

MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services – 91.210(c)

Introduction

The Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB) implements the CoC’s policies to address homelessness in Lehigh County. It is comprised of various stakeholders from Lehigh and Northampton Counties, including City of Allentown, City of Bethlehem, and County Departments, social service agencies, veterans support groups, faith-based organizations, homeless advocates, and other interested parties. In Lehigh County, Valley Youth House, Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Valley Conference of Churches, YMCA of Lehigh County, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, and County service groups provide housing and supportive services for the County’s homeless and at risk of being homeless population. The Lehigh Valley RHAB’s mission is: “Covering all communities in Lehigh and Northampton Counties, the Lehigh Valley RHAB is a consortium of individuals, agencies and other stakeholders that direct and coordinate community-wide efforts toward ending chronic homelessness.” The Lehigh Valley RHAB absorbed the City of Allentown’s Homelessness Commission in 2015 to better plan services for the homeless from a regional perspective.

Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	187	0	30	110	0
Households with Only Adults	75	64	36	136	0
Chronically Homeless Households	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a
Veterans	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
Unaccompanied Youth	n/a	n/a	6	n/a	n/a

Table 39 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are used to complement services targeted to homeless persons

Enrollment in mainstream services and other subsidized housing resources are available through COMPASS, the state's web-based system for accessing resources. The CoC distributes the updated list of Housing and Homeless Liaisons in every PA County Assistance Office to all agency caseworkers in the Region in order to facilitate linkages and eliminate barriers to accessing mainstream resources. Case workers use COMPASS to access Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, mental health and substance abuse care, Child Care Works Program, Food Stamps, TANF-funded services, Energy Assistance, School Meals, Home and Community Based Services, Long Term Care, and Select Plan for Women. They also work with PA's Health Insurance Marketplace providers to access health insurance under the Affordable Care Act and coordinate with the VA Medical Centers to improve access to VA medical services.

The CoC provides up-to-date information to program staff at the County level during homeless coalition meetings. The Executive Housing Director of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services is also a member of the Governing Board of the CoC and provides relevant updates. The CoC undertakes this strategy to increase collaboration between local service provider coalition members.

Local providers help clientele access mainstream health and mental health services and job training and education. Many homeless populations, particularly young adult homeless populations, are difficult to reach with mainstream services. In response, Lehigh Valley Health Network's Comprehensive Health Services brings health care services to the locations of the homeless. Organizations such as Workforce LV provide services that could be utilized by homeless populations for employment training.

List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.

The Eastern PA CoC does not directly receive ESG funds. ESG funds for the Lehigh Valley RHAB are administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in a partnership with the City of Allentown, which also receives ESG funds as a direct HUD ESG entitlement. DCED has developed a process for allocating funds, evaluating outcomes, and developing policies and procedures. The CoC consults with DCED regarding past program performance and involvement of ESG applicants. To supplement the ESG funds received by the City of Allentown, Lehigh County DCED completes an application for the PA Department of Community and Economic Development to obtain more ESG funds for community homeless service providers. It is to be determined if this application will be approved.

The Lehigh County Conference of Churches is currently the largest provider of homeless services in Lehigh County. Previously, the Conference of Churches ran the winter weather emergency shelter during the coldest weeks of the year, but this role has shifted to the YMCA for homeless males and to the Salvation Army for homeless females. The Conference of Churches partners with Catholic Charities to provide food at meal services, though both organizations would like to accomplish more in that area. The Conference of Churches provides emergency shelters for needy families, and has also used motels to assist with Rapid Rehousing. The Conference of Churches has created a smaller program to assist those released from prison to find housing.

Valley Youth House is another major provider of services for the homeless, though their programs focus on the youth of the area. Valley Youth House will assist individuals that may have been in foster care. Valley Youth House receives funding for both Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing projects. Youth homelessness is a major problem in the Lehigh Valley Area, particularly for individuals in the 18-24 age group. It is estimated that up to 20% of the homeless people in the area fall into this age group. There is a need for a year-round shelter for this age group, as Valley Youth House does not serve children over the age of 18. Focused outreach has been conducted by the CoC on this age group in partnership with Valley Youth House, and this population continues to be a priority for Lehigh County.

Turning Point LV will provide housing to victims of domestic violence and their families. They provide 32 transitional housing beds for survivors fleeing immediate abuse and will partner with other agencies to find permanent housing for victims, including Third Street Alliance, which is the major Rapid Rehousing provider for this population.

Previously, Lehigh County had a robust program to assist veterans experiencing homelessness that received SSVF funding. Because of the success of the program and the resulting lower numbers of veteran homelessness, the program's funding was cut.

MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services – 91.210(d)

Introduction

Lehigh County has identified the priorities for services and facilities for its special needs population. This includes the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, and public housing residents.

Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs

The following needs and objectives are established under this Five Year Consolidated Plan:

- **Elderly** - rehabilitation of existing owner-occupied housing units and construction of new affordable and accessible apartments
- **Frail Elderly** - construction of new affordable and accessible apartments with supportive services; removal of architectural barriers in their homes
- **Persons with Disabilities** - rehabilitation of existing housing units for accessibility improvements, reasonable accommodations to rental housing units, destruction of supportive housing units, and supportive employment opportunities
- **Alcohol and Other Drug Addictions** - supportive services to end addictions and training to re-enter the work force
- **Public Housing Residents** - Down payment homebuyer assistance, job training and job opportunities, housing counseling for home ownership, and assistance in finding affordable housing
- **Victims of Domestic Violence** – Need for additional temporary shelters, supportive services and training programs, and permanent supportive housing options

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

Hospitals and state institutional facilities must have written discharge policies for "appropriate referral and transfer plans" including evaluation of a patient's capacity for self-care and possibility of being cared for in "the environment from which s/he entered the hospital." The actual discharge varies with the individual being discharged, their primary and behavioral health needs, and resources and supports

available. While institutions try to send individuals home or to family, sometimes they discharge to a nursing home, rehab hospital or as last resort, non-HUD funded shelter. Some shelters have protocols against accepting certain individuals directly from a hospital. Plans are coordinated with foster care, health care, mental health care, and correctional facilities. The CoC conducts additional discharge planning for youth exiting systems of care to adhere to its strategy of preventing youth homelessness.

Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)

Lehigh County proposes as its "Vision" of the Five Year Consolidated Plan the following under "Other Special Needs Strategy":

Goal: Improve, preserve, and expand facilities for persons with special needs and the disabled in Lehigh County.

Objectives:

- **SNS-1 Housing** - Promote and assist to increase the supply of affordable, decent, safe, sound, and accessible housing for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons with other special needs, through rehabilitation of existing housing and new construction of accessible housing.
- **SNS-2 Social Services** - Promote and assist in supporting social service programs and facilities for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons with other special needs.
- **SNS-3 Accessibility** - Promote and assist in making accessibility improvements to owner-occupied housing through rehabilitation and improve renter-occupied housing by making reasonable accommodations for the physically disabled.

For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. (91.220(2))

Not Applicable.

MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.210(e)

Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment

Lehigh County's 2018 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice has identified the following impediments, along with goals and strategies to address those impediments and affirmatively further fair housing in the County:

Impediment 1: Lack of Affordable Housing - There is a lack of affordable housing in Lehigh County due to the influx in the number of unskilled and semi-skilled workers who have moved into the County, which has created a high demand and a corresponding increase in the cost of rental and sales housing.

Goal: Increase the supply of affordable housing by new construction and rehabilitation of various types of housing that is affordable to lower income households.

Strategies: In order to address the need and achieve the goal for more affordable housing, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **1-A:** Continue to promote the need for affordable housing by supporting and encouraging private developers and non-profits to develop, construct, and/or rehabilitate housing that is affordable.
- **1-B:** Encourage and promote the development, construction, and/or rehabilitation of mixed-income housing in areas of the County which do not have a concentration of low-income households.
- **1-C:** Encourage and promote the development, construction, and/or rehabilitation of affordable housing in mixed-use properties with retail/office space on the lower levels and residences above.
- **1-D:** Support financially, the rehabilitation of existing housing owned by seniors and lower-income households to conserve the existing affordable housing stock in the County.
- **1-E:** Provide financial and development incentive to private developers and non-profits to construct and/or rehabilitate affordable housing.
- **1-F:** Continue to work with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Housing Study Group to promote the development, construction, and rehabilitation of affordable housing.

Impediment 2: Lack of Accessible Housing - There is a lack of accessible housing in Lehigh County since the supply of accessible housing has not kept pace with the demand caused by the increase in the percentage of elderly persons in Lehigh County and more disabled persons desiring to live independently.

Goal: Increase the supply of accessible housing by new construction and rehabilitation of accessible housing for persons who are disabled.

Strategies: In order to address the need and achieve the goal for more accessible housing, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

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- **2-A:** Continue to promote the need for accessible housing by supporting and encouraging private developers and non-profits to develop, construct, and/or rehabilitate housing that is accessible to persons who are disabled.
 - **2-B:** Support financially, improvements to single-family owner-occupied homes to make them accessible for the elderly and/or disabled so they can continue to live in their homes.
 - **2-C:** Encourage and promote the development of accessible housing units in multi-family buildings as a percentage of the total number of housing units.
 - **2-D:** Encourage and financially support landlords to make accommodations to units in their building so persons who are disabled can reside in their apartments.
 - **2-E:** Enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) in regard to making new multi-family housing developments accessible and visitable for persons who are physically disabled.

Impediment 3: Barriers Limiting Housing Choice - There are physical, economic, and social barriers in Lehigh County which limit housing choices and housing opportunities for low-income households, minorities, and the disabled members of the County's population.

Goal: Eliminate physical, economic, and social barriers in Lehigh County and increase housing choices and opportunities for low-income households and members of the protected classes throughout Lehigh County.

Strategies: In order to achieve the goal for more housing choice, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **3-A:** Deconcentrate pockets of racial and ethnic poverty by providing affordable housing choices for persons and families to move outside of these areas.
- **3-B:** Support and promote the development of affordable housing in areas of opportunity where low-income persons and families may move.
- **3-C:** Support and promote the planning and model zoning efforts of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to eliminate "exclusionary zoning" and land development ordinances which restrict the development of affordable housing.
- **3-D:** Eliminate architectural barriers in public accommodations, public facilities, and multi-family new housing developments.
- **3-E:** Encourage LANta (the public transportation system) to develop additional routes to provide better access to job opportunities for low-income households.

Impediment 4: Lack of Housing Awareness - There is a lack of knowledge and understanding concerning the rights of individuals, families, and members of the protected classes in regard to the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and awareness of discriminatory practices.

Goal: Improve knowledge and awareness of the Fair Housing Act (FHA), related housing and discriminatory laws, and regulations, so that the residents in Lehigh County can Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH).

Strategies: In order to address the need and achieve the goal of promoting open and fair housing, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **4-A:** Continue to educate and make residents aware of their rights under the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- **4-B:** Continue to educate and make realtors, bankers, and landlords aware of discriminatory housing policies and to promote fair housing opportunities for all County residents.
- **4-C:** Sponsor and participate in a “Regional Housing Summit” to discuss housing needs and approaches to achieve more affordable housing in the County.
- **4-D:** Continue to financially support the Fair Housing organizations and legal advocacy groups to assist persons who may be victims of housing discrimination and/or not aware of how to file a housing complaint.
- **4-E:** Continue to monitor the data from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) to ensure that discriminatory practices in home mortgage lending not take place.

Impediment 5: Lack of Economic Opportunities - There is a lack of economic opportunities in the County for lower-income households to increase their income and thus improve their choices of housing.

Goal: Improve the job opportunities in the County, which will increase household income and make it financially feasible to live outside concentrated areas of poverty.

Strategies: In order to address the need and achieve the goal for better economic opportunities, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **5-A:** Encourage and strengthen partnerships between public and private entities to promote economic development, improve the local tax base, and create a sustainable economy.
- **5-B:** Promote and encourage the expansion of existing commercial and light industrial enterprises, which will create more employment opportunities.
- **5-C:** Provide financial and development assistance to enterprises, which will create new job opportunities and higher wages for County residents.
- **5-D:** Identify development sites for potential private investment and/or expansion of existing enterprises.
- **5-E:** Continue to improve the infrastructure to underdeveloped areas of the County to promote new development and create new job opportunities.
- **5-F:** Continue to partner with Lehigh Career & Technical Institute to develop training programs for unemployed and underemployed persons in the County.

MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets – 91.215 (f)

Introduction

The goal of Lehigh County’s Department of Community and Economic Development is to help to plan and design the County's form and character, support community values, preserve the environment, promote the wise use of resources and protect public health and safety through code enforcement. The Department of Community and Economic Development is the administrator of the Community Development Block Grant. The office also provides outreach and technical assistance for a variety of downtown and County-wide community and economic development projects.

Economic Development Market Analysis

Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	420	452	0	0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	8,732	10,808	9	9	0
Construction	4,195	4,161	5	3	-1
Education and Health Care Services	20,678	27,295	22	23	1
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	5,320	5,068	6	4	-1
Information	1,855	1,789	2	2	-1
Manufacturing	11,167	12,929	12	11	-1
Other Services	3,093	2,935	3	2	-1
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	9,645	10,726	10	9	-1
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	10,885	14,604	12	12	1
Transportation and Warehousing	5,051	10,967	5	9	4
Wholesale Trade	4,799	7,028	5	6	1
Total	85,840	108,762	--	--	--

Table 40 - Business Activity

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS (Workers), 2015 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	116,091
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	109,160
Unemployment Rate	5.95
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	18.31
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	4.03

Table 41 - Labor Force

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	27,979
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	4,188
Service	9,261
Sales and office	27,450
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	7,709
Production, transportation and material moving	6,226

Table 42 – Occupations by Sector

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	70,475	69%
30-59 Minutes	23,652	23%
60 or More Minutes	8,545	8%
Total	102,672	100%

Table 43 - Travel Time

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Education:

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	2,966	451	1,986
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	24,800	1,363	6,499
Some college or Associate's degree	26,050	1,308	4,478

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Bachelor's degree or higher	37,759	1,554	5,669

Table 44 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	152	157	317	946	2,526
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	1,362	650	719	2,658	4,012
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	5,418	5,257	6,630	20,775	15,620
Some college, no degree	5,658	4,309	4,405	10,659	4,865
Associate's degree	1,077	2,434	3,271	6,768	1,799
Bachelor's degree	2,075	7,600	6,918	12,585	4,343
Graduate or professional degree	58	3,479	4,482	9,959	3,620

Table 45 - Educational Attainment by Age

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	22,604
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	30,943
Some college or Associate's degree	36,943
Bachelor's degree	53,576
Graduate or professional degree	74,498

Table 46 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

The Education and Health Care Services Sector is the largest single sector in terms of number of employees in Lehigh County, at 20,678 employees. Following the Education and Health Care Services sector, Manufacturing employs the second-most employees at 11,167. Retail trade also employ more than 10,000 employees. Lehigh County currently has 27,295 jobs in the Education and Health Care Services Sector, showing a slight imbalance between jobs available and employees in that sector with 75% of jobs in that sector filled. Similarly, 80.7% of the 10,808 jobs in Arts, Entertainment, Accommodation sectors are filled. There are 10,967 jobs in Transportation and Warehousing sector, with only 46.0% of jobs filled in this sector.

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

- There is an imbalance between the number of jobs available and the number of employees qualified to fill the positions. Workforce Board LV attempts to help unemployed persons find employment.
- Lehigh County has become a major shipping and distribution hub.
- The increase in truck traffic causes the infrastructure in the area to age quickly. Infrastructure near the shipping and distribution centers is in need of repairs and replacement.
- Shipping companies tend to not be located on public transit lines. This makes it difficult for employees without vehicles to access these jobs.
- Carpooling and vanpooling have only been successful in select communities, such as immigrant groups. Otherwise, carpooling and vanpooling programs fall apart.
- Federal apprenticeship programs are generally underutilized, though they are available.
- Many employees need daycare for their children. Daycare is a major issue for all potential workers.
- Community Colleges in the area have seen shrinking enrollment, and people are not utilizing these services to gain employment.
- Workforce Board LV is starting a pilot program to provide wrap-around services for 13-16 people seeking employment in the Lehigh Valley.
- A portion of Lehigh County's immigrant population is very educated, but cannot access jobs with higher compensation rates due to their limited English proficiency.
- There is a need for improved career readiness programs across the County.

Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.

Lehigh County is a large geographic area that expects consistent population growth and subsequent economic growth. ADP® plans to open a large headquarters in downtown Allentown, which will bring a large number of jobs to the region and bring additional workers. Benefits to Allentown will cause economic growth in the surrounding peripheral communities in the County and provide additional opportunities for job growth. Additional workforce development and job training will be required to fill positions at ADP®, as well as other positions that may open with the continued revitalization of downtown Allentown.

There are transportation and shipping hubs that have developed in Lehigh County. These developments require additional employees and infrastructure. Many of these hubs are located in industrial parks that have few transit links for employees. The heavy freight traffic also causes the infrastructure in the area to deteriorate faster than initially anticipated at the time of construction. There is a need for additional infrastructure and improved infrastructure to reach these transportation and shipping hubs.

How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?

With employment in Lehigh County focused on Education/Health Care and the Manufacturing Sectors, the County has a relatively even mix of Associate/Bachelor/Graduate degree individuals (42%) and High School Graduate/Some College individuals (50%). It should be noted, that over 60% of the workforce in Lehigh County is above the age of 45. Additionally, of that older workforce age 45 and above, 30,507 (26%) have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

Workforce Board Lehigh Valley has multiple initiatives to train workers in the region. Workforce Board Lehigh Valley provides training for multiple types of positions and attempts to fill gaps that arise from the poor school system in the area. They are beginning a pilot program for 13-16 individuals seeking employment in the Lehigh Valley which will include wrap-around services for trainees. Communities in Schools also seeks to fill these gaps with career supports and soft skill education for at-risk youth.

There is also a need to assist workers that do not speak English. There is a population of workers who have advanced degrees, but their English skills are lacking and they are underemployed. Lehigh County works with Lehigh Carbon Community College and the Literacy Center to provide ESL lessons to residents of the County at various levels of education. The Literacy Center also provides Adult Basic Education and GED courses for workforce development.

Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

No.

If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.

Lehigh County does not participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Lehigh Economic Development Corporation seeks to meet the needs of employers in the area with the goal of attracting larger businesses to the region. They market the land, space, and talent for companies to come to the Lehigh Valley Region and either open a business or grow their business. Lehigh Economic Development Corporation works to market the region to employers, which benefits the residents of Lehigh County and creates opportunities for community and economic development in the county.

Discussion

As of April 2019, the unemployment rate in Lehigh County was 3.5%, compared to 3.4% for Lehigh Valley Region, 3.8% for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and 3.6% for the Country as a whole. The County has enjoyed a relatively low unemployment rate; however, the need for jobs and job training for the disabled and very low income remains a priority.

MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

Generally, housing problems in Lehigh County are concentrated in the older areas of the County. These are typically the incorporated sections of the County, such as the Boroughs of Alburtis, Catasauqua, Coopersburg, Coplay, Emmaus, Fountain Hill, Macungie, and Slatington. The Borough of Slatington in particular has a concentration of housing problems.

Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

There are no Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty or Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (RCAPS or ECAPS) in Lehigh County's jurisdiction.

An area, which has a higher concentration of minorities than the County as a whole, can be considered a place where these families are concentrated. The following areas have higher rates of minority residents when compared to the County as a whole according to American Community Survey data: Fountain Hill Borough has a population which is 20.78% Hispanic and 6.94% Black; Macungie Borough has a population which is 9.58% Hispanic; Slatington Borough has a population which is 5.58% Hispanic; Lower Macungie Township (Ancient Oaks CDP) has a population which is 6.22% Asian, 5.78% Hispanic, and 3.78% Black; and Whitehall Township (Fullerton CDP) has a population which is 21.04% Hispanic, 9.55% Asian, and 7.26% Black.

According to National Origin maps and data, there is a higher rate of concentration of residents by national origin than by race. A Vietnamese population is concentrated in Lower Macungie Township (Ancient Oaks CDP), Macungie Borough, and Upper Saucon Township. There are Vietnamese and German populations in Whitehall Township (Hokendauqua CDP and Fullerton CDP respectively). There are also German populations in Lower Macungie Township (Ancient Oaks CDP), and Upper Saucon Township. Residents of Chinese descent are concentrated in Coopersburg Borough, Upper Macungie Township, and Catasauqua Borough. Descendants of the Dominican Republic are concentrated in the areas around Emmaus Borough, Whitehall Township (Hokendauqua CDP), and Whitehall Township (Fullerton CDP). An Indian population is concentrated in North Whitehall Township (Schnecksville Section), Alburtis Borough, and the immediate areas just north and west of the City of Allentown.

What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?

These boroughs and sections of townships vary in their characteristics, where some of the municipalities have active commercial districts while others have vacant commercial properties that line their business districts. The housing stock in these areas also range from "sound" to "in need of major rehabilitation."

There are other portions of the County that are rural in character but have a high demand for growth in industry and housing in these areas. The County seeks to balance the development and preservation of farmland.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

Multiple municipalities in Lehigh County have historic districts that can provide a focal point for rehabilitation and growth within their communities. There are historic districts in the Boroughs of Catasauqua, Coopersburg, Fountain Hill, and Slatington.

There are strong linkages between many of the governmental organizations, non-profits, and private industries in Lehigh County. Because of stakeholders' willingness to collaborate, there is the potential for partnerships that can vastly improve neighborhoods.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

The continued growth of Lehigh County's population is a major opportunity for the area. Population growth will lead to a demand for improved housing and amenities, and subsequent private investment to meet these demands.

Much of the high growth in Lower Saucon Township can lead to its designation as an Opportunity Zone. However, the land prices in this area are high, and that can act as a barrier.

Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

The "Vision" of this Five Year Consolidated Plan is to serve as a consolidated planning document, an application, and a strategic plan for Lehigh County. As part of the Five Year Consolidated Plan, the community develops goals and objectives. The following strategies with subsequent goals and priorities have been identified for Lehigh County for the period of FY 2019 through FY 2023 for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:

HOUSING STRATEGY - HSS

Goal:

Improve, preserve, and expand the supply of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income persons and families in Lehigh County.

Objectives:

- **HSS-1 Home Ownership** - Promote and assist in developing homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons & families.
- **HSS-2 Mixed Income Housing** - Promote and assist in the development of mixed income housing, both rental housing and housing for homebuyers.
- **HSS-3 Housing Rehabilitation** - Promote and assist in the preservation of existing owner and renter occupied housing stock in the County.
- **HSS-4 Housing Construction** - Promote and assist in the development of affordable housing, both rental and sales housing.
- **HSS-5 Revitalization** - Promote and assist in the stabilization of residential neighborhoods by removing slums and blight, assembling sites for new housing, rehabilitation of existing housing, and code enforcement.
- **HSS-6 Fair Housing** - Affirmatively further fair housing by promoting fair housing choice throughout Lehigh County.
- **HSS-7 Housing Support** - Promote and assist in housing counseling and support services to low- and moderate-income persons and families.

HOMELESS STRATEGY - HOM

Goal:

Improve the living conditions and services for homeless persons and families in Lehigh County.

Objectives:

- **HOM-1 Housing** - Promote and assist in developing housing opportunities for homeless persons, families, and those who are at-risk of becoming homeless.
- **HOM-2 Operations/Support** - Promote and assist in program support services for the homeless.
- **HOM-3 Homeless Prevention** - Promote and assist in anti-eviction and prevention of unfair housing practices, which may contribute to homelessness.

SPECIAL NEEDS STRATEGY - SNS

Goal:

Improve, preserve, and expand facilities for persons with special needs and the disabled in Lehigh County.

Objectives:

- **SNS-1 Housing** - Promote and assist to increase the supply of affordable, decent, safe, sound, and accessible housing for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons with other special needs through rehabilitation of existing housing and new construction of accessible housing.
- **SNS-2 Social Services** - Promote and assist to support social service programs and facilities for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons with other special needs.
- **SNS-3 Accessibility** - Promote and assist in making accessibility improvements to owner-occupied housing through rehabilitation and improve renter-occupied housing by making reasonable accommodations for the physically disabled.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - CDS

Goal:

Improve, preserve, and create new public and community facilities, infrastructure, and public services to ensure the quality of life for all residents of Lehigh County.

Objectives:

- **CDS-1 Community Facilities** - Assist in improving parks, recreational centers, trails, libraries, and other public and community facilities throughout the County.
- **CDS-2 Infrastructure** - Assist in improving the public infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction.

-
- **CDS-3 Public Services** - Assist in improving and increasing public safety, municipal services, and public service and human service programs throughout Lehigh County.
 - **CDS-4 Accessibility** - Assist in improving the physical and visual accessibility of community facilities, infrastructure, and public buildings throughout the County.
 - **CDS-5 Public Safety** - Assist in improving the public safety facilities, equipment, and ability for first responders for emergency situations throughout the County.
 - **CDS-6 Clearance** - Assist in removing and eliminating slums and blighting conditions through demolition of vacant, abandoned, unsafe and dilapidated structures throughout the County.
 - **CDS-7 Public Transit** - Promote development of additional bus routes and improved public transportation for low- and moderate-income persons.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - EDS

Goal:

Increase and promote job creation, job retention, self-sufficiency, education, job training, technical assistance, and economic empowerment of low- and moderate-income residents of Lehigh County.

Objectives:

- **EDS-1 Employment** - Support and encourage new job creation, job retention, employment, and job training services.
- **EDS-2 Financial Assistance** - Support business and commercial growth through expansion and new development with technical and financial assistance programs.
- **EDS-3 Revitalization** - Support and promote plans for new development and redevelopment to revitalize distressed areas of Lehigh County.
- **EDS-4 Financial Incentives** - Support and encourage new economic development through local, state and Federal tax incentives and programs.

ADMINISTRATION, PLANNING, AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - APM

Goal:

Provide sound and professional planning, administration, oversight and management of Federal, state, and local funded programs.

Objectives:

- **APM-1 Coordination** - Continue to provide sound and professional planning, program management and oversight for the successful administration of Federal, state, and local funded programs.

- **APM-2 Planning** - Continue to develop and plan for special studies, environmental clearance, fair housing, and compliance with all Federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.215 (a)(1)

Geographic Area

1.	Area Name:	County Wide
	Area Type:	Local Target area
	Other Target Area Description:	Low- and Moderate-Income Areas
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	28.23%
	Revital Type:	Comprehensive
	Other Revital Description:	

<p>Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.T. 1900, B.G. 1 • C.T. 5100, B.G. 3 • C.T. 5100, B.G. 4 • C.T. 5702, B.G. 2 • C.T. 5702, B.G. 3 • C.T. 5703, B.G. 3 • C.T. 5704, B.G. 1 • C.T. 5800, B.G. 1 • C.T. 5901, B.G. 4 • C.T. 5901, B.G. 5 • C.T. 6001, B.G. 2 • C.T. 6101, B.G. 1 • C.T. 6800, B.G. 1 • C.T. 6800, B.G. 4 <p>Additionally, because Lehigh County is an exception grantee and all Census Tracts where at least 39.01% of households with low- and moderate-incomes are CDBG eligible, the following Census Tracts and Block Groups are eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.T. 5100, B.G. 2 • C.T. 5200, B.G. 3 • C.T. 5601, B.G. 1 • C.T. 5602, B.G. 4 • C.T. 5702, B.G. 1 • C.T. 5704, B.G. 2 • C.T. 5800, B.G. 3 • C.T. 5901, B.G. 3 • C.T. 5902, B.G. 1 • C.T. 6001, B.G. 3 • C.T. 6001, B.G. 5 • C.T. 6101, B.G. 3 • C.T. 6202, B.G. 2 • C.T. 6202, B.G. 3 • C.T. 6303, B.G. 3 • C.T. 6500, B.G. 2 • C.T. 6500, B.G. 3 • C.T. 6701, B.G. 2 • C.T. 6702, B.G. 2 • C.T. 6703, B.G. 3 • C.T. 6902, B.G. 2
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<p>Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of the area.</p>	<p>Housing in the older areas require rehabilitation, both for renters and homeowners. Some of these block groups lie in the flood plain.</p>
<p>How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?</p>	<p>HUD’s Low-Mod Income data assisted in the identification of these areas. Consultations with local public officials and social services that served the area confirmed the Census Tracts and Block Groups with the highest need.</p>
<p>Identify the needs in this target area.</p>	<p>There is a need for new housing construction, housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements, improvements in parks and recreational facilities, social services to assist groups with special needs, and demolition to clear vacant, blighted properties.</p>
<p>What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?</p>	<p>Many of the target areas have older housing stock that would be desirable if rehabilitated. The County is growing and there are multiple high-demand locations within the County that can be served with housing construction programs, housing rehabilitation programs, and infrastructure improvements.</p>
<p>Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?</p>	<p>Funding is limited for improvements in these areas and the County must decide where to prioritize the use of its funding.</p>

Table 47 - Geographic Priority Areas

General Allocation Priorities

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA)

Lehigh County has allocated its CDBG funds for FY 2019 to principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

- The infrastructure improvement activities are either located in a low- and moderate-income census tract/block group or have a low- and moderate-income service area benefit or clientele over 51% low- and moderate-income.
- The Public Services activities are either located in a low- and moderate-income census area or have a low- and moderate-income services area benefit or clientele.
- The Public Facilities activities are either located in a low- and moderate-income census area or have a low- and moderate-income service area benefit or clientele.
- Demolition of structures that are either located in a low- and moderate-income census area, or fall under removal of slum and blight on a spot basis.

- The housing activities for first time homebuyers and housing rehabilitation program have an income eligibility criteria; therefore, the income requirement restricts funds to low- and moderate-income households throughout the County.
- Economic development projects will either be located in a low- and moderate-income census tract/block group, or a poverty tract greater than 20%, or part of a redevelopment plan, or making 51% of the jobs available to low- and moderate-income population.

The proposed activities and projects for FY 2019 are located in areas of the County with the highest percentages of low- and moderate-income persons, and those block groups with a higher than average percentage of minority persons. The following census tracts and block groups have at least 51% of the households with low- and moderate-incomes:

- C.T. 1900, B.G. 1 – South Whitehall Township
- C.T. 5100, B.G. 3 – Slatington Borough
- C.T. 5100, B.G. 4 – Slatington Borough
- C.T. 5702, B.G. 2 – Whitehall Township
- C.T. 5702, B.G. 3 – Whitehall Township
- C.T. 5703, B.G. 3 – Whitehall Township
- C.T. 5704, B.G. 1 – Whitehall Township
- C.T. 5800, B.G. 1 – Coplay Borough
- C.T. 5901, B.G. 4 – Catasauqua Borough
- C.T. 5901, B.G. 5 – Catasauqua Borough
- C.T. 6001, B.G. 2 – South Whitehall Township
- C.T. 6101, B.G. 1 – South Whitehall Township
- C.T. 6800, B.G. 1 – Fountain Hill Borough
- C.T. 6800, B.G. 4 – Fountain Hill Borough

Additionally, because Lehigh County is an exception grantee and all Census Tracts where at least 39.01% of households with low- and moderate-incomes are CDBG eligible, the following Census Tracts and Block Groups are eligible:

- C.T. 5100, B.G. 2 – Slatington Borough (47.57% LMI)
- C.T. 5200, B.G. 3 – Washington Township (44.52% LMI)
- C.T. 5601, B.G. 1 – Whitehall Township (43.24% LMI)
- C.T. 5602, B.G. 4 – Whitehall Township (43.41% LMI)
- C.T. 5702, B.G. 1 – Whitehall Township (49.31% LMI)
- C.T. 5704, B.G. 2 – Whitehall Township (43.46% LMI)
- C.T. 5800, B.G. 3 – Coplay Borough (50.39% LMI)
- C.T. 5901, B.G. 3 – Catasauqua Borough (41.35% LMI)
- C.T. 5902, B.G. 1 – Hanover Township (42.22% LMI)

-
- C.T. 6001, B.G. 3 – South Whitehall Township (44.62% LMI)
 - C.T. 6001, B.G. 5 – South Whitehall Township (41.46% LMI)
 - C.T. 6101, B.G. 3 – South Whitehall Township (46.80% LMI)
 - C.T. 6202, B.G. 2 – Upper Macungie Township (44.80% LMI)
 - C.T. 6202, B.G. 3 – Upper Macungie Township (40.70% LMI)
 - C.T. 6303, B.G. 3 – Macungie Borough (40.51% LMI)
 - C.T. 6500, B.G. 2 – Emmaus Borough (50.00% LMI)
 - C.T. 6500, B.G. 3 – Emmaus Borough (47.89% LMI)
 - C.T. 6701, B.G. 2 – Salisbury Township (40.12% LMI)
 - C.T. 6702, B.G. 2 – Salisbury Township (39.01% LMI)
 - C.T. 6703, B.G. 3 – Salisbury Township (43.81% LMI)
 - C.T. 6902, B.G. 2 – Coopersburg Borough & Upper Saucon Township (43.95% LMI)

SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)

Priority Needs

Table 4 – Priority Needs Summary

1	Priority Need Name	Housing Priority
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly
	Geographic Areas Affected	County Wide
	Associated Goals	HSS-1 Home Ownership HSS-2 Mixed Income Housing HSS-3 Housing Rehabilitation HSS-4 Housing Construction HSS-5 Revitalization HSS-6 Fair Housing HSS-7 Housing Support
	Description	Improve, preserve, and expand the supply of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income persons and families in Lehigh County.
	Priority Need Name	Housing Priority

	Basis for Relative Priority	There is a need for affordable, accessible, decent housing in Lehigh County. There is a need to increase the quality of the housing stock in the County for renters, homeowners, and homebuyers.
2	Priority Need Name	Homeless Priority
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence
	Geographic Areas Affected	County Wide
	Associated Goals	HOM-1 Housing HOM-2 Operation/Support HOM-3 Homeless Prevention
	Description	Improve the living conditions and services for homeless persons and families in Lehigh County.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There is a need to assist the homeless by providing housing, counseling, and other services in Lehigh County.

3	Priority Need Name	Other Special Needs Priority
	Priority Level	Low
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	County Wide
	Associated Goals	SNS-1 Housing SNS-2 Social Services SNS-3 Accessibility
	Description	Improve, preserve, and expand facilities for persons with special needs and the disabled in Lehigh County.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There is a need to assist persons with special needs by expanding facilities and services for individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and other persons who have special needs.
	4	Priority Need Name
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	County wide
	Associated Goals	CDS-1 Community Facilities CDS-2 Infrastructure CDS-3 Public Services CDS-4 Accessibility CDS-5 Public Safety CDS-6 Clearance CDS-7 Public Transit
	Description	Improve, preserve, and create new public and community facilities, infrastructure, and public services to ensure the quality of life for all residents of Lehigh County.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There is a need to improve public and community facilities, infrastructure, public transit, public services, public safety, and the quality of life in Lehigh County.
5	Priority Need Name	Economic Development Priority
	Priority Level	Low

<p>Population</p>	<p>Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Non-housing Community Development</p>
<p>Geographic Areas Affected</p>	<p>County Wide</p>
<p>Associated Goals</p>	<p>EDS-1 Employment EDS-2 Financial Assistance EDS-3 Revitalization EDS-4 Financial Incentives</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Increase and promote job creation, job retention, self-sufficiency, education, job training, technical assistance, and economic empowerment of low- and moderate-income residents of Lehigh County.</p>
<p>Basis for Relative Priority</p>	<p>There is a need to increase employment, self-sufficiency, education, job training, technical assistance, and economic empowerment of the residents of Lehigh County.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Priority Need Name</p>
<p>Priority Level</p>	<p>Administration, Planning, and Management Priority High</p>

<p>Population</p>	<p>Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development</p>
<p>Geographic Areas Affected</p>	<p>County Wide</p>
<p>Associated Goals</p>	<p>APM-1 Coordination APM-2 Planning</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Provide sound and professional planning, administration, oversight and management of Federal, state, and local funded programs.</p>
<p>Basis for Relative Priority</p>	<p>There is a continuing need for planning, administration, management, and oversight of Federal, state, and local funded programs.</p>

Narrative (Optional)

The priority ranking of needs for housing; homelessness; other special needs; community development; economic development; and administration, planning, and management are as follows:

- **High Priority** - Activities are assigned a high priority if the County expects to fund them during the Five Year Consolidated Plan period.
- **Low Priority** - Activities are assigned a low priority if the activity may not be funded by the County during the Five Year Consolidated Plan period. The County may support applications for other funding if those activities are consistent with the needs identified in the Five Year Consolidated Plan.

SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions – 91.215 (b)

Influence of Market Conditions

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	Lehigh County does not provide Tenant Based Rental Assistance.
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	Lehigh County does not provide Tenant Based Rental Assistance.
New Unit Production	There is a high priority for new housing units in Lehigh County. The County needs affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing.
Rehabilitation	There is a high demand in Lehigh County to provide rehabilitation assistance. The County needs affordable, accessible, decent, safe, and sanitary housing that could be accomplished through rehabilitation.
Acquisition, including preservation	The cost to acquire property is expensive, especially when relocation benefits are required. There are four (4) historic districts in the County outside of the Cities of Allentown and Bethlehem, located in Fountain Hill, Slatington, Catasauqua, and Coopersburg. There is also the George Taylor House Museum in the Borough of Catasauqua.

Table 48 – Influence of Market Conditions

SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)**Introduction**

Lehigh County is receiving \$1,216,119 from CDBG funds. The program year goes from October 1st through September 30th of each year. These funds will be used to address the following priority needs:

- Housing
- Homeless
- Other Special Needs
- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Administration, Planning, and Management

The accomplishments of these projects/activities will be reported in the annual Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$1,216,119.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,216,119.00	\$4,286,067.00	Five Years of funding at a reduction level each year of 5%. 16 projects/activities were funded based on FY 2019 CDBG allocations.
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Housing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,139,398.00	3 projects/activities were funded based on FY 2022 CDBG allocations.

Table 49 - 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

In addition to the entitlement funds, Lehigh County anticipates the following federal resources may be available to local non-profit organizations to undertake the housing strategies identified in the Five Year Consolidated Plan:

- Supportive Housing Program
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC)

-
- Section 8 Rental Assistance Program
 - Shelter Plus Care
 - Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program for Single Room Occupancy (SRO)
 - Public Housing Development

Lehigh County is eligible to receive funds during this program year from the following Federal, State, County, and Private Organizations:

- **Lehigh County Affordable Housing Trust Funds (AHTF)** - The Pennsylvania Optional County Affordable Housing Trust Funds Act of 1992 (Act 137), allows counties to raise revenues for affordable housing efforts by increasing the fees charged by the Recorder of Deeds Office for recording deeds and mortgages. The County raised the fee from \$13 to \$26 per document. Affordable Housing Trust Funds revenue is used to fund affordable housing initiatives and up to 15 percent may be used for the administrative costs to implement the initiatives. Eligible activities include using the revenues as the local matching funds to secure Federal and State Funds, construction or rehabilitation financing, housing-related services, match for other State or Federal funds, and supporting first-time homebuyer second mortgage programs. Lehigh County has recommended allocating \$574,736 for FY 2109 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to allow the funds to grow and be used for future projects.
- **HOME Investment Partnership** - Lehigh County will be receiving HOME funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development. The County will receive \$500,000 in HOME funds in FY 2019.
- **Continuum of Care Grant** - Lehigh County is part of the Lehigh Valley Regional Housing Advisory Board. This is a two (2) county region that applies for Continuum of Care funds each year. In FY 2018, the Lehigh Valley received multi-year funding for thirteen (13) projects totaling \$2,466,453.00 for support services and permanent supportive housing projects throughout the region. Of the thirteen (13) projects funded, twelve (12) were Tier 1 awards, and one (1) was Tier 2 awards.
- **The Lehigh County Housing Authority** - Expects to receive \$506,299.00 in FY 2019 funds from the Public Housing Capital Fund Program, as well as Public Housing Operating funds and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher assistance.
- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Funds** - Lehigh County will apply for ESG grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development during FY 2019.
- Other federal funds that may be used in support of housing, community development, and economic development during FY 2019 include loans through HUD's Section 108 Loan Program, Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants, and HUD Supportive Housing Programs.

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

Not applicable. The County has not acquired or improved any land, property, or buildings that are available for sale by using CDBG funds.

Discussion

Not Applicable.

SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
Lehigh County	Government	Planning	Jurisdiction
Lehigh County Housing Authority	PHA	LIHTC Public Housing Rental	Region
Eastern PA Continuum of Care	Continuum of Care	Homelessness Non-homeless special needs Planning Public Services Rental	Region
Lehigh County Conference of Churches	Non-profit organization	Homelessness	Region

Table 50 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

The following services are targeted to the homeless:

The Lehigh County Conference of Churches provides food for homeless people and families in conjunction with Catholic Charities. Both organizations also provide shelter for homeless people.

Valley Youth House serves unaccompanied youth in the Lehigh Valley. They offer shelter for youth up to the age of 18.

Turning Point of the LV provides shelter for domestic violence victims in Lehigh County. They provide Emergency Shelter and Rapid Rehousing services for victims and their families.

The YMCA and Salvation Army will provide emergency shelter during weather advisory days, particularly during the coldest weeks of the winter. The YMCA provides shelter for men and the Salvation Army provides shelter for women.

Lehigh Valley Health Network’s Comprehensive Health Services provides free care for those infected with HIV/AIDS. Individuals with HIV/AIDS will not be allowed to seek treatment for addictions unless they are treated for HIV/AIDS first.

Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

Persons with HIV/AIDS and their families comprise a small percentage of the County’s overall population, but that population is often more impoverished than the remainder of the County. Roughly 60% of those seeking help through Comprehensive Health Services of the Lehigh Valley are under 50% of the poverty line. Comprehensive Health Services assists over 1,000 people with HIV/AIDS, approximately 40 of whom have an active addiction. The Point in Time Count for Lehigh County in 2017 counted 2 persons with HIV/AIDS that were either sheltered or unsheltered homeless, 1 person in 2018 and 0 persons in 2019.

Comprehensive Health Services of the Lehigh Valley assists persons infected with HIV/AIDS. Many of their programs follow patients for multiple years. Though many of the persons they serve have previously had addictions, the majority of their patients do not have active addictions. Comprehensive Health Services will serve persons with active addictions who are also infected with HIV/AIDS before they are allowed to participate in recovery services. Many of these programs assist in the prevention of homelessness by providing wrap-around assistance to those at risk of becoming homeless.

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	X		
Legal Assistance	X		
Mortgage Assistance	X		
Rental Assistance	X		
Utilities Assistance	X		
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement			
Mobile Clinics			
Other Street Outreach Services	X	X	
Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	
Child Care	X		
Education	X		
Employment and Employment Training	X	X	
Healthcare	X		
HIV/AIDS	X		
Life Skills	X	X	
Mental Health Counseling	X		
Transportation	X		

Table 51 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary

Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)

Persons with HIV/AIDS and their families comprise a small percentage of the County's overall population, but that population is often more impoverished than the remainder of the County. Roughly 60% of those seeking help through Comprehensive Health Services of the Lehigh Valley are under 50% of the poverty line. Comprehensive Health Services assists over 1,000 people with HIV/AIDS, approximately 40 of whom have an active addiction. The Point in Time Count for Lehigh County in 2017 counted 2 persons with HIV/AIDS that were either sheltered or unsheltered homeless, 1 person in 2018 and 0 persons in 2019.

Comprehensive Health Services of the Lehigh Valley assists persons infected with HIV/AIDS. Many of their programs follow patients for multiple years. Though many of the persons they serve have previously had addictions, the majority of their patients do not have active addictions. Comprehensive Health Services will serve persons with active addictions who are also infected with HIV/AIDS before they are allowed to participate in recovery services. Many of these programs assist in the prevention of homelessness by providing wrap-around assistance to those at risk of becoming homeless.

Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above

Many of the homeless providers in Lehigh County cooperate and are capable of ensuring homeless persons and persons with special needs are able to find relevant services. This includes public entities. Valley Housing Development Corporation, which is Lehigh County Housing Authority's development entity, receives CoC funding for Supportive Housing Programs to provide housing for homeless individuals to make the transition from homelessness to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

There is a need for a shelter that operates year-round at all hours of the day. However, this type of shelter is difficult to fund. There is also a need for a shelter for youths aged 18-24. This is a large homeless demographic in the Lehigh Valley Area, and the CoC has been aggressively conducting outreach to ensure that these youths are referred to relevant services. There is also a need for programs to treat opioid addictions, as they are severely lacking in Lehigh County. Public transit in the area has also been resistant to create referral-based bus routes for people with special needs.

Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs

Lehigh County has partnered with various County agencies, nonprofits, and service providers to carry out the services required by special needs populations. However, there are significant needs for mental health services and addiction counseling services in the region. There is also a need to provide public transit to bring special needs populations to the places where they can receive services. Lehigh County

will continue to partner with nonprofits that manage partnerships with these organizations and assist persons with special needs.

SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.215(a)(4)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	HSS-1 Home Ownership	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	County Wide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$0	Homeowner Housing Added: 0 Household Housing Unit
2	HSS-2 Mixed Income Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	County Wide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$0	Homeowner Housing Added: 0 Household Housing Unit
3	HSS-3 Housing Rehabilitation	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	County Wide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$1,000,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 15 Household Housing Unit
4	HSS-4 Housing Construction	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	County Wide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$0	Rental units constructed: 0 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 0 Household Housing Unit
5	HSS-5 Revitalization	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	County Wide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$0	Other: 0 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	HSS-6 Fair Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	County Wide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$50,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Households Assisted Other: 5 Other
7	HSS-7 Housing Support	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	County Wide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Households Assisted
8	HOM-1 Housing	2019	2023	Homeless	County Wide	Homeless Priority	CDBG: \$148,500	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 150 Households Assisted
9	HOM-2 Operation/Support	2019	2023	Homeless	County Wide	Homeless Priority	CDBG: \$0	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 0 Beds

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
10	HOM-3 Homeless Prevention	2019	2023	Homeless	County Wide	Homeless Priority	CDBG: \$0	Homelessness Prevention: 0 Persons Assisted
11	SNS-1 Housing	2019	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs	County Wide	Other Special Needs Priority	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Households Assisted Rental units constructed: 0 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 0 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
12	SNS-2 Social Services	2019	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs	County Wide	Other Special Needs Priority	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Households Assisted Rental units constructed: 0 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 0 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
13	SNS-3 Accessibility	2019	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs	County Wide	Other Special Needs Priority	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Households Assisted Rental units rehabilitated: 0 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 0 Household Housing Unit
14	CDS-1 Community Facilities	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$441,170	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 20265 Persons Assisted Other: 5 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
15	CDS-2 Infrastructure	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$1,630,861	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 15260 Persons Assisted Other: 5 Other
16	CDS-3 Public Services	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$502,810	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1045 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
17	CDS-4 Accessibility	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$628,500	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 30440 Persons Assisted Other: 10 Other
18	CDS-5 Public Safety	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Persons Assisted
19	CDS-6 Clearance	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Buildings Demolished: 0 Buildings
20	CDS-7 Public Transit	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Other: 0 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
21	EDS-1 Employment	2019	2023	economic development	County Wide	Economic Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Jobs created/retained: 0 Jobs Businesses assisted: 0 Businesses Assisted
22	EDS-2 Financial Assistance	2019	2023	economic development	County Wide	Economic Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Businesses assisted: 0 Businesses Assisted
23	EDS-3 Revitalization	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide	Economic Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Other: 0 Other
24	EDS-4 Financial Incentives	2019	2023	economic development	County Wide	Economic Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Other: 0 Other
25	APM-1 Coordination	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development administrative management	County Wide	Administration, Planning, and Management Priority	CDBG: \$1,100,345	Other: 5 Other
26	APM-2 Planning	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development administrative management	County Wide	Administration, Planning, and Management Priority	CDBG: \$0	Other: 5 Other

Table 49 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	HSS-1 Home Ownership
	Goal Description	Promote and assist in developing homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons & families.
2	Goal Name	HSS-2 Mixed Income Housing
	Goal Description	Promote and assist in the development of mixed income housing, both rental housing and housing for homebuyers.
3	Goal Name	HSS-3 Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Promote and assist in the preservation of existing owner and renter occupied housing stock in the County.
4	Goal Name	HSS-4 Housing Construction
	Goal Description	Promote and assist in the development of affordable housing, both rental and sales housing.
5	Goal Name	HSS-5 Revitalization
	Goal Description	Promote and assist in the stabilization of residential neighborhoods by removing slums and blight, assembling sites for new housing, rehabilitation of existing housing, and code enforcement.
6	Goal Name	HSS-6 Fair Housing
	Goal Description	Affirmatively further fair housing by promoting fair housing choice throughout Lehigh County.
7	Goal Name	HSS-7 Housing Support
	Goal Description	Promote and assist in housing counseling and support services to low- and moderate-income persons and families.

8	Goal Name	HOM-1 Housing
	Goal Description	Promote and assist in developing housing opportunities for homeless persons, families, and those who are at-risk of becoming homeless.
9	Goal Name	HOM-2 Operation/Support
	Goal Description	Promote and assist in program support services for the homeless.
10	Goal Name	HOM-3 Homeless Prevention
	Goal Description	Promote and assist in anti-eviction and prevention of unfair housing practices, which may contribute to homelessness.
11	Goal Name	SNS-1 Housing
	Goal Description	Promote and assist to increase the supply of affordable, decent, safe, sound, and accessible housing for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons with other special needs through rehabilitation of existing housing and new construction of accessible housing.
12	Goal Name	SNS-2 Social Services
	Goal Description	Promote and assist to support social service programs and facilities for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons with other special needs.
13	Goal Name	SNS-3 Accessibility
	Goal Description	Promote and assist in making accessibility improvements to owner-occupied housing through rehabilitation and improve renter-occupied housing by making reasonable accommodations for the physically disabled.

14	Goal Name	CDS-1 Community Facilities
	Goal Description	Assist in improving parks, recreational centers, trails, libraries, and other public and community facilities throughout the County.
15	Goal Name	CDS-2 Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Assist in improving the public infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction.
16	Goal Name	CDS-3 Public Services
	Goal Description	Assist in improving and increasing public safety, municipal services, and public service and human service programs throughout Lehigh County.
17	Goal Name	CDS-4 Accessibility
	Goal Description	Assist in improving the physical and visual accessibility of community facilities, infrastructure, and public buildings throughout the County.
18	Goal Name	CDS-5 Public Safety
	Goal Description	Assist in improving the public safety facilities, equipment, and ability for first responders for emergency situations throughout the County.
19	Goal Name	CDS-6 Clearance
	Goal Description	Assist in removing and eliminating slums and blighting conditions through demolition of vacant, abandoned, unsafe and dilapidated structures throughout the County.
20	Goal Name	CDS-7 Public Transit
	Goal Description	Promote development of additional bus routes and improved public transportation for low- and moderate-income persons.
21	Goal Name	EDS-1 Employment
	Goal Description	Support and encourage new job creation, job retention, employment, and job training services.

22	Goal Name	EDS-2 Financial Assistance
	Goal Description	Support business and commercial growth through expansion and new development with technical and financial assistance programs.
23	Goal Name	EDS-3 Revitalization
	Goal Description	Support and promote plans for new development and redevelopment to revitalize distressed areas of Lehigh County.
24	Goal Name	EDS-4 Financial Incentives
	Goal Description	Support and encourage new economic development through local, state and Federal tax incentives and programs.
25	Goal Name	APM-1 Coordination
	Goal Description	Continue to provide sound and professional planning, program management and oversight for the successful administration of Federal, state, and local funded programs.
26	Goal Name	APM-1 Planning
	Goal Description	Continue to develop and plan for special studies, environmental clearance, fair housing, and compliance with all Federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)

Lehigh County proposes to assist the following:

- **Extremely Low-Income** - 20 families
- **Low-Income** - 150 families
- **Moderate-Income** - 15 families