

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

The 2022-2023 program year was the County's third year of the 2020-2025 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The County was allocated \$1,446,270 in CDBG funds. This was also the 3rd year of the 2020-2023 Osceola County Consortium between Osceola County (lead agency) and the City of Kissimmee. The total HOME allocation received was \$1,066,577.00. The County implemented its 2022 Action Plan projects, narrowing its focus to the following target areas: Marydia, Tropical Park, BVL, and County-wide activities (when applicable). Program staff held several community meetings to discuss the 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan.

During program year 2022-2023, the County made progress towards addressing affordable housing through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program funded under the public services category. Also under public services, the County renewed its support for the BVL Health Clinic which provides health services to low- to moderate-income households. The BVL Health Clinic extended its services to offer behavioral health appointments. A total of 90 unduplicated beneficiaries received assistance through the BVL Health Clinic.

Additional housing and community development strategies included the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program and infrastructure activities including new sidewalks, rehabilitated community center, rehabilitated playgrounds, and the stormwater improvement activity. PY2019 and PY2020 HOME funds were used towards the completion of St. Cloud Villas II Rehabilitation Project (CHDO). PY2021 and PY2022 funds were used in the start of the NSP-Homes Rehabilitation Project (CHDO).

Through the SHIP interlocal agreement, the County offered the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program, Home Purchase Assistance Program, and Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program. In partnership with the University of Florida's IFAS Extension office, the County provided funding for pre- and post-purchase homebuyer educational classes. A financial literacy course titled "Taking Control of Your Money" was also made available. A total of 6 households purchased homes through program year 2021-2022 funding during calendar year 2022. A total of 4 households purchased homes during program year 2022-2023.

Additional activities executed during calendar year 2023 included Microenterprise using CDBG-CV funds and Disaster Recovery using SHIP funds.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee’s program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$285309.35 / Shelter Plus Care: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	0	0		5	0	0.00%
Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$285309.35 / Shelter Plus Care: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	150	22	14.67%			
CHDO Set Aside	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	5	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%
CHDO Set Aside	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	5	50	1,000.00 %	5	0	0.00%

General Public Services	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1500	1215	81.00%	661	90	13.62%
General Public Services	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	375	0	0.00%	30	0	0.00%
General Public Services	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	0		0	0	
Homebuyer Assistance	Affordable Housing	SHIP: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	150	10	6.67%			
Homeowner Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	General Fund: \$ / SHIP: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	25	2	8.00%			

Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	100	9	9.00%	10	0	0.00%
Program Administration	Program Administration	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%	1	0	0.00%
Public Facilities and Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	2500	0	0.00%	1080	0	0.00%
Rental Development - New Construction	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	75	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%
Rental Housing Activities	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$250000 / SHIP: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	25	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%
Rental Housing Activities	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$250000 / SHIP: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	35	0	0.00%			

Tenant Based Rental Assistance	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$ / Section 8: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	300	0	0.00%	25	0	0.00%
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Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

Osceola County utilizes its CDBG funds to target low- to moderate-income individuals and families through community development and public service opportunities.

With the lifting of most COVID-19 health and safety protocols by the start of the program year in October 2022, and the official end of the COVID-19 public health emergency on May 11, 2023, Osceola County saw an opportunity to continue its attention on public services such as affordable health care and emergency rental assistance, since those are both high priority activities in the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan and 2022 Annual Action Plan and were two priority needs for Osceola County residents prior to the negative financial impacts and elevated inflation costs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME
White	46	0
Black or African American	13	0
Asian	1	0
American Indian or American Native	2	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0
Total	63	0
Hispanic	64	0
Not Hispanic	26	0

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

The County assisted a total of 90 individuals/households through the BVL Health Clinic (Public Services Activity). Of the total assisted, 27 were other multi-racial, 46 were white, 13 were black or African American, 1 was Asian, 2 were American Indian or American Native and 1 was Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

64 were Hispanic and 26 were not Hispanic.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	1,556,114	214,153
HOME	public - federal	959,778	90,760
General Fund	public - local	32,525,577	13,498,210
Section 8	public - federal	27,593,588	22,253,443
Shelter Plus Care	public - federal	315,823	187,765
Other	public - state	0	0

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Osceola County received entitlement funds under the CDBG and HOME Programs. The County also received funding from the State of Florida and utilized general funds to extend efforts in combatting homelessness. A total of \$32,525,577.00 were allocated in general funds to the Housing and Community Services Department. Included in the general fund allocation was \$40,000.00 intended to match the State-funded ESG Program administered through HSN. No HUD ESG funds were awarded in 2022.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Buenaventura Lakes	40	20	
Campbell City			
City of Kissimmee	10	0	
County-wide Activities	40	20	
Intercession City			
Marydia	10	0	
Poinciana			
Tropical Park			
West 192			Slum and Blight Area

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

Osceola County leveraged federal funds with State, local, and private funds to address the needs of the lower-income residents of the County. The State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program provides funds to local governments as an incentive to create partnerships that produce affordable homeownership and multifamily housing. During PY2022-2023, Osceola County was awarded \$2,537,112.00 in SHIP – State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program funds (SHIP). The County also had prior program year funding available. SHIP funds were used towards the Home Purchase Assistance Program, SHIP Eviction Prevention Program, Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program, the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program, and the Disaster Recovery Program.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	0
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	0
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	0
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	0

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at beginning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
0	0	0	0	0

Table 7 – Program Income

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			
Number	0	0	0			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0		0		
Businesses Displaced		0		0		
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0		0		
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0		0		
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

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CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	55	59
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	25	5
Total	80	64

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	55	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	5	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	20	59
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	80	59

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

During PY2022, a total of 9 households were assisted through the owner-occupied rehabilitation program through prior program year funding. Immediately following the pandemic, the County was trying its best to resume normal operations. Although County staff tried their best in administering the OOR Program, there were several obstacles encountered that impacted the annual goals. Obstacles included delays in the supply chain and drastic increases in the price of materials which impacted the overall timeliness of each project completion.

During PY2022, a total of 50 units in a multi-family property were assisted using CHDO HOME funds from PY2019 and PY2020. Similar to the OOR Program, the CHDO Project also experienced delays in completion.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Osceola County has designed measures to build resiliency and to increase the number of assisted families/households. In efforts to expend program year 2022-2023 funds, Osceola County continues to market existing strategies county-wide including advertising the programs via yard signs, enrolling additional general contractors, training staff/personnel, and offering electronic applications. Additional efforts included the increase in project allocation to cover the heighten expenses in the construction industry.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	1	34
Low-income	1	16
Moderate-income	7	0
Total	9	50

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Of the 9 households assisted through the OOR activity: 7 Low, 1 Very Low, and 1 EVL.

Of the 50 households assisted through the St. Cloud Villas II CHDO, 16 were considered Very Low and 34 EVL.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

The Homeless Services Network (HSN), lead agency in the area's Continuum of Care Network, continues to increase access points for the homeless to get referral services throughout the Osceola, Orange and Seminole County area. HSN has trained and continues training providers on the common assessment tool and thus is able to provide more and more live referrals for the HMIS.

HOPE Partnership is a "one-stop" location where individuals and families can come to inquire about available resources. Individuals/families are assessed, entered in the HMIS system based on priority, and offered assistance through the network of partner agencies depending on eligibility.

To combat homelessness, the County continued to take the following actions during the FY 2022:

- Provided homelessness prevention to qualifying households through the TANF Program in the form of temporary rental assistance.
- Continued communication and consultation with our HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Commission on Homelessness.
- Continue to fund the Homeless Section of the Department with general funds, S+C and State-funded ESG to assist homeless individuals and families obtain and maintain housing.
- Use CDBG and SHIP funds to assist with emergency rental payments

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

There is a significant gap in the delivery of services due to a lack of homeless shelters in the County and the shortage of transitional housing and supportive housing. Although Osceola County does not directly provide emergency shelter and transitional housing for homeless persons, the County does work with supportive service providers such as The Transition House, Inc., and Help Now of Osceola, to connect persons in need of emergency shelter or transitional housing. The County anticipates continuing allocating housing and community development funding to these organizations to expand their ability to assist persons and families in need of these types of services.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after 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); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Osceola County works with homeless or at-risk of homelessness individuals and families to connect them with local public and private agencies that provide other non-housing supportive services such as job training, employment services, counseling, and case management services. These activities help homeless or at-risk of homeless households transition from emergency and temporary situations to permanent housing. This includes the Emergency Rental program, which assisted those that have had a hardship with up to three months of rent.

Osceola County did not receive ESG funds during PY 2022 because the required thresholds for need were not met during the latest analysis of the HMIS. Temporary rental assistance is offered through SHIP, Financial Housing Assistance (FHA – general funds), TANF and State funded ESG.

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

In addition to working with the abovementioned CoC and local homeless services providers, Osceola County allocates the Housing and Community Services Department with funds towards affordable housing activities and rental assistance to prevent individuals/families from becoming homeless again due to lack of access to affordable rental housing or eviction. Through the administration of the S+C Program, the County provides case management to assist the chronically homeless with permanent housing placement.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Osceola County does not have a traditional Public Housing Authority (PHA) and does not provide public housing services to its residents. As an entitlement agency, Osceola County receives Section 8 funding to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Since last reported, there are approximately 207 families/individuals on the waiting list pending a Section 8 voucher. Additional vouchers have been awarded through the VASH, Mainstream and Emergency Housing Voucher Programs.

Osceola County dedicates its focus to assisting families in need of affordable, accessible housing units through other rental assistance programs available and administered through the Osceola County Housing and Community Services Dept.

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

Osceola County does not have a traditional public housing authority; therefore, there is no public housing tenant activity to report.

Eligible HCV Section 8 Program participants are encouraged to apply for the Osceola SHIP Purchase Assistance Program. The goal of the SHIP Program is to provide funds to local governments to create partnerships like the University of Florida's IFAS Extension office to promote affordable homeownership through financial literacy courses. To apply for the SHIP Purchase Assistance Program, all applicants are required to obtain a First-Time Homebuyer's Certificate. The course covers topics on the importance of budgeting, credit, how to choose a mortgage, etc.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

This section is not applicable. Osceola County has no public housing authority and therefore no public housing tenants or applicants. There are no PHAs designated as "troubled" in Osceola County.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken 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. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

In October 2020, the Osceola County, in partnership with the City of Kissimmee, finalized its 2020-2025 AI. An in-depth analysis was performed through local and regional consultation with local housing and legal services provider agencies to determine what type of public and private sector impediments towards fair housing exist in our communities. The following is a summary of the findings and the recommendations that Osceola County will consider over the next five-year period to remove or ameliorate each impediment:

Impediment #1: Discrimination in Housing Sales and Rental

Recommendations for resolution:

- 1.1 Encourage subgrantees to target marketing resources to promote fair housing awareness in underserved communities. Examples include targeted TV stations, radio, and print media.
- 1.2 Require local HOME and CDBG grantees to publish a public notice in the local newspaper providing the contact information and the availability of local fair housing counseling services and post this notice in the local administration building and on the community's website.

Impediment #2: Lack of Existing/Available Housing Stock and the Geographic Distribution of Affordable Housing Stock

Recommendations for resolution:

- 2.1 Continue to develop various incentive programs that reduce the cost of development of new affordable housing.
- 2.2 Allow affordable accessory residential units in residential zoning districts.
- 2.3 Support development near transportation hubs and major employment centers and mixed-use developments.

Impediment #3: Community Resistance to development of multi-family rental housing and housing for lower-income or minority households

Recommendations for resolution:

3.1 Continue the review of local comprehensive land use plans and amendments to ensure they do not include impediments to fair housing choice and affirmatively further fair housing.

3.2 Allow flexible densities for affordable housing.

3.3 Allow flexible lot configurations, including zero-lot-line configurations for affordable housing.

Impediment #4: Inadequate access for minority households to housing outside of areas minority concentration

Recommendations for resolution:

4.1 Assign application rating points to increase competitiveness to HOME projects not located in areas of minority concentration.

4.2 Coordinate with housing developers and local housing and supportive service providers on best practices related to utilization rates and locating projects outside areas of minority concentration.

Impediment #5: Inadequate access to employment opportunities, transportation and public and social services infrastructure to support increased housing opportunities for lower income, minority, and disabled households.

Recommendations for resolution:

5.1 Continue to review local comprehensive land use plans and amendments to ensure all residents have adequate transportation access to jobs and to public and social services

5.2 Reserve infrastructure capacity for housing for very-low income persons, low-income persons, and moderate-income persons.

5.3 Encourage multi-modal forms of transportation and proximity of mass transit.

Impediment #6: High loan denial rates and issuance of predatory-style loans, particularly for selected racial and ethnic minorities

Recommendations for resolution:

5.1 Enhance understanding of real estate transactions, the attributes of predatory style loans and how to establish and keep good credit, particularly for first-time homebuyers, through courses and seminars.

5.2 Provide subrecipients with resource materials and encourage them to conduct outreach and education to the banking industry, including organizations that provide homebuyer training.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The County has identified the obstacles to meeting underserved needs are a general lack of resources; low salaries for many households in the County; a lack of affordable housing; and an increasing population with diverse needs. There is also a lack of emergency and transitional housing to assist homeless populations in Osceola County.

To address these issues the County continued to coordinate and collaborate with local agencies and participate in regional efforts to meet underserved needs to increase its resources and expand its reach in meeting all the needs of residents.

CDBG funding was awarded towards projects such as healthcare services to LMI households, housing assistance programs for homeless prevention, and public facility improvements in LMI areas of the County.

HOME funding was directed towards new rental construction, affordable permanent housing for seniors, TBRA and CHDO activities. These housing activities helped to address the lack of affordable housing options in the County.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The Osceola County HOME Consortium works diligently to reduce or eliminate lead-based paint hazards and prevent childhood lead poisoning. This is accomplished through a coordinated effort of public and private sectors. The County follows procedures as specified in applicable regulations. During the execution of its CDBG and HOME activities, the County, the City of Kissimmee and their contractors and/or representatives provide all required notifications to owners and occupants and inspect for defective paint surfaces in pre-1978 properties. Any defective paint conditions found is included in the scope of work and treatment provided to the defective areas. All paint inspections, risk assessments and clearance testing of suspect properties are performed by licensed testing professionals.

Actions to Address LBP Hazards:

- If a lead-based paint inspection for a pre-1979 housing rehabilitation project was determined to have less than one milligram per square centimeter (1mg/cm²), construction can only proceed with required disclosure and notice.
- If a lead-based paint inspection for a pre-1979 housing rehabilitation projects proves to be lead positive, contractors were required to proceed in accordance with HUD established procedures prescribed in 24 CFR part 35 for proper management and treatment.
- All clients that apply for assistance through any of the many offered housing programs were given educational materials regarding lead-based paint hazards. The County also educated the contractors that are providing housing rehabilitation/housing replacement with regard to lead-based paint hazards and remedies.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Osceola County is always planning opportunities that will increase the number of high paying jobs that in turn increase personal wealth and inspire new economic opportunities to build a better business climate. Osceola County allocates annual funding toward CDBG program projects and activities that specifically target extremely low, very low- and low-income residents and provide job training and employment services in an effort to address impoverished persons and families. In accordance with actions in the 2017-2022 Community Economic Development Strategy, Osceola County will promote the following to assist in reducing the number of families living in poverty:

1. Support educational partnerships and activities that encourage learning opportunities;
2. Promote programs and activities that prepare the workforce for lifelong learning and every-changing careers;
3. Increase educational attainments for the ECF workforce; and
4. Attract and retain young talented workers.

Due to the economy and the increasing number of families living in hotels, the County continues to allocate CDBG funding towards rental assistance for low-income households. County funds utilized were General (local) Funds, SHIP, Section 8, CDBG, HOME, and Shelter Plus Care towards housing related activities.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The Osceola County Human Services Department developed its five-year 2002-2024 Consolidated Plan, and it was determined that there are currently nine (9) local or regional housing and supportive services providers that the County uses to deliver services to the community at large. The County also only has one approved Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), the Osceola Council on Aging, to work in partnership on implementing HOME Program funded housing activities. Therefore, it was the intention of Osceola County to seek out new potential housing and supportive services providers to assist with the improvement of the current institutional structure to reach more underserved residents in our community. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, progress continued to be slow. The County has continued to address this action during the implementation of the 2021 program year.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Osceola County participates regularly in regional efforts with our local Continuum of Care, the Homeless Services Network (HSN), and the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness. The County continues

supporting the goals of the Osceola County Homeless Task Force which brings together CEOs from non-profits, education, local government, law enforcement, business & industry, healthcare; and the faith community to develop strategies in meeting the needs of homeless individuals and families.

During the implementation of 2022 program funds, the County continued to be a strong partner, working with the nonprofit sector and the faith-based sector to provide county-wide services. Osceola provides incentive to encourage the development of multifamily affordable housing units. In addition, the Osceola County Human Resources Department began using a new template form to better collect accomplishment data from service providers, while on-site monitoring proved difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

In October 2020, the Osceola County, in partnership with the City of Kissimmee, finalized its 2020-2025 AI. This section describes the actions the County took in the first program year of the ConPlan to address these impediments.

Impediment #1: Discrimination in Housing Sales and Rental

Actions Taken: During the development of the 2020-2025 AI, the Department held virtual consultations with local legal services agencies to solicit input on some possible resolutions to address public and private sector impediments to fair housing choice. Those consultations are reflected in the final product of the 2020-2025 AI.

The County also made the SHIP Down Payment Assistance Program (DPAP) available to all eligible residents and promoted equal housing opportunity in its programs. Applicants took a class which helped to inform them about discrimination and fair housing rights.

Impediment #2: Lack of Existing/Available Housing Stock and the Geographic Distribution of Affordable Housing Stock

Actions Taken: In PY 2020 the County HOME Consortium completed 14 rental housing rehab units that went to assist LMI households living in St. Cloud. The Consortium also has several new rental construction developments and rental rehab projects located in Kissimmee that will help address the lack of affordable housing in the County.

Impediment #3: Community Resistance to development of multi-family rental housing and housing for lower-income or minority households

Actions Taken: The County HOME Consortium provide residents with adequate time to review proposed projects in the AAP. All multi-family rental housing is targeted to LMI households and minority households are encouraged to access these units. The County is an equal housing opportunity provider and follows

and distributes fair housing information to residents.

Impediment #4: Inadequate access for minority households to housing outside of areas minority concentration

Actions taken: The County worked to include assigning application rating points to increase competitiveness to HOME projects not located in areas of minority concentration. These efforts were in coordination with developers and local housing and supportive service providers.

Impediment #5: Inadequate access to employment opportunities, transportation and public and social services infrastructure to support increased housing opportunities for lower income, minority, and disabled households.

Actions Taken: The County, through its CDBG program, works to address this impediment through the annual investments in public infrastructure that target low/mod block tracts. Low/mod block tracts are eligible for CDBG program investments and have a population of 51% LMI. Investment and revitalization efforts in these areas help to increase opportunities such as other private and public investments. The goal is to ultimately increase new housing opportunities and improve the quality of life in the area. In PY 2020, the County's public infrastructure improvements to low/mod areas included the BVL Erosion/Drainage Improvements, BVL Stormwater Improvements in Royal Palm, KOA Street sidewalk improvements and Deerwood Street Improvements in Poinciana.

Impediment #6: High loan denial rates and issuance of predatory-style loans, particularly for select

Actions Taken: Through the, A Home of Your Own program, eligible first-time homebuyers could apply for the Osceola County SHIP DPAP. Applicants take part of a class, which is a pre-requisite to qualifying for financial assistance. While not a guarantee for assistance, the class is required and all applicants, co-signers and spouses will need to receive a class certificate. Specific topics covered in the class include financial managements, understanding credit, finding a house, choosing a home-buying professional, choosing the right mortgage, and homebuyer and fair housing rights.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

All subrecipients of Osceola County CDBG and HOME funds will follow federal and local regulations relating to their specific activity, as well as receive written explanation on how these regulations apply to the project. Specific performance agreements will be executed with each subrecipient, giving measurable objectives for the eligible activity to be completed and to ensure that the Federal requirements are clearly stated and the subrecipient understands all responsibilities. Each project will receive periodic monitoring. All funding will be on a cost reimbursement basis. Documentation submitted with reimbursement requests will be reviewed for compliance with applicable regulations and measurable objectives prior to issuing funds. Initial training will be provided prior to project commencement.

On-site monitoring of selected subrecipients is scheduled and completed annually by the Project Manager. A checklist is completed and reviewed to ensure all aspects of the activity are carried out in accordance with applicable regulations. A follow-up letter is sent to the subrecipient stating the outcome of the monitoring visit. In addition, any subrecipient determined to need additional training on how to meet grantee and federal requirements will receive technical assistance, in the form deemed most appropriate to the circumstances, by the Project Manager. Additional technical assistance, if needed or requested, is given at the time of the annual monitoring.

All HOME-funded projects that are still covered by the period of affordability are inspected as required to ensure that the unit is still in standard condition and that the improvements completed are still in good condition. By this action, the County ensures that the housing units are maintained to the housing codes in effect when they are constructed or rehabilitated. Tenant files are reviewed to determine that income certifications are done correctly and that the appropriate rent is being charged.

The County conducts an on-going monitoring process to review the programmatic and financial aspects of activities. The monitoring process is oriented towards resolving problems, offering technical assistance, and promoting timely implementation of projects.

Osceola County performs risk assessments to determine the risk associated with a subrecipient or application submitted for funding. The County utilizes a ranking and rating criteria based on risk analysis as part of the process for selection of its subrecipients.

Applicable Requirements

The Housing and Community Services Department will draft and execute a MOU if a project/activity is awarded within the County. When applicable, Osceola County staff will conduct Davis-Bacon monitoring on all federally funded grant projects of more than \$2000. Davis-Bacon language is included in all agreements between Osceola County and the awarded contractor.

All HUD funded projects, except for Planning and Administrative activities, must undergo a full ERR process. A tier 1 (broad review) must be conducted in the project area and indicated as completed in the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) online portal before a project can be implemented. A tier 2 (site-specific review) must be conducted on the project site and recorded in the ERR prior to the commencement of construction.

At a minimum, all Federal and State funded projects must undergo the 2 CFR part 200 Federal procurement guidelines.

Additionally, Osceola County utilizes consultant services to provide monitoring services for CDBG and HOME projects as an extension to Osceola County staff.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

Osceola County closely follows its HUD approved Citizen Participation Plan which guides the County in providing residents an opportunity to participate in the development of plans and the review of performance reports in its community planning and development programs as per 24 CRF 91.105.

The County conducts a minimum of (2) public hearings in-person and at least (1) virtual county-wide meeting annually to provide citizens with an insight on program processes and to receive feedback from the public.

PY2022 CAPER was advertised in the newspaper and the County's website for a 15-day comment period beginning November 16, 2023. The 15-day comment period is scheduled to end December 4, 2023.

Osceola County will hold its Citizen Advisory Task Force (CATF) Meeting on December 8, 2023, at 9:30am. This meeting serves as the required Public Meeting to consider the CAPER for Fiscal Year

2022-2023. Meeting will be held at the Osceola County Housing and Community Services Department located at 1392 E. Vine St., Kissimmee, FL 34744. All comments from citizens will be considered before submission of the final report to HUD.

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CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

The PY2022 CAPER reports on the third year of the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan, and there were no changes to the plan's original priorities or goals. The Consolidated Plan includes the Strategic Plan, which has identified the priority needs of the community and goals to address these needs. This Strategic Plan provides the framework of the plan for the five years of the Consolidated Planning period and forms the basis of each Annual Action Plan to carry out the Strategic Plan.

While at this time there were no changes, if in the future there are any reasons that the County's program objectives would change the County will document this need, and properly follow the steps to substantially amend its Consolidated Plan to account for these changes.

During Program Year 2022, Osceola County expended a portion of its CDBG-CV allocation through the Microenterprise Small Business Assistance Program. Osceola County continues to seek other eligible activities using CDBG-CV grant funds while taking steps to remove barriers in program administration. Barriers include a shortage in staff, difficulty income qualifying small business owners for the Microenterprise Small Business Assistance Program and finding direct tiebacks to COVID-19. With Osceola County being located within a tourism-driven industry and with the industry leaders taking the proper measures to reopen during the pandemic, it has made it incredibly difficult to prove loss income due to COVID-19.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

During PY2022 there were no HOME HQS inspections completed as there were no projects that required it. PY2022 was also the 8th year the County HOME Consortium has received HOME funds and most of the projects completed have been new rental constructions. There were also no TBRA units supported with HOME in PY2022.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)

The Osceola HOME Consortium has an Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan and uses the plan to inform the public; potential rental tenants, homeowners and developers; and local units of government about Federal Fair Housing laws and Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan and Procedures. HOME funds are currently used to rehabilitate rental multi-family units, construct new rental housing developments and acquire rental multi-family units for the purpose of rehab for LMI households.

The HOME Consortium's Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan is developed for use with the HOME Program and HOME-funded projects in accordance with the HOME Program regulations, including but not limited to 24 CFR 92.351, of HUD regulations. The HOME Program has established procedures to affirmatively market all projects resulting in five (5) or more HOME-assisted housing units. The Plan is based on the commitment of the Osceola HOME Consortium, Consortium members, and the owners of HOME assisted development projects to affirmatively further Fair Housing. It states the Consortium's policy to affirmatively market the distribution of its annual HOME allocation and housing units acquired, constructed or rehabilitated under the HOME Program and describes procedures.

The Consortium has the responsibility to inform the public about the Federal Fair Housing laws, to solicit eligible persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability into the affordable housing market and to evaluate the effectiveness of these marketing efforts. If the written agreement with the project owner permits the rental housing project to limit tenant eligibility or to have a tenant preference in accordance with §92.253(d)(3),

the affirmative marketing procedures and requirements must apply in the context of the limited/preferred tenant eligibility for the project.

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)

The County has an ongoing partnership with UF/IFAS Extension who provides services to the Florida public including Osceola County, based on local needs. Through UF/IFAS Extension Services, the public can register to attend a first-time homebuyer class which focuses on the steps to home ownership and how to obtain an affordable mortgage.

Eligible households can apply for the Osceola County State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Down Payment Assistance Program. Applicants take part of a class, which is a pre-requisite to qualifying for assistance. While not a guarantee for assistance, the class is required and all applicants, co-signers and spouses will need to receive a class certificate. Specific topics covered in the class include financial managements, understanding credit, finding a house, choosing a home-buying professional, choosing the right mortgage, and homebuyer and fair housing rights.

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CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours					
Total Section 3 Worker Hours					
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours					

Table 14 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding childcare.					
Assisted residents to apply for or attend community college or a four-year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					

Other.					
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Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

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