) Complainant may be represented.

Individuals, or a specific class of individuals, who believe that they have been subject to discrimination on the basis of disability by a public agency may file a complaint within 180 days of the date of the alleged discrimination with the City of Merced Housing Program.

An applicant may, at any time, exercise the right to appeal the City of Merced Housing Program decision through the local HUD office or the US Department of Justice. Individuals may contact the local HUD office at:

US Department of Housing and Urban Development
600 Harrison Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94107-1300

APPENDIX A
DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply to the policies and procedures unless another meaning is clearly apparent from the context.

CDBG: The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. It works largely to provide affordable housing and to expand economic opportunities mainly for low and moderate-income persons.

CHANGE ORDER: That written document in which the purpose will be to approve all changes in the work as specified in the work write-up.

CITY: City of Merced, California. When determinations, approvals, or interpretations are intended, "City" shall mean the City staff persons designated.

CONTRACTOR: A building, plumbing, electrical, or other building trades contractor, licensed by the State of California, and **OWNER/CONTRACTOR**, as used in these Provisions, shall also mean an owner-borrower who is capable of performing certain tradesman work and who, in fact, does perform, or causes to be performed, certain self-help rehabilitation work on his or her own home.

DEED OF TRUST: Legal title to the property that is vested in one or more trustees to secure the repayment of the loan.

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A person employed by the City to oversee the Housing Division and the Economic Development Department of the City.

DWELLING UNIT: A single owner-occupied or rental unit providing independent living facilities for one or more persons including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation. As used in these policies, dwelling unit shall not include hotel or motel rooms, mobile homes, rooming and/or boarding houses.

FAMILY INCOME: The sum of money income received in a calendar year by the family members related through blood or marriage.

FORECLOSURE: A termination of the right of an owner securing a loan in the property covered by the mortgage.

HOME: The Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990. Its main objective is to create affordable housing for low and very low-income families.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME: The sum of money income of household members regardless of relationship through blood or marriage.

HOUSING DIVISION: The Housing Program of the City of Merced, receiving and managing CDBG, HOME, and State housing-related funds.

HOUSING FINANCE SPECIALIST: A person employed by the City to determine applicant eligibility, provide financial counseling to home owners and investors, and supervise loan preparation, escrow accounts, and loan servicing.

HOUSING PROGRAM SUPERVISOR: A person employed by the City of Merced to be the administrative head and day-to-day operation of the Housing Program.

HOUSING REHABILITATION SPECIALIST: A person employed by the City under the Housing Division and working to provide technical building assistance to homeowners pursuant to the policies, regulations and provisions of the City's Housing Program.

HUD: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (of the Federal Government).

INSPECTION SERVICES DIVISION: A Division of Development Services of the City of Merced, managing and conducting permit issuance and inspections on all construction activities in the City of Merced.

LIEN: A form of encumbrance against the property, which provides security for the payment of a debt or discharge of an obligation. Example: judgments, taxes, mortgages, deeds of trust.

MEDIAN INCOME: The amount which divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount.

MORTGAGE: A written legal document that creates a lien upon real estates as a security for the payment of a specified debt.

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

NSP1: Neighborhood Stabilization Program 1.

NSP3: Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3.

OWNER CONTRACTOR: A homeowner performing his own work as per City of Merced Policies and Procedures.

OWNER OCCUPANT: A family or individual who occupies and owns or is buying a unit or units of residential property.

REHABILITATION COSTS: The total cost of repairs and improvements and other costs of rehabilitation to be incurred by the applicant that is includable in a rehabilitation loan.

RENTAL PROPERTY OWNER: A family or individual who owns or is buying a unit or units of residential property and who rents these units to a tenant who is within the low to moderate income guidelines.

SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING: An independent structure used for housing a maximum of one family.

SURVEY: The preliminary inspection of the dwelling for code violations, deterioration, improper construction and hazardous conditions existing that are dangerous to the homeowner and the public.

WORK WRITE-UP: The description of all work performed and the document used for all bidding and a contractual purpose of the job.

APPENDIX B
PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEDURE

Public Notice Type:

☐ **MERCED COUNTY TIMES**
Place in the Merced County Times as a Legal. (English only) _____ Date Requested _____ Date Published

☐ **MERCED SUN-STAR**
Place in the Merced Sun-Star as a display ad. (English only) _____ Date Requested _____ Date Published

☐ **TRANSLATION:** Spanish _____ Date Requested _____ Date Completed

Hmong _____ Date Requested _____ Date Completed

☐ Post in South Station (all 3 languages) _____ Date Requested _____ Date Completed

☐ Post at Lao Family (English & Hmong) _____ Date Requested _____ Date Completed

☐ Announce on Lao Family TV _____ Date Requested _____ Date Aired

☐
Post on bulletin board at Civic Center (all 3 languages) _____ Date Completed

☐ Post on Housing Web Page
English ☐ Spanish ☐ Hmong ☐ _____ Date Completed

Copy needs to be given to City Clerk (only if tied to a Council Meeting) _____ Date Completed
○ Yes ○ No

☐ Reserve a meeting location? ○ Yes ○ No
Place: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Seating set up: _____

☐ Notice mailed to interested organizations and individuals _____ Date Mailed

Other / Notes:

_____

_____

APPENDIX C
Complaint Form
for
Alleged Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

Complainant's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Describe the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to make your complaint clear. Attach additional pages, if necessary:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What actions do you request be taken to correct the alleged discrimination?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Signature of (check one):

_____ Complainant(s)

_____ Authorized representative(s)

_____ _____
Signature Date:

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

City of Merced Housing Division
Citizen Participation Plan



For Submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

City of Merced
Housing Division
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-6863

Amended and Approved by City Council
May 18, 2020

City of Merced

Citizen Participation Plan

Contents

Section: Page

A. Introduction 2

B. Background 3

C. Overview 3

1. Objective A: Public Input 3

2. Objective B: Public Information 5

3. Objective C: Public Notice 6

4. Objective D: Technical Assistance 6

5. Objective E: Comment Inclusion 6

6. Objective F: Special Exceptions 7

D. Public Participation 7

1. Citizen Participation Plan and Amendments 7

2. Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan 8

3. Substantial Amendments to the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan 9

4. Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) 10

5. Response to Disasters and Unforeseen Events 10

E. Funding of Public Services 12

F. Citizen Participation Summary 12

G. Glossary 13

A. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires entitlement communities (jurisdictions with populations above 50,000) to develop a Citizen Participation Plan*. This Citizen Participation Plan describes how the City of Merced (hereafter "the City") will involve residents in the planning, implementation and assessment of how Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds will be used. It defines the City's policies and procedures for public participation in the Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) and Action Plan process.

The ConPlan is a five-year strategy required by HUD that outlines how the City intends to meet identified local Housing and Community Development (HCD) needs over a five-year period. Annually an Action Plan is created that describes how federal, state, and local resources will be used to address the identified needs and objectives during each respective fiscal year of the five-year ConPlan.

Main components of the ConPlan include a:

1. Housing and Community Development Needs Assessment
2. Housing Market Analysis
3. Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice
4. Strategy that Reflects General Goals With Performance Outcome Measurements

These assessments assist the City of Merced Housing Division determine annual allocation of HUD funds to address identified needs.

The City's ConPlan identifies unmet priorities in the community that generally deal with a suitable living environment, affordable housing, economic opportunities and homelessness. Annually the Action Plan is created to address these unmet priorities. HUD funds cannot be used for standard City services or programs that do not meet the National Goals and Objectives or that are not identified in the five-year ConPlan. The Housing Division oversees HUD funding and designs and carries out programs identified in the ConPlan and Annual Action Plan. Once HUD allocations are released, local non-profit or public agencies may submit grant requests for funding of programs identified in the ConPlan. If funding is available, the City can use no more than 15% of its total CDBG annual allocation and previous year's program income for Public Service Programs.

The planning and approval process for the ConPlan and Action Plan can be broken down into the following stages:

1. Needs Assessment
2. Plan Development
3. Approval Process
4. Amendments
5. Performance Review

The Citizen Participation Process generally includes a series of well-publicized annual public hearings and community/neighborhood meetings to review and give input for the ConPlan, the Annual Action Plan and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). All meetings and hearings are publicized in accordance with applicable HUD, state, and local regulations. Public notices for environmental procedures and project-related policies are also part of the citizen participation process. Public notices are printed in English, Hmong, and Spanish in area newspapers. Stakeholders receive individual notice of public meetings via the US Postal Service or email.

In addition to hosting community meetings and public hearings for the ConPlan, the City hosts stakeholder focus group meetings and distributes a community needs assessment survey using the City's Utility Billing System. All plans, notices, and supporting documentation are provided to the public on the Housing Division website. Translations in Spanish and Hmong are available upon request.

B. BACKGROUND

HUD and its Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) division require entitlement communities to implement strategies that further promote residents to participate in community building through the five-year ConPlan planning process. The CPD's underlying principles include the following:

1. Community building begins with job creation, employment and the creation of safe, decent and affordable housing.
2. The planning and execution of community development initiatives must be bottom up and community-driven.
3. Complex problems require coordinated, comprehensive and sustainable solutions.
4. Government must be streamlined to be more efficient and effective.
5. Citizen participation in federal, state, and local government can be increased through communication and better access to information.

This Citizen Participation Plan is in compliance with these federal principles.

C. OVERVIEW

GOAL: To generate significant public participation in the consolidated planning process including any amendments to the ConPlan, Annual Action Plan or the CAPER, input will be sought particularly from low and moderate-income persons and groups residing within various areas of the City where program funds will be used.

Objective A:	All persons shall have the opportunity to take part in the consolidated planning process and any amendments to the ConPlan, Annual Action Plan, or the CAPER.

POLICIES:

Consolidated Plan (ConPlan):

1. A minimum of two community meetings will be held during development of the ConPlan to gather public input. At those meetings members of the public will be asked to identify community needs and priorities. The list of public priorities that align with National Objectives will be taken under consideration during preparation of the ConPlan.

2. During the ConPlan development, residents living in neighborhoods identified as eligible for CDBG assistance will be invited to become part of focus groups. These groups will help develop community development priorities for the ConPlan.

3. Two additional public input meetings will be conducted once the draft ConPlan is completed. The ConPlan will be presented and public comments regarding the document will be recorded.

4. Upon completion of the draft ConPlan, the document will be available for public review and comment for 30 days. Copies of said plan shall be made available to the public at the City of Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, and/or Merced Senior Center, Merced County Administration Building and the City's website.

5. A Public Hearing will be held before the Merced City Council where the public can provide additional input regarding the ConPlan prior to approval of the plan by the Council.

6. Any amendments to the ConPlan shall be made available for public review and comment for 30 days. Copies of said report shall be made available at the City of Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, and/or the Merced Senior Center, Merced County Administration Building, and City website.

Annual Action Plan:

1. A minimum of two community meetings will be held during development of the Annual Action Plan to gather public input. At those meetings the public will be asked to identify community needs and priorities. Programs and activities that align with the ConPlan and National Objectives will be taken under consideration during preparation of the Action Plan.

2. Upon completion of the draft Annual Action Plan, the document shall be made available for public review and comment for 30 days. Copies of said plan shall be made available to the public at the City of Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, and/or the Merced Senior Center, , Merced County Administration Building and City website.

3. Any amendments to the Annual Action Plan shall be made available for public review and comment for 15 days. Copies of said report shall be made available at the City of Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, and/or the Merced Senior Center, Merced County Administration Building, and City website.

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER):

1. Prior to drafting the CAPER, a public meeting will be held to gain input on activities carried out as part of the previous Annual Action Plan. Meetings will be held in the summer to allow adequate time for drafting of the CAPER.

2. Upon completion of the CAPER, the report will be available for public review and comment for 15 days. Copies of said report shall be made available at the City of Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, and/ or the Merced Senior Center, Merced County Administration Building, and City website.

All Plans:

1. All public hearings and meetings shall be conducted in the evening hours, shall be held at convenient locations that accommodate persons with disabilities, and shall be easily accessible by public transit.

2. The City shall provide interpreters for non-English-speaking persons and/or the hearing impaired when such requests are made at least five working days prior to the hearing.

3. Notices will be written in English, Spanish and Hmong. Upon request translators will be made available to assist with reading of the ConPlan, Annual Action Plan, and CAPER.

4. A public meeting will be held every fall to give an overall report of the previous year's CAPER and update on the current year's Annual Action Plan. The community will be asked for input, direction, and given a question and answer period regarding HUD programming and funding.

Objective B: Adequate information shall be provided to all interested persons and groups upon request.

POLICIES:

1. Prior to adoption of the ConPlan or Action Plan, the City shall make available to all interested persons and groups the anticipated amount of funding the City expects to receive from the CDBG formula program, including the amount that will benefit persons with very low and low incomes. In addition, the City shall identify the range of activities that must be undertaken with these funds, plans to minimize the displacement of persons, and plans to assist displaced persons.

2. The City shall provide all interested persons and groups with reasonable and timely access to all information relating to the City's proposed ConPlan or Action Plan and the City's use of assistance under the relevant programs activity years.

3. A translator or staff member will be made available upon request to assist interested persons with understanding information provided.

Objective C: The City shall provide adequate advance public notice of all associated meetings and hearings.

POLICIES:

1. The City shall provide adequate advance notice of all public hearings and meetings to all interested persons and groups. Sufficient information shall be published about the subject of the hearing or meeting to permit public input. Such notice might take the form of content in the *Merced Sun-Star* and the *Merced County Times* newspapers, individual letters, notices or flyers mailed to interested persons and groups, list serves, existing newsletters and bulletins distributed in targeted areas, or radio announcements.

Objective D: The City shall furnish technical assistance to all interested persons and groups requesting such assistance.

POLICIES:

1. The City shall provide technical assistance, particularly to groups or individuals representing persons with very low or low incomes. Said assistance shall be used to develop funding proposals for assistance under any of the formula programs covered by the ConPlan. The City shall determine the necessary level and degree of assistance. Such technical assistance might include the following:

    A. Assisting with forms/applications

    B. Explaining the process for submitting proposals

    C. Explaining federal and local requirements

    D. Providing comments and advice on the telephone or in meetings

    E. Reviewing and commenting on draft proposals

Objective E: All comments and complaints submitted by interested persons or groups shall be adequately considered and addressed.

POLICIES:

1. The City shall consider any comments or complaints from interested persons or groups received at public hearings or meetings in preparing the ConPlan, any amendments to the plan, the Annual Action Plan or the CAPER.

2. In preparing the final ConPlan and/or Annual Action Plan, careful consideration will be given to all comments and views expressed by the public, whether given as verbal testimony at the public hearing

or submitted in writing during the review and comment period. The final documents will have a section that includes all comments, plus explanations as to why any comments were not accepted.

3. The City shall provide a substantive written response to every comment or complaint received within 15 working days when possible.

Objective F:	The City shall use flexibility provided by HUD during any federal-declared disaster or other unforeseen event to allow the City to best address immediate needs of the community.

POLICIES:

1. The City shall follow all requirements accompanying any special allocation of funds with respect to amended procedures for public notice, public review and comment, and citizen participation to enable the City to redirect resources to the most immediate community needs.

2. The City will request any waivers necessary to use flexibility provided by HUD during times of federal-declared disasters or unforeseen circumstances.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Citizen Participation Plan and Amendments

The Citizen Participation Plan is designed to facilitate and encourage residents to participate in the entire ConPlan process. In particular, the Citizen Participation Plan seeks to encourage the involvement of low- and moderate-income persons.

The City will use the following process to adopt and make any subsequent changes to its Citizen Participation Plan:

A. The City will place public notice in the *Merced Sun-Star* and *Merced County Times* newspapers, on the City's Web site, www.cityofmerced.org, and at the City of Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, and/or the Merced Senior Center, or Merced County Administration Building.

B. Residents will have 30 days to review the Citizen Participation Plan from the date of the notice.

C. During the 30-day public review and comment period, the document will be available for review at the City of Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, and/or the Merced Senior Center, Merced County Administration Building and City website.

D. During the 30-day period from the date of notice, residents may file comments in writing at the City Housing Division, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced Civic Center.

E. The City Council will adopt the Citizen Participation Plan.

Any change in the public participation process as outlined in this document will require an amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan.

2. Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan

The steps outlined below provide opportunities for public involvement in the ConPlan and the Annual Action Plan:

A. To identify the needs of low- and moderate-income persons in different areas of the City, priorities will be established based on Housing and Community Development (HCD) needs.

B. To solicit community input, which is essential to determining these needs and priorities, the following actions will occur:

1) The City will consult with local public agencies that assist low- and moderate-income persons and areas, including City staff, state, and federal agencies, neighboring local governments and regional agencies.

2) The City will consult with private agencies, including local nonprofit service providers and advocates such as the local public housing agency, health agencies, homeless service providers, nonprofit housing developers and social service agencies (including those focusing on services to children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with substance abuse problems, etc.).

3) The City will place public notices in the Merced Sun-Star and Merced County Times newspapers, on the City's Web site (www.cityofmerced.org) and at City of Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, and/or the Merced Senior Center, or Merced County Administration Building.

4) Residents have 30 days to review the draft ConPlan and/or the draft Annual Action Plan from the date of the notice.

5) Residents may file comments at the City offices, 678 W. 18th Street, Housing Division, during a 30-day period from the date of the notice.

6) A public hearing will be held before the City Council to receive comments, solicit input on needs and priorities, and to approve the ConPlan and the Annual Action Plan.

7) The City Council will adopt the ConPlan and/or the Annual Action Plan.

8) In preparing the final ConPlan and/or Annual Action Plan, careful consideration will be given to all comments and views expressed by the public, whether given as verbal testimony at the public hearing or submitted in writing during the review and comment period. The final documents will have a section that includes all comments, plus explanations as to why any comments were not accepted.

3. Substantial Amendments to the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan

Amendments to the ConPlan or the Annual Action Plan will be necessary whenever one of the following is proposed:

- To make a substantial change in the allocation priorities or a substantial change in the method of distribution of funds. (Substantial change is defined as a change that affects more than 75% of the allocation of funding in any project and/or total distribution.);
- To carry out an activity using funds from any program not covered by the ConPlan (including program income) not previously described in the ConPlan; or
- To substantially change the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity.

The following procedures apply to amendments:

A. The City will place public notices in the Merced Sun-Star and Merced County Times newspapers, on the City's Web site (www.cityofmerced.org) and at City of Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, and/or the Merced Senior Center, or Merced County Administration Building.

B. Residents have 30 days to review the proposed amendment from the date of the notice.

C. During the 30-day public review and comment period, the document will be available for review at the City's Housing office and the City website. Copies of the document will be available to the public free of charge.

D. Residents may file comments at the City offices, 678 W. 18th Street, Housing Division, during the 30-day period from the date of the notice.

E. The City Council will adopt the amendment.

F. In preparing a final amendment, careful consideration will be given to all comments and views expressed by the public, whether given as verbal testimony at the public hearing or submitted in writing during the review and comment period. The final amendment will have a section that includes all comments, plus explanations as to why any comments were not accepted.

4. Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Every year, the City must submit to HUD a Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). In general, the CAPER must describe how funds were actually used and the extent to which these funds were used for activities that benefited low- and moderate-income people. The following steps outline the opportunities for public involvement in the CAPER:

A. The City will place public notices in the *Merced Sun-Star* and *Merced County Times* newspapers, on the City's Web site (www.cityofmerced.org) and at City of Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, and/or the Merced Senior Center, or Merced County Administration Building.

B. Residents have 15 days to review the CAPER and/or Action Plan from the date of the notice.

C. During the 15-day public review and comment period, the document will be available for review at the City's Housing Division office. Copies of the document will be available to the public free of charge.

D. Residents may file comments at the City offices, 678 W. 18th Street, Housing Division, during the 15-day period from the date of the notice.

E. The City Council will adopt the CAPER or Action Plan.

F. In preparing the CAPER and Action Plan, careful consideration will be given to all comments and views expressed by the public, whether given as verbal testimony at the public hearing or submitted in writing during the review and comment period. The final report will have a section that includes all comments, plus explanations as to why any comments were not accepted.

5. Response to Disasters and Unforeseen Events

In the event HUD provides opportunity for waiver of the requirements within this plan during a federally-declared disaster or upon any other unforeseen circumstance, the City will follow applicable amended procedures for public notice, public review and comment, and citizen participation to enable the City to redirect resources to the most immediate community needs. The City will comply with all requirements accompanying the allocation of federal funds in these circumstances, including the requirements of statutes, regulations, or HUD administrative guidance with respect to citizen participation and the amendment or adoption of the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, or CAPER. If needed, the City will request appropriate waivers from HUD to take advantage of any flexibility offered by HUD.

The City may modify its procedures as follows, notwithstanding HUD guidance to the contrary:

A. Any 30-day public review and comment period contemplated within this Plan may be shortened to five (5) days.

B. In-person public hearings may be replaced by virtual public hearings if:

1) National/local health authorities recommend social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons; and,

2) Virtual hearings provide reasonable notification and access for citizens in accordance with the grantee's certifications, timely responses from local officials to all citizen questions and issues, and public access to all questions and responses.

C. Further, the City may vary from its Citizen Participation Plan, and will attempt to follow the below reasonable notice and public comment procedures if City offices are physically closed to public access:

1) Public notices will be published in the "Public Notices" sections of the Merced County Times and the Merced Sun-Star newspaper publications approximately 15 days before a scheduled meeting to decide on any required actions related to the City's HUD Plans.

2) The Public notices will note the specific comment period and the meeting date on which the item(s) will be reviewed and action taken.

3) Proposed amendments to Plans will be made available for viewing from the City's website or can be emailed upon request by emailing housing@cityofmerced.org on any day prior to 2:00 p.m. on the last day of the posted comment period.

4) The City will make an effort to post any small (1 to 10 pages) documents in a locked, see-through case that is located outside the Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, during the entire comment period. Documents may not otherwise be viewable in person.

5) Members of the public may submit comments during the five-day comment period specified in the section above via: 1) by email of 500 words or less to housing@cityofmerced.org, or, 2) by leaving a voicemail no longer than three minutes in length to a phone number that will be provided.

6) Comments received may be read or received at the scheduled City Council meeting. Technology permitting, members of the public who have submitted comments may be called during the scheduled teleconferenced City Council meeting to provide additional comments during the meeting in real time.

7) The teleconferenced City Council meetings will be broadcast on Comcast Public Access Channel 96, through website livestream, and via a live social media feeds.

E. FUNDING OF PUBLIC SERVICES

In the event there is a demonstrated need to fund public services, the following will occur:

A. The City will issue a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the community meeting for the Annual Action Plan, beginning with the respective program year. The notice will identify the amount of CDBG funds available to public service agencies with CDBG-eligible activities. The agencies may apply to the City at the following address:

City of Merced Housing Division
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

B. All applications must include the following information in order to be eligible to receive CDBG funds:

- Completed City Housing Division CDBG Application & Documentation
- Alignment to National Objectives – 24 CFR 570.209(a)
- Alignment to CDBG Eligible Activities – 24 CFR 570.201
- Proof of organization's eligibility status and ability to oversee and carry out a federally funded program and reporting requirements

C. City staff will review applications to determine the eligibility of submissions. City staff will evaluate projects based on alignment to the City's ConPlan, Annual Action Plan, National Objectives, CDBG Eligible Activities, benefits to low- and moderate-income residents, and on the projects' feasibility.

D. The selected projects will be recommended to the City Council for approval.

E. Applicants will be notified by mail within 10 days of the City Council's decision.

F. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

DOCUMENT	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	REQUIRED TIME FOR PUBLIC REVIEW	REQUIRED APPROVAL	DEADLINE
Citizen Participation Plan	Available for Public Review 10-Day Notice Exception During Disasters/HUD-approved Circumstances: 5-Day Notice	30-Day Public Review Exception During Disasters/HUD-approved Circumstances: 5-Day Public Review	City Council	N/A

ConPlan and/or Annual Action Plan	Public Hearing 10-Day Notice 2-4 Community Input Meetings Area Specific Forums (CP only) Exception During Disasters/HUD-approved Circumstances: virtual public hearing allowed; 5-Day Notice	30-Day Public Review No later than March Exception During Disasters/HUD-approved Circumstances: 5-Day Public Review	City Council	Submit to HUD Prior to May 15
Substantial Amendments	No Public Hearing	30-Day Public Review Exception During Disasters/HUD-approved Circumstances: 5-Day Public Review	City Council	Submit to HUD
CAPER	One Public Meeting	15-Day Public Review	City Council	Submit to HUD Prior to Sept. 30

G. GLOSSARY

Annual Action Plan: An annual plan relative to the use of CDBG and HOME funds as aligned with CDBG Eligible Activities and National Objectives.

Citizen Participation Plan: A plan to involve residents in the planning, implementation and assessment of how the CDBG, HOME and ESG funds will be used.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): A HUD program that provides communities with financial resources to address community development needs identified by HUD to include a suitable living environment, affordable housing, economic opportunities, and homelessness.

Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER): An annual assessment relative to the CDBG, HOME and ESG funds received.

Consolidated Plan (ConPlan): A five-year strategic plan required by HUD that outlines a unified vision for addressing housing, homelessness, special populations and community economic development needs.

ESG: Emergency Shelter Grant

HOME Investment Partnership (HOME): A federal block grant designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households.

Low- and Moderate-Income Households: Households earning less than 80% of the area median family income. They are broken down into the following income designations:

- **Very Low Income:** Households with incomes less than 30% of the area median family income, adjusted for household size.
- **Low Income:** Households with incomes between 31% and 50% of the area median family income, adjusted for household size.
- **Moderate Income:** Households with incomes between 51% and 80% of the area median family income, adjusted for household size.

Low- and Moderate-Income Neighborhood: Generally, a census tract/s or block group/s where a minimum of 51% of the residents are low- or moderate-income households.

Median Family Income (MFI): An index of median family income by household size determined annually by HUD surveys of major metropolitan areas.

Program Year: An annual period from July 1 through June 30 for which the accounting of the CDBG, HOME and ESG funds occurs.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): A cabinet-level federal agency with a mission to increase homeownership, support community development and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination.

Grantee SF-424's and Certification(s)

Substantial Amendment #2

CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

CITY CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, D. SCOTT MCBRIDE, City Clerk of the City of Merced, California, do hereby certify that the attached document, entitled:

RESOLUTION 2024-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #2 TO THE PROGRAM YEAR 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DEPUTY CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND/OR AGREEMENTS RESULTING FROM THIS AMENDMENT; CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM; AND, AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

is a true and correct copy of the original on file in the Office of the Merced City Clerk, Merced, California.

DATED: May 7, 2024

D. SCOTT MCBRIDE,
CITY CLERK

CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA INCORPORATED APRIL 1, A.D. 1889

BY: Alejandra Medina
ALEJANDRA MEDINA
Deputy City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #2 TO THE PROGRAM YEAR 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DEPUTY CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND/OR AGREEMENTS RESULTING FROM THIS AMENDMENT; CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM; AND, AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, as a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) entitlement community and in following the City's adopted Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), the City of Merced is required to undergo a Substantial Amendment process to its respective Annual Action Plan when it makes changes that affect more than 75 percent of the allocation of funding in any project and/or total distribution, and/or when the City proposes to carry out activities using funds from any program not previously described by the Consolidated Plan, and/or to substantially change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of a previously described activity; and

WHEREAS, for Substantial Amendments, the adopted CPP requires at a minimum that the City: 1) place multi-language public notices in the Merced Sun-Star and Merced County Times, on the City's website, and at the City of Merced Civic Center; 2) make the proposed amendments available for review at the Housing Division office and the City website and provide copies upon request; and, 3) hold a minimum 30-day Review and Comment Period to give residents an opportunity to review the proposed changes and to provide comment. Following the completion of these Citizen Participation Requirements, the City Council may adopt any proposed Substantial Amendments without a Public Hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City published Public Notices in English, Spanish, and Hmong languages in both required local newspapers on Thursday, April 4, 2024, and posted the Notices to the City Housing Division website and at City Hall; provided a 32-day public review and comment period beginning Friday, April 5, 2024, to Monday, May 6, 2024; and advertised the expected date of the City Council Meeting at which approval of the Amendment would be requested; and

WHEREAS, HUD requires the City of Merced to develop, in consultation with its citizen and community-based service providers, a funding strategy that furthers its housing and community development goals as described in the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan for program years 2020-2024, a strategy which identifies the need for affordable rental housing as the most needed and underfunded priority need in the community; and

WHEREAS, HUD requires the City to expend CDBG funds in a timely fashion, and as such, the City must meet its May 2, 2024, annual regulatory timeliness deadline; and

WHEREAS, the Second Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan proposes to: 1) make the necessary corrections to reduce the total amount of available CDBG Expected Resources that were previously overstated in error in the First Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan that was approved by the City Council on January 2, 2024; 2) add $27,225 of additional unanticipated 2023 CDBG Program Income to CDBG Expected Resources and allocate it to Project #15; 3) remove 2022 Project #7 and 2023 Projects #5 and #14 in order to balance the program year budget; and 4) make necessary adjustments to the 2023 CDBG Annual Goals and Objectives for Goals 1A, 2A, 2B, 3A, and 4A as a result of these changes; and

WHEREAS, the Second Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan also serves to notify the Public of other minor changes to the text of the 2023 Annual Action Plan document, as was included and described in detail in the "2nd Substantial Amendment Summary of Changes to Projects and Amendment Details" document that was made available to the public for the aforementioned 32-day Review and Comment Period, and which is included as an attachment to the Executive Summary in the Second Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan document; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, FIND, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Merced hereby approves Substantial Amendment #2 to the City of Merced 2023 HUD Annual Action Plan, which also affects previously approved projects, activities, and funding, and directs the City Manager to review and consider all public comment provided in the Review and Comment Period and at the City Council Meeting. The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute all forms, certifications, agreements, and other documents related thereto, and staff is authorized to submit all documents to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby directs the Finance Officer to appropriate all funds as necessary and to projects as specified in the Second Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Merced at a regular meeting held on the 6th day of May 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: 5	Council Members:	BOYLE, DEANDA, PEREZ, SERRATTO, SMITH
NOES: 2	Council Members:	ORNELAS, XIONG
ABSENT: 0	Council Members:	NONE
ABSTAIN: 0	Council Members:	NONE

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APPROVED:
MATTHEW SERRATO, MAYOR

Mayor

ATTEST:
D. SCOTT MCBRIDE, CITY CLERK

BY: _____
Assistant/Deputy City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CRAIG J. CORNWELL, CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Date 5/2/2024

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4

CDBG

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

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: ☐ Preapplication ☒ Application ☐ Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: ☐ New ☒ Continuation ☐ Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): * Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received: 05/15/2024	4. Applicant Identifier: CA92250 XERCEC
5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	5b. Federal Award Identifier: B-22-MC-06-0014

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: City of Merced	
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 94-6000371	* c. UEI: LGYVE8JJHES07

d. Address:

* Street1:	678 W. 18th Street
Street2:	
* City:	Merced
County/Parish:	Merced
* State:	CA: California
Province:	
* Country:	USA: UNITED STATES
* Zip / Postal Code:	95340-4708

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name: Development Services Dept.	Division Name: Housing Division

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:		* First Name:	Kimberly
Middle Name:	D.		
* Last Name:	Rush		
Suffix:			
Title:	Housing Program Supervisor		
Organizational Affiliation:	[illegible]		
* Telephone Number:	209-388-8989	Fax Number:	
* Email:	rushk@cityofmerced.org		

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

C: City or Township Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14-218

CFDA Title:

Entitlement Grant - Community Development Block Grant formula program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

B-23-MC-05-0040

* Title:

2023 Community Development Block Grant

13. Competition Identification Number:

n/a

Title:

n/a

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Substantial Amendment #2 - 2023 Annual Action Plan. This amendment was necessary to correct calculation errors discovered with the 1st Substantial Amendment and to use additional 2023 program income.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments | Delete Attachments | View Attachments

1

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant: CA-013 * b. Program/Project: CA-013

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 07/01/2023 * b. End Date: 06/30/2024

18. Estimated Funding ($):

* a. Federal	1,634,373.00
* b. Applicant	
* c. State	
* d. Local	
* e. Other	2,325,865.00
* f. Program Income	147,320.00
* g. TOTAL	3,307,558.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .

☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name: Scott

Middle Name:

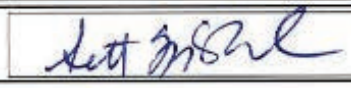
* Last Name: McBride

Suffix:

* Title: City Manager

* Telephone Number: 209-385-6834 Fax Number:

* Email: mcbridee@cityofmerced.org

* Signature of Authorized Representative:  * Date Signed: 6/12/2024

HOME

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

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:	* 2. Type of Application:	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):
☐ Preapplication	☐ New	
☒ Application	☒ Continuation	* Other (Specify):
☐ Changed/Corrected Application	☐ Revision	

* 3. Date Received:	4. Applicant Identifier:
8/15/2024	CA62250 NEWCED

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	5b. Federal Award Identifier:
	B-23-MC-06-0517

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:	City of Merced

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):	* c. UEI:
94-6000771	[redacted]

d. Address:

* Street1:	678 W. 18th Street
Street2:	
* City:	Merced
County/Parish:	Merced
* State:	CA: California
Province:	
* Country:	USA: UNITED STATES
* Zip / Postal Code:	95340-2707

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:	Division Name:
Development Services Dept.	Housing Division

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:	* First Name: Kimberly
Middle Name:	C.
* Last Name:	[redacted]
Suffix:	
Title:	Housing Program Supervisor
Organizational Affiliation:	(none)
* Telephone Number:	209-388-8789
Fax Number:	
* Email:	[redacted]@cityofmerced.org

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

C: City or Township Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14-239

CFDA Title:

Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) formula program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

B23-MC-SC-207

* Title:

2023 Home Investment Partnership Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

n/a

Title:

n/a

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Substantial Amendment #2 2023 Annual Action Plan. No change to HOME funding from 1st Substantial Amendment.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments | Delete Attachments | View Attachments

1

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant: CA-013 * b. Program/Project: CA-013

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 07/01/2023 * b. End Date: 06/30/2024

18. Estimated Funding ($):

* a. Federal	573,200.00
* b. Applicant	
* c. State	
* d. Local	
* e. Other	4,044,999.00
* f. Program Income	54,000.00
* g. TOTAL	4,672,199.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on

☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name: Scott

Middle Name:

* Last Name: McBride

Suffix:

* Title: City Manager

* Telephone Number: 209-385-6834 Fax Number:

* Email: mcbrideacityofmerced.org

* Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed: 5/12/2024

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

CERTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

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

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;

2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and

3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

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

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

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

Signature of Authorized Official

6/12/2024
Date

City Manager
Title

Specific Community Development Block Grant Certifications

The Entitlement Community certifies that:

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

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

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

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

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

2. Overall Benefit. The aggregate use of CDBG funds, including Section 108 guaranteed loans, during program year(s) 2022, 2023, and 2024 [a period specified by the grantee of one, two, or three specific consecutive program years], shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period.

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

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

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

Excessive Force -- It has adopted and is enforcing:

1. A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and

2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

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

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

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

Signature of Authorized Official

6/12/2024
Date

City Manager
Title

OPTIONAL Community Development Block Grant Certification

Submit the following certification only when one or more of the activities in the action plan are designed to meet other community development needs having particular urgency as specified in 24 CFR 570.208(c):

The grantee hereby certifies that the Annual Plan includes one or more specifically identified CDBG-assisted activities which are designed to meet other community development needs having particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

Not Applicable - N/A

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Title

Specific HOME Certifications

The HOME participating jurisdiction certifies that:

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

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

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

Signature of Authorized Official

6/12/2024
Date

City Manager
Title

Emergency Solutions Grants Certifications

The Emergency Solutions Grants Program recipient certifies that:

Major rehabilitation/conversion/renovation – If an emergency shelter's rehabilitation costs exceed 75 percent of the value of the building before rehabilitation, the recipient will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed rehabilitation.

If the cost to convert a building into an emergency shelter exceeds 75 percent of the value of the building after conversion, the recipient will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed conversion.

In all other cases where ESG funds are used for renovation, the recipient will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 3 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed renovation.

Essential Services and Operating Costs – In the case of assistance involving shelter operations or essential services related to street outreach or emergency shelter, the recipient will provide services or shelter to homeless individuals and families for the period during which the ESG assistance is provided, without regard to a particular site or structure, so long the recipient serves the same type of persons (e.g., families with children, unaccompanied youth, disabled individuals, or victims of domestic violence) or persons in the same geographic area.

Renovation – Any renovation carried out with ESG assistance shall be sufficient to ensure that the building involved is safe and sanitary.

Supportive Services – The recipient will assist homeless individuals in obtaining permanent housing, appropriate supportive services (including medical and mental health treatment, victim services, counseling, supervision, and other services essential for achieving independent living), and other Federal State, local, and private assistance available for these individuals.

Matching Funds – The recipient will obtain matching amounts required under 24 CFR 576.201.

Confidentiality – The recipient has established and is implementing procedures to ensure the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual provided family violence prevention or treatment services under any project assisted under the ESG program, including protection against the release of the address or location of any family violence shelter project, except with the written authorization of the person responsible for the operation of that shelter.

Homeless Persons Involvement – To the maximum extent practicable, the recipient will involve, through employment, volunteer services, or otherwise, homeless individuals and families in constructing, renovating, maintaining, and operating facilities assisted under the ESG program, in providing services assisted under the ESG program, and in providing services for occupants of facilities assisted under the program.

Consolidated Plan – All activities the recipient undertakes with assistance under ESG are consistent with its consolidated plan.

Discharge Policy The recipient will establish and implement, to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, policies and protocols for the discharge of persons from publicly funded institutions or systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or correction programs and institutions) in order to prevent this discharge from immediately resulting in homelessness for these persons.

Not Applicable - N/A

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Title

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Certifications

The HOPWA grantee certifies that:

Activities -- Activities funded under the program will meet urgent needs that are not being met by available public and private sources.

Building – Any building or structure assisted under that program shall be operated for the purpose specified in the consolidated plan:

1. For a period of not less than 10 years in the case of assistance involving new construction, substantial rehabilitation, or acquisition of a facility.

2. For a period of not less than 3 years in the case of assistance involving non-substantial rehabilitation or repair of a building or structure.

Not Applicable - N/A

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Title

APPENDIX TO CERTIFICATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING LOBBYING CERTIFICATION:

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

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

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

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

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

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

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11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.

12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.

14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is $10,000 or more.

15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq).

18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."

19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
[signature]	City Manager
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
City of Merced	06/12/2024

SF-424D (Rev. 7-97) Back

OMB Number: 4040-0007
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

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

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

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

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.

2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.

3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.

4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.

5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).

6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C.§§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.

8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

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Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.

10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is $10,000 or more.

11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).

14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.

15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.

16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.

17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."

18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
[signature]	City Manager
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
City of Merced	06/12/2024

Standard Form 424B (Rev. 7-97) Back

Substantial Amendment #1

CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

CITY CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, D. SCOTT MCBRIDE, City Clerk of the City of Merced, California, do hereby certify that the attached document, entitled:

RESOLUTION 2024-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #1 TO THE PROGRAM YEAR 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DEPUTY CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND/OR AGREEMENTS RESULTING FROM THIS AMENDMENT; CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM; AND, AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

is a true and correct copy of the original on file in the Office of the Merced City Clerk, Merced, California.

DATED: January 4, 2024

D. SCOTT MCBRIDE,
CITY CLERK

BY: Alejandra Medina
ALEJANDRA MEDINA
Deputy City Clerk

CITY of MERCED, CALIFORNIA
INCORPORATED APRIL 1, A.D. 1889

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-_02_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #1 TO THE PROGRAM YEAR 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DEPUTY CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND/OR AGREEMENTS RESULTING FROM THIS AMENDMENT; CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM; AND, AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, as a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) entitlement community and in following the City's adopted Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), the City of Merced is required to undergo a Substantial Amendment process to its respective Annual Action Plan when it makes changes that affect more than 75 percent of the allocation of funding in any project and/or total distribution, and/or when the City proposes to carry out activities using funds from any program not previously described by the Consolidated Plan, and/or to substantially change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of a previously described activity; and

WHEREAS, for Substantial Amendments, the adopted CPP requires at a minimum that the City: 1) place multi-language public notices in the Merced Sun-Star and Merced County Times, on the City's website, and at the City of Merced Civic Center; 2) make the proposed amendments available for review at the Housing Division office and the City website and provide copies upon request: 3) hold a minimum 30-day Review and Comment Period to give residents an opportunity to review the proposed changes and to provide comment. Following the completion of these Citizen Participation Requirements, the City Council may adopt any proposed Substantial Amendments without a Public Hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City published Public Notices in English, Spanish, and Hmong languages in both required local newspapers on Thursday, November 23, 2023, and posted the Notices to the City Housing Division website (www.cityofmerced.org/housing), and at City Hall; provided a 33-day public review and comment period beginning Friday, November 24, 2023, to Tuesday, December 26, 2023; and advertised the expected date of the City Council Meeting at which approval of the Amendment would be requested; and

WHEREAS, HUD requires the City of Merced to develop, in consultation with its citizen and community-based service providers, a funding strategy that furthers its housing and community development goals as described in the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan for program years 2020-2024, a strategy which identifies the need for affordable rental housing as the most needed and underfunded priority need in the community; and

WHEREAS, additionally, HUD requires the City to expend CDBG funds in a timely fashion, and as such, the City must expend a minimum of $1,551,559 of its CDBG funding to meet its May 2, 2024, regulatory timeliness deadline; and

WHEREAS, the First Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan proposes to: 1) address the urgent need for affordable rental housing by redirecting $2,612,845 of its CDBG funds from 2021, 2022, and 2023 Public Infrastructure and Facilities projects to 2023 Project #15 in the previously approved 2023 Annual Action Plan, for the purpose of acquiring vacant land for an affordable rental housing project and adds Acquisition of Land to the use of HOME funds in Project #15; 2) remove 2023 Projects #7 and #17 and redirect CDBG funding to Project #15; 3) add unanticipated 2023 CDBG Program Income to Expected Resources and allocate it to Project #15; and

WHEREAS, the First Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan also serves to notify the Public of other minor amendments to the 2023 Annual Action Plan and changes to Prior Year 2021 and 2022 Annual Action Plan CDBG funds and activities that will increase 2023 CDBG Carryover Resources Expected and redirect prior-year CDBG funds to 2023 Project #15, as was included and described in detail in the "Summary of Changes to Projects and Amendment Details" document that was made available to the public for the aforementioned 33-day Review and Comment Period that began on November 24, 2023, and which is included as an attachment to the Executive Summary in the First Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan document; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, FIND, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Merced hereby approves Substantial Amendment #1 to the City of Merced 2023 HUD Annual Action Plan, which also affects projects, activities, and funding previously approved in the 2021 and 2022 Annual Action Plans, and directs the City Manager to review and consider all public comment provided in the Review and Comment Period and at the City Council Meeting. The City Manager or Deputy City Manager is hereby authorized to execute all forms, certifications, agreements, and other documents related thereto, and staff is authorized to submit all documents to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby directs the Finance Officer to appropriate all funds as necessary and to projects as specified in the First Substantial Amendment to the 2023 Annual Action Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Merced at a regular meeting held on the 2nd day of January 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: 6	Council Members:	BOYLE, DEANDA, ORNELAS, SERRATTO, SMITH, XIONG
NOES: 0	Council Members:	NONE
ABSENT: 1	Council Members:	PEREZ
ABSTAIN: 0	Council Members:	NONE

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:
SCOTT McBRIDE, CITY CLERK

BY: _____
Assistant/Deputy City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____ 12-13-23
City Attorney Date

N:\SHARED\HOUSING\Documentr\Reports\ANNUAL PLAN, CONSOLIDATED PLAN, & FUNDING PROCESS\HUD Annual Plan 2023__AMENDMENTS\1st Substantial Amendment\Resolution\Final Draft CA 12-5-23_ResolutionCCMtg1-2-24_2023 AAP1stSubstAmendment.docx

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

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: ☐ Preapplication ☒ Application ☐ Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: ☐ New ☒ Continuation ☐ Revision
	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):
	* Other (Specify):
* 3. Date Received: [redacted]	4. Applicant Identifier: CA62250 MERCED
5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	5b. Federal Award Identifier: B-22-MC-06-0044
State Use Only:	
6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier:
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
* a. Legal Name: City of Merced	
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 94-6000371	* c. UEI: L6YVDNQLEFQ7
d. Address:	
* Street1: 678 W. 18th Street	
Street2:	
* City: Merced	
County/Parish: Merced	
* State: CA: California	
Province:	
* Country: USA: UNITED STATES	
* Zip / Postal Code: 95340-4700	
e. Organizational Unit:	
Department Name: Development Services Dept.	Division Name: Housing Division
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:	
Prefix:	* First Name: Kimberly
Middle Name: L.	
* Last Name: Nash	
Suffix:	
Title: Housing Program Supervisor	
Organizational Affiliation: (none)	
* Telephone Number: 209-388-8068	Fax Number:
* Email: [redacted]@cityofmerced.org	

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

C: City or Township Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

U.S. Department of Housing And Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14-218

CFDA Title:

Entitlement Grant - Community Development Block Grant formula program

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

B 23 MC 06 0044

* Title:

2023 Community Development Block Grant

13. Competition Identification Number:

n/a

Title:

n/a

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Substantial Amendment #1 - 2023 Annual Action Plan. Reallocate/repurpose CDBG funding from infrastructure improvement projects to new activity (acquisition of land for an affordable housing project).

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments | Delete Attachments | View Attachments

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant: CA-013 * b. Program/Project: CA-013

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 07/01/2023 * b. End Date: 06/30/2024

18. Estimated Funding ($):

* a. Federal	1,034,373.00
* b. Applicant	
* c. State	
* d. Local	
* e. Other	2,072,757.00
* f. Program Income	120,095.00
* g. TOTAL	3,227,225.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on

☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name: Scott

Middle Name:

* Last Name: McBride

Suffix:

* Title: City Manager

* Telephone Number: 209-385-6834 Fax Number:

* Email: mcbrides@cityofmerced.org

* Signature of Authorized Representative: x Frank Quintero for Scott McBride * Date Signed: 1/5/2024

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

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

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: ☐ Preapplication ☒ Application ☐ Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: ☐ New ☒ Continuation ☐ Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): * Other (Specify):
* 3. Date Received: 01/22/2024	4. Applicant Identifier: CA63250 M23CBD	
5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	5b. Federal Award Identifier: B22-MC-060227	
State Use Only:		
6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier:	

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:	City of Merced
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 94-6000271	* c. UEI: L6YVBMJBKSQ7
d. Address:	
* Street1:	678 W. 18th Street
Street2:	
* City:	Merced
County/Parish:	Merced
* State:	CA: California
Province:	
* Country:	USA: UNITED STATES
* Zip / Postal Code:	95340-4720
e. Organizational Unit:	
Department Name: Development Services Dept.	Division Name: Housing Division

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:	* First Name: Kimberly
Middle Name: D.	
* Last Name: Matt	
Suffix:	
Title: Housing Program Supervisor	
Organizational Affiliation: (none)	
* Telephone Number: 209-388-8908	Fax Number:
* Email: matthk@cityofmerced.org	

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

C: City or Township Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.239

CFDA Title:

Entitlement Grant - Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) formula program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

B23-MC060227

* Title:

2023 Home Investment Partnership Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

n/a

Title:

n/a

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Substantial Amendment #1 - 2023 Annual Action Plan. No change to HOME funding. Authorized Representative has changed since last application.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments | Delete Attachments | View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant: CA-013 * b. Program/Project: CA-013

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 07/01/2023 * b. End Date: 06/30/2024

18. Estimated Funding ($):

* a. Federal	573,200.00
* b. Applicant	
* c. State	
* d. Local	
* e. Other	4,044,999.00
* f. Program Income	54,000.00
* g. TOTAL	4,672,199.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .

☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:	
* First Name:	Scott
Middle Name:	
* Last Name:	McBride
Suffix:	
* Title:	City Manager
* Telephone Number:	209-385-6834
Fax Number:	
* Email:	mcbrides@cityofmerced.org
* Signature of Authorized Representative:	X Paul Quinta for Scott McBride
* Date Signed:	1/5/2024

CERTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

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

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;

2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and

3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

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

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

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

x Jul Quinton for Scott McBride 1/5/2024

Signature of Authorized Official Date

City Manager

Title

Specific Community Development Block Grant Certifications

The Entitlement Community certifies that:

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

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

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

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

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

2. Overall Benefit. The aggregate use of CDBG funds, including Section 108 guaranteed loans, during program year(s) 2022, 2023, and 2024 [a period specified by the grantee of one, two, or three specific consecutive program years], shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period.

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

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

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

Excessive Force -- It has adopted and is enforcing:

1. A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and

2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

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

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

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

Frank Quintero for Scott McBride 1/5/2024

Signature of Authorized Official Date

City Manager

Title

OPTIONAL Community Development Block Grant Certification

Submit the following certification only when one or more of the activities in the action plan are designed to meet other community development needs having particular urgency as specified in 24 CFR 570.208(c):

The grantee hereby certifies that the Annual Plan includes one or more specifically identified CDBG-assisted activities which are designed to meet other community development needs having particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

Not Applicable - N/A

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Title

Specific HOME Certifications

The HOME participating jurisdiction certifies that:

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

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

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

x Signature of Authorized Official — Date: 1/5/2024

City Manager
Title

Emergency Solutions Grants Certifications

The Emergency Solutions Grants Program recipient certifies that:

Major rehabilitation/conversion/renovation – If an emergency shelter's rehabilitation costs exceed 75 percent of the value of the building before rehabilitation, the recipient will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed rehabilitation.

If the cost to convert a building into an emergency shelter exceeds 75 percent of the value of the building after conversion, the recipient will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed conversion.

In all other cases where ESG funds are used for renovation, the recipient will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 3 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed renovation.

Essential Services and Operating Costs – In the case of assistance involving shelter operations or essential services related to street outreach or emergency shelter, the recipient will provide services or shelter to homeless individuals and families for the period during which the ESG assistance is provided, without regard to a particular site or structure, so long the recipient serves the same type of persons (e.g., families with children, unaccompanied youth, disabled individuals, or victims of domestic violence) or persons in the same geographic area.

Renovation – Any renovation carried out with ESG assistance shall be sufficient to ensure that the building involved is safe and sanitary.

Supportive Services – The recipient will assist homeless individuals in obtaining permanent housing, appropriate supportive services (including medical and mental health treatment, victim services, counseling, supervision, and other services essential for achieving independent living), and other Federal State, local, and private assistance available for these individuals.

Matching Funds – The recipient will obtain matching amounts required under 24 CFR 576.201.

Confidentiality – The recipient has established and is implementing procedures to ensure the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual provided family violence prevention or treatment services under any project assisted under the ESG program, including protection against the release of the address or location of any family violence shelter project, except with the written authorization of the person responsible for the operation of that shelter.

Homeless Persons Involvement – To the maximum extent practicable, the recipient will involve, through employment, volunteer services, or otherwise, homeless individuals and families in constructing, renovating, maintaining, and operating facilities assisted under the ESG program, in providing services assisted under the ESG program, and in providing services for occupants of facilities assisted under the program.

Consolidated Plan – All activities the recipient undertakes with assistance under ESG are consistent with its consolidated plan.

Discharge Policy – The recipient will establish and implement, to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, policies and protocols for the discharge of persons from publicly funded institutions or systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or correction programs and institutions) in order to prevent this discharge from immediately resulting in homelessness for these persons.

Not Applicable - N/A

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Title

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Certifications

The HOPWA grantee certifies that:

Activities -- Activities funded under the program will meet urgent needs that are not being met by available public and private sources.

Building -- Any building or structure assisted under that program shall be operated for the purpose specified in the consolidated plan:

1. For a period of not less than 10 years in the case of assistance involving new construction, substantial rehabilitation, or acquisition of a facility,

2. For a period of not less than 3 years in the case of assistance involving non-substantial rehabilitation or repair of a building or structure.

Not Applicable - N/A

Signature of Authorized Official Date

Title

APPENDIX TO CERTIFICATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING LOBBYING CERTIFICATION:

Lobbying Certification

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

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

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

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

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

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

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Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.

12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.

14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is $10,000 or more.

15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq).

18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."

19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
* Frank Quintero for Scott McBride	City Manager
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
City of Merced	01/05/2024

SF-424D (Rev. 7-97) Back

OMB Number: 4040-0007
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

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

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

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

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.

2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.

3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.

4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.

5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).

6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C.§§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.

8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

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Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.

10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is $10,000 or more.

11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).

14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.

15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.

16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.

17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."

18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
X Jennifer Gunter for Scott McBride	City Manager
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
City of Merced	01/05/2024

Standard Form 424B (Rev. 7-97) Back

Original Annual Action Plan

CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

CITY CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, STEPHANIE DIETZ, City Clerk of the City of Merced, California, do hereby certify that the attached document, entitled:

RESOLUTION 2023-34

A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE 2023 HUD ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM

is a true and correct copy of the original on file in the Office of the Merced City Clerk, Merced, California.

DATED: June 7, 2023

STEPHANIE DIETZ, CITY CLERK

BY: Jennifer Levesque
JENNIFER LEVESQUE
Assistant City Clerk

CITY of MERCED, CALIFORNIA
INCORPORATED APRIL 1, A.D. 1889

678 West 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-_36_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE 2023 HUD ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has determined that the City of Merced will receive formula allocations of One Million Thirty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars and Zero Cents ($1,034,373.00) of Community Block Grant (CDBG) and Five Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Two Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents ($573,200.00) of Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds for the 2023 program year, spanning July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, and the City is required to prepare, approve, and submit a comprehensive Annual Action Plan, in order to use these funds; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Merced held public hearings on March 20, 2023, May 1, 2023, and June 5, 2023, to consider public comments on the yearly goals and priorities, proposed Community Organization programs, available resources, proposed expenditure of Federal and City funds, and other data contained in the Draft 2023 Annual Action Plan, and further discussed project funding at the City Council meeting of April 17, 2023, to which residents could provide further public comment; and,

WHEREAS, during said public hearings and public meetings held during development of the Draft Plan, information was provided about HUD's requirements to meet specific National Objectives when funding programs and activities, and a discussion was held regarding eligible uses of CDBG and HOME funds in the City of Merced during the 2023 program year; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Merced has followed its adopted Citizen Participation Plan in providing residents with multiple opportunities to receive information and provide comment on concerns including, but not limited to, affordable housing, fair housing, infrastructure development, public services, and other high community needs, and the estimated and actual available amounts,

range of eligible activities, and program requirements for expenditure of CDBG and HOME funds towards housing and community development, and as such provided citizens with reasonable opportunity to participate in development of the 2023 Annual Action Plan, including any submissions, revisions, changes or amendments thereto, and by implementing the minimum 30-day public review and comment period required by the Citizen Participation Plan, which commenced on March 31, 2023, and was extended to end on May 15, 2023 (46 days).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, FIND, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Merced hereby approves the City of Merced's 2023 HUD Annual Action Plan and directs the City Manager and Deputy City Manager to review and consider all public comment provided. The City Manager and Deputy City Manager are hereby authorized to execute all documents related thereto, and staff is authorized to submit all required documents to HUD and to make any subsequent corrections to the submitted plan, as specifically directed by HUD.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby accepts CDBG and HOME grant funds in the respective amounts of One Million Thirty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars and Zero Cents ($1,034,373.00) and Five Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Two Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents ($573,200.00) at such time as HUD issues the CDBG and HOME Grant Agreements.

SECTION 3. The City Council hereby directs the Finance Officer to appropriate all CDBG and HOME funds as necessary and to projects as determined.

SECTION 4. The City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager to award and execute agreement(s) to any third-party contractors and subrecipients, for eligible projects and activities as set forth in the 2023 Annual Action Plan, subject to compliance with any applicable CDBG, HOME, and City competitive bidding requirements.

SECTION 5. The City Council hereby directs that prior to execution, all agreements shall be reviewed and approved as to form and legality by the City Attorney.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Merced at a regular meeting held on the 5th day of June 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: 5 Council Members: BOYLE, DEANDA, PEREZ, SERRATTO, XIONG

NOES: 0 Council Members: NONE

ABSENT: 1 Council Members: ORNELAS

ABSTAIN: 1 Council Members: SMITH

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:
STEPHANIE R. DIETZ, CITY CLERK

BY: _____
Assistant/Deputy City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____ 5/18/23
City Attorney Date

C:\Users\klores\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\X3ZZF1U3\2023 AAP Draft ResolutionV3.docx

3

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

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: ☐ Preapplication ☒ Application ☐ Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: ☐ New ☒ Continuation ☐ Revision
	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):
	* Other (Specify):
* 3. Date Received: 06/23/2023	4. Applicant Identifier: CA52250 MERCED
5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	5b. Federal Award Identifier: B-22-MC-06-0014
State Use Only:	
6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: City of Merced	
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 94-6000371	* c. UEI: LGYYDXJB6Q7

d. Address:

* Street1:	678 W. 18th Street
Street2:	
* City:	Merced
County/Parish:	Merced
* State:	CA: California
Province:	
* Country:	USA: UNITED STATES
* Zip / Postal Code:	95340 4700

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name: Development Services Dept.	Division Name: Housing Division

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:	* First Name: Scott
Middle Name:	
* Last Name: McBride	
Suffix:	
Title: Development Services Director	
Organizational Affiliation: (name)	
* Telephone Number: 209.385.6818	Fax Number:
* Email: mcbrides@cityofmerced.org	

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

C: City or Township Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.218

CFDA Title:

Entitlement Grant - Community Development Block Grant formula program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

B-23-MC-05-0044

* Title:

2023 Community Development Block Grant

13. Competition Identification Number:

n/a

Title:

n/a

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

2023 Annual Action Plan using entitlement allocation for projects eligible under the CDBG Program.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments | Delete Attachments | View Attachments

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant: CA-013 * b. Program/Project: CA-013

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 07/01/2023 * b. End Date: 06/30/2024

18. Estimated Funding ($):

* a. Federal	1,034,373.00
* b. Applicant	
* c. State	
* d. Local	
* e. Other	964,025.00
* f. Program Income	93,000.00
* g. TOTAL	2,091,398.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .

☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name: Stephanie

Middle Name: R.

* Last Name: Dietz

Suffix:

* Title: City Manager

* Telephone Number: 209-385-6834 Fax Number:

* Email: sdietz@cityofmerced.org

* Signature of Authorized Representative: X Stephanie R. Dietz * Date Signed: 06/20/2023

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

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: ☐ Preapplication ☒ Application ☐ Change/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: ☐ New ☒ Continuation ☐ Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): * Other (Specify):
* 3. Date Received: 05/05/2023	4. Applicant Identifier: CA52253 MERCED	
5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	5b. Federal Award Identifier: B23-MC060237	
State Use Only:		
6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier: n/a	

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: City of Merced	
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 94-6000371	* c. UEI: GYYJHJLUSC7

d. Address:

* Street1:	678 W. 18th Street
Street2:	
* City:	Merced
County/Parish:	Merced
* State:	CA: California
Province:	
* Country:	USA: UNITED STATES
* Zip / Postal Code:	95340-4700

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name: Development Services Dept.	Division Name: Housing Division

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:	* First Name: Kara
Middle Name:	
* Last Name: McBride	
Suffix:	
Title: Development Services Director	
Organizational Affiliation: (None)	
* Telephone Number: 209-385-6818	Fax Number:
* Email: mcbridek@cityofmerced.org	

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

C: City or Township Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14-239

CFDA Title:

Entitlement Grant - Home Investment Partnership Program HOME) formula program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

2023-NC060227

* Title:

2023 Home Investment Partnership Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

n/a

Title:

n/a

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

2023 Annual Action Plan using entitlement allocation for projects eligible under the HOME Program.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments | Delete Attachments | View Attachments

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant: CA-013 * b. Program/Project: CA-013

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 07/01/2023 * b. End Date: 06/30/2024

18. Estimated Funding ($):

* a. Federal	573,200.00
* b. Applicant	
* c. State	
* d. Local	
* e. Other	4,044,999.00
* f. Program Income	54,000.00
* g. TOTAL	4,672,199.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on

☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

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☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name: Stephanie

Middle Name: R.

* Last Name: Dietz

Suffix:

* Title: City Manager

* Telephone Number: 209-385-6834 Fax Number:

* Email: dietzs@cityofmerced.org

* Signature of Authorized Representative: Stephanie R. Dietz * Date Signed: 06/20/2023

CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the consolidated plan regulations, the jurisdiction ce1tifies that:

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

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

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

I. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for innuencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;

2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Fonn to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and

3. It will require that the language of paragraph I and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

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

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

Section 3 -- It will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (l2 U.S.C. 170 Iu) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 75.

X Stephanie R. Dietz
Signature of Authorized Official

June 20, 2023
Date

City Manager
Title

Specific Community Development Block Grant Certifications

The Entitlement Community certifies that:

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

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

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

Use of Funds – It has complied with the following criteria:

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

2. Overall Benefit. The aggregate use of CDBG funds, including Section 108 guaranteed loans, during program year(s) 2022, 2023, and 2024 [a period specified by the grantee of one, two, or three specific consecutive program years], shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period.

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

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

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

Excessive Force -- It has adopted and is enforcing:

1. A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and

2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

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

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

Compliance with Laws – It will comply with applicable laws.

X Stephanie R. Ditz
Signature of Authorized Official

June 20, 2023
Date

City Manager
Title

OPTIONAL Community Development Block Grant Certification

Submit the following certification only when one or more of the activities in the action plan are designed to meet other community development needs having pa,ticular urgency as specified in 24 CFR 570.208(c):

The grantee hereby certifies that the Annual Plan includes one or more specifically identified CDBG-assisted activities which are designed to meet other community development needs having particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

Not Applicable - N/A

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Title

Specific HOME Certifications

The HOME participatingjurisdiction certifies that:

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

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

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

X Stephanie R. Dietz
Signature of Authorized Official

June 20, 2023
Date

City Manager
Title

Emergency Solutions Grants Certifications

The Emergency Solutions Grants Program recipient certifies that:

Major rehabilitation/conversion/renovation - If an emergency shelter's rehabilitation costs exceed 75 percent of the value of the building before rehabilitation, the recipient will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed rehabilitation.

If the cost to convert a building into an emergency shelter exceeds 75 percent of the value of the building after conversion, the recipient will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed conversion.

In all other cases where ESG funds are used for renovation, the recipient will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 3 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed renovation.

Essential Services and **Operating Costs** - In the case of assistance involving shelter operations or essential services related to street outreach or emergency shelter, the recipient will provide services or shelter to homeless individuals and families for the period during which the ESG assistance is provided, without regard to a particular site or structure, so long the recipient serves the same type of persons (e.g., families with children, unaccompanied youth, disabled individuals, or victims of domestic violence) or persons in the same geographic area.

Renovation - Any renovation carried out with ESG assistance shall be sufficient to ensure that the building involved is safe and sanitary.

Supportive Services - The recipient will assist homeless individuals in obtaining permanent housing, appropriate supportive services (including medical and mental health treatment, victim services, counseling, supervision, and other services essential for achieving independent living), and other Federal State, local, and private assistance available for these individuals.

Matching Funds - The recipient will obtain matching amounts required under 24 CFR 576.201.

Confidentiality - The recipient has established and is implementing procedures to ensure the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual provided family violence prevention or treatment services under any project assisted under the ESG program, including protection against the release of the address or location of any family violence shelter project, except with the written authorization of the person responsible for the operation of that shelter.

Homeless Persons Involvement - To the maximum extent practicable, the recipient will involve, through employment, volunteer services, or otherwise, homeless individuals and families in constructing, renovating, maintaining, and operating facilities assisted under the ESG program, in providing services assisted under the ESG program, and in providing services for occupants of facilities assisted under the program.

Consolidated Plan - All activities the recipient undertakes with assistance under ESG are consistent with its consolidated plan.

Discharge Policy - The recipient will establish and implement, to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, policies and protocols for the discharge of persons from publicly funded institutions or systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or correction programs and institutions) in order to prevent this discharge from immediately resulting in homelessness for these persons.

Not Applicable - N/A

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Title

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Certifications

The HOPWA grantee certifies that:

Activities – Activities funded under the program will meet urgent needs that are not being met by available public and private sources.

Building – Any building or structure assisted under that program shall be operated for the purpose specified in the consolidated plan:

1. For a period of not less than 10 years in the case of assistance involving new construction, substantial rehabilitation, or acquisition of a facility,

2. For a period of not less than 3 years in the case of assistance involving non-substantial rehabilitation or repair of a building or structure.

Not Applicable - N/A

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Title

APPENDIX TO CERTIFICATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING LOBBYING CERTIFICATION:

Lobbying Certification

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

CDBG

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

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

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

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

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29) U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statue(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and 0) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statue(s) which may apply to the application.

Previous Edition Usable

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Standard Form 424D (Rev. 7-97)
Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and 111of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.

12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.

14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is $10,000 or more.

15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq).

18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and 0MB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."

19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
X Stephanie R. Dietz	laity Manager
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
City of Merced	06/20/2023

SF-424D (Rev. 7-97) Back

OMB Number: 4040-0007
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

CDBG

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

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

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.

2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.

3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.

4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.

5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).

6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C.§§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements ofTitles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.

8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

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9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.

10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is $10,000 or more.

11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).

14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.

15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.

16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.

17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."

18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
X Stephanie R. Dietz	City Manager
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
City of Merced	06/20/2023

Standard Form 4248 (Rev. 7-97) Back

HOME

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

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

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29) U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statue(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and 0) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statue(s) which may apply to the application.

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11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and 111of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.

12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.

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15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

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SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
X Stephanie R. Dietz	laity Manager
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
City of Merced	06/20/2023

SF-424D (Rev. 7-97) Back

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OMB Number: 4040-0007
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

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SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
X Stephanie R. Dietz	City Manager
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
City of Merced	06/20/2023

Standard Form 4248 (Rev. 7-97) Back