

# Approved by City Council on Sept. 20

## *City of Casa Grande*

### *Community Development Block Grant*

### *Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report*

### *PY 2020 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)*

Each year, the City of Casa Grande receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDBG Entitlement Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent affordable housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. This year, the City of Casa Grande received additional CARES/COVID funds to Prevent, Prepare for and Respond to the Coronavirus 19. As an entitlement Grantee, the City is required to publish a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) detailing accomplishments achieved through CDBG program activities. The report provides an opportunity to measure the City's progress in meeting the priority needs, goals and strategies described in the 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and PY 2020 Annual Action Plan and to share successes with the community.

## *Goals and Outcomes*

The City of Casa Grande's Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the period PY 2020-2024 identified several strategies to address:

1. Decent Affordable Housing.
2. Neighborhood Revitalization.
3. Homelessness.
4. Public Facilities and Improvements.
5. Public Services.
6. Economic Development.
7. Program Administration and Planning.

To address the highest priority needs, the city identified the following goals in the PY 2020 Annual Action Plan:

1. Decent Affordable Housing through the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program
2. Neighborhood Revitalization through Code Enforcement Activities,
3. Public Services to address Homeless Services, Advocacy for Victims of Abuse and

Violence, Child Care, Crime Prevention and Education and Outreach, and Senior Services,

4. Public Infrastructure Improvements for Parks and Neighborhoods.

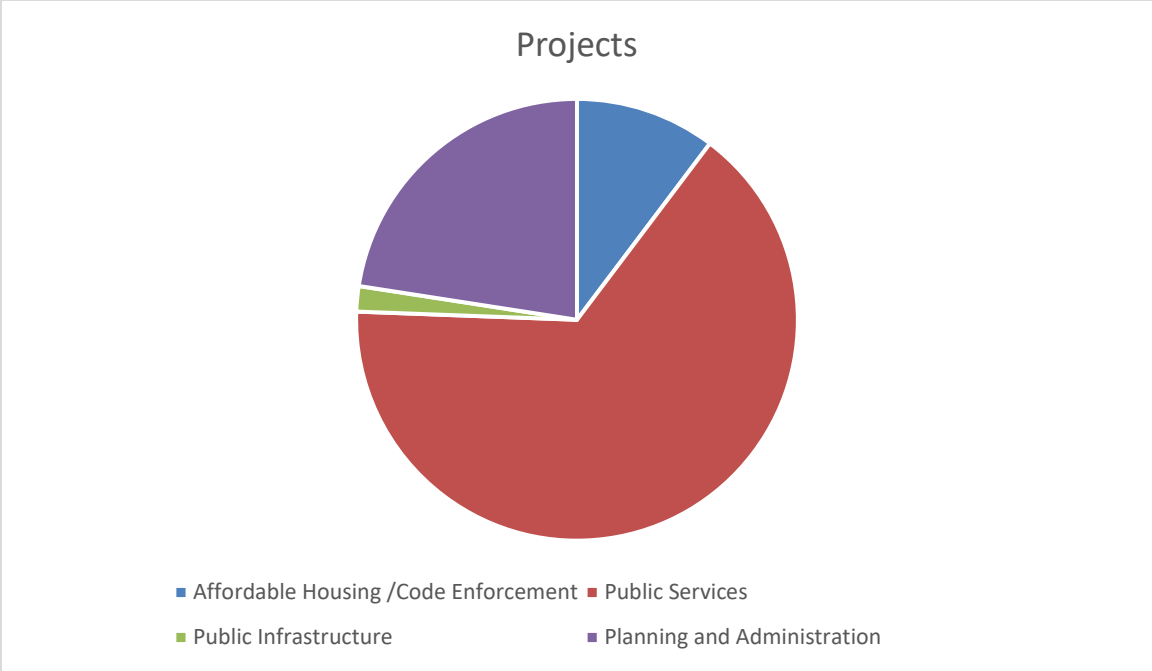
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Unit of Measure</b>	<b>Program Year Actual</b>
Homelessness	Persons Assisted	150
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	3
Public Services	Persons Assisted	1087

## **Racial and Ethnic Composition of Families Assisted**

According to the 2018 Census Data, the City's racial/ethnic composition is primarily White at 77% followed by American Indian at 10.1%, and Black or African American at 5.2%. It is important to note that 43.5% of the City of Casa Grande's population is of Hispanic or Latino origin. In line with population trends, most persons benefitting from City of Casa Grande' Community Development Block Program were Hispanic at 48%. Based on data collected during service intake process, 1091 were White, 142 were Black or African American, 3 were Asian, and 97 are American Indian/American Native/Pacific Islander, and 78 were other multi racial.

## **Resources and Investments**

The total amount of Community Development Block Grant funding allocated from PY 2020 was \$1,054,057 with \$618,185 coming from CARES/COVID 19 funding. In addition, the City earned approximately \$75,000 in Program Income from the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program's Revolving Loan Fund over the same period. In PY 2020, \$620,711 was expended on Public Infrastructure, Public Services, Code Enforcement, Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation, and Planning and Administration Projects.



For PY 2020, the CDBG Entitlement funds were used in combination with \$260,778 State Housing Trust Funds/ HOME funds for the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation program to help more low-income households.

There are several public infrastructure projects in progress and are planned to be completed in FY 2022; Cottonwood Gardens Streetlight Project, Southside Sidewalk Project, Westside Sidewalk Project, Rotary Park Improvements, and Dorothy Powell Senior Center Renovations.

During the program year, the City anticipated utilizing 51% of its HUD allocation in the CDBG Target Areas and 30% for Service Area for Low to Moderate Income in City Limits.

Services provided in the CDBG Target Area include Southside Sidewalk Project, Casa Grande Police Department Mobile Crime Prevention Education and Outreach. Code Enforcement activities and Senior Services provided by Seeds of Hope were provided in the west side neighborhood.

Services for the Low to Moderate Income in City Limits include Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation, Planning and Administration, Rental and Utility Assistance provided by Community Action Human Resource Agency (CAHRA), Advocates for Homeless Domestic Violence Victims provided by Against Abuse, Inc (AAI), Senior Services provided by The Opportunity Tree, Food Insecurities Program administered by Seeds of Hope, Child Care provided by Boys and Girls Club, Homeless Services provided by CAHRA and AAI , and Senior Meals provided by Dorothy Powell Senior Center.

The City of Casa Grande seeks to leverage grant funds with other public and private resources to meet the needs of the community. Although leveraging is not required, many of the Public Service agencies provide additional resources for a successful program delivery. The City of Casa Grande leverages other funding sources such as the State Housing funds/HOME, City's Revolving Loan Fund and Community Action Human Resource Agency Weatherization Program to maximize the use of the CDBG Entitlement Funds for Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program. The City of Casa Grande has leased a city owned property to CAHRA for a minimal fee for the Casa Grande Resource Center that serves the low to moderate income residents as well as the homeless.

## HOUSEHOLDS/PERSONS

The Community Development Block Grant activities are available to extremely low, low, and moderate-income persons who meet eligibility requirements for each activity.

Number of Persons Served	CDBG Actual
Extremely Low-income	1092
Low-income	112
Moderate-income	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>1240</b>

Income data is obtained to determine eligibility for the following services: CAHRA, City of Casa Grande Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program, Seeds of Hope, Boys and Girls Club, Dorothy Powell Senior Center, and Against Abuse, Inc.

Other service eligibility for Public Infrastructure, Crime Prevention Outreach, and Code Enforcement activities are based on Census Tract data.

## Affordable Housing

The City of Casa Grande continued to work on meeting goals identified in the PY 2020 Annual Action Plan. Goals for PY 2020 were either exceeded or close to being met and all funds have been committed or expended as appropriate.

The City of Casa Grande made tremendous progress in bringing many activities and projects to completion during PY 2020. The Homeless services were provided to low-to-moderate income population by Community Action Human Resource Agency (CAHRA). CAHRA assisted 150

families/ individuals with rental and utility assistance to prevent homelessness and Against Abuse provided 1 family with transitional housing services.

The City also completed (3) Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation projects throughout the year. The photos below are examples of rehabilitation services completed that addressed lack of functioning kitchen and bathroom accessibility.





## Public Services

The CARES/COVID funds were used to Prevent, Prepare for and Respond to the Coronavirus 19. The Boys and Girls Club provided childcare/after-school care for 63 youth. The Dorothy Powell Senior Center assisted over 98 seniors with over 4,400 home delivered meals during the closure of the center and Seeds of Hope provided over 820 food boxes in partnership with the Casa Grande Food Bank. St. Vincent de Paul was able to purchase an industrial freezer for their food pantry as well.

The Opportunity Tree provided services to 30 seniors with cognitive disabilities, Seeds of Hope provided services to 23 seniors and Against Abuse provided advocacy services to 73 individuals.



**Casa Grande Food Bank**



**Dorothy Powell Senior Center-  
Senior Meals**

## Homeless and Other Special Needs

The City of Casa Grande participates in the local Pinal County Local Coalition to End Homelessness/Continuum of Care (CoC). A primary means by which the agencies reach out to homeless persons, identifies individual needs is through efficient data collection and analysis through the HMIS system. Numerous city staff, including Community Development Division staff, participates in the Mayor's Taskforce to End Homelessness. Because of the COVID pandemic, the annual Point In Time Homeless Count was not conducted in 2021. Funding was provided to Community Action Human Resource Agency and Against Abuse, Inc. to provide emergency and transitional housing. Current data indicates that both additional beds and additional services are necessary to meet the full spectrum of housing and services needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, especially given increasing rents and the need for rental units affordable to extremely low-income households.

## Other Actions

Affordable housing is a challenge faced nationwide. It is important to foster and maintain affordable housing to keep the housing market balanced and fair. The City of Casa Grande is committed to maintaining housing opportunities and to eliminating barriers to affordable housing. The City's Community Development Division completed a 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice that highlights some of the potential barriers Casa Grande homebuyers may face. The analysis focuses on impediments that disproportionately impact low-income, minority, and special needs populations.

The City's 2030 General Plan outlines Goals and Action Steps that Promotes Fair Access to Quality Housing for all residents and Neighborhood Revitalization:

Housing: H-7: Seek resources to increase the City's supply of affordable housing. H-8: Strive to meet the housing needs of senior citizens and other special needs populations by encouraging different levels of residential care homes in accessible locations, close to demanded facilities and amenities. H-9: Increase awareness, outreach, and education for the City's active fair housing program. H-10: Increase homeownership opportunities for low-income residents. H-11: Continue the City's Efforts to Rehabilitate Housing and Replace Substandard Housing. H-12: Promote the construction of new residential dwellings on vacant infill lots. H-13: Raise community awareness of programs and laws that enable residents to resolve structural deterioration and property maintenance issues.



## **Actions Taken to Reduce Lead-Based Paint Hazards.**

The City incorporates all HUD requirements concerning lead-based paint abatement into its Housing Rehabilitation Programs, ensures program participants are informed about lead-based paint hazards and certify all abatement work is undertaken by qualified contractors.

## **Impediments to Fair Housing Choice**

Casa Grande promotes fair housing choices for all persons, including protected classes, as well as providing opportunities for racially and ethnically inclusive patterns of housing occupancy, identifying structural and systemic barriers to fair housing choice, and promotes housing that is physically accessible and usable by persons with disabilities.

The City exercises a great effort to market the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program to reach out to all homeowners in the city limits.

## **Monitoring**

The City of Casa Grande is responsible for monitoring activities to ensure successful implementation of the plan and program requirements are met. CDBG projects are properly procured and local businesses, particularly minority-owned businesses, are given the opportunity to bid on projects as applicable. Minority and Women Owned Business Report is captured annually in with the Contract and Subcontract Activity Report, form HUD 2516. Economic opportunities for the low-income residents are monitored through Section 3 Summary Report. The City of Casa Grande monitors progress of the ConPlan through the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation (CAPER) annually and presents to the Casa Grande City Council. Community Development staff complete site visits for all funded projects annually to inspect their records and meet with program staff to evaluate progress. Final reports are required.

## **Citizen Participation Plan**

The Notice for 15-day Public Comment Period and Public Hearing for the September 20, 2021 City Council meeting was posted in the Casa Grande Dispatch on August 31, 2021. The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report was available online and in the Community Development Office for public comments. The 15-day Public Comment Period was from September 1, 2021 through September 15, 2021.