

City of Springfield – CDBG Program

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Action Plan

This summary describes specific housing and community development actions and activities the City of Springfield proposes to undertake with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds during the program year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 (Fiscal Year 2024). It is one part of the Eugene-Springfield Fiscal year (FY) 2024 Annual Action Plan.

Communities that are entitled to receive funds from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must complete a Consolidated Plan every five years as well as annual Action Plans. The Consolidated Plan provides an assessment of needs of low- and moderate-income persons and a strategic five-year plan for taking actions to address those needs using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds received by the Cities of Eugene and Springfield. The Annual Action Plan describes specific actions to be undertaken in a particular year with federal funds. The content of the Annual Action Plan is guided by HUD. Springfield and Eugene adopted the most recent five-year Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan in 2020.

The Cities of Eugene and Springfield each receive an annual entitlement allocation of CDBG funds directly from HUD. The two Cities also receive HOME funds from HUD through the Eugene-Springfield HOME Consortium. The City of Eugene is the lead agency in the HOME Consortium.

A summary of planned uses by the Eugene-Springfield HOME Consortium for the use of HOME funds is available from the City of Eugene, as well as a summary of planned uses of Eugene CDBG funds. The following describes only the planned uses of CDBG funds received by the City of Springfield.

Coordination and Collaboration

The Cities of Eugene and Springfield collaborate in multiple ways to plan for and implement affordable housing and community development activities. The Cities of Eugene and Springfield jointly prepare the five-year Consolidated Plan and coordinate preparation of the Annual Action Plans, and Comprehensive Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. There are multiple forms for communication and collaboration between the jurisdictions and other public agencies, affordable housing developers, social service providers, and other interested parties. The Lane County Human Services Commission (HSC) and Poverty & Homelessness Board (PHB) offer ongoing opportunities for collaboration and communication.

Citizen Participation

The City of Springfield encourages public participation in identifying specific needs and uses of CDBG funds in FY 2024. The City of Springfield Community Development Advisory Committee

(CDAC) is composed of community residents and was established by the City of Springfield to make recommendations concerning program policy and project selection to the City Council.

On February 21, 2023, Springfield released its DRAFT CDBG Annual Action Plan. A 30-day public comment period is held open until March 22, 2023. The CDAC held two public hearings to hear about needs and priorities from the community, including the proposed uses in the draft allocation. Those public hearings were held February 8 and March 22, 2023. This year, the City did not release a CDBG Request for Proposals. Springfield's City Council held one work session on April 10 to discuss the needs and strategies, including the recommendation of the CDAC and the public comments received. The budget allocation is included in Attachment A.

Springfield Housing Strategy

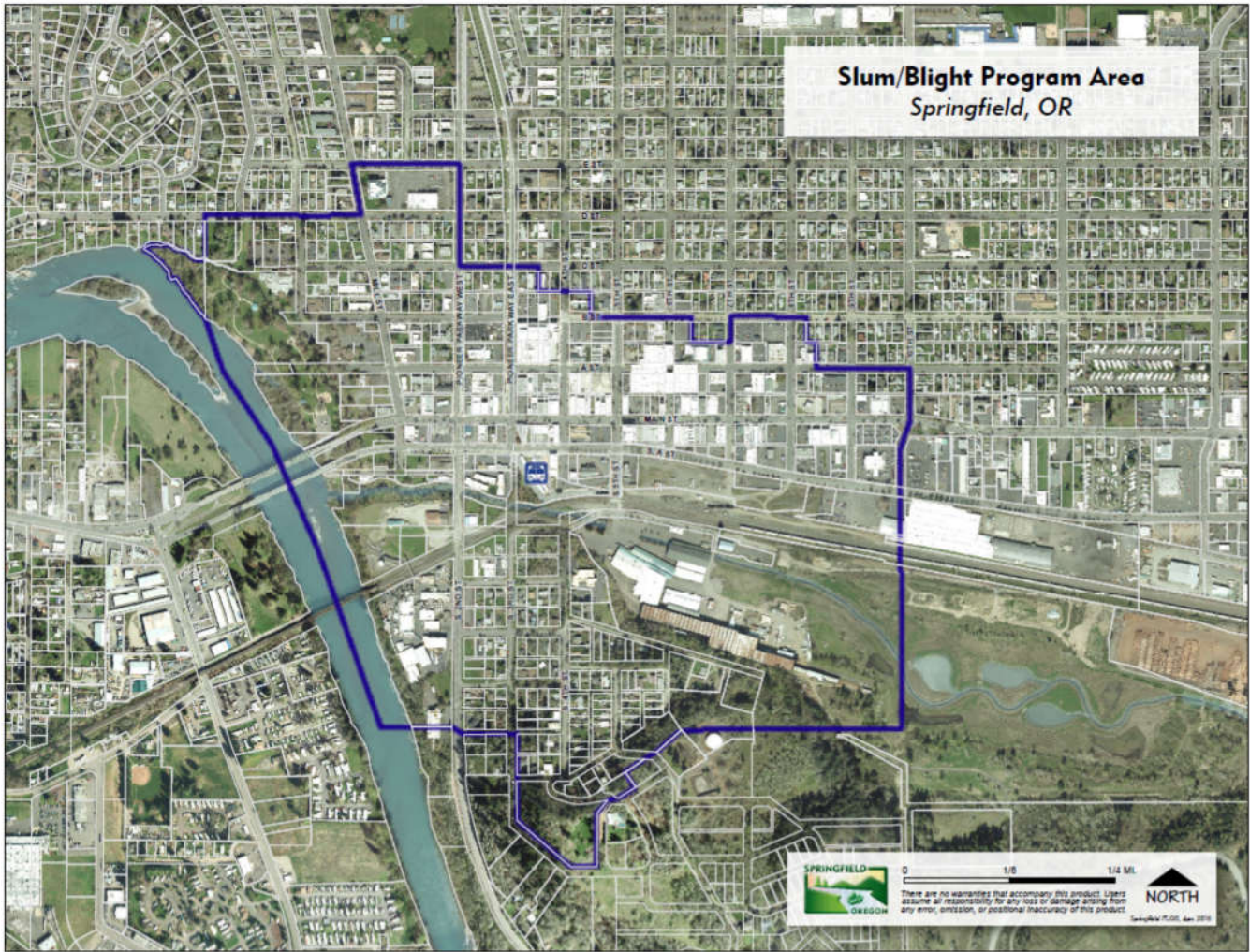
The City has developed a housing strategy to address the low supply of housing and to foster housing choice and affordability in the short and long term. Springfield is focused on implementing a strategy that will make the most impact on addressing Springfield's affordable housing needs, recognizing that the City needs increasing housing units at all levels of the housing continuum.

Activities Benefiting Low- and Moderate-Income Persons

Generally, Springfield's CDBG-funded programs and projects are provided to benefit low-income residents living within the city limits of Springfield. Individuals participating in a CDBG-funded program are required to meet HUD Income Guidelines. In order to meet the CDBG National Objective of Benefit to Low and Moderate-Income Persons, CDBG-funded projects must either serve a specific low-income area or provide tangible benefit to low- and moderate-income clientele (services, economic opportunities, housing). Funded programs and projects undergo periodic staff monitoring to ensure compliance with CDBG regulations. All of the allocations in Springfield's Annual Action Plan for FY 2024 would benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

Activities for the Prevention or Elimination of Slum and Blighted Conditions

Another national objective of the CDBG program is the prevention or elimination of slums and blighted conditions in neighborhoods and communities, either by designating a specific area or by addressing conditions on a spot basis. In 2014, Springfield re-designated a Springfield Downtown Redevelopment Area, in compliance with CDBG regulations. The Downtown Redevelopment Area is pictured below.



Strategies to Address Priority Needs

The City of Springfield receives an annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For FY 2024, the City of Springfield will receive an entitlement allocation of \$555,345. Attachment A shows the sources of funding, and proposed uses, for the FY 2024 CDBG Annual Action Plan.

The 5-year Eugene-Springfield 2020 Consolidated Plan emphasizes goals and strategies to meet priorities needs of renters, homeowners, people experiencing homelessness, and non-homeless special needs populations. Additional needs include increased employment opportunities as well as low-income neighborhoods and areas of slum and blight. The priority strategies described below are intended to address one or more priority needs.

The following narrative describes proposed allocations of Springfield CDBG funds for FY 2024 as it relates to each strategy identified in the Eugene-Springfield 2020 Consolidated Plan. Certain strategies in Springfield are met through the Eugene-Springfield HOME allocations, and are indicated below. More details can be found regarding the allocation of HOME funds in the Eugene FY 2024 DRAFT Annual Action Plan.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing goals are intended to address HUD program objectives to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing and address critical housing needs of low-income people in our community. A total of four affordable housing goals are included in the Eugene-Springfield 2020 Consolidated Plan.

Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing

- Housing Development – The City of Springfield recognizes that the housing supply is low, particularly affordable housing for low-income residents, and previous allocations have aimed to add a net increase of units to the housing supply. In FY 2023, the City allocated \$335,659 toward this strategy. The City continues to work on acquiring land for a new housing development. Additional funds allocated through the FY 2024 HOME Allocation will help to address this strategy in Springfield. (see FY 2024 HOME Allocation)
- Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating Support – (see FY 2024 HOME Allocation)

Rehabilitate Existing Housing Stock

- Springfield Home Repair - The City of Springfield plans to continue to provide assistance to qualified low-income homeowners through its Home Repair Program. This program is funded from the new CDBG entitlement grant. Increased construction costs of labor and materials, plus an interest in expanding the program, bring the proposed allocation for this program to \$315,434.98.

Provide Down Payment Assistance for Home Ownership

- Springfield Home Ownership Program - The City of Springfield is committed to supporting low-income homebuyers. In FY 2023, the City revamped the homebuyer assistance program by increasing the maximum loan amount per household, and working with lenders to find creative ways to help support homeownership. The City is partnering with DevNW to help administer this program. In FY 2024, the City is allocating an additional \$100,000 in CDBG funds toward this program.

Remove Barriers to Affordable and Supportive Housing

- There are currently no funds allocated to this strategy. In 2020, Springfield conducted an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. In previous years, Springfield has worked with interns from the University of Oregon on this strategy to promote equal access in housing choice. Springfield is focused on promoting information on the City website, and to our community partners. Springfield continues to seek opportunities to affirmatively further fair housing and inform others about fair housing.

Community Development

Community development goals are intended to satisfy HUD program objectives by providing human services; creating jobs; improving access to public facilities; and furthering neighborhood revitalization, planning, and community-building activities. A total of three community development goals were included in the Eugene-Springfield 2020 Consolidated Plan.

Support a Human Services Delivery System

- Non-profit services through the Human Services Commission (HSC) – City of Springfield collaborates with Lane County to fund human service providers. The Human Services Commission (HSC) is the intergovernmental board that guides the use of funds and oversees the activities of agencies receiving funds. Agencies to be funded are determined through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) administered by the HSC. Springfield is allocating 15% of new entitlement funds to the HSC, plus additional program income received in FY 2023, for a total of \$95, 869.61 in FY 2024.
- Non-profit capital facility improvements – In FY 2022 and FY 2023, the City awarded a total of \$485,494 in funding toward Catholic Community Services of Lane County's project to develop an addition to their community service center to serve homeless families with children. The City continues to work with Catholic Community Services toward completing this project.

Promote Economic Development

- There are currently no FY2024 funds allocated toward this strategy.

Make Strategic Investments to Improve Neighborhoods

- Public improvements in low-income neighborhoods – Through the FY 2023 Request for Proposals, the City's Development and Public Works Department identified a need to address the increased heat index within low income neighborhoods. The City allocated \$85,000 toward a tree planting pilot project to increase the canopy in high heat low-income neighborhoods. The City continues to work on this project. There are no additional funds allocated toward this strategy.

ATTACHMENT A

CDBG REVENUES (estimated)		TOTAL FUNDS
FY 2024 Entitlement Funds (EN)		\$ 555,345
Other Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carryforward from previous years • Program Income in FY23 		\$ 67,029
TOTAL		\$ 622,374
CDBG EXPENDITURES (estimated)		
Consolidated Plan Strategy	Activity	Amount (TOTAL)
1. Increase the supply of affordable housing	Acquisition, improvements, etc	-
2. Rehabilitate existing housing stock affordable to low-income persons	Home Repair Program	\$ 315,435
3. Provide down payment assistance for home ownership	Springfield Homeownership Program (SHOP)	\$ 100,000
4. Remove barriers to affordable and supportive housing	Support programs that assure housing opportunities are provided without discrimination	-
5. Support a human services delivery system to address the needs of homeless persons and special needs populations	Human Services Commission (HSC)	\$ 95,870
	Non-profit capital improvements	-
6. Promote employment opportunities	Economic development	-
7. Make improvements to low income neighborhoods and areas of slum and blight	Public improvements in sidewalks, streets	-
	Address causes of slum and blight	-
	Planning and Administration	\$ 111,069
TOTAL		\$ 622,374